



And So, We Pivot...

Dear Dames,

I hope you'll take some time to read this letter as it's filled with information you've all been inquiring about...and some upcoming events I know you'll want to be a part of.

"Pivoting isn't Plan B: it's part of the process."

(Jeff Goins)

LDEI Conference

Reinventing or canceling an LDEI Conference takes time, as there is much to consider. The LDEI Board was tasked with considering the following questions during the last several months:

- What are our options that will both guarantee the safety of our membership AND guarantee the fiscal health of our organization?
- Is a scaled down conference doable, based on the uncertainty of the pandemic re-occurring in the fall?
- How can we work with the hotel and our existing contract, signed two years ago, and be removed from our obligations without paying the huge penalties and potentially bankrupting our organization?
- Is moving the Conference to another year—and replacing it with a virtual event—our best bet?

Several special LDEI Board meeting calls, analysis of risk assessment, and persistent negotiations resulted in what we are confident will be a winning combination...with no financial penalties! [A special *thank you* to Dame Maria Gomez for her fierce negotiations.]

First, the 2020 LDEI New York Conference will be replaced by a 2020 LDEI Virtual Event during the same timeframe in October. Specifics of this event will take some time to develop, but look for updates in the coming months as we move forward...and do plan on participating.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Kentucky Chapter (Dame Susan Reigler, President) and the New York Chapter (Dame Sharon Franke, President) and the New York Co-Chairs Dame Joan Brower, Dame Deborah Mintcheff and Dame Marsha Palanci, the following will be our upcoming LDEI Conference schedule:

2021 LDEI San Antonio

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2022 LDEI New York

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2023 LDEI Kentucky

As New York Conference Co-Chair Dame Joan Brower said, “We are so grateful that you were able to untangle this with no financial liabilities to LDEI, and no potential danger to our members!”

Please take a moment and join me in thanking Joan, Deborah and Marsha...who put their hearts into what would have been a true showcase of the uptown, downtown and all around of New York. Don't despair, however—they (and the rest of the New York Dames) are determined to show us the same passion and fun-filled time in 2022.

LDEI Relief Fund

Just this week, on the same special LDEI Board meeting call, the LDEI Board approved the establishment of an LDEI Relief Fund.

While the criteria and the application process are being written as you read this, overall this Fund's purpose is to raise monies and provide funding to established 501c3s, NGOs, or other recognized international nonprofits to benefit women [globally] impacted by COVID-19 and other disasters.

A special *thank you* to Dame Alice Gautsch Foreman for planting some “seed” money into this new Fund.

Look for more information to be released as this progresses.

Save The Dates!!

AND because engagement with you is important to us, we are hosting two upcoming events:

Eat! Drink! And Be Dame Resilient Brunch!

Sunday, June 14th from 1pm to 2:30pm EST [virtually]

- Open to LDEI Members only ~ at no charge
- An uplifting gathering of our Dames to include a moderated panel discussion of how some of our members have “shifted gears” as a result of the pandemic

Julia Child Birthday Brunch!

Sunday, August 16th from 1pm to 2:30pm EST [virtually]

- Open to both LDEI Members AND the general public
 - No charge to Dames; \$25.00 charge for guests [monies to go to the LDEI Relief Fund after any expenses]
- A celebration of Julia (wear those pearls, girls!) complete with a “dress up like Julia look alike contest” with prizes

Details on these two brunch events will be provided in a separate communication...but now is the perfect time to ***mark them on your calendar.***

Who doesn't love a good brunch?!

And Don't Forget Gratitude

I know that this has not been the best of years for so many of you...but don't give up, don't give in.

You are resilient...and I am here for you...we are all here for each other!

*“Believe in yourself and all that you are...
know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.”
(Christian D Larson)*

With much love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bev', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Bev Shaffer
President, Les Dames d'Escoffier International
#Ideigratitude