



SCOTT ELMQUIST

Outings Fresh and Al Fresco at Edible Garden

AMBIENCE: Utterly charming. The patio is surrounded by a garden of ornamental grasses and fresh herbs, some of which are likely to end up on your plate. The kitchen, housed in a quaint outbuilding with vine-covered trellises, sits steps away. Umbrellas shade diners from the sun, and, if you're lucky a passing breeze will provide relief from the heat.

CUISINE: Farm-to-table deliciousness. Edible Garden gets the majority of its food from within 100 miles (seafood comes from a bit farther — North Carolina and Maryland — though it's still sustainably produced), and chef Ed Blase creates simple seasonal dishes to showcase the foods' freshness and flavors. Don't leave without dessert — the chocolate blackout cake is legendary.

IN SEASON: July and August are peak months for berries, peaches, watermelons, tomatoes, eggplants and corn. Because there are no regular items on the menu (other than some standby desserts), you never know what Blase will whip up from summer's bounty.

OCCASION: Ladies' lunch or romantic dinner.

BEST AL FRESCO MOMENT: "The end of a summer evening when the patio's full, but there's just this hush over everything. People are finishing up, they're having dessert, they're finishing a bottle of wine. The dragonflies are out. There's such a calmness." — owner Molly Harris

HOURS: Lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Dinner 5-9 p.m. Thursday to Saturday. Sunday brunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

EDIBLE GARDEN
12506 River Road
784-2011
www.ediblegarden.org



GREENER NAILS

Step into the nail studio at Amazing Face Skin and Body Boutique and you're immediately struck by the smell. It's fresh, like geraniums.

The boutique spa just brought in the Priti Nails line of nontoxic nail products, free of carcinogens and chemical fumes. The polishes, removers, lotions and scrubs are safe for kids, moms-to-be and breastfeeding moms, and the services range from simply relaxing to downright luxurious. (Bulgarian rose hot stone massage, anyone?)

To check it out, visit www.amazingfaceonline.com or call 330-7546. 6740 Forest Hill Ave., Suite 101.

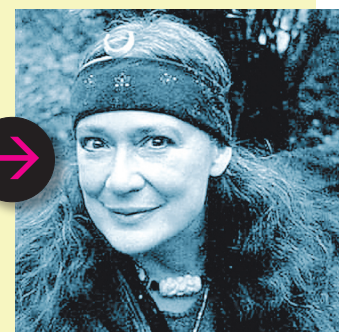
Just Browsing: Richmonders' top stops in cyberspace

Lucretia Jones

Richmond native Lucretia Jones opened House of Lukaya in Shockoe Bottom in 2006, a boutique offering vintage clothing and local works of art. These days, look for original and reconstructed clothing, accessories, jewelry and wall art, as well as bulk herbs and books on herbal medicine. Jones creates natural skin-care products that she sells in her 1717 E. Main St. store, at the 17th Street Farmers' Market and at Ellwood Thompson's. Find out more at www.houseoflukaya.com.

1. www.susunweed.com

Susun Weed has been teaching and writing about plant medicine and the wise-woman tradition for more than 30 years. Her site offers an empowering approach to living a physically and spiritually healthful life.



2. www.karinsart.com

I've been fascinated by mermaid mythology for as long as I can remember. Karin Turner's art presents a seldom-seen perspective and takes the noble watermelon to another level. (See: Heart's Desire No. 9 and the Balancing Act)



3. www.astrologyzone.com

Susan Miller's site provides in-depth monthly horoscopes for those interested in the connection between heavenly bodies and earthly pursuits. I like to read them at the end of the month and marvel at the accuracy.

