



# LOS ALTOS ARTS-WINE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY

JULY 9

10AM TO 6PM

SUNDAY

JULY 10

10AM TO 6PM

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A LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER PUBLICATION

#### LOS ALTOS ARTS & WINE FESTIVAL MAGAZINE

LOS ALTOS · LOS ALTOS HILLS · MOUNTAIN VIEW



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#### Los Altos Town Crier

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## WELCOME!

Welcome to the 43rd Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival in beautiful Downtown Los Altos! After moving to late summer in 2021, the festival returns to its home on the second weekend in July (9th and 10th). As in previous years, the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival offers exceptional local wines, stunning works of art, and food and fun for the whole family.

Presented by the Los Altos Village Association (LAVA) a 501(c) 6 not for profit organization whose mission is to promote Downtown Los Altos as a great place to shop, dine, explore and discover - the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival raises funds to support LAVA's promotional and advertising programs, as well as beautification efforts. These efforts include the design and installation of colorful light post banners, beautiful flowers throughout Main and State Streets, and year-round tree lighting, all making Downtown Los Altos a truly magical place.

As it was when LAVA was founded in the early 1960's - when new regional shopping centers drew customers away from downtowns across the nation - the association's membership is comprised of business and property owners - and area residents - who work together to address issues affecting the Downtown Los Altos triangle. What began with an Easter egg hunt hosted by member businesses, continues today with more than a dozen activities and events for the community to enjoy the unique charm of our Downtown.

To continue the tradition of high-level communty events and promotions, the Los Altos Village Association has established the Los Altos Village Fund through the Los Altos Community Foundation. Anyone can contribute to the fund, and contributions are tax deductible. Those wishing to, can donate online at www.downtownlosaltos.org, visit www.LACF.org and make a payment via PayPal, or call the LAVA office at (650) 949-5282 for more information.





LAVA is committed to provide safe places for visitors to gather and enjoy being together in the great outdoors.

#### THE CALENDAR FOR THE **REST OF 2022 INCLUDES:**

- Los Altos Farmers' Market every Thursday from 4-8 p.m. on State St., thru October 13
- Downtown Sidewalk Sale August 5-14
- Downtown Beer Stroll September 16
- Corvette Spectacular September 18
- Downtown Wine Stroll October 21
- A Boo-tiful Downtown Halloween October 31
- Holiday Stroll November 11
- Small Business Saturday November 26
- Trim-a-Tree Los Altos November-December
- Holiday Tree Lighting December 1
- Downtown Holiday Market December 15

We hope you will explore the many fine Downtown businesses while you visit the 2022 Los Altos Arts and Wine Festival. The charm and uniqueness of the area are a result of many hours and efforts on the part of the City of Los Altos, the Downtown business community, and our residents. We take great pride in our shops, restaurants, and service businesses. We hope you will, too! Make sure to follow Downtown Los Altos on Facebook (Downtown Los Altos) and Instagram (@dtlosaltos) to keep up to date on events and happenings. Visit our website at www.downtownlosaltos.org for more information and to join our mailing list. See you at the festival!

> Scott Hunter Executive Director, Los Altos Village Association

Shannon Geary Program Manager



SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

elebrating its 43rd year, the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival is scheduled Saturday and Sunday in downtown Los Altos.

What began in 1979 as a much smaller version of the current event, the festival has now grown to include more than 245 artist and craft booths, two food courts and three stages of live entertainment.

It is presented by the Los Altos Village Association, a not-for-profit organization founded in the early 1960s by merchants and property owners concerned that nearby shopping centers would lure customers away from the downtown triangle.

Funds raised at the festival are used for community events and programs promoting downtown businesses. Additionally, proceeds support LAVA's downtown beautification efforts, including decorative plantings, colorful banners and twinkle lights that adorn more than 250 trees along Main and State streets and the adjacent parking plazas.

Support from many organizations and businesses is crucial to the success of the event, according to Scott Hunter, LAVA's executive director, who cited the generosity of Main Stage sponsor Star One Credit Union, which recently opened a branch in Los Altos. Meet the team from Star One at its sponsor booth on State Street.

An array of community groups and organizations also help make the festival happen, Hunter added. They include Together We Can, the Service League of Boys, the Rotary Club of Los Altos and local Community Emergency Response Teams and ham radio operators.

Hunter said LAVA is also grateful for continued support and guidance from the city of Los Altos, the Los Altos Police Department and the Santa Clara County Fire Department.



Since 2006, Pacific Fine Arts of Pine Grove has been tasked with selecting the festival's participating artisans and craftspeople. Aided by LAVA's Arts & Wine Festival Committee, Pacific Fine Arts owners



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Dana and Troy Hale-Mounier aim to bring a wide variety of artwork, jewelry, crafts and creativity to the festival, Hunter said.

Bands perform on the Main Stage (located in Central Plaza) and the Community Stage (Veterans Community Plaza) throughout both days of the festival. Saturday's LAVA-sponsored concert featuring The Megatones is set for 5-7 p.m. on the Main Stage.

The Kidzone Family Fun Stage, offering family-friendly entertainment, can be found near the center of the festival off State and Fourth streets. Longtime masters of ceremonies Lori and RJ are known for getting kids up and dancing.

Seven boutique wineries from the area host booths at which representatives pour and discuss their varietals. Beer aficionados can find popular brands and selections from local craft breweries at beer booths.

