

# SARATOGA

JULY 2023

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Saratoga  
*The Heart of Saratoga*

*Spotlight*



MARK CHAPMAN  
& SABRINA JANSEN

COMMUNITY, CARS & ROCK-N-ROLL



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January 7 .....	February
February 7 .....	March
March 7 .....	April
April 7 .....	May
May 7 .....	June
June 7 .....	July
July 7 .....	August
August 7 .....	September
September 7 .....	October
October 7 .....	November
November 7 .....	December

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## Dear Neighbors,

*Happy July!*

This month, we have the pleasure of featuring Mark Chapman and Sabrina Jansen! We're sure you will enjoy learning more about Mark and Sabrina, their commitment to the community of Saratoga, volunteerism, and community service and involvement.

You'll also have a chance to read about upcoming community events and more in this month's issue. Be sure not to miss the 12th annual Saratoga Classic & Cool Car Show on Sunday, July 23rd!

Please feel free to send us any content you would like to share. At *Saratoga Spotlight*, we love sharing what's going on in our community!

Have a wonderful July!

See you in town,

*David Nielsen*

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HAPPY  
*Fourth of July*

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# MARK CHAPMAN & SABRINA JANSEN

COMMUNITY, CARS & ROCK-N-ROLL

Growing up in Lakeport, California, Mark Chapman was active in high school sports, playing football, and running track at Clear Lake High School, where he graduated in 1976. Outside of school, Mark spent a lot of time with his dad hunting, fishing, and working in his uncle's pear and walnut orchards. Mark became an Eagle Scout in 1975 and continues to sit on Eagle Scout review boards.

Mark first attended DeVry University in Phoenix, Arizona, then transferred to Arizona State University in Tempe, where he earned a history degree, graduating in 1980. Later, he attended the University of San Francisco, earning a certificate in risk management in 1982.

In 1984 Mark went to work for Bankers Systems, Inc., selling compliance and risk management products throughout the Western United States. After 19 years, he established his own State Farm Insurance Agency, which he still owns and operates.

Mark moved to Saratoga in 1980 and lived there until moving to the Pruneyard Dry Creek area of Campbell, marrying Sabrina in 2014, whom he had met at a Starbucks in 2007. Their first date was a wonderful Huey Lewis and the News concert at the Mountain Winery. They enjoyed it so much that it is now one of their favorite places, attending multiple concerts there every summer.

Sabrina's father, USN Master Chief Clifford Jansen, moved the family to Saratoga where he was on recruiting duty. She lived in Saratoga as a young girl until her family moved to Santa Cruz when her father retired from the Navy. Sabrina spent her youth playing on the westside cliffs and learning to sail with her father.

She went on to graduate from Chico State, earning a degree in fashion merchandising. Her career in retail began with Manetti-Farrow, the US distributors of Fendi and Mark Cross leather goods. Following her artistic aspirations, Sabrina next moved to London, where she spent 9 years in the theater world, attaining a certificate as a teacher of the Alexander Technique. When she returned to the US, she and her young son settled in Campbell and, shortly thereafter, met Mark. Continuing her retail career as Director of Operations at WDFG at San Jose International Airport, she finally retired in early 2016.



Mark's two eldest boys, Tim and Chris, who both live locally with their families, attended Saratoga High School and played soccer and ran track. His son Kevin attended Bellarmine Preparatory where he played Lacrosse and Football. Mark and Sabrina's youngest son, Sam, attended Branham High School where he played soccer, and his team won CCS in his senior year.

Tim is married to Alyssia, and they have two children, Adeline and Declan. Chris is married to Jesse Fitzwater, and their son is Aiden. Kevin is married to Lyndsey, and they live in Beaverton, Oregon. Finally, Sam Jansen is a senior at Chico State studying Business Administration.

Mark loves the Saratoga community where he raised his three oldest children. In 1988, he started coaching soccer, which he did for over 30 years. Along the way he received his National Coach Trainer certificate and has trained coaches around the South Bay for years. He served on the Board of the American Youth Soccer Organization Region 27 here in Saratoga for 20 years, helping to grow local interest in soccer. He also served on the Board of the Saratoga Senior Center for 5 years. Mark's latest Saratoga community involvement is in the running of the Saratoga Classic and Cool Car Show. Since its second year, he has been a part of this annual event with Tiger Teerlink, which takes place on the fourth Sunday of every July. This year marks the event's 12th year on Sunday, July 23rd. Mark also runs the Wildwood Park Musicfest in Saratoga, which combines his long-time love of the Community with his passion for live music and local bands.

