



Les Dames d'Escoffier

INTERNATIONAL

New York Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pioneering founder of Les Dames d'Escoffier receives an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from SUNY Cobleskill

Cobleskill, NY, May 2016 —Carol Brock, pioneering founder of Les Dames d'Escoffier, who helped break down barriers for women in the culinary arts, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from SUNY Cobleskill at Commencement on May 14th. Brock's support of SUNY Cobleskill's Culinary program has opened doors for students to further their educational goals and careers, and has helped raise the college's profile among food professionals.

In her long and distinguished career, Brock has exemplified SUNY Cobleskill's credo of "real life, real learning," as she has led the way for countless women entering careers in fine food, beverage and hospitality. As philanthropist, chef, editor, journalist and author, she continues to be a trailblazer, a role model, and a mentor. Through her efforts and personal generosity, hundreds of culinary books have been donated to SUNY Cobleskill's Van Wagenen Library.

"Carol Brock's vision and support of our college and our culinary programs have had and will continue to have a tremendous positive impact on our students and the industries they enter," said SUNY Cobleskill President Dr. Marion A. Terenzio. "Our culinary programs are an essential link in our broader point of view. As part of their education and future role as stewards of sustainability, students at SUNY Cobleskill have an opportunity to learn every step of food systems from seed to plate, and even beyond, from food waste back to energy."

In 1973, Brock received a charter from the New York chapter of Les Amis d'Escoffier, an all-male professional fine-dining society, to create a woman's chapter. By 1976, Les Dames d'Escoffier New York (LDNY) was born, the first organization devoted to professional women in fine food, beverage and hospitality. One of the prime missions of LDNY is to encourage talented young women to become leaders in their fields through scholarships and mentoring. Brock holds the title of Grande Dame, a position shared by women like M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, Marcella Hazan and Alice Waters, among others.

When Brock established the New York chapter, the prevailing culture of the time was rife with discrimination against women in hiring, compensation and educational opportunities, which was especially true in the culinary and hospitality industries. Against this backdrop, Brock, then food reporter of the Sunday *New York Daily News*, emerged as a visionary. Determined to address and redress the gender inequalities, she embarked on a journey to create a professional women's organization that would increase the presence and prestige of women in the food world through education, networking and above all, scholarships. Supporting the professional aspirations of the future generations of talented women was also an underlying goal.

Brock began her career as assistant Food Editor at *Good Housekeeping* magazine in 1944, then served for the next 23 years as Hostess Editor, a position created for her. She later became food editor for *Parents* magazine, followed by 15 years as food reporter for the *New York Daily News*, and later as a restaurant critic for the *Times Ledger* in Queens, New York. She formerly served as Culinary Arts Coordinator for Great Neck Adult Education programming and remains active as a mentor, teacher, events producer, and board member of numerous organizations.



(left to right): SUNY Cobleskill Professor JoAnne Cloughly, LDNY founder Carol Brock, and SUNY Cobleskill President Marion A. Terenzio, PhD

About Les Dames D'Escoffier New York (LDNY):

Les Dames d'Escoffier New York (LDNY), established in 1976 by Carol Brock, is the founding and largest of the 36 Les Dames d'Escoffier International chapters in the United States and abroad. The invitational, non-profit organization has more than 160 members. For more information, visit [Les Dames d'Escoffier New York](http://www.lesdamesd'escoffier.com).

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