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A Private Magazine for the Residents of Portola Valley and Woodside

# MOUNTAIN HOME

COVER PHOTO BY  
AARON ALVAREZ MENDOZA

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## Portola Valley's Paul Schutz Helps Bring Fine Art to the Park

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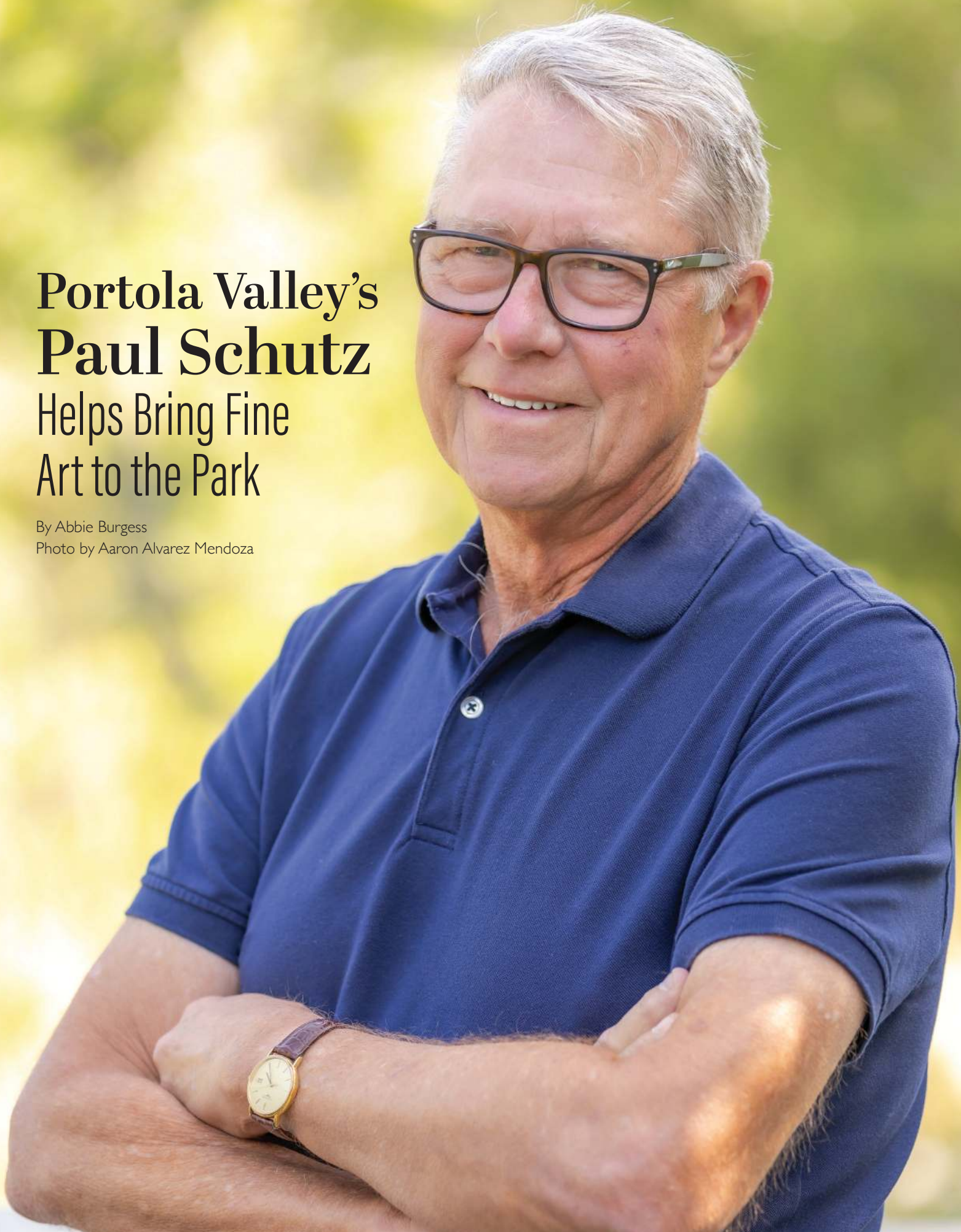


# Portola Valley's Paul Schutz

## Helps Bring Fine Art to the Park

By Abbie Burgess

Photo by Aaron Alvarez Mendoza





believe that we all want to contribute with our lives. The challenge is to find what that contribution might be and for what cause or purpose," says Paul Schutz of Portola Valley. "We all have something to give, and giving provides purpose for our lives."