Sabrina fosters cats and dogs for One Planet Rescue, a local rescue group. Mark and Sabrina are permanent parents to one dog, Venus, a Shephard/Husky mix and four cats.

Mark and Sabrina love to travel and, now that they are empty nesters, they have the opportunity to travel more often. They spend Thanksgivings in Disneyland, as it inspires them to decorate for Christmas when they return home. Mark loves sprint car racing and they enjoy attending races around California.

Although not native to Saratoga, it is a family community that Mark truly loves. Leading community events is one small way for Mark to enrich and expand Saratoga for its residents.



Sabrina and Mark with Lavender Fields Band,  
John Turri & Evan Owens



Mark and Sabrina



Venus



## THE IRA AND MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

By Lucille Maravilla



The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 makes improvements to Medicare that will expand benefits, lower drug costs, and keep prescription drug plans stable. Here are some highlights.

A new drug program known as the Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program is part of IRA. It requires drug companies to pay a rebate to Medicare (The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or CMS) if they raise prices for certain drugs faster than the rate of inflation. The law establishes Medicare Part B prescription drug inflation rebates for single source drugs and biologicals with prices increasing faster than the rate of inflation and provides lower Part B beneficiary cost sharing on these drugs and biologicals. Also, there will be prescription drug inflation rebates for certain drugs and

biologicals whose prices increase faster than the rate of inflation.

January 1, 2023, began the first quarter in which drug companies paid rebates to CMS for raising prices that outpaced inflation. Starting April 1, 2023, some people enrolled in Original Medicare and Medicare

Advantage plans, depending on their coverage, and paid a lower coinsurance amount for certain Part B drugs when prices increased higher than inflation. In 2025, CMS intends to send the first invoices to drug companies for 2023 and 2024 rebates.

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will begin Medicare drug price negotiations in 2023. By 2024, the agency will identify which 10 prescription drugs will be negotiated. By 2029, up to 60 drugs will be subject to price negotiation. The first prices resulting from the negotiations between HHS and drug makers will take effect in 2026.

The selected drugs will be among the 100 medications that Medicare spends the most on. The drugs selected cannot have any direct competition from generic or bio similar (a generic form of a biologic drug) alternatives. The drugs must have been marketed for a certain number of years.

So, Medicare should save money with lower prices and Medicare beneficiaries will have lower out of pocket costs.

Beginning in 2025, Medicare beneficiaries will not have to spend more than \$2000 per year on medications. Before that, in 2024, Medicare enrollees who reach the catastrophic phase of their Medicare Part D will not have to pay any more out of pocket for their drugs that year.

Beginning in 2023, at no cost to them, Medicare beneficiaries can get vaccines that been approved for adults by the CDC. One example is the shingles vaccine. Also in 2023, copays for a 30-day supply of any insulin covered by a Medicare drug plan will be capped at \$35.

All the Part D changes apply to all the Medicare beneficiaries with drug coverage, whether enrolled in Original Medicare with a standalone drug plan or a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage.

Call the Medicare hotline (800 633-4227) or consult an experienced Medicare agent for help in understanding more about these changes and how they affect your coverage.

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## Growing 2 Shine!

### Growing Food & Community Together

By Rebecca Jepsen

**C**an you believe it is July we have only had a handful of days in the 80's thus far?!

My tomatoes are starting to set fruit, but I was harvesting at this time last year. My peppers are also lagging. But my lettuce, spinach, basil, chard and kale are extremely happy and producing like crazy! I am also getting WAY more strawberries than normal –that could be because I elevated the pots so that Cooper doesn't beat us to each and every one.

My potato-trial is looking good (see photo)! I planted both yellow and purple varieties in the same raised bed. I will be planting my sweet potato slips this week and hopefully will be enjoying them by Thanksgiving.

