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LAMORINDA FLOORS

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, call (925) 788-0451 or email Robin Hauge at robinhaugelclinic@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 is 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.

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@stmaries-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 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.

Widowed Persons Support Group: grief support sessions are informal discussions for those in need of emo-

tional 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.

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.

Where's My 23%? The next monthly meeting of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will feature Delaine Eastin, former California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as she discusses "Why Educated Women Are Not Earning More." In a lively and spirited interactive presentation, she will explore why women with college degrees earn just 77 percent of what men with the same education earn from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Holy Trinity Church Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Handicap Accessible. Free Parking. For info, visit www.aauwoml.org.

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware has partnered with internationally renowned, Robert Sorby Tools of England, to present a unique demonstration on woodturning. Woodturning differs from most other forms of woodworking in that the wood is moving while a stationary tool is used to cut and shape it. The demonstration is a great event for all skill levels. There will be no charge to attend. Demonstrations will be from 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 541 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill. Contact Matt Graham, manager at (925) 521-1800 for more info.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, working with American Red Cross, is sponsoring a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at MVPC, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. Everyone is welcome. Drop by, and bring your friends! Sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org (enter the Sponsor Code: Moraga925). Walk-ins are welcome! For more info, call Les Deane at (925) 283-5648.

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

Red Cross Blood Drive for the Lafayette Community will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 8 at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. Sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber and Titan Real Estate Investments with juices and snacks donated by Whole Foods. For all donors, a raffled gift will be given after the Blood Drive. Remember: The need for blood is constant. The gratification is instant.

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.

Free Tax Preparation for the 2013 tax season is available from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's EKS programs. Both programs serve taxpayers of all ages with a focus on those with low to moderate incomes. For more information or to make an appointment, call Tax-Aide (925) 726-3199 or EKS 2-1-1.

English Tutors needed - volunteer with the Diablo Valley Literacy Council. English need not be your first language-no teaching experience is required-we will teach you to be a tutor! You must attend three workshops on March 9, March 12 and March 16 and there is a nominal fee to cover the training & material costs. For more information visit our website at dvlc.tripod.com. To register call our hotline and leave a message at (925) 685-3881 or e-mail us at DVLC4ESL@gmail.com.

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.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated welcomes speaker Heather Gass regarding "The Dark Side of Sustainable Development" at noon Feb. 21 at the Orinda Country Club. All part of Agenda 21, the 21st Century plan for a "New World Order" through global governance. For luncheon information and reservations contact Elsie Euing at (925) 254-8617 no later than Feb. 15. Cost: \$25. Men are always welcome to participate.

CLUBS

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the Lafayette Garden Club. Garth Jacober, owner of Mt. Diablo Nursery in Lafayette, will share his knowledge and expertise about some of our favorite flowers—camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons – at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Garth is a master gardener and a renowned camellia expert. For info, contact sa613and@aol.com.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting will discuss Gardens of Israel at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15 at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-3906.

Marion Brenner, a renowned San Francisco photographer, will address the Moraga Garden Club at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga. A life-long photographer with a focus on natural landscapes and landscape design, she will display slides of her work and talk about her experiences working on Landscapes of San Francisco by Patrick McGrew which she illustrated. Interested parties may call president Linda Foley at (925) 376 2809 if they wish to attend.

GARDEN

A composting workshop for those interested in learning about organic gardening, good soil, environmentally responsible ways to control pests, conserving water in the garden and using native and drought-tolerant plants will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 26 at the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Visit the CCCSWA website at www.wastediversion.org for additional dates and times scheduled throughout the year. Call for reservations at (925) 906-1801, ext. 306 or visit the CCCSWA website to register online.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) is pleased to announce Youth Ink 2013, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. Submissions must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 15 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, Post Office Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award. Submission forms can be found at OIS or at www.orindajuniors.org.

Bring the whole family to OMCA to welcome the Year of the Snake. Enjoy a day of performances, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for all ages from noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. Free with Museum admission. For more info, visit www.museumca.org or call (510) 318-8400.

The Glorietta Online Auction is now live and will run until Thursday, Feb. 21. Help Glorietta raise money for critical educational programs including: Class sizes of 20 or less from kindergarten through third grade; instructional assistants; computer lab; PE; science; librarian; classroom libraries; and recess equipment. Items are added every day. For more info, visit https://www.bidding-forgood.com/gloriettaonline.

Find out about camps, day care, preschool, family vacations, sports, scouts, enrichment, performing arts, and more at the Contra Costa Camp Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24 at Acalanes High School, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette. Free. Bring the entire family. For more info, visit www.ContraCostaCampFair.com.

Bentley School is proud to host its first Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2, at Bentley's Upper School campus in Lafayette. The Festival will feature dozens of activities designed to encourage collaboration and creative problem solving and will appeal to a range of students - from fourth grade on up. Snacks and raffle prizes will be available to all participants. For more info or to register, please contact cta@bentleyschool.net.

Join us at the Hacienda de las Flores for a sneak preview of the best summer camps in Moraga. Meet the counselors; participate in sports and activities, enjoy a free hot dog lunch. Summer Camp Expo: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. For more info, call Kim at (925) 888-7036 or visit the town's website at www.moraga.ca.us.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Safe Haven"

By Derek Zemrak



Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel star in Relativity Media's "Safe Haven." © 2012 Safe Haven Productions. All Rights Reserved. Photo James Bridges

"Safe Haven" is Nicholas Sparks' best romantic film since "The Notebook" that was released in 2004, and is Sparks' first attempt at producing a film under his new production company Nicholas Sparks Productions.

He truly understands this genre of so called "chick flicks." Safe Haven is based on Sparks'

bestselling novel of the same title, starring Julianne Hough ("Dancing with the Stars," "Rock of Ages") as Katie, a mysterious young lady on the run who shows up in the small coastal town of Southport, N.C. Katie's behavior is on the nervous side, which is most evident when the local police officers show up at the diner where she is working. The use of flashback quickly tells the audience that Katie was in a very abusive relationship.

As with all Sparks' novels and films, Katie falls in love with Alex (Josh Duhamel, "Transformers" and "Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!"), the widowed heartthrob who operates the local grocery store. As their relationship grows, it is torn apart by the discovery of Katie's past. The power of love once again must overcome.

Fans of the novel will truly enjoy the film, as it moves along at a good pace, just under two hours with a total running time of 115 minutes. Also, individuals who have not read the book will be pleasantly surprised with a twist in the script that caught me off guard.

"Safe Haven" is directed by three-time Oscar nominee Lasse Hallstrom ("The Cider House Rules," "My Life as a Dog"). As romantic dramas go, this is one worth the price of admission.

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.