

spotlight

BY JESSICA MACKINDER

Sterling's Upstairs, located at the legendary Vitello's Restaurant (4349 Tujunga Ave.), is celebrating its one year anniversary in June with a stellar roster of Broadway and night club performers. The supper club provides a four-course prix-fixe dinner, followed by a one-hour performance for \$50 a person. Sterling's Upstairs opened June 9, 2006 and was dedicated to producer Michael Sterling's longtime friend and mentor, the late Rosemary Clooney. For reservations and information, call (818) 981-3077 or visit www.myspace.com/sterlingsupstairs.com.

Bollywood Café 2 (3737 Cahuenga Blvd. West), the latest curry café to spice up the valley, has customers lining up on the red carpet that greets patrons for the "all-you-can-eat" 15-course lunch buffet for \$9.95.



Moe Munim.

Traditional art and décor adorn the walls at this relaxed and casual Indian eatery while the mouth-watering aroma of Chicken Tikka Masala lingers. Owner **Moe Munim**, who opened

this second location in Studio City in April, can be seen buzzing around refilling drinks, seating and serving customers and keeping the buffet fresh. (818) 508-5533.

Nominations are now being accepted for the **9th Annual Local Hero** awards program, which honors the accomplishments and contributions of men and women of Hispanic/Latino heritage. Presented by Union Bank of California, N.A. and

KCET, the Local Hero awards will honor five individuals in the categories of art, business, community activism/volunteerism, education and social services. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, June 8. Local Hero nomination forms are available via email request to Alicia Romero, Alicia.Romero@uboc.com.

While trendy frozen yogurt shops continue to pop up left and right as the "must have" sweet treat reigns the land, **Menchie's Frozen Yogurt** (4849 Laurel Canyon, Valley Village) presents a "do it yourself" approach that sets them apart. Grab a cup or a freshly made waffle cone as 10 daily flavors (ranging from Georgia Peach to Ghirardelli Chocolate) await you at the family friendly parlor. Top your tasty combo with a variety of seasonal fruits, candies, nuts and cereals to complete your creation. Affordable owners **Danna Balas** and **Adam Caldwell**, who juggled planning a wedding while setting up shop, invite you to come taste the difference at Menchie's. www.whatsurmix.com.



Danna Balas.

The **East Valley Multipurpose Center** (5000 Colfax Ave., Bldg. 11630, NoHo) is currently looking for seniors interested in participating in some new exciting classes. A schedule is now forming for Hypnotherapy, Mah Jong Group and Creative Writing Classes throughout the week. Activities are open to all seniors 60 years or over. A donation of \$2 to \$4 per class is suggested. For more information, call (818) 766-5165.

Cork leads trend toward "green" flooring

BY LIESL BRADNER

A little bark is going a long way in the push for environmentally friendly home materials.

Cork, which has been used for flooring since 1894, has recently reemerged as a viable "green" choice in floor construction for modern homeowners and businesses.

"People want something that is green and with cork you never have to cut down any trees," explains Tom Banner, owner of Cork USA in Sherman Oaks. Open since the beginning of this year, Cork USA is so far the only retail store in the nation that specializes in cork flooring and related products.

Cork is harvested from the bark of the Cork Oak tree (*Quercus suber*) every nine years, and takes seven to ten years to grow back. With an average lifespan of over 200 years, cork harvesting enables these sturdy trees to thrive without harmful chemicals or herbicides.

The benefits of cork flooring are numerous. It's durable, comfortable, quiet and maintains an even temperature. Unlike carpet, cork is hypoallergenic and antimicrobial – it doesn't cause allergies and resists mold, mildew and termites. Static electricity isn't generated from cork flooring either.

Sibil Eginli purchased cork floors two years ago at the urging of her two teenagers.

"They liked how soft it was, plus my son Alex has allergies and it doesn't have that varnish smell," Eginli says, noting that she also enjoys its easy upkeep. "I don't have to wax it like my wood floors and I don't like using harsh chemicals. I like our cork floors the best."

Eginli purchased her flooring from Floor Concepts in Encino, which has been selling cork floors for five years.

"Most people choose it for the soft and warm feel underfoot as well as the eco-friendly alternative," says store owner Ari Kalfa. "Everyone is surprised by how good it looks after the installation."

Cork can be installed in any room, with kitchens and bathrooms being the most popular due to its water-resistant property. The material has also found its way into commercial properties such as the Bonaventure and Renaissance Hotels, the University of California Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Public Library in Brentwood. Even actor Charlton Heston has it in his home.

"It's good for kids and in hospitals for old folks," explains Banner. "If you fall it's unlikely you'll hurt yourself."

Another of cork's draws is its silencing acoustic effect, which has led to its widespread use in recording studios and babies' rooms. NASA has been using cork for years for insulation and heat absorption, and Igloo uses it in coolers. Cork also functions in expansion joints in concrete and bridges.

For those concerned with heat sensitivity

Portrait of The Week



Robert Evans



Robert Evans Studios

ROBERTEVANS.COM

STUDIO CITY

818-509-9222

Summer HORSE CAMP

Weekly Sessions
Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 pm

Saturday Camp 9am - 3 pm

RIDING LESSONS:
Private • Group • Birthday parties

FOR INFORMATION
CALL 768-5470
Los Angeles Children's Riding Center
9211 Del Arroyo Drive, Sun Valley

ENROLL NOW!!!

It's All About The Color

EJS **EDDY JAMES SALON**

12522 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA
818.505.0086