

# SARATOGA

## *Spotlight*



**MEET DAVE AND  
DEVI HOUSE**  
**A TASTE FOR ADVENTURE**

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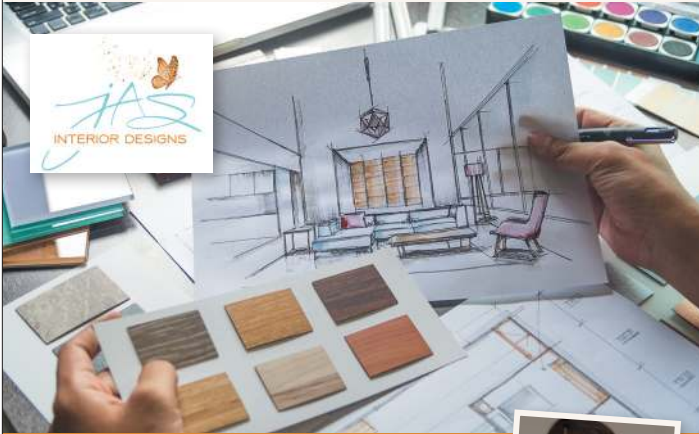
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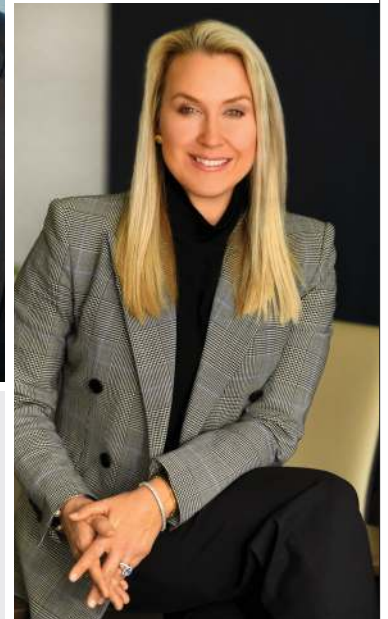
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# SARATOGA

## Spotlight

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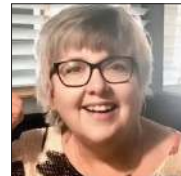
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# DAVE AND DEVI HOUSE - A TASTE FOR ADVENTURE

Compiled by Carol Gerwitz | Photography by David Lepori and provided by the family

In 1998, when landscaping his property on Old Oak Way, Dave House was inspired to plant grapevines along his driveway. This initial inspiration quickly took root: by 2000, vines surrounded his house. The idea developed further in 2004, after consulting with Jeffrey Patterson of Mount Eden Vineyards regarding the feasibility of planting on the property's hillsides. Following this guidance, he planted a larger vineyard, officially launching House Family Vineyards. In addition to expanding the vineyards, Dave used some of the land he'd been gradually acquiring next to his home to build homes for his family. Reflecting on this decision, Dave quipped, "I built houses for my grandkids, and I let their parents live with them."

Dave was born in Michigan and attended high school and community college there. He earned a BSEE from Michigan

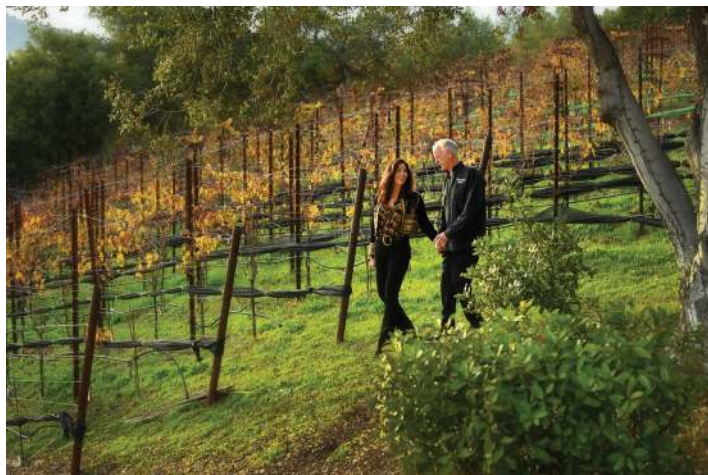
Tech in 1965 and MSEE from Northwestern University in 1969. When it was time to look for a job, Dave says, "I interviewed the United States." He had 14 job interview trips across the country and decided to settle in California. Dave's illustrious career includes 23 years at Intel, where he managed the microprocessor business for 13 years, growing revenue from \$40M to \$4B/year. Other executive positions Dave has held include chair and CEO at Bay Networks and President of Nortel Networks.

