

A Letter to our Friends and Neighbors-

When Joe and I started Marla Bakery 5 plus years ago, we were a newly wed couple, eager to create a dream together. We worked relentlessly-7 days a week, 13 plus hours a day. Even when I got pregnant 5 months after opening, we kept the same crazy schedule, thinking and hoping that the time we put in then would pay off and eventually lead to an easier workload down the road. That was the conventional wisdom, at least- put in an insane amount of work the first few years and it will pay off in the future.

Fast forward to today. We are now a family of four, with two young boys, and we are still working a pretty insane amount of hours. We've spent the last 5 years trying to figure out a formula that works-streamlined enough that we can make a living at this while still allowing us time to live our lives as a family. We've tried a lot of different things, hoping to find the right combination, and the fact is, we haven't. We want more time with our kids. We want more time with each other, we need more time away from work, and we want to get out of the city. So we've decided to move north, to Santa Rosa, and to take Marla with us.

This is not an easy decision to make. We've skirted around it and put it off for over a year. This place is home in so many ways. We got married in the backyard. We spend more time here, by far, than we ever spend at home. Our kids are true bakery kids, Etan could sweep before he could walk. And you, our neighbors and friends, are family to us, whether you know it or not. We've watched your kids grow up, watched friendships and families form, watched how this neighborhood has changed and how it has remained the same.

Joe and I fell in love with the Outer Richmond eight years ago on one of those rare warm October nights. It led us to move out here and eventually, to open Marla Bakery Restaurant here. It hasn't been easy, not by a long shot, but nothing worth it ever is. One thing we still know for sure, this neighborhood is worth it. The thought of leaving you all, of leaving Balboa, of leaving this home, has kept us trying to find ways to make it work, ways to keep Marla going. But things change and our family has changed. Working 15 hour days with a one- and four-year-old at home doesn't feel right any more. We are moving north to try this experiment out in a different way, and we are hoping that we can figure out a way to create a Marla Bakery that requires hard work, sure, but doesn't overrun our lives completely.

Our last day here will be November 27th- the day before Thanksgiving. We will be operating as normal up until that day- still at the farmers markets, still serving breakfast, lunch, brunch and fried chicken on Fridays, still making and baking pastries, breads and treats of which we are so proud. We will also be offering all of our Thanksgiving specialties for pre-order on our website. In short, we're still here, for a little while longer. We're not going far, "just up the road a bit", and we intend to keep our connection to San Francisco through our Farmers Market stand once we get settled up north.

Please join us for the next few weeks in celebrating good food, community, the joy of hot coffee on foggy mornings and warm bread to take home. Let's celebrate our little spot in this beautiful city. We will miss you all more than you know.

Love,

Amy & Joe