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• COMMUNITY Service •

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities.

Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, with the subject header In Service to the Community.

MCC Hosts Charity Kitchen Tour

By Ben Olsen



Featured kitchens

Photos Rich Anderson

The Second Annual Moraga Country Club kitchen tour will be held on Thursday, October 1st from 4 to 7pm. The event will feature five fabulous kitchen remodels and benefits Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The kitchens are a delight to see. The sizes and styles vary greatly and showcase the latest styles and trends. Wine and appetizers will be served at each of the homes.

Moraga Country Club provides a great venue for the event because all of the homes on tour are in close proximity to one another. It is fun for Moraga Country Club homeowners to see what others have done with a similar home, but it is equally fun for others to see these exceptional kitchens, and ex-

perience some of the finest homes in Moraga Country Club.

This year, all five kitchens were completed within the last 18 months – be careful, some were completed so recently that the paint might still be wet! Themes range from traditional to modern, and include a wide variety of materials.

Sue Olsen, a very active real estate broker in Lamorinda and in the Country Club, was inspired to put the first tour together in 2008 when she noticed that a large number of neighbors were visiting her open houses just to ‘get ideas’ for their own homes. While neighbors are always welcome at open houses, Sue realized that they were not always seeing the best kitchens with the newest designs.



Tickets are \$20 per person, are fully tax deductible and are available at Across the Way, Moraga Country Club office or through the tour website at www.MC-CHomeTour.com. Carpooling is encouraged. Take advantage of the large parking lot near the driving range on St. Andrews Drive to meet up with friends and tour together.

A raffle will also be held as part of the event. Prizes include Golf foursomes at Moraga Country Club, Golf and Tennis lessons, Pilates instruction at Star Pilates, a magnum of Opus One, a \$75 Amoroma gift certificate, design consultations and more. Raffle tickets will be 5 for \$10.

A special thanks to Moraga Women's Golf Association and the

Moraga Country Club Women's Nine Hole Golf Association for support and volunteers at this event. Thanks to Moraga Country Club for providing appetizers for the event, and thanks to R&B Cellars and Rick Curotto, Southern Wine and Spirits and Richard Canty, Sterling Albert Winery and Michele Strickland for donations of wine.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, the global leader of the breast cancer movement, has raised and invested more than \$1 billion since inception in 1982. As the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists, they are working together to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures.

Art – A Delightful Moment at Town Hall Theater

By Sophie Braccini



Picture courtesy of Town Hall Theater

French writer Yasmina Reza's "Art" opened at Town Hall Theater (THT) on September 3. Set in three Parisian apartments, the play tells the very humorous story of three men whose friendship hangs by a thread when one purchases an expensive piece of modern art.

Serge, a dermatologist who sees himself as a budding art collector, just bought a very controversial and expensive painting. He wants to share it with his friend Marc, a more traditional thinking engineer. Serge's enthusiasm is met with more than skepticism by his friend. As for Yvan, the third member of the friendship triangle, his desire to please everyone will just make things worse. A reflection on human relations and mod-

ern art, the play is a joyous comedy offered up at THT by three very strong local actors.

In 1995, 'Art' premiered in Paris and went on to win the Molière Award for Best Author. Since then it has been produced world-wide and translated and performed in over 30 languages. The play has been an international hit. The London production received the 1996-97 Laurence Olivier Award and Evening Standard Award. It also won the Tony Award for Best Play.

Clive Worsley, Town Hall Artistic Director, had seen the play in San Francisco and wanted to bring it to Lafayette. "One reason I chose this play is because I felt that it was relevant to many of us. I've known people who have had simi-

lar difficulties in friendships and relationships over disagreements about art or musical tastes."

Reza scrapes human relations and their motivations to the bone. The wry humor that ensues surprised and totally delighted a Lamorinda audience at a recent performance.

"I think it's an incredibly funny play, although not all productions of this piece play towards that comedy. Which I think is a shame," said Worsley. The text is efficient and funny, the setting by Maya Linke is simple, almost symbolic, but efficient at transporting the spectators from one apartment to the next. Director Soren Oliver highlights the play's humor and sets a fast paced and precise tempo.

The three actors are very experienced. Serge is played by Garth Petal. He gives the character an almost naïve strength and vigor that adds to the charm of the

play. James Hiser is a powerful Marc, leonine and self-righteous, his abruptness contrasts perfectly with Yvan's vulnerability, played with disarming humor by Dennis Markam.

The conclusion can be seen as cynical, an ultimate surrender to social standards. The Lafayette production leans more toward a hopeful and poetic conclusion, leaving the audience feeling enriched by the experience, and maybe a little bit more tolerant.

The Town Hall Theater, located at the corner of School Street and Moraga Way in Lafayette, was recently renovated after a fire. "Art" is the first play of the 2009-2010 season and will run until October 3rd. It will be followed by Scrooge from December 3rd to the 20th and Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest in March 2010. For reservations call 283-1557.

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