Commemorative beer and wine glasses are available for purchase at



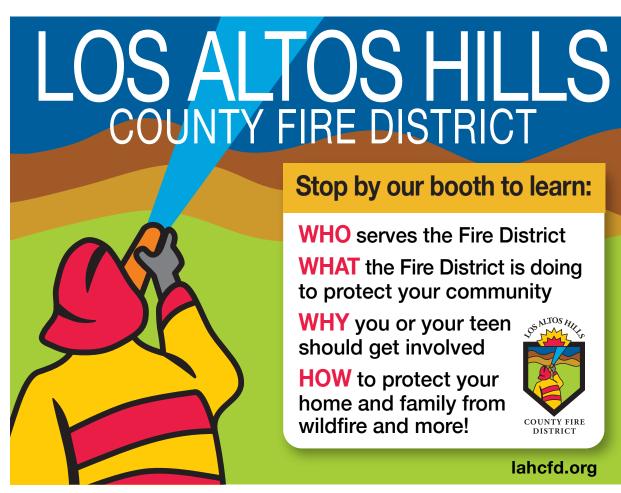
The Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival is celebrating its 43rd year in the city's downtown. MEGAN V. WINSLOW/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

any one of the five glass booths, where attendees also can get the "proof of drinking age" wristband required at the wine and beer booths. Those who leave the festival but plan to return later that day or the next are asked not to remove their wristbands.

Those who drive to the festival are encouraged to park at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., and walk the short distance to downtown. Rideshare drop-off and pickup at the festival is offered on Edith Avenue, next to shady Village Park.

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Please leave pets at home. 🏶

For more information on the festival and the Los Altos Village Association, call (650) 949-5282 or visit losaltosartsandwine.com.







A tranquil pergola provides an outdoor gathering space to enjoy time with family, friends, and guests.

A space so peaceful, you'll want to set aside work and cozy up with a juicy novel.

An atrium that extends an enthusiastic open-air invitation to pop in for a neighborly visit.

For a deeper look into the customization of this mid-century modern landscaping, visit Harrell-Remodeling.com/Imagine

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SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Food and beverages should be easy to find at this year's Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival.

Attendees have access to more than a dozen food vendors, offering Indian dishes, fresh-squeezed lemonade, Thai street food specialties, crab rolls, Philly cheesesteaks, local craft beers and more.

The two food courts – one on Second Street between Main and State streets and the other along Third Street – include several returning festival favorites.

The Rotary Club of Los Altos again hosts a booth serving Chef Chu's Chinese chicken salad. India Gourmet is back offering vegan and vegetarian choices, as well as lamb and chicken wraps and rice bowls. Aroma Concessions offers fried artichokes and zucchini, along with corn dogs and garlic fries. Gourmet Faire features its crab rolls and beerbattered garlic fries, while Thai Street Food features satay chicken, pad Thai and Thai tacos, among other unique offerings.

Looking for something different? Check out Lin's Dim Sum for potstickers, moo shu wraps and pickled kimchi. Joining the festival this year is Arizona-based GuacGirl, a woman-owned business featuring multiple flavors of guacamole and chips. B Foods International sells gyros, Philly steak sandwiches and falafel. In addition, Koko's



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296 State Street, Los Altos - (650) 327 8700 Minerals, Fossils & Jewelry since 1987 - nature-gallery com Korean Teriyaki is back with chicken skewers, veggie lo mein and teriyaki chicken rice bowls. There's also Los Altos' own Willie D's with sweet and savory crepes, baked potatoes and churros.

Pre-packaged specialty foods to take home can be found along the Third Street food area. They include Nan's Gourmet Foods (aged and infused balsamic vinegars, olive oils and handcrafted pasta), Mike & Niki's Honey (a selection of honey, honeycomb and honey sticks) and Primo's Gourmet Food (spices and rubs, tapenades and savory grilling sauces).

Those looking to beat the heat can keep cool with hand-shaken lemonade from Barrett's Lemonade. Tropical Hut offers nonalcoholic pina coladas served in your choice of pineapple or coconut. Olde Tyme Kettle Korn returns to the festival as well.

After purchasing food, attendees can find plenty of tables and chairs



Gyros are among the many foods available at this year's Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival.

MEGAN V. WINSLOW/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

with umbrellas for shade adjacent to each food area and near the Main Stage.

Attendees seeking something other than festival food can pop into one of downtown Los Altos' many restaurants.





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# Bands old and new to festival to perform this weekend

The entertainment lineup for this year's Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival features several returning musicians, along with a few newcomers.

They will be performing on two stages over the two days.

Below is a roundup of who's performing, where and when.

#### **MAIN STAGE**

#### SATURDAY, JULY 9 Country Cougars, noon to 1:30 p.m.

Bay Area band Country Cougars specializes in both new and classic country songs. The band performs hits



from Miranda Lambert, Luke Bryan and Johnny Cash, among others. Playing at rodeos, wineries, city festivals and nightclubs, Country Cougars likes to play loud and with high energy to get the crowd dancing. The band consists of lead vocalist Melissa Conaulty, lead guitarist and vocalist Jeff Rippin, drummer Mike Mirasole, rhythm guitarist and vocalist Len Anderson and bass guitarist Eric Wild.

For more information on Country Cougars, visit countrycougars.com.

#### First Call, 2-4:15 p.m.

San Jose-based band First Call covers songs from the 1960s to present day, including rock, pop, funk, soul, jazz, dance and instrumentals. New to the festival, the five-member band comprises Harold Martin, Dave Petrucci, Mark Belshaw, John Mallare and Patrick Hennessey on vocals and various instruments.

For more information on First Call, visit firstcall.band.

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Artists: (top left) Tessa Nicole; (top middle) Bob Kliszewski; (bottom middle) Stephen Schubert; (bottom right) Rachel Shultz. Design: Alexander Atkins Design, Inc.

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#### The Megatones, 5-7 p.m.

Voted the best cover band in the Bay Area by KFOX, The Megatones primarily perform pop-rock music. The



five-member band plays concerts throughout the Bay Area and has been a regular at the festival.

For more information on The Megatones, visit megatones.net.

