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50th Anniversary Menlo Charity Horse Show: August 9-14

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Menlo Charity Horse Show co-founders Nan Chapman, Betsy Glikbarg, Nancy Parker, Jane Yates, and Nancy Robinson. ©Alden Corrigan Media.

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY MENLO CHARITY HORSE SHOW: AUGUST 9-14

By David Marin

The Menlo Charity Horse Show, open to the public with tickets available at the gate, is back after a twoyear hiatus, with dozens of local volunteers excited about putting on a great show.

My daughter and I attended a few years ago, watching horses that could jump over her and riders as young as nine years old aiming for the sky with every jump, a remarkable skill resulting from years of practice. While the riders are cautious and calculating, the horses seem to just enjoy jumping.

I met founder Betsy Glikbarg on her Atherton porch back then after hearing from everyone that I had to meet Betsy. I did have to meet Betsy, to feel the pulse of the show, an energy that flowed through her. We had a delightful conversation, but, since she told me the show was about the riders and horses, she only allowed me to add one thing about her to the article I was preparing: As a youngster she rode horses on the beach in San Francisco...

There's something magical about horses, a unique combination of grace and power, so much larger and stronger than people, but happy to take us along for the ride. I had a Shetland pony when I was seven, and later a Pinto living in a pasture a few blocks from home, a reliable and friendly trail rider. It's hard to imagine him jumping six feet into the air, almost like surfing the wind. When I see a horse trotting, mane flowing, it's like they know we enjoy watching, every step a show.

While the nonprofit Menlo Charity Horse Show has the feel of a friends and neighbors gathering, in 2012 it was designated a Heritage Competition by the United States Equestrian Federation, one of only 33 designated Heritage Competitions to receive that designation out of about 2,000 recognized shows. You'll see neighbors jumping horses, and you'll see world class competitors.

The Menlo, as locals call it, began as a one-day show in 1970. For many years, including this one, proceeds are donated to the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, based in Palo Alto, but helping people all over the Bay Area with programs, classes, helping kids in schools, and folks with vision challenges, made all the more difficult in recent years. To date, the show has donated nearly \$7 million to Vista Center. They also appreciate the help of volunteers, see www.vistacenter.org.

Tickets to the show are \$10 for a day, or \$35 for the week. You can park nearby, walk to the gates, and get your tickets there. There are many local vendors, artists, and food options.

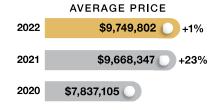
Volunteers are welcome. Many families volunteer together. No horse jumping experience required. For more information, please visit www.menlocharityhorseshow.org.



Continued >>>

The Resident Feature is sponsored by Cher Rowland

## 1-Minute Market Update ATHERTON (as of June 8, 2022)





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- 3 transactions with one family (purchase, lease, building lease)
- 3 transactions with one family (purchase, listing, purchase)
- 4 transactions with one family (purchase, purchase, investment lease, listing)
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INTERO





Emily Waldorf. Photo provided by Emily Waldorf.

#### Messages From Volunteers:

I met my amazing friend Betsy Glikbarg, one of the show's founders, through my service on the Equestrian Committee at the Menlo Circus Club. She quickly recruited me for the Horse Show Committee when she realized how much I loved horses, horse showing, and being an active community volunteer. The first year that I was on the committee, the show was sadly canceled due to covid, so the 50th anniversary is my first time being actively involved.

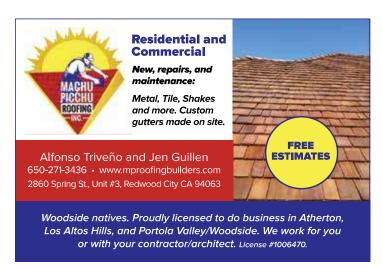
My current role on the horse show committee is to help manage the program ads and preparation from all of our wonderful sponsors and supporters. I'm lucky to be able to share this role with two amazing friends that I ride with at Round Meadow Farm, Megan Shaffer and Pamela

Epstein. Taking on the big task of the program has been a fun challenge for us all and we have really enjoyed working with and getting to know the other committee members who have lots of history volunteering for Menlo.