Potatoes are extremely easy to grow. And, depending on the variety, just one slip (a piece of potato that has been sprouted) can produce up to 10 potatoes. I cut each of my seed potatoes into 6-8 pieces; so out of just 1 potato I will hopefully be harvesting between 3-5 dozen – now that's a whole lot of French fries! 🍟

I would love to hear how your gardens are growing, so please send me an email or give me a call to share your experiences thus far.

If you are growing tomatoes and start to see dark, leathery patches at the bottom – that is blossom end rot. It can be caused by a calcium deficiency and/or uneven watering. It doesn't hurt the fruit, just cut off the affected area and enjoy the rest.

Thoroughly water your trees and shrubs at least once this month. Make sure your irrigation system is working properly and that they are watering the entire canopy of your trees. Also, set your timers to water early in the morning, 5-7 a.m. is ideal. If you haven't applied a couple of inches of compost and mulch around all your plants and trees...NOW is the time!



#### 'Peaches & Cream' – Not in a bowl but on a stalk!

Corn is easy to grow. However, I tried to grow it (not very successfully) in a raised bed. Master Gardeners did a trial a few years ago and the recommendation is to grow it in a 10 x 10 plot in the ground. Space seedlings about 8" apart and water every other day for the first couple of weeks. Then water about 3 times a week depending on the weather. Two taste-test winners were 'Peaches & Cream' (bicolored) which matures in just 70 days and 'Silver Queen' (white) which matures in 90 days.



#### What to Plant in July

Key: • Seed | • Transplant | • Bareroot

- okra • corn • • summer squash
- beans • chayote • Brussels sprouts

*Local nurseries should have a good supply of most of these.*

#### Ready to Harvest Now

tomatoes • beans • berries • apricots • peaches • lemons • limes  
cucumbers • most herbs • radishes • turnips • zucchini • eggplant

*If you have a garden (or real estate) question for Rebecca, email her at: [rjepsen@ggsir.com](mailto:rjepsen@ggsir.com); or call 408-357-3990.*

**Growing2Shine.com**

## Green Tip of the Month

Skip the fireworks this year! Even though we got a good amount of rain, trees and shrubs are still very dry from years of extreme drought. Many devastating wildfires are sparked annually by backyard/neighborhood fireworks. Animals (including our dog Cooper) can be TERRIFIED by the noise. We literally have to give her sedatives and drive hours away from civilization to get through it!

Here's wishing you a HAPPY, SAFE & QUITE 4th of July!!!







## COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S CORNER - FROM THE EXPERTS:

### THE GIFT OF MOBILITY FOR WEST VALLEY SENIORS

By County Supervisor Joe Simitian



If anyone had told me early on that our Reach Your Destination Easily (RYDE) program was going to be such a big success we'd have to hustle for volunteer drivers, I'd have said, "I look forward to that day."

Well, that day is here. I'm proud to have championed RYDE's launch, which is on track to provide more than 10,500 rides this fiscal year to folks aged 65 and older in the West Valley and South County.

RYDE's numbers tell quite a story. More than half of the nearly 800 enrollees live with a disability or mobility aid like a cane or walker, one-fifth are veterans, and 80% qualify as low income. The average client's age is 82. The top three destinations: senior centers, medical appointments, and shopping.

RYDE started six years ago as a small pilot project in Saratoga using taxis. The response was so positive that the folks who cooked up the six-week trial — Saratoga city officials and Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council (SASCC) executive director Tylor Taylor — reached out to me and asked if Santa Clara County could help keep the program going.

We could and did, in large part by building a coalition with four other West Valley cities and a second social services agency, West Valley Community Services. Two years ago, we secured Valley Transportation Authority Measure B grants for innovative transit models, which allowed RYDE to further expand into high-need areas in San Jose and Morgan Hill.

One of RYDE's best features is its simplicity. No bus schedules to negotiate, no ride sharing apps or surge time pricing to figure out. Just a trustworthy lift to run an errand, see the doctor, or get out to socialize — for a modest fee, based on need. "Modest" isn't a euphemism: the average trip distance is less than four miles and costs riders under a dollar.

Of course, four miles can be insurmountable when you don't have a car or have health challenges. In its early days, RYDE helped more than a few folks who hadn't been out of the house for more than a year.

"That's a disaster," says SASCC's Taylor. "Home becomes a prison. You can't sustain yourself, your outlook declines. We want people to live their lives as though they have their own car."

