

MAY - JUNE COMMUNITY

LAFAYETTE

Free Concert at the Lafayette Reservoir



Last year's performers

What better way to relax and enjoy the beauty of the Lafayette reservoir than with music from fine young and more mature musicians while soaking up some shade and savoring an ice cream cone at the annual Concert at the Res from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11. Follow the music to the new permanent stage location on the east side of the reservoir, near the children's play area. The recently completed stage now has a shade structure for the performers. An array of talented musicians including those from the Stanley Symphonic Band, the Acalanes and Bentley Jazz Ensembles, and the Rossmoor Big Band will play. Students from Oakland's Westlake school will be joining kids from Stanley. Also new this year, the Lamorinda Theatre Academy and Stevie Coyle Strings. The annual event is sponsored by the Lafayette Rotary with lots of help from a bevy of supporters that make it possible. While the event is free, \$5 raffle tickets will be available for a shot to win a variety unique prizes. Half of the net profits from the raffle and food sales will support school music programs with the balance going to local charities. Plan on making it a picnic with hot dogs, chips, water – even milk and cookies. Think of the Concert at the Res as Lamorinda's version of Red Rocks, except with a reservoir, green hills and a playground for little ones.

Concert Schedule:

Rossmoor Big Band (11 to 11:35 a.m.)
 Stanley and Westlake Combined bands (11:45 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.)
 Lamorinda Theatre Academy (12:30 to 12:45 p.m.)
 Acalanes Jazz Ensemble (12:55 to 1:25 p.m.)
 Dominant Seven (1:35 to 1:55 p.m.)
 Bentley Jazz Ensemble (2:05 to 2:35 p.m.)
 Town Hall Troupe (2:40 to 2:50 p.m.)
 Stevie Coyle (2:55 to 3:10 p.m.)

Gold Coast Chamber Players Concert - Transcendent

Gold Coast Chamber will play Olivier Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time," composed and premiered in Stalag 8A where Messiaen and fellow musicians were prisoners of war during World War II. The May 11 presentation of the modern and magical music will be enhanced by a presentation by author Rebecca Rischin who has written a renowned book about the history and context of the creation of this piece. Pairing the two is a first in our area. The eight-part quartet was composed in a time of crisis and to accommodate who and what was available in the prisoner of war camp. Three other musicians – a cellist, a clarinetist, and a violinist – were also imprisoned, thus Messiaen composed a quartet for those instruments and a piano for himself. It is said that Messiaen, who was deeply Catholic, was inspired by a dream he had of the announcement of the Angel of Apocalypse. The music is very poignant and at times very moving, but it is not sad. It evokes transcendence, redemption, and even, joy. Messiaen said that when they played in the freezing night of the Stalag, never had he been heard with as much attention and understanding. This presentation will be a unique opportunity to hear this remarkable 20th century piece and hear all about its genesis. The May 11 concert and presentation will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. For tickets, visit www.gcplayers.org.

Farmers' Market to Open Soon

Farm fresh produce is back in Lafayette. Look for the Farmers' Market to re-open May 19 at the south BART parking lot, the same location as last year. Easy parking is available at the gravel lot behind Panda Express and in the north BART lot. The market will be managed by non-profit Urban Village Farmers' Market Association in collaboration with Sustainable Lafayette from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays. Look for lots of ripe produce, artisanal foods, live music and fresh espresso from mid-May until October.

Taste of Lafayette Returns



Guests enjoy the good life at the Taste of Lafayette.

It's that time of year again. Folks hankering to savor the flavor of Lafayette can enjoy sample-sized portions of signature dishes from restaurants such as Yankee Pier, Chevalier, and Amarin Thai at the 11th annual Taste of Lafayette Tuesday, May 21, while supporting all the fine work of the Lafayette Community Foundation and the services of the Chamber of Commerce.

"It's a feel good community event that neighbors, families and friends can enjoy," said Jay Lifson, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. New additions this year include Whole Foods, Cake, Back to the Table, Suzy Cakes and more.

With a total of 27 establishments participating, attendees should come with an appetite. Sandwiching the official "Taste-ings" will be music, wine and appetizers at Plaza Park at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard starting at 5:30 p.m., and wrapping up at 9 p.m. with more music, coffee, dessert, a raffle, as well as a silent and live auction back at the park. Raffle prizes include a condo in Maui for a week, a year of monthly fine dining in Lafayette, cooking class for 10 offered by Back to the Table culinary school and much more. In between Plaza Park events enjoy mobile fine dining on a small scale. Participants can walk or ride the complimentary shuttle sponsored by Diablo Foods up and down the boulevard. Most of the establishments are within a few blocks of the starting point. The Duck Club at the Lafayette Park Hotel – which would be a bit of a hike – is providing hors d'oeuvres at Plaza Park.

