

# The Hills Living

JULY 2020

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SERRANO

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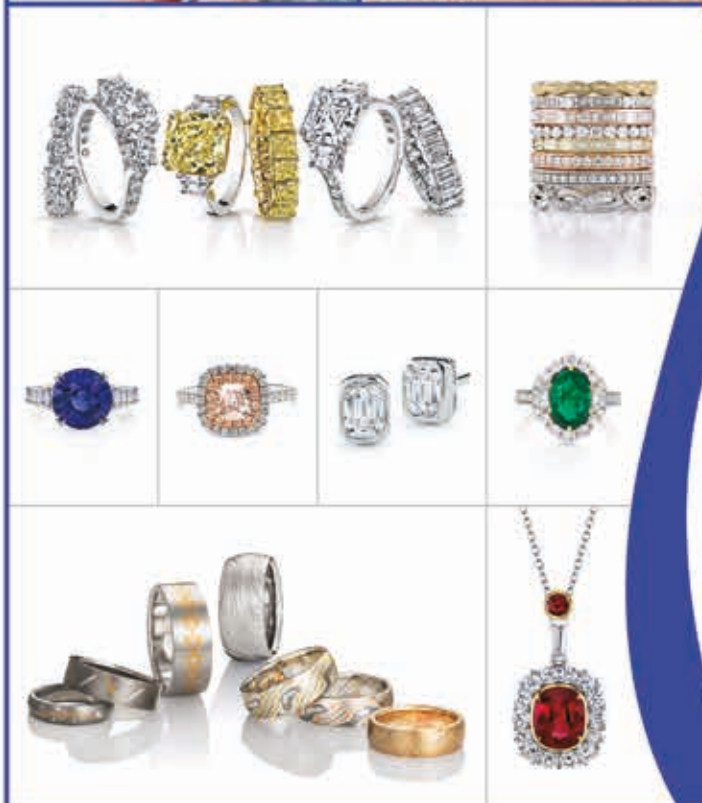
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# Here Comes The Sun ...

Hello July

Happy, July, Serrano!

Thank God we have all been Freed from our COVID-prisons! It is still super weird to see everyone wearing masks, including myself! This has definitely been an eye-opening experience for us all.

July 2020 brings more poolside barbecues and get-togethers with family and close friends, as much of our go-to entertainment has been canceled or postponed. We are being forced to create our own fun and entertainment. Instead of planning vacations, we are planning parties that have that 'Vacay' vibe. Businesses are picking up the pieces and figuring out ways to rebuild. Parents are in the fourth month of inventing new ways to entertain their kids. They are also in the middle of figuring out what the 2020-2021 school year is going to look like, and whether they will continue to home school or not.

This issue Ken and Jessica take us with them to Australia and New Zealand. Laine and Shivanshi interview students about their distance learning experience and share their plans

for the upcoming year. See how local businesses are rebuilding for a brighter future. Meet Lola...a big and lovable ball of fur! Tour the beautiful retirement home Anne Sacco created. 2020 summer style trends come to you via Mandy Michael Style. Finally, if you're looking to buy or sell a home Menser Real Estate Group doesn't just make promises...they Deliver! Their services go beyond what most real estate companies offer. So, read on!

Congratulations, 2020 graduates! You missed graduation, but you are NOT forgotten. We salute you and your future! You are going to 'Kick It' out there in the world!

Until August, stay safe and healthy, love your neighbors, and spread kindness wherever you go. God sees you!

Love you all...

*Jenny*

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## publisher's note ...

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# Hooray Team ...

Another Fabulous Month!

meet the team ...

Thanks to my team for continually going above and beyond for **One** purpose ... to deliver a high-quality magazine to our community every month. I hope you love reading *THL* as much as we love creating it for you!

Please help me welcome our newest member of the team ... Shivanshi Shivesh. She is a junior writer and will be working with Laine Weis to bring you special features from time to time. We are so happy to have you, Shivanshi!



**Jenny Thurman...**  
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Junior Writer



this is us...

# Family is **EVERYTHING...** get to know OURS!



Casie Spiteri...Resident  
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Three years ago this month, Jon and Casie bought their first home in Serrano. Six months pregnant with their third baby, they decided to move from New York to California, Casie's home state, to give their family the life El Dorado Hills and Northern California had to offer. Buying and selling houses across the country, transferring jobs, relocating a family and having a baby in a three month period was not easy, but worth it for the community they now call home.

Jon and Casie met in NYC about 11 years ago. Both working in Manhattan, the hustle and bustle of the city brought them together one day. There was an immediate connection, friendship developed into love and the rest was history. Three years later they were married with their first baby on the way shortly after. That was the beginning of their journey that lead them to "The Hills Living."

Jon was born and raised in Queens, NY and Casie grew up in Roseville, CA. At 22 years old, Casie moved to New York to discover the big City. Casie worked in the apparel/buying industry in NYC for a few years before settling into her career in Pharmaceuticals. Jon is an Engineering Consultant providing services in electrical and communications systems engineering. Both feel so very fortunate to have careers that they love and that allow them to give their children the best life that they can.

Aiden (6) is the firstborn of the three Spiteri children. Last year Aiden transitioned from Bergamo Montessori to the Buckeye

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Mandarin Immersion Program for kindergarten. Aiden had a very successful year learning Mandarin and will continue in the program in first grade. Aiden has always had a passion for cars. If you meet him, show him the symbol of your car and he will name it! He is currently saving up for his first Tesla.

Aria (4) is the second born. She just completed her last year at Bergamo Montessori and will also be transitioning to the Mandarin Immersion Program. Aria enjoys dancing, singing and making beautiful artwork. On most days you will find her dressed head to toe in princess attire, even if she is outside gardening in the dirt.

Avianna (2) is the youngest of the Spiteri crew. She will continue her Montessori education at Bergamo until she is old enough to transition to the Mandarin program as well. She loves nothing more than tagging along with her big brother and sister. It's amazing how fast a third child learns. She also enjoys playing independently, building structure, sorting objects and playing with water. She is so light-hearted and always smiling.