#### MAIN STAGE

#### SUNDAY, JULY 10

#### Fully Funded, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Four-member cover band Fully Funded started in Los Altos and performs for festivals, weddings and other events. The group can play as either a plugged-in rock band



or an acoustic band. Fully Funded's wide-ranging set list includes hits by The Beatles, Pink Floyd and Daft Punk.

> For more information on Fully Funded, visit fullyfundedband.com.

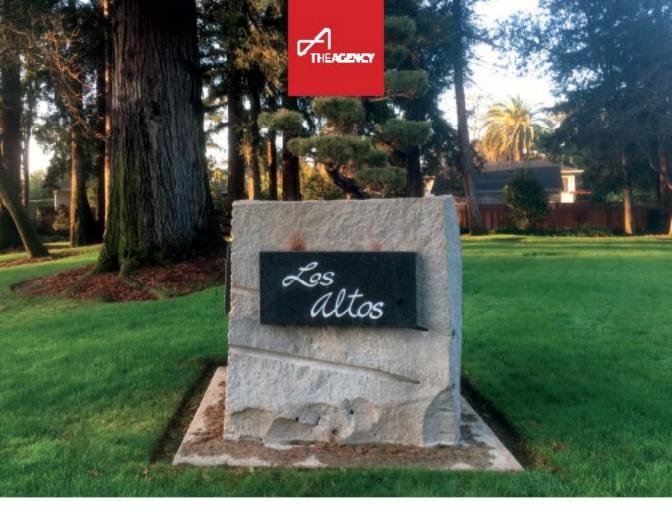
#### Sound Decision, 1-2:30 p.m.

Six-piece band Sound Decision, formed in 2012 in San Jose, covers songs from the 1960s to today. New to the



festival, the group's setlist features songs by Sublime, Billy Idol and Modern English. Members include vocalists Tobie Schweizer and Doug Thiele, guitarists Jason Govis and Rob Naragon, drummer Trish Moore and bassist Tut.

> For more information on Sound Decision, visit sound-decision-band.com. >>



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#### The Houserockers, 3-5 p.m.

The Houserockers, an award-winning, 10-piece band that has played the festival for several years, fuses multiple



genres in its performances. The group covers hits from a wide range of artists, from Bruno Mars to the Rolling Stones. It has performed at corporate events for Apple and Google, as well as a number of festivals in the Bay Area.

For more information on The Houserockers, visit syhouserockers.com.

#### **COMMUNITY PLAZA STAGE**

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Jazz ConneXion, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Although "jazz" is in its name, Jazz ConneXion goes beyond the limits of the genre. The trio performs a variety of styles at private parties, restaurants, corporate events and other places, adapting to the environment of the venue by adding or removing vocals and instruments. Members include Los Altos resident Dale Nesbitt on piano and keyboards and Bill Hockett on acoustic bass.

For more information on Jazz ConneXion, visit thejazzconnexion.net.

#### Blue House, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Combining elements such as rock and folk, festival staple Blue House is known for its close-knit harmonies.



The band comprises vocalist, bass guitarist and songwriter Amy Beasley; vocalist, guitarist and songwriter Mariles de Veer; and percussionist Shelly Hoefer. Occasionally, Brian Loud or Paul Keller will join them on guitar and vocals, and Russ Anzalone will help with percussion. The band members' versatility allows them to play at venues big and small.

For more information on Blue House, visit bluehouseband.com.

#### Mary Ellen Duell, 3-5 p.m.

A festival regular, singer Mary Ellen Duell has been performing since she was 12 years old and joined a band right after graduating from high school. She is known for her emotional vocal delivery. Duell plays in a duo or trio format, typically at wineries and festivals.

For more information on Duell, visit maryellenmusic.com.



#### **COMMUNITY PLAZA STAGE**

SUNDAY, JULY 10

Wandering Acoustics, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New to the festival, four-piece rock and pop cover band Wandering Acoustics plays acoustic versions of hit songs



from the 1960s to the 1990s. Using a guitar, bass, violin and percussion, the band plays hits from The Beatles, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan.

For more information on Wandering Acoustics, see the feature on page 34 or visit facebook.com/wanderingacoustics.

#### Steve Kritzer, 1-3 p.m.

Singer-songwriter, producer and teacher Steve Kritzer plays music from a multitude of genres, including bluegrass, country and rock. He has performed in coffeehouses and at concerts and festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe. Kritzer also plays approximately 100 shows per year at retirement and nursing homes for Young at



Heart, a senior facility care organization.

For more information on Kritzer, visit facebook.com/steveonstrings/?fref=ts. >>



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#### Michael Barrett and Kim, 3:30-5 p.m.

Singer-songwriter Michael Barrett grew up listening to rock music, notably The Beatles and Led Zeppelin. Kim's



influences include R&B, surf and soul music. Together, the duo has covered popular songs since 2016.

For more information on Michael Barrett and Kim, visit michaelkimduo.com. 🏶

- Compiled by Saira Ahmed

website at LosAltosOnline.com.



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# Area wineries pour into festival

SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival is known for being one of the few Bay Area festivals to feature wines from the region, and that tradition continues this year.

The seven vintners pouring wine this weekend are all festival returnees, including Byington Vineyard & Winery, which has a tasting room in downtown Los Altos.

#### **BASS NOTE SANGRIA**

Bass Note specializes in sangrias made with California wine, which it blends with fresh fruit juice, cane sugar and herbs and/or spices.

Representatives of Bass Note Sangria are pouring a Watermelon Basil Sangria, along with Raspberry Hibiscus, Blackberry Sage and Peach Tarragon sangrias at the festival.

Find Bass Note in Parking Plaza 6, near the corner of Fourth and State streets.

For more information on Bass Note, visit bassnotesangria.com.

#### **BYINGTON VINEYARD & WINERY**

Situated in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Byington Vineyard & Winery sits on 95 mountainous acres surrounded by redwood forests with a view of Monterey Bay. That's where it produces award-winning Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and other varietals.