Paul has been volunteering at Fine Art in the Park (FAITP), an annual outdoor art fair in Los Altos since he joined Los Altos Rotary Club (LARC) in 2004. For the past two years, he has been overseeing the Wine Village at FAITP. He is happy to share that the vendors represented at the Wine Village this year include Griffin Hill Vineyards, Drew Wines, Lester Estate Wines, Wright Station Winery, and Barebottle Brewing, all local names in winemaking.

This year, the art show is moving towards increased environmental sustainability with beer and wine sold in glassware only—no plastic. Reusable water bottles will also be sold at the fair, which could mean as many as 1,500 fewer plastic bottles end up in the landfill.

"We are expecting a record-breaking crowd due to our growing reputation for attracting some of the finest artists from around the country," Paul says of the show, which takes place August 12-13. This year's FAITP will feature 150 artists!

An East-coast transplant, Paul's family moved to California from Massachusetts when he was 13. "My maternal grandfather immigrated to the USA as a poor teenager. He eventually built a produce distribution network throughout the east coast and owned many orange and grapefruit orchards in Florida before he passed. My paternal grandfather also immigrated to the USA as a young adult and started his own bakery, passing along those skills to my father for his career, which eventually led him to be the head baker for the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital."

Paul met his life partner, Nancy Anderson, through Match.com 11 years ago. Four years earlier, Paul had lost his wife, Chris, to fallopian tube cancer. To start their life together, Nancy and Paul each sold their separate homes and purchased their house in Portola Valley, where they have lived for ten years. We both enjoy the abundance of nature that surrounds our home that's visible from every window," he says, adding that they also love the rural atmosphere with no streetlights or sidewalks, along with the many hiking trails in our 'backyard.'" Rural living combined with convenience makes Portola Valley a great place to live, he says. "We enjoy having quality markets (Roberts and Bianchini's), great restaurants (Amigos Grill in the Ladera Shopping Center; Parkside Grill, Alpine Inn, Portola Kitchen), and great outdoor activities such as hiking, bicycling, and pickleball!"

Nancy and Paul are members of Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club. Nancy plays pickleball with others at the Portola Valley Town

Center courts, while Paul prefers golf. "I usually play 2-3 rounds every week at one of 50 golf courses in the Bay Area," he says. "I started playing golf when I turned 66. I hope to be able to shoot my age before I die."

Paul's daughter Carrie Laffen and her husband James are co-owners of Family Matters, a south bay homecare agency. "My son Michael is working toward a career in medical radiology, and my daughter Jennifer who lives in Sacramento is mentally disabled and is being supported by Nancy and myself," Paul explains. Nancy's son Lee, his wife Jennifer, and their two girls live in Manly, Australia which is near Sydney. Lee is a sales manager for Okta and his wife is an event manager for corporate events around the world.

The majority of Paul's career has been as a fundraising consultant with his own grant writing consulting business. After achieving a master's degree in Family and Child Counseling from Santa Clara University and a State License as an MFT in 1973, he started a private practice in Los Altos. "Shortly afterward, I was selected as the Executive Director for Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) – a mental health agency working with at-risk youth and their families, where I stayed for 10 years."

