

LONGTIME
SERVICE
AGENCY HAS
A NEW NAME

Change better reflects
communities it serves

By CRYSTAL LU

Nonprofit, community-based Cupertino Community Services has changed its name to match the agency's longtime service area, which includes West San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga and Monte Sereno.

As of today, it is officially West Valley Community Services.

"The new name will better reflect the communities that we serve," said Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, executive director of WVCS. "We know the residents and city of Cupertino have long supported us. We want to still honor that and carry it forth."

Kim Ferm, emergency assistance director, said the agency had difficulty fundraising in Los Gatos and Saratoga because the word Cupertino was in the name.

The private agency scheduled the name change for its 35th anniversary, which is being celebrated Feb. 13 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Saratoga Foothill Club, 20399 Park Place.

CCS served 280 Los Gatos residents in 93 households in 2005-2006 and 250 Los Gatos residents in 80 households in 2006-2007. In both years, approximately \$11,000 in emergency assistance was provided to Los Gatos residents. The typical client in Los Gatos is a single woman with children.

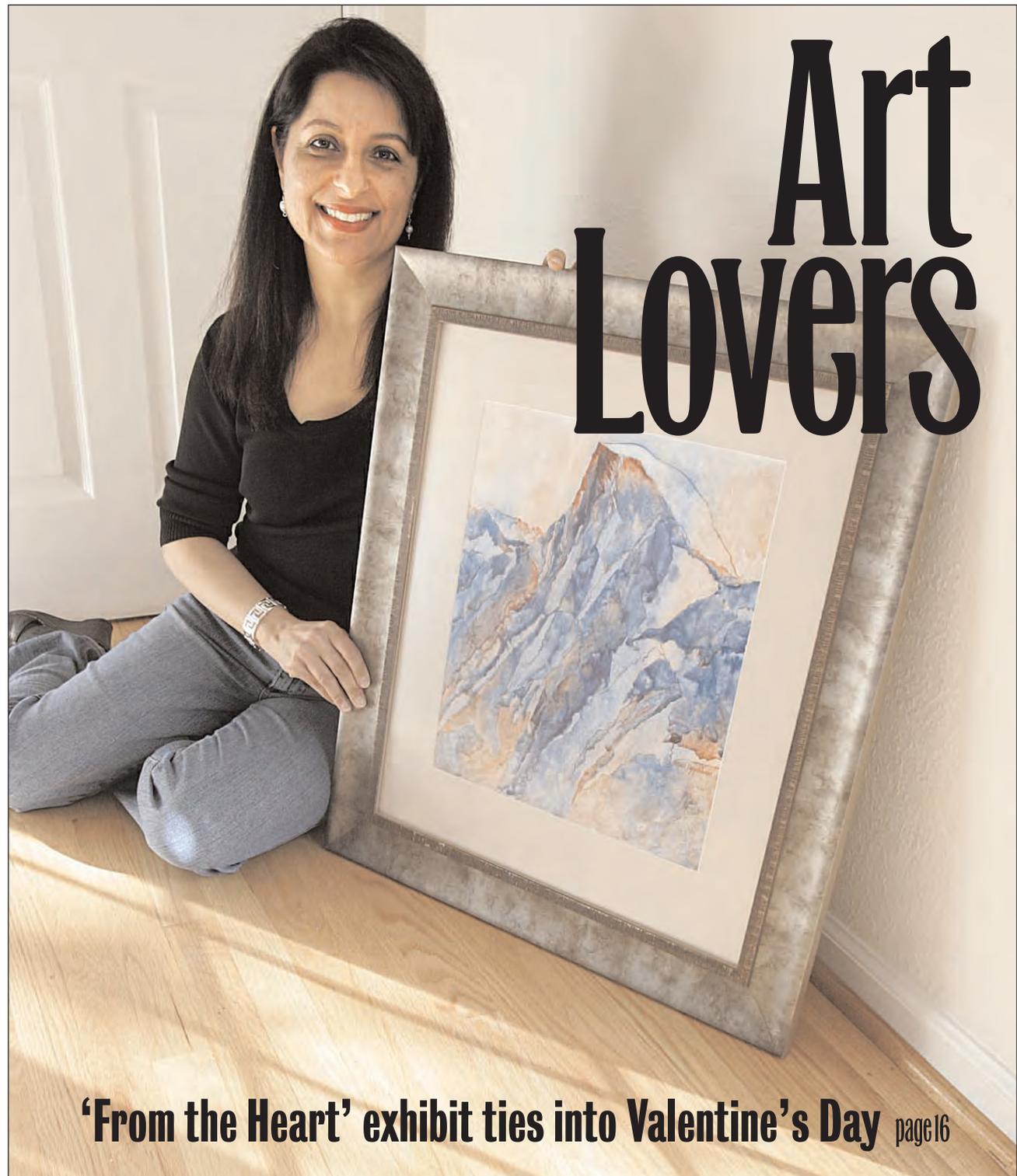
In 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, CCS served 20 Saratoga residents, mostly senior citizens, and distributed approximately 12 emergency vouchers.

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Photograph by Jacqueline Ramseyer

'From the Heart' exhibit ties into Valentine's Day page 16

Nina Uppaluru, co-vice president of the Fine Arts League of Cupertino, has two paintings, including this watercolor titled 'Above the Rest,' in the league's show in February.

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Photograph courtesy Fine Arts League of Cupertino

The Fine Art League of Cupertino's 'From the Heart' show is currently on display at Main Street Café in Los Altos.