Along with producing its premium Byington Estate Pinot Noir on 8 acres in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Byington's other small-production wines come from 36 acres of Tin Cross Vineyards in the Alexander Valley.

Byington representatives are pouring a 2019 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling and a 2016 Chardonnay, both from Tin >>

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Representatives from seven Bay Area wineries will pour their offerings at this year's festival. MEGAN V. WINSLOW/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Cross Vineyards, along with a Byington private label 2020 Amuse Toast Rosem at the festival.

Find the Byington booth at Second and Main streets.

For more information on Byington, visit byington.com.

#### **DOMENICO WINERY**

COMPASS

Domenico Winery, named by Dominick and Gloria Chirichillo as a reflection of the commitment to their Italian heritage, returns to the festival for the sixth year.

The history of the winery is rooted in family; in 1955, Dominick was introduced to wine traditions by his nonno (grandfather), Domenico Giovinazzo. Nonno showed Dominick the wine press in the basement of their New York home, and Dominick said that began his generational love of handcrafting wine.

Dominick moved to California so that he could select his grapes from vineyards in Napa Valley, Sonoma's Central Coast, Alexander Valley, the Russian River Valley, Amador County and the Lodi District. He is a member of the Santa Cruz Mountains Winegrowers Association, where he sources Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes.

Domenico representatives are pouring a 2020 Rosato, a 2019 Santa Cruz Chardonnay and a 2018 Lodi Old Vine Zinfandel at the festival.

Find the Domenico booth at Second and Main streets.

For more information on Domenico, visit DomenicoWinery.com.



#### **FERNWOOD CELLARS**

Fernwood Cellars, founded by second-generation winemaker Matt Oetinger in 1999, returns to the festival for the 11th year.

The Gilroy-based winery makes a variety of estate wines that reflect the vineyard's unusual microclimate, while also aiming to showcase the inherent characteristics of each variety.

Fernwood is located on property that has been in Oetinger's family for six generations – stretching back to 1863, when his great-grandfather Charles built the family's first home there. Matt was first introduced to winemaking by his father, Lew, owner of Hummingbird Hill Vineyards.

Fernwood representatives are pouring a 2020 Estate Chardonnay, a 2015 Estate Carignane and a 2017 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon at the festival.

Find the Fernwood booth near the corner of Second and State streets.

For more information on Fernwood Cellars, visit fernwoodcellars.com.



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#### THOMAS FOGARTY WINERY

The story of Thomas Fogarty Winery is an example of the innovation and entrepreneurship that has existed since the start of Silicon Valley.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Thomas Fogarty, who was working as a cardiovascular surgeon and inventor, tried at-home winemaking in a cabin high above Palo Alto. He planted his first grapes in 1978 on what is now home to the 325-acre Thomas Fogarty Winery and Vineyards.

Thomas Fogarty representatives are pouring a 2016 Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir, a 2016 Gewürztraminer and a 2018 Riesling, along with a 2016 Cabernet from Lexington Wine Co., at the festival.

Find Thomas Fogarty's booth near the corner of Main and State streets.

For more information on Thomas Fogarty, visit fogartywinery.com.



#### **NAUMANN VINEYARDS**

Naumann Vineyards returns to festival for the 15th year. The Naumann vineyard is located in Cupertino on Montebello Road, 2,000 feet above the Silicon Valley floor. All work in the vineyard is performed by hand, with the goal of producing low-yield, high-quality fruit.

Vintner Don Naumann's most successful wine may be his Tre Rosso Cali, which won a Silver Medal in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and a Gold Medal in The Finger Lakes International Wine Competition.

Naumann representatives are pouring a 2012 Tre Rosso Cali, a 2014 Merlot, a 2019 Rosé and a 2019 Chardonnay at the festival.

Find Naumann's booth at Third and Main streets.

For more information on Naumann Vineyards, visit naumannvineyards.com.

#### **PAGE MILL WINERY**

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Page Mill representatives are pouring a 2021 Chardonnay, a 2021 Sauvignon Blanc and a 2020 GPS (Rhone blend) at the festival.

Find Page Mill's booth on the corner of Third and Main streets.  $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{F}}$ 

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12:00 pm.. Puppet Company presents: "Mai Lin & The Magic Brush"

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12:30 pm...Sing with Bella!

Songs are so easy to sing and so fun to dance to, and best for children to cultivate the love of music. Join Bella...the cutest YouTube influencer.

1:00 pm.... The Magic Of Gerald Joseph

The latest and most incredible style of magic with lots of humor and audience participation. A magic show for every age.

1:45 pm..... Broadway Babies and Kids

Youth singers and dancers par excellence. Come listen and watch the future of Broadway. Kids will be inspired.

2:00 pm... Puppet Company presents: "The King's Problem" Based on the tales of The Panchatantra, a book of moralistic fairy tales from India. Our Panchatantra, a talking storybook, tells four tales of wonder and enchantment that teaches young children how to handle problems.

2:30 pm ... Multicultural Dance

3:00 pm... The Magic Of Gerald Joseph

The latest and most incredible style of magic with lots of humor and audience participation. A magic show for every age.

4:00 pm... Lori & RJ - Kid's Music with A Groove Singing and dancing that's fun and funky for the whole family

#### Sunday, July 10

11:30 am ... Lori & RJ - Kid's Music with A Groove Singing and dancing that's fun and funky for the whole family. Award-winning entertainment for all ages.

12:15 pm ... The Magic of Gerald Joseph

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12:30 pm...Puppet Company presents: "The Puppet Circus"
"The Puppet Circus" combines three forms of puppets: hand, rod, and marionette. With over 30 puppets in the circus, there's something for everyone!

1:30 pm .... Broadway Babies and Kids

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2:00 pm...Sing with Bella!

Songs are so easy to sing and so fun to dance to, and best for children to cultivate the love of music. Join Bella...the cutest YouTube influencer.

