

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

OTHER ... continued

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church will hold a candle lit Taize' style Maundy service at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28. Communion will be offered to those who desire it and the opportunity for healing prayers will be provided. Music will be in the Taize' style. Child care is provided in the two-story building immediately to the left of the Sanctuary. All are welcome.

First Friday Forum "Update on the New Oakland/San Francisco Bay Bridge" at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 5 in the Sanctuary of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Victor Gauthier, communications associate and tour program manager will provide information on the current construction site, which is the largest infrastructure project in California history, as well as on the history of the Bay Bridge. Refreshments are served at 1 p.m. For more info, call (925) 283-8722 or click on LOPC.org.

The community of Canyon will host a multi-agency wildfire meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 at the Canyon Elementary School, 187 Pinehurst Road. The evening will be an exploration of the challenges a major wildfire would present to both the fire agencies and the community. The event will culminate with a discussion of ways all parties can work together to create effective policies and procedures to deal with the vagaries of notification, evacuation, cars and fire engines meeting on narrow roads and so forth. For more info, call Canyon Fire Council Coordinator Jonathan Goodwin, (925) 376-4668 or email CanyonFire@Vfemail.net; MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley, (925) 258-4599 or RBradley@mofd.org.

Wildlife Expert Gary Bogue will discuss "Creatures of the Urban Wilderness (your backyard)" at 9:30 a.m. Monday, April 15 at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek. Bogue will discuss the wild animals that live in and prowl, fly, and slither around your backyard, day and night—the coyotes, raccoons, skunks, opossums, owls, hawks, hummingbirds, snakes, lizards and other creatures that interact with you and have become a part of your life, often without you even knowing they are there. Brunch event tickets: \$25. To purchase tickets, contact Penny Adams at (925) 837-4046, P.O. Box 562, Diablo, CA 94528, or call the museum at (925) 935-1978.

Join Spring Leadership Summit in an interactive presentation "A Whole New Way: Leadership and Engagement in the 21st Century" from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at the Claeys Lounge, Saint Mary's College Soda Center, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. The summit will examine how society thinks about leadership and what is needed to bring about the changes you care about most, focusing on particular challenges within the educational system. This session will deal with "a whole new way of leadership and engagement" from a variety of vantage points in a collaborative effort by the graduate programs of Saint Mary's College- Graduate Leadership, Graduate Education, Graduate Business, and Graduate Kinesiology.

Orinda Action Day begins at 9 a.m. April 20 at the Library Plaza. This is a time to lend a hand to help beautify our city! Visit Orinda Action Day at www.orindafoundation.org. (See article page A11)

Run, Walk, Jog...Eat, Dance, Play...Help support children and families affected by AIDS in Zimbabwe! Get your family and friends together for the 10th Annual JF Kapnek Trust Family Fun 5k/1k Run at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at Miramonte High School. There will be an African band, face painting, prizes for kids, goodie bags for kids, crafts, brunch, and a super cool T-shirt!

Visit Active.Com to register. Key-word is: KAPNEK.

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 info, or to schedule a visit, please call Beth Montgomery at (925) 254-3465.

Stations of the Cross. The public is invited to self-guided tours of "Jesus' Journey to the Cross", a time of reflection and meditation for Easter, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. March 29 at the Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. Children are welcome. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-4765 or email office@thelumc.org.

Spend a day with friends celebrating the Heart of the Home at the Miramonte Kitchen & Garden Tour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 18. Six unique and gorgeous kitchens and gardens will be open for a self-guided tour. Tickets: \$35. Space is limited so sign up early! Proceeds from the events will have an immediate impact on the quality of programs available to all Miramonte students. Tickets are available at Orinda Books, Orinda Florist, McDonnell's Nursery and Lazy K at Orchard Nursery.

Step into nature and history and enjoy the 12th Annual Wildlife/Earth Day Festival in support of the unique outdoor environmental education programs for Orinda children from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 21. Delightful adventures include: pond explorations, live raptors shown by Jenny Papka, electric Volt and Leaf car test drives, delicious food, music, crafts, games, nature walks, and much more. There will be an Earth Day tribute by Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation and the Guest of the Day will be Gary Bogue. The Friends of the Wagner Ranch will conduct this free festive program to celebrate and support environmental education and biodiversity programs in the Nature Area. For more info, visit www.fvma.org.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 5th Annual Moraga Classic Car Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 11 (as part of the 2013 Moraga Community Faire). The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. The car show is sponsored by 5A Rent a Space and CVS Pharmacy. To register, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire or call (925) 247-4629.

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's, Animals on Broadway will be Sunday, May 19, at the Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. Kick off the event by joining the one-mile fundraising Pet Walk. Pet Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp (registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m.) After, stay and enjoy an array of booths, mobile adoptions, face painting, a Pet Wellness Fair, Walnut Creek Police K9 Unit demonstrations, live music, and crafts for kids from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, visit www.arf.net.

