

Elkader restaurant offers Algerian and North American food

Frederique Boudouani and Brian Bruening have always loved to cook and to entertain; they've even done some catering work together in the Boston area. Operating a restaurant would not, for these two men, be a big stretch.

Which is exactly what they did, when they acquired the landmark eatery located in downtown Elkader, IA formerly known as the Keystone Restaurant

They named their new restaurant Schera's. The name is inspired by Frederique's sister, Schera, and by the fictitious Sassanid Queen, Scheherade -- the heroine from the Middle Eastern literary epic entitled "A Thousand and One Nights."

Boudouani is of French and Algerian heritage. His father was a diplomat with the United Nations, as a



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result Frederique has lived around the world. He has earned a PhD in computer engineering from M.I.T. Up and until recently Frederique has worked in freelance web design and as a computer services consultant.

Bruening was born and raised in New Hampton, IA. After having obtained an MFA in creative writing from Emerson College in Boston, he has for the past seven years worked in college admissions.

Shera's opened January 20, 2007, with a menu that features local favorites as well as North African dishes.

"We were originally interested in Elkader because of the town's name," explains Bruening, "Abdelkader is the 'George Washington' of Algeria. But we ultimately decided to settle here because of the people and their involvement in the success of their community."