



SHOULDN'T THE FIRST GIFT YOU OPEN THIS CHRISTMAS BE FROM GOD?

You are invited to a celebration and the miracle of God's amazing gift – the birth of Jesus Christ.

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 433 Moraga Way in Orinda
 (925) 254-3422
 www.holyshepherd.org

Christmas Eve Worship Services
 4:00 p.m. – "Joy to the World!"
 (A FAMILY-FOCUSED CELEBRATION)
 6:00 p.m. – "The First Noel"
 (A CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE)
 10:00 p.m. – "Silent Night"
 (A CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE)

Campus Happenings



Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; www.kcyoungfineartimages.com

Art Exhibitions:

"Footloose in Arcadia: Artists and Authors of Piedmont from 1890 to 1930"
 Nov. 3 to Dec. 16
 In celebration of the centennial of the City of Piedmont, the Hearst Art Gallery has organized this exhibition of the region's early artists and writers. Turn of the century Piedmont was home to Jack London, who wrote the Sea Wolf and Call of the Wild while living in Piedmont. He was part of the local artistic and

literary bohemians that included George Sterling, Herman Whitaker, and Xavier Timateo Martinez. The Reverend Joseph Worcester, the first Swedenborgian minister in San Francisco, designed and built his own home and was one of the first to design a structure that was harmonious with nature - he influenced architects Bernard Maybeck and Willis Polk. In 1901 Jack London moved into Worcester's cottage. William Keith painted several versions of the Worcester cottage; three are included in the exhibition. Hearst Art Gallery
"William Keith: The 1880s Paintings"
 Works from the 1880s, which marked a decade of great changes in William Keith's life. On view in the William Keith Room Hearst Art Gallery

Exhibition hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
 Admission: \$3 adult; children 12 and under free; free parking
 Web site: <http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu>.
 Telephone: 925-631-4379

For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/news-and-events/events.html>.

Seniors' Awareness and Education Help Stave Off Financial Predators

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An important issue, McCall says, is many seniors grew up during the Depression and have a lifelong personality trait of being open to helping others. "They want to help people who are down on their luck. People who are open and friendly don't expect to be scammed," she said. "They see themselves as nice and helping out. They have a basic personality of trust."

Unfortunately, EFPN notes that once a senior has been targeted, there is a tendency for the perpetrators to repeatedly prey upon the elder until all their resources are gone.

So what can be done? The California Commission on Aging states the best way to avoid becoming a victim is through awareness, prevention, and education.

O'Malley agrees. "Seniors need to make a decision about steps they are going to take well in advance before anyone knocks on the door," he said. "Have a checklist already in place, so if you get an offer, you say 'I'll get back to you,' immediately go to your list and start calling agencies like Adult Protective Services, Consumer Protective Services or even the SEC to check them out. Don't sign anything until you run it by somebody."

EFPN CEO and executive director Jenefer Duane adds that seniors should plan ahead for their needs and be very careful who they appoint to manage their affairs in the event they are unable. "Be very diligent about checking references of persons you hire - it's best to involve a friend or family



members in the interview and hiring process," she said. "And never give out personal financial information to anyone who calls you on the phone or comes to the door. Don't be rushed into a deal, stay away from living trust seminars, hang up on telemarketers, shred old financial documents and offers you receive in the mail."

If elders suspect they, or someone else, has been exploited or victimized, they should call adult protective services and report the situation. "If the elder is in danger or a crime has been committed, call the police," Duane said. "The identity of the reporter is kept confidential."

To report suspected elder abuse call the Attorney General's hotline at (888) 436-3600. Or to get more information, you can attend the free EFPN workshop, "Be Wise: Prevent Scams, Fraud, and Identity Theft," on Jan. 17 at the Lafayette Community Center (500 St. Mary's Road). For information on the seminar, call (925) 284-5050.

Letting the Beauty of Mature Women Shine

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The tall and slender Lafayette resident looks like she's walked the runways in high heels all her life. It is not the case though and it seems that starting this new career is allowing her to own the power and joy she always had but was a little shy to let shine. This may be the case of many aging baby boomers. "We are under-represented in the market," affirms Menzies, "we want to affirm who we are and re-conquer our self-esteem."

The challenge for these two women and others working with Lippincott will be to build a successful business. Lippincott is optimistic: "Three out of five women who start in the profession of mature modeling will make it," she says, "the market is there, and success will come to the ones who have endurance and commitment."

Lippincott continues to look for such women. She regularly organizes "open calls" where women come in and audition; Lippincott and her team decide who they will accept as clients. "I choose women

who can tell the truth, who embrace the beautiful flaws that come with a certain age, rather than erase them. I need to see that sparkle in their eye. Height and weight are less a factor than energy, determination and motivation.

A beautiful woman in her mid-fifties went to an open call in Lafayette recently. After the interview she was a little confused. "It sounded like a talent agency, and it looks like they have a lot of connections and opportunities for jobs," the woman said, "but then they kept talking to us about business. I'm interested in modeling and there is a need for mature women doing it, but I do not have the time to do my own marketing."

Camras and Menzies both know what it means to be freelance and as part of their marketing strategy, they are going to New York in March to participate in an international fashion convention where they will get exposure. They'll go as part of a group with Lippincott, who has been successful at this event in the past.

Not to be missed

THEATER AND MUSIC

CAPA performs The Nutcracker Dec 14th, 15th and 16th. For specific show times and tickets, please contact www.capadance.net or call 925-376-2454.

Student Matinees: If your child's school class would like to come to a Student Nutcracker performance, please contact Nancy Falk at nancy.falk@gmail.com, Student Performances are 9:30am and 12pm on Wed Dec 12 and 13th at the Rheem Theater in Moraga.

