

Portland's Late Night Bakery, Disco

continued ▲ from Metro

Jobs Program and Economic Opportunity Fund.

The bakery will sit at the corner of SE 92nd and Foster, leading into a future TriMet light rail station scheduled for completion in 2009.

For Ararat, expanding into Lents means being closer to the lifeblood of Oregon's Russian and Eastern European communities. Grigorian is adamant about how much she loves her life in Portland, with its friendly faces and seasons that remind her of her home country.

In fact, she's adamant in all she does. Holding a conversation with the baker means the constant interruption of day-to-day business matters and the madness of her impending relocation.

In an attempt to pin her down for a story, I soon found that calm moments don't exist as long as she is working. And she is always working.

Clutching and actually using both a cell phone and a cordless handset, Grigorian balances conversations with me while intermittently talking with a delivery driver, Ararat server and nightclub patron Leslie Medrano, and an older gentleman spending his afternoon at one of three lottery machines inside the bar.

The lucky customer wins, and the frighteningly efficient businesswoman jumps to the register to collect his earnings.

Grigorian says she doesn't sleep much and I believe her. Her juice? She offers me a tiny cup of strong, sweet Turkish coffee.

Grigorian moved from Armenia to Los Angeles 21 years ago. After meeting her husband, the couple moved to Portland in 1995.

With zero English skills, the former dermatologist beat the language barrier by opening a bakery. Grigorian began churning out recipes with enough diversity to rival a list of United



A bakery worker racks up fresh baked goods at Ararat. Owner Nellie Grigorian is Armenian, but since moving to the U. S. she's whipped up treats circling the globe, including her popular sweet braid bread and the Jewish specialty bread challah.

PHOTO BY SEAN O'CONNOR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

venting bustling servers.

Like any late night crowd, half the room is transfixed with the show, while others focus on slamming back stiff drinks before last call.

And Grigorian? She's still in full force, a face in the crowd placing a fistful of dollar bills in Yemaya's silver fringed skirt.

After a half an hour the belly dancing ends (good news: Yemaya gives lessons) and Eminem and 50 Cent rule the room. I make my way to middle of the dance floor, where the songs become more European as the hours pass, and introduce myself to Daniel.

"I am new here," Daniel tells me.

"Oh yeah? I've never been here either," I answer.

"No," Daniel replies. "I am new here to the United States."

Got it. Welcome, Daniel. Enjoy Ararat at its close-in location, before they relocate to where the Russian and Eastern European community thrives. And Lents? Get ready for some new jobs, delicious bread and fabulous weekend parties.

