

The best cure for a chilly winter night is to gather with friends and family for a sing-along, a cup of cocoa, or a quick hello to Santa before the big day. There are plenty of opportunities to ring in the holidays throughout Lamorinda during the month of December. The following is a sampling of some of events that will add sparkle and cheer to this special season. **Happy Holidays from Lamorinda Weekly!**

**Moraga ... continued**

Free photo with Santa from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 7** at 5A Rent A Space, 455 Moraga Rd., Suite F. Free framed picture, cookies, and games for the kids. There will also be a free gift wrapping room from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day but Sunday through Dec. 24 with wrapping paper, ribbon, and scissors.

Live Nativity. See the Christmas story come to life at the ninth annual viewing of the Live Nativity from 5:30 to 8 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 7** at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane. The courtyard will be transformed into a Bethlehem manger when members of the congregation take on the roles of Mary and Joseph, the three Wise Men, shepherds, Roman soldiers, and a host of heavenly angels. And the oxen, sheep, goats, and other animals truly transform the space into a spectacle not to be missed. While the courtyard will be a reverent scene, there will be additional activities, music and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. The Sanctuary will be open for prayer and contemplation. There is no cost to attend.

Breakfast with Santa. There are a few spaces left for the 10:30 a.m. slot on **Saturday, Dec. 14** (8:30 a.m. is sold out), organized by the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department at the Hacienda de las Flores. Register at Moraga.ca.us, quick links "Register for classes."

You're invited to take a photo with Santa, so bring your camera from noon to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 14** in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center between Tuesday Morning and Nation's Giant Hamburgers. Photos, holiday clowns and balloon art are free with Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25 or more. For info, visit rheemvalley.net.

Teen and Tween LED Holiday Ornaments. Learn how to light up your craft projects with LED lights from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 14** at the Moraga Library. Library staff will take participants step-by-step through the process of making and then adding LEDs to gorgeous ornaments. There is limited seating for this special program. Register at cclib.org or call the Moraga Library at (925) 376-6852.



Fratello Marionettes: North Pole Review. Join the fun with our puppet extravaganza, The North Pole Review, which showcases the high kicking antics of the Russian Trepak Dancers, the graceful ice skater Crystal Chandelier, and features dazzling acrobatic penguins at 4 p.m. **Tuesday, Dