



**KATELYN
McNAMARA**
Dining Diva

Athenian Corner a winner on restaurant scene

Congratulations to Athenian Corner, voted the number one restaurant during the Greater Merrimack Valley

Restaurant Showcase Week and to all 900 voters who helped them earn this coveted title! General manager Teddy Panos was nice enough to sit down with Danielle McFadden from the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Courtney O'Malley of the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and me to let us in on the inside scoop to his family's restaurant success.

Nestled on the corner of Market and Shattuck streets in downtown Lowell is Athenian Corner. Since September 1974, the Panagiotopoulos family has been serving up authentic



Traditional Greek salad and salmon are among the Mediterranean diet-friendly fare served at the Athenian Corner.

SUN/BOB WHITAKER

Greek cuisine in every dish.

The Scene: Upon walking inside you are quickly enveloped in the deep cultural and family history, the atmosphere of Greece and the smell of delicious food wafting out of the kitchen. Athenian Corner also offers outdoor patio seating in the summer, which has proven to be a big hit among restaurant goers.

The History: Athenian Corner found its place in the Mill City when the Panagiotopouloses moved from Greece to Lowell in 1961. At the time, Lowell had four Greek churches and the oldest full-time Greek day school in the United States. Teddy's mother was solicited to teach at the school as part of a program put on by the Greek government,

which promoted the Greek language and culture in the United States. Thirteen years later, Athenian Corner came to fruition and has been a staple restaurant in the community ever since. Every generation of the family has worked at Athenian Corner, and those employees who may not be related by blood are part of the family due to their longevity with the restaurant.

The Food: Every dish offers something different with three common trends: topnotch quality, unbelievable taste, and large portions. They bring authentic Greek food to another level. With a growing number of people moving toward health-conscious diets, Panos and his team have also added items to their menu. Many of these dishes originate from the coastal areas of Greece, which comprise the main staples of the Mediterranean diet, thought to be one of the most heart-healthy in the world.

Entertainment: Every Thursday through Sunday night, Athenian Corner offers live Greek and Middle Eastern music accompanied by traditional belly dancing. Throughout the summer, patrons can also enjoy Athenian's Concerts on the Corner series, where local musicians perform on the patio. To appeal to all genres and likes, Athenian also hosts a monthly Tuesday Jazz night, featuring the eight-piece jazz band Casual Saxtet.

Hours of operation: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday; 11 a.m.-midnight Thursday through Saturday. Reservations accepted.

Parking: Athenian Corner offers its patrons a parking lot adjacent to the building. There is also an abundance of parking along Market Street and in the Market Street Garage.

Teddy's Pick: The Lamb Shish-ke-Bob, which is also Athenian Corner's specialty of the house.



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