

## 25th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting September 29, 2021

### Welcome and Meeting—President Cindy Jurgensen

Cindy thanked Members for coming. In attendance were Robin Asbell, Mary Bartz, Andi Bidwell, Jenny Breen, Amy Brown, BJ Carpenter, Janice Cole, Kathleen Craig, Joan Donatelle, Tanya Hamilton, Angle Heitz, Julie Hinderks, Cindy Jurgensen, Jeanie Kozar, Andrey Nelson, Liz Nerud, Patsy Noble, Kim Ode, Kristen Olson, Allison Sheardy, Dorothy Stainbrook, Merrilyn Tauscher, Lois Tlusty, Lauren Voight, Genie Zarling, Paula Zuhlsdorf

As the meeting\* was informal, it was not “called to order” or officially adjourned. The Annual Meeting notes from September 3, 2020 were not approved as notes can not be found, if taken. Cindy introduced Membership co-chairs, Merrilyn and Paula Zuhlsdorf. Merrilyn introduced the new members: Julie Hinderks, Dorothy Stainbrook, Angie Heitz, Lauren Voight and Allison Sheardy. (Jo Seddon, Amy Waller and Erin Clancy were not able to attend.) Each new member was asked to briefly introduce themselves. As welcome gifts they each received a LDEI cap and Kerrygold cheese and butter.

A short video followed featuring Mary Evans, one of the founding members. She spoke about the chapter’s early days and how they were committed to being a philanthropic organization. They picked Eastside Community Gardens (which became Urban Roots) as the philanthropic focus, “...they were small and we were small so it was a good match”. Mary is very proud of all the chapter has achieved and thanked us for allowing her to be a part of MN LDEI and enriching her life.

Cindy gave a bit more history\* before thanking the Board Members for their service in 2020-21.\* Each Board Member received a thank you gift of coffee scented kitchen soap made by Kim Sebesta, Kristen’s sister. The Board presented Cindy with parting thank you gifts of a bottle of her favorite Basil Hayden Bourbon and a gift card to Sooki & Mimi.

Cindy turned the reigns over to Kristen Olson as our new Chapter President, welcoming her with a bottle of bubbly and the giant blue binder.

Kristen introduced the Board members for 2021-22.

**President:** Kristen Olson

**Vice President:** Paula Zuhlsdorf

**Advisor:** Cindy Jurgensen

**Treasurer:** Lois Tlusty

**Secretary:** Genie Zarling

**Communications/Social Media:** Lauren Voigt

**Fundraising Co-chairs:** Erin Clancy & Julie Hinderks

**Grants:** Jo Semmer

**Membership:** Merrilyn Tauscher

**Newsletter Co-chairs:** Janice Cole & Patsy Noble

**Program Co-chairs:** Amy Brown & Kim Ode

**Scholarship:** Susan Peters

**Microgrants:** Joan Donatelle

**Service:** Jenny Breen & BJ Carpenter

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Co-chairs:** Nikki Erpelding & Cindy Jurgensen

### **Meal and Party – Everyone!**

Lucky Street Owner Lisa Edvold was the caterer for the evening.

New member Amy Waller secured a donation of wine from France 44

and new Member Allison Sheardy secured a donation of wine from Rustic Roots

Thank you for reaching out to them, Genie Zarling.

New Member Angie Heitz provided the music.

\*\*\*

## **25th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting Agenda**

### **Welcome – Program Co-Chair Amy Brown**

1) Welcome everyone

2) Thank Kristen Olson, member and host, donator of the space

3) Order of the evening:

- meet the women behind the food and wine
- appetizers and drink
- brief annual meeting
- meal and party

4) Introduce:

- Lucky Street Owner Lisa Edvold, caterer for the evening
- Member Amy Waller who secured a donation of wine from France 44
- Member Allison Sheardy who secured a donation of wine from Rustic Roots (thank you for reaching out to them, Genie Zarling!)
- Member Angie Heitz who will provide music

### **Annual Meeting – Cindy Jurgensen**

1) Thank members for coming, introduce Merrillyn and Paula

2) Membership cochairs Merrillyn Tauscher and Paula Zuhlsdorf introduce new members and give welcome gifts

