

BOULEVARD

turquoise booths. "We haven't raised the prices in 10 years," he added.

Sammy's is a well-kept, well-populated stalwart on Del Paso Boulevard, but it's also a heaping serving of Americana from an era when diners with names like "Mom's" crowded the post-World War II landscape, and where the waitresses called you "Hon." At Sammy's, they still do.

Farhoud, 58, is a Palestinian who was born and grew up in a refugee camp in Lebanon. He arrived in the U.S. as a student at age 19. After stints at universities in Louisiana and Texas, he earned a degree in business management from Sacramento State.

Wisely, he calls on his heritage to prepare Mideastern dinner specials two or three times a week – well-spiced marinated chicken thighs with basmati rice, lamb shanks, beef kafta with potatoes and tomatoes. "We make the food we want to eat," he said. "I tell my chef, 'I don't cook, but I make food taste good.'"

Sometimes, Farhoud will fill a bowl with a fragrant daily special – such as chicken-spiked navy bean soup – and sit near the front door. "People come in and say, 'What are you eating? I'll have that!'"

At one point, he was offered "a few million dollars" for Sammy's, and turned it down. "People asked me why I didn't sell. I said, 'When people retire, they hang out in coffee shops. I'm hanging out here already.' I don't work for the money. I like this place because I have lots of friends and family here. I would pass away in two weeks if I retired."

For a time, Farhoud made regular trips back to Lebanon each year. His friends there would ask him why.

"I'd say, 'I come here to see how you guys live, then I go back home and appreciate what I have.' America has been very good to me. This is home."

He paused to cut into a piece of chicken. "Life is good," he said with a laugh, taking a bite.



SAMMY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT

2021 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento
916-925-6747
open 6 a.m.-8 p.m. daily

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FRIDAY 11/29
- SUNDAY 12/1**

***The Clean House*
8PM ; 2PM 12/1**

Sarah Ruhl's THE CLEAN HOUSE opens November 15th and closes December 14th at Big Idea Theatre. A romantic comedy about loss, love, change and redemption, The Clean House is both whimsical and touching. A serious career-oriented doctor, Lane, has hired a quirky Brazilian maid. The only problem is that the maid, Matilde, hates to clean. Instead, she longs to be a comedienne. THE CLEAN HOUSE performs every Thursday (\$12 Thrifty tix), Friday, and Saturday at 8pm! THE CLEAN HOUSE has one \$15 SUNDAY MATINEE performance on December 1st at 2pm! Buy your ticket TODAY at: bigideatheatre.tix.com BIT DEALS! Weekly \$12 Thrifty Thursday tickets. \$15 Sunday Matinee (December 1st at 2pm). \$12 tickets to groups of 6+. ADD US ON INSTAGRAM! @bigideatheatre Website: bigideatheatre.org

📍 Big Idea Theatre,
1616 Del Paso Blvd.

SUNDAY, 12/1

***Make your own pizza class:
hands on sip & cook experience*
1PM**

Want to learn how to make pizza from scratch in your home kitchen? From the crust to the garnish, and everything in between, join The Cookery Sacramento for a Hands-on Cooking Class all about Pizza. Ticket includes supplies to make 2 pizzas with a traditional or gluten-free crust, plus unlimited sides, salads, and drinks. Guests are encouraged to bring their own alcohol. 2 ticket minimum purchase.
www.burlybeverages.com

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