



THE CURE STARTS NOW®

Benefitting Pediatric Brain Cancer Research

Presenting Sponsors
Dr. Cynthia Woo and Mayor Andrew Chan



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

6:30 pm

OCEAN PALACE

11215 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, Texas 77072

csnevents.org/LunarNewYear





LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET SCHEDULE

- 6:30 pm **Wine & Hors d'oeuvres**
Silent Auction Viewing
- 7:00 pm **Dinner & Program**
- Face Changing Performance – Lain Walker
 - Henry and Althea Lee – Nicole's parents
 - Shaily Pasi – Lara Pasi's Aunt
 - Unity Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe
- 8:45 pm **Silent Auction Closes**
- 9:00 pm **Live Auction – David Born**
- 9:30 pm **Special Guest – Keith Desserich**
Horse Haul
- 10:00 pm **Checkout**

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ABOUT OUR EMCEE ROSIE NGUYEN



Rosie is the Director of Communications and Projects in Free Expression at Rice University and a former Race & Culture reporter for ABC13 Houston (KTRK), as well as an Emmy Award winner. Fun fact: she was named Miss United Nations USA in 2013 and was born in the Year of the Horse. Please join me in giving Rosie a warm welcome—and congratulations—as she prepares to get married in just a few short weeks!

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LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET SCHEDULE



ABOUT KEITH DESSERICH

Keith Desserich is a father to Elena, a 6-year-old girl diagnosed with DIPG in 2006. Her dream was to one day be a teacher and a mom. Elena inspired the creation of The Cure Starts Now Foundation in 2007 and her heart artwork still serves as the logo for the charity. In 2010 her story was the subject of the New York Times Bestselling book, “Notes Left Behind”, released in 22 countries.

Keith and his wife Brooke founded The Cure Starts Now Foundation now located in 4 countries with nearly 60 chapters and have led to research at over 109 hospitals worldwide. He also founded the DIPG/DMG Collaborative (a group of 27+ independent foundations that work cooperatively to fund research). Collectively these efforts have resulted in nearly 200 projects and over \$42 million invested in research and support.

Keith is also a steering committee member of the DIPG/DMG International Registry, the SIOPE DIPG Registry, and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium. Professionally he has a 27-year background as a private-sector entrepreneur. He and his wife live in Ohio with their adult daughter Grace and youngest daughter Nina.

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XIE XIE! THANK YOU!

謝謝



Thank you for attending tonight and helping to support pediatric brain cancer research. You have a heart of gold!

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Dr. Cynthia Woo And Mayor Andy Chan

GOLD SPONSORS

P.S. Affairs Event Planning

Dr. Henry and Althea Lee

LIVE AUCTION DONATIONS

**Hill Country Lake House on Lake Travis with Whole Foods Basket—
*The Lees and Whole Foods***

**In Green Pastures Original Art —
*By Artist Josiah Wu***

**Celebrity Chef Roshni Dinner Party for 10 & HEB Gift Card—
*Chef Roshni Gurnani
Shaily Pasi and The Lees***

**Bourbon Collectors Basket —
*The Cure Starts Now***

**Three Texans Tickets & \$100 Blood Bros. BBQ Gift Card—
*Paul and Jacquelyn Coleman
Anna Pi***

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XIE XIE! THANK YOU!

謝謝



THANK YOU TO OUR LIVE AUCTION DONORS

Lake Travis House & Whole Foods Basket- The Lees and Whole Foods
Celebrity Chef Dinner Party of 10 – Chef Rosh
In Green Pastures Original Art – Josiah Wu
Bourbon Basket – The Cure Starts Now
3 Texans Tickets & \$100 Blood Bros. Gift Card – The Colemans & Anna Pi

HOUSTON HEARTS OF GOLD COMMITTEE

Pitsami Norm with P.S. Affairs Event Planning – Decor and Flowers
Andy Chan – Printing
Cameron Chan – Photography
Jacquelyn Coleman – Solicitations
Theresa Leong – Solicitations
Rosie Nguyen – Emcee
Shaily Pasi – Solicitations
Laura Shelby – Horse Haul

Basket Volunteers:

Felice Chen, Ching Chan, Janie Ong, Robyn Harrison,
Jacqueline Wright, and Shery Zachariah

ExxonMobile Employees – Horse Haul Volunteers
Yuti, Thomas, and Sophia Yang, Peter and Ellen Khoo

National Charity League Ticktockers and Mothers – Volunteers

DONATIONS: csnevents.org/LunarNewYear





XIE XIE! THANK YOU!