3) Chapter history

- Short video from Mary Evans, one of the chapter's founding members
- 2020-21 highlights
- Thank outgoing board, turn the reigns over to Kristen

4) Vice President Kristen Olson welcomes the new board

### **Meal and Party – Everyone!**

## A Brief History and 2020-21 Highlights...

Tonight we celebrate 25 years since the inception of this chapter! As an overview for our newer members - and as a reminder to all of us - we're a philanthropic organization of women leaders in a variety of food, beverage and hospitality-related fields, one of 45 chapters across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Mexico.

Mary Evans explained in the video about our connection to Urban Roots. We also give money toward academic scholarships and professional grants to support women coming into our profession.

Treasurer Lois Tlusty did a summary of our philanthropic donations:

Since 1999, we've given \$77,849 to Urban Roots!

Since 2004, \$57,450 toward Scholarships.

And since 2017, \$6,951 for Microgrants.

Second Harvest was given \$1,500 in 2019/20 due to the Pandemic.

WOW, if you doubted our philanthropy, here's proof!

The first fundraiser, called A Taste of Africa, was in 2,000. Since then, we've held restaurant dinners with well-known chefs, culinary garage sales and our popular Dame It! with female chefs, sommeliers and distillers offering tastings and classes. These fundraisers take the entire membership to put on and are great team-building events. Tonight's flower 'vases' are wine glasses from the order that couldn't be stopped when we had to cancel 2020 Dame It! (They'll be washed and ready for the next one!)

Despite the pandemic, we hosted 7 successful mini (and not-so-mini) fundraisers to keep supporting our causes, starting with handmade masks (thanks for spear-heading, Janice) and ending with Joan Donatelle's lovely Italian dinner.

Thank you, Fundraising Chairs Andi Bidwell and Audrey Nelson, your committee, the many members who had an integral part in implementing the fundraising schemes, and to all members who purchased and encouraged friends and family to do so!

Keep talking up our causes, you never know when it will pay off! Good friends of ours recently donated \$250 to our chapter, a surprise to us, and Maggie Gilbert, a good friend of Andi and Audrey's, has donated large sums, as has John Lavelle, Joan Donatelle's friend.

Other 2020-21 highlights include the fun Coffee and Camaraderie Zooms and the March LDEI Table Talks when Amalia and Amy Brown led a fascinating panel of entrepreneurs. The idea is that chapters design a Zoom meeting of interest to Dames worldwide. We're encouraged to participate in Table Talks again next March.

Our all-volunteer working board runs the chapter with the help of part-time

administrative assistant, Tanya Hamilton. Take a bow, Tanya!

We have a digital monthly newsletter and fun, educational monthly programs.

When not in the midst of a pandemic, we're eating at leading restaurants and visiting new businesses, having delicious potlucks at members' homes and traveling to the annual Les Dames conference.

Actually, four of us are going to the Les Dames conference in San Antonio in a few weeks, Genie, Merrilyn, Lauren and I, while Kristen and Paula will attend virtually.

I hope that you familiarize yourself with the Membership Directory to know who is in this group with you! In the next weeks you'll see a request to update your information for the Directory. Please look at your entry to make sure it's current. Like, tell us to omit your home phone number if you got rid of that!

**Advisor  
Joan**

Please read any emails from Tanya, which come from the email 'Minnesota LDEI Admin', emails from incoming President Kristen, or from the Committee Chairs. We don't want you to miss out on anything!

And do peruse the Newsletter which is sent through Mailchimp. Editors Janice Cole and Patsy Noble work hard to make it very readable and not too long.

With that, let's have the 2020-21 outgoing board come forward. Thank you for all the time you've given to keep the chapter thriving during the pandemic. A small token of appreciation from me are bars of coffee-scented soap for the kitchen made by Kristen's talented sister, Kim Sebesta! [Thank each one with prepared words.](#)

We've already converted to board meetings via Zoom and now we're going to convert from this [Hold up big blue scrapbook](#) method of storing the history and files of the chapter to Google Docs and cloud storage! I'd like to christen Kristen Olsen with a bottle of bubbly. You have such positive energy, are so giving of your time and talents, and so generous with your beautiful studio! You're the perfect woman to take over the Presidency and the perfect person to take us into the internet future!

