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A Private Magazine for the Residents of Portola Valley and Woodside

# MOUNTAIN HOME

Cover photo by ©Alden Corrigan Media

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



## Lindsay Archer and Eta Beta Di San Patrignano



- ❖ CARROT LAYER CAKE
- ❖ FINE ART IN THE PARK AUGUST 13-14
- ❖ LUXURY EQUESTRIAN VACATIONS



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

**T**he Menlo Charity Horse Show, open to the public with tickets available at the gate, is back after a two-year 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](http://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.



Perri Guthrie and Rococo. Photo by Amanda Freeman.

Volunteers are welcome. Many families volunteer together. No horse jumping experience required. For more information, please visit [www.menlocharityhorseshow.org](http://www.menlocharityhorseshow.org).

Continued >>>

The Resident Feature is sponsored by the Cashin Group.

An advertisement for Christie's International Real Estate. The left side shows a modern, multi-story house with large windows and a dark roof, set on a grassy hillside. The right side is a white overlay with text. The text reads: "CASHIN GROUP made the move! CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE SERENO For all of your Real Estate needs, contact KRISTIN CASHIN (650) 387-2603 Kristin@KCashinggroup.com BRE 01438764". At the bottom left of the house image, it says "Estimated completion June 2022".

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Megan Shaffer and son Henry.  
Photo provided by Megan Shaffer.

### Messages from Volunteers:

After attending the Menlo as the guest of a sponsor, I joined the Menlo Charity Horse Show Committee in 2011, in a small way at first, by volunteering to help secure sponsor gifts for the show. Shortly thereafter, my involvement increased to that of a Sponsor Liaison, assisting families and companies with their Menlo experience; then serving on the Executive Committee as a Sponsor Committee Co-Chair. I now also serve as one of the show's Co-Chairs; committed to all that is Menlo.

For people thinking about volunteering, there are a multitude of things to do, like becoming a committee member working with the show's special events, or in marketing, hospitality, grounds and fundraising activities, or as a volunteer during the show where numerous opportunities exist to help support the show - from staffing Menlo's logo booth or greeting guests under the sponsor tent to painting jumps and restocking carrot barrels for the horses!

Each and every morning at the show, as I stroll about the show grounds, I am amazed by the transformation of the Menlo Circus Club's once unoccupied polo field. The environment is breathtaking. It is like a work of art, a moving composition of beautiful, well turned out horse and rider partnerships, freshly painted jumps, professionally manicured grass rings, lines of inviting canvas tenting; framed by a lushness of flowers and foliage. The rhythmic movement and hoofbeats of horses striding between jumps add to the day's growing energy. And, the crisp

morning air is filled with an intoxicating elixir of freshly brewed coffee, dew-laden grass, and the magical scent of horses. I am truly moved year after year by our community of equestrians and philanthropists, family and friends whose collective moments, memories and milestones make Menlo.

The Menlo Charity Horse Show is uniquely driven by philanthropy and community volunteerism, and it is one of the few remaining top-rated boutique charity equestrian events in the country.

For those of us who are fortunate to enjoy the privileges and opportunities of good health and prosperity, I can think of no better way to express gratitude than to give back what we have had in such great measure. Menlo is a connection to friends, a commitment to community, and all for the love of humanity and horses.

*Woodside resident Perri Guthrie*

This is my first year volunteering and showing at Menlo Charity Horse Show. My friend Emily Waldorf and I ride together and she asked if I could help with the program preparation. I'm really excited to be more involved with the show this year, both volunteering and showing.

I grew up riding in Ohio but stopped when I went to college. I moved to California in 2011 and I didn't get back into the horse world until 2015 after taking a long break, so learning about Menlo is somewhat new to me. After deciding to ride again, I had some stops and starts

while I was pregnant with my boys. After my second son was born at the end of 2019, I was looking forward to finally showing at Menlo in 2020, and then COVID hit and all horse shows stopped.

My role is helping Emily Waldorf and Pamela Epstein with the program. Specifically, I've been focusing on gathering and updating the content for this year, connecting with likeminded horse-loving people. I'm looking forward to seeing the finished program we've spent so many hours putting together! But I'm also looking forward to gathering the week of the horse show with new and old friends and having fun riding my horse, Andy.

My favorite event is the Grand Prix and watching it with other riding friends. I also love seeing how Menlo transforms the polo field into the show, it's really amazing to see the transformation.

It's quite amazing to see how many people contribute their time and effort to make this show happen. It's astonishing that such a big event is entirely volunteer run!

With so much going on in the world, horses really help keep me grounded, and this charity horse show brings in the additional aspect of helping others by raising money for the Vista Center. I can't imagine what it would be like to have vision loss, but I hope the funds we raise at the show help make the lives of those with vision loss a little bit easier.

*Portola Valley resident Megan Shaffer*

Megan Shaffer and Andy at the Circus Club. Photo provided by Megan Shaffer.



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