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- Mary, daughter of resident



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Community - Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Charity Horse Show opens Aug. 4 at Menlo Circus Club

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More than 500 equestrians, including 2008 Olympic gold medalist Will Simpson, plan to compete in the 39th Menlo Charity Horse Show, set for Aug. 4 through 9 at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

"We consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to hold our own this year, especially when similar events have lost up to 40 percent of their past entries," says the show's founder, Betsy Glikbarg of Atherton, in a press release.

"Of course, it definitely added to our appeal when we were voted 'one of the best horse shows in America' by the subscribers to Phelps Sports.com and that the National Hunter Hall of Fame recognized us as one of the best shows in 2008," she says.

This year's show, which features continuous jumping in three arenas, takes place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The show is dedicated to the memory of Stuart Whittelsey of Woodside, a 20-year member of the horse show committee, who died in June. It was his responsibility to procure the flag-bearing color guards for the horse show's evening events.

Highlights of the event include The Rector Audi & Audi American Ryman Speed Jumping Class at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7. The \$10,000 Grand Hunter Challenge takes place Saturday afternoon; the \$40,000 Grand Prix is slated for 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8. The perennial crowd-pleaser, the children under 6, lead line class, takes place at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

A gala sponsors' dinner dance titled "Spirit of the Horse" follows Friday night's speed-jumping class. The evening, underwritten by Laura A. Strasburg, includes silent and live auctions. A framed giclee print of the official artwork for the horse show, "Rhapsody" by Dr. Barrett Bryan of Atherton, valued at \$3,000, is among the auction items.

Nancy Collins is once again chairman of the evening gala. Tickets are \$200 each. For more information, call 322-7686.

As it has in past years, the Menlo Charity Horse Show will benefit Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired. Last year's event raised a record-breaking \$500,000, a \$30,000 increase over the previous year, according to the press release.

In 2008, Vista Center assisted thousands of clients in San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties.

Tickets to the horse show are \$10 (cash only) at the main gate. Children under 12 and seniors over 65 are admitted free. Food and drinks will be for sale, and the club house and coffee shop will be open to the public each day.

The Menlo Circus Club is at 190 Park Lane. For further information, call 701-0543 or visit menlohorseshow.com.

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