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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Les Dames d'Escoffier International Names Ten Winners for Prestigious
M.F.K. Fisher Awards Recognizing Excellence in Culinary Writing**

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY (July 5, 2016)—Dianne Jacob of Oakland, California., a writing coach, editor, and author of the “The Meaning of Mangoes,” has been selected as the **grand-prize** winner and **Internet Category** winner of the Les Dames d'Escoffier International's (LDEI) competitive **M.F.K. Fisher Awards** for excellence in writing. There were several winners across a variety of categories, but, the top prize earns Jacob a trip to the LDEI Conference at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Oct. 29, where she will receive a \$1,000 prize. Click to tweet: <http://ctt.ec/5csT6>

The winning article, selected from among 80 entries, is about her parents' longing for mangoes after they escaped the Communist revolution in China. Her article was posted on *Lucky Peach*, David Chang's Internet magazine at <http://luckypeach.com>.

Maria Speck, Cambridge, Massachusetts, won first prize and \$500 in the **Book Category** for her excerpt “One Pure Aroma” from *Simply Ancient Grains* (Ten Speed Press). She is a long-time food writer and author of two books.

Kathleen Squires, New York, New York, won first prize and \$500 in the **Print Category** for “Comfort me With Egg Creams” from the *Wall Street Journal*. She is a former book editor and freelance writer.

Other prize winners are:

Book Category

Second Prize (\$100): **Toni Tipton-Martin**, Aurora, Colorado, for the Introduction to her book, *The Jemima Code* (University of Texas Press, 2015).

Third Prize (\$50): **Meredith Leigh**, Asheville, North Carolina, for “Pork” from *The Ethical Meat Handbook* (New Society Publishers, 2015).

Internet Category

Second Prize (\$100): **Ariel Kanter**, Brooklyn, New York, for “On Love and Pie” posted at www.Huffington Post.com

Third Prize (\$50): **Wendy Ulfers**, an American living in Paris, France, for “Secret Eating” posted at <https://atasteofmind.wordpress.com>

Print Category

Second Prize (\$100): **Lee Dean**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for “The Perfect Meal” from the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

Third Prize (\$50) tie: **Carol Newman**, Healdsburg, California, for “Tropical Depression” from *Art Culinaire Magazine*.

Third Prize (\$50) tie: **Martha Cheng**, Honolulu, Hawaii, for “The Zippy’s Seniors Club” from *Honolulu Magazine*.

Named for lauded culinary writer Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher, considered one of America’s greatest food writers, the awards are reflective of the LDEI mission in which its 2,200 women leaders create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the food, beverage and hospitality professions. Through the annual M.F.K. Fisher Awards, LDEI strives to highlight women writers whose work reflects creativity and insight; illuminates the pivotal roles of food, beverages and the arts of the table; and/or contributes to our knowledge of those who grow, produce or prepare nourishment.

“We are delighted to recognize these achievements by these well-deserving writers,” said CiCi Williamson, LDEI’s M.F.K. Fisher Awards chair. “The work from these women reflects creativity and extraordinary writing talent that highlights the prominent role food has in defining our culture.”

Ten prominent magazine food editors, newspaper food editors, and book publishers who are not members of LDEI judged the contest entries. The judges scored the entries on writing style, mastery of subject, topic and creative approach that shows author’s voice, and relevance to the reader.

Entry criteria specifies nonfiction works published in 2014 and they could include analytical pieces, autobiographical explorations, and forays into culinary history.

LDEI is an invitational organization of women leaders in the United States, Mexico, Canada and the UK in food, fine beverage and hospitality whose mission is education, advocacy and philanthropy. For more information and to read the winning entries, ldei.org.

The deadline to enter the LDEI’s 2017 **M.F.K. Fisher Awards** is **March 31, 2017**.

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LDEI is an international organization of women leaders who create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the food, fine beverage, and hospitality professions. To do this, over 2,200 members in 36 chapters worldwide provide leadership, educational opportunities and host philanthropic events within their communities. For more information, visit LDEI.org or on [Facebook at Les Dames d'Escoffier Int'l](#).