### **Board Thank You**

#### **Advisor: Joan**

**Donatelle.** Thank you for your tireless contributions to our chapter. You are ever cheerful, you worry about members' businesses and health, and desire to move the chapter forward. You've given so much of your time and cooking skills for the huge benefit of the chapter.

#### **Treasurer: Lois Tlusty**

Lois, you keep us grounded, financially, and kindly steer us to the best fiscal decisions, a must to make sure we're operating properly. We apologize for continually put you through the ringer, particularly by holding multiple fundraisers simultaneously! We'll try to avoid that this next year!

**Secretary: Genie Zarling**

Thank you for your consistently thorough note-taking and amazing translations of hard-to-hear Zoom board meeting conversations. You are quick getting board meeting minutes to me for review and then to the board!

**Program: Amalia Moreno-Damgaard**

Amalia had something come up with her family so couldn't be here tonight. The chapter benefitted from her expertise and professionalism

**Amy Brown**

I appreciate all you've done for Minnesota Central Kitchen during the pandemic and the sustainable, ethical, successful catering company you run!  
Thanks to both you and Amalia for interesting programming and helping us swing to on-line programs for months on end.

**Fundraising: Andi Bidwell and Audrey Nelson**

What can I say? Without you two, we would not have been able to fulfill our philanthropic commitments or our mission. Putting in a gazillion hours, you organized and arranged, cajoled and purchased so much that we raised \$23,570.40 during a pandemic! Thank you very much!

**Membership: Paula Zuhlsdorf**

As busy as you are with work and family, you took on Membership this past year AND agreed to be Vice President this next year. You are a wonderful member and it's been a pleasure getting to know you!

**Merrilyn Tauscher**

is completing at least her third different position on the board. She's also taken a turn as President and twice as Treasurer! She's a bedrock member of this chapter. I appreciate the work both of you did to refine Membership procedures this year.

**Newsletter: Janice Cole and Patsy Noble**

Thanks to both Patsy and Janice for producing an immensely readable newsletter and for powering through Mailchimp idiosyncrasies. I think the 'Inspired Feature' is especially brilliant. As you say, 'a quick fun way to find out what other members are excited about'. I love that it's reaching out and involving a rotating group of members each month! And Julie Hinderks' Trends column is another great addition!

**Microgrants: Joan Donatelle and Liz Nerud**

Thank you, Liz and Joan, for finding worthy recipient Dana Smith, from MinnyRow in Hopkins, to give a microgrant to. It was fun to try their tasty soup and sandwiches during an outdoor lunch when you presented her the check. I imagine more applicants will come to us once this dang pandemic ends!

**Service: BJ Carpenter and Jenny Breen**

With this pandemic, I feel the one committee that I let flounder was Service, partly because Urban Roots wasn't doing anything in person, but that's no excuse. I'm sorry about that. I hope this next year this committee will feel success.

**Scholarship: Susan Peters**

Susan lives in Duluth and couldn't make it down. She has been a stalwart Scholarship Chair for years, training many committee members on picking the best candidates.

**Arlene Coco**

Arlene is in Seattle at an intensive King Arthur bread lab. She was recently asked by our former member Ingrid Gangestad, who is on the LDEI board, to be on a steering committee to give a \$20,000 grant to a Dame. Let's keep an eye out for that info!

**Communications and Social Media: Nikki Erpelding**

Nikki started a new job this year with Total Wine but still helped with fundraising when possible. She was needlessly sheepish about not being able to help more but sometimes that happens. If only we could clone ourselves!

**Grants: Joan Semmer**

Kind-hearted Joan would have been here tonight but she's in Grand Marais where she has a cabin, helping a very sick friend in the hospital there. Thank you to her for chairing the start-up Grants committee, a tough job but one that could help our chapter immensely.