

# the Fisher Focus

June 2007 Newsletter

## A Dream Kitchen for a Professional Chef's Home



The kitchen in the Vacaville home that chef, caterer and food educator Gigi Warshawsky purchased in 1988 was typical for tract homes built at the time—small and not particularly functional. But, for almost two decades, Gigi managed to make it work and didn't consider a remodel until she got a new client for her catering business—Fisher Construction.

Gigi started catering events, such as remodeling seminars, client appreciation dinners and annual holiday parties, for Fisher Construction in 2005. Inspired by the excellent work she saw the company doing for others, and trusting of the business relationship she had developed with the Fisher Construction team, Gigi decided it was time for a kitchen remodel in her own home.

While it was a challenge to live in their home during the remodel, they appreciated the attention the Fisher Construction crew gave to keeping the work area clean and maintaining a respectful professionalism throughout the project. *"All of their staff and subcontractors were friendly and professional,"* Gigi says.

As a chef, Gigi possesses a singular attention to detail which she has developed over many years honing her craft. She was impressed by the excellent work standards of the Fisher Construction team. *"I have a really good eye,"* Gigi says, *"And I found that every detail exceeded my expectations, including top-notch materials and workmanship. Fisher Construction's quality work and attention to detail was astounding."*

### "Fisher Construction's quality work and attention to detail was astounding."

Gigi wanted to live with a kitchen that would serve as a stimulus for, rather than a hindrance to, her lifelong love of cooking. When she started working with Fisher Construction's design/build team to realize her dream kitchen, she appreciated their willingness to listen.

*"Good communication was what made the process so easy,"* Gigi says, *"Peter [Valentino, owner] and Tiffany [De Tomasi, Senior Designer] were always accessible and open to my questions and ideas."*

As the building process began, Gigi and her partner, Peter Vessels, used an improvised outdoor kitchen, barbecuing and eating out more frequently.

Fisher Construction expanded the room to achieve an open feeling with flow and balance. A beautiful marble island serves as an impressive centerpiece and also provides cleverly hidden, yet easily accessible, storage for Gigi's appliances. Ingeniously designed compartments in convenient sliding drawers provide storage for favorite ingredients, while a spacious pantry area allows for organization of larger items. A huge "farm sink" makes clean up a breeze.

Gigi's new kitchen is now an ideal space for a person with a passion for food and cooking. *"Fisher Construction was so easy to work with and did such high quality work, I recommended them to my neighbors across the street, and now they are using Fisher Construction, too!"* Gigi says.

## contact us

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# Partner Spotlight: Gigi Warshawsky, Food Safety Specialists

*business features catering, education and food safety*



Gigi Warshawsky got up early to make delicious scones for our photo shoot!

Gabrielle (Gigi) Warshawsky is a passionate food lover immersed in the culinary field, with businesses including catering, cooking education and food safety education. Fisher Construction hired Gigi in 2005 to cater events such as remodeling seminars, client appreciation dinners and annual holiday parties. The match between the two companies was immediately successful, as each truly appreciated the other's talents.

"Gigi's catering service is always excellent," says Fisher Construction owner Peter Valentino, "We know we can count on her to create the kind of high quality food and presentation we want for our clients and business associates."

Meanwhile, Gigi was so impressed by the work she saw Fisher Construction providing to their clients, she decided to hire them to remodel her own kitchen! (see page one).

Gigi has been creatively experimenting with food since childhood, when she learned some of her first recipes from a grandmother who also loved to cook, and encouraged Gigi in her culinary career.

She went on to graduate from the California Culinary Academy (San Francisco) in 1981 and worked throughout the Bay Area as a Chef/ Kitchen Manager, Bar Manager, Floor Manager and Safety Manager before founding **Food Safety Specialists**.

Food Safety Specialists offers ServSafe Food Safety workshops, examinations and certification for restaurants and bars, caterers, convenience stores and supermarkets, health care facilities and many other food handlers, individuals and companies. The company also offers consultation, training and cooking classes throughout Solano County and Northern California. Gigi's workshops are interactive and informative, with an upbeat, innovative and personal approach. She keeps classes small to allow for a format geared toward individual learning needs.