2:30 pm ... Westlake School for the Performing Arts Spectacular musical theater snippets from "Music Man Kids," "Newsies," and more. Be inspired. Connect to the Arts!

3:00 pm...Puppet Company presents: "The Puppet Circus"
"The Puppet Circus" combines three forms of puppets: hand, rod, and marionette. With over 30 puppets in the circus, there's something for everyone!

3:30 pm ... Dance Performances

4:00 pm... Lori & RJ - Kid's Music with A Groove Singing and dancing that's fun and funky for the whole family









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#### Saturday, July 9

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm... The Country Cougars

A lot of Country and a little bit of Rock

2:00 pm - 4:15 pm..... First Call

Melodies from the past 60 years

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm ... The Megatones

Award-winning pop/rock band



#### Sunday, July 10

11:00 am - 12:30 pm.. Fully Funded

Classic Rock covers

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm .... **Sound Decision** 

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and today

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm... The Houserockers

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#### COMMUNITY STAGE

#### Saturday, July 9

10:00 am - 12:00 pm The Jazz ConneXion

Smooth jazz

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm .. Blue House

Blend of Acoustic Rock, Country and R&B

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm... Mary Ellen Duo

A trip down musical memory lane



#### Sunday, July 10

11:00 am - 12:30 pm.. Wandering Acoustics Acoustic Rock/Pop classics

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.... Steve Kritzer & Friends

Award-winning Bay Area singer/songwriter

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm ... Michael Barrett Duo

Mix of covers and originals with a personal touch









#### **DIRECTIONS & PARKING**

Limited parking is available in Downtown. Please plan to park at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Avenue

From 280, take the El Monte exit, left on Foothill Expressway, right on San Antonio Road, right on Hillview Avenue, park at the Los Altos Community Center.

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## THANK YOU

A special thank you to those members of the Los Altos Village Association, festival production staff and the Los Altos community who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to help make the 43rd Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival an enjoyable event for patrons and participants alike:



Abby Ahrens
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Beth Maxwell-Lyons

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Lars Smith
Jennifer Springer
Elisabeth Ward
Dennis Young
Melany Thompson-Zaro
Read Zaro





#### A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

Should be extended to the Los Altos City Council and Los Altos City staff members for their support and sponsorship of our event. We could not host the festival without the devotion of the Los Altos Police Department, whose members spend hours planning a safe and enjoyable event for all. We appreciate the expertise of retired Police Chief Andy Galea, Captain Katie Krauss, and Sergeant Liz Checke, and are particularly grateful to the officers who give up their weekends to ensure the safety of our patrons and vendors.

Additional thanks go out to our friends at the Assistance League of Los Altos for supporting the festival and Downtown Los Altos, and for providing a home for the event warehouse.

Many, many thanks go out to our volunteers! Without them, nearly 300 strong, we would not be able to host this festival. Many of our volunteers return year after year and mentor new volunteers. We appreciate the hard work of students, parents and community organizations from throughout Los Altos (such as GreenTown, the Los Altos Rotary Club, and our local Los Altos Ham radio team) who volunteer every year. Of course, a huge thank you to the Board of Directors of the Los Altos Village Association, who offer guidance to the organization throughout the year.

We also extend a thank you to our Downtown business owners who graciously support the Festival despite the disruption to normal weekend business. We appreciate them and ask that you support them during the Festival and all year long. Shop! Dine! Explore! Discover! Downtown Los Altos!



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SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

he HyperSpace Kidzone is at the center of this year's Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, anchoring the event with live entertainment in Parking Plaza 6, just off Third Street.

The HyperSpace Kidzone features balloon art, hands-on art activities, face painting, henna tattoos and games for the young and young at heart. There is also an Art Wall for young artists to display their work for the festival crowd.

Sponsored by downtown Los Altos' HyperSpace fun center, the centerpiece of the Kidzone is the Family Fun Stage, where energetic duo Lori and RJ host stage shows throughout both days of the festival. Along with Lori and RJ, performers taking the stage include the Puppet Company, singer Bella, magician Gerald Joseph, Broadway Babies and Kids, and Westlake School for the Performing Arts.

> For more information, call the Los Altos Village Association at (650) 949-5282 or visit downtownlosaltos.org.











# Wandering Acoustics makes its presence known in Los Altos

BY KAITLYN HUANG | TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

hether it's The Beatles during First Fridays at The Post or David Bowie at the Bubbly Stroll, Wandering Acoustics' presence is growing in downtown Los Altos.

The band – comprising Russ Kao (bass and vocals), Sonia Kao (violin), Sam Re (guitar) and Jeff Schmidt (percussion, drums and vocals) – makes its Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival debut 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday on the Community Plaza Stage.

"It's definitely an honor to be a part of this," said Russ, who co-founded the band with his wife, Sonia.

Festival attendees can expect a mix of rock and pop covers from the 1960s to the 1990s. Wandering Acoustics' setlist features songs from not only The Beatles and Bowie, but also Tom Petty, Bob Dylan, Weezer, the Eagles and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

Russ called Wandering Acoustics

a "band for all ages." He recalled moments when young kids requested "timeless" Beatles songs.

"When we start playing, you can see the joy in them, and they will be jumping around and acting all crazy," he said. "It's so fun to see that."

Fan Tammi Palfreyman of Los Altos has witnessed that.

"We just sat on the benches (at one gig), and then behind it, there were three or four people and they all started dancing to (the music) and you could see them light up and smile," she said. "It was really nice to see everybody really enjoying the music."

#### A SIDEWALK BAND

The Kaos founded the band last summer. The San Jose residents met 30 years ago while playing in a different band and continued to perform together until they took a break to devote time to parenting. Last year, Sonia said she was "getting the edge to play out" again – and Wandering Acoustics was born.