The Spiteri living room has a sign that reads "some call this chaos, we call it family." This cannot be more accurate for their family. They all live busy lives: full-time parenting, full-time work, learning, playing, sports, dancing and snuggling. They make it all work and find balance as much as they can. Living in El Dorado Hills helps them find the work-life balance that is best for their family.

When Jon and Casie were searching for the perfect community to raise their growing family, it was not a difficult choice for them to narrow down their options. Serrano offered a balance between outdoor adventure, luxury living and amazing schools. The community and what it had to offer was unparalleled.

Every day the Spiteri family enjoys and appreciates their community. From the beautifully maintained landscapes, amazing views, trails and lakes, to the elegant Serrano Country Club, local shops and restaurants. Just a short drive gives them access to mountains, wineries, beaches and big cities. The community truly offers all that you could ask for. The Spiteri Family is happy to be living their best life in El Dorado Hills.



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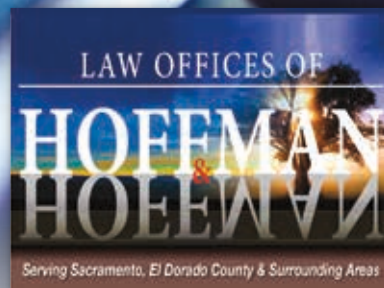
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# A Retirement Haven ...

CREATED BY ANNE SACCO INTERIORS

We received a call from our client, stating their desire to downsize to a retirement home. He and his wife had purchased a home in a 55-Plus community in El Dorado Hills to be closer to amenities. They wanted to love it, not just move in their existing furnishings and make do. This was to be their “feel good” home. What we didn’t realize was that they would be the ones to make us feel good! Their ease and humor won us over from our first meeting and continued through the entire process. So much so that we stayed in contact with them even after the project was completed.

Keeping their goal in mind, we set out to create a beautiful haven for them to enjoy. They gave us creative license and were very open to new ideas. That’s a dream for designers. We added wallpapers and glam. We laughed when the homeowner named his master water closet his “Vegas Room.” Lighting was replaced throughout and new cabinet knobs added interest. Rugs, custom bedding, and draperies created warmth and comfort. The mix of purchased and custom furnishings and the right accessories pulled the entire home together.



Team Sacco, Natalya and Anne ...

We loved our clients’ desire to have a beautiful home to spend their later years in. And even more, we love to think about the special times they will have in their new home as they make others feel welcome and at ease.

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### serrano style ...

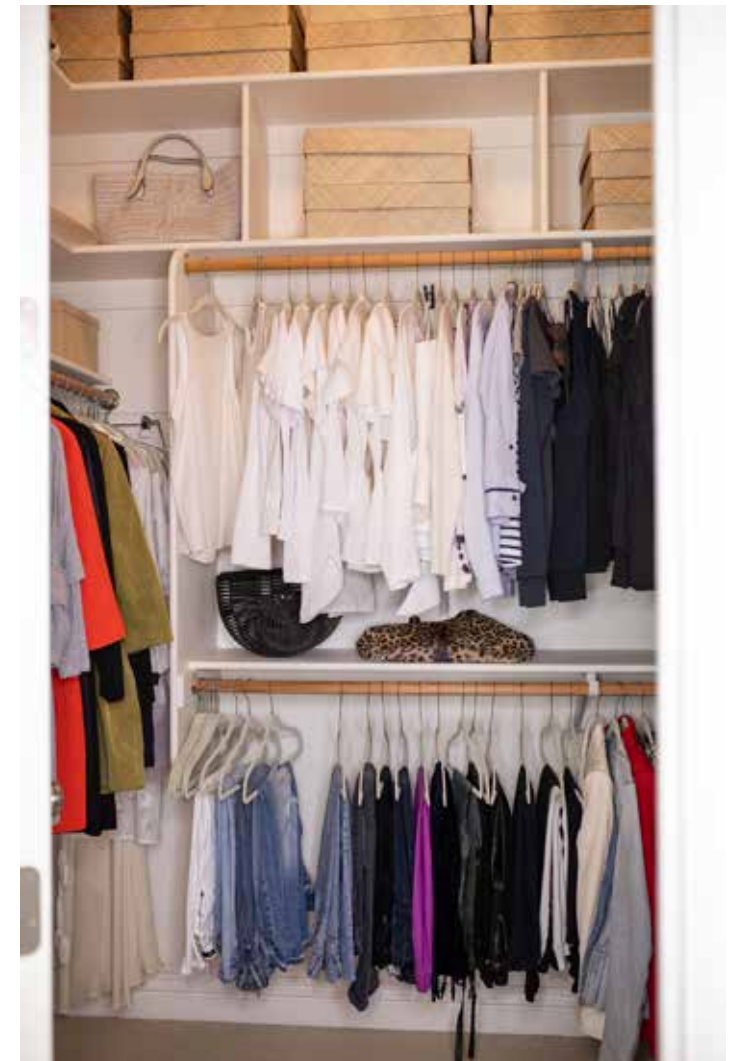
Mandy Michael ... Personal Stylist

With many of us working from home, summer 2020 is all about comfort. Loungewear is definitely having its moment, but that doesn't mean you can't feel cute. As the weather heats up, trade-in those bulky clothes for a lightweight version, or swap them out altogether. Go through that closet and edit! If it is overwhelming to you, give me a call and we can do it together.

#### Staying in and still working from home:

Look for some silk pajama-style pants and throw them on with your favorite tee or cami. Grab one in a breathable fabric. I prefer cotton or silk.

I also recommend a feminine color that will make you feel better about being stuck at home. Put on a little blush, paint your nails and throw on some cute sandals. That way you'll feel pretty for your next Zoom or FaceTime call.