Devyani Kamdar ("Devi") was born in Seattle and lived up and down the West Coast, but lived in Los Angeles the longest. She went to high school in Seoul, South Korea. While attending Stanford University, Devi visited her family, then living in Japan. Unexpectedly, she was approached to act in a movie. Equally unexpectedly, her mother thought she should take time off from Stanford and accept the offer. Devi did so and appeared in weekly TV shows, as well as in the movie. She then returned to Stanford, where she earned degrees in Japanese and International Relations. Devi's early career was in publishing, working on the Day in the Life series of photography books, among others. She later continued helping to build and run small businesses, including the Palo Alto Institute, where she founded the Palo Alto International Film Festival.

Dave and Devi met when Devi hosted a showing sponsored by the Intel Alumni Association of the film "The Real Revolutionaries," which featured Dave along with other Silicon Valley pioneers. When Dave was asked to speak at the presentation, he was "invited" to also bring wine, marking Devi's introduction to Dave and to his House Family Wine. After a year of friendship and discovering they were both newly single, Dave asked, "Do you want to have dinner?" They were married







on a beach in Mexico nearly ten years ago. Together, Dave and Devi have seven children and nine grandchildren.

Travelling and adventure is a way of life for Dave and Devi, both of whom thrive on adrenaline. Devi is a world champion XTERRA triathlete with a passion for mountain biking. Dave's pursuits are equally intense: he has skied at least 20 days a year for the last 50 years, often heli-skiing in British Columbia, where he has racked up 8 million vertical feet. A lifelong sportsman, Dave is also a dedicated yachtsman, racecar driver, and the host of annual post-Christmas family ski trips for over 40 years. The 2025 trip will be to Steamboat Springs, CO.

To celebrate their anniversaries, the couple takes turns planning mystery adventure trips for each other. The location is known only to the planning spouse and never to be revealed, not even at the airport.

Dave and Devi point out that the names of countries are not shown on airport announcements, only cities. It was because of this that Dave was totally fooled when they ended up in the Galapagos one year. When they went to an island in Tahiti, Dave recalls thinking, "We're somewhere in an ocean." Their next trip will be to India—no secret. However, to Devi's delight, she will keep their exact itinerary a secret.

Dave is the House family patriarch and also proprietor of House Family Vineyards; Devi, along with other House family members, has helped grow the business. Dave's son-in-law Jim Cargill is



Jim and Dave

Winemaker and Operations Manager. Dave and Devi share the oversight and administration of the House Family Foundation, which primarily focuses on education and giving disadvantaged kids a "boost" both locally and in Dave's hometown. The Foundation supports local nonprofits including Hakone Gardens, the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council, Montalvo, Team4Tech, the Kraus Center for Innovation, and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. Dave has held several nonprofit board positions and is currently vice chair at the Computer History Museum, chair emeritus and board member of the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, board member at Northeastern University, and presidential advisor at Michigan Tech.

Dave and Devi are deeply invested in their neighborhood's well-being. Dave is the vice chair of the Neighborhood Watch and the founder and chair of their local Firewise community. As passionate advocates for fire safety, the couple hosts both an annual social event and a yearly training meeting for the Firewise group. It is their urgent wish that Saratogans band together with their neighbors to create these vital neighborhood groups. The Saratoga Fire District will provide a free assessment; Dave and Devi are available to help with organization details as is Dave's son-in-law, Jim Cargill. Firewise information is at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

"We wish everyone a happy—and fire free—New Year," say Dave and Devi. They are so thankful for their community and all of the volunteers and kindness shown one another. Says Dave, "We're all in this together."



Devi and Dave with a First Place Trophy.