"(Sonia's) the one that really needed to get out and perform; I didn't think I needed it," Russ said. "But then once I started doing it, I realized how much I missed it, and how much I enjoy it; and now it's like, 'Oh, my God, this is just so much fun."

Sonia said the band's name seemed to fit well with the music it performs, which she described as a "mellow-ish" sound. The Kaos characterize their band as one that is "low volume" and has a "small footprint."

"I just call us a 'sidewalk band," Russ said. "And that's not even to demean us or anything, but that's kind of our niche – we love playing outdoors for people who are just hanging out, drinking, eating or whatever."

Sonia noted that during the band's beginnings, it was difficult to get gigs >>



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Wandering Acoustics makes its festival debut this weekend. PHOTO COURTESY OF WANDERING ACOUSTICS

because the group wasn't known. Wandering Acoustics landed its first gig at the Downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market, which runs Thursdays May through September.

"When we started playing out and we got a good reaction, it was a lot of fun," Sonia said.

Since then, the band has played at venues from Morgan Hill to San Mateo, though the Kaos still consider Los Altos their home base.

According to Palfreyman, the band brings a fun energy to the city.

"Los Altos is a lovely, calm, mature town, which I really love," Palfreyman added. "But particularly when they play, you hear a bit of rock 'n' roll and a bit of edge. I think I like that – (it's) a bit rebellious." >>

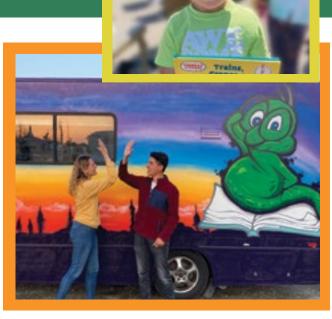
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All of the band members have full-time jobs, but they make time to rehearse and perform together.

"We're just hobbyists, but we do take it seriously," Russ said.

Sonia added that the band will likely continue to play small gigs in the area – an experience Russ treasures deeply.

"If there are just a few people who are watching and appreciating what you're doing, that's enough for me to make me happy," he said. "That's all I need - just to have a connection with somebody who enjoys the music (and) enjoys what you're doing." \*

For more information on Wandering Acoustics, visit reverbnation.com/wanderingacoustics.

# EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

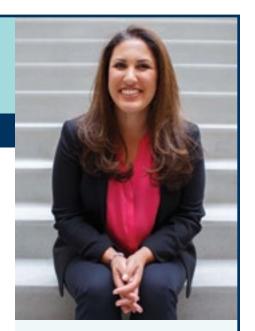
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#### Local artists showcase their work at festival

BY KARUNA CHANDRAN | TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Artists displaying their work at the annual Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival often bring a diverse selection of art that reflects their own interests. This year, that group includes several artists with local ties.

#### **ANNE DEGHEEST**

Longtime Los Altos Hills resident Anne DeGheest said she combines technology with artisan craftwork by drawing highdefinition images on her iPad, later infusing the images into aluminum sheets.

DeGheest said she only recently became an artist, doing so as a way to connect with her late mother, also an artist, and to prove that anyone can create art.

As the world has been in various stages of the pandemic, DeGheest said her artistic process has reflected the changing times.

"I did (a piece on a) hummingbird that is drinking the nectar of the birds of paradise (from my garden), and the darkness engulfing it is a vision of how

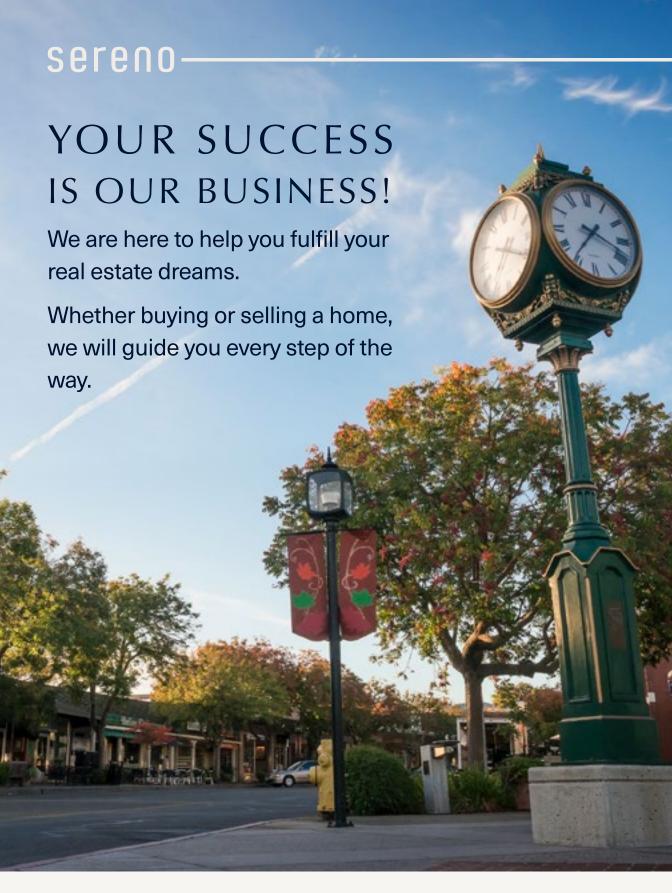
COVID is affecting our lives," she said. "I used pictures from the high-definition Hubble (Space) Telescope and superimposed drawings of birds on there. It's what I call 'The Healing Process,' and even if things are dark, there are still good things to see about life. The hummingbird gives it the perspective of humanity, to fly to the sky and the incredible things that humanity has accomplished."

At this weekend's festival, DeGheest said she plans to showcase her animal, meditation and celestial pieces.



"We need to live in the present and appreciate nature, especially living in California. We are so lucky, and I think we maybe need to appreciate what we have and be more thankful," she said. "We all try to convey emotions; for some people it resonates, for some it does not. I try to tell a story, making you take a pause and think, 'How does that impact me?' And I think that is my purpose."

