

## Not to be missed

### OTHER ... continued

**4th Annual Sweaty Eddy & Santa Pub Crawl presented** by Norm's Place. Come dressed in your Ugliest Holiday Sweaters, Holiday Costume or as the big guy himself, Santa! Most fun to have right before Xmas! This event is on Saturday, Dec. 22 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Norm's Place, 356 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost: \$30. For more info, call (925) 552-6676 or visit [www.normsgrill.com](http://www.normsgrill.com).

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Changing the World 101.** Jason Connell, the executive director of Ignited Leadership, a dynamic Washington, D.C.-based human service organization that is dedicated to building a better world, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**DAR Orientation and Genealogy Workshop.** A workshop and orientation will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 for women over 18 interested in joining the Daughters of the American Revolution and learning more about genealogy at the Montego Heights Lodge, 1400 Montego Way, Walnut Creek. Suggested donation: \$5. For more info, call Brenna Shafizadeh at (925) 287-0438.

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Soulful and Sacred: Celebrating the Black Catholic Experience.** Father Edward Branch will speak about the distinctive experience and journey of Black Catholics in America from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**Montelindo Garden Club. The club will meet at 9 a.m. Jan. 18** at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. The speaker, Don Dillon, Jr. from Four Winds Growers, will discuss growing citrus in the Bay Area. For more info, call (925) 254-3906.

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Unlikely Inspiration.** Kaya Oakes, author of *Slanted and Enchanted: The Evolution of Indie Culture* will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Shining a Light on Modern-Day Slavery.** Lisa Kristine, an acclaimed humanitarian photographer who specializes in images of remote indigenous cultures in more than 100 countries on six continents, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For

more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**Stars to the rescue presented by ARF. Adopt two kitten** kindergartners for the price of one, or a 'purrfect' cat two years or older for half-off the adoption fee! Standard adoption criteria apply. Join Tony La Russa and ARF on Saturday, Jan. 5 at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. For more info, call (925) 296-3153 or visit [www.arf.net](http://www.arf.net).

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**Inauguration Celebration Breakfast and Watch Party.** The breakfast, which will be held Monday, Jan. 21 from 8 to 8:45 a.m. at the Lafayette Library's Community Room, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., will be hosted by the Lamorinda Democratic Club to honor President Barack Obama as he is inaugurated for his second term in office. You must RSVP to guarantee a seat by contacting John Hall at [jd-hall@mac.com](mailto:jd-hall@mac.com).

**Main Street meets Wall Street. Make Wall Street pay.** These actions mold public opinion which is the ultimate determining factor in a democracy. This event is from 4 p.m. until dark Wednesdays at Main Street and Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Walnut Creek. For more info, contact [KathyRKlein@hotmail.com](mailto:KathyRKlein@hotmail.com) or visit <http://www.trivalleydems.com/>.

# M O V I E R E V I E W

## Last Year Marilyn, This Year Hitchcock!

By Derek Zemrak



Photo Fox Searchlight Pictures

**H**itchcock, starring Oscar Winner Anthony Hopkins (The Silence of the Lambs) as Alfred Hitchcock, is a movie that will surprise you. It is more about The Master of Suspense's relationship with his wife, Alma Reville, portrayed by Oscar winner Helen Mirren (The Queen), than his movie making magic. Mirren recently received a well-deserved Golden Globe Nomination in her role as Alma and I am sure an Oscar nod will be forthcoming for her. I had the opportunity to interview the director, Sacha Gervasi, who gives *Lamorinda Weekly* readers an inside look at this outstanding independent film.

**DZ:** How does it feel to have directed a film that is already getting Oscar buzz?

**SG:** I am happy to have made a film that I am really proud of in the Hitchcock style. We made it for an audience of people who are going to enjoy the experience.

**DZ:** As a director, how do you pull off a performance from the actors so you don't see Anthony Hopkins or Helen Mirren on the screen; you see their characters on the screen?

**SG:** It's all about casting, through the crew and actors. If you are lucky enough to get great actors to agree to work with you, honestly 90 percent of the job is done. You hire them for the reason that they are good. They are clearly connected to the material and they bring their intelligence, insight and experience to the role. You allow them to do their job. It's working with them on the material and allowing them to explore things, and letting them find their comfort zone and physical position. It's very much "actor centric" the way I work, which is to allow the actors to find the space and record it.

**DZ:** The audience is going to learn a lot about not only Hitchcock but also his wife Alma and her involvement in his career. Can you elaborate on that?

**SG:** It is a fascinating story that not a lot of people know about. She was instrumental in his career. She was the one who demanded the music in the famous Psycho shower scene. Alfred Hitchcock was determined that there should be no music. She absolutely insisted and because of their 36-year marriage and the fact that he ultimately trusted her, and against his will, he went with the music. And god was she right because when you think of Hitchcock the first thing you think about is the shower scene and the second thing you think about is the music.

**DZ:** When the end credits roll what do you want the audience to leave with after seeing *Hitchcock*?

**SG:** Hopefully they walk away with a better understanding of Hitchcock and partially his wife's role in the creative genius. But also a connection to someone who is this iconic figure and an understanding that we are all the same, we all struggle with relationships; we all struggle with ourselves and within relationships. It may not be what they were expecting and they all tell their friends to go see it!

*Hitchcock* opens at the Orinda Theatre on Friday, Dec. 21. Do not miss this interesting and informative film.

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news.



## 'Tis the Season of Giving

**Operation Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief.** This program is organized by local teen volunteers of Club Be the Star You Are. The club needs monetary donations to ship books and resources to families on the East Coast who suffered the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. \$25 ships five new books; \$50 ships a dozen new books; \$100 ships a full case. Checks may be sent to Be the Star You Are!® 501c3, PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. 94556 or make a contribution on line via Paypal. For more information please visit [www.bethestaryouare.org/donate.htm](http://www.bethestaryouare.org/donate.htm). and [www.btsya.com/hurricane\\_sandy\\_relief.html](http://www.btsya.com/hurricane_sandy_relief.html).

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.** The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in Contra Costa County. Please join us in donating to the Toys for Tots Program at your local Moraga, Orinda or nearest fire station. This program will be running through Dec. 21.

**Roughing It Day Camp - Collecting Donations for One Warm Coat, Toys for Tots, and Food Drive.** Please donate coats of any size, new/unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 27 to Roughing It Camp Office, 1010 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette.

**Stuffed Animal Collection.** The Moraga Police Officers Association along with S.A.F.E. (Stuffed Animals For Emergencies) is collecting new or gently used stuffed animals to help children through traumatic experiences. The stuffed animals are given to local police and fire departments to distribute to children they encounter who have been affected by traumatic events. S.A.F.E also facilitates the distribution of donated stuffed animals for a variety of charitable purposes to help children. This year's annual holiday collection drive ends Dec. 28. New or gently used stuffed animals can be dropped off at the collection area located in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd. Thank you for your support!

### Four Holiday Specials from Entourage!

**Gift Certificate #1:**  
80 minute Massage  
SPA Manicure  
SPA cuisine &  
Champagne  
**\$115**

**Gift Certificate #2:**  
Winter Protection  
Facial, Seasonal  
Body Treatment  
Shampoo + Blow Dry  
Lunch & Champagne  
**\$160**

**Gift Certificate #3:**  
60 minute massage,  
SPA Pedicure,  
Shampoo + Blow Dry,  
SPA cuisine  
& Champagne  
**\$125**

**Gift Certificate #4:**  
Monthly Massages!  
One 60 minute  
massage every  
month for a year  
Makes a GREAT  
gift! **\$1,000**

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