

# Deysa, a new retail boutique, opens in Multnomah Village

## THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Deysa, a new boutique featuring Indonesian merchandise, has joined a list of international businesses in Multnomah Village. The shop offers authentic home accents, décor, vibrant batiks, and ethnic clothing from Bali. Each piece is handmade.

Merchants selling items from Morocco, Latin America, Turkey, and Israel have been thriving in Multnomah Village for years.

Deysa, spelled *desa* in Indonesian, means "village". According to the owners Lisa Johnson and husband, Wayan Suarnawa, the *desa* is a center for a strong family and spiritual life in Bali.

"Our goal is to connect communities here and in Bali," Johnson said. "We intend to promote a higher level of global respect for stronger cultural exchanges. It's important that we know the source of the items we purchase."

The entire family, including daughters Sinta, Sarina, and Satianna, all play a part in purchasing the furnishings as well as helping out in the store.

"We know the faces and names of each of the artisans we buy from," Johnson said. "There is a story and a person on the other side of the world who is benefiting as well."

The couple has cultural roots back



Santianna, Lisa Johnson, Sinta, Sarina, and Waylan Suarnawa pose for a photo at Deysa, a new boutique in Multnomah Village. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

in the village of Apityeh, Bali, where Suarnawa was born. They are proud to share part of the profits with the village, which supports children going to school.

Suarnawa works full time at the boutique. Johnson is involved as much as she can since she teaches elementary students which she has done for the last 22 years.

The girls showed off various pieces of artwork, masks, furniture, jewelry, and clothing. Sinta, a sixth grader,

modeled the Balinese pants she was wearing. Johnson has been designing clothing with batik fabric for over 20 years.

"I work directly with a family who takes my orders, cuts, sews, and sends me these amazing pieces," she said. "Our hope is to establish rapport with our new customers who support our vision."

The previous shopkeeper, Mary Newcomb, closed Maggie's in early September saying it was time to retire

after being in business for 40 years in various locations.

Deysa is located at 7868 SW Capitol Highway in Multnomah Village and is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The store may be open longer hours during the winter holidays.

## Rustix Pub Salsa and Timba Club opens on Barbur Boulevard

The Rustix Pub Salsa and Timba Club opened on Oct. 27 at Barbur Boulevard near 22nd Avenue. Javier Garcia is the owner. His brother, Alberto, is the manager.

Salsa and timba classes are being taught by local teacher Jennie Fremont, who also teaches at the Viscount Ballroom on the east side of Portland. The grand opening featured a live salsa band called Pura Vida.

Along with a wraparound granite bar, tables, booths, and large screen televisions featuring sporting events, the newly remodeled club features real wooden floors for dancing. There is a full bar as well as a bar menu with the usual pub fare such as burgers, soups, salads, and pizza.

Garcia said they hope to have more music genres in the future including blues and jazz. But for the time being, live Latin orchestras and salsa lessons are the mainstays.

Rustix Pub is located at 8343 SW Barbur Blvd. It is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.

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