For more information on DeGheest and her work, visit adegheest.com. >>





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#### **RESHMA BHOOPAL**

Mountain View resident Reshma Bhoopal said she was always artistically inclined, but seeing stained-glass creations throughout her travels to Europe inspired her to create her own glass art. Later in life, after taking a class to learn technical skills, she got more involved in the medium and launched her own business.

"It's like therapy for me," Bhoopal said. "I love doing it. It's the joy of creating something from an idea to an actual product. It starts with the basic picture or some kind of an idea that I sketch out and then try and figure out how to work out the details. Then, you try to conceptualize how you can work it through and find it's a lot of trial and error. To see the final piece and the way it turned out, it's really, really satisfying."

At the festival, Bhoopal plans to display newer products, such as the Pocket Hug and other smaller items, because customers have requested more miniature creations. In addition, rather than having more of a fall and winter theme, the artist said she hoped to have more spring- and summer-related pieces such as flowers and plants.

Before showcasing her work as an artist, Bhoopal attended the festival as a visitor and noted that being on the other side, while more stressful, has been a rewarding experience.

"I love meeting new people, interacting (with them) and talking about art," she said. "I really had so much fun when



people came and everybody had a story to say. There are a lot of people who've tried some form of glass work, so it's nice when they come and say, 'You know, I did this once upon a time,' or there are some who really want to know the process or some who want to take classes."

For more information on Bhoopal and her work, visit artsfromglass.com. >>



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#### **ALAIN FASTRE**

Similar to Bhoopal, watercolor artist Alain Fastre, whose studio is in Mountain View, also finds the interaction with the festival crowd enjoyable.

"I very much like the art and wine shows (because of) the interaction with visitors," he said. "They help you to understand what is good and what is not so good, and a lot of suggestions are not suggestions from painters. The benefit or value that I get from the show is the discussions, chatting with people and also the kids, who are very open and don't have second thoughts (about sharing their opinions)."

Although production slowed in the past year or so due to COVID,

Fastre said he has done more paintings of flowers and lighthouses - examples of the waterscapes he typically creates. At this weekend's festival, Fastre said he will likely present a diverse selection of his best works.

"When I paint something, I'm painting a place or a site at which I have been personally," he said. "Otherwise the painting doesn't project anything and it's just a flat



illustration of somewhere. But if I have been on-site, and I paint the place, for whatever reason the paintings project much more than just the visual representation of the site. It projects the emotions and thoughts that were connected to that place."

For more information on Fastre and his work, visit alainfastre.com.

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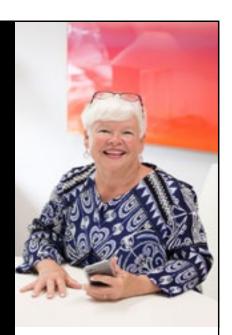
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# Festival has grown into one of the biggest in Bay Area

SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

ver the 43 years of its existence, the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival has grown from a small summer festival into one of the largest on the Peninsula. It began in 1979 when a group of merchants and business owners in downtown Los Altos decided the city needed a popular summer festival to introduce people to the downtown area. Organizers staged the first festival in the city's South Parking Plaza in July 1980. The inaugural event drew 150 exhibitors and 30,000 attendees.

By 1983, Main and State streets were closed to accommodate the festival. By 1985, the number of exhibitors had doubled. In 1993, festival attendance topped 100,000, and since 1997 it has attracted more than 150,000 to downtown Los Altos each summer.

Today, the festival encompasses all of downtown Los Altos. Of the approximately 1,000 artists and artisans who apply each year, fewer than 400 meet the exacting criteria for selection and the opportunity to showcase their work.

The festival has ranked among the top 75 summer festivals in the nation for its quality and variety of exhibitors. Bay Area Parent Magazine has rated the festival "Best of the Best."





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The more than 400 volunteers who keep the event running in an efficient and orderly manner heavily influence the festival's character. Volunteers range from Fortune 500 executives to local students and grandparents, giving the festival a friendly, multigenerational, communityoriented flavor. Organizers strive to personalize the festival and make it a celebration where friends and family can bond.

The Linden Tree Books Kids Stage, launched in the early 1990s, has expanded into the popular Kidzone, a separate venue featuring entertainment geared exclusively to children.



The Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival draws people from throughout the Bay Area. MEGAN V. WINSLOW/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

For the past 20 years, the festival has included an array of international foods and a full two-day program of free music and entertainment. Festival organizers have added a free Bike and Stroller Valet Parking area and shuttles between the parking lot at Los Altos High School and the festival.

The Los Altos Village Association (LAVA), the only downtown association to stage an arts and wine festival without a professional production staff, organizes the festival. LAVA is also the only such association with entirely volunteer membership. Proceeds from the festival support nonprofit groups and help beautify, promote and energize the downtown Los Altos village. ®

For more information, call LAVA at (650) 949-5282 or visit downtownlosaltos.org.

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TOWN CRIER STAFF REPORT

The city of Los Altos boasts a long and rich history.

The native Indians, Ohlones, or "people of the West," settled here for thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans. In the late 1700s, Father Junipero Serra began the colonization of California for Spain by building a chain of missions from San Diego to Sonoma. In the attempt to "civilize" the Ohlones, the European intrusion resulted in the near eradication of the natives.

In the 1800s, most of the acreage that is now Los Altos and Los Altos Hills was included in two Mexican land grants: Rancho La Purisima Concepcion and Rancho San Antonio. The grazing lands of the large ranchos gradually were divided into smaller holdings of predominantly 40- to 100-acre parcels, planted in wheat



Paul Shoup is called the "Father of Los Altos." TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

and vineyards.

During that period, Sarah Winchester, widow of the inventor of the Winchester rifle, owned the 100 acres that later became the town site of

Los Altos. The Peninsula Interurban Railway purchased her land in 1906.

