

BUSINESS BUZZ

Cafe Teatro Celebrates 14th Anniversary

Since 2003, the husband-and-wife team of Joe and Jin Cho has been serving up phenomenal illy coffee drinks, along with freshly baked pastries, cookies, bagels, biscotti, breakfast offerings and delicious sandwiches at this neighborhood gathering place at 26 Orinda Way, on the ground floor of the Orinda Library building. Rain or shine, it is a welcome and comforting place to read *The Orinda News*, *The New York Times* or catch up with a friend over a cup of excellent coffee or tea.

While illy coffee has always been served here, it was in 2009 that Joe was approached by an illy representative and offered the opportunity to officially become “Artista del Gusto” – artist of taste – which involved detailed training by an illy expert on every detail, including how to use the custom espresso machine, La Cimbali. At that time, only 17 coffee shops in California earned such distinction.



VALERIE HOTZ
Joe Cho of Cafe Teatro celebrates 14 years in Orinda.

“The illy standards must be met consistently in order to receive the Artista del Gusto rating. Several times each year we have a surprise visit from an illy representative who evaluates our operation and grades us on everything, including how we present the coffee beverage to our customer,” explains Joe.

“We stand by illy. It is truly great coffee, and we are pleased to be official Artista del Gusto for illy,” says Joe, who also shops daily to get the freshest ingredients that make the sandwiches and salads so mouth-watering. Choose from an array of cold or hot sandwiches and specials such as the turkey melt with pesto, avocado, bacon and Havarti cheese or the chicken melt made with pesto, mozzarella and tomato.

Cafe Teatro offers catering for local breakfast or lunch meetings. The breakfast offerings include hot coffee, juices, yogurt, bagels and cream cheese, breakfast sandwiches, muffins, croissants and more. Custom sandwiches, chips, cookies, brownies and a selection of beverages are available for lunch. Call Joe at 925-254-5871 for more information or to arrange catering.

Joe and Jin came to the Bay Area from South Korea in 2002 and the couple has two young daughters, 11-year-old Clara and 9-year-old Allison, who keep them very busy with family activities. “I am certain we have also seen every single Pixar and Disney movie ever made,” says Joe.

Cafe Teatro is open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit the website at www.orindacoffee.com or call 925-254-5871. Cafe Teatro is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.