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Chabad of Lamorinda opens Bay Kosher grocery store



By Sora O'Doherty

Rabbi Israel and Tzipora Labkowski have opened a kosher grocery store in Lafayette in the building they acquired for the Chabad Center. Located at 3477 Golden Gate Way, formerly home to the Henderson Nut Factory, the entire front of the building will be devoted to the grocery. Labkowski plans to start Photo Sora O'Doherty

small but hopes to expand to more prepared foods in the future. Bay Kosher is now open for business.

The grocery, located behind the Lafayette Library, is a nonprofit endeavor.

Labkowski set an initial fundraising goal of \$200,000, and by mid-September had raised more than half that amount. Donations went from modest amounts to at

least one donation of \$10,000. There was also a matching program by generous donors who pledged to match up to \$100,000. In his fundraising effort, the rabbi quoted Maimonides, who said every good deed, no matter how small, tips the scale of humanity toward goodness.

Labkowski has two goals for his new store. First, he wants to make kosher food more available in the area, as it is currently very difficult to find kosher items, he says. The most important thing to him is pricing. He says that any stores that carry anything kosher are more expensive, over double the price than the same item in, say, New York, where kosher foods are more prevalent. "Keeping kosher shouldn't be a luxury," he believes.

Secondly, with the COVID pandemic and inflation, the rabbi says that a lot of families need the help of the community.

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New free scanner offered at Orinda Library



New public scanners have been added to the Orinda Library. Library Manager Michael Beller says that the large flatbed scanner is suitable for scanning books and in addition there is a very fast feeder scanner. The scanners are located right by the reference desk, so staff will be able to answer any questions. The

Photo Sora O'Doherty

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machines can scan directly to a USB device, email, online folders and more. In addition, Beller says that there is immediate AI translations to over 100 languages, including two forms of Klingon: not yap wa' Hol. (Klingon for "One language is never enough.") – S. O'Doherty







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