

Nathalie Simmons Jorge has always had an entrepreneurial spirit. Her MBA equipped her with plenty of know-how that she utilized first in a start-up software company. She co-founded it, raised capital and was ready to roll – but the dot-com bust sent her business spiraling downwards. Unwilling to accept “failure,” she joined forces with her sister-in-law Paula – and found her true calling, as well as success.

The two recognized how much they wanted to do something that reflects the value they place on multiculturalism. “Not being a native Spanish speaker myself, I felt intimidated picking up Spanish children’s books and reading them to my kids for fear that I was pronouncing words incorrectly,” says Jorge. “We figured other parents and teachers might feel the same way.”

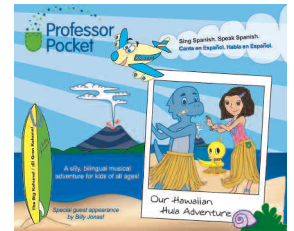
Their solution? Professor Pocket, a bilingual children’s entertainment company that the two ladies created to get children more excited about learning Spanish. So far they’ve created two bilingual CD’s

with lovable characters, silly stories and catchy songs that get kids both young and old laughing and singing along. They’re so enjoyable you’ll hardly know you’re being educated! On the forefront: finger puppets and a book to go along with the characters of Professor Pocket.

Their fresh approach to language introduction has already been recognized by the likes of Coco Arquette and Barack Obama ... and as a wholesome, fun audio entertainment that provides a nice alternative to TV, it may be the best \$15.95 you ever spend. Find the CD locally at Belly Elan, ImaginOn, NOFO on Liz, Pigtails & Crewcuts and Park Road Books.

Contact: Nathalie Simmons Jorge

www.professorpocket.com • 704.258.8888



Tillie Kerna has always had a keen eye for design. Building a successful interior design business just wasn’t enough, so she sought another outlet for her creativity. From that desire her lusciously layered, custom invitations were born. Each one is created to be perfectly personalized for your special event.

Kerna also taught herself how to make scrumptiously sculpted, one-of-a-kind cakes. “I simply decided to buy some books for reference, and use my grandmother’s fabulous recipes! The show ‘Ace of Cakes’ is a huge inspiration,” she says. “If you put your mind to it, you can really achieve anything!”

With expertise in cakes and invitations, Kerna determined six months ago that she could singlehandedly offer everything you would need for your special event. She has since added more services: themed cookie favors, designer decorations and even thank-you notes to match your invitations. She creates and customizes every aspect – her own vendor, if you will.

For the person who wants a show-stopping, memorable event that will allow you to be a guest at your own party, Off the Wall Designs and Events is a definite place to go. Since Kerna began offering her full set of services, she has booked over 20 parties – and dates are filling fast!

See more of this local mother of two’s work – and her outstanding attention to detail – by visiting **www.offthewalldesignsandevents.com**.

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Most people go to fitness classes for health and wellness reasons. But for Avi Woolman, a yoga class brought more than that ... it was the inspiration for a product that she’s launching nationally – and it’s already getting rave reviews.

While lugging her two kids along with her to class, she was frustrated with the amount of items she had to carry – and

the question of where to put them all. With a mat, the kids’ stuff, a towel, a water bottle, etc., she was exhausted before she even got to class! To her surprise, there wasn’t a bag that could hold everything she needed and not look like an oversized gym bag. So why not create one?

She wanted the bag to be both functional and fun. And after much research, many sketches and numerous interviews with bag manufacturers, she finally created a bag she is ecstatic about.

The Yogoco yoga bag has two separate compartments: one for the mat, and one that has space for a towel, iPod, phone, kids’ items, etc. But not only is it spacious, the bag is also ecologically responsible. The fabric on the mat section is made of scraps from the T-shirt manufacturing process, sorted by color and blended into a new fabric, cutting down on waste and saving water and electricity. The bag is also hygienic. Mesh fabric is used on the ends of the bags to prevent odor build-up, and the lining is fully wipeable (yet still fashionable!). The bag is also made in the United States, making it even more appealing.

Yogoco bags come in six fun and fantastic styles and can be found locally at Asana Activewear or online at **www.yogoco.com**.

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