

Last Call at Petar's

By Cathy Tyson



Moraga pals Sammy Cohen, now a student at University of Colorado, Boulder, and Jeremy Hauser, a student at UC Davis, enjoy a "Freddie" at Petar's closing night. Photo courtesy Jake Tyson

An overflow crowd came out to be a part of the closing night of Lafayette institution Petar's on Jan. 5. After a half century of hospitality, the legendary establishment closed its doors due to a decline in restaurant patronage and a significant rent increase from new property manager Main Street Properties.

Although Mediterranean fair replaced Petar's original continental cuisine a few years ago, the place was more known for its active bar scene than for dining. After purchasing the business from original owner Petar Jakovina 13 years ago, current owner Ned Kermaninejad said he'll be looking for other opportunities, and has no plans to retire.

It was a Saturday night to remember. A long line formed out front, complete with bouncers and a \$20 cover charge. Historically, Petar's was the preferred location for many Lamorinda college kids home on school breaks to enjoy an adult beverage. Closing night was no different, a festive atmosphere, music, and an easy cab ride home - if needed. The final farewell evening had college kids along with more mature folks ready to enjoy a libation or three and

popular singer, musician and DJ "Diamond Dave" Hosley.

Lots of audience participation marked the evening, including a rousing rendition from the packed house of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," and Van Morrison's unforgettable, "Brown-Eyed Girl." Perhaps it was the brisk sales of long-time bartender's namesake drink, the secret recipe \$6 "Freddie" shot, that lowered inhibitions.

Jeremy Hauser, a Campolindo class of 2009 graduate and now a senior at UC Davis, reflected on the Petar's experience. "Petar's was great for reconnecting with people you thought you would never see again. Something about a round of Freddies and a timeless Diamond Dave classic just brings people together." Hauser noticed some troubling changes over the years. "At the end it kind of lost its charm; exorbitant covers and overly dramatic bouncers seemed very un-Petar's. Over the last few breaks the Round Up definitely took its place as the 'go to' spot for bored Lamo kids. But I don't think any of us will soon forget the wild nights we had at Petar's, acting like kids again in a supposedly adult environment."

Famous Horowitz Piano Coming to Lafayette

... continued from page A2



Justin Levitt Photo provided

The legendary piano is available for the public to play on Jan. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Jan. 20 from noon to 3 p.m. A \$5 donation to support the Library Foundation is requested. Because of its popularity, play time will be limited to 10 minutes for students up to age 12, and 20 minutes for those 13 and up.

Also on Jan. 20, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., pianists Justin Levitt and Susan Hammond will hold a lecture-recital with video clips of the master at work and performance of music by Schumann, Rachmaninoff and Scriabin. Residents may remember Levitt from his days at Acalanes or his recent concert at the library with David Glass back in October. Admission for the recital is \$10 and includes a glass of wine or coffee. To make a reservation, call (925) 253-6513 x101 or go to reserve@LLLCF.org.

Levitt credits Bob Athayde at Stanley Middle School and Brad Wells, choir teacher at Acalanes, for their "support and encouragement, they really believed in me," and in-

spired him to pursue music as a profession. He recalls as a student in Lafayette he worked all summer and saved up \$600 to buy an upright spinet piano from a woman in Ross-moor, "and never looked back." This self-taught musician and composer recently played at Carnegie Hall and won first place at the 2012 Music Teachers' Association of California for his original composition, "Sweet Contentment."

Impressed by the Horowitz piano, Levitt points out that this is the very same piano the prominent musician had in his home and that accompanied him to Russia for his stellar come-back performances in Moscow and Leningrad in 1986. For beginners to advanced players being able to play this piano and experience the music and rich warm tone is priceless. For those that can't make it this weekend, the Horowitz piano will be available for the public to play at Sherman Clay in Walnut Creek for approximately two weeks.



KEITH KATZMAN
Knows Moraga Real Estate

925.376.7776
kkatzman@pacunion.com



JUST SOLD!
Over Asking Price with 4 Offers
46 Sarah Lane, Moraga
Sold for \$1,200,000



Moraga Resident since 1966.
Successfully selling real estate for over 28 years.



PacUnion.com

ARE YOUR ASSETS WORKING FOR YOU? OR, ARE YOU WORKING FOR YOUR ASSETS?

R. Hays Englehart, ChFC®
Financial Consultant, LPL Registered Principal
CA INSURANCE LIC. # 0643931



Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC

OFFICE 925.254.0980
CELL 818.642.6260
EMAIL hays@lfgadvisors.org
WEB lfgadvisors.org
ADDRESS One Bates Blvd, Suite 202
Orinda, CA 94563



Why Home Care Assistance Is The Leading Provider of 24/7 Live-In Care:

- We offer experienced, bonded and insured caregivers, who are trained in our Balanced Care Method™ of promoting healthy aging.
- We arrange culinary training for our caregivers at *Sur La Table* to improve their skills and ultimately, our clients' meals.
- Our founders wrote the book *Handbook for Live-In Care*, which serves as a resource for the industry as well as families.
- We also provide care away from home, including around-the-clock care during hospital and rehab facility stays.

Meet **Jesse Walters**. Jesse is the Client Care Manager for our Danville/ Walnut Creek office. He has been working on older adults issues for more than ten years and specializes in home care. Please call Jesse to answer any questions you may have about home care.



Call Jesse for a free consultation at:
925-817-0416 • HomeCareAssistance.com
480 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville, CA 94526