

Not to be missed

Video Games, and Facebook: Are They a Modern Means of Essential Connection or Tools of Addiction and Exploitation? Monday, February, 22 from 7:00 to 9:00p.m. at the Miramonte High School Theatre. Steven Freemire, MFT, will discuss the many issues parents and teens face navigating the exciting and ever-changing, yet potentially harmful world of communication technologies. For flyer see <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/parents/>. Click on "High School Information Nights."

Teens! Join the crew of the 46 foot S.S.S. (Sea Scout Ship) Sea Witch for a 2 night cruise to tour the Bay Model in Sausalito. The ship will depart the Martinez marina on Friday Feb. 26th at 6p.m, we'll tour the Bay Model & Sausalito Saturday Feb. 27th and return to the Martinez marina at approx. 1pm Sunday Feb. 28th. Cost is \$30 (includes cruise, meals and Bay Model tour). Space is limited. Sea Scouts is a non-profit youth maritime organization. No experience is required. Questions? Contact Communications Officer Mr. Rolf Lindenhayn at lindenhayn@sbcglobal.net (925) 917-0573.

Earthquakes: Build it, Shake it, Break it? Learn about different types of seismic waves & what it takes for structures to remain standing, then "be the quake" & see what happens! Arts & Science Discovery Center at LLC on Tues. Mar. 9. Session I: Grades 4 & 5, 3:15-4:00p.m. Session 2: Grade 6, 4:15-5:00 p.m. No fee. Sponsored by Chabot Space & Science Center. The Lafayette Library & Learning Center is at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. Consortium@lafayettelib.com.

Underage Drinking: Let's Change the Culture! Monday, March 8th, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Campolindo High School Library. The Symposium will be informative and eye-opening, providing parents with the tools needed to deter their teens from drinking. Hosted by Campolindo High School Parents Club and Healthy Choices Committee.

Prom season has arrived and The Princess Project is giving away free prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who can't afford to buy a dress. East Bay Dress Giveaway: Saturday, March 13. Location: 2201 Broadway, Oakland, CA. San Francisco Dress Giveaway: Saturday, March 20 and Saturday March 27. All high school girls who are in financial need of a prom dress welcome; no proof financial need is required but must bring a valid high school I.D. to receive a free dress. Each girl will be able to shop and choose one accessory and one gown from thousands of gowns of all different colors, sizes, fabrics and designers. May bring one female companion to help. Wristbands for a specific appointment time during that day are given on a first come, first serve basis and are typically all distributed by 8 am. Arrive early. More info., www.princessproject.org.

TAXES

Free Tax Preparation for the 2010 tax season will again be offered by Tax Aide's AARP sponsored program. The service is available starting February 2010 to low and moderate income taxpayers of any age but special attention will be given to seniors 60 plus. Please call (1-800) 510-2020 or (925) 335-8749 for Tax Aide locations in your community.

Tax Talks. Ray Alessio, a 7-year tax preparer with H&R Block and an enrolled agent will discuss the latest tax changes and new tax legislation for 2009 in a public forum. Not only is everyone free to ask any questions related to taxes, but there is no charge for this event. Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Saturday, February 20, Arts and Science Discovery Center at 1:00p.m.

FUN & GAMES

Lafayette's One and Only Pub Trivia will be held on Wednesday, February 24th, and March 31st. Trivia begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. and lasts approximately two-hours. The event will be held at Petar's, located at 32 Lafayette Circle in Lafayette. Get your friends, family, or co-workers together and form a team of two to five players. It's FREE to participate! Must be 21 years or older. Prizes awarded to winning teams. Pub food

and drinks are available. Email questions to pubtrivia@live.com for additional information.

"Live at the Orinda" Champagne Comedy Event on March 5th begins with a gala champagne reception at 7:00 p.m., followed by laugh-packed performances from five comedians starting at 8:00 p.m. Contact the Orinda Chamber of Commerce at (925) 254-3909 or visit the Chamber's website at <http://www.orindachamber.org>. (See article page L3)

Rotary Club of Moraga is staging its 8th Annual "A Nite at the Races" event, with no host cocktails, wine, and beer, a professionally catered dinner not including crab, video horse races and betting, and silent and live auction. The cost is \$40. Some winnings from betting can be applied to pay for silent auction items. It will be held Saturday night, March 13, 2010 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center on School Street in Moraga. For information and reservations, please contact Barbara Bruner at (925) 376-4281 (barbbruner@comcast.net). All proceeds from this event will fund local youth educational and humanitarian causes. Every dollar donated toward ending polio will be matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

OTHER

The Princess Project will be collecting new and nearly new formal gowns and accessories at The Bentley School in Lafayette until February 19. The organization is depending on the generosity of women and companies throughout the Bay Area to help send local girls to prom next spring. Dresses should be fashionable formal gowns, party or cocktail dresses in excellent condition, dry-cleaned and on hangers.

