

BUSINESS & ORGANIZATIONS

Open for Business Hudson Paul Salon: Downtown's New Highlight

By Janice Llanes Fabry

Hudson Paul Salon opened at 8 Purchase Street on May 8. For its owner Simone Karian, it has been a journey with friends and family. There are her longtime girlfriends and colleagues, whose help she enlisted to jumpstart her business. There are her fiercely loyal clients, who drop by even without an appointment just to say hi. Last but not least is her 3-year-old-son, Hudson Paul, for whom she named the salon. Karian had vowed to refrain from opening up her own shop until she and husband Paul were well on their way to raising a family.

Around the same time, while the salon where she worked renegotiated its lease, Karian set the wheels in motion. Having honed her craft as a colorist for fifteen years, the last twelve at Purchase Street's Sara Noelle, she decided the time had come to move on and her peers there followed suit. "I just love my clients and I love this strip here. I really wanted to keep us all together," she explained about her venture down the street.

"We work really well together," agreed stylist Linda Talt. "It's a happy environment and clients realize that."

Indeed, the Hudson Paul group of professionals includes friendships that go back to childhood. Karian and stylist Debbie Mancuso have been best friends since they were little girls growing up in New Rochelle. Talt and fellow stylist Anna Crupi were playmates as 5-year-olds. Stylists Stephanie Lalli and Cindy

Gencarelli are also longtime friends of Karian's. New on board is colorist Jaime Gundelach, formerly of New York City's famed

everyone who works here is so talented that our clients really get their money's worth."

"We offer the high quality of an upscale salon without the stuffiness," added Talt.

Hudson Paul's sole focus is hair – men's and women's. No manicures, pedicures, facials or massage therapy. Except for hair threading facials on Tuesdays, they only do hair and they do it well, from chic haircuts and simple bang trims to up do's and French braids. Utilizing top-of-the-line products, they also specialize in color, color correction, straightening, rejuvenating and hydrating treatments.

To stay ahead of the curve, Karian periodically brings in specialized trainers and holds classes in color and new treatments for her stylists and assistants. The consensus among the Hudson Paul gals is that no other colorist can match Karian's expertise with highlighting. She acknowledges that every head of hair is different and evaluates each on an individual basis. She knows exactly how to render any look and does it expeditiously.

"I listen to what my clients want and then I look at everything

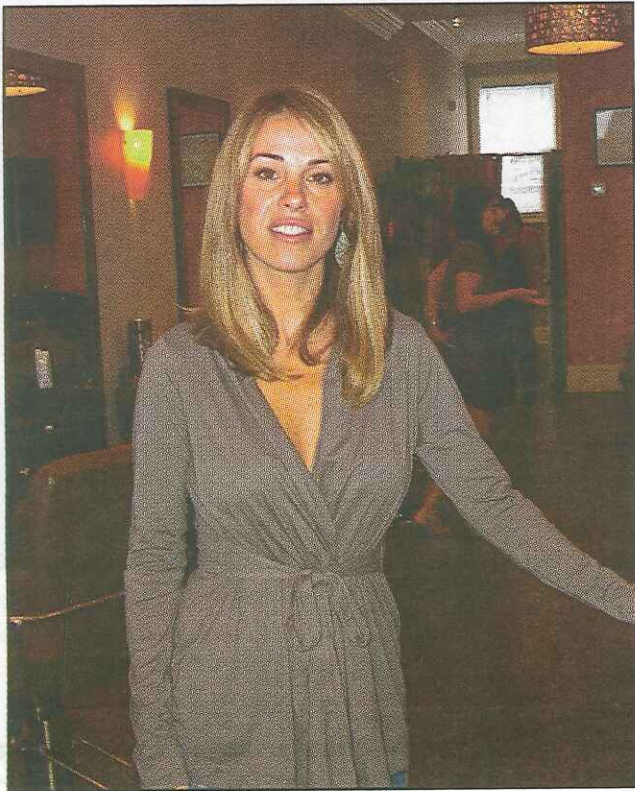
about a person before any coloring. I look at their skin color, their lifestyle and I consider how much maintenance is required on their part," she explained.

Hudson Paul also offers the j.f. lazartigue line of hair care products imported from Paris. Exclusive to Karian's salon, the high-end, all-natural line includes moisturizing and shampoo treatments for all types of hair, as well as hair-loss treatments. Also popular are their styling, anti-frizz and pure botanical products.

Now that the salon has been open for four months and everyone feels at home, Karian admitted, "I'm excited that September is here. Everyone's around. Our old clientele has come back and friends are recommending new clients."

For more information, log on to www.hudsonpaulsalon.com (a work-in-progress); for an appointment, call 481-1300.

Hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Thursdays until 7:30 p.m.



Owner Simone Karian

Sally Hershberger Salon.

How was Karian's transition from co-worker to boss? Apparently, it was smooth as silk.

"Simone did it wonderfully, nothing changed," offered Talt. "We're still a team."

This dream team's new place of business, formerly occupied by Rye Hair Port, was entirely renovated. The beautiful new shop boasts high-coffered ceilings, striking drum chandeliers, sleek track lighting, porcelain tiles and leather chairs. A colorist through and through, Karian combined cool grey walls with warm shades of brown and orange accents to create an elegant, yet comfortable and welcoming shop.

"Women and men in Rye want to be comfortable in a salon, not intimidated," said Karian. "Plus

Learning Express, Welcome To the Neighborhood!

Jim and Cristi Myers opened their new neighborhood toy store, Learning Express of Rye, at 28 Purchase Street on Wednesday, September 9, but the Grand Opening festivities, with an assortment of special offers including a 20% storewide discount, giveaways, drawings, temporary tattoos, complimentary popcorn, and a special visit from Elmo, will take place this weekend (Saturday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.).

"Learning Express is all about fun and helping kids develop to their full potential," says Jim Myers. "We offer exceptional toys and have samples all over the store so kids can have an out-of-the-box experience."

His wife Cristi is currently employed as a paralegal, but plans to work in the store on weekends. She's excited to be a part of the new enterprise and is eager to involve the store in the community.

"There are so many things we love about Rye," she says. "There are lots of young families like us and it's a beautiful area — great for raising kids, like our four. The only thing it was missing was a good toy store! I'm looking forward to making our Learning Express an integral part of the neighborhood through sponsorships, fundraisers, and anything else we can come up with. We want our store to be something really special."

Fall has arrived at Twinkle Toes



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