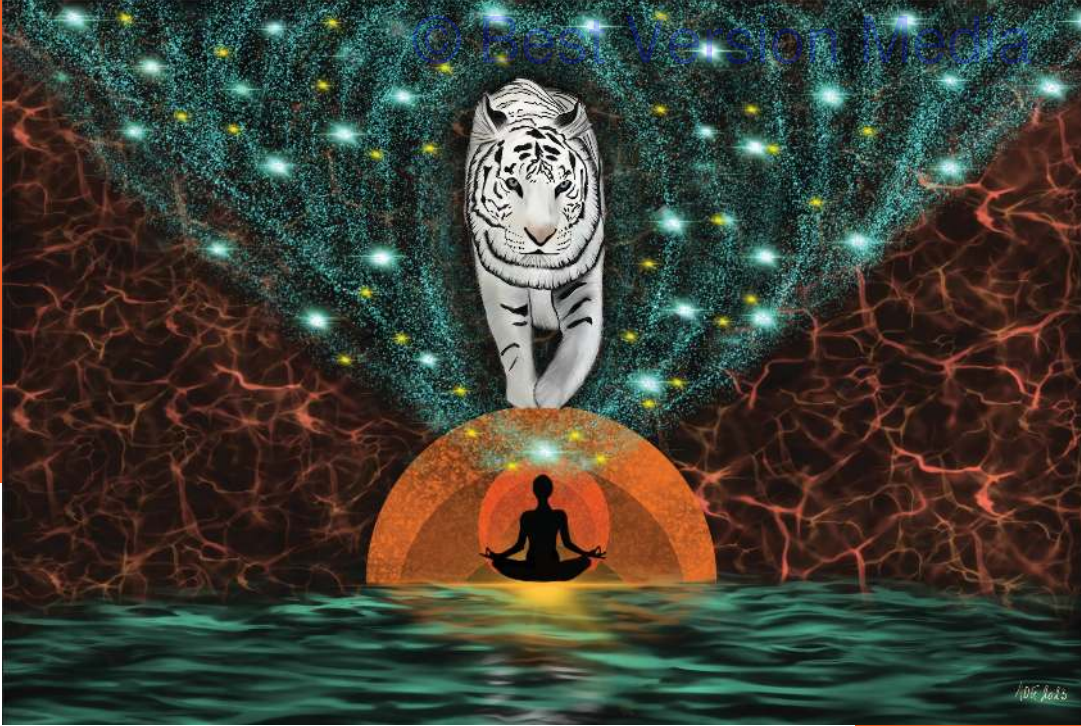
Over the next 30 years, he did grant writing consulting concurrently with holding various executive leadership roles at various south bay nonprofits. These included Parents Helping Parents, Diabetes Society of Santa Clara County, Asian Americans for Community Involvement and Community Health Awareness Council.

Organizations that Paul volunteers with include Sons in Retirement Branch 35, Mentor Tutor Connection, Almaden Cycle Touring Club and of course, Los Altos Rotary Club, where in addition to FAITP Wine Village Manager he is also a member of the Endowment Fund Investment and Impact Fund Committee.

To find out more about Fine Art in the Park, visit [rotaryartshow.com](http://rotaryartshow.com).



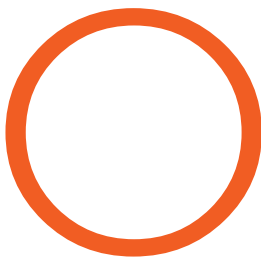




"Releasing Your Inner Tigger," by Anne DeGheest.

# Fine Art in the Park 2023

By Sandy Mingia



One of the most prestigious outdoor art shows in California, the 48th Los Altos Rotary Fine Art in the Park will take place this August 12-13 in Lincoln Park, downtown Los Altos. With over 150 juried on-site artists, this annual fundraiser is a favorite community event with beautiful artworks, great music, wine, craft beer and a variety of delicious foods.

Find the Art that Touches Your Heart: talk with the artists who have created works. This year there will be returning artists and 40 new artists showing and selling their works. On display will be a variety of fine art and craft types: painting, glass, sculpture, jewelry, wood and textiles.

This year the event will have an emphasis on sustainability. Rotary has minimized use of single-use plastics and, along with Greentown Los Altos, will provide guarded bike parking on-site. There will be continual music from local bands on two stages with local rock, blues and jazz bands. A Fine Wine and Craft Beer tent, and a food court with Chef Chu's famous Chinese Chicken Salad and a variety of beverages and other culinary delights.

100% of Rotary proceeds go to local projects like high school scholarship, fostering youth leadership, comforting the bereaved, caring and nurturing children in foster care and community beautification projects. Internationally, Rotary projects focus on building relationships, improving lives and creating a better world to support peace efforts and to ending polio forever. Rotary provides free parking and shuttle service to the event. See [rotaryartshow.com](http://rotaryartshow.com) for details.



"Giraffes," by Anne DeGheest.