

High Five!

Look who's celebrating five years!



Pull out the streamers and party hats—*Richardson Living* magazine is celebrating five years of “connecting communities in Richardson!” A high five goes out to these businesses, organizations and residents who are blowing out the candles on their cakes, too. Now, everyone—make a wish!

Amigos Restaurant Comida Casera

Only in Texas can you find the best Mexican food in the country, and only at Amigos will you find brothers Frankie and Augustin Jimenez, and brother-in-law Manuel Sanchez, serving up some of the finest family recipes. Originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, the Jimenezes have worked in the restaurant business for 30 years.

Amigos’ “handmade entries and homemade tastes” are *muy bueno!* About 70 percent of the restaurant’s dishes are authentic Mexican food; other flavorful fare includes Tex-Mex, seafood and pasta. According to Frankie, customers enjoy the free tostadas that come with lunch and dinner orders. “Everybody loves it when they get a tostada ‘on the house.’”

Amigos has earned many awards in five years, including “Best Wait Staff” from *Richardson Living* (makes sense that amigos would be friendly!), and “Best Happy Hour” by the *Dallas Morning News*.

A 15-year resident, Frankie said Richardson was an ideal place to open a business. “We were thinking about our second location, but because of the economy, we’re putting that on hold. We’re focusing on making this restaurant better.”

Amigos is spicing up the dining experience by offering live music. “Come hear blues, jazz and light rock,” said Frankie, “while eating good food at an affordable price!”

Sushi Loco

Sushi is not just a dish; it’s an art. How can raw fish be an art you ask? Actually, raw fish is called sashimi. Sushi may be served raw or cooked but it is always served with rice.

Sushi Loco specializes in the art of sushi, including rolls and sashimi. Just off Coit and Campbell roads, the restaurant serves Asian-Southwest fusion dishes; “loco” refers not only to the Southwestern flavors, but also to the variety of textures.

The art in sushi lies in the presentation of the dish. It can be prepared in four ways: nigiri (shaped), maki (rolled), oshi (pressed) and chirashi (chopped). A bed of pickled ginger cleanses the palate in between bites, and a dollop of wasabi, mixed with soy, releases the flavor of the fish.

Sushi Loco offers freshly cut sushi, as well as a limited Chinese menu for those who prefer chicken over art.

The Living Opera

Behind every song there’s a story. Bravo to The Living Opera whose artistic arias and mesmerizing stories have captivated audiences for five years.

“The Living Opera has searched the musical canon to tell interesting and dramatic stories,” said Executive Director Adam Adolfo. “There are hundreds of types of stories, but the ones spectators are most responsive to can be distilled down to two categories.

“The first are creational stories dealing with gods, heroes and beasts,” Adolfo continued. “These ancient stories are born of human imagination and are found around the world in various incarnations. They become part of the culture and are known as myths.

“The second can be found alongside recorded history. Frequently, they are fantastic narratives passed through time, possessing qualities of truth but with no actual basis for fact. These stories become our legends.”

The Living Opera’s 2009 season emerged from these concepts. Said Adolfo, “From the exotic Far East in Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly” to the frigid arctic North in André Grétry’s “Beauty and the Beast,” and further still, exploring our own history in “The Yellow Rose of Texas,” this season celebrates the stories of Texas, our imagination and our love.”

Texas Triple Threat

Husband-and-wife team Todd and Kristen Codish opened their private practice training athletes in 2004. Soon after, they created Texas Triple Threat, a triathlon club of more than 100 athletes who swim, bike and run. Athletes benefit from the seven group workouts throughout the week and from a positive social atmosphere. “I have made some of my best friends through the team,” said Kristen. “The athletes all have big hearts and truly strive to be healthier people.”

The club focuses on beginners. Coaches ensure a beginner lane at swim practice; they bring the last cyclist in on rides; and

they walk or run alongside new members at the runs. "They all help each other," said Kristen. "Members take beginners under their wings and push them to achieve their goals, whether it's a triathlon, a century ride or a marathon. Everyone works together to groom that next great person."

Lake Highlands Junior Women's League

Put a group of young vibrant women together and they may head to the mall...or they may put on their philanthropic hats and improve our parks! The Lake Highlands Junior Women's League (LHJWL), an auxiliary of Lake Highlands Women's League, has raised more than \$150,000 to improve Lake Highlands North Park. According to Sarah Hefton, president of the board, "The organization's project has included amenities at the popular sprayground, an area in the park that shoots water from the ground for children to run in; a paved loop trail; and restoration of the pond."

The club's main fundraiser is an annual 5K, 1-mile fun-run/walk called "Run the Highlands." As funds increase, the women hope to build a family picnic area, a shade structure over the playground and a maze for children crafted from landscape shrubs.

LHJWL began with a steering committee of six 1989-1997 graduates of Lake Highlands High School. In November 2004, 85 charter members held their first meeting, and today the club boasts 125 members. The ladies are in their 20s, 30s and 40s, and all of them believe "the park is the heart of their neighborhood."

Richardson AnimalLuv

They're cute, cuddly and they'll never judge you—sounds like a good friend. So many animals are curled up in cages waiting to be adopted.

Richardson AnimalLuv was founded in 2004 by community members who wanted to help the Richardson Animal Shelter financially for projects not budgeted for by the City. Projects included medical expenses, microchipping and vaccination clinics, dog washes and spay days.

