



CSL House Tour includes 5 homes, Boutique

Unique Prairie Style home in Upper Rockridge



The new kitchen and breakfast nook at the Prairie-style home will be on view on this year's CSL Home Tour. Advance tickets are on sale now.

Photos by Treve Johnson



A teen bedroom is shown at an Upper Rockridge home, where the entire three-story remodel will be open during the CSL tour, Friday and Saturday, April 29-30.

By Patricia Forsyth

The Children's Support League of the East Bay presents the 28th annual Heart of the Home Tour on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30. The tour's heart of operations is at the Piedmont Community Center, where a lively boutique and raffle sales are held on tour days.

FIRST A BOUTIQUE, THEN A TOUR

Local vendors enjoy the CSL boutique, not only for the lovely park setting and promise of sunny springtime weather, but for the shoppers drawn to the home tour.

The crowds enjoy good quality merchandise at fair trade prices and a chance to find specialties and artisanal goods not widely available.

"Our goal was to change it up and offer lots of new vendors to our repeat tour attendees, so half of the 30 vendors are new," Lee Eisman commented, who is boutique chair, along with her job as CSL president this year.

The heart of the tour centers on the five beautiful homes selected in Piedmont and in neighboring Oakland Hills' Upper Rockridge district.

Ticket revenues benefit at-risk children in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. CSL awards 96 percent of its proceeds to qualifying charities, using only 4 percent for expenditures.

The five homes on tour vary in style and era over a 100-year span:

- 1914 Italianate located on the old Key Route railway line
- 1920s English Tudor designed by the renowned architects Miller and Warnecke
- Tech-smart 2014 contemporary
- Landmark-designated 1930s Tudor Revival
- 1940s Prairie home redesigned from a ranch with Asian-influenced architectural detail

The Prairie style home (see photos) was rebuilt in 1995 following its destruction in the Oakland Hills fire in 1991. At that time the owner rebuilt the home to the exact specifications of the destroyed home, but added a pagoda and other Eastern elements. The present owners reverted to a traditional Prairie, a style of structure that originated with Frank Lloyd Wright in the early 20th century.

The broad house has overhanging eaves and gently sloping roof-lines. Recently the owners completed a full house, three-story remodel that substantially changed the room-layout, placing the kitchen in a different location on the main floor.

TOUR TICKETS

Tour tickets may be purchased online at ChildrensSupportLeague.org in advance for \$45, and with a lunch for \$55. Day-of-tour tickets are priced slightly higher at \$50, and \$62 with lunch. Raffles will also be available on both tour days or in advance from CSL members. Raffle tickets are five for \$20 or \$5 each. More than 100 prizes will be awarded.

VIP tickets cost \$125 and includes the tour and lunch; but also includes invitations to CSL kickoff party at a Glen Alpine Road home on Thursday evening, April 28, along with a speaker-breakfast the following day at Piedmont's Duck House, where the home also will be open for an exclusive tour.

The breakfast speaker is an expert in fresh-meal delivery and food processing and is a VP with Munchery, a food-delivery startup being tested in four U.S. markets, including the San Francisco Bay Area.

To date CSL has awarded \$3.3 million to nonprofits that provide crisis shelter, child advocacy, counseling and therapy, special needs and educational support.

VOLUNTEERS FOR TOUR

Those interested in being a volunteer tour docent should contact Lisa Riddiough at lisar@riddio.com.