House Family Reunion – Took Place at the Family Home





## MAYOR'S CORNER - THE HEART OF SARATOGA LIVES IN ITS NEIGHBORHOODS

By Mayor Chuck Page

Our city is built on many strengths—excellent schools, beautiful green spaces, and a charming downtown—but the heart of Saratoga has always been its neighborhoods. As I begin my third term as Mayor, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this community, and I am continually reminded that Saratoga's true character reveals itself at the neighborhood level. What makes Saratoga special are the relationships between the residents who call it home. I wasn't born in Saratoga, and I didn't grow up here, but Saratoga is truly my home.

A neighborhood is more than a collection of streets and houses—it is a network of connections, relationships, and shared experiences. In Saratoga, the sense of pride residents feel for their blocks, cul-de-sacs, and hillside communities creates an environment where people feel rooted and supported. This neighbor-to-neighbor spirit shapes the culture of our city.

Saratoga has a rich tradition of resident involvement, and neighborhood-based groups are instrumental in that. Did you know that Saratoga was one of the first communities to embrace Nextdoor as a means of ensuring neighbor-to-neighbor communications? Yes, that came with some good and some not-so-good, but it's important to have new and innovative means of sharing information with each other. For more than 30 years, Saratoga has embraced Neighborhood Watch, to provide a better way

to help neighbors bond with law enforcement, helping keep our city safe. After all, in an emergency, your neighbor is often your first line of defense or at least the closest person you can ask for help. Participating in other groups, such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), getting involved with the City's "Let's Work" volunteer programs to beautify our parks and trails, and serving on a City commission are just other ways to strengthen your community. These groups remind us that community isn't something the City builds alone; it's something we build together.

Our city's charm is rooted in neighbors knowing and supporting one another. When I moved to Saratoga, I found that my block had a tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July each year with a kids' bike parade, volleyball, and a cookout in the cul-de-sac. I love visiting Saratoga Woods to see the streets filled with trick-or-treaters and their families. Speaking of Saratoga Woods, I love their Little Christmas Tree tradition, which began in 1996. Over the years, it grew as neighbors joined in, forming a joyful annual event now involving more than 200 staked trees in the front yards. With volunteer "elves," food and gift donations, music, a potluck, and even a neighborhood band, this long-standing tradition has become a beloved celebration that strengthens connections and builds community among more than 300 households. As this tradition continues to spread cheer and community spirit, we encourage residents to share their

own stories and memories to keep the magic growing. Do you have a neighborhood story to share? I'd love to hear about it!

From a policy standpoint, decisions made at the state and city levels ultimately have an effect on each of our neighborhoods. That is why community voices are so important. When neighbors are engaged, they help guide local priorities, influence programs, and ensure that public services meet real needs. Strong neighborhoods contribute to a resilient city because they create communication channels, foster collaboration, and help the City to understand emerging issues early. Simply put, when our individual neighborhoods thrive, Saratoga thrives. And the more we do for each other, the stronger we become.

I encourage residents to get involved with existing neighborhood groups or even start new initiatives in their own communities. Participating in city events, volunteering for programs, or starting new traditions with your neighbors can make a meaningful difference. Every small act strengthens the bonds that make Saratoga such a special place to live.

Thank you to all of our residents for contributing to the character and quality of life in Saratoga. I am committed to working alongside you this year to keep our neighborhoods safe, welcoming, and connected. Together, we will continue to preserve the sense of community that makes Saratoga truly unique.



## SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S CORNER - TROUBLE AHEAD: HELP THE COUNTY PRIORITIZE FOR DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN 2026

Provided by Margaret Abe-Koga

### *Dear Friend,*

Happy New Year! To start with, some happy news: I'd like to congratulate Los Gatos High School sophomore Arnav Singhal and his co-founder, Parham Pourahmad. The pair were recently featured on KQED in their work on Silicon Valley Wildlife Group, who are educating residents and tracking coyotes across the region.

On to some sobering news: 2026 is developing into a very difficult budget year, due to a series of federal actions. It will be difficult to avoid service impacts, but supervisors will be working hard to preserve as much as possible. I want to share how the county is working to strengthen fiscal discipline, increase transparency, engage constituents in the process, and protect our most vulnerable residents.

With federal funding cuts looming, it is more important than ever to embed fiscal practices that allow supervisors and the public to understand budget constraints, non-discretionary obligations, and community priorities. Supervisor Susan Ellenberg and I introduced a joint proposal at the November 18 Board of Supervisors meeting to ensure residents have clear insight into how public dollars are spent and how we plan to protect the County's long-term financial stability.