#### Running that essential errand or grabbing take-out:

I have said it a million times to clients – the easiest way to feel put together, and even gather a compliment or two, is to simply put on a dress. It doesn't have to be fancy ... any comfy dress will do.

#### Living the day-to-day:

Cutoffs and a tank are my go-to all summer long. A lightweight, short- or long-sleeved button-down can easily be substituted if tank tops are not your thing. Skirts have movement and can take the place of shorts if you want to change it up. And, if you go out, grab a cute kimono or lightweight sweater. We all know that summer air conditioning can border on freezing! I prefer a lightweight cashmere sweater. It is a breathable fabric that will keep you warm at the grocery store or your favorite restaurant.

Mandy Michael Style is a closet and wardrobe styling business based in the greater Sacramento area. Mandy has been styling clients for over 15 years. Previously, Mandy worked as a merchandise buyer for an upscale boutique.

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*Meet Lovable*

*Lola ...*

*The Petite St. Bernard!*



Yes, Lola is petite! Although she may look large to some of you, she is off the charts tiny for a Saint Bernard. Saint Bernards are usually 130-200 pounds ... Lola comes in at a diminutive 95 pounds.

Lola's beautiful fluffy coat will capture your attention, but her personality will capture your heart. She is a gentle giant who loves napping and snuggling. She gets excited to "get dressed" in the morning when we put on her bandana. She hangs out with her paws crossed – a true lady. When her tail wags (which is often) it goes in big circles.

Lola loves a birthday party, especially opening presents. Lola actually has her own birthday party every year and invites her dog friends. The humans eat cake and drink champagne.

Lola is sweet, sleepy, snuggly, and silly. We hit the jackpot!

Lola is a rescue from Sunny Saints. We cannot imagine why someone would let her go ... maybe because she was always supposed to be with us.



Lola's Birthday Party ...



If you have a pet you'd like to share with your neighbors, email me: [jenny.thurman@n2pub.com](mailto:jenny.thurman@n2pub.com)





# Distance Learning ...

## See What Students Are Up To!



**RYAN ALVARADO**  
As a rising senior at Vista del Lago High School and Vista’s Student Body President for the 2020-2021 year, distance learning has had its ups and downs. What I have liked most about distance learning is being able to do my work independently at a time that works best for me. Distance learning has also minimized distractions, so I feel that I am more efficient when I do work at home. However, I also recognize some of the challenges that I have encountered, such as the inaccessibility of my teachers to answer questions that would otherwise be answered in class. I also miss the consistent schedule of learning in a classroom and the socialization with my friends. In my efforts to adapt to this new normal, I have made a schedule to plan my learning, including the time of my virtual lessons on Zoom and time for homework. In the

midst of a lot of change, I realize that distance learning has taught me a lot about self-discipline and self-reliance as I have had to navigate difficult assignments without the teacher’s typical help. My most challenging course during distance learning has been math. Through trial and error, I have had to figure out my homework and assignments often on my own – a very different experience than having the support of my teachers to guide me through tougher questions.

With many questions still revolving around how school will return in the fall, my greatest fear is that my classmates and I will not be able to interact as we had planned for our senior year. I recognize that there will be many changes I will have to cope with, not only as a student but also as a leader on campus.



**CALEY LAY**  
I have felt the impact of distance learning as both an athlete, an AP student, and a rising senior at Oak Ridge High School. One of my biggest challenges with distance learning was having to prepare for



my AP Language and Composition exam mostly on my own. The week that school closed was the week that my teacher was going to start preparing the class for the AP exam that we had worked toward during the whole year. As an opportunity to gain college credit with a high score, I had to figure out how to study for the exam in a different setting. My teacher tried his best to prepare us outside the classroom, but it was very difficult because we had no in-person discussions for him to explain what to expect on the exam. Although I admit that it took some getting used to, I learned to adjust to school on the new platform at Oak Ridge, Edgenuity, where I listened to class lectures and took quizzes and tests. Even with its downsides, there are some positives of distance learning, such as being able to have more time for my

school work as well as sleeping in! With newfound time on my hands, I have learned that being organized and managing my time better helps me get my work done quicker.

I also had my junior season of playing goalie on the Oak Ridge Women’s Varsity Lacrosse Team shortened as well. Going into my senior year, as well as my last season playing lacrosse with my team, I am nervous that memorable high school moments such as senior sunrise, senior prom, and even our graduation from high school may be canceled. When thinking about school in the fall, I am prepared to not return to normal. Still, I try to remain optimistic by taking some summer classes and I hope to see my friends and teachers back at the campus in the fall for my final year of high school.

**LAINE WEIS**  
Finishing the last final exam of my junior year, I thought I would be in the classroom with my friends where we could celebrate moving into our senior year of high school together. Instead, I submitted my final essay online from my house and called my friends to congratulate them on finishing the most grueling year of high school. As a rising senior at Vista del Lago High School, navigating the end of my junior year virtually has been quite the experience as I have had to adapt to being on my own instead of having the support of my classmates and teachers through some of my most difficult exams. As I finished my midterms back in March, I was looking forward to the final stretch of my junior year, where I would adjust to a schedule filled with completing advanced classes, finishing my lacrosse season, and preparing for my AP exams. But after one quick announcement from our district, I realized I would have to adjust yet again.

us to be masters of our own schedule in order to complete all of our assignments, on top of attending each virtual classroom meeting. The most difficult part for me was trying to practice French virtually for my AP exam that was quickly approaching in May without being in my classroom where we spoke French every day. Interactions between my peers and my teachers to discuss complex concepts became more difficult despite our teachers’ efforts. I had to learn to manage my time on my own and to be more efficient, which proved much more difficult than I had imagined because, with your whole day open, it’s easy to lose the concept of time or to procrastinate completing assignments. Along with time management came the issue of social interactions, which had abruptly ceased following the cancellation of school. Connections I had formed with my classmates and teachers started to loosen and we had to actively try to maintain these relationships virtually as to not fall out of contact with each other.