Gigi's catering business focuses on corporate parties and all special events. As a classically trained professional chef, Gigi experiments with all types of cuisine, and places a strong emphasis on stunning visual presentation.

"I love to be creative," she says, "And people say my love for food is evident in the end results of what I cook."

## Visit to Nepal Offers Up Close Look at Fair Trade in Action

During a recent trip to Nepal, Cara Valentino, owner of *Mia Amicas Globally Fair Trade Handcrafts*, was part of a group that visited fair trade co-ops, the **Artists of Fair Trade Nepal (AFTAN)** organization, and the oldest orphanage in Kathmandu, among other trip highlights. The purpose of the trip was to see the working conditions of Nepal artisans, learn what life is like for women living in third world countries, and evaluate village needs and ways to help with training and business development. Cara was particularly interested in visiting AFTAN, as her company, *Mia Amicas*, is supporting the organization's new e-commerce training program by donating a portion of sales to grant scholarships to the program. (The visiting group also donated 3 used laptops and \$200 to cover AFTAN startup costs for several months). For \$37.50 per student, AFTAN trains 40 poor women from surrounding villages in jewelry/craft making, who then return home and train others. The fair trade cooperatives work with them to market their products locally and globally.

Cara and her travel companions were encouraged by how little it can cost to help make a difference. During a visit to Bungamati Village, a donation of \$100 sponsored two young girls for a year's education; at the Dillibazar Rotary, their donation of \$100 funded a women's education/training program. The group was also inspired by the friendliness and hospitality of the Nepalese people, who invited them into their homes, sharing what little they had in such a welcoming way.

To learn more about fair trade, visit [fairtradefederation.org](http://fairtradefederation.org)  
To learn more about other ways you can help, contact Cara at [miaamicas@yahoo.com](mailto:miaamicas@yahoo.com)

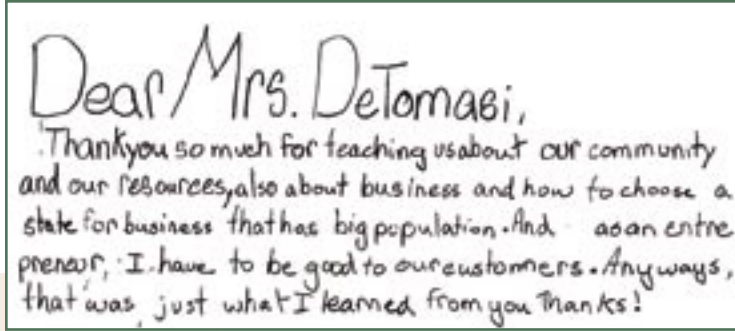
## It's Baseball Season!

Suggers Gianni and Sofia Valentino pose in front of the Fisher Construction Little League banner at their local field. Fisher Construction is a sponsor of the Fairfield Pacific Little League program.

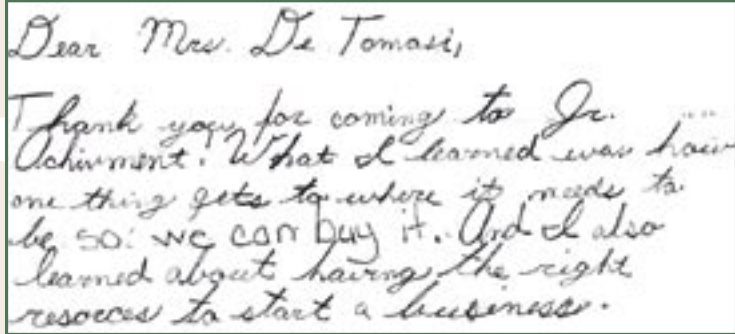


# Junior Achievement Day Inspires and Educates Youth

*community program teaches youth about the business world*



Dear Mrs. DeTomasi,  
Thank you so much for teaching us about our community and our resources, also about business and how to choose a state for business that has big population. And as an entrepreneur, I have to be good to our customers. Anyways, that was just what I learned from you thanks!



Dear Mrs. De Tomasi,  
Thank you for coming to Jr. Achievement. What I learned was how one thing gets to where it needs to be, so we can buy it. And I also learned about having the right resources to start a business.

Thank you notes from students at the Vacaville Christian School.

