

Business

Delicious, Healthy and Fun

Graze, the New Moraga Restaurant

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Sue Doster and Kamille Nixon enjoyed their first lunch at Graze on a hot summer day. Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga's latest addition to the dining scene is Graze, a restaurant that has opened its doors in mid-June and is now in full swing, with a full menu of tasty salads, soups, entrees and sandwiches, available for lunch and dinner Wednesdays through Saturdays. Owners Ted and Ingrid Fulmer are bringing a simple concept they first developed in Hawaii where they ran a restaurant for eight years. They also bring their passion for fresh ingredients, mixed with herbs and spices to create tasty, satisfying, yet healthy

meals. Located in the Rheim Shopping Center, next to China Moon (where Shish Kabab Show and, for the old timers, Fudge Alley used to operate), they provide indoor and outdoor seating on the large patio.

The Fulmers met at Gordon Biersch in Palo Alto, where they both worked. Ted Fulmer has always worked in restaurants, cooking or serving since age 16. He later sought an accounting degree and became a CPA. The couple opened their first two restaurants in Chico:

the Black Crow Grill and Rawbar, a sushi fusion restaurant. They decided to sell those restaurants and start again with a new restaurant in Hawaii, this time with two young boys in tow.

"That restaurant was Pau, which means 'all finished, all done, all good,'" says Fulmer. When one of their employees offered to buy that business, after eight years, they returned to the Bay Area and rented a kitchen space at Miglet's bakery in downtown Danville. They began preparing dine-in and to-go orders of salads and dressings. "We started getting a following for our salads. We have been looking for a place of our own for a while. Then we found the opportunity in Moraga," he says.

"My concept is simple: quick, fresh and delicious," says Fulmer. "The way I eat at home, I take a grain, mix in vegetables, I add a homemade sauce, and a protein on top. That's how I built my specials at Pau, and I found that everybody wanted to eat like that, too." Fulmer's sauces, salads and grains are filled with all kinds of different herbs and spices that make the difference. "In the couscous (large Israeli couscous) there is mint and parsley. In the Asian noodle, there is scallion, Thai basil, cilantro and a ginger sauce – all that fresh flavor that hits you. I could serve my tomato soup plain, but with a little fresh thyme, a little parmesan, and a little drop of extra virgin olive oil, it becomes 'Whoa! That tomato soup was so good!' That's the extra 10 percent that makes the differ-

ence."

Among the many full bowls on the menu, the Aloha Noodle salad has a Hawaiian influence with its buckwheat noodles. Fulmer says that is his boys' favorite. The Superfood with quinoa and brown rice can be topped with either chicken breast or salmon, grilled or sashimi style, or for those who do not eat animal protein, the salads can be ordered without it. The sandwiches are either fish or chicken with greens, tomatoes and sauce on La Brea bread. There is also a choice of braised short ribs. "The meals are served in a bowl and have to be satisfying for me or one of my boys (now 11 and 16, and very active). This is a place for everyone, including families," he adds. There is

even a pepperoni cheese bread that, while not as healthy that the rest of the menu, young kids love. Fulmer says that his menu is seasonal, but that the favorites will stay there year-round, like the Superfood or the Aloha Noodle, and he confirms that everything but the bread is made on site from scratch daily.

Graze
376 Park Street, Moraga
(925) 388-0351
Hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays, Thursdays,
Fridays and Saturdays

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

business briefs

Lafayette Resident Named to California State PTA Board

www.capta.org

Shayne Silva of Lafayette has been named to the California State PTA board of directors as director of legislation, with a two-year term beginning July 1. In her role, Silva will coordinate the association's state capitol advocacy programs, priorities and initiatives. She has been a proud member of PTA for 25 years and has received PTA Honorary, Continuing Service and Golden Oak Service Awards. She has served as an advocate for the California State PTA for seven years. Prior to that time, she served six years as an education commissioner after serving as the 32nd District PTA president.



Lafayette resident Shayne Silva Photo provided

Patelco Dedicates Lafayette Branch to Local Resident

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Patelco Credit Union recently dedicated its Lafayette branch to honor longtime Lafayette resident Gene Bell, who has dedicated more than 30 years to Patelco's members and the overall community.



Gene Bell stands next to his plaque at the Lafayette branch of Patelco Credit Union. Photo provided
"Gene is a true embodiment of Patelco's community oriented focus. This dedication is just one way of honoring his service to our credit union members and the communities we serve," said Erin Mendez, president and CEO of Patelco Credit Union. A plaque is posted outside the branch office with Bell's name, honoring his years of service. Bell has lived in Lafayette for more than 30 years.

Nash Alawdi Named Moraga Employee of the Month for June

Nash Alawdi, an assistant manager at 7-Eleven convenience store, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for June. Alawdi has been serving 7-Eleven customers and helping supervise the store's staff for the past eight years. He once found \$150 in cash



From left: Kevin Reneau, Nash Alawdi and 7-Eleven owner Sam Saleh Photo provided

in the store, reviewed the video for identification of the owner and helped return the money to that owner. "Nash always goes the extra mile to be helpful whenever possible," said store owner Sam Saleh. "When a customer came in missing her purse, he took her in his own car to help her find it. He is just a great employee." The Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will present Alawdi with a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift card to Peninni's in Moraga at an upcoming Moraga Rotary lunch in July.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Save the date for the Mega Mixer, including all three Lamorinda chambers of commerce, from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 at Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. Free for chamber members and guests. For info, call the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce at (925) 687-0700.

Lafayette

The Entrepreneur's Club will meet at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 16 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Enjoy Coffee with the Mayor at 8 a.m. Friday, July 24 in the Chamber Conference Room.

There is a Green Committee meeting scheduled at noon Tuesday, July 28 in the Chamber Conference Room. For information, visit lafayettechamber.org.

Moraga

There are no chamber events scheduled during the month of July.

Orinda

There are no chamber events scheduled during the month of July.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

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