

◆ Not to be missed ◆

THEATER & MUSIC

Last weekend to see Lafayette Town Hall Theatre Company's Miracle on 34th Street.

Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for exact dates and times Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street at Moraga Road, Lafayette 925-283-1557 or www.thtc.org

Lafayette Town Hall Theatre presents "Moonlight and Magnolias" February 9 - March 15, 2008.

This story brings audiences into the inside of the office of legendary producer David O. Selznick during the final moments when he is transforming the best selling book, "Gone with the Wind," into one of the most beloved movies of all time. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for exact dates and times Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street at Moraga Road, Lafayette 925-283-1557 or www.thtc.org

ART

Moraga Art Gallery "Texture and Light" through January 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

During the Chinese New Year celebrations, Bedford gallery

will be inhabited by a group of larger-than-life ceramic figures by Chinese artist Wanxin Zhang. Inspired by the 8,000 clay figures discovered in the tomb of China's first emperor, Zhang's warriors forge a remarkable visual passage from past to present. Opening

Reception—Sun, Jan 13, 3-5 pm. Please join us for a special event featuring Chinese musicians and dancing dragons. Refreshments hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild. Admission \$3. Free for Friends of the Bedford and members of DRAA.

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

LITERATURE

World Affairs Book Group will discuss "Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy" by Fawaz A. Gerges on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at Orinda Books. The purpose of the World Affairs Book Group is to enlarge our understanding of important issues through reading and discussion. New members are always welcome. There are no membership requirements or obligations. For information, call Daisy Daymond, Group Leader, at 935-1565.

Orinda Library presents El Cerrito writer, Shelly Ravioli, whose book, "Travels with Baby: The Ultimate Guide for Planning Trips with Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool-Age Children," on Wed., Jan. 9 from 10:30 -11:30 am. There will be a Preschool Storytime in the library during the program for little ones. Free. Orinda Library Gallery Room at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda.

The Friends of the Moraga Library present a visit with Carol Pogash, author of *Seduced by Madness: the true story of the Susan Polk Murder Case.* Tue, Jan 15, 7pm Moraga Library

Teens Speak Out About What It Means to be an American (On-

going Event) Wednesday, January 02, 2008 - Thursday, January 31, 2008 Lafayette Library - Acalanes High School Essay Display "Is the American Dream Still Alive?"

OTHER EVENTS

Teens Knit Mon, January 14 at 4pm at the Lafayette Library. Find a new and productive way to relax after school. Impress friends and family with your mad skills. Take a more active role in the flowering evolution of your wardrobe... Learn to knit for teens: Middle School and High School

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

Stretch, tone and reduce stress with Yoga for All Ages, learn to play real songs from the Beatles, Santana and Green Day in just a few weeks at Beginning Guitar. Learn to knit, dance and many other things through Moraga Parks and Recreation winter/spring classes. Registration has begun: www.moraga.ca.us

Men's Basketball Open Gym starting Sat, Jan 19th from 7-9pm at Joaquin Moraga School in Moraga. \$5 per player/night. For more information contact Gerald De Venuta at 817-8429 or the Moraga Parks and Recreation Dept at 925-888-7045.

Moraga Garden Club's annual salad luncheon. - January 17, 9:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Horticulturist/Floral Designer will speak and create Gorgeous Winter Blooms. For information contact Mardi Potts at (925) 376-2004.

Montelindo Garden Club will host a special winter speaker series starting on Fri, Jan 18th with Dick Turner, Editor of Pacific Horticultural Magazine. The events will be held at the Orinda Community Church, #10 Irwin Way, Orinda at 10:00AM. They are free to the public. Refreshments will be served, followed by the speaker.

The Moraga Movers' first monthly luncheon of the new year will be held on January 14. The guest speaker is Carol Ryan, Business Development Director for Holland America Cruise Line. She will share some of Holland's offerings in a DVD presentation, and discuss the two sailings that will be offered to interested members - the Sea of Cortez and Canada/New England cruises. Lunch reservations must be made by Jan 9. Sign up on the bulletin board in La Sala at the Hacienda.

FREE e-waste recycling event at Diablo Valley College, in Pleasant Hill, on Fri, Jan 4th from 12 - 5pm and Sat and Sun, Jan 5th and 6th, from 9am - 3pm. The event is open to any California resident, business, school, etc. Drop off is FREE and items accepted include tv's, monitors, computers, and more - with no limit! Visit www.noewaste.com or call toll free, (866) 335-3373 for electronic items accepted and detailed event info. Sponsored by Electronic Waste Management, a state-approved e-waste collector.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

RITES vs. Rights: Women of Islam

Submitted by Gloria Weston


On Tuesday, January 8, the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women will present RITES vs. RIGHTS, Women of Islam, an informative panel discussion on a very timely subject: Equality and Suppression in the Muslim World. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga.

Members of the panel will include Guity Kiani, originally from Iran and currently a retired founder, executive director and counselor for the Center for New Americans; Wafaa Aborashed, who has

been involved with the United Nations and Women's Interfaith groups since immigrating from Jordan; Dr. William Davis, J.D., who has done extensive studies on gender bias, and has provided technical, management and advisory services to help developing and transitioning societies navigate the challenges they face. Branch member Jaleh Kilpatrick will facilitate the panel discussion and an audience question-and-answer time following the presentation.

For more information on this meeting and on the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of AAUW, please visit their website: www.aauwoml.org.

Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com;
Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor:
The good works of fine young men need to be heralded — and you are doing that! Thank you for your excellent coverage of the Lt. Michael Gerson's activity with Iraqi Boy Scouts and on Nick Piatt's outstanding Eagle Service Project. Lt. Gerson is applying what he learned as a boy scout doing his Eagle Service Project and is investing his time in a project that he hopes will help build in Iraqi youth a sense of national unity. Whether he will achieve that or

not is not as important as the effort. As Lt. Gerson knows, whether or not any good comes of our good efforts, we may never know. But what we do know is that if no good is done, no good will happen. Nick took on a huge project, but that did not phase him because he was focused on the benefit the project would do for the kids at JM. Good "kids" doing good things — we need to hear about them. Thank you. Thomas J. McIntosh, Moraga

Lamorinda Weekly is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, CA

Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com

We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input:

- Letters to the editor (max 350 words) - letters@lamorindaweekly.com
- Sport events/stories/pictures - sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
- Art, theater, community events - calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
- Business news or business press releases - business@lamorindaweekly.com
- School stories/events - schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com
- General interest stories - storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Publisher: Andy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, phone 925-330-7916
Associate Publisher: Wendy Wueth-Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: Wendy Wueth-Scheck; 925-377-0977, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

25,000 printed copies; 23,300 mailed to homes and businesses in Lamorinda. 1,200 delivered to pick up locations. Layout Andy Scheck, Moraga. Printed in California.

Staff Writers:
Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com
Andrea A. Firth; andrea@lamorindaweekly.com
Contributing Writers:
Jean Follmer, Linda U. Foley, David Anderson
Sports Reporters:
Kevin Shallat; kevin@lamorindaweekly.com
Intern: Alex Crook, Sports Reporter
Photos:
Tod Fierner, Jordan Fong, Gavin Schlissel

Campus Happenings




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

Lectures/Special Events/Performances:
"Focus the Nation: Global

Warming Solutions for America"
The event, which includes a day-long Eco-Fair and evening symposium, is part of a national teach-in on climate change called Focus the Nation that will involve more than 1,000 colleges, schools, civic groups and faith organizations during the last week of January. The symposium culminates the Saint Mary's College Focus the Nation event with experts discussing the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change and what it will take to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2 percent over the next decade.

Wednesday, Jan. 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eco-Fair); 7 p.m. (Symposium); Soda Center Free
For info, visit: <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/news-and-events/focus-the-nation/index.html>
"Fireworks"
Hailed as "the hottest classical band in New York," Fireworks redefines the chamber music experience with its fusion of classical, rock, jazz and world music traditions. These classically trained musicians will take you on a whirlwind tour of dance music from Johann Strauss to Duke Ellington, the Bee Gees, and much more. Sponsored by The Committee for Lectures, Art and Music at Saint Mary's College. Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. Soda Activity Center. Tickets are \$25 general; \$20 Seniors (over 65); \$12 Non-Saint Mary's students, SMC faculty and staff and; \$2 Saint Mary's students
For info, call (925) 631-4381

THINKING ABOUT REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS?

We offer property investments that provide individual investors access to real estate opportunities previously only available to university endowments, insurance companies, pension funds, and the mega-wealthy. Help balance your investments portfolio by adding institutional-grade real estate, such as apartment communities, regional shopping centers, and Class "A" office buildings. Investment opportunities starting at \$50K.

OVER 20 YEARS OF ASSISTING CLIENTS WITH THEIR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS... CONTACT US TODAY.



Christian Mirner
Exec VP - Real Estate



Mark Johanson
Exec VP - Client Services



Tomas Velken
Senior VP - Real Estate

Consult Locally. Invest Nationally.

1031 Exchange Options
National Headquarters: 1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 5th Floor, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
national: 800.675.2424 | local: 925.942.1031
www.1031exchangeoptions.com




Art Exhibitions:
"Pinturas de Fe: The Retablo Tradition in Mexico and New Mexico"
Pilgrimage, procession, and the creation of home altars and shrines are ancient religious practices that endure today in many cultures around the world. This exhibition tells the story of one such tradition as it evolved in the Americas from the time of the Spanish Conquest to the present day. Today, individual artists faithfully carry on the tradition of hand painted retablos, and contemporary artists from diverse cultural backgrounds draw creative inspiration from this popular art form. Exhibition opens Jan. 12 and runs through April 6
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>.

This is neither an offer to sell, nor an offer to buy real estate securities. There are material risks associated with the ownership of real estate, including, but not limited to, potential for property value decrease, illiquidity, change of tax status, the impact of fees/expenses which potentially may outweigh tax benefits of the real estate, and loss of direct control of real estate. You must be an accredited investor. Securities offered through Sigma Financial Corporation, Member FINRA/SIPC.