My favorite part of volunteering with Menlo has been the great camaraderie and sense of commitment that the many volunteers share. All of the committee members are dedicated to supporting Vista Center's important mission while also producing the most distinguished charity horse show on the West Coast.

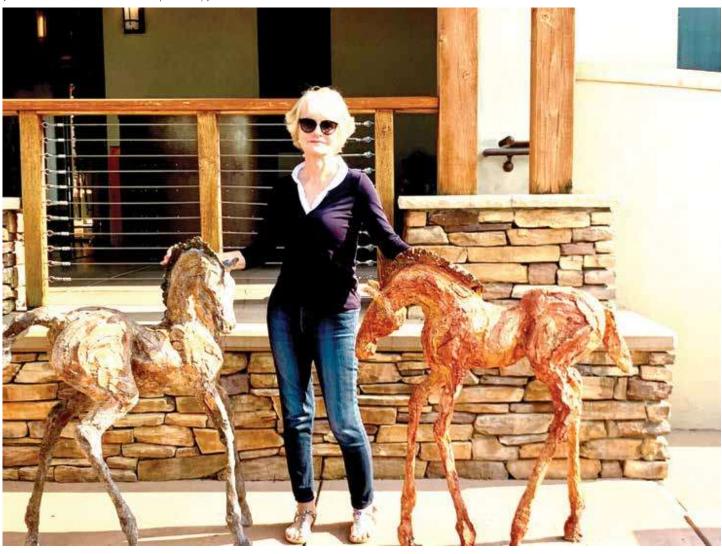
I grew up in San Mateo and rode locally at Webb Ranch, Springdown, and later Portola Farms. To me, Menlo was always a mythical show where the best of the best riders competed. Given the smaller physical size of the show and the fact that it







Joan Cronin at home in Atherton. Photo provided by Joan Cronin.



feels more "urban" compared to other larger shows, there is a sense of elegance and excitement that is unique to Menlo.

Menlo's longtime partnership with Vista Center helps support critical services and programs that transform lives and promote independence for blind and visually impaired individuals in our community. Without philanthropic support, Vista would not be able to carry out its life-changing work. I think it is a beautiful tradition that the Menlo show has been committed to serving those in need in our community since its inception in 1970.

Barn friends are definitely the best friends and it's so meaningful to work together out of the saddle on an equestrian related project that also gives back to our community. One particularly rewarding aspect of working on the Menlo program is seeing the many different equine related businesses and dedicated amateur equestrians in our community who come together to support Menlo. We have such a rich local equestrian tradition and there are so many important contributors, from the many lovely show venues, to the veterinarians, trainers, rehab facilities, amateur riders, and equestrian related vendors.

#### Atherton resident Emily Waldorf

I have always had a passion for horses and what better way to celebrate these magnificent animals, and riders, than a world class horse show. The Menlo Charity Horse Show is unique, in that its's origin and "purpose" is steeped in philanthropy. It is impossible for me to talk about the Menlo Charity Horse Show without acknowledging Betsy Glikbarg's vision and leadership. Through her leadership, in tandem with the incredible volunteers on the Horse Show Committee,

a partnership was formed with the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. To date, this team has raised millions of dollars to support the Vista Center and their mission to empower the visually impaired and blind. Over the past three years, it has been my honor to serve as the Menlo Circus Club Board Liaison to this committee.

The horse show takes place August 9-14 and is packed with one outstanding event after another. However, I must say that my favorite event in the Grand Prix. It commences with the pageantry of the Woodside Mounted Patrol and National Anthem, followed by the highest level of equestrian competition. This year is the 50th celebration of the Menlo Charity Horse Show. Simply put it will be a spectacular event, not to be missed!

Atherton resident Joan Cronin