Taylor hopes to see RYDE expand throughout the County in the next five years. To make that happen — and to keep pace with new clients signing up every month — we need more drivers.

Volunteers don't have to commit many hours, pay for gas, or even use their own car to make a difference. It's easy. After a short training course and background check, RYDE's program coordinators do all the scheduling, connecting drivers with clients.

Saratoga resident Kirch DeMartini, who has been driving clients several times a month ever since the program got off the ground, is RYDE's longest serving volunteer. "I thoroughly enjoy it. I meet all kinds of people," he says.

At age 82, retired from Los Gatos High School after 40 years as a teacher, counselor, and administrator in the South Bay, DeMartini is happy he's in a position to help other seniors be more actively engaged and independent.

"We're a car-oriented culture, if you don't have a car or someone to drive you, you're really up a creek. Not everybody can afford to take cabs or Uber," he says. "I'm happy to discuss the pros and cons with anyone considering volunteering. There are no cons. There's a real need in the community, so if you can do it, do it."

Thank you, Kirch. I'm gratified that RYDE has really blossomed. In order to keep that momentum rolling, if you too can give the gift of mobility, RYDE seniors need you. So, think about it, please.

For more about RYDE in Saratoga, Los Gatos, and Monte Sereno: [www.sascc.org/ryde-about](http://www.sascc.org/ryde-about) and [www.sascc.org/ryde-volunteer-driver-application](http://www.sascc.org/ryde-volunteer-driver-application).

For RYDE in Campbell and Cupertino: [www.wvcommunityservices.org/ryde](http://www.wvcommunityservices.org/ryde) scroll down for the volunteer driver application link.

*Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian represents the Fifth District which includes Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Stanford, portions of San Jose and unincorporated communities in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and 2020. He previously served in the California State Senate and State Assembly. Stay up to date on news and events happening in District Five by signing up for Supervisor Simitian's monthly newsletter at his website: [SupervisorSimitian.org](http://SupervisorSimitian.org).*







## MAYOR'S CORNER

By Mayor Kookie Fitzsimmons



Saratoga is widely regarded as a wonderful community to live in for many reasons, including its natural beauty, outstanding schools, low crime rate, vibrant cultural scene, and a wide range of community engagement and recreation opportunities. While the City of Saratoga employs a small but mighty team of staff members to directly provide many of these services to residents, the City also partners with specialized organizations to contract out certain services. This approach allows the City to efficiently maintain Saratoga's high quality of life while optimizing resource allocation.

The City of Saratoga has contracted with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services since the City's incorporation in 1956. Through this agreement, the Sheriff's Office provides general law enforcement services, such as patrol, response to emergency calls, and investigative services, as well as supplemental services above and beyond general law enforcement services, including increased traffic enforcement and the School Resource Officer.

Saratoga is also served by two fire districts to round out our public safety support. These two districts, the Santa Clara County Fire Department and the Saratoga Fire Protection District, also operate independently of the city. These agencies not only operate fire stations within the City and respond to emergencies, but also provide multiple resources to reduce fire risk and offer opportunities for the community to learn about fire prevention and emergency preparedness.

The City partners with Successful Aging Solutions & Community Consulting (SASCC) to provide comprehensive programs and services for senior residents. Through this collaboration, SASCC takes the lead in delivering various activities, events, and support tailored to the needs of the aging population in Saratoga.

To offer an array of recreational opportunities for residents, Saratoga collaborates with Los Gatos- Saratoga (LGS) Recreation. LGS Recreation manages and operates recreational facilities, plans and organizes programs and ensures residents of all ages have access to diverse recreational activities.

Summer programs are now in session, so take a look and register for a new activity!

The Saratoga Chamber of Commerce plays an integral role in supporting local businesses and promoting economic development in the city. The Chamber collaborates with the City to foster a vibrant business community, organize events, and provide resources and advocacy for Saratoga's commercial sector. Local businesses can reap the benefits of the Chamber's support through programs such as social media marketing, the opportunity to utilize a Farmers' Market booth, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Residents should save the date for the Chamber's Classic and Cool Car Show on Sunday, July 23!