Heartfelt Art

Works by local artists explore themes of love

By CRYSTAL LU

A digitally rendered red heart pops out of a lime-colored, opened gift box, with overflowing gold and silver ribbons. The label beneath the work reads, "Love Is a Gift."

In another painting, titled "Fall in Love," a tiny mermaid with an emerald tail dives into a blooming giant red rose.

These artworks share the theme "From the Heart," which characterizes the Fine Arts League of Cupertino's

member show and sale in honor of Valentine's Day. The exhibition is being held through the month of February at the Main Street Café, 134 Main St. in Los Altos.

Founded by a group of local artists in 1963, FALC promotes the practice and appreciation of the visual arts and helps its members improve their skills and exhibit their works. Its members come from Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, San Jose and other local communities.

Belinda Lima, one of the FALC vice presidents, proposed the title "From the Heart" when the FALC board scheduled the show for February.

"It's a title that would tie the show in with Valentine's Day but be open enough for everyone to interpret it differently," says Lima.

The show displays 40 paintings in oil, watercolor, pastel, acrylic, gouache, photography and mixed media, created by 26 artists. The

artists each interpreted the Valentine's theme in their own way.

There are no people in "The Dance" by Jean Black.

"Look at the curves and you can see the movement of dance," says Black of her abstract painting. "The red waves show the girl's heart pumping for the handsome guy she's dancing with."

Laurie Creveling presents strong strokes of smearing colors in "See My Heart."

"The heart is hidden behind a lot of conflicting emotions represented by dramatic colors," she says.

Black, Creveling, and Lima all like using acrylic.

"I prefer the texture of acrylic," says Lima. "It shows brush strokes and layers. To me it's more expressive."

"I work with oil for all the glazing," says Iona Ezaki, president of FALC. "It renders dark colors darker and light colors brighter. It

Show favorites:

FALC had the public vote for its favorite paintings of the art show during the first seven days of February and announced the first three winners at a reception Feb. 7:

- First-place: Carrie Zeidman for “Love Is a Gift,” digital art.
- Second-place: Janki Chokshi for “Blind Game,” sand and oil.
- Third-place: Joy Kuo for “Lighthouse,” oil on canvas.

takes much longer to dry than acrylic or watercolors, but that makes it forgiving. You can paint over it while it’s drying.”

Janki Chokshi, the creator of “Fall in Love,” combines sand with oil. She collects sand from beaches, glues patterns of sand on a wooden board, and paints over the sand-filled images with oil.

“The sand gives a three-dimension effect,” says Chokshi, pointing at the rose that is on a slight rise from the background of painting.

“I think oil is a good medium for landscape,” says Joy Kuo about her two landscape oil paintings.

To Kuo, a cancer survivor, the lighthouse in one of her displayed works is a symbol of hope.

“Landscape represents love for nature, which matches our theme of love,” says Nina Uppaluru, vice president of FALC, about her watercolor painting of Yosemite rocks.

“Watercolor is an amazingly versatile medium,” adds Uppaluru. “When you put it on paper, it naturally spreads as if it had a mind of its own.”

Rajiv Khilnani is another fan of water-based media. Incorporating his fascination with geometric forms into the exhibition, he uses heart shapes of different sizes to symbolize love in different age groups.

Arthur Kao presents recurrent subjects of Chinese paintings in his two watercolor works for the show. To him, February brings not only Valentine’s Day but also Chinese New Year’s.

The mother gold fish and her two little ones in one of his paintings are auspicious. As in Chinese the word fish shares the same pronunciation as the word surplus, the gold fish signifies carrying the surplus of wealth into the new year.

Kao’s other painting has many lines going in different directions around a Chinese character, *fu*, which means “fortune.” Kao says the abstract picture is a winter scene that awaits a new year to come with good fortune.

Yao-Pi Hsu’s “Profound Memory” looks like an abstract painting, but it’s actually a combination of seven photographs. The base layer is an image of water ripples and their reflection of tree branches. Hsu layered six images of roses on top of it.



Photograph courtesy of Carrie Zeidman

“Love is a Gift” is the title of a digitally produced artwork by Carrie Zeidman.

“The water reflection serves as a web of memories,” says Hsu. “Each rose represents a different experience to be remembered. I used Adobe Photoshop to mix the seven pictures into one.”

Carrie Zeidman, the artist of “Love Is a Gift,” uses computer software to create and print her works.

“I like the amount of control I get with digital,” she says.

Despite the availability of high technology tools, Joanne Kim prefers using an ink pen to draw.

“Black and white has a calming effect,” says Kim. “It brings out the peace and quiet in my heart.”

“This exhibition is eclectic,” says customer Lila Schmidt.

Stan Morest, another customer, says he no longer lives in Los Altos

but still comes to Main Street Café mainly for the art on the walls.

In cooperation with the non-profit Los Altos Cultural Association, Main Street Café hosts a different art exhibition every month.

FALC hopes more cafes will do the same. The group is actively seeking more venues for member shows.

FALC meets the second Monday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road, in Cupertino, where it regularly displays its members’ works. Prominent artists from all over the Bay Area demonstrate their techniques at the monthly meetings, which are open to the public.

For more information about FALC, visit www.falc.org.



Photograph by Jacqueline Ramseyer

Iona Ezaki, president of the Fine Arts League of Cupertino, works on a painting at Marvegos Fine Art School.