This proposal builds on my earlier requests for a countywide budget management system and more frequent updates before the mid-year review. We also called for public study sessions to explain how the budget is developed and how financial decisions affect residents. The goal is straightforward: strengthen trust, involve residents earlier, and make informed decisions in time for the annual June budget hearings. Greater clarity helps us manage budget discipline and protect essential services.

Just days after our proposal was unanimously approved by the board, the federal administration, through HUD, or the Housing and Urban Development Department, announced plans to slash funds for housing homeless residents. This reduction in the federal Continuum of Care program is expected to drop by two-thirds. These cuts could push 1,800 residents who already have a roof over their head back onto our streets. It threatens to overwhelm law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and hospitals that are already stretched thin.

This change from the federal government discards years of taxpayer investment, including the voter-approved 2016 housing bond. The administration's shift toward short-term programs pretends to be "reform" but is a costly illusion.

In my November 15 op-ed for San José Spotlight, I emphasized that permanent supportive housing reduces crime, decreases emergency service calls, and allows public safety personnel to focus on critical incidents.

In District 5, progress is visible: La Avenida Apartments in Mountain View opened in June for families and veterans; In Palo Alto, housing is under construction with adults with special needs in mind; and Los Altos is building affordable units on Distel Place near El Camino Real. This is not the time to roll back the progress we have made.

The County of Santa Clara has joined forces with the City and County of San Francisco and a coalition of 10 other local governments and nonprofits to challenge the unlawful withholding of federal dollars.

Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga and her staff can be reached at [District5@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:District5@bos.sccgov.org). Ask a question or provide feedback. All correspondence is welcome!





# Medicare Enrollment Form



## OTHER CHOICES AFTER THE MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

By Lucille Maravilla

Every year, December 7 is the last day for the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP). After this date you must decide if there are any changes you would like to make.

If you were enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan (Part C or MA-PD), the AEP (October 15 through December 7) gave you the opportunity to review your plan coverage. As a current member, you may have received information regarding plan changes, i.e., a decrease or increase in copays, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket maximum. There might have been changes to the provider network (doctors, hospitals, clinics, etc.) and/or the drug formulary (list of drugs covered by the plan). Armed with this information, you might have decided to change coverage.

During AEP if you were enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage (MA-PD), you could change plans as many times as you wanted. However, the last plan you enrolled in and submitted by December 7 determined your Medicare Advantage coverage effective January 1.

If you had a Medicare drug plan (PDP), the plan may have mailed you an Annual Notice of Change. Even if the number or type of prescription drugs you currently use did not change, you should have checked the notice. It's always good to do a review. Changes might include an increase/decrease in monthly premium, the annual plan deductible, the drug formulary, and/or drug tiers. This year in particular, many Medicare drug plans were dropped or had name changes. If there was a drug deductible, it was increased. The out-of-pocket maximum was reduced to \$2100.

Just like the Medicare Advantage plans, you could enroll/change your Medicare drug plan as many times as you wanted. However, the last plan you enrolled in and submitted by December 7 determined your Medicare drug coverage is effective January 1.

Enrolled in a Medicare supplement plus a drug plan, you had the opportunity to change and enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage (MA-PD) effective January 1. The Advantage plan replaced the supplement and the drug plan.

After December 7, you have an opportunity to make a change. For example, you want to change the Medicare Advantage plan you kept or the new one you chose for 2026. Here are some possibilities: disenroll from your Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage and return to Original Medicare (Part A and B). In this scenario, you should enroll in a Medicare drug plan, so you won't be fined. Or you could enroll in a new Advantage plan with drug coverage.

During the Medicare Open Enrollment Period (OEP) from January 1-March 31, you have the opportunity to disenroll in your Medicare Advantage plan. But you can only do that once. Medicare drug plans cannot be changed after December 7.

If your drug plan was discontinued for 2026, you have a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). You didn't have to enroll by December 7. Your letter/notice should have advised you to choose a new plan by December 31.