The Miramonte Jazz Band's Annual Winter Wonderland Tour is set for Friday, Dec, 21 from 8 am until noon. The Band will perform holiday favorites at the AUHSD offices at about 9 am and then at Orinda Theater Square around 10:30 am Don't miss this exciting community event.

Lafayette Town Hall Theatre Company Presents Miracle on 34th Street Through Dec 29th Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for exact dates and times Rating - Appropriate for all Ages. Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street at Moraga Rd, Lafayette 925-283-1557 or www.thtc.org

"Christmas at the Biltmore", an original play by Brentwood local Steve Kinsella, is a heartwarming and touching story of individuals all coming to spend their Christmas vacation at the New England bed and breakfast, Biltmore Hotel.

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek through Dec 15th. Tickets \$20. Discounts for groups, youth and seniors. Order at www.christiantheatre.org.

Christmas Gifts Wrapped in Music Sunday, Dec 16 at 4. Where else can you hear a boldly updated Christmas spiritual, a carol from the Canadian Huron tribe led by tom-toms, a jazzy snap

of musical sass, and a news flash about Santa's recent surgery? It's all here with choirs, bells, xylophones and audience participation. At Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane (behind the car wash) in Lafayette. Free admission.

ART

Orinda artists Peggy Moulton and Liz Piatt will be showing their art in the Orinda Library Art Gallery through Dec 15. The large case will feature Peggy's fiber art with emphasis on her whimsical cats-all embroidered and stitched by hand. The smaller case will be filled with Liz's handmade 3-D Christmas scenes-everything from Seven Maids amilking to The Old Woman in the Shoe. Bring your kids. Orinda Library Gallery 24 Orinda Way, (925) 254-2184

Moraga Art Gallery "Texture and Light" through Jan 6th. Featuring the work of Pat Smith, who likes to experiment with different art forms: watercolor, acrylic painting, printmaking, photography and fiber arts. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center/next to Longs Drugs Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm. 925.376 5407

Lafayette Gallery "Envisioning the Season" through Dec 23rd. A special show that captures the spirit and the glow of the holiday season. A holiday reception will be held at the Gallery (50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette) on Nov 30, 7-9 pm.

"Capturing the Light: a Retrospective" solo exhibit by Bay Area photographer Wenda Pyman. Her body of work shown here are Landscapes, Scenics and Nature, mostly concentrating on the local Diablo area and beyond. Moraga Public Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd, Moraga, 925.376.8294 Open Tuesday through Sunday, hours vary.

"Mt. Diablo A Personal View" - The Photography of Sue Reynolds. Through Feb 28. Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave, Walnut Creek

OTHER EVENTS

Aegis of Moraga Open House 8th Anniversary Celebration! Thursday, Dec 13th 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Sip champagne and sample holiday refreshments, enjoy listening to seasonal music performances and enjoy our beautiful décor.

Santa Claus is coming to La Festa Square Lafayette welcomes everyone this holiday season to take home a free photo with Santa. Dec 15, 2007 from 11 am to 3 pm .Visitors will be able to find Santa located at Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria.

The Lafayette Library invites you to participate in Warm Up America!, a nationwide organization that brings communities together through knitting for charity. If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn how, come to our Knitting Night Dec 19th from 6:30-7:30pm, where we'll work on squares that will eventually be joined together as an afghan to donate in our community. All ages and abilities encouraged to come! If you can't make it but would still like to help, you can drop off 7 by 9" swatches (any color, pattern, or stitch), or yarn donations, at the library through Dec 21. RSVP to Rebekah in person or by phone at (925) 283-3872 Lafayette Library 952 Moraga Road Lafayette,

The Moraga Women's Society will hold its Dec Meeting on Monday, Dec 17th at 11am at the Hacienda. It will be a "pot luck" lunch followed by a "White Elephant" exchange. Donations will be accepted for "A Friendly Manor."

Lafayette Parks and Recreation winter session registration has begun. Go online to www.LafayetteRec.org or call us at 925-284-2232.

Moraga Parks and Recreation winter/spring online registration has begun. Go online to www.moraga.ca.us. Walk-in registration begins Dec 17th.

View Comet Holmes (while you still have a chance)- Fri & Sat Dusk-10:30pm- Comet Holmes was supposed to be a mere point of light but around Oct 24th, this comet blossomed, or erupted! To the unaided eye, it looks like a typical star but through our telescopes it appears as a puffy cotton ball with the nucleus visible, along with the gas and dust being ejected from it. This "surprise" comet will be fading from view so now's the time to check it out! Take a look at the spectacular photos taken by our Astronomer, Conrad Jung on our website www.chabotspace.org Get ready for Mars' close approach. The "Red Planet" rises around 7pm. Chabot Box Office at (510) 336-7373.

Winter Solstice Celebration at Tilden Nature Area. 4-6pm, Thu, Dec 20 #16630 Light your spirit with the warmth of community by a toasty fire, as the shortest day of the year approaches. Bring seasonal stories, poetry, or music to share. We will explore the solstice's cultural history on a short walk. Celebratory beverages and sweet treats provided. 6+yrs. Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757), option 2, 3 Fee: \$6 (non-res. \$8)

Nature Theater Sing-a-long Tilden Nature Area 11am-noon, Sat, Dec 22 'Wintertime at Little Farm' is an indoor puppet show that's fun for the whole family. Hear a story about life on our farm, and all the jobs of a farmer. For information, call 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757), option 3, x4564.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Our thanks to everyone who uses our free calendar to post events. Many of you have told us this has increased participation in local activities. Please continue to send in your notices. Our calendar is managed by Wendy Scheck.

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Please call David Watson / Communications Director - 283-2160



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