How often do neighbors get to rub elbows while noshing on the sidewalk, and support civic-minded causes? Tickets are \$45 per person and are available via the chamber website at www.lafayettechamber.org or in person at the chamber office at 100 Lafayette Circle #103.

MORAGA

Classic Film Festival This Weekend

Don't miss the Classic Film Festival and Classic Film Hall of Fame Induction May 10-12 at the New Rheem and Orinda theatres. "The Sound of Music" will be shown Friday, May 10 at the Rheem with special guest Charmian Carr, who played Liesl in the film. Then non-stop classic films will be shown in Orinda Saturday, May 11 starting at 1 p.m. with "Frankenstein" followed by special guest Sara Karloff, daughter of Boris Karloff (the unforgettable Frankenstein's monster); at 4 p.m. "Citizen Kane" followed at 7 p.m. by the presentation of "National Velvet" screen legend Mickey Rooney joining for a Q&A following the film. The night will close with "The Jerk" at 10 p.m. The celebration continues at noon Sunday, May 12 at the Rheem in Moraga with "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," including a Q&A with Lou Costello's daughter, Chris Costello. At 3 p.m. get ready for laughs with "Young Frankenstein" followed by a Q&A with Oscar winner and eight-time Emmy Award winner Cloris Leachman. The Inductee Ceremony with Red Carpet Arrival begins at 6 p.m., the ceremony at 7 p.m. Among the inductees is Moraga resident Larry Swindell, the author of five film biographies, all heavily rooted in Hollywood history. For more information visit the new Classic Film Festival/ Hall of Fame website at www.CFFHOF.org. All proceeds from the Classic Film Festival and Hall of Fame Ceremony benefit the Rheem Theatre Digital Conversion Fund.

Moraga Community Faire

The 7th Annual Moraga Community Faire will be held May 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. It will showcase everything Moraga has to offer for people of all ages – whether you are interested in classic cars, arts and crafts, music, games or simply want a chance to dunk your favorite local celebrity or sample locally grown Lamorinda wines and food truck treats. Among the day's highlights will be performances by some favorite local music groups, including the Oak Grove Bluegrass Family Band, the C4EO Chinese American dance group and Town Hall Theatre. You can also meet US National Team Player, sand volleyball professional player and Orinda native Nicole Branagh in the Run Jump Hit booth. Branagh will be available to meet young athletes while owner Laurie Muggie will present her training program. There will be opportunities to buy art, crafts and jewelry from a wide range of artists; and taste a variety of wines made by five local wineries members of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association. For kids there will be a climbing wall, carnival games, bounce house, fire truck, a County Connection bus, and face painting. And popular food trucks will be back at the Faire this year. The Moraga Community Faire is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Town of Moraga. The Moraga Country Club is this year's principal sponsor. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.



Former mayor Howard Harpham gets wet at last year's event.

Lamorinda Senior Health and Information Faire

Radio personality Kira Reginato, host of the radio show "Call Kira About Aging," will be the featured speaker at the Lamorinda Senior Health and Information Faire at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 21 at the Hacienda de las Flores. The 5th Annual Lamorinda Senior Faire, organized by Senior Helpers of Contra Costa and co-sponsored by the Moraga Recreation Department and the Moraga Movers, has a total of 10 different presentations including Reginato's keynote address: "Sherpas for Aging: Climbing the Mountain with Help." The faire is free and will include complimentary food and refreshments provided by Whole Foods Market while the LaSalle Street Jazz Band will provide entertainment. Other speakers include Estate Planning Attorney Stefanie West, who will discuss Advance Health Care Directives, and author Terry Black will discuss end of life planning. Derrick Scott, a certified Rehabilitative Driving Specialist, will head the presentation "Senior Driver Safety and the DMV" and Dinah McFarlane of Tony Russa's Animal Rescue Federation will discuss why pets are great companions for seniors. Other topics include veteran's benefits, living with someone with dementia, nutrition and cooking, strength and balance building exercises, and a wheelchair program. For reservations, call (925) 376-9900.

Movies Under the Stars



"How to Train Your Dragon" will be featured at the free movie night Saturday, June 15 at 8:40 p.m. (depending on darkness), shown under the stars at the Moraga Commons Park, sponsored by the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee. Bundle up with blankets and friends, enter the raffle, and enjoy delicious concessions sold by the MYIC.

Concert Series

The annual Concert Series begins June 20 at the Moraga Commons Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. most Thursday evenings, all summer long. The first one will feature Mixed Nuts. Free. The program is sponsored by the Moraga Parks Foundation, more info at Moragaparks.org.