謝謝



THANK YOU TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A.D. Players at the George Theater | Lizzie G. Designs |
| Alley Theater | Local Foods |
| Amy's Ice Cream | Massage Envy |
| Andretti' Karting | Main Street Theater |
| Bertha Rosella - G & S Automotive | Mia's Table |
| Cabo Bob's | Allen and Nga Maurer |
| Catan Studios | Memorial MRI & Diagnostics |
| The Cheesecake Factory | ML2 Hair Design |
| Chloe Shroud – Faster Way to Fat Loss | Momentum Indoor Climbing |
| Drawer By Drawer | My Simple Scan |
| Dream Dinners | National Charity League |
| G&S Automotive | Nothing Bundt Cakes |
| Hai Hospitality (Uchi) | Palace Social |
| Henry and Althea Lee | Rudy's BBQ |
| Houston Arboretum & Nature Center | Sonia GT |
| Houston Botanic Garden | Stages Theater |
| Houston Dynamo | Taste of Texas |
| Houston Museum of Natural Science | Thai Cottage |
| Houston Pickleball Center | The Cure Starts Now |
| Houston Swim Club | Theatre Under the Stars |
| Houston Symphony | The Houston Astros |
| The Houston Zoo | Thuy Tran |
| Paul and Jacquelyn Coleman | Top Golf |
| Josephine's Day Spa and Salon | Trader Joe's |
| Kendra Scott | Whole Foods |
| Lee Austin Condo | |

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THE LION DANCE



The lion symbolizes power, wisdom, and superiority. The lion dance is a traditional performance during Lunar New Year and other celebrations to bring prosperity and good luck. The loud drums and cymbals scare off bad spirits. It is considered lucky for spectators to “feed” the lion red packets filled with money.

You are invited to participate in this tradition and bring “good fortune” for the coming year, filling the red packets at your table with a couple dollars if you like. When the lion approaches the table, slowly wave the packet back and forth. As the lion dances, he will open his mouth for you to pass the red packet. ***Red packet contents are considered a donation for the Unity Lion Dance martial arts troupe performance.***

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WHAT IS LUNAR NEW YEAR?



Lunar New Year

Rooted in the ancient Chinese lunar calendar, the basis of Chinese New Year, it served as a religious, dynastic, and social guide. Oracle bones from the 14th century BC, during the Shang Dynasty, evidence its existence.

Preparations include a thorough housecleaning to dispel any inauspicious breaths, known as “huiqi,” accumulated during the old year. Ritual sacrifices of food and paper icons are dedicated to gods and ancestors. Lucky scrolls adorn household gates, and firecrackers are set off to ward off evil spirits. Elders bestow money upon children.

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year holds utmost significance in China, tied to the lunar calendar. It’s a time-honored occasion to pay homage to household deities, heavenly beings, and ancestors. Traditionally, it fosters family unity through feasting. After adopting the Western calendar in 1912, the grand tradition perseveres. The Chinese version of “Happy New Year!” is conveyed through the greeting “Gong hei fat choy,” signifying wishes for happiness and prosperity.

Chinese New Year Feast

Central to the celebration is the feast! On Chinese New Year’s Eve, the extended family gathers around the table for a symbolic home cooked meal. Each dish carries meaning, consumed with hopes of growing family fortune, health, and prosperity.

