

Les Dames d'Escoffier International

Quarterly

SUMMER



2012

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Meaningful Blogs from Dames

Joining Les Dames d' Escoffier



THE VANILLA QUEEN'S BLOG

Remember when you were a kid and you wondered when you'd be grown up and what it would be like? And have you noticed that since becoming a grownup you haven't figured out if you are really grown up, or even if you're one of the big kids?

Apparently this never changes. I mean, let's face it, when you're pushing 70 you're a grownup. But having been the youngest and smallest in my class, and having always aspired to be a teenager, or an adult with a cool job or someone who has done something really important, I apparently haven't quite grasped that I'm one of the big girls after all.

As a result, when I was invited to join Les Dames, I had the feeling of, Wow! I get to be with women who have really done something special!

With that in mind, you can imagine my shock and surprise to learn that the San Francisco chapter had voted me in as their first and only Living Legend. It wasn't until I needed to write a biographical sketch about my work with vanilla and farmers that I realized that maybe I actually had done a few things and that a few of those things had made a difference.

So I put on my grownup clothes and went to the induction ceremony in San Francisco, which was held September 14th at Orson in San Francisco. Suddenly, standing among these very accomplished women, who were laughing and talking like crazy, I felt as if I belonged there. Especially when I realized that this was not a formal event at all, but a time to get down and have fun!

Even the ceremony was informal and welcoming. Some great young women were inducted into Les Dames, several of whom are instrumental in making a difference for the community at large. That was exciting. I'm really glad to be one of the big girls — even a Living Legend if necessary— as long as it allows me to support and mentor the young women following us big girls. The shoes do fit.

Shortly after becoming a Dame and given a new title, I received a bill for the 2011 dues. Back to reality — oh that! — and the dailiness we all deal with as grownups, or not. But I now have something new and fun: My name now reads: **Patricia Rain**, Vanilla Queen, LL ("Living Legend"). And I'm finally over it; I've accepted that I am a grownup after all.

<http://thevanillaqueen.wordpress.com/tag/les-dames-descoffier/>

Just another WordPress.com weblog October 22, 2010

A Night To Remember: Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter Honors Peggy Rahn

BY: DEIRDRE MICHALSKI AND MARJE BENNETTS

Wolfgang Puck's famed restaurant Spago Beverly Hills hosted an evening to honor LA/OC's "Dame Legend" **Peggy Rahn** and to induct the newest members of the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter. Tuesday, April 24 brought a flurry of activity and anticipation. The evening began with a wine reception in the glitzy private Spago bar. Co-president **Carrie Kommers** and **Phyllis Ann Marshall** welcomed guests and oversaw the program with elegance and style. The cuisine was exquisite capped only by an appearance by Wolfgang Puck who graciously chatted and posed with everyone who wanted a photo, as he saluted Peg.

The chapter welcomed our newest members with red roses and LDEI totes. **Angela Pettera's** lively video montage celebrated Peg's life with photos including shots of the skinny kid from Youngstown, Ohio, days at Rosemead High School, college at USC, living in Germany, and culinary stories to present day.

Thirty friends and colleagues saluted Peg on her career with touching tributes from cooking-partner Sue Kranwinkle, as well as Peg's son Kurt, daughter Ann and daughter-in-law Mikala.

Peg was President of the LA Chapter for eight years and on the Board for 15 years; she served on the LDEI Board for six years and is currently LDEI Nominating Committee Co-Chair. Peg is a positive influence on everyone and has served the organization well.

Peg's breadth of experience is impressive, to say the least. She is former co-owner of Inner Gourmet Cooking School; founder of "Fresh: Celebrating the Table" classes, leader of 16 culinary tours abroad; a food and travel writer; judge for James Beard Cookbook Awards; program chair for SCCG and IACP; television cooking guest; radio host, and a columnist for magazines and newspapers.

Our toques are off to you Peg. Bravo!

The Chapter extends special thanks to Spago Executive Chef Lee Hefter and Spago Executive Pastry Chef **Sherry Yard** for a memorable evening. A toast also to **Ruthie Graham** (Bonny Doon Vineyards) and **Yvonne Kopina** for their wonderful wine donations. It was definitely a "Night to Remember" and a true tribute to one of our favorite Dames.



Angela Pettera and Peg Rahn.

Co-Presidents Phyllis Ann Marshall and Carrie Kommers (left and right) with Wolfgang Puck and Peg Rahn. Photos by Matthew Fried.