

Introduction



PASSING THE TORCH TO YOU

The critical responsibility for the generation you're in is to help provide the shoulders, the direction, and the support for those generations who come behind.

—Gloria Dean Randle Scott

The shoulders I stand on are those of my mother Frances. She was the one who made the quality of the food on the family dinner table her most cherished responsibility. The aromas of her delicious, imaginative meals, prepared with so much care and love, warmed our home and drew me into the kitchen. There I would scrub and shine the pots and pans, just to be near her, in hopes of soaking up some of her talent. My mother passed on to me a family legacy, as she gave me a priceless education in feminine culinary nurturing that has dominated my life's work. I didn't know then that she'd handed me a torch. When I chose to carry it, I passed my philosophy on to millions; without my mother's influence, I would never have been able to do the work I do.

I can see now that I've ignited a similar passion for culinary nurturing in my own daughter Lisa. From a young age, her creative interests have mirrored my own and gone beyond, into the exciting world of restaurant cuisine, with professional