



Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher

Les Dames d'Escoffier International is proud to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher. Considered one of America's greatest writers, her writings revere the art of eating simply but well, of taking pleasure where it is found and of loving life with all of its challenges.

Biography of MFK Fisher

With permission from Gastronomic Memoirs by Lori Gama

Mary Frances Kennedy was born on July 3, 1908 in Albion, Michigan. When she was two, her father, a journalist, moved the family to Whittier, California. She grew up an Episcopalian in a Quaker community. Her family was highly literate. Her book *Among Friends* chronicles childhood recollections.

In 1929 she met Alfred Young Fisher while studying at the University of California. They spent the first three years of their marriage in Europe, mostly in France at the University of Dijon. Years later, in her book *Aix-en-Provence*, she defined her stay there as "two shaking and making years in my life." Dijon was known as the "gastronomical capital of the world." She learned how to live and eat economically and was introduced to various wines, pastries and cheeses.

The couple returned to southern California in 1932 when Al Fisher began teaching at Occidental College. Mary Frances contributed to their income by working in a picture-framing shop that sold pornographic postcards. She read books and, inspired by an Elizabethan cookbook she discovered at the Los Angeles Public Library, she began writing essays of her own on cooking.

Her first Book, *Serve it Forth* was so unlike other "women" writers on the subject of cooking that many critics thought it was written by a man.

About M.F.K. Fisher ([//mfkfisher.com/about.php](http://mfkfisher.com/about.php))

Books written about M.F.K.

Her Friends Remember ([//mfkfisher.com/friends.php](http://mfkfisher.com/friends.php))

Tributes to her life and times

Her Body of Work (<http://mfkfisher.com/books.php>)

The complete compendium of her work

The M.F.K. Fisher Award ([//mfkfisher.com/award.php](http://mfkfisher.com/award.php))

Is awarded to women writers by Les Dames d'Escoffier International



[About MFK \(/about.php\)](#)

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