When looking into the future, there are still many uncertainties as to how



school will look come August. As an athlete, I hope that my senior season of lacrosse will go forward, as well as football games, where I am excited to lead Vista’s drumline. However, one thing is for certain, we will have to adapt again, and I have no doubt in my mind that we will be able to do so and make some lasting memories in the process.



DEERAJ GURRAM

I graduated from Vista del Lago High School this May. I plan to go to college for the upcoming school year and hope that it doesn't go online because I do not want to stay home for an extra three months and miss out on the best part of freshman year. I have a lot less motivation to learn in virtual classes because I believe there are many other things that I could do at that moment. It takes away from my concentration which means I have to do more self-studying than I would in person. Also, I learned that it's harder to get questions answered when I have to email the teacher because it can take a whole day for me to get a response. I have adapted pretty well to this pandemic experience. My friends and I Zoom call and Netflix Party occasionally, and we also have recently gone on small bike rides (while social distancing), so

I haven't been starved for contact with others. The only thing I miss is being able to talk to my friends without maintaining a strict perimeter, and also all of the senior activities I have had to skip. One thing I learned about myself through this pandemic experience is that I can have a decent time even if I am isolated. In the first couple of months of the shelter-in-place, I was fine with staying at home and only talking with my family, which I never thought I could do before. Having my own things to do and completing them gives me a good amount of satisfaction so I don't require constant interaction. My greatest fear is that my family or friends will contract the virus and I won't be able to talk to them anymore. The most challenging class I had so far was AP Computer Science A, because it's already a difficult class and having questions and receiving slow responses really makes learning the material hard.



JAVIER DAMIEN

I graduated from Vista del Lago High School this year. This pandemic has definitely affected my daily life along with many others. Being a senior in high school during this time was quite upsetting for me because so many milestones, including graduation, had to be canceled or postponed. Regardless, I am grateful for all of the experiences that have led up to this point. In terms of the upcoming school year, I plan to attend university regardless if classes are online or in person. However, I am preparing to make a more productive workspace if classes are to be online. Nevertheless, I am not a big fan of online classes. The environment present in in-person classes breeds more productivity in my opinion versus online classes. When classes were in person everything felt easily accessible and questions could easily be answered. I believe that with online classes, there are so many additional barriers to step over in order to ask for support,



not to mention the additional distractions in a workspace like my own bedroom. Especially because learning in online classes can be challenging. Many times my notifications, especially for Google Classroom, are delayed or stop working so it's harder to make sure I am making all the deadlines. Regardless, I learned to adapt. For instance, I learned to create a schedule and plan out my days even

if the plans change. This helps me keep structure during a time when it feels like structure is lost. In addition, I learned many things about myself during this pandemic. I learned that I truly identify with being an extrovert. I realized that many of my most memorable experiences stemmed from being with friends or family which is something I can't participate in during this pandemic. I fear, however, that this pandemic will not end anytime soon and that we will all have to live with this "new normal."

CHLOE HO

As this upcoming year is full of uncertainties and changes, I'm mostly trying to keep up with as much schoolwork as I can and keeping a positive attitude towards everything going on. I'm also planning on investing in some study books/textbooks to start studying for the SATs this upcoming school year. Although this pandemic took away the experience of learning alongside my friends and classmates as you normally would in person, I really like how I am able to work at my own pace for virtual learning. I find that I am more productive when I can wake up at my own time and turn in work throughout the week with less time restraints. In some ways, that is how I've adapted to distance learning – by going at my own pace and setting a productive schedule that works for me. Luckily, a lot of my classes had work I could mainly do independently without too much guidance from my teacher, however, the most challenging class to learn online for me was Spanish because I learn language best by interacting with my peers and relying on the teacher to teach. One thing that I have learned about myself through the pandemic experience is how impatient I can be at times, and also how I sometimes take my friends for granted. My greatest fear for the future is the uncertainty the future brings – fears for my currently undecided career, fears for my family, and everything else. But in the end, this whole experience has taught me to live in the moment and enjoy as much as you can because sometimes (as cliché as it sounds) you just have to trust the process.



OPHELIA HO

For me, I'm just trying to have a positive mindset and doing things that I normally would do if we would have school next year. For example, doing summer homework, practicing my violin, reviewing for the SAT, etc. One thing I like about virtual vs. in-person class is the assignments are easier and we have more time to do other things we couldn't do before when we were in school. We have lots of free time for ourselves. One thing I don't like about this is that learning is harder online. We don't get to interact or ask questions face-to-face with the teacher. I have adapted by finding ways around not having face-to-face communication like asking my friends for help or having a Zoom call with my teachers. One thing I have learned about myself through this pandemic is that I can learn in ways I could have never imagined and that I have taken school for granted. Furthermore, that human touch and interaction are very important to me, giving me happiness. The greatest fear about the future is not knowing where life will take me or if I'm passionate and good enough to become a teacher. Not knowing if I will be majoring in education or finding something different. All my classes are pretty easy and I wouldn't really say they're challenging, but the hardest out of my four classes would probably be chemistry.

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SHIVANSHI SHIVESH

Coming to an end of junior year was very interesting for me because I have always looked forward to being a senior in high school and it is unfortunate to see it end like this. However, this summer I am going to get a head start on college applications and really understand what type of college I want to go to. Distance learning can be stressful and if that continues this fall, I do want to get a head start on college apps



so I don't have added stress. The thing I liked most about virtual classes was that I could wake up whenever I wanted to and most of my teachers had optional Zoom classes which I was very grateful for. I like to form a professional connection with my teachers and that is really hard to do virtually, which is why I prefer in-person classes, but thankfully most of my teachers kept in contact with

their students through a messaging app called Remind. Also, I missed seeing my friends every day and even though I got to see them virtually, that personal connection does get broken. To stay productive, I have made a calendar with all my due dates and I made a checklist for all my assignments for each day and that really helped me stay motivated as well which is one way I adapted to this pandemic experience. One thing I have learned about myself is that I can push myself to do more. For example, it can be hard to start working out or even starting homework, but when it comes to it, I try and push myself to finish it which makes me happier and less stressed at the end of the day. My greatest fear about the future is not knowing what will happen because of the pandemic. I am the type of person who likes to know what will happen and have solutions to problems and with the Coronavirus, it is still so unknown and that scares me. Spanish has definitely been the most challenging class because it is a different language and requires a different accent which you cannot learn online and it definitely helps to have other students talk to you in person. Overall, I have tried to stay positive during these unknown times and been connecting with my family more which I am grateful for.



