

The Blue Elephant celebrates a year in business

The Blue Elephant in Saco's Pepperell Square will celebrate a year in business at the end of August and owners Fausto Pifferrer and Reuben Bell say they owe much of their success to a community that has supported them in a "big way."

With more than 25 years of catering experience behind them, Pifferrer and Bell moved from Philadelphia to Saco to not only embark on a new business endeavor, but to raise their 2-year-old daughter, Sophia. Reuben says Sophia has become just as much a draw to the café for patrons as their superb breakfast and lunch menus.

"It's amazing how people have responded to her – she knows everyone in town," Bell says.

Stop in mornings at the Blue Elephant not only to say 'hi' to Sophia, but for Belgian waffles made to order or the traditional eggs and bacon. Their lunch-time menu offers hot and cold sandwiches, soups, salads and different specials every day.

"It's casual and comfortable," Bell says of the café. "Whether you're straight off the beach or having lunch with col-

leagues, you're comfortable here."

What the Blue Elephant has to offer doesn't stop there, however. Pifferrer and Bell create unique and memorable designer events and weddings for any budget. Offering competitive pricing, they provide innovative food menus, table and room décor and staffing for any party or special event.

They will handle every aspect of an event including table rental, tenting and even getting the bride down the aisle if that's what they need to do to make an event a success.

What sets the Blue Elephant apart from competitors is they don't have a printed catering menu – Pifferrer and Bell will sit down with you and tailor the menu so you can get what you're looking for without breaking your budget. Blue Elephant staff cater everything from weddings, corporate and private parties to back yard barbecues.

Besides being active members of Saco Spirit, Pifferrer and Bell are on the committee for the Noyes Brain Tumor Foundation. Pifferrer is rallying greater Portland restaurants to contribute to the Sept. 10 fund-raising event at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Proceeds go to toward brain tumor research at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

"It's a cause that is very close to us," Bell says.

Also very close to them, especially Pifferrer, is where the name 'Blue Elephant,' came from. Bell said when Pifferrer was a child he found a small figurine, a blue elephant, while shopping with his mother. The tiny elephant became his good luck charm

throughout the years. Pifferrer gave it to his cousin to carry for good luck at her wedding and now the elephant sits in Sophia's room. A photo of the elephant hangs on the wall at the café, and recently, local artist Laura Vickery sketched it and re-created it on a mug so patrons can bring home their own piece of the Blue Elephant.

Stop in today at the Blue Elephant. Visit the Blue Elephant website and blog at www.blueelephantcatering.com.

Photo by Vanessa Pifferrer



Photo by Alexandra Daley-Clark



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~ Café Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm; Sat 8am-4pm ~