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Traditional Chinese Dinner

EGGROLLS AND SALAD



CRAB MEAT WITH FISH MAW SOUP



SUMMER DELIGHT SALAD



SHRIMP PASTE WRAPPED ASPARAGUS



ROASTED FREE RANGE CHICKEN



BRAISED ABALONE MUSHROOM WITH VEGETABLES



PEKING DUCK



FRIED SHRIMP WITH WALNUT



SPECIAL FRIED RICE



MANGO PUDDING DESSERT



IN HONOR OF



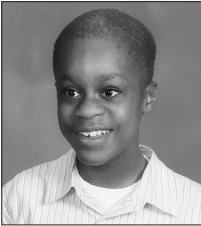
Nicole Lee, Forever 7

The Houston chapter was formed in honor of Nicole Lee. She fulfilled her dream to be a teacher and artist. She teaches us to never give up hope for a cure and inspires us to see the beauty in life.



Lara Pasi, Forever 7

Lara was full of energy and a bright ray of sunshine. She always stood up for her big brothers whenever they were in trouble. Lara absolutely loved school and her teachers. Lara battled bravely for 13 months.



Paul Coleman III, Forever 12

Paul was a sweet, loving child. Though he had Fragile X Syndrome and was nonverbal, he never let that hold him back. Paul charmed nurses into rapping Green Eggs and Ham to him. Paul was extraordinary.



Corbin Burnett, Forever 10

Corbin loved playing baseball, riding his dirt bike, and spending time with his siblings and friends. At age 10, he taught his community about the beauty of God's grace during his ten-month battle with DIPG.



Mateo Sparkman, Forever 7

Mateo loved all things cats—especially his cats, Fatty and Luna. He loved being in the water and playing soccer. Mateo told us that when he went to heaven, he would paint sunsets with God.

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THE CURE STARTS NOW

What do we do?



The Cure Starts Now's mission is to find the Homerun Cure™ TO ALL CANCERS, by funding grants worldwide into pediatric brain cancer.

- **Direct 97% of all donations** fund pediatric brain cancer research.
- **Created the DIPG/DMG Registry** – the first international database of brain tissue samples from child donors for researcher use.
- **Founded the DIPG/DMG Collaborative** – a coalition of foundations that believes it can make a larger impact by funding DIPG research.
- **Hosted an annual International Pediatric Brain Cancer Symposium** – researchers together from around the world to collaborate, inspire, and challenge one another.
- **Expanding our reach with over 60 chapters** in four countries.
- **Formed a Medical Advisory Council** – doctors studies the grant requests and directs funds to the most promising research.
- This nonprofit is **run by families**

Sadly, we spend 3-5 times the amount of research money per patient on most adult cancers than we do on children's cancers. (dipg.org)





LIVE AUCTION #1
TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
Lake Travis Lakehouse &
\$150 Whole Foods Basket



Four bedrooms, 3.5 bathroom:
Bedroom #1: One King bed
Bedroom #2: One Queen Bed
Bedroom #3: One Queen Bed
Bedroom #4: Ten-person bunkroom
(Four full beds and two twins)

5 Days and 4 Nights Lake Travis Treehouse in Spicewood
Sleeps up to 16 & \$150 Whole Foods Basket

Situated in the Texas Hill Country, you'll witness sunrises and sunsets from the same porch with the 180 degree vista.

Subject to availability. Expires October 31, 2026. Excludes holiday weekends.

- 4 bedrooms, 3 .5 bath, you'll find ample space for everyone to unwind and rejuvenate
- 2-story home in a gated community
- Lakefront house on Lake Travis
- 2-story porches
- A generous 10-person bunkroom
- Community pickleball courts and pool



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LIVE AUCTION #2
IN GREEN PASTURES
Art by the Josiah Wu



We are so excited to shine a light on Josiah Wu, a freshman Business Honors major at Texas A&M University who is already making an incredible impact.

For the 3 years, Josiah has participated in the Houston Livestock Show, showcasing his stunning series on Indian

Warriors. Year after year, his pieces have been selected out of thousands of submissions and sent to auction, raising an astounding \$125,000 cumulatively! Not bad at all for a business major with a big heart and a bold vision!

Josiah has a natural gift, one that God has clearly blessed him with, and he has chosen to use it in the most meaningful way: raising money to support scholarships, education, and children in need. Again, Josiah will be serving our community with his donation of Horses for our live auction in celebration of The Year of the Horse. Any bidders starting at the \$30,000 range?