### CALIN TREXLER

During these uncertain times, I pull strength from what I have learned throughout my baseball career. Recently the statement, “control the controllables, and take things one day at a time,” from one of my baseball coaches, has deeply resonated with me. Now, I can’t focus on things that are out of my control, but I can control my grades and my improvement in baseball. Distance learning has posed some unique challenges for me as my goal is to earn a 4.0 in high school and play baseball for a Division 1 college. In order to stay in line with my goal, I had to develop a schedule to stay organized with my school work and baseball practice, making time for both parts of my life while at home. I have enjoyed the aspect of distance learning that allows my schedule to be more flexible, however, it also has its downsides. I miss my teammates and friends at Oak

Ridge and also miss playing for my high school team because my season for baseball was cut short. Academically, distance learning has also posed challenges. My chemistry class posed a particular challenge. Without the daily classroom support of my teacher and tutor, Mrs. Rodenburg, who has helped me through the year, I had to spend more time learning and understanding the material.



One of my greatest fears for the future is that fear will drive decision making resulting in the loss of opportunities, but I have learned to take the good with the bad. One positive that has come during this time is that I received my first offer to play baseball at a Division 1 school in California, and I am looking forward to what the future has in store.

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Leaving Sydney ...



Cruising Doubtful Sound ...

# G'Day Mate ...

A Month Down Under With Ken & Jessica!

We are both retired, ex-Bay Area Peninsula transplants and we love living in the foothills. I moved to El Dorado Hills in 2004 and Ken made the move in 2014 after purchasing a house together in Serrano and since marrying in 2018. Travel is natural to us and we have traveled the world extensively. Our latest trip in January/February 2020 was a month-long trip back to New Zealand (where Jessica was born and raised) and Australia to celebrate my birthday with my family and to enjoy the summer sunshine.

We flew to the beautiful city of Sydney, spending three days exploring this bustling metropolis. Sydney's large Harbor connects several rivers making it easy to explore by ferry. The city front is dominated by a Harbor Bridge and Opera House sporting restaurants everywhere in between. Ken climbed to the top of the Harbor Bridge and was told this was the only clear day they had in many weeks due to the smoke from all the fires surrounding Sydney. We took a day trip out to the Blue Mountains, also clear for the first time in weeks, before we boarded our NCL cruise ship and sailed to Eden (a small logging and milling town). Eden was overrun with firefighters – the town was preparing for evacuation the next day. We could see smoke in strips on land as we sailed onto Melbourne, another beautiful city, flush with gardens and rivers. Here we were met by my niece who gave us a surprise seven-course luncheon at Epoque.



Bondi Beach, Sydney ...



Sydney Opera House ...



Sydney Harbor



3 Sisters Australia ...



Luna Park, Sydney Harbor ...

Our next port, Burnie Tasmania is a spot of paradise with a few quirks, e.g. to see Penguins, go to Sulphur Creek; to see Sulphur hot springs, go to Penguin Bay. From Burney, we crossed the Tasman Sea to cruise the Sounds/Fjords for a full day ending up in Dunedin on the South Island of New Zealand. This hillside city claims the steepest street in the world certified by the Guinness Book of records. Next was Akaroa/Christchurch where we were picked up by my high school friend for yet another birthday luncheon alongside the beautiful Avon River. During this time, while onboard the ship, the news broke out about the Coronavirus starting – thankfully, not on our ship. Our cruise went into high-gear, immediately halting

...



...

all self-service and stepped up the cleaning procedures. Once home, we heard about the stranded cruise ships and we were very grateful for their diligence. Our cruise culminated in the North Island, where we drove to Rotorua for a week with my family and more birthday parties. Ken did a flyover of three volcanoes during our family four-day visit to Tongariro National Park. We also hiked Mt. Ruapehu, an active volcano where I learned to ski at Whakapapa.

Our trip continued back to Australia, on to Noosa (think Carmel) for a week hosted by my cousin. Noosa, located north of Brisbane, is located in a National Park. It is also a surfer's paradise. We experienced a tropical downpour while visiting Steve Irwin's Australia World. Everyone was sighing with relief that the drought had been broken. After five wonderful days visiting the Surf Club's, shops, and taking a river taxi cruise (BYO), with yet another birthday party, we all headed down to Brisbane. This beautiful city is on a large river and is



Sleeping Koala ...



Kangaroo ...



Sydney Bridge



Steve Irwin's Australia World ...



Port Chalmers Dunedin ...



Okaroa Harbor, Christchurch ...



Amazing Architecture ...



Flying Over Volcanos ...



Surf's Up, Sunshine Beach ...



Brisbane Story Bridge ...



Noosa River Happy Hour ...



Camp Whakapapa ...



Lunch in New Zealand ...

going through a dramatic makeover. Restoration of the waterfront warehouses into high-end restaurants, Art and Boutique hotels, bars and walkways, is topped with light-shows on the cliff and the Story Bridge, which we walked over so we could see both sides of the city. Water taxis take you from the Harbor entrance to the other end of the river – about 15Km – with stops every kilometer giving you a great advantage of the city sites and providing easy transportation.

From fires to Coronavirus, we won't forget this trip. It all ended well and healthy and we highly recommend you try traveling the South Pacific. Get off the beaten path and add some extra days if you are planning on cruising. There is far too much to cover all the details of our one-month trip so we hoped you have enjoyed a few highlights.

