

From Brazil to the 'Old Town' in Abington

By Seth Jacobson

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It was 22 years ago that Geraldo Guimaraes left Brazil, and came to America with nothing. At the time, he didn't know a word of English. Times have certainly changed, as Guimaraes has just opened a new restaurant in Abington called the Old Town Café, located at 222 North Avenue. That is where Morrell's Country Kitchen used to be located before the building was destroyed by fire. But now, the building has been reconstructed and refined to a host of old, and new customers from Abington, Rockland and beyond.

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Guimaraes said business has been going well so far but explained he has only been open for about a month.

"Things are going well," he said, adding that all of his breakfasts and lunches are made with the freshest ingredients.

“There’s nothing frozen here,” he said. “Everything is made to order. Nothing is every hanging around.”

Guimaraes said one of his signature breakfast items is the homemade corned beef hash. There are many specials on the breakfast menu, and on the lunch menu as well.

He added there are lunch specials for senior citizens every day of the week, including a \$5.99 meal that comes with a free dessert.

Guimaraes said one of his favorite pieces of machinery in the restaurant is the extravagant orange juicer, which he said has been very popular with the masses.

“Kids like to look at it too,” he said.

Guimaraes said he owns the restaurant with his wife, Aline Calliman, who met after he moved from Brazil. Together they operate the restaurant along with some very friendly help.

Guimaraes and Calliman live in Brockton along with their two children.

Guimaraes said as soon as he came to this country, he got a job as a dishwasher and started working his way up in restaurants around the South Shore.

About a year ago, he started thinking about opening his own business. When the Morrell’s land became available, he jumped on the opportunity and totally had the place rebuilt from the ground up.

Now, the building looks great and has a number of historical pictures of Abington hanging on the walls.

“Everything is new,” said Guimaraes. “And people really do seem to like it. It’s something different.”

He added because everything in the restaurant is so fresh, he ends up spending more money to stock the place with product but says it’s worth it in the long run.

He is proud the restaurant is up and running, adding he really feels accomplished in his life at this point.

“I feel like I’ve achieved the American dream,” he said.

The Old Town Café will soon have a website. If you want to get in touch with the restaurant, call (781) 878-8046. It is open seven days per week; from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 6 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sundays.