



## LOCAL GENTRY



Sandy Taboh

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Gentry's Jennifer Massoni sits down with one classic man.

Everyone has a story—that is one of the basic tenets of journalism. There are others, however, who simply, in the act of telling a story—their manner, tone of voice, and gesture—share something even grander. Sandy Taboh, a men's tailor and owner of Classic Custom Clothiers, is such a man.

"I'm originally from New York," he says at the beginning of our conversation, as if this were really where the story should begin. "In 1965, I began my career in menswear. My family and I moved to California in 1971." As a sales representative, Taboh went to work for Koret of San Francisco until 1980. By the late 1980s, Taboh was noticing a tidal change in the industry and dared to go out on his own. "I've been in business since August 1 of 1989," he says, the date forever etched in his mind. "I started at my dining room table. At that time, things were changing in the menswear business, and stores were going out of business left and right. Suddenly, people were no longer creating careers in menswear, and I thought it was a good opportunity for me to step in there and offer my customers really fine clothing and make it easy for them to buy," says Taboh, who carries thousands of suits and pays close attention to his clients' professional and personal styles, and even makes house calls.

Today, the business has moved into a permanent showroom in Cupertino. However, that infamous dining room table is still very much in use, often surrounded by Shelley, his wife of 43 years, two grown children, Stephen and Suzanne, and three granddaughters under the age of three! ■

PHOTO: RIO COSTANTINI