



▲ *Cuppa Tea Co. owners Allan and Lurline Wagner*

TEA TIME

When Lurline Wagner moved to Richmond in 1994 from Edmonton, Alberta, to work in the microbiology department at VCU's School of Medicine, she sought out a tearoom where she could relax on her days off. "I came here and I couldn't find any," she says, so she decided to create her own.

Once Cuppa Tea Co. opens this month at 1 N. Morris St., Wagner will finally be able to share her passion with others. She describes the tearoom's atmosphere as "East meets West." One dining room will have a Chinese "zen" feeling, and another will look more like an English tearoom with local art

on the walls. There will also be a kid-friendly area for children's tea parties.

Guests will be able to choose from a wide variety of loose-leaf teas, and the menu will range from to-go pastries to afternoon teas, with a selection of tea sandwiches and desserts. There is also a "cream" tea that comes with fresh-baked daily scones with Devonshire cream and preserves. Wagner says she's noticed that Richmonders have a preference for flavored teas, so she'll be stocking plenty of those as well. There will even be one menu of dessert teas. Tea and accessories like teapots, books and teacups will be for sale, too, and if you're planning a special event, Wagner also does custom-blended tea that can be used as favors. For more information, call 254-TEA2 or visit www.cuppateacompany.com. —MM