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### **WALKER'S GALLERY 8 RESTAURANT TO CLOSE DECEMBER 28**

For more than two decades, Tracy Reuter has been using her mother's recipe to make Gallery 8 Restaurant's signature egg-salad sandwiches. Hailed as the "Twin Cities' best lunch deal bar none" by the *Star Tribune*, the sandwiches reflect the values Reuter has pursued as manager of the Walker Art Center's cafeteria-style restaurant. These principles are the same ones her mother, Samantha Peterson, shared since she took the helm at Gallery 8 with partner Martha Geffen in 1979: "Simple food, made from scratch, made well, and moderately priced." After 32 years—and more than 410,000 egg-salad sandwiches—Gallery 8 Restaurant will close on Sunday, December 28, as part of the Walker's renovation and expansion.

Under the management of Saga Foods, Gallery 8 opened its doors in July 1971 as a very different restaurant than the one most Walker visitors are familiar with today. Managed by head chef Ingeborg Roed, who immigrated from Norway in the 1950s, the restaurant was known for its terrace views of downtown (and the just-completed I-94) as well as its ample servings of Norwegian and American specialties, including weekly lutefisk dinners.

In 1979, Peterson and Geffen's company, MS Pen, took over the restaurant. As Gallery 8 grew in popularity, it added catering services, and its staff grew from only three employees to more than 50 today. While the egg-salad sandwiches—a longtime favorite in annual readers' polls in *City Pages* and the *Twin Cities Reader*—have remained a consistent favorite, innovative menu items are presented daily. The restaurant has a "one-two-three punch—appealing fare, cool room, and bring-the-out-of-towners-to-gawk vistas—that no other restaurant can touch" (*Star Tribune*).

(more)

## Gallery 8 Restaurant Closes, page 2

Over the years, Gallery 8 has played host to thousands of weddings and corporate events, artist receptions, and casual lunches. During that time, countless artists, playwrights, politicians, and other celebrities have passed through its minimalist environs. As Walker Director Kathy Halbreich recalls, each guest has been impressed. "I remember when all the nation's art-museum directors were dining at the Walker and the dessert—a gloriously sweet sculpture of *Spoonbridge and Cherry*, complete with a molded-cookie spoon and cherry confection—arrived at each place to gasps of delight. But I also remember the perfect egg-salad sandwiches and the delicious soups that have sustained me for nearly 13 of the 24 years Tracy and her mother have made Gallery 8 dining a memorable and affordable experience."

When the Walker's expanded facility opens in 2005, Wolfgang Puck Catering and Events will operate a casual café, a new full-service restaurant, and catering for special events.

Gallery 8 Restaurant will close on Sunday, December 28, at 3 pm.

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 11:30 am–3 pm. Closed Mondays.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,  
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.  
For public information, call 612.375.7622.  
Gallery hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am–5 pm;  
Thursday, 10 am–9 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm; closed Monday.  
<http://www.walkerart.org>**