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**Emmy award-winning public television host, best-selling author and restaurateur Lidia Bastianich to Receive Lifelong Learning Award from WHYY, May 18**

**PHILADELPHIA**—WHYY will honor Emmy award-winning public television host, best-selling cookbook author and successful restaurateur Lidia Matticchio Bastianich with its Lifelong Learning Award during a special engagement on Thursday, May 18. The event will take place live online and in-person and feature an interview of Ms. Bastianich by Terry Gross, host and co-executive producer of *Fresh Air with Terry Gross*, one of public radio's most popular programs. The interview will be broadcast nationally as well as locally on WHYY-FM as part of a *Fresh Air* program.

"WHYY is honored to recognize the powerhouse that is Lidia Bastianich with this year's Lifelong Learning Award," said William J. Marrazzo, President & CEO of WHYY Inc. "Lidia's love of food, cooking, and her ability to connect with audiences makes her a beacon for all those whose families have suffered through violence in their countries, been displaced as refugees or simply cannot yet envision their way to success"

WHYY's Lifelong Learning Award has been given out for nearing two decades. Previous recipients have included historian and filmmaker Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., U.S. President Joseph Biden, groundbreaking researcher and advisor Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, four-time Olympic gold medalist Dawn Staley, former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, news anchors Jim Lehrer and Robert MacNeil, broadcaster Cokie Roberts, Philadelphia's legendary Kenny Gamble, and Jack Bogle, founder of The Vanguard Group.

In addition to hosting her PBS show *Lidia's Kitchen* and operating a flourishing food and entertainment business, Lidia Bastianich has published numerous cookbooks as well as her memoir: *My American Dream: A Life of Love, Family, and Food*. Lidia has earned seven James Beard Awards and two Emmy Awards. She is a member of Les Dames D'Escoffier and founding member of Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, two non-profit organizations of women leaders in the food and hospitality industries.

This event is supported by "Secondi" sponsors Brandywine Realty Trust as well as M&T Bank and Wilmington Trust. Proceeds from the event support WHYY's commitment to encouraging lifelong learning and advancing civic engagement through storytelling, education and community dialogue.

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