



Gulu-Gulu Café will open in the heart of downtown Salem, across the street from the 'Bewitched' statue.

## Gulu Café to open downtown

➤ **GULU**, FROM PAGE 1 perform on weekends and art hangs on the walls.

The original Gulu, perhaps the hippest spot in Lynn, is filled with cozy chairs and couches and an iPod hooked up to a speaker system. Feldmann said he and his wife hope to recreate that vibe in Salem. It's a place where you can enjoy a coffee or sandwich one of the many of imported and domestic beers, but it's not a bar — it's a place where you would feel comfortable bringing your child, Feldmann said.

"We like to call ourselves a European-style café," he said. "It's a very chill, mellow, fun place to be." The couple, who are in their early 30s, are leasing the 1,600-square-foot storefront from RCG, which will do some minor upgrades and expose some brick walls during the next few months. The spot is prime for outdoor seating, Feldmann said. The couple is shooting for a May opening that would coincide with the original café's second anniversary, although it may be June before they're ready.

"We didn't plan on doing it so quickly," said Feldmann. "This is one of those things where we weren't planning it, but we found something great." The owners knew they wanted to open the second shop in the area of Salem, Beverly or Marblehead, where many of their customers live. Six weeks ago they began scouting locations and found the perfect fit in the Washington Street location.

"We have a nice set of clients who come down from Salem (to the Lynn café)," Feldmann said. Gulu-Gulu Café joins a growing list of Salem establishments that function as multipurpose businesses, like Cornerstone Books or New Civiltia. The café's main focus is serving up tasty treats like paninis, crepes and lattes, but as with the original Gulu, the owners hope to house live music on the weekends and rotating

exhibits by local artists.

"We'll keep the menu very, very close (to the Lynn shop)," Feldmann said. "And the artwork of course is important to our concept. Supporting the arts is very important to us." Feldmann expects to spend most of his time managing the Salem shop, and will hire new employees for about half of the staff. Gulu-Gulu will also retain its mascot-turned-logos — Max and Jack, the couple's Boston terriers.

The future Gulu-Gulu will technically be the third, not the second, café of that name. The original is in Prague, the city where Feldmann and his wife met in the mid-1990s. Feldmann grew up in Lunenburg and traveled to the Czech Republic as a student, where he frequented the French-owned café and briefly met Marie, a Prague native. He returned to the Eastern European city after completing his studies, and on his first day back he walked into Café Gulu Gulu. Feldmannova was in the midst of her first day waitressing there.

The rest, as they say, is history. The couple moved to the United States in 1996 and eventually migrated to the North Shore, where they opened Gulu-Gulu and named it in honor of the café that brought them together. The Gulu-Gulu in Lynn pulled in locals, but the owners found themselves reaching out to the rest of the North Shore and even Boston-area customers.

The couple expected to open a second location eventually, and with the Lynn location running smoothly, the time seemed right to shop around for a new spot.

"Word spread pretty fast," Feldmann said, "and people like us."

Learn more about Gulu-Gulu café at [www.gulu-gulu.com](http://www.gulu-gulu.com) or [www.myspace.com/gulugulu](http://www.myspace.com/gulugulu) or call the Lynn location at 617-848-5967.



Owners of the Gulu-Gulu Café in Lynn plan to pattern the Salem shop after the original, pictured here.