



SON AREEN MOVSESSIAN (LEFT) AND FATHER RUBIG MOVSESSIAN OWN AND OPERATE CLASSIC BAKERY IN GAITHERSBURG • By Bill Kamenjar

Classic Bakers

Family-owned for three generations, Classic Bakery has been a Gaithersburg go-to for almost 75 years.

When Areen Movsessian's grandfather, an avid baker originally from Armenia, immigrated from Iran to the United States, he opened the shop. His son had an engineering background, yet also found his calling in the bakery. The original 1,500 square-foot location has now expanded to a 10,000 square-foot production facility, and as of 2016,

Classic Bakery opened a second location in Tysons Corner.

"Baking and pastry arts have become such a big staple in American culture. We are lucky to be a part of it and continue growing," says Areen Movsessian, who now runs the family business.

Movsessian added that Classic Bakery is unique for reasons beyond being multi-generational family owned and operated. "Everything we make is from scratch. We take this seriously because it's our

heritage," he says, adding that the bakery sees a large demographic and works with events related to various cultures.

"We owe our success to the diversity of Montgomery County," he says. "I think that's a key reason that we exploded. People of diverse backgrounds are reluctant to buy grocery store products and they take their baking seriously."

Movsessian told *Montgomery Magazine* that a Classic Bakery rule has always been "if it's not something we would personally serve on our own table, we won't sell it."

While Movsessian works hard to satisfy his customers, whether in the kitchen or on the business side, he's not afraid to disagree with them occasionally.

"Our fruit cake is the most popular, but I definitely think that our most delicious product is the chocolate truffle cake," he says.

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