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Community Service

Kiwanis See's Candies Fundraiser a Big Success

Submitted by Bob Reynolds and John Haffner



Some of the many Kiwanis members who assisted with the candy shop, from left: Tim Freeman, Linda Zoccoli, Karen Reed, and Dick Ayres.

Moraga Kiwanis has just concluded a very successful effort to bring See's Candies to Lamorinda for the holidays. The response was extraordinary. The net proceeds from this fundraiser will go to community service and charitable organizations. These included local causes such as the Moraga Education Foundation, the Education Foundation of Orinda, Lafayette Partners in Education, the Monument Crisis Center, and the Food Bank.

Many of the people that came through our doors said "Thank you, Kiwanis for providing this service to our community." Moraga Kiwanis would like to extend a big thank you to Lamorinda - Thank you for your support of our efforts to pro-

vide a better place to live and to raise our children.

Moraga Kiwanis plans to be back again next year, offering See's finest holiday California candies to all in Lamorinda. More importantly, we look forward to putting our funds to work in our communities.

The club also extends special thanks to CVS, Kimco, and the Moraga Farmers Market, which generously provided us space for this fundraiser.

Moraga Kiwanis meets every Thursday at 7:15 a.m. at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Guests are always welcome. For more information, go to www.MoragaValleyKiwanis.Org.

Posh of Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini

What would a cosmopolitan woman with the looks of a model and an artistic taste in fashion do in Lafayette when she decides to create a new career for herself? Roya Bayat's answer to this question was easy: Posh, a retail apparel store for women. Located at the corner of Mount Diablo Boulevard and Brown Avenue, the little cottage she opened five weeks ago is filled with sophisticated, and very feminine, outfits and accessories that should easily find a market in Lamorinda.

Bayat was raised in Iran and lived in different countries including Turkey and Italy. "I love living in this country because I don't feel like a foreigner here," she says. "People can be very friendly in other countries, but if you have a foreign accent you will never be considered one of them. It is not the same here - people embrace you, where ever you come from."

Bayat used to be a fashion buyer. She is the mother of two young children and is also an artist - some of her paintings and sculptures are displayed in her store. "I cannot really make a living with my art," she says, "but opening this store is a great

way to combine my love of fashion and contributing to my family." Bayat says that she loves making women beautiful.

Her worldly education shows in the choice of unique clothes she sells. "I fly to New York showrooms at least once a month to see collections and order interesting things," says Bayat, "from my previous job as a buyer I know all the distributors in person." Her favorite creators are from New York, Italy, France, Los Angeles and sometimes Spain. "I like clothes that are fashionable, luxurious and at the same time, comfortable," she says, "something you can wear to go pick up the kids at school and look marvelous in."

The result is an assortment of diverse outfits, from some that exude simple elegance to others that are more romantic or bright.

"I have chosen a place that's still quite affordable and I keep my operating expenses low," says Bayat, "I want people here to have access to unique fashion that's not outrageously expensive." The store is small, and Bayat puts only a few sizes on the racks, while holding the rest in her storage room - she carries sizes 2 to 10



Roya Bayat in her new shop, Posh Photo Sophie Braccini

(for some items) - priced from \$8 accessories to a few hundred dollars for pieces of clothing.

"I feel fortunate to have found the cottage, with a façade on Brown where the business owners are so friendly, and the opposite front on the plaza that's so charming," says Bayat, adding that she feels blessed to

have been warmly welcomed in the neighborhood.

Posh is located at The Forge 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. 925-962-9691

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business briefs

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call the office 925-377-0977

Fun Music for Kids at Terzetto - While You Eat!
1419 Moraga Way, Moraga, 376-3832



Music group at Terzetto with teacher Carol Alban (standing left with flute) and Terzetto owner Roos Pal (standing right) Photo Sophie Braccini

A unique idea occurred to Terzetto Cuisine owner Roos Pal when she met Carol Alban, a fellow Moragan and music teacher: offering a free musical experience to children in the restaurant, while their parents have dinner. "Tuesday night is our Kids' Night, with a special .99 cent children menu, and I had been thinking for a while about adding some activities for children," says Pal. "Sometimes it is hard for parents to bring kids to a restaurant; they deserve to have a relaxed dinner, too!"

When flutist and music professor Carol Alban came to the restaurant to find a venue for a benefit concert for Haiti, the two women started talking and the idea of musical evenings for kids formed. "This is a free-format group lesson for children age 7 to 17," explains Alban, "There is a piano, along with keyboards and guitars; some of my students come with their instruments, others do not know anything about music. We explore together, we play, we have fun and by the end of the evening we can all play something together." The musical Tuesdays are scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday of each month (in January, it will be on the 11th and the 25th), starting at 5:30 p.m. "We've done it twice already and had 9-10 children participating," says Pal, "they liked it because there is no competition, no pressure, and they just have fun with music." Alban's way of teaching is about teaching the children the joy of playing: "I think that each Tuesday will be different, depending on who comes," said Alban, "I want to give them all the pleasure of creating music together." For more information about Alban, go to: www.myspace.com/carolalban.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

- Lafayette**
- No Mixer in January for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Save the date of February 9 for the first mixer of 2011 at Wells Fargo Bank, 5:30- 7pm.
 - Shop Lafayette Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 1, 12:30pm in the Chamber Conference Room
 - Green Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 19 at noon in the Chamber Conference Room. BYOL (Bring your own lunch).
 - Entrepreneur's Club on Thursday, January 20, 8:30am in the Chamber Conference Room
- Moraga**
- Chamber General Meeting on January 28, 7:30 - 9am). The first General Meeting of the year will be held at the Hacienda, 2100 Donald Drive. Roos' muffins and delicious coffee will be served.
- Orinda**
- Orinda Chamber Luncheon on Friday, January 28, 2011, noon-1:30pm at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda. RSVP highly recommended - to purchase tickets online go to the Chamber's web site at orindachamber.org. The cost is \$30.00 per person. The guest speaker is Tom Franier - co-owner of Semifreddi's Bakery. He will be talking about "Slow Capitalism."

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