On Saturday February 27 at 10:00 a.m., tree pruning experts will be at McDonnell Nursery to discuss Fruit Tree Pruning. Please call or email to reserve a seat. (925) 254-3713 or info@mcdonnellnursery.com. McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way in Orinda. www.mcdonnellnursery.com.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, located at 451 Moraga Way in Orinda, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The highlight of the celebrations will be held on Sunday, March 7, starting with the worship celebration at 10:30 a.m., the Reverend Dr. Jim Current (pastor from 1976-1984) preaching, followed by a Gala Reception. Any and all members of the community are invited to join the congregation on this festive occasion. Alumni of the Nursery School are especially welcomed. If you have stories to tell or pictures to share, please pass them along! We will be compiling a booklet and slide show of submissions. For more information, contact Pastor Mark Zier, (925) 324-8130.

Acalanes High School's annual International Night is coming up March 18. We are currently looking for food donations, performers, and cultural clothing. Any of these would be much appreciated! Please email us at ahsdiversityboard@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 25, 6:00-8:00p.m., The Philosophy of Wine: An Introduction where wine expert Professor Chad Arnold will discuss the intricacies of winemaking ... and tasting. Adult program. Fee for materials \$15. Presented by St. Mary's College, a Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium partner at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Call (925) 293-6513 for reservations.

Emergency Preparedness for Individuals and Families on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:00-9:00p.m. Don't put it off any longer! This quick and easy session will help you prepare yourself and your family for the next earthquake whether you are at home, work, or out and about. Emphasis will be on earthquake preparation, but the information applies to other emergencies as well. Bring pencil and paper. Materials will be provided. Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd. in the Elderberry Room (back parking lot). Class is taught by the Emergency Preparedness Commission and is FREE. Register by calling the Lafayette Community Center at 284-2232.

Neighborhood Captains' Training,

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00-8:30p.m. This session is designed to help you organize your block or neighborhood in becoming self-sufficient for the first 72 hours following a major disaster. Prior attendance at a basic preparedness class, CERT or Red Cross class is recommended, but not required. Bring pencil and paper. Materials will be provided. Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd. in the Elderberry Room (back parking lot). Class is taught by the Emergency Preparedness Commission and is FREE. Register by calling the Lafayette Community Center at 284-2232.

Looking Across the Boarder: Exploring End-of-Life Issues. Saturday, February 20, 10:00a.m.- 3:00p.m. Bortin Hall, Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear presentations on elder-law matters, financial planning, Hospice, medical advance directives, and more. A panel of church members who have experienced the loss of a spouse, parent, or child will share their thoughts on bereavement. No Charge. Bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. To register: (925) 934-3135 or email admin@mduuc.org.

CLUBS

Commonwealth Club: Steve Poizner, CA Insurance Commissioner & Republican Gubernatorial Candidate, shares his plans to address the state's economy & other challenges as he positions his run against Meg Whitman. Thurs. Mar. 18, 5:30 p.m. check in and 6:30 p.m. program. Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Tickets: (415) 597-6705 or commonwealthclub.org.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated Club Luncheon Meeting, Thursday, February 18. Check-in: 11:30a.m. Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda. Special Guest Speaker: Tom Campbell, 2010 GOP Primary Candidate for U.S. Senate. Tickets: \$25 luncheon OR \$15 program only (no meal). Meeting is open to the public. Call (925) 254-8617 for luncheon reservations by Monday, February 15. Walk-ins without prepayment OK for program only (no meal). Additional details are available at the club's website lamorindarepublicanwomen.org.

Lamorinda Toastmasters offers a mutually supportive and positive learning environment where people can practice public speaking and leadership skills. Visitors are welcome on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Temple Isaiah Social Hall, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. Entrance to the Temple is on Risa Road. For more information, call (925) 385-8793, or visit our website, lamorinda@fetoasthost.net (no www at the beginning!) this website address doesn't work

The Moraga Women's Society will meet on Monday, February 22 at 9:30 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St. The speaker will be Anne Randolph, a Physical Therapist who specializes in geriatric outpatient care. Visitors are welcome. Contact President Roberta Klaproth, 376-0708.