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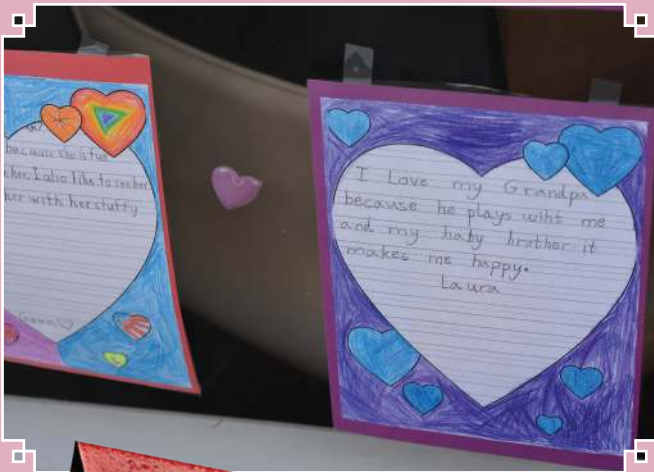


# LOVE

## NOTES -

### A SARATOGA TRADITION

Submitted by Laurel Parusa | Photos by Darrell Miller



Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and the Saratoga Village Development Council is sponsoring the much-loved tradition of "Love Notes" again this February. For years, Saratoga residents and students have created "Love Notes" to display in the village. Become part of this tradition and create a "Love Note" for a special family member, friend, or beloved pet. This is a wonderful way to honor and celebrate that special someone in your life.

Create your own personal sentiment on an 8 1/2 by 11" sheet of paper. "Love Notes" need to be flat for display purposes. Please bring your "Love Notes" to the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce by February 10. The "Love Notes" committee will display your heartfelt creation in a village business window. Bring your loved one to the village to discover and enjoy the unique "Love Notes", designed just for them! Viewing their meaningful "Love Note" will be a special memory they will cherish for a lifetime!

Everyone is invited to stroll up and down Big Basin Way to enjoy the multitude of "Love Notes" created by Saratogans' "Love Notes" will be on display until February 20.


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## GOT YOUR HEALTH, GOT IT ALL.

Provided by Stephanie Figeira

**G**ot your health, got it all. I say it often because it's true — and the start of a new year is the perfect time to let that message sink in. The good news? Taking better care of yourself doesn't have to mean big, overwhelming changes. Most of the time, it's the small, simple habits that make the biggest difference.

If you're kicking off January feeling a little sluggish, here's one of my favorite tricks: drink a glass of warm water (8–16 ounces) with the juice of one lemon and a pinch of good sea salt first thing in the morning. It helps wake up your system, supports elimination, and gives a gentle boost of energy. I've used this one for years, and it never fails. Do it daily for a month and notice how your body responds.

Another tiny-but-mighty habit? Eating 2 to 4 Brazil nuts a day. They're loaded with selenium — a nutrient that supports your thyroid, mood, and overall cell health. And since they're so nutrient-dense, a few really are enough. Pair them with a couple of dates, and you've got a naturally sweet snack that gives quick energy while keeping your blood sugar steadier. Dates also pack in fiber and minerals, so they help keep digestion happy while satisfying a sweet craving.

And let's talk about seeds. These little guys don't get nearly enough credit. Pumpkin, flax, chia, hemp, sesame, sunflower — each one has its own mix of minerals, healthy fats, and antioxidants. They support immunity, lower inflammation, and boost energy in a really gentle, steady way. You can toss them onto oatmeal, yogurt, salads, soups, veggies — anything, really. If you have digestive concerns, just grind them first. A cheap coffee grinder works perfectly.

If you're hoping to drop a few holiday pounds, try adding a fresh green salad to your day. It doesn't have to be fancy — just leafy greens with two or three other chopped veggies or fruits. Drizzle on a simple dressing of extra virgin olive oil and lemon juice or raw apple cider vinegar, and you're good to go. This is also the perfect place to sprinkle some of those seeds you're adding in.

Here's the thing: Small choices, done consistently, turn into real results. You don't need to overhaul your entire lifestyle

to feel better. You just need to pick one or two habits and stick with them long enough to feel the shift.

So, this year, let your wellness journey be simple, steady, and kind to yourself. Got your health, got it all — and you're more capable than you think. You've got this!