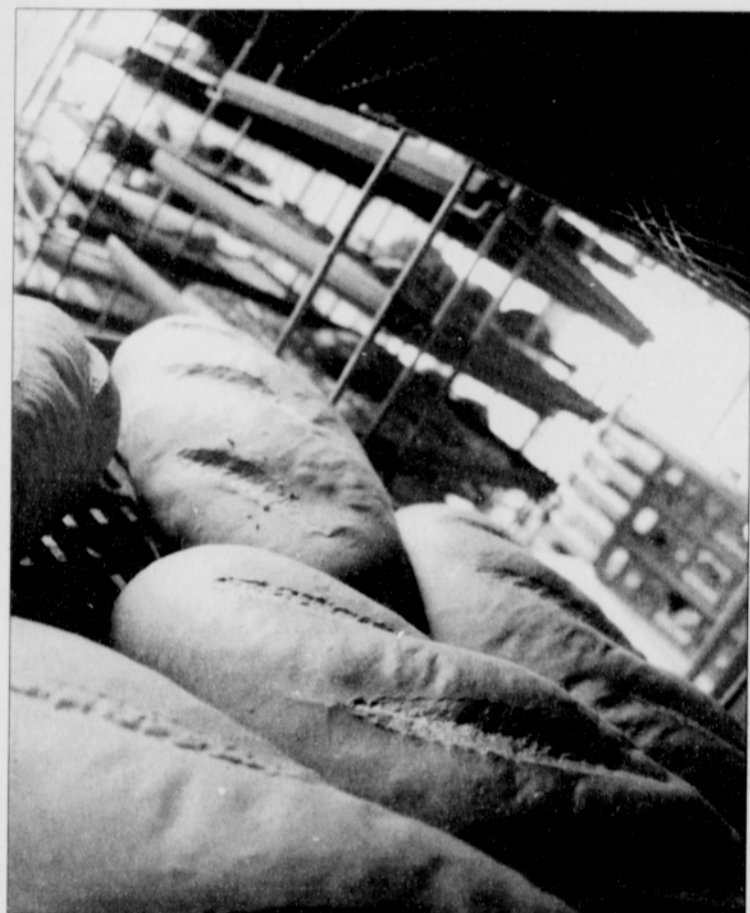


PHOTO BY SEAN O'CONNOR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ararat's fresh baked goods roll out of the oven at all hours, enabling late night diners to munch on flaky bread that doesn't need butter to dress it up.

Nations ambassadors, specializing in rolls, sweets and pastries from Armenia to Ukraine, Greece, France, Italy, Korea and beyond.

By 1999, she followed the advice of friends and opened a restaurant and nightclub, filling the bakery's extra space.

The dichotomy of a bakery and disco is too rich to ignore, and I'm invited to a personal experience.

On weekend evenings, long after the sun has set, Ararat is still rife with activity. But as the wee hours approach, work winds down and another kind of action begins.

By the looks of impeccably dressed clubbers, eyeing a bouncer standing between the cool night air and thumping beats inside, I might never have suspected the incognito bakery at the end of a long hallway.

Besides, I'd never smell the sweet, wafting aroma over the sea of moving bodies writhing through a cloud of cleavage,

cigarettes and cologne.

Every Friday and Saturday night Ararat's tiny dance floor comes to life, flashing with multicolored lights as a crowd gathers, relocating from several long tables housing an array of vodka cocktails. The swanky flock of Russians, Armenians, Romanians, even Americans, shake it to a blend of contemporary hits from across the pond, mixed with local beats that dominated the 1990s American techno scene.

The marathon trance will last until 4 a.m., sometimes later, interrupted only once each Friday, when the Serbian DJ halts the music and clears the floor, introducing a belly dancer called Yemaya.

I returned from the bar on Friday shortly after midnight to find the beautiful and bejeweled Yemaya gliding barefoot across the stage, accompanied to a hypnotic beat with only one word — move.

With a friendly smile that sug-

gests deviance, Yemaya makes her way across the room and across tabletops, while circum-



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Another day, another skirt full of dollars: Yemena makes her dramatic exit during the wee hours of Friday's scene at Ararat.

CLASSIFIEDS

Recreation Leader Aquatics

The Recreation leader is responsible for overseeing the daily operation of an aquatics facility including scheduling staff, classes and activities. Duties include teaching a variety of specialized aquatic classes to the public and internal staff, conducting outreach activities and training aquatic staff and supervisors. The Recreation leader is expected to carry out his or her responsibilities with initiative and independence while exercising sound judgment and problem-solving skills in the daily performance of their work.

Approximate Monthly Salary Range: \$2,149 - \$3,101

Application deadline is 4:30PM, Friday, October 27, 2006.

To learn more about this position, or to apply online, visit our website at www.ci.portland.or.us/jobs/ or pickup an application at 1120 SW 5th Ave. Portland, Oregon 97204

We have immediate openings for two on-air personalities at our FM station. Please forward resume and air-check tapes to Program Director, KXJM-FM, 0234 SW Bancroft, Portland OR, 97239 No phone calls. EOE

Start tomorrow 510-22 p/h

Laborers, Carpenters, Concrete, Landscapers, Clean up, Drivers, Framers, Remodelers, HVAC, Cabinetmakers. Apply @ 2700 SE Harrison #D, Milwaukie, OR 8am-4pm M-F, Veh\ODL\UA 503-654-0021

Program Specialist, City of Portland

Approximate Monthly Salary: \$4,111 - \$5,481

The Portland Office of Cable Communications and Franchise Management is seeking a Program Specialist to oversee about 50 contracts ("franchises") with utilities that use the public streets. See more information at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/cable/index.cfm?c=30052>. The Program Specialist will be responsible for tracking and implementing several significant aspects of franchise compliance; including negotiations and/or enforcement in a complex environment; assisting in policy development; drafting Council filings; working with other bureaus; updating the Bureau's web page; and performing other administrative duties.

