

Fleur de Lis: bringing whimsical gifts, enchanting beauty and Parisian charm to Redlands



PHOTOS/CYNTHIA MENDOZA

Fleur de Lis owner **Monika De La Paz**, left, and longtime customer, friend and store volunteer **Lisa Purcell-Rorrick**, whom she met at the store. "I have met the most amazing people," De La Paz says of the best part of her work. "Some of them have become good friends." The two friends also serve as associates of the Redlands Bowl.

By Cynthia Mendoza

Imagine stepping into a whimsical and enchanting fairytale gift boutique in Paris and that's what it's like to walk into Fleur de Lis Gift & Home in the heart of equally charming downtown Redlands.

Celebrating their second anniversary in April, Fleur de Lis offers stylish home décor, whimsical gifts, local art and a memorable shopping experience that will make you want to come back again and again even if it's just to peep in and say hi to owner Monika De La Paz.

After 14 years in the pharmaceutical business, where admittedly, she was making a very desirable income, De La Paz felt it was time for a change and do something she really loved; creativity and interior design.

"It just wasn't challenging anymore," De La Paz said about life in the corporate world. "I'm more of a creative person."

During her last year in the corporate world, De La Paz took an interior design course and the income from her career also enabled her to save money to open her own business.

And thanks to a very supportive husband, a lot of faith and what can only be described as a few divine appointments at the right time and place, Fleur De Lis was born, a place that not only fulfills the owners creative dreams through retail and an interior design business, but also offers the community a one of a kind place to shop locally, be inspired and make someone's day with the almost endless varieties of thoughtful and charming gifts the store offers.

"I love Redlands so much," De La Paz says not only of the community itself but of what can be a daunting experience of opening up

a new business, especially in a recession. "Everything was so smooth in the transition."

The business hasn't been without challenges though, experiencing a few ups and downs, but De La Paz takes it all in stride and is learning to go with the flow and learning what to expect.

Her positive attitude, business knowledge and truly special merchandise have certainly been reaping rich rewards.

"The wonderful thing about Redlands and the surrounding area is that people think of me when shopping for gifts," she says. "And we try to keep our price point low."

Fleur De Lis also carries the work of local artists, including a lot of Redlands themed art and landscapes. As long as work "fits" with the store, De La Paz is willing to help local artists sell their work.

And anyone who visits the store is also sure to not just find the perfect gift but make new friends, mainly that of Spanky and Fiona, De La Paz's adorable terrier mix and yorkie dogs, respectively, who accompany their loving mama to work almost every day.

The best part for De La Paz though, is the people she meets on a daily basis.

"I have met the most amazing people," she says. "I'm so blessed. Some of them have become good friends." Fleur De Lis is located at 115 Cajon St. in Redlands. Hours of operation are: Tuesday through Wednesday 10:30 to 5 p.m., Thursday 11 to 6:15 p.m., Friday 10:30 to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 to 4 p.m. Their phone number is (909) 798-5363.

able to read online.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The exterior of Fleur de Lis alone adds Parisian charm and whimsy to downtown Redlands. One must inside the gift and home décor store for the full charming boutique gift shopping experience.



PHOTOS/CYNTHIA MENDOZA

These chic, colorful chandeliers are sure to add a touch of glam and beauty to almost any space. They are available either hard-wired or to be plugged into an outlet and in several other colors. They are just a few of the almost countless home and gift items available at Fleur de Lis Gift & Home in downtown Redlands.

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