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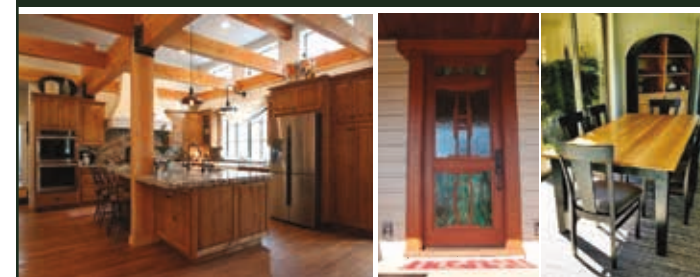
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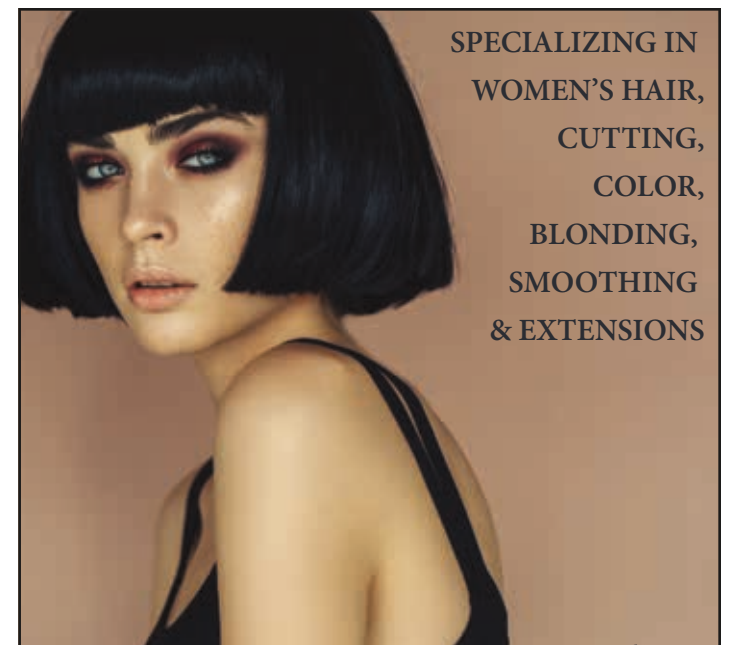
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### How was the Menser Real Estate Group formed?

Surprisingly, mother-daughter, Donna Menser and Stephani Menser Polley, were initially competitors. When Donna’s husband was sick, Stephani helped by showing homes while her dad recovered. It was a blessing in disguise because they ended up forming a team. A few years later, Melissa Cvitanovic left the brokerage she was at and joined the Menser Group.

### What are your services?

In short, we help people buy and sell residential properties in the El Dorado Hills area. It is much more than that, though!

We are negotiators, stagers, marketing professionals, personal shoppers, strategists ...

Our clients don’t just call us when they want to buy or sell. They call us when they need a referral, re-



model/decor advice, or comps for an appraisal. We like to be their go-to source for anything house, EDH, or real-estate related.

### What sets you apart from other Realtors?

What works today won’t always work tomorrow. We are constantly adapting and setting new standards of what we think the real estate industry should be. Our process is different, we take a concierge approach to listing and an innovative marketing strategy to selling it.

While many agents depend on a “for sale” sign and the MLS to sell their listings, we actively search for buyers through our multi-tier distribution plan. We develop a custom marketing



campaign for each listing to target and retarget individuals that are likely to buy the home. We advertise homes the way a large scale marketing company would brand and advertise a product.

We also stage our listings. We’ve realized that buying and selling real estate is a major undertaking and our clients still have other commitments to keep up with. With this in mind, we manage and facilitate the entire process.

### Do you hire stagers or stage yourself?

We are Accredited Staging Professionals (ASP). The majority of our clients live in the homes we have listed. Staging occupied homes can be difficult, most staging companies

want the homes to be vacant. Staging is incredibly important to assure the fastest sale with the greatest return. We became professional stagers to make sure all of our listings look perfect. We have three massive storage units full of furniture and decor and are constantly changing inventory. Having in-house staging also helps save our clients money.

### What changes have you experienced with COVID-19 and how are you adapting?

Luckily we have always been heavy on virtual marketing and technology. Just like everyone else, we have been using Zoom and Facetime. One of our favorite changes we’ve made is that we purchased a 360° camera. We’ve always had walk-through video tours

but the 360° tours are great. They will even work with VR glasses! We have been using them for listings and even showings for our buyers because most agents aren’t doing 360° yet. We are also making individual websites for each listing. It is helpful to track how many people are virtually touring the home, the demographics, and how many times they have visited the site.

### How long have you been in El Dorado Hills?

We’ve lived here for a long time – back when El Dorado Hills was mostly rolling fields! There was no Serrano, no Town Center, and only a few of the original developments. We know the area very well. Did you know that Raley’s on EDH Blvd. originally faced the opposite way? That’s how long we have been locals.


### What are some real estate tips that you have?

We have several curated guides for buying a home, preparing a home for sale, the sale process, etc. They can all be found on our website at EDHrealtor.com.


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## AboveThe Gate Dentistry

Hello, Serrano friends and neighbors! Above the Gate Dentistry is thrilled to be back on track and seeing our Serrano neighbors for preventive and emergency visits. In March, our dental team stopped seeing preventive care patients because of our deep concern for protecting our community from the spread of the Coronavirus. Now that our stellar county has done its part, we are back and open for business!

For our returning patients, you may find a few small differences in our protective equipment and infection control. We are following strict social distancing practices –but we are working just as before to provide the same high-quality, comfortable, and efficient care that you have come to expect from Above the Gate Dentistry.

Serrano has been our home for more than a decade, and we love being surrounded by the people, the businesses, and the culture of El Dorado Hills. Our patients lead interesting and busy lives, and we love to get to know them.