The City has established a partnership with the Santa Clara County Library system to provide library services to the community. The Saratoga Library, operated by the Santa Clara County Library, offers a wide range of resources, educational programs, and community events to promote literacy and learning.

By contracting with these external organizations and other partners to provide services, Saratoga maximizes efficiency and expertise while maintaining oversight and strategic decision-making. This unique approach allows the City to focus on core functions while benefiting from specialized providers and optimizing resource allocation for the benefit of its residents.



## SAVE THE DATE

## SARATOGA MAYOR'S BALL

By Stephen Guruwaiya



**SAVE THE DATE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2023!**

We're not sure what the President of the Saratoga Chamber and the Mayor of Saratoga are up to, but we know it's something special and it's gonna be a BALL!



## "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

By Patricia Himel & Laurel Perusa | Photo courtesy of Betsy Coo



Step right up and embrace festive patriotic spirit! Every month of the year gives one the opportunity to demonstrate patriotic spirit. For some reason, during the summer months, displays of patriotic spirit escalate! Let's all be part of this festive trend and decorate our homes with a patriotic theme.

Join in on this extraordinary tradition! Fly an American flag, and display red, white,

and blue bunting on your fence. Hang a patriotic wreath on your door. Create a Liberty Tree! It is fun and easy to create a Liberty Tree in your front yard. It's a wonderful family activity for all ages. Just think red, white, and blue, and amazing ideas will jump right onto your "Liberty Tree." Consider decorating your mailbox in a bright patriotic theme. Be the example in your neighborhood. Your "Liberty Tree" and patriotic mailbox may serve as an inspiration for others.

Visit charming, historic Saratoga village on Big Basin Way to enjoy our city's legendary "America The Beautiful" patriotic display. Village business owners and Saratoga residents join hands in creating this extraordinary display. Residents and visitors strolling up and down Big Basin Way will be amazed at the multitude of patriotic decorations featured in business windows, on balconies, gates, and in garden pots. Decorations will be on display in the village through the month of July.

## SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION'S BLACKSMITH'S REVIVAL GALA

By Annette Stransky, Saratoga History Museum

You are invited to Saratoga Historical Foundation's Blacksmith's Revival Gala Benefiting Saratoga History Museum's new Blacksmith Exhibit Saturday, July 22, 2023, at History San Jose Park.

Bus transportation to and from the venue is provided from the Saratoga History Museum located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, Saratoga.

### PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Sparkling Wine and Appetizer Reception in the Plaza
- Visiting Three Guided Historical Exhibits (15 minutes each)
- Four-Course Gourmet Meal with House Family Wines
- Dessert and Tea or Coffee in the Historic Renzel Room
- History San Jose Museum Visit
- Transportation
- Favor Bag

**Price is \$250.00 for Saratoga Historical Foundation Members, \$275.00 for Non-Members**

### THERE ARE 2 SHIFTS FOR THE EVENT:

First Shift checks in at the Saratoga Museum at 3:10 PM and returns around 8 PM

Second Shift checks in at the Saratoga Museum at 4:10 PM and returns around 9:45 PM

Pay by credit card at [www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com) and click on the Blacksmith's Revival Gala article.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Saratoga Chamber of Commerce



Summer in Saratoga reminds me of my younger days growing up on a prune ranch in the Mount Eden Valley at the foot of the old Paul Masson Winery, now called The Mountain Winery. Back in the 60's and 70's there seemed to be fewer crows and more blue jays and rattlesnakes. Saratoga is still a relatively rural community where we need to be aware of our surroundings and remember to look out for one another.

I occasionally stop by a friend's or neighbor's home on my way home from work or an errand. I always feel better after I do, and I know it is appreciated as I have been told how nice it is to have someone stop by for no significant reason other than just to say hello. Sometimes I buy an extra loaf of fresh French bread at Safeway, still warm from the oven and deliver it when I visit.

