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Silicon Valley's Dining Out for Life adds touch of celebrity with appearances by celebrity chef Suvir Saran

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Silicon Valley's annual Dining Out for Life fundraiser has a guest star this year--chef Suvir Saran.

Saran is currently a contestant on the Top Chef Masters reality cooking show and executive chef at New York's Devi, the only Indian restaurant in the United States to have earned a Michelin star.

He will be in Silicon Valley on April 28 and 29.

On the 28th he will make surprise visits to some of the more than 40 restaurants participating in Dining Out For Life. A list of restaurants is online at www.healthtrust.org/diningoutforlife, and each has pledged to donate a minimum of 25 percent of their food sales on the 28th to support The Health Trust AIDS Services, which helps individuals with AIDS with food baskets, hot meal delivery, housing and benefits assistance as well as non-medical case management.

"It is so important for people with a chronic disease like those living with HIV/AIDS to pay attention to nutrition and eat well," Saran said in a statement supporting the local efforts.

In a recent television interview on CNN, Saran said, "I find no place in my life and in this world for lethargy when dealing with any disease that can kill and affect millions. HIV/AIDS has changed the face of our world. It has taken away from us lives that were full of spirit, hope, future and promise without much done to prevent that loss."

San Jose restaurants participating in

Dining Out for Life are: Citrus in Santana Row;

Kaama Lounge & Restaurant, 385 S. Winchester Blvd.; Las Cazuelas Restaurant, 55 Race St.; Time Delicatessen & Catering, 349 S. Bascom Ave.; and Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge and Restaurant, The Loft Bar and Bistro, Morocco's Restaurant and Paolo's Restaurant in downtown.

In addition to his personal appearances at some of the Dine Out for Life restaurants, Saran will visit The Health Trust Food Basket, 44 Race St., San Jose on April 29 at 12:30 p.m. He will give a talk and demonstration on healthy cooking and be joined by Joyce Goldstein, the well-known San Francisco chef and cookbook author. There is no charge, but due to space limitations, reservations are necessary to Jon Breem at jonb@healthtrust.org.

Later on April 29, at 7 p.m., Saran will appear in conversation with Carolyn Jung, a James Beard Award-winning food writer, for a conversation at the India Community Center, 525 Los Coches St., Milpitas.

Tickets for that event are \$55 and include hors d'oeuvres inspired by Saran's recipes and prepared by Amber Café Chef Vittal Shetty. Proceeds from the evening will be split between The Health Trust AIDS Services program and the India Community Center. They can be purchased at www.indiacc.org/suvisaran.

An online auction for dinners for two at Saran's restaurant in New York and a meal for eight prepared by him in a private Bay Area home is taking place at www.healthtrust.org through May 12.

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