We provide early- and late-day appointments to fit around the work schedules of our busy patients. We also provide a discount for frontline business families. Call us **Today** for any **Teeth**-related questions or concerns. Above The Gate is **Here** for **You**!

**Above The Gate Dentistry**  
4517 Serrano Pkwy., # 104  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
AboveTheGate.com  
916-933-2848



Dr. Bryan Tuttle with patient ... Above the Gate Dentistry



## Talisman Collection

Because of COVID-19, we have significantly expanded our technological offerings to include additional ways to see jewelry through secure online interfaces. We've also been putting all of the jewelry in our store on our eCommerce site so that people can shop with more ease, from home or remotely. We have been making house calls and taking a lot of private appointments and will continue to do so to keep people safe and comfortable. We have always loved serving the people of EDH and Serrano. Supporting all of the causes ... schools, teams, fundraisers, and people in our town is an honor. Our apprentice program with local high school students has been very successful. We are honored to serve multiple generations in so many families in our area, as well as to hire and train local teenagers, advancing their knowledge of business operations, sales, manufacturing, and customer service.

COVID has reinforced two of my core personality traits: I have the ability to conduct a high degree of calm productivity in the face of an emergency. And I am extremely loyal and protective of the clients with whom I interact.

**Talisman Collection Fine Jewelers**  
4357 Town Center Blvd., Suite 118  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
TalismanCollection.com  
916-358-5683





## The Purple Place

We have owned the Purple Place for 14 years and have raised our three boys in the El Dorado community. We not only live here but Mike and I are a very active part of the El Dorado Hills community. Raising three very active boys has allowed us the opportunity to be involved in the entire community with schools, sports, scouts, music, and many other activities. The Purple Place has supported philanthropy in our community with many fundraising events so all walks of locals can thrive.

During this COVID-Crisis, we really appreciate the hard-working employees who chose to return to our team. It was quite shocking to see many of our staff choose not to come back to work because they are making so much money on unemployment. But the employees who have chosen to come back have helped us build an amazing team with a work ethic we have never seen before.

At the end of our first day back, after serving our loyal clients, the entire team was pumped! They felt like they had a purpose once again. We respect and value our current team who are all working hard to make our customers happy. We are proud that The Purple Place has come back stronger than we ever were before!

**Purple Place Bar & Grill**  
363 Green Valley Road  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
ThePurp.com  
916-933-2313



Mike and Denise Hountalas ... Owners of The Purple Place and Poor Reds



Foodom Founder, Reneta Jenkins, far right ...



## Foodom

Foodom is a marketplace connecting local professional cooks with busy people and families for cooking delicious meals in the client's home. For less than takeout, the cooks will buy groceries, cook, and clean up, freeing up time for you to do the things you love with the people you love. We love helping our clients while supporting the environment with reduced food and packaging waste.

Our clients' and cooks' safety, health, and well-being are a top priority for us. Therefore, during the COVID pandemic, we changed our operation to follow strict COVID safety protocols. All of our cooks wear masks and gloves.

During this crisis, we've learned to look at the opportunity and focus on the positive. Our Foodom community got stronger and better during this time while supporting each other. We are very proud to serve such an amazing community!

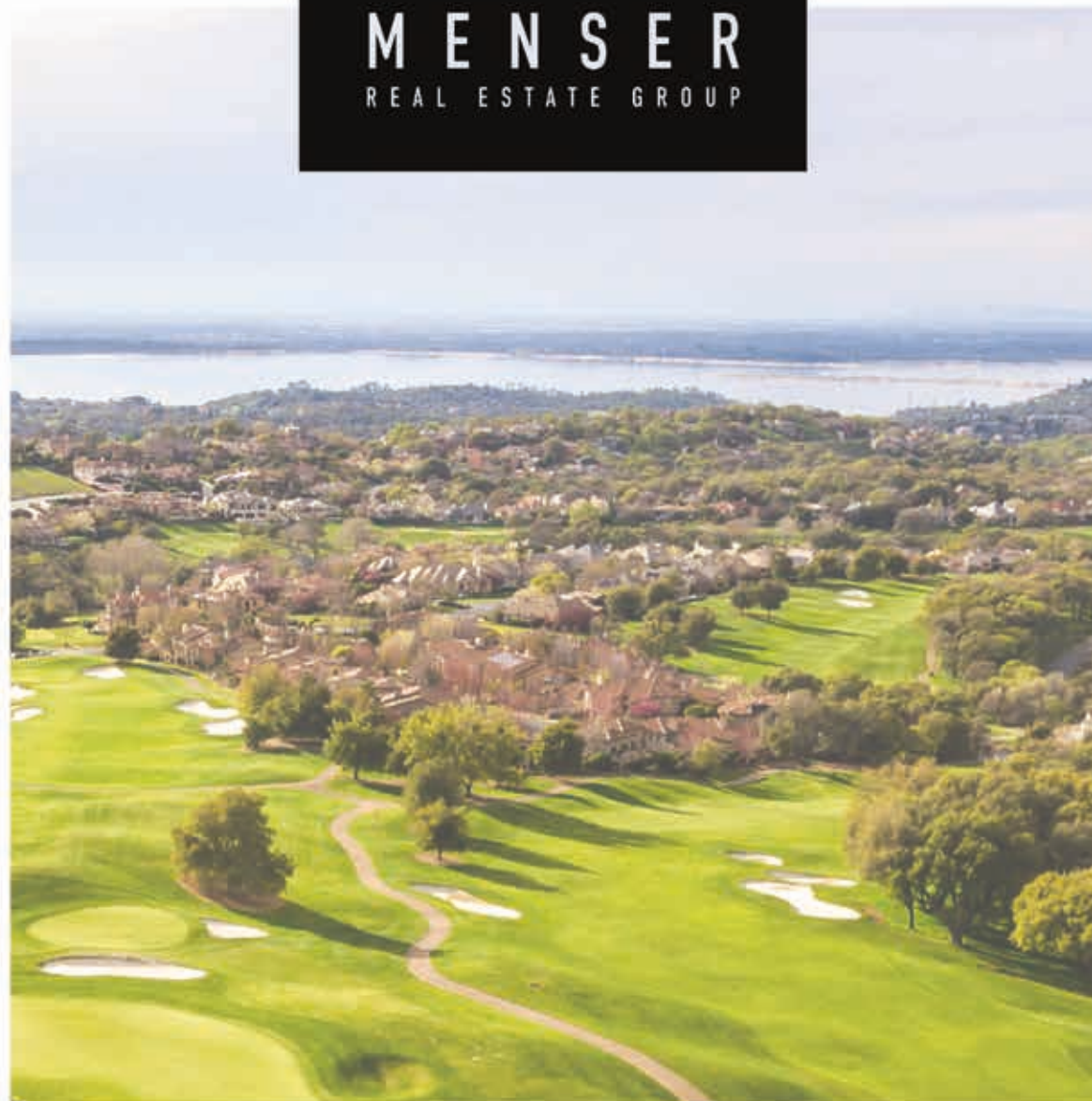
**MyFoodom.com**  
**service@myfoodom.com**  
**916-243-0707**