CLUBS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets at 11 a.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Lunch at noon. The April 3 after-lunch speaker will be Leigh Kjeldsen, Au.D. – a doctor of Audiology with practices in Walnut Creek and Concord. Leigh enjoys seeing patients of all ages. The youngest person she has fit with hearing aids was 3 months old and the oldest was 101 years old. She will be speaking about "Hearing Loss: Causes and Remedies." For details and membership information, call Larry at (925)

631-9528 or Tom at (925) 376-7724.

Lafayette Garden Club will feature "Tantalize Your Taste Buds"—learn to grow and cook delectable heirloom vegetables and herbs" with Randall Barnes of Orchard Nursery at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 11 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Barnes has a bachelor's degree in horticultural science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and loves to cook his garden's bounty. For more info, email sa613and@aol.com.

SENIORS

Join Lafayette Senior Services for one of this upcoming event! Enjoy afternoon dancing every Wednesday and learn some great new dance moves at the Lamorinda Dance Social on the first Wednesday monthly. Professional dancers Karen and Michael will provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests from 12:30 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at the Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$2 members; \$4 non-members. For info, call (925) 284-5050 to reserve a spot.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its April meeting in the Ball Auditorium at from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 8 at John Muir Medical Center- Walnut Creek Campus, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. The speaker will be Richard Burns, stroke survivor, author and spokesperson for the National Stroke Association who will discuss "Hope-the Choice is Yours." After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups: stroke survivors without aphasia, stroke survivors with aphasia, and caregivers and families of stroke survivors -- each group led by a trained professional. For more info about the

Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

GARDEN

Once again, The City of Walnut Creek and The Gardens at Heather Farm are teaming up to present a free workshop for our community. Discovering a Sense of Place (Part II) with Patrice Hanlon, GHF garden manager and Susan Handjian, garden consultant and coach builds on a successful session in 2012. April 27 Explore Walnut Creek's "Creek Walk." Each session includes activities or walks to explore watersheds, plants, animals and insects that live in our area. Workshops can be taken individually or as a series. Pre-registration required. The Gardens at Heather Farm is located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek.

The Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 5. This free, award-winning tour features 40 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register

or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net. For more info, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

SCHOOLS

Need money for college? The Contra Costa Association of Realtors Scholarship Foundation is offering scholarships to residents of Central Contra Costa County that have completed one year of full-time college, completed courses with emphasis on real estate, finance and/or business and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you qualify, scholarship awards can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. For info and applications visit www.ccarscholarship.com. Deadline is April 15.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated welcomes luncheon speaker Lynne C. Leach businesswoman, former State Legislator, community activist and leader. For info contact Elsie Euing at (925) 254-8617

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce invites you to join your District II County Supervisor Candace Andersen for a Brown Bag Lunch at noon, Wednesday, April 3 at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Conference Room. For reservations, email lauri.byers@bos.cccounty.us or call (925) 957-8860.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

MOVIE REVIEW

"Olympus Has Fallen"

By Derek Zemrak



Photo courtesy FilmDistrict

Political thrillers are always fun to watch but in these times they can be a bit too realistic. "Olympus Has Fallen" stars Gerald Butler ("300," "The Phantom of the Opera") as Mike Banning, a fallen, dishonored presidential security guard who failed to save the first lady, portrayed by Ashley Judd. Jump forward 18 months and the White House is under attack by a Korean terrorist organization. Mike realizes he is the only one who can save the president (Aaron Eckhart)

and his son Connor, played by Finley Jacobsen, from this terrorist group lead by Kang, the very talented actor Rick Yune ("Snow Falling on Cedars," "The Man with the Iron Fists"). Yune delivers a great performance and moviegoers will hate him from his first scene in the movie.

The cast is amazing and also includes Oscar winner Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby") as Speaker Trumbull; Indie favorite and Oscar winner Melissa Leo ("The Fighter") as Secretary of Defense Ruth McMillan; and Oscar nominee Angela Bassett ("What's Love Got to Do with It") as Secret Service Director Lynn Jacobs.

The best way to describe "Olympus Has Fallen" is that it is an enjoyable Hollywood blockbuster, but it should have been a lot more. The script, co-written by newcomers Creighton Rothenberger and Katrin Benedikt, has too many off the wall one liners for me. What could have been an intense, suspenseful thriller quickly turned into an unsophisticated "Die Hard" film. Director Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day") should have focused on the suspense. All in all, if you want to see an action-packed film made without much thought, then "Olympus Has Fallen" is for you.

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. Derek is the host of Real to Reel on TRadioV.com live at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

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