His parents, Cindy and David Wu, couldn't be prouder. Their family has long served our community through founding Mosaic Formation and many years of dedicated work with refugee ministry, living out compassion through action.

Please join us in celebrating Josiah Wu for his beautiful donation to pediatric brain cancer research and The Cure Starts Now. Your talent, faith, and generosity are changing lives, Josiah — and we are so grateful.



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LIVE AUCTION #3
CELEBRITY CHEF ROSH
Dinner party for 10



Enjoy a dinner for ten in the comfort of your own home cooked by Food Network Champion Celebrity Chef Roshni Gurnani. Chef Rosh will create a personalized menu for you and your guests to enjoy. Date to be decided by winner and chef.

She's a champion on Chopped, a competitor on Hell's Kitchen, has gone head-to-head on Beat Bobby Flay, and most recently appeared on Alex vs. America. Now, you have the chance to bring ChefRoshni into your own home for an unforgettable dinner party for you and 10 of your closest friends—plus a \$250 H-E-B gift card to get you started!

*** GROCERIES AND ALCOHOL ARE NOT PROVIDED.**

Expires February 21, 2027. Black out dates discussed by chef to winner.





LIVE AUCTION #4

BOURBON *Collector's Basket*



Indulge in a rare and exceptional curated collection featuring

Eagle Rare
Buffalo Trace
Angel's Envy
Bardstown

And the ultra-rare George T. Stagg.

For both seasoned collectors and bourbon enthusiasts alike.

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LIVE AUCTION #5

3 TEXANS TICKETS &
\$100 BLOOD BROS. BBQ GIFT CARD
For Home Regular Season



Cheer on the Texans in person! Enjoy three tickets to any one Houston Texans home game and experience the excitement of NFL action live at NRG Stadium.

Field ticket are located in:
Section 113 Row JJ
Seats 17, 18, and 19

These seats in NRG Stadium offers a lower-level, corner-side-line view, providing a balanced perspective of the field or stage. You'll have an elevated, pan-

oramic sightline of the action. The seats are located on the corner/endzone side of the stadium, which is excellent for watching scoring plays develop. Kick off the excitement early with this James Beard Award-winning Blood Bros. BBQ \$100 gift card.



Winner needs to claim tickets by August 31, 2026.

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CHINESE ZODIAC SIGNS

2026 is the Year of the Horse

Imaginative, passionate, wise, and intense. People born in this year are popular, cheerful, and quick to compliment others. They are very good at keeping a crowd entertained. 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954



RAT

Imaginative, passionate, wise, intense. Most compatible with Dragon or Monkey. **2008, 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, 1948, 1936**



OX

Bright, inspiring, patient, and hard working. Marry a Snake or a Rooster. **2009, 1997, 1985, 1973, 1961, 1949, 1938**



TIGER

Loyal, courageous, generous, and enthusiastic. A Horse or Dog will bring you happiness. **2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950, 1937**



RABBIT

Shy, discreet, prudent, and honest. Luckiest sign. Ram or boar is your ideal partner. **2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939**



DRAGON

They possess authority, prosperity and good fortune. **2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940**



SNAKE

They possess wisdom and work imperceptibly so as to achieve their goals. **2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953**



GOAT

Bright, inspiring, patient, and hard working. Marry a Snake or a Rooster. **2015, 2003, 1991, 1979, 1967, 1955**



MONKEY

Intelligent, influential, and ambitious. A gifted achiever. Avoid Tigers, seek a Dragon or a Rat. **2016, 2004, 1992, 1980, 1968, 1956**



ROOSTER

Obliging, pioneering, and brave. A little vain with a need for appreciation. Rabbits are trouble. Ox or Snake ideal. **2017, 2005, 1993, 1981, 1969, 1957**



DOG

Loyal, faithful, and unselfish with a need for tenderness. Look to the Horse or Tiger but avoid Dragons. **2018, 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970, 1958, 1946**



PIG

Tolerant, persevering, and chivalrous. Prosperous and generous. Avoid other Boars and marry a Ram or Rabbit. **2019, 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971, 1959, 1947, 1935**