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## Real Estate RESOURCE

The information contained herein has been obtained through sources deemed reliable by Neighborhood Networks Publishing, Inc., but cannot be guaranteed for its accuracy. Any information of special interest should be obtained through independent verification. Supplied by Pat Seide Group



Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Sold Date	DOM	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Parking	\$/Sq Ft
5489 Sur Mer Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,395,000	\$1,350,000	09/06/19	21	5	6	5,252	3	\$257.04
4161 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,299,000	\$1,210,000	10/17/19	21	4	4	4,306	3	\$281.00
4441 Gresham Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,999,999	\$1,999,999	10/17/19	232	4	4	4,804	4+	\$416.32
4024 Greenview Drive	El Dorado Hills	\$1,124,000	\$1,095,000	11/18/19	88	4	3	3,471	4	\$315.47
4573 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$3,195,000	\$2,800,000	11/21/19	150	5	6	4,523	4+	\$619.06
5059 Da Vinci Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,499,000	\$1,450,000	11/26/19	89	4	5	4,453	3	\$325.62
101 Martini Ct	El Dorado Hills	\$1,250,000	\$1,232,500	12/09/19	10	6	4	4,609	3	\$267.41
3701 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,549,000	\$1,525,000	12/17/19	107	4	5	4,337	4	\$351.63
4406 Cordero Ct	El Dorado Hills	\$1,109,000	\$1,090,000	12/18/19	170	4	4	3,274	3	\$332.93
3866 Errante Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,545,000	\$1,358,000	12/19/19	180	5	6	5,159	4	\$263.23
401 Borra Ct	El Dorado Hills	\$989,000	\$995,000	12/26/19	46	5	4	3,761	3	\$264.56
5309 Da Vinci Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,899,000	\$1,835,000	01/06/20	43	4	5	4,176	3	\$439.42
4086 Errante Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,298,000	\$1,250,000	01/16/20	50	5	4	4,380	3	\$285.39
5036 Breese Cir	El Dorado Hills	\$999,000	\$985,000	01/24/20	125	4	5	4,787	3	\$205.77
404 Borra Ct	El Dorado Hills	\$1,098,000	\$1,079,800	01/31/20	2	5	4	4,023	3	\$268.41
3442 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,390,000	\$1,370,000	02/19/20	81	5	4	3,163	3	\$433.13
4251 Cordero Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,898,000	\$1,898,000	03/10/20	123	5	7	6,637	4	285.97
3006 Courbet Way	El Dorado Hills	\$1,318,850	\$1,280,000	03/30/20	98	5	6	4,912	4	\$260.59
279 Bronzino	El Dorado Hills	\$1,699,999	\$1,575,000	04/03/20	29	4	5	4,371	3	\$360.33
4307 Gresham Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,325,000	\$1,270,000	04/06/20	7	6	5	4,189	3	\$303.18



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**(916) 933-2313**

[www.thepurpleplace.com](http://www.thepurpleplace.com)

@thepurpleplace  
@purpleplaceca



## Ready to Rock Your SMILE This Summer?

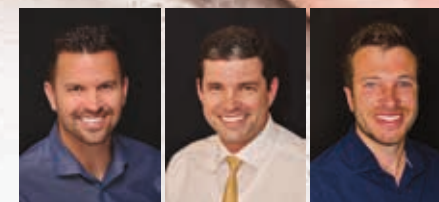
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Gate Dentistry  
TODAY For a **FREE**  
Consultation

Following  
Strict Covid-19  
Safety Protocols  
& Social  
Distancing

EMERGENCY CARE  
SMILE DESIGN  
SAME DAY CROWNS  
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Next to the library, Suite 104

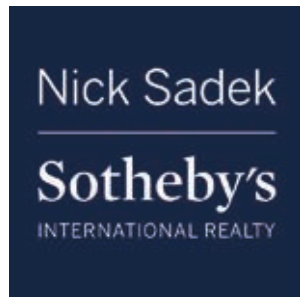


**916-933-2848**

[ABOVETHEGATE.COM](http://ABOVETHEGATE.COM)



# Living



*R*enowned locally for selling Eddie Murphy's mansion in Los Lagos, Nick Sadek is actively listing and selling multi-million dollar luxury homes. He is consistently a top luxury home closer 2010-2019.

Nick Sadek Sotheby's International Realty is a full service residential and commercial real estate firm catering to the demands of the luxury estates marketplace. Much of the business stems from the ability to creatively market luxury estates outside of the Sacramento area.

Nick's business success is mirrored in his personal life with a marriage of 23 years to his wife, Dina, who is also a licensed real estate agent. They have two children, Danya and Adam.

## RECENTLY SOLD BY NICK SADEK SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY



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**916.966.4444**  
**NICK.SADEK@SOTHEBYSREALTY.COM | NICKSADEKSIR.COM**  
DRE LIC #00970410