

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

MUSIC ... continued

The Performing Arts Society Tuesday evening concert for February will open with a piano quintet by Shostakovich, followed by Soprano Diane Barton Brown singing songs by Faure and Ernest Chausson, accompanied by pianist Nancy Rude at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Barton Brown will also sing *Airs and Fancies* by American opera composer Seymour Barab accompanied by violin, cello and piano. This concert concludes with Beethoven's String Quartet in C Major which features violins, viola and cello. Free. For more info, visit www.ccpas.org.

A jazz piano concert by members of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society will take place at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Please call Lafayette Senior Services to reserve your spot at (925) 284-5050. Cost: \$3 members; \$5 non-members. The pianists will be performing music from *The Great American Song Book*.

Members of the Performing Arts Society Piano Recitalists will perform solo piano music by Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Prokofiev, Poulenc and others at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Free. For info, visit www.ccpas.org.

The Campolindo High School Music Program is hosting its annual Jazz Dinner Dance from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. There will be a sit-down dinner with salad, main entrée, dessert and beverages. The Campolindo Jazz Bands will play throughout the night for guests to enjoy during dinner or to dance along to afterward. Tickets: \$40 for students. All proceeds benefit the Campolindo Music Program. For more information, contact Donia Gousios at doniagousios@yahoo.com.

OTHER

SEED (Special Education Enrichment Development) Foundation of Lafayette is co-funding a 12-week behavior management course for Lafayette parents Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9 p.m. through March 27 in the Maggie Mae Lounge at Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd. By teaching positive behavioral strategies, parents will gain tools and strategies to support their child in home and community settings. For info or to register please call (925) 788-0451 or email Robin Hauge at robinhaugclinic@gmail.com.

The Orinda Woman's Club announces acceptance of applicants for its major beneficiary awards in 2013. Application forms and criteria can be acquired from Orinda Woman's Club, P.O. Box 533, Orinda, 94563 or from Adeline McClatchie Beneficiary Chair at (925) 254-1162 or Adeline@mcclatchie.com. Deadline: 7 p.m. March 4.

Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) is looking for caring, fun, enthusiastic volunteers to assist once or twice a month. Activities include: games, crafts, daily live musical entertainment, lunch and exercise. Come join the fun and help enhance the lives of our local seniors. For more information, or to schedule a visit, please call Beth Montgomery at (925)254-3465.

The Friends of the Orinda Creeks present "Climate Change" – it's not just our future anymore." How fast is the weather changing? What's next? Can we adapt in time? Rebecca Verity, Senior Scientist at URS Corporation will discuss these questions starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Orinda Library. For more info, visit www.orindacreeks.org.

Volunteer Docents sought for John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. Come share your passion for history, nature, and education with our visitors! For details about the program, contact Joanne Jarvis at Joanne_Jarvis@nps.gov or (925) 228-8860, ext. 6321.

Bridal Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 3 at the Lafayette Park Hotel. Admission: \$15 advance; \$20 at the door. To purchase tickets and for more info, visit www.UR-LocalBride.com.

The West Coast Conference Colleges are collecting new and gently used t-shirts at local drop off points. The Saint Mary's local drop off point is 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Rd., Suite F in the front office lobby from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The drive ends Feb. 28. For more info about Clothes 4 Souls™ visit www.clothes4souls.org, telephone Erin at (208) 340-8235 or contact Gilbert at ggm4@stmarys-ca.edu.

Hospice of the East Bay Support Groups for Adults. The Widow and Widowers' Support group meets on Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. through Feb. 21 at the Pleasant Hill campus, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. Pre-registration is required. For more info, or to pre-register call (925) 887-5681 or visit www.hospiceeast-bay.org.

Come Play MahJongg! MahJongg is a game of skill, strategy, and certain degree of chance. Bring your card, a mahjongg set and a snack to share (optional) every Tuesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

Nature Walk and Bird-Watching. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend, all the while learning to identify a variety of birds. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. The nature walks are every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 to find out weekly meeting location.

How to Raise Your Own Chickens. Papa John Kiefer will offer workshops on How to Raise Your Own Chickens, including information about raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable coop construction from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays during February and March. Reservations required. For more info, email jhkiefer@comcast.net.

Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Taize' service at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month. In the candle-lit Sanctuary, the quiet songs, silence, and scripture with no sermon invite you to be still. For info, call (925) 798-7107.

Caregiving: A Labor of Love, a Workshop for those Caring for Family Members from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga. Lunch is included. For more info, visit www.mvpcetoday.org.

Creating a Peaceful School Conference presented by Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 at Seven Hills School, 975 North San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek. You will develop the skills you need to make your school a safer and more peaceful place. Cost: \$35. For more info, call (925) 933-7850.

Crab Feed and Dance from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Music provided by popular DJ so bring your appetites and dancing shoes. Dinner and Dance Tickets: \$40; Dance only, \$10. For non-crab lovers, you may order chicken in advance. For tickets and reservations call (925) 672-6799.

Widowed Persons Support Group: grief support sessions are informal discussions for those in need of emotional support after the loss of a loved one. Sessions are presented from 10 a.m. to noon each Saturday, Feb. 2 to March 9 in the Oak Room-back of parking lot at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. Anyone may attend all six or as many as you can, no reservation or fee. For additional info, call (925) 376-0321.

Stitchers Unite! Valley Stitchers and Fiber Arts Guild will meet Monday, Feb. 4 at the Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Ln., Pleasant Hill, to watch Jane Belitti present the History of Ballet through costumes. Please arrive before 10 a.m. to go through our sales tables full of different arts. Guests are most welcome! For questions, please call Sheila Rogstad at (925) 945-1338.

