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CONTACT: Mike Chaglil, manager/co-owner,  
Zeina Restaurant, (732) 543-1530 or 868-200-3362  
or Chantal Popescu, (973) 393-5540

### **Belly dancing and live music compliment the satisfying entrees at Zeina**

(Highland Park) Aug. 3, 2009 – Miriam Caberlon’s feet walked with the music. Her hips moved back and forth and lifted with the beat, causing the beads on her garment to chime. Her arms waved in the air.

This is an ordinary Friday and Saturday night at Zeina, Highland Park’s newest restaurant and only Turkish and Lebanese place to dine. Yet, nothing about Zeina is ordinary. Zeina, which means “the best of everything,” offers the best food, hospitality and entertainment.

Zeina, located at 441 Raritan Ave., opened in June after the owners took over the location of the former Seven Hills of Istanbul and transformed it into an abode of new culinary and entertainment heights. The exquisite menu also boasts prices slashed by 25 percent. The owners decorated the dining room opulently with Mediterranean-inspired paintings, rugs, pottery and unique artifacts.

While guests are enjoying traditional Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes, keyboardist Samer Tunbakji is entertaining the crowd with Middle Eastern music, a melding of cultures from Lebanon to Turkey and Greece. Samer, who has been playing instruments for 27 years, also plays the woad, which is similar to the keyboard and dates back 400 years with roots in Turkey. Miriam, who has been a belly dancer for 10 years, performs two half-hour sets at 8 and 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The second set usually involves crowd participation.

The BYOB restaurant is the newest addition to Highland Park’s flourishing downtown. Zeina is available for private parties, catering and delivers in the surrounding area. There is also a patio for outdoor dining.

Zeina is open 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11-30 a.m. to midnight on Saturday and 1 to 10 p.m. on Sunday. Management can be contacted by calling (732) 543-1530.