As part of their ongoing commitment to local education, Fisher Construction was proud to participate in **Junior Achievement Day** at the Vacaville Christian School. Senior Designer Tiffany De Tomasi led a class in which children learned about how the business world works and the different career options available to them as adults.

Junior Achievement is an economic education program for students in grades K-12. The goal is to help engage children in their education and prepare them for opportunities in today's workforce. Founded in 1951, **Junior Achievement of the Bay Area** serves over 95,000 students and trains over 4,000 adult volunteers in the Bay Area each year. A 1994-95 study on Junior Achievement's educational impact by the Western Institute of Research and Evaluation (WIRE) found that at each grade level, elementary school Junior Achievement students had a far greater comprehension of economic principles than a comparison group of students.

"The program is so rewarding because the kids really love it," says Tiffany, "Junior Achievement is a wonderful way to get involved in the community. Their training is great—they make it easy so that anyone can volunteer, even without having specific knowledge about the curriculum."

## Fisher Construction At Total Home and Garden Show in April

The Fisher Construction team participated in the **8th Annual Spring Total Home & Garden Show** in Vacaville, April 27-29. The company joined over 450 other exhibitors at one of Solano County's most attended events. The Total Home & Garden Show caters to homeowners looking for ideas and inspiration about remodeling and landscaping their properties. This is the second consecutive year that Fisher Construction has participated in this event. The company showcased many of its recent projects, including kitchens, baths, and whole home remodels.

The Total Home and Garden Show was a great opportunity for Fisher Construction to connect with their community in person and share the capabilities of their design/build team.

## Your Referrals Make a Difference

*tell a friend why you love us!*

How often do you receive the kind of service that makes you want to share news about a good company with someone else? Chances are, it's a fairly unique occurrence these days! At Fisher Construction, we want to change that equation. We work hard every day to create **clients for life** by delivering a level of quality, customer service, care and consistency that builds lasting trust. We're very proud of the relationships we've developed with clients over the past 19 years. If you are one of those clients, we ask you to remember us when friends and associates are in need of design/build remodeling services. **Like most businesses, we depend on referrals from satisfied customers to help us grow ... please put in a good word for us, and tell a friend why you loved working with Fisher Construction! Your support is very much appreciated.**

**"Fisher Construction made sure every detail of the project was done to our satisfaction and watched out for our best interests in so many ways. Our home looks spectacular. You guys really know what you are doing!"**

*The McCoys*

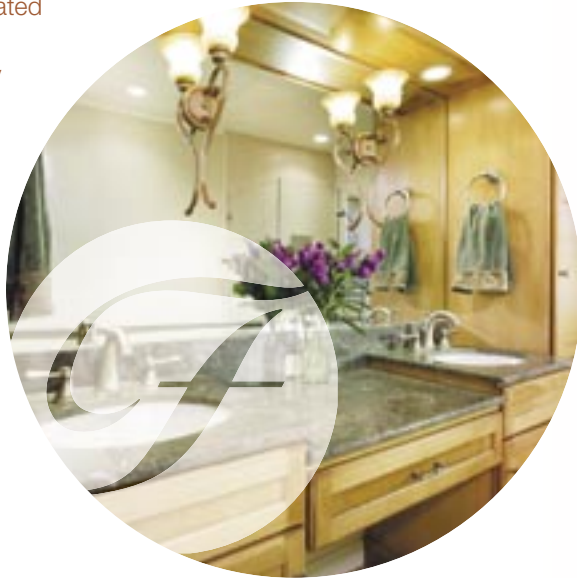


# Fisher Construction

DESIGN/BUILD

Fisher Construction is a family of dedicated professionals, active in their community and industry, committed to providing exceptional service, design and construction to every client.

At Fisher Construction, we work hard to create clients for life by delivering a level of quality, customer care and consistency that builds lasting trust. **Call us at 707.422.8591 to learn more.**



Kitchen and Bath Design

Whole House Remodels

Certified Kitchen Designer  
Tiffany De Tomasi, CKD

Over 1000 custom projects  
since 1988

**“Fisher Construction was very good to work with. The project was right on schedule and the communication was great.”**

*The Cordas*

## Concept to Creation

**Award Winner!**  
This Fisher Construction design/build project just won an Honorable Mention Award in the 2007 National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) Design Competition, at the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.



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