

Honoring the reawakening of Divine Feminine energy – Goddess Gatherings opens in Lafayette



Photo Vera Kochan

Goddess Gatherings co-owners Jen Grossi (left) and Amy Miller

By Vera Kochan

Unlike anything in the Lamorinda area, Goddess Gatherings (3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette) has arrived to offer a space where according to their website, “anyone wishing to honor the reawakening energy of the Divine Feminine can join in celebration, ceremony and stillness.”

With a soft opening on Oct. 1, 2022, followed by an official ribbon cutting on March 22, co-owners Amy Miller and Jen Grossi, who have known each other for seven years, describe Goddess Gatherings as a small hybrid retail/gathering/art gallery center.

Don't let the name fool you, gentlemen. All are welcome; male and female, young and old, and the first reaction from anyone entering the room is “Wow!” An explosion of color in the form of paintings by local artists, new-to-you clothing, new clothing by the Karma Highway label, jewelry, home décor, wellness products, candles, crystals, furniture, ceramics and more are all for sale. But, the fun doesn't stop there.

The retail space turns into a participation venue with upcoming events such as “Freedom Flow Movement & Dance,” “Sound Sensations – A Sound Bath,” and “Energy Movement Yoga” when tables and chairs are pushed to the side to allow for spreading out.

Gathering Goddesses began as Miller's brain child. “It's the culmination of all my passions. I was a fine arts major and loved to create.” Miller crafts a lot of the jewelry for sale calling it “Peace and

Magic,” exhibits her paintings on the walls, and describes the furniture for purchase as a “Bohemian wanderlust of found, vintage and one-of-a-kind pieces.”

Grossi describes Miller as a “curator of magical things. She believes in putting forth positivity, and she keeps changing things in the shop so that it's always different.”

Before the concept of a retail space struck her, Miller and five other women started meeting within the small circle of friends. “We called it Goddess Gatherings and celebrated our femininity. It was so powerful. I tried doing pop-ups in different locations, and eventually was ready to bring this to a larger group.” In the meantime, Grossi was considering opening a yoga studio, so the two joined forces to open their Lafayette location.

The company logo is a Vesica Pisces surrounded by six rays of light. A Vesica Pisces is a mathematical shape formed by the intersection of two discs with the same radius, intersecting in such a way that the center of each disc lies on the perimeter of the other. It can be interpreted as the blending of masculine and feminine, and it is also believed to be an ancient symbol of the Divine Feminine. The six rays of light represent the original six members of the Goddess Gatherings who, by the way, help conduct the various events offered.

“We're grateful to be here,” said Grossi, “and grateful that the community has been open to us.”

For more information visit: www.goddessgatherings.com.

Saint Mary's rugby

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The Gaels' victory over Cal last year was in the national semifinals game. This penultimate game of the regular season did have playoff implications for both teams. “We're going to be in the playoffs because we're going to win our league,” O'Brien said. “Twelve teams will be in the playoffs and the top four teams get a first-round bye. With this win, we should be getting a bye.”

In what was a team effort on both offense and defense, Mario Storti, Inoke Waqaveski and Joe Marchant all came up with big plays. “Mario's score at the end of the first half was a pretty cool play that came out of nowhere,” O'Brien said. “Inoke is a baller who was only playing just his third game at scrum half and had a great game. Joe who made a beautiful breakout run was pretty remarkable on defense.”

After the two early scores, O'Brien was disappointed in the way Cal took advantage of Saint Mary's mistakes: “The game was more exciting than it needed to be. For the first 20 minutes, we were really hitting on the right cylinders but Cal is so athletic and when we made a couple of errors and missed a couple of tackles – doomsday.”

O'Brien kept things on an even keel all week in practice and anticipates an even better

performance if they were to face Cal in the playoffs. “We tried to not overhype the Saint Mary's – Cal thing,” O'Brien said. “I just wanted to come here and just get a taste of it because if things go well for us, we'll see Cal again, and we did not want to blow it all out now. We can be better because we wasted a lot of opportunities. We'd make a good run and then chuck the ball away. We did not capitalize on enough of our breaks to come away with points.”

The post-game self-analysis for O'Brien is something that he looks forward to. “One of the reasons I love rugby is because it's a problem-solving activity,” O'Brien said. “We're trying to solve problems like invading their space and coming away with points. There's a lot of great lessons that came out of our game today.”

Games like these are just what the game needs, according to O'Brien: “I think it's great for college rugby to have this type of rivalry. College rugby needs this; high school rugby needs this; U.S. rugby needs this. The United States is hosting the World Cup in eight years and we're not even in this year's World Cup. Enthusiasm drives everything. When people get to watch the sport and have people that they follow and kids see players that they follow, to me it just makes nothing but perfect sense.”



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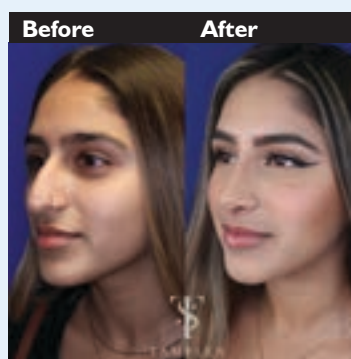
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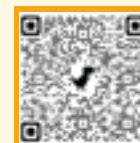


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