One year later, the Southern Pacific Railroad bought the land for a right-of-way for its commuter trains to operate from San Francisco through the west valley and connect with a branch line from San Jose to Santa Cruz.

Paul Shoup, who later became Southern Pacific president and is known as the "Father of Los Altos," helped define the future town when he joined others to form the Altos Land Co. In 1908, the company hosted a free barbecue to entice San Franciscans to ride the train down to the country and purchase lots (starting at \$250) in the downtown triangle.

The Shoup family built several summer homes along University Avenue that still stand today.







Modern-day Los Altos, top left, is much different from its early days, when there were dirt roads, top right, and a train station, above. TOP PHOTOS TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS; ABOVE PHOTO COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

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In 2000, the Los Altos Town Crier named Paul Shoup "Los Altan of the Century."

The town developed rather slowly, with hitching posts down Main Street, the first school class held above the grocery store and the post office located in the hardware store.

The wheat fields and vineyards gave way to orchards of apricot, cherry, walnut, prune and plum trees. The Los Altos Heritage Orchard remains, located near city hall, and trees produce Blenheim apricots each June that are sold in town.

With the mild climate, the train for transportation and the number of businesses increasing, families began locating in Los Altos in larger numbers.

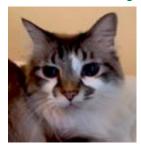
Residents voted to incorporate in 1952 due to fear of intense development and the possible annexation of some lands by surrounding communities.

Shortly thereafter, in 1956, voters in Los Altos Hills approved their incorporation to protect their 1-acre zoning.

Today, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills serve as hometowns to many of the high-tech executives working in Silicon Valley.

The elements that blend to make the cities so desirable are their award-winning schools, small-town atmosphere, climate, volunteerism, community spirit and safety, cultural happenings and family-oriented annual events such as the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, the Kiwanis Pet Parade and the Festival of Lights Parade.

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# Scenes from the festival





# SUGGESTIONS FOR ENJOYING THE FESTIVAL

Following are some quick tips to help make this weekend's 43rd Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival more enjoyable.

TOWN CRIER REPORT

#### **RESTROOMS**

Festival organizers provide more than 40 portable restrooms for the weekend, located on the numbered streets (First, Second, etc.) near the entrances to the parking plazas in downtown Los Altos. Handwashing and sanitizing stations are located near each restroom area. Please refrain from asking to use merchants' bathrooms.

#### **PARKING**

Parking is available in and around downtown Los Altos and at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., a short walk away from downtown. Use caution when crossing San Antonio Road, and only cross at the marked crosswalks.

#### **PETS**

Heat, small children, strollers and pets are not a good mix. Festival organizers request that attendees leave their pets at home.

#### **RIDESHARE**

Designated rideshare drop-off/ pickup is next to Village Park on Edith Avenue near the corner of San Antonio Road and Main Street.

#### **BICYCLES AND STROLLERS**

Every year, hundreds of local residents leave their cars at home and ride bicycles to the festival, where they park them for free at the Bike and Stroller Valet Parking area, a guarded corral that ensures bicycles

and strollers remain safe. The bike/ stroller corral is located in the Plaza South area, just off Third Street.

#### STREET CLOSURES

The downtown Los Altos triangle is scheduled to close to all street traffic beginning 5 p.m. Friday and will not reopen until 10 p.m. Sunday. The closures include Main and State streets, Central Plaza and Second and Third streets between Main and State.

For more information, call the Los Altos Village Association at (650) 949-5282 or visit downtownlosaltos.org.



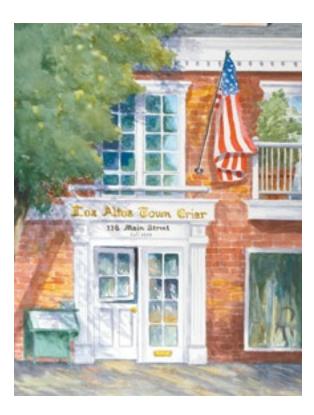
The Los Altos Town Crier is in its 75th year of keeping the community informed about what's going on in local schools, in council chambers, on playing fields and in the business community.

Help us continue to bring you the news that keeps you up to date on what's happening in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View.

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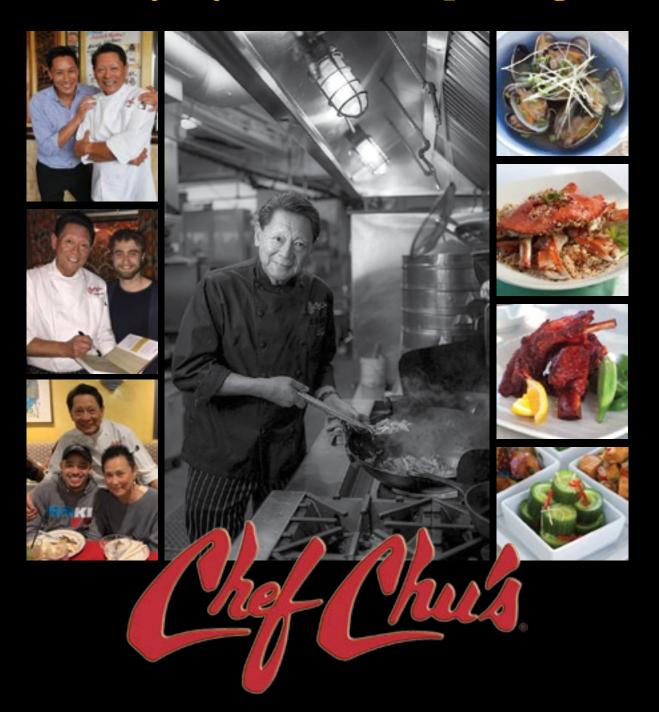
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