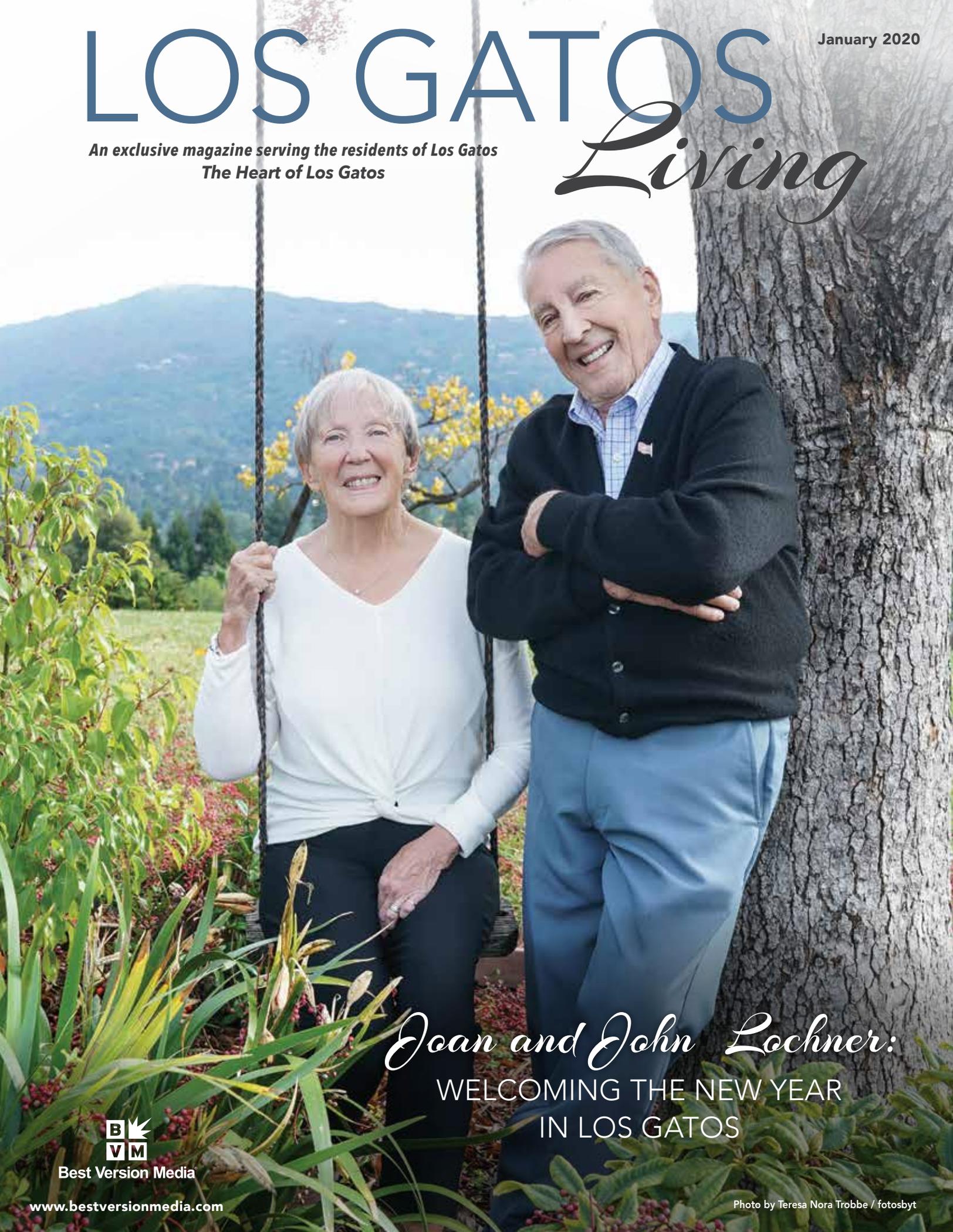


LOS GATOS

January 2020

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Los Gatos
The Heart of Los Gatos

Living



Joan and John Lochner:

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR
IN LOS GATOS



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Photo by Teresa Nora Trobbe / fotosbyt

Joan and John Lochner:

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR IN LOS GATOS



We would like to thank
The Villa Galleria
for bringing you this
month's cover story.

By Genevieve Laucher

Photos by Teresa Nora Trobbe

The Lochner family has been in Los Gatos since 1961, and they love being a part of our town. John and Joan raised their five children here and have always been busy with work, travel, and community involvement.

John and Joan are both from upper New York state. John served in the army for two years during the Korean War. They were married in 1952, recently celebrating their 67th wedding anniversary!

From Webster, New York, John is eighth in a family of nine and worked as a carpenter after high school. Working outside in the snow, he dreamed of warmer weather. One of his sisters had moved out to Campbell, so John and Joan decided to travel to California to see what it was like. After living here for one month, they bought a house on Pollard Road in 1954. They bought their present house in Los Gatos in 1961 and have lived in this home ever since.

When John and Joan moved to Los Gatos, it was a small town of 4500 people. John has worked on their home, built in 1900, since they moved in, building onto it as their family grew. Their home contains pieces of town history. John installed a pool in the yard in 1964 and put a fence around it. For the fence, he used adobe blocks from the Yuki property where the North 40 is being developed. Highway 17 had split the property, forcing the owners to take down their home that was built with adobe blocks. They saved the blocks to rebuild the house, but never did. John also acquired grape steaks from the vineyards around the Novitiate property, now Testarossa, to make the fence.

The Lochners have five children: Martin, Robin, Julie, Jeffrey, and Kelly. All five children and five grandchildren went through the Los Gatos schools and on to college. Out of the Lochners' five grandchildren, the youngest is currently finishing up college at NAU.

