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Avi Ben-Ari with daughter Leeron in the new family restaurant Kabab.Burger in Lafayette Photo Sophie Braccini

Kabab.Burger Mediterranean Grill Opens in Lafayette 3647 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette (next to Trader Joe's)

This is Lafayette resident and former printing business owner Avi Ben-Ari's first restaurant. But Ben-Ari has the best partner to support him in this career change: his wife, Michaella, who's been managing a catering business in Walnut Creek for years. "We are cooking the food of our roots. This is what we love and want to share with the community," he says. Ben-Ari has lived in this country for more than 30 years. Originally from Israel, he brought in his suitcases the longing for the spices and tastes of the Mediterranean Sea. Kabab.Burger will recreate that taste, "all from scratch in our kitchen," promises Ben-Ari. But why add 'burger' to the 'kabab'? "Kabab is ground beef and lamb meat mixed with spices and grilled, not very far from a burger," says the restaurant owner. "We want to adapt to our clientele, so if some people just want a good beef burger, we can do it. If they want to try the real kabab, we will do that also." As we were talking with Ben-Ari at the beginning of the afternoon, several potential customers came by to check out the menu and enquire about take-out. The set-up is very informal; customers order and pick-up at

the back counter and can sit at one of the inside tables. The menu offers a classic Middle-Eastern choice of dishes, with baba ganoush, hummus, salads, and a nice variety of grilled meats, including kababs and burgers, served as a sandwich, a wrap, or on skewers.

New Sales Associate at Coldwell Banker

5 Moraga Way, Orinda

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced today that Tricia Young has joined the company as a sales associate in its Orinda office. In her new position, Young will specialize in residential sales in the East Bay. Young, a 40-year resident of the Lamorinda area, has extensive knowledge of local schools and neighborhoods, as well as a familiarity with the entire East Bay region. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, she served as director of a Lafayette preschool.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafavette

The Summer Series begins every Friday night from June 15 through August 24 with free dancing, movies and rock & roll in downtown Lafayette at the Lafayette Plaza Park (Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road). Every Friday is different and fun for all ages. On June 15, enjoy a '50s Sock Hop with a live band, then on June 22, square dance with a professional caller. For a complete event listing, visit www.trylafayettefirst.org/summer-2012-events/.

Moraga

Moraga Chamber Of Commerce Golf Tournament all day Saturday, June 23. For more info, visit Moragachamber.org.

Orinda

4th of July Events - Help Needed!

Orinda Chamber's legendry Hot Dog Booth will start this year at 10 a.m. on July 4. The Orinda Chamber sells between 700 and 1,000 hot dogs in about three hours that day, so it takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen. "We have always been grateful for the help from Scouts, who have again volunteered to help this year," says Chamber Executive Director Candy Kattenburg. "Scouts will be wrapping up hot dogs, and will be grabbing sodas, chips, and candy and passing them off to the adult volunteers who are manning the cash boxes." This project requires older Scouts (eighth-grade and older). If you know a Scout who might be interested, please contact Steve Sernett at sernettmail@gmail.com.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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