

AUGUST 2023

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A PRIVATE MAGAZINE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LOS ALTOS HILLS, CALIFORNIA

# Los Altos Hills

Fine Art in the Park 2023 with

**Christy  
Golshan**

**ALSO INSIDE**

LOVE IN BLOOM

EXPLORING ITHACA, NY

Image provided by Christy Golshan



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Since becoming a member of the Los Altos Rotary Club in 2017, Christy Golshan has volunteered with the annual Fine Art in the Park event, a much-anticipated outdoor art fair and fundraiser in Los Altos. This year she stepped into a new role, overseeing the website so visitors can find up-to-date information about the event which takes place August 12 and 13.

"Managing our website this year has given me a really fun vantage point as I've gotten to see which artists have been accepted, the entertainers that will be performing, the vendors that signed up, etc.," Christy says. "Fine Art in the Park is known for attracting top-notch artists, and this year won't disappoint!"

The fair features over 150 on-site juried artists, including 40 that are new to the show this year. Their paintings, glass, sculpture, jewelry, wood, and textiles will be available to view and purchase.

Christy and her husband, Ali Golshan, are especially fans of nature photography. "He recently surprised me with a piece I had been admiring for years by Keoki Flagg," she says. "It's a dramatic photo of a skier going down one of my favorite runs at Palisades where I grew up skiing with my family."

Ali is the CEO and Co-founder of his third start-up, Gretel.ai, which makes it easy to protect sensitive information by using AI to generate artificial datasets with the same characteristics as the real data, so companies can develop and test AI models without compromising privacy. "I'm married to a Silicon Valley cliché," Christy laughs. "He's a brilliant college drop-out turned serial entrepreneur." They met in 2013 and married at Meadowood in Napa Valley in 2016.

## Los Altos Hills

In 2022, Christy and Ali moved from Los Altos to Los Altos Hills where they love having space and privacy while still being close to downtown. "My son and I spend a lot of time in our backyard and going for nature walks locally. Los Altos Hills is a gorgeous area to raise a family and I feel so fortunate to live here," she says.

Christy, who grew up in Pleasant Hill, is a lifelong fan of the San Jose Sharks and the San Francisco 49ers. "I grew up going to 49er games at Candlestick Park and my mom's family had season tickets to the Sharks when they first played at the Cow Palace in the 90s and then in their current stadium in San Jose."

The sports Christy enjoys herself include sailing and rowing, but it's been harder finding time to get on the water lately as a new mom.

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MAP5514095 | AD-06-23-0247 | 470948PM-0223 | 06/2023

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She has been able to share her love of skiing with her son, though—his first time on skis was at age 2.5!

### Philanthropy: Rotary and Beyond

After graduating from Dominican University with a degree in Psychology, Christy started her career in the nonprofit sector with a job at Marin AIDS Project. After working in tech for six years at Apple Inc., she found her way back to the nonprofit world at the Ronald McDonald House Charities Bay Area. She is taking time away from her career to raise her three-year-old son and her daughter who will be born in September, but she stays busy with plenty of volunteer work including serving as Treasurer at her son's preschool.

"My philanthropic philosophy is perhaps a bit selfish—I volunteer because it makes me feel good!" Christy says. "Volunteering has brought perspective to my life and it feels rewarding to give my time, connect with people I might not have met otherwise, or just do something kind that benefits others."

While Christy is the only one of her siblings who stayed in the Bay Area, she remains close with her family including her three older sisters, nephews and niece, and three Godchildren. Christy credits her parents for sparking her interest in volunteering at a young age. "They both led by example and found volunteer opportunities that were focused around an activity I enjoyed doing, and something I could do I: I with my parents which made it feel special."

Her mother, Karen, got Christy interested in volunteering at a young age by training the family's two pet dogs as certified therapy animals. "We would visit hospitals and attend various events that requested support animals. Decades later, she still takes her dog to hospitals to visit patients." Christy describes her mom, Karen, as a caregiver and nurturer to the core. "She has grown our chosen family over the years, gives endless hours to care for others when they need support and is constantly finding thoughtful ways to express her love to us."

Christy fondly remembers her late father, Paul, who passed away in 2021, as someone who loved sharing his expertise as a Mechanical Engineer with VA hospitals and organizations that needed facility improvements. "He was very handy and loved the challenge of showing up to the unknown and then seeing how many things he could fix on the spot." He also volunteered with hospice patients. He and Christy shared a love of travel and went on a number of trips to improve facilities or build homes in Mexico, Costa Rica, and also in the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina. "I'm so grateful he could afford to take me on these trips and give me that kind of exposure and hands-on experience," she says.

"My parents both demonstrated how enjoyable volunteering our time can be when we find an area that's of interest to us. Their philanthropic philosophy was to lead by example and incorporate

volunteering into our normal routine, which is what I hope to do for my children as well."

Christy is the current Los Altos Rotary Club (LARC) Secretary. Her past volunteerism at a hospital and orphanage in Arusha, Tanzania in 2006 had to be cut short due to contracting typhoid, but that trip would eventually lead to her joining LARC. Ten years later, while trying to find the right club to join, she saw that the Los Altos Club had a project in Arusha. It felt like serendipity, she says. The club also had a committee focused on AIDS prevention locally and abroad. "The organization is now called Child Health and AIDS Prevention, and I'm still involved!"

In college, Christy was a mentor through the organization Big Brothers, Big Sisters. She still stays in contact with her "Little Brother," who lives in San Francisco.

The 48th Los Altos Rotary Fine Art in the Park will take place this August 12-13 in Lincoln Park, downtown Los Altos. To find information about Fine Art in the Park, visit [rotaryartshow.com](http://rotaryartshow.com).