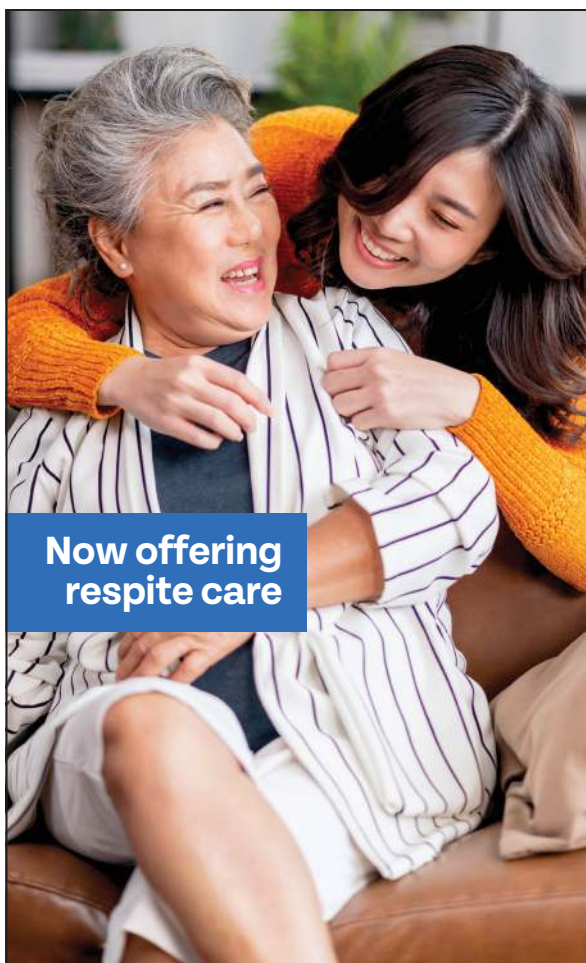
## BIO - STEPHANIE

Provided by Stephanie Figeira



Stephanie Figeira is the Director of Nutrition Services at Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. (PVI), bringing more than 12 years of holistic nutrition experience with a focus on cancer care and gut health. She is passionate about helping older adults achieve healthy longevity through mindful eating and wellness practices. Stephanie also has over 20 years of experience in community development and housing, giving her a unique, well-rounded perspective on supporting seniors' quality of life.

A resident of Los Gatos, Stephanie is married with two adult children. She enjoys cooking for her family, spending time at the beach, and staying active.



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## WHEN DO I NEED TO UPDATE MY ESTATE PLAN?

By Lisa Bryant

We see the relief on our clients' faces when they put that final signature on their estate plan. It's a moment of peace — knowing their loved ones will be protected and their wishes honored. But many clients then tuck their estate planning binder away, where it collects dust for years. While it may feel like a "one and done" task, your estate plan should evolve with your life. In general, it's wise to review your plan every three to five years, or sooner if major life events occur.

### A Change in Intentions:

If your goals or wishes change — such as who inherits, how assets are distributed, or who acts on your behalf — it's time for a review. Never write on your trust or remove pages. Doing so can create confusion or even invalidate your plan. Instead, consult your attorney to make clear legal updates that reflect your current intentions.

### A Change in the Law:

Estate and tax laws evolve constantly. The federal estate tax exemption, for example, has shifted dramatically over time — from \$600,000 in the 1990s to over \$13 million per person in 2025. If your documents were prepared under old laws, they may no longer fit your needs or could be unnecessarily complex. Regular reviews keep your plan aligned with current law.

### A Change in Relationships:

Marriages, divorces, domestic partnerships, or the end of long-term relationships all require an update. You may need to revise beneficiaries, successor trustees, or those with authority under your healthcare and

financial powers of attorney. Review life insurance, IRAs, and other beneficiary designations to ensure they match your current wishes.

### Losing a Spouse:

After the loss of a spouse, it's essential to update your trust, powers of attorney, and healthcare directive. You'll need to name new decision-makers and beneficiaries, and review inherited assets to ensure proper management and titling.

### Declining Health:

A serious diagnosis or degenerative illness is another key moment to revisit your plan. Updating while you still have capacity offers peace of mind and allows for long-term care and Medi-Cal planning options that protect your assets and your family.

