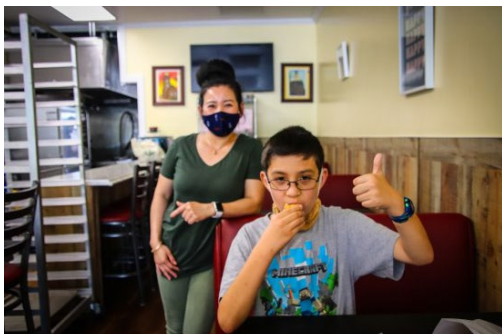


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Johnny's Donuts extended hours delight community

By Sora O'Doherty



Johnny's Donuts owner Kim Soeung with her biggest fan, Tycho Nicosia, sampling a late afternoon donut hole. Photo Sora O'Doherty

a job working in a donut shop to learn the trade, before buying her first shop in San Jose, Manley's Donuts. Like Johnny's Donuts, Manley's was an independently owned shop, not a franchise. Soeung has a large family, and she has gradually brought them all to California from Cambodia to work in her donut shops. Only her sister remains in Cambodia, caught by the pandemic, but hopes to join the rest of the family. Two years ago she brought her brother and sister-in-law and 11 other family members to California to work with her. Her brother is the baker in Lafayette and bakes the donuts every night. Soeung stresses that the shop only sells freshly made donuts. If any are left over, she donates them to the homeless.

Opening at the beginning of the pandemic, Soeung was able to keep her shop open as an essential business. Johnny's is now open for take-out or dine in. Soeung says that she really, really appreciates the local support that she receives. She has customers from Lamorinda and Walnut Creek, as well as from places like Danville and Vallejo. "I have really warm feelings for the community," she says, adding that everyone is really nice to them.

Currently the shop offers a wide variety of donuts and beverages. Soeung has aspirations to add croissant breakfast sandwiches with ham and cheese, and house-baked, New-York-style boiled bagels, as are offered by Manley Donuts in San Jose. She would also like to expand her range of beverages to include healthy fruit smoothies and espresso drinks.

Moraga resident Tycho Nicosia, 11, loves the shop. "The donuts are great, and they have soda!" he says.

Reach the reporter at: sora@lamorindaweekly.com

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