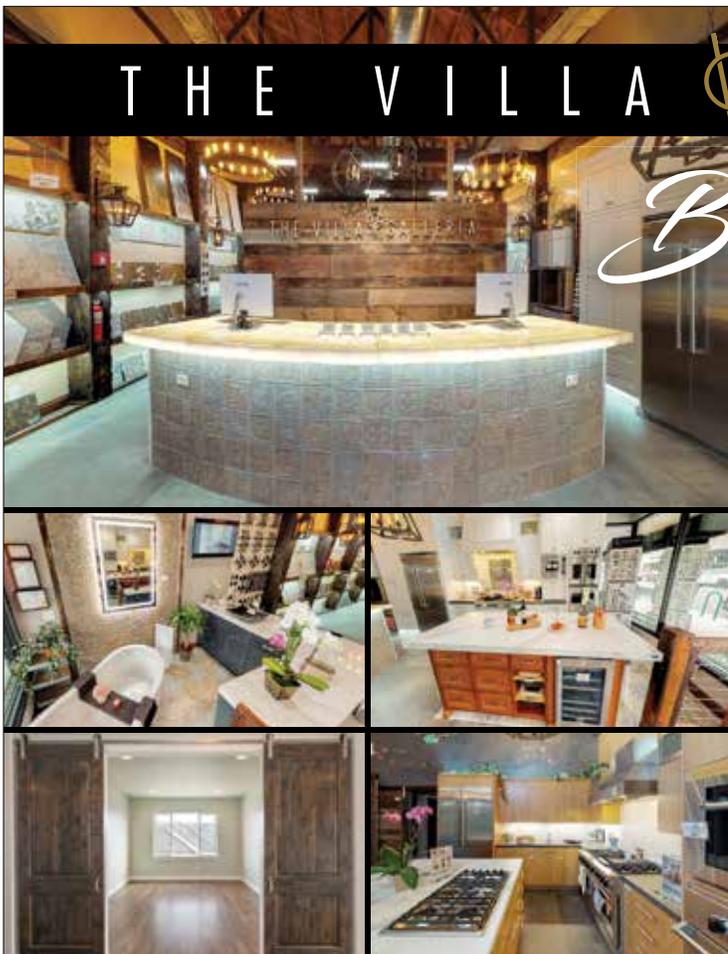
John worked for a contractor for his first five years in California before earning his contractor's license and working as a general contractor. He had his contracting business plus a cabinet shop in Los Gatos up until 1985, when he retired and turned it over to his oldest son Martin.

Joan worked at the Bank of the West in Los Gatos as an assistant to the manager. She also volunteered with Eastfield, part of Ming Quong. This community-minded organization put on fundraisers. Joan volunteered at the meals that Eastfield put on at a restaurant called The Village House, now home to Manresa. She was also involved with the wives of the Lions Club members, called the Ellionettes.

When John started his business in 1959, he joined the chamber of commerce and the Lions Club as well. He really enjoys the Lions Club and getting to be around such a great group of people. He has had perfect attendance for all 60 years that he has been a member, and served as the treasurer for 34 years, retiring just last year. He served as the president of the club in 1965. John was also involved with the Boy Scouts at the county level in the 90s and served as the president of the Santa Clara County Boy Scout Council.

John has also been very active in the chamber of commerce. In 1967, he started Christmas caroling for the tree lighting, and has been the emcee for the tree lighting and caroling every year since then. He has not missed a year! 2019 marked his 62nd Christmas parade as an announcer for KCAT. John served as the president of the chamber of commerce from 1970-1971. During that time, he started the wine festival that was held in the town plaza for two days each year. Between six and eight wineries got involved each year with this fundraising event.

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Additionally, John served on the town council for two terms and was mayor in 1975 and 1980. He served as the town's representative on LAFCO for five years and state representative for three years. He was instrumental in getting legislation passed allowing communities to annex islands in their sphere of influence. Friends encouraged him to run for state assembly, but he did not want to spend so much time away from his family. He got involved in other organizations in town, including the board of the Billy Jones Railroad, where he has served for 40 years and was the president for six years in the 90s. John also joined the Veterans Memorial Support Foundation 12 years ago and is actively involved. The Flame of Liberty memorial had its dedication on June 15th, 2019, and the Foundation still meets weekly and puts together fundraisers throughout the year to support veterans. John is known as the "Paver Guy," taking on the responsibility of paver sales and installation at the memorial.

John and Joan's son Jeff was injured in a diving accident in 1978 when he was a senior at Los Gatos High School. After his injury, John and the Los Gatos Lions Club built Jeff a room attached to the main house and after he became an attorney, added an office onto his bedroom. John and Jeff love spending time together,

mostly watching sports. Jeff enjoys watching cooking shows and loves to cook gourmet meals, with John and Joan being his hands.

John and Joan enjoy various hobbies. John earned his pilot's license in 1970 and flew short trips, mostly in northern California. He also loves to sing and has been active in St. Mary's Church and the choir for 64 years. When he was more involved in the chamber of commerce, he helped organize a Los Gatos night at a Giant's game and got to sing the national anthem at Candlestick Park. Joan enjoys cooking, reading, and taking daily walks. John and Joan both enjoy traveling. They love going to Maui, having a condo on the beach, where John became a certified scuba diver. They have enjoyed summers as well as winters, skiing in Tahoe and sailing. They have sailed in the San Francisco bay and up off the coast of Washington. Additionally, they have visited Los Gatos's sister city in Mexico and have also traveled to France, Italy, England, Germany, Japan, China, and our Sister Cities in Taiwan and Russia. John and Joan also enjoy spending time with their kids and grandkids.

The Lochners love their home with the "best view in Los Gatos" and enjoy being a special part of our wonderful town!

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