At Bryant Elder Law, we remind clients that an estate plan is a living document — it grows and changes with you. Life doesn't stand still, and neither should your plan. If it's been several years since your last review, or if any of these life events have occurred, now is the perfect time to act. Call Bryant Elder Law today at (408) 286-2122 to schedule your Estate Plan Review and Long-Term Care Consultation. Our experienced team will help you update your plan, protect your assets, and ensure continued peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

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## THE 2026 SARATOGA DOG CALENDAR: A COMMUNITY PROJECT FROM THE HEART

Submitted by Marie Kerlau | Photography by Marie Kerlau

The 2026 Saratoga Dog Calendar began with one simple idea between the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce and local photographer Bijou Pet Photography: to feature dogs from right here in our neighborhoods as they are unmistakably part of Saratoga's spirit. The project grew quickly into a joyful community project. Over several months, dogs of every size, age and personality stepped in front of the camera. Each portrait is a love letter to Saratoga's dog lovers and to the beautiful town we call home.

Proceeds from the calendar directly support community events organized by the Chamber, turning every purchase into a meaningful way to give back. Creating these images brought together dog owners, local businesses, the Saratoga Fire Station, and enthusiastic pups. The result is a collection of portraits that feel both editorial and heartfelt.

"One of my favorite parts of this project was getting to know so many local dogs," says Marie of Bijou Pet Photography. "I run into them around town now and call out their names like old friends. Their owners connected

with each other too, and it created this little circle of joy. I hope the calendar spreads that same simple happiness, just like the pure love our dogs bring into our lives every day."

The 2026 calendar is available for purchase through the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce (see link below). Gift it to a dog lover in your life or enjoy it in your own home as a reminder of the bonds that make Saratoga such a special place to live.

### About the photographer

The calendar was photographed by Marie Kerlau of Bijou Pet Photography, a local photographer known for her warm, intuitive approach with both dogs and their people. Her work blends patience, artistry, and a true love for storytelling through images.

Link to Purchase the Calendar:

[www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/P639DB4Q3DQTE](https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/P639DB4Q3DQTE)

Link to Bijou Pet Photography Website:

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





## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF NUMU

Submitted by Jamie Donofrio

New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU) celebrated 60 years of art and history education at its sold-out Peace, Love + Art Benefit this past November, hosted at La Rinconada Country Club. This groovy 60s-themed event included drinks, dinner, & an auction, and raised nearly \$200,000 (just shy of their goal). The museum honored three individuals for their exemplary contributions to art (Marie Cameron), history (Alan Feinberg), and the museum overall (Michael Parsons). NUMU is a nonprofit museum; you can show your support by donating at [numulosgatos.org/give](http://numulosgatos.org/give).



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# caramel apple Cheesecake Dip

By Cassidy Schwimmer

I could eat caramel apples year-round, although they're almost exclusively a fall treat. To satisfy my cravings, I combined my favorite fall flavor with my favorite dessert: cheesecake!

This dip is best eaten day-of, as the caramel and cheesecake tend to release moisture after a day or two in the fridge. Which shouldn't be a problem—it was almost gone a few hours after making it!



## You'll need:

### For the Dip

- 1 package of cheesecake pudding
- 2 cups of milk (I used lactose-free, so this works with any!)
- 1 jar of caramel sauce
- Half cup of whipped topping
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup crushed peanuts
- Mini semi-sweet chocolate chips (measure with your heart)

### Ideas For Dipping

- 3-4 sliced green apples coated in lemon juice
- Graham crackers
- Pretzels
- Two-bite brownies

1. Prepare your cheesecake pudding according to the package instructions, set aside to let it firm.
2. Slice green apples and coat in lemon juice to prevent most of the browning.
3. Once pudding is firm, gently fold in whipped topping and place in desired size of dish. I did a 9x13 for a large crowd, but a 9x9 or even a large bowl works just as well!
4. Pour jar of caramel sauce over pudding mixture, then spread lightly with a spatula.
5. Crush your peanuts in a zipped plastic bag if not pre-crushed, then sprinkle over top of caramel layer.
6. Sprinkle as many chocolate chips as you want—I wished I had done more to cut a little bit of the sweetness of the caramel, but it's up to you.
7. Serve with your sliced green apples, pretzels, graham crackers, brownies, or whatever you want!

This dip would be great to bring to a sports-themed party, fall get-together or just for cozying up on the couch with a good book. I hope you enjoy!

# SARATOGA

0407

## Spotlight

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