Wholpin Short Films Screening at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. For more info, call (925) 376-6852 or visit guides.ccclib.org.

"What Has Happened to my Good Night's Sleep?" is a free informative program with Neurologist and sleep medicine specialist Joanna Cooper, MD of Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, who will discuss why sleep is so important and the various disorders that could be affecting a good night's sleep, along with how to get help to resolve middle of the night wakefulness, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Free. Call (510) 869-6737 to reserve your space.

Soroptimist International Annual Crab Feed and Silent Auction at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost: \$45. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets or more information please contact Toni Pera at (925) 283-2279.

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center class "Building Healthy Soil" from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Lafayette Community Garden across from the Reservoir. These classes are interactive, informative and fun so come join us and prepare to get your hands dirty! It can be muddy and cold in the winter so dress appropriately. Classes are free although a \$5 donation is appreciated. To register, visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org, and click on classes.

Renowned Theologian and Author Matthew Fox will discuss "In What Language Will Our Children and Grandchildren Pray?" from noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 10 at Orinda Community Church. (see story page Bx)

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11 in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center- Walnut Creek Campus (1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek). Meetings are free and open to the public. For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218.

Moraga Kiwanis will be hosting a charity crab feed, silent auction, raffle, cash crab pot at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 in the Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College, Moraga. Proceeds benefit local charities and schools. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. and will include music and dancing. Tickets: \$50. For info, contact Steve Kinsey (925) 376-2225 or Dave Shapiro (925) 631-9293.

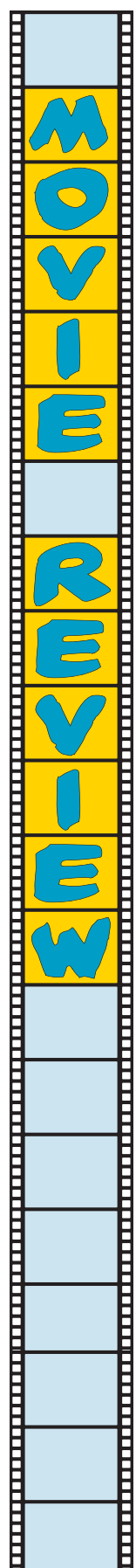
The Northern California Welsh Community invites you to join them at their musical celebration of St. David's Day for traditional hymn singing from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 3 at the Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road. A Te Bach (little tea) will follow in the church social hall. Coffee and tea will be provided. Donations of Welsh cakes and finger food would be appreciated. For further information, contact Idris Evans at (925) 283-0912 or email loriteassociates@comcast.net.

The Lafayette School District invites parents and community members to hear Michael Josephson, Ethicist and Founder of Character Counts® speak about his life experience and the development of The Six Pillars of Character from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 at Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette. Tickets: \$10 for one; \$15 for two. Tickets can be purchased at: michaeljosephson.eventbrite.com. Please bring your receipt with you.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

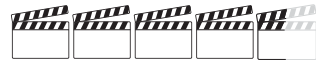
The Lamorinda Democratic Club's meeting will feature a conversation about Marriage Equality in California and the Nation with Chris Riley at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14 at Lafayette Library and Community Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. Club meeting begins at 7:15 p.m. Cost: \$5; students free. For info, call (925) 567-3367 or visit www.lamorindademoclub.org.

Please submit:
Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



"Silver Linings Playbook"

By Derek Zemrak



Best Actor Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper as Pat Solitano. Photo courtesy The Weinstein Company

If you live long enough you begin to realize that life is always a bed of roses – thorny. "Silver Linings Playbook" addresses real life issues and that is why the movie hits home to so many people. It is an outstanding independent film, which had its world premier at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. "Silver Linings Playbook" is not coated with Hollywood sugar. I use "Argo" as an example: a true story and a great film but did the police really chase the plane on the tarmac? That scene is Hollywood sugar coating.

"Silver Linings Playbook" deals with real life issues as Pat (played by Bradley Cooper, "The Hangover," "Limitless") is released from a mental institution and is dealing with his bipolar disorder. Upon his release Pat finds out his wife, Nikki (played by newcomer Brea Bee) has moved out and filed a restraining order against him. He is assigned to the care of his parents, Pat Sr. portrayed by two-time Oscar-winner Robert DeNiro ("Raging Bull," "The Godfather Part II") and Dolores, Oscar-nominated actress Jacki Weaver ("Animal Kingdom"). Pat Sr. has his own problems as he recently lost his job and is relying on sports gambling to earn money in order to fulfill his dream of opening a restaurant. Pat Jr. is his father's "lucky charm" as they attend

a Philadelphia Eagles' football game, but it all falls apart like a fumble on the one-yard line. Pat is determined to reconcile with Nikki, but then he meets Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence, "Winter's Bone," "Hunger Games") who is a recovering sex addict. They all come together like a confused "Madden" chalkboard session – or do they? Remember this is real life!

"Silver Linings Playbook" is written and directed by Oscar nominee David O. Russell ("The Fighter"). It is nominated for eight Academy Awards that include Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Editing, plus is nominated for all four acting Oscars: Best Actor in a Leading Role, Bradley Cooper; Best Actress in a Leading Role, Jennifer Lawrence; Best Actor in a Supporting Role, Robert De Niro; and Best Actress in a Supporting Role, Jacki Weaver. This is the first time since "Reds" in 1981 that a film received Oscar nominations in all four acting categories. "Silver Linings Playbook" could beat the Vegas odds and win this year's Best Picture.

"Silver Linings Playbook" is rated R with a total running time of 2 hours and 2 minutes.

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.