Apply online at: <http://www.ci.portland.or.us/jobs/> or apply in person at The Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave., 1st floor lobby NE corner near the restaurant. Application deadline is Friday, October 30, 2006, at 4:30 p.m.

Advertise with diversity in The Portland Observer

Community Coordinator

Place and Supervise international high school students in host families. Good communication skills, a must. Training, Compensation and International travel incentives. Call 1-88-238-8720

Development Officer (Donor Relations Manager)

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette is seeking highly skilled individuals who have experience in sales and fundraising to build effective relationships, and plan, organize, and direct fundraising efforts with local companies and individuals. Must have strong communication, public speaking, relationship-building, and account management experience and the ability to manage and analyze data. For more information or questions, go to www.unitedway-pdx.org. Position closes 10/20/06. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

OREGON LEGISLATURE SESSION POSITIONS

Apply now for the 2007 Regular Legislative Session which begins January 8, 2007. The following positions are open:

- 10 Committee Administrators
- 18 Committee Assistants
- 3 Custodians
- 2 Media Assistants

Application information is available on our website or call for paper copies.

www.leg.state.or.us/jobs

Karen Hupp
Legislative Administration
900 Court St NE Rm 140-B
Salem OR 97301

(503) 986-1373

Apply now. Interviews begin November 1st.



Classified Advertisement

Contact: Kathy Linder
Phone: 503-288-0033

Assistant Construction Manager

Neil Kelly Co., residential remodeling and custom homes design-build general contractor, has an immediate opening for an Assistant Construction Manager. Portland office. Reports to VP Construction for 2 divisions. Construction management degree preferred. Solid experience in similar position, demonstrated ability to manage schedules and budgets, strong interpersonal skills required. Environmental sustainability / LEED experience a plus. Computer skills required. Salary plus benefits.

Apply with cover letter and resume to: hr1@neilkelly.com or fax to 503-331-9403 or mail to HR Manager, Neil Kelly Co. 804 North Alberta St., Portland OR 97217. No phone calls please.

Alexandra's

Open Daily 12 to 5



6726 N. Interstate Ave.
Portland, OR 97217
(503)735-4420

Vintage Costume Jewelry
Custom Sewing
Rentals
www.alexandras.com

Les Whitworth C.P.A.
and bookkeeping services
5421 NE 33rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97211
Phone 503-295-1939 Cell 971-344-6414
Fax 503-295-1065
www.leswhitworthcpa.com
email: les@leswhitworthcpa.com

Your Care Our First Priority

Dr. Marcelitte Failla
Chiropractic Physician

We are located at
1716 N.E. 42nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97213
(Between Broadway and Sandy Blvd.)

- Automobile accident injuries
- Chronic headache and joint pain
- Workers Compensation injuries

Call for an appointment! (503) 228-6140

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE

1. Are your monthly premiums too high?
2. Are you self-employed or own your own business?
3. Are you without health insurance now?
4. Would you like to have control of your health insurance plan?

IF YOU ANSWERED, "YES" TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ME AT:
(360) 608-2823 or 1-877-484-2823
Kris Long Licensed Insurance Agent
www.krislong.mw-ins.com

Exclusions and limitations apply. Administrative office: N. Richland Hills, TX. Plan availability varies by state. (#MW-25906, MW-25907 or state variation)
Association membership is required. Mid-West National Life Insurance Company of Tennessee
A Health-Markets Company
Keeping the promise of affordable coverage