Another way to make a difference in someone's life is to volunteer at the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's summertime events are in full swing with several

ways to make friends and contribute to your home-town community. Saratoga's Car Show Week of events starts on July 15th with a concert in Wildwood Park and ends on July 23rd with the 12th Annual Saratoga car show in the Village. There is a second concert on August 19th and a black-tie event on October 7th called the "President's and Mayor's Ball" honoring past Saratoga Mayors and other community members. On November 24th we have the Holiday Wine-Stroll in the Village. These community events could benefit from your support. You can call me at (408) 828-9614, or call Kelly Medrano at the Chamber office to find out how you can help and maybe make a new friend or two. I look forward to strengthening our community with your help. President Saratoga Chamber of Commerce

Tiger Teerlink  
Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, President

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[www.drdaivesboardinggrooming.com](http://www.drdaivesboardinggrooming.com)



# 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SARATOGA CLASSIC & COOL CAR SHOW

By Tiger Teerlink, President of the Saratoga Car Show



**F**asten your seat belts! Saratoga's Car Show Week kicks off with a FREE concert featuring 3 BANDS at Wildwood Park on Saturday, July 15th. Eight days later, the week ends in traditional grand fashion on Sunday, July 23rd, when "Chrome Meets Country" at the 12th Annual Saratoga Classic and Cool Car Show on Big Basin Way in the Historic Saratoga Village. Residents, visitors, and show-car owners have more to celebrate in July than just the usual 4th of July weekend. Check out the schedule below to know which events you want to attend.

## CAR SHOW WEEK SCHEDULE:

- Saturday, 7/15 - Concert & Kick Off. 12 Noon to 6 pm at Wildwood Park, Saratoga.
- Tuesday, 7/18 - Fuel Up Rally 5 - 7 PM at Big Basin Burger Bar, Saratoga.
- Thursday, 7/20 - Revvin Up Rally 5 - 7 PM at JAKES of Saratoga.
- Saturday, 7/22 - Tri-City Cruise. Meet up at 10:30 AM at the 76 gas station in Saratoga or a location in Los Gatos TBD.
- Sunday, 7/23 - 12th Annual Saratoga Classic & Cool Car Show with over 250 cars, 10 AM - 4 PM




The car show is presented by the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, the City of Saratoga, and the Cool Car Club of Saratoga, Los Gatos, and Campbell. This unique car show will include all makes and models of American and foreign cars regardless of year. They just have to be "cool". All registered show car drivers get 2 free lunches in the Village AND a free Car Show T-shirt. If you are coming to just look and enjoy the music, remember that the local restaurants and vendors will have a wide selection of food and beverages for sale. The stage for the live classic rock band will be built in the center of downtown.

Big Basin Way will be closed to through-traffic for the Car Show on Sunday, July 23rd from 5 AM - 5 PM. Alternate routes will be marked. There is FREE parking and shuttles To & From the car show event. The pickup location is at West Valley College, PARKING LOT #5 starting at 9:30 AM. The drop-off location is at the 76 gas station on Big Basin Way. The shuttles will run continuously from 9:30 AM - 4:45 PM. MAKE SURE TO PARK YOUR CAR IN PARKING LOT #5. THE SARATOGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS PRE-PAID FOR YOU TO PARK IN THIS LOT.


See you at the show!


For more information, please go to [SaratogaCarShow.com](http://SaratogaCarShow.com) or

Call Tiger Teerlink (408) 828-9614 or [SaratogaChamber.org](http://SaratogaChamber.org), (408) 867-0753



PHOTOGRAPHY VIDEO





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## THE SUMMIT LEAGUE

*A Day in The Garden with Friends*

By Lynn O'Brien | Photos courtesy of Devlin Shand For DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY



Celine Schmidk, Lance Lew, Agnes Roey, and Elise Parsons



David Stonesifer

The Summit League recently held their biennial event titled "A Day in The Garden with Friends" at the historic Villa Montalvo Arts Center on June 1, 2023. This was an inspirational event featuring guest speakers Maria Shriver and Jessica Aguirre. The luncheon offered a curated shopping experience while raising awareness and funds for nonprofit community support groups. The primary beneficiary is Pursuit of Excellence - South Bay.

This year's event benefited Pursuit of Excellence-South Bay (POE) and was co-chaired by local philanthropists Gretchen DiNapoli and Liz Ferrari. Gretchen and Liz are both very active in the community and run local businesses.

Summit League, with President Marianna Samson, is a longstanding local non-profit women's organization committed to supporting local community needs in the areas of education, health, welfare, and the arts.

