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Culinary student, Julianna Lews, assists Top Chef Lee Anne Wong with a dinner at Oberod Estate—one of the exciting auction items at the 2013 Celebrity Chefs' Brunch.

## Meals from the Masters Returns to Wilmington for 17<sup>th</sup> Year

Meals On Wheels Delaware to bring top culinary chefs to Delaware for annual spring fundraiser

**Tuesday, September 3, 2013** – Meals On Wheels Delaware is excited to host the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual *Meals from the Masters* weekend of culinary events April 25 and 27, 2014 in Wilmington, DE. The weekend includes three culinary events featuring top restaurants, chefs and beverage purveyors from both the region and nationwide to benefit Meals On Wheels Delaware.

The award-winning *Celebrity Chefs' Brunch* will be held again in the newly renovated Hercules Plaza in Downtown Wilmington on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm featuring tastings by chefs from across the nation and abroad. Past participants include: Lidia Bastianich, Michael Blackie, Craig Deihl, Tom Douglas, Donald Drake, François Gagnon, Jose Garces, Koren Grieveson, Stephanie Izard, Pierino Jermonti, Rick Moonen, Michael Schwartz, Holly Smith, Daniel Stern, Stephen Stryjewski, Tyler Wiard, Cathy Whims, Michael White, and Lee Ann Wong.

"Continuing our partnership with Delcastle's culinary program, returning to Hercules Plaza, bringing back the Craft Beer Garden and some other new surprises, we're sure our guests will enjoy what we have planned for 2014!" said Director of Events, Regina Dodds.

Meals On Wheels Delaware is thrilled to continue its partnership with the Delcastle Technical High School Culinary Program. The culinary students collaborate with out of town chefs from the planning and preparation stages through the execution of the Brunch's delicious tastings that attendees anticipate each spring. Recently, culinary student Julianna Lews from Delcastle assisted Chef Lee Anne Wong with dinner preparations for a dinner at Oberod Estate which was a premier auction item at the Celebrity Chefs' Brunch earlier this year.

The  $12^{\text{th}}$  annual *Evening with the Masters* will be held on Friday, April 25, 2014 at the Doubletree Downtown from 6:30 - 10:00 pm. Guests will enjoy samplings from top regional restaurants, live music, an enticing basket auction and back from popular demand a tented beer garden.

The *Cellar Masters' Wine Auction*, now in its  $10^{th}$  year, will also be held Friday, April 25, 2014 at the Doubletree Downtown from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. This VIP tickets includes entry to Cellar Masters' Wine Auction as well as early entry to Evening With The Masters, free valet parking, specialty wine pours and gourmet hors d'oeuvres, plus the chance to bid on exclusive, high-end wines from the area's finest private collections.

Proceeds from this weekend of culinary excellence benefit homebound seniors throughout the state of Delaware. Since its inception in 1996 the Meals On Wheels Delaware events have raised nearly 6 million dollars to ensure no senior is placed on a waiting list for a hot-nutritious meal.

"We are looking forward to another successful weekend of events in 2014," said Mari Considine, Executive Director. "Year after year we count on the community to help ensure the growing population of elderly citizens are fed a hot meal by a caring volunteer each day. These events are a great opportunity for guests and sponsors alike to make a big difference in the community."

Tickets for Meals from the Masters will go on sale January 1, 2014. For more information or to buy your tickets, visit: www.mealsonwheelsde.org

## **About Meals On Wheels**

The mission of Meals On Wheels Delaware is to ensure, through the provision of financial and human resources, that every eligible senior in the State of Delaware receives a hot, nutritious meal in their home. Meals On Wheels Delaware is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, a public/ private partnership between the federal government, the State of Delaware, five meal-providing agencies and thousands of volunteers from corporations, civic, religious and community groups. Together, the program provides and delivers meals every day to almost 4,000 homebound seniors. In fact, last year nearly 635,000 meals were served throughout the state. Meals On Wheels Delaware strengthens the partnership by providing additional financial and volunteer resources to the agency providers to ensure that no senior in Delaware is on a waiting list for a hot meal delivered to their home. Meals On wheels Delaware provides more than a meal...it also provides a gift of health, independence and companionship to homebound seniors in Delaware.

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