

Atrium's New Accent

A new upscale kosher restaurant is slated to open in Pikesville next week.

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Editor

It was a beautiful evening to open what will be a beautiful new kosher restaurant.

Accents Grill on the Atrium, a stylish kosher meat restaurant focused on the family, will open sometime next week, said its co-owner Larry Franks.

Mr. Franks, his wife, Lara, and Dovid and Diane Lapin are the co-owners of the new eatery, located at the Greenspring Atrium on Smith Avenue in Pikesville.

The Franks, longtime restaurant owners and caterers in Irvine, Calif., came to Baltimore because of the attraction of the community's Orthodox community and the Yeshivat Rambam option for their children. Their partners, the Lapins, come from Pittsburgh. Mr. Lapin actually worked for Max's Cafe before teaming up with the Franks.

Accents' menu is extremely diverse. It offers everything from a ribeye fillet steak to a southwest omelet to a hot dog to tuna steak. Salads range from falafel to Mandarin chicken to Caesar. And sandwiches pretty much cover all of the bases.

Accents will have preliminary hours of 9 to 9 on Sunday through Thursday and 8 to 2 on Friday. These hours could change once the restaurant is in business. Also, there was no plan yet to open after Shabbat on Saturday nights.

The Franks moved here from California after visiting Baltimore.

"We wanted our restaurant to be complementary to what everyone else was doing," said Mrs. Franks. "We wanted something that filled the category of

upscale family restaurant, something that complemented what Menashe [Shabtai, owner of the dairy Café 921] was doing."

Mr. Lapin, who has worked in the kosher catering business for some 30 years, and actually helped open the Brasserie in Pikesville, saw an early advertisement for the new venture and became part of its team.

"This is going to be an upscale type of deli, a New York style, with a California flair," Mr. Lapin said.

Indeed, the airy, light modern look of the restaurant reminds someone of what they would see on Wirth Avenue in Palm Beach. Mrs. Franks actually designed the interior of the restaurant.

"We listened to what people said they were looking for in Baltimore," said Mr. Franks.

Accents will provide customers with carryout and Shabbat meal options. Also, seating literally spills out of the restaurant into the atrium area itself.

At a dedication ceremony held Feb. 3, Rabbi Shmuel Silber of Suburban Orthodox Toras Chaim Congregation made the audience of about 50 guests laugh when he said he never spoke before at a restaurant grand opening.

But the rabbi, who is Mr. and Mrs. Franks *nav*, spoke eloquently of how "even in the restaurant business, one can see the hand of God."

He talked about how when Abraham opened his tent to guests, he was ostensibly the first Jew to provide food to guests. And Rabbi Silber also spoke about how food was God's way of saying, "I love you." □

Owners Dovid Lapin and Lara and Larry Franks stand in front of their Accents Grill.



PHOTO: LOUIS ROSENSTOCK