POE provides financial support and mentorship to Bay Area students pursuing advanced education. Each student is paired with a volunteer mentor, often an adult familiar with the major the student has chosen, who will coach the student throughout their college career. Ninety-eight percent of POE-South Bay funds go directly to support student scholarships as this is an all-volunteer organization, with no salaries or office expenses.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

Maria Shriver is a mother of four, an Emmy and Peabody award-winning journalist, a seven-time New York Times best-selling author, an NBC News Special Anchor, the founder of Shriver Media, and co-founder of the mission-driven brain health and wellness brand, MOSH. She also founded the Women's Alzheimer's Movement (WAM,) which in February 2022 joined forces with the Cleveland Clinic to become WAM at Cleveland Clinic, where Shriver now also serves as a Strategic Partner for Women's Health and Alzheimer's.

A trailblazer for empowering women, Shriver uses her voice and her platforms to advance some of our nation's most pressing issues affecting women and women's health. In 2010, she broke new ground when, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Takes on Alzheimer's reported for the first time ever that women are at an increased risk for the disease.

Shriver's life and career are driven by her fervent belief that everyone has the ability to be an "Architect of Change" and make the world a better place. Her media company Shriver Media, and its newsletter The Sunday Paper, seek to inspire hearts and minds and elevate the voices of others who are moving humanity forward as well. Shriver's latest books, New York Times bestseller I've Been Thinking and its companion I've Been Thinking...The Journal offer wisdom, guidance, encouragement, and inspiration for those seeking to create a meaningful life of their own.

Jessica Aguirre is the 5, 6 and 11 p.m. evening anchor at NBC Bay Area News and an Emmy award winning journalist. Jessica has been a primetime, evening anchor, in the Bay Area for over 20 years.

Jessica resides in the East Bay, with her two daughters. Her devotion to local charities has her routinely speaking in the Bay Area on topics including education, gender equity and minority advancement in the workplace. Jessica also serves on the board of Watermark, the Bay Area's largest membership organization dedicated to increasing the number of women in leadership. In addition to anchoring the evening news, Jessica is the co-host of NBC Bay Area's Race in America a show that explores racial equity and social injustice Aguirre's Emmy nominated show "Class Action" took a deep look at the issues facing California educators and public schools. Her investigative reporting into the aftermath of the Napa earthquake and the impact on local schools has led to pending school safety legislation.

For more information on Summit League please look to their web site:  
www.summit-league.org

For questions, contact: Marianna Samson, 408.568.9994 | marisamson@yahoo.com



Dana Krouskup, Julie Robson, and Kristi Saso



Sylvia Scandar Mahan, Matt Mahan, and Marianna Samson



Maria Shriver and Jessica Aguirre



Lise Wool, Maria Shriver, and Maddie Lucas



Debi Justice, Pam Blackwell, and Liz Ferrari



June Tersini, Gretchen Mair, Lynne Tersini, and Lynn Tollner



Jessica Aguirre and Maria Shriver



Anita Schwartz, Joan Arceno, Ann Mirizzi, Sally Jones, and Judy



Angela McConnell, Marianna Samson, Natalie Samson, and Gretchen DiNapoli



## Summer Garden Party

By Stephen Guruwaiya Photos courtesy of Hyunah Jang, Hyunah Jang Photography



Larry Stone, Sara McManis, Dianne McKenna,  
Jim McManis, Ann Ravel, & Carmen Stone

### Oh, YES!

It was a day to remember when friends, community leaders, Rotarians, and other guests came together to celebrate in fellowship at Carmen and Larry Stone's Summer Garden Party.

Meeting old, dear friends, and making new friendships is what it was all about. There were lots of hugs, laughter, and smiles, all around.

Guests were treated to a wonderful selection of hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments and of course many cups of kindness.

Happy Summer 2023 from the Stone Family!



Roberto Robledo, Finn Jenssen, Cynthia Teniente-Matson,  
Steve Caplan, & Pam Foley



David Neighbors, Dee Ellis, & Ron Gonzalez



Joan Barram, Karin Bricker, Carmen Stone,  
Dianne McKenna, Diane Moglen, Mary Ellen  
Sweeney, & Pat Dowd



Larry Stone, Larry Klein,  
Matt Mahan, & Ron Gonzales



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