



The dynamic quartet of (left to right) Wendy Brigham-Abrouq, Loc Pham, David Pham and KaRim Abrouq. (Photo submitted by Tristan McGough)

BBG

"We've eaten together many, many times," KaRim confirms.

Wendy amplifies, "We love to share family recipes."

"That's our first taste test," David adds.

Loc incants, "Whether or not we like one another's home cooking."

"That's right," KaRim underscores, "if we all like it, chances are it's pretty good and others will like it, too."

The combined multi-cultural palates – American, Moroccan and Vietnamese – might not be exhaustive, but leveraging the continental taste-buds of North America, North Africa and Southeast Asia is likely to tempt even someone from Missouri into trying out a new recipe.

That's one way to conduct a preliminary taste test of some culinary masterpiece known only to the fortunate few who own it as a family tradition. However, for the new BBG owners these are only enrichments to an already well-acclaimed menu at the restaurant. To turn a phrase in the parlance of the pub, the new recipes are intended to just add more spice to the rice.

"But what gives us our real strength at BBG is the way we complement each other's business skills," observes KaRim.

Already a journeyman in both ironworking and carpentry when he first met Loc at (then) MATC, the two men paralleled one another's engineering educational paths, moving from MATC after two years and into the School of Engineering at UW-Madison from where they graduated.

During that period of time, Wendy and KaRim – who married in 1992 and raised three children – were de facto adopted by the Pham family. It's the matriarch of the Pham's – Binh, after whom Binh's Tailoring is named by her husband's unabashed love for his cherished wife – who passed the family recipe along, taught first to her by her own mother.

Asked if BBG's quality control process included Binh coming to Stoughton and actually tasting for herself the egg rolls being purveyed in her name, the quartet chorused, "Yes!"

Admittedly seeing one another as "family," each individual owner feels unfettered when throwing their ideas, talents and enthusiasm into the creative mix.

David's background is in business and he is founder of Tech Heroes with three Madison locations. They are full-service repair shops for PCs, cellphones and tablets.

Loc, whose mechanical engineering degree informs the methodical process by which he envisions the smooth operation of systems, whatever their application, even in commerce and food service, also works with his brother in this business venture.

KaRim has a chemical engineering degree, attained after an injury precluded his return to the journeyman trades he'd enjoyed so much. He used his academic discipline and melded it with his pragmatic bent for hands-on learning and experience, founding Plak Property Investments, LLC on Feb. 10, 2015.

He's joined in that venture by Wendy, whose 18 years of successful project management and consulting experience with the State of Wisconsin, Safe Bridge, and American Family brought wide fiscal expertise to Plak, which concentrates on residential and commercial development and construction.

Plak is rounded out by the Phams.


"We find," Loc unhesitatingly admits, "we all work well together."

The unusual complementarity of the group's members energizes them

all as they blend their individual strengths in business and character to achieve greater results because of their accumulated and applied talent base.

The other three were nodding their heads in agreement as Wendy said, "We're good at what we do individually, but the way we work together – in a kind of synergy – makes what's good even better."

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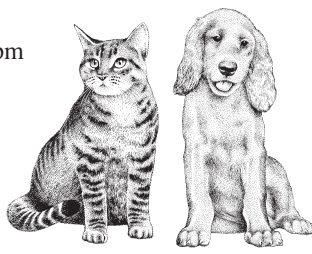
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Stoughton events

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July 4-8-Stoughton Fair: Midway rides, commercial exhibits, tasty treats, Kiddie tent with baby farm animals, and 4-H/FFA exhibits. Great grandstand entertainment including rodeo, tractor and truck pulls, and demolition derby. Fireworks Sunday night. Mandt Park, 400 Mandt Parkway. 608-873-4653, stoughtonfair.com

July 20-Relay For Life of Stoughton/ McFarland/Oregon: The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement symbolizes hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love. If cancer has touched your life, participating in a Relay For Life event is a way to take action and help finish the fight. This is your opportunity to honor cancer survivors, remember those you have lost, and raise funds and awareness to fight back and help end cancer forever. 5 p.m. to midnight in Mandt Park, S. 4th St. 608-662-7544, main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY16MW?pg=entry&fr_id=75054

July 21-Art Walk Stoughton: Local businesses will host Wisconsin artists and musicians in their shops and restaurants to introduce visitors to Stoughton's vibrant scene of shopping, art, culture, history, and cuisine. There is a diversity of art mediums and range of prices available for art collectors and new art buyers. The featured artist for 2018 is Christine Echtner. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 608-492-0220, www.artwalkstoughton.com



Volunteers staff a booth during the Art Walk in Stoughton last June, when streets were lined with people looking for treasures. This year's Art Walk will be held July 21. (Edgerton Reporter photo/Toni Turnquist)

Aug. 18-Coffee Break Festival: Small town fun in the place where the coffee break was born. Sample coffee from a host of coffee vendors, check out the art and craft show, car show, children's activities, music, food and beer. Also participate in the 1-mile or 5k run. Mandt Park, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 608-205-3182, www.stoughtonwi.com

Information compiled from internet sources, including local chamber of commerce websites, municipal websites, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's www.travelwisconsin.com, and other websites, unless noted.

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