

The Unique 'Second City' Chapter

Tribute from Barbara Glunz

With extra input from:

Sandra Lach Arlinghaus, Elizabeth Donovan, Toria Emas, Alma Lach (indirectly).



Barbara Glunz, Left. Toria Emas, Center. Nancy Brussat (Dame of Distinction), Right.
At the Glunz Tavern 2021.

The Chicago Chapter of LDEI is, as is the case with all other LDEI Chapters, unique in many ways. But here is one way not everyone might know about; and it is interesting! Recently, Barbara Glunz was honored to be the Chicago Chapter's "Dame of Distinction" (awarded in June of 2021). That award is the highest award given by the Chicago Chapter and it is awarded (rarely) when deemed appropriate rather than on an annual or other regular basis. Barbara follows in the footsteps of a few carefully selected great Dames; in her acceptance speech, she traces a bit of the history of the Chicago Chapter and pays tribute to one former Dame of Distinction (2007) in particular: Alma Lach. The entire text of that speech follows below.

At the ceremony in 2021, Barbara was joined by a large group of Chicago Dames. In particular, members of her family including her daughter Elizabeth Donovan, celebrated the event. Barbara noted that she had fond memories of the corresponding event in 2007, when Alma was presented with the Award, and Alma's daughter, Sandra Lach Arlinghaus, was present for the induction.

What is unique? Both Elizabeth and Sandra (Sandy) are members of the Chicago Chapter of LDEI—they are part of twin pairs of mother/daughter Dames, all in the same Chapter! Elizabeth is a past-President of the Chicago Chapter. Sandy is a past-President (and a founder) of the Ann Arbor Chapter and Dual Member of the Chicago Chapter.

Indeed, the generations continue. Also present in Chicago were Barbara's daughter Claire Morrison, granddaughter Ava Morrison (pictured below)—three generations deep. The following photo shows lateral family extension as Barbara noted that she was teaching her grandson Chase to cook from Alma's book—the Glunz/Donovan culinary family expands!. Below that, are photos of the Lach/Arlinghaus culinary family, four generations deep. Alma, Sandy, Cicerone Bill Arlinghaus (Affiliate, Ann Arbor Chapter of Les Dames; son of Sandy and her husband Bill Arlinghaus) who owns a craft beer bar/restaurant in Meridian, Mississippi, and Bill's adult son, David Arlinghaus, restaurant sous-Chef (on Covid-19 employment hiatus) in Cleveland, Ohio. Alma, and intervening generations, enjoyed sharing culinary thoughts and adventures with David who showed considerable talent at a very young age.



Granddaughter Ava Morrison, daughter Claire Morrison, and Barbara Glunz. 2021.



Claire Morrison, Barbara Glunz, Ava Morrison, T.J. Morrison, Chase Donovan (Elizabeth's son) and Elizabeth Donovan. 2021..



Alma Lach, 2012.



Sandy Lach Arlinghaus, 2020.



Bill E. Arlinghaus, Left. David E. Arlinghaus, Right. 2021.

The event itself was laced with other overlapping memories. Sandy was also present at Barbara's event, via Zoom. Indeed, Alma was present through her Pixellist art, a gift presented to Barbara from Alma's estate. The lilies hung in Alma's apartment in Ann Arbor; they were scanned on a flatbed scanner using a soft black backcloth (rather than the scanner lid) and then Alma used Adobe Photoshop to correct variation in the background, along with imperfections in the flowers themselves, one pixel at a time. It was a painstaking process; this particular image took months to perfect through hundreds of different file drafts and printouts. The inserted image on the upper right

shows Alma's variation on the LDEI logo that she created to use as table cards at her Dame of Distinction induction ceremony in 2007. The inserted image on the lower left shows the 2007 presentation with Toria Emas on the left, past-President of the Chicago Chapter and then-President of LDEI, Alma Lach in the center, and Barbara Glunz on the right, then-President of the Chicago Chapter. The image was coupled with a gift of a food box, from Alma's estate, to a Chicago Chapter member who had been particularly affected by the corona virus pandemic of 2019-20-21.



We were all delighted to relive old memories and to move forward, with Barbara, into the new. To paraphrase William Faulkner, 'We believe that Dames will not merely endure: They will prevail.'

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF BARBARA GLUNZ, JUNE 2021
UPON BEING AWARDED 'DAME OF DISTINCTION' HONOR OF THE
CHICAGO CHAPTER OF LES DAMES D'ESCOFFIER INTERNATIONAL.**

When I was first invited to join Les Dames d'Escoffier in 1983, I was both **WOWed and humbled** by the famous names of these founding members - Doris Banchet, owner of Le Francais, the highest rated restaurant in the Midwest, Nancy Goldberg who brought Maxim de Paris and phenomenal French chefs to Chicago, Abby Mendel, cooking instructor, columnist and author. I could recite the entire roster with the impressive credentials of each founding member of this prestigious organization for women in the Food, Beverage and Hospitality industries who **achieved a recognized level of success** in her profession. How did I get included? I was a wine salesman.

I soon learned that while the business success of these women was indeed impressive, this was the most **welcoming** group of women around. Many have become my favorite people, Some have become my best friends; one, Madelaine Bullwinkel, was even a business partner; and former member Barbara Kuck works at The House of Glunz. ALL members are women I would like to know better, to understand what makes them passionate about their work.

I moved slowly into active membership, probably because I had my six children in five different private schools. As the **only Dame in the wine industry** at the time, I was called upon for programs, recommendations and tastings. This meant taking a more active role and, eventually, being on the Board. Now I could **really see** the big picture of Les Dames involvement in the community and its **support** for women developing their skills in these industries. Better yet, working on various committees made for in depth knowledge of the Chicago scene and the formation of new friendships.

Now I must mention Nancy Brussat and Joan Reardon who so helped me in my role, but **only** after telling me I had no choice but to accept the presidency! When I became president, the chapter had gone through a difficult period of fast-growth in membership. To get to know each other, we developed a Breakfast program to interview and photograph every member for a yearbook. Quite a project, but I think the photos and background information eased our working together. I hope we will consider something similar for the website. I am embarrassed to admit how many of you, I do not know.

The criteria for being accepted into active membership in 1983 remains the same today in 2021. They are **criteria of excellence** that give **me** confidence and pride in my own commitment to what I do. There are numerous organizations for devotees of food and wine interests. But none has the **commitment to professionalism** found in Les Dames membership.

As I became more active, those were the years of Green City Market Chefs' Barbeques, fantastic fund-raiser parties at The Ritz Carlton with proceeds reaching beyond \$100,000 and the publishing of our cookbook, Chicago Cooks. It has always amazed me to see how these hard-working businesswomen accomplish so much, while I knew that **most**, like myself, were also tending to the maternal needs of home and family.

When I became aware of this Dames of Distinction award and its criteria, I reached out to a member I knew only by name and reputation, but who was always the first to send in her dues and donate to our noted causes. The unassuming but so wise **Alma Lach** became my dear friend. Her website lists a litany of awards and commendations. After graduating from the Cordon Bleu in Paris, she authored Hows and Whys of French Cooking, the only cookbook published by the University of Chicago Press. Alma also wrote several children's cookbooks, and was credited by Craig Claiborne as a key inspiration for the **Asian fusion cuisine** of the 1980s. Alma had her own cooking show on TV **in 1955**, but she didn't have an agent and National fame was never her goal. She had been Food Editor of the Sun-Times for a decade. **In her 90's**, she invited our Chicago chapter to the prestigious Tavern Club for an exhibit of her computer generated Pixellist art. I never did understand the **technology** of how she produced these amazing, exquisite photos in 3 dimension.

Why do I tell you all this about Alma? Because there was, for a while, a move to expand our membership to include a lesser level of professionalism because of the fear that the average member's age was **simply** too old. **Here** was a member leading the way, showing us how to continuously grow and to contribute every day of life.

In 2007, when Alma was a vibrant **93 years old**, we proudly named her a Dame of Distinction. If you ever see the photo on her website, she managed to photoshop out the blue cast on my wrist. Her daughter, Sandra Lach Arlinghaus, PhD and founding member of the Ann Arbor Chapter, is now a member of our chapter.

Alma has been my mentor. Her philosophy for living a full, satisfying life at every age is *one I endeavor to follow: Alma would tell us today to*
Keep learning,
Keep active and engaged,
And Keep your sense of balance, remembering **who** you are and what **you know** to be true.

The world has endured a difficult 15 months amid **confusing** directives. Some Les Dames have perhaps lost your business or suffered unacceptable down-sizing. Others have reinvented themselves to not just survive, but to succeed anew. It was a year of **calling for support** from each other. We are not women who choose to live in fear. When I found that "Sheltering in place" was detrimental to my well-being, I returned to work at The House of Glunz, **sanely** wearing a mask, washing my hands, sanitizing, etcetera, etcetera, but through it all, keeping busy with what I love to do, attending to my customers.

We each made personal decisions to deal with Corona virus. Some **did** hibernate in fear, but I hope your decision has kept you **sane** and thinking positively about your future as a professional in your chosen industry. I hope that you will courageously persevere, because you recognize that as a member of this esteemed organization **you have what it takes** to be the best you can be.

Let's never allow ourselves to lower our standard of who and what we are. Let's continue to motivate each other by recognizing the difficulties and challenges, we **each face** in achieving solutions. **We** are women of endurance, supporting each other.

I am immensely honored and proud to be named the 2021 Dame of Distinction of the Chicago Chapter, Les Dames d'Escoffier. **And I thank you.**

References

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<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/exhibits/almalach/>
- Lach, Alma. Alma Lach Papers.
<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/exhibits/almalach/le-cordon-bleu/>
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<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/exhibits/almalach/honors-and-accolades/>
- Lach, Alma. Links to Pixellist Art displays shown at the Tavern Club of Chicago (zipped files). Archived at <http://www.imagenet.org/> (search the collection using search term 'Alma Lach'):
 - 1999:
<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/60304/1999TavernClubDisplay.pdf?sequence=8&isAllowed=y>
 - 2000:
<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/60304/2000TavernClubDisplay.pdf?sequence=9&isAllowed=y>
 - 2004:
<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/60304/2004TavernClubDisplay.pdf?sequence=10&isAllowed=y>
- Lach, Alma. Website: <http://www.almalach.org>