

Mina Bean'a Café celebrates its 1st birthday

Neighbor to Neighbor

As the Mina Bean'a Café approaches its first year anniversary, we have many things to be thankful for. We are grateful for the support of the residents and merchants in Siler City. Through the café, we have had opportunities to meet many dynamic people and have made new friends. Our space has afforded us the ability to serve the community by becoming involved with programs, which promote growth.

Our family moved from the Hudson River Valley in New York State to North Carolina three years ago. After a year, we purchased the building, which became the home to our café. We held a family meeting to consult on how best to develop the space. We spoke with town residents about what they thought would be beneficial to Siler City. The idea of opening a café came up often in these conversations. At that time there were no designated coffee shops in Siler City. A café seemed a perfect fit with the emergent arts community and new galleries. The artists were all very supportive and shared their vision for the rejuvenation of the downtown area. Finally, we sought the advice of Vance Remick, local Chatham County restaurateur. He came to see the space and encouraged us to proceed with our project.

222 E. Raleigh St. had been a picture framing store and upholstery shop. Prior to this, it had been a furniture store. The process of transforming the space into a café began.

Dominique designed the new layout and lent oversight to the construction crew. Mina and he painted the walls and restored the wooden floors. A conference room was built in. Diana scouted for furnishings, including many antique and vintage pieces.

The café features traditional bistro tables on one side and a lounge with comfortable sofas, wireless internet, and a children's play area on the other side.

A name for the café — While driving back home from a rafting trip in Pennsylvania, we brainstormed all sorts of names. Mina is our daughter's name and Beana refers to coffee beans. It fit! Mina Bean'a Café.

Over the past year, the café has expanded in a number of directions. Area businesses and networking



Mina Bean'a Café, at 222 E. Raleigh St. in Siler City, has become a favorite destination.

consignments have grown and we are proud to house the Global Heart Fair Trade Boutique.

On the first and third Fridays we have concerts. Mina continues to create delicious and at times, exotic specials, which have become area favorites. We have worked hard to create an atmosphere that is welcoming and enjoyable.

If you haven't yet been to the cafe, please come in and say hello! Our hours are: Monday 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 7 a.m.- p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Our family and staff wish to thank the residents of Chatham County and the surrounding area for their support of the Mina Bean'a Café!

— The Metraud Family

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