Peggy Thorburn, president of the nonprofit organization, said, "We focus 100 percent on saving and giving the animals a second chance at life. Our adoption rate has greatly increased since the foundation began. We get an average of 75-100 dogs a month, and we adopt 50 percent, give or take." She added, "It is much harder to find homes for cats. I wish there was a way to give them a better chance."

Armed with perseverance, Thorburn turns to God for help. "I started this foundation with one purpose in mind—to help God save his animal kingdom. With my faith and His guidance we are doing just fine."

William Hemme

Come June, Richardson residents Terry and Liliana Hemme will be celebrating their son Jack's first birthday, but it is their oldest son William who gets a high five from us. William turned five on March 23.

Between his Power Wheels Mustang and his personalized Batman book, this energetic boy loves adventure. When mom's

not looking, he likes to crawl in his brother's crib so they can jump together. "I like to look at him and make a mad face. He likes it!" William said.

But this big brother understands responsibility.

A helper and a young athlete, William enjoys playing outside with his friends, which is exactly what he did on his birthday. "I loved the jump house!" he said enthusiastically.

Born in Malta, Europe, William may grow up to be a worldwide traveler...if only he had Spider-Man's web-blasting hands to cling to buildings and travel at great speeds. The birthday boy did get a Lightsaber and Tommy 20 Foam Dart Blaster, though, so let's not rule out comic book superhero just yet.

Destini Terry Kay Grayer

Pull out the tiara for Destini Terry Kay Grayer who will be celebrating her fifth birthday on June 15. This adorable "princess" is the youngest of three children including Odell Carson (10) and Alexis Carson (14).

Mom, Terry Johnson, said that this year the family may head to Cottonwood Park and rent a bounce house for Destini. "So far birthdays have been intimate with family and friends," she said. "Because of the weather we generally barbecue."

Like most little girls, Destini likes playing dress-up. Cascading ruffles and pink and purple princess apparel are her specialty. She also likes to color and play with dolls. Destini said her favorite dolls were "Bratz Barbies."

So what does Cinderella want for her birthday? "A princess camera, a new Bratz doll and shoes," she said. Perhaps a pair of glass slippers, too!

Natalie and Klint Guerry

On November 20, 2004, Klint Guerry took Natalie's hand in marriage at Rough Creek Lodge in Glen Rose, Texas. The couple has yet to make plans for their five-year anniversary, but Natalie quipped, "Isn't this the year that the wife gets diamonds?"

Natalie and Klint met on the job when they both sold cars at Sewell Lexus in Dallas. After the wedding, the couple escaped to Cancun, Mexico, for their honeymoon. They've called Richardson home for four years.

When asked for relationship advice, Natalie said, "Communicate everything; don't even tell white lies." She



added, "Try not to nag even though sometimes that's just darn near impossible. Laugh *with* and *at* each other."

Klint's advice? "No matter how hard it may be, leave your work at work and be fully home with your wife and children. They need you to be happy, loving and engaged despite whatever challenges you may be facing at the office. Trust me, you have plenty of time to devote [your energy] to your career from eight to five."

Klint emphasized that it is important to play with your kids, too. He and Natalie welcomed their first child two years ago, Hollis Parks Guerry. "Play with your kids like you're a five-year-old," said Klint. "There's no better stress reliever!"

Mark and Kristie Frazier

Barefoot on the beach, Mark and Kristie Frazier united on June 20, 2004 in St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Their daughters, Megan and Kayla, who were 9 and 10 at the time, were witnesses and signed the marriage certificate. "After the ceremony, the four of us swam in the ocean all day long," said Kristie. "It was the perfect wedding reception."

Mark and Kristie met when she was a Regional Manager for Lincoln Property Company and Mark's business, FTK Construction Services, was awarded four apartment communities that Kristie managed. "Our relationship was completely professional," said Kristie. "He thought I was very tough and a little too professional." So tough, Mark and his partner nicknamed Kristie the "Ice Queen."

"Evidently, after several projects together I warmed up a bit," she laughed.

The Frazier's love for "all things Richardson" runs deep. They moved to the community almost two years ago to put their three-year-old daughter, Sophie, into Prairie Creek Elementary. Megan, (16) and Kayla (15) attend J.J. Pearce High School. The Fraziers attend Heritage Church of Dallas, located in Richardson, where Mark is a worship leader and a men's group leader, and Kristie is the nursery coordinator.

Busy lifestyles require quality time together. Mark suggests a weekend getaway. "Once every three months take your wife somewhere for a long weekend," he said. "Our favorite place is the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio. Go in the winter when there are no kids."

Mark planned a trip for the couple's five-year anniversary. Kristie tried to persuade *Richardson Living* to do some investigative reporting, but we can only hope she finds herself...barefoot on the beach. ■

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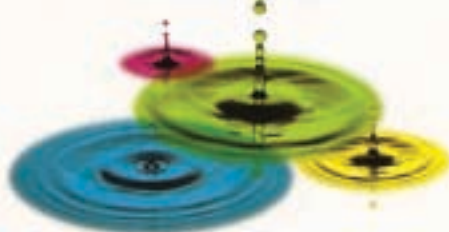
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