

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Saturday morning concerts are on the menu at Si Si Caffe



Photo Vera Kochan

"Friends of Old Puppy" band members, from left: Steven Strauss, Kenji Nakadegawa and Greg Pratt entertain at Si Si Caffe

By Vera Kochan

A Moraga staple for more than 24 years, Si Si Caffe (910 Country Club Dr.) offers free Saturday morning concerts to go with that "cup of joe" you just purchased.

The family owned/operated establishment is run by Cathy Corsi and her husband Aldo. Daughter, Lia, is the manager and grandkids, Cara and Devin, prepare the refreshments with an added crew. Another daughter, Cynthia, helped out for a few years.

There is an extensive menu of hot and cold coffee and tea, lattes, frappes, fruit smoothies, Italian sodas, ice cream, pastries and light breakfast offerings patrons can enjoy in the casual patio setting while listening to the band "Friends of Old Puppy."

The concerts have taken place for a couple of years and

typically begin around 10 a.m. and last until noon. The "volunteer" musicians play for tips and the enjoyment of entertaining. Weekends are the only chance they have to play together, as they have other gigs during the week. Steven Strauss, FOP's founder stated, "I'm the last guy standing from 2004," referring to the latest band-member incarnation. He plays the ukulele and sings. While the member dress code appears to be Hawaiian shirts and leis, Strauss added a Santa hat to his ensemble, because it matched the red and white colors of his lei.

Other band members are co-founder Cynthia Wilson on drums, Kenji Nakadegawa plays a cello that's been converted to an upright bass, Ken Huie who rotates sets with Nakadegawa, and Greg Pratt on a Fender

Telecaster electric guitar.

The audience often comprises of seniors, cyclists on a coffee break, young teens, kids with their parents, and dogs on leashes (partaking of Si Si's free water -- not coffee). During a recent concert, one audience member happily knitted while enjoying standards from the 1920s to 1950s. Strauss calls their musical style "exotica."

Cyclist Duncan Haffner is a regular to the concerts. "I can walk here from where I live," he stated before remarking how amazed he is that Strauss' large hands can deftly play a small ukulele.

Si Si Caffe has been approached by other musicians and singers wanting to entertain the public on Sundays and possibly weekdays thanks to word of mouth. For more information call (925) 377-1908.

## Friends of the Lafayette Library opens its fall Sweet Thursday Author Series

Submitted by Laurie Miles

The Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center is excited to open the Sweet Thursday Author Series in person this September.

Author Kirstin Chen will speak at 7 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Don Tatzin Community Hall about her book "Counterfeit," a story of two Asian American women who band together to grow a counterfeit handbag scheme into a global enterprise. It's a blend of fashion, crime, and friendship with two unforgettable minority women who are determined to de-

mand more from life. Kirstin is a NYT best-selling author of three novels. "Counterfeit" was the June '22 Reese's Book Club pick. She also wrote "Bury What We Cannot Take" and "Soy Sauce for Beginners."

This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library although registration is required and seating is limited. Register at [tinyurl.com/sweet-Sept22](http://tinyurl.com/sweet-Sept22). The DTCH doors will be open at 6:45 p.m. for coffee and sweets before the talk. Orinda Books will be on-site to sell copies of the book before and after the talk. Wearing of facial covering is highly advised for this event.

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We would also like to thank the Los Perales, Camino Pablo, Rheem, and Joaquin Moraga PTAs and the Campolindo Parent's Club for their partnership in supporting Moraga public schools.



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