The Orinda Women's Club announces its acceptance of applicants for its 2010 benefit and fundraising activities. Application forms can be acquired from Orinda Women's Club Post Office Box 533, Orinda, Ca. 94563 or from Adeline Mcclatchie, Beneficiary Chair at (925) 254-1162. The Beneficiary Chair must receive applications by March 1, 2010, 7p.m. Applicants must meet the following criteria: they must serve women and children in need. They need to be an Alameda and/or Contra Costa based non-profit organization receiving \$750,000 and below in annual income. The applications will be reviewed, processed and voted on by club Membership.

"IN CONCERT": A flower show presented by the Orinda and Piedmont Garden Clubs (affiliated with Garden Club of America) at Orinda Country Club on Friday, March 5th from 10:00-4:00 p.m. The flower show is open to the public at no charge and includes competition for floral design, horticulture and photography divisions.

Dining • Dining • Dining •

No Need to go to Gilroy

Roya's Garlic Garden is right here

By Linda U. Foley



Roya Azdanlou presenting her bar

Photos Linda U. Foley

Following in the footsteps of two flamboyant Italian Restaurants (Pasta Per Tutti and most recently Knoxx) is Roya's Garlic Garden in the heart of Lafayette.

The restaurant opened a month ago and serves lunch and dinner. It is redecorated in tones of earthy green, taupe and burgundy and the tables are set with white crisp cloths and black napkins. The owner and chef Roya Azdanlou—while working in the open kitchen—was graciously accepting the comments of departing patrons.

The luncheon menu changes daily and, except for the New York steak and accompaniments at \$15.99, the selections were listed at \$9.99 including bread/butter, salad, coffee or tea. The house wine is Hogue Vineyards and lists at \$7 a glass and \$26 per bottle. All very reasonable.

While Roya served an Italian wine she'd selected for me for its oaky flavor, Mezzacorona from Vignette delle Dolomiti, we had a chance to talk.

A native of Teheran, she and her family emigrated to England when she was 14, where Roya attended school. At 18, she found herself in Sweden and eventually in culinary school. One of five siblings, she's the only one who followed in her father's footsteps to become a restaurateur. Roya and husband Hamid owned a restaurant in Sweden which explains some of the unusual dishes on the menu (Pannbiff, a kind of hamburger and Black and White sauce, a combination of Bernaise and wine sauces). The Azdanlous, who also own a restaurant in Emeryville, take pride in preparing everything from scratch and using fresh and seasonal ingredients.

When the generous salad serving came, it was very crisp with separate balsamic dressing. The baguette had good consistency and the butter was room temperature and spreadable, both of which are a plus.

I ordered the skewered salmon, served with Hollandaise sauce alongside salt potatoes with

fresh parsley. The fish was very fresh and excellent; tasty and succulent on the inside and a bit crunchy on the outside, and the sauce was definitely made in-house and not cloyingly rich. The potatoes were an unexpected but perfect accompaniment to the salmon which usually tends to be served with mashed potatoes or rice.



Skewered salmon, Hollandaise sauce, salt potatoes and fresh parsley

KIRIN SUSHI

Japanese Restaurant

356 Park Street, Moraga
(next to Rheem Theatre)

376-2872

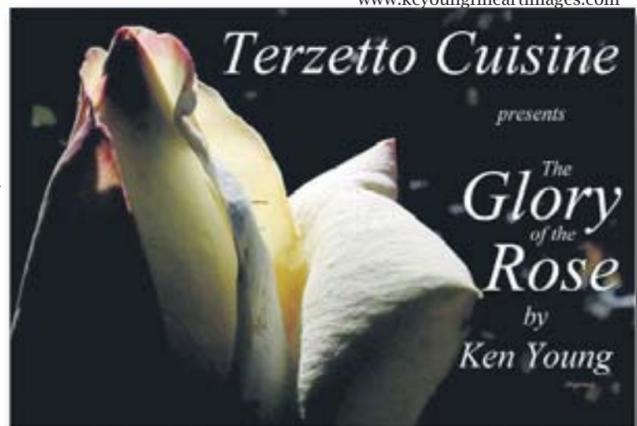
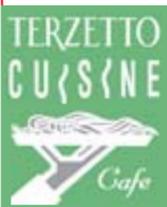
Tuesday-Sunday Lunch & Dinner
www.kirinsushi.us

Best
Sushi

Terzetto presents:

Art & Wine

Saturday
February
27th
5:30 to 8:30 pm



1419 Moraga Way, Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-3832 - www.terzettocuisine.com
Mon: 7am - 2pm; Tues-Sun: 7am - 8:30pm

Fine Art Images

by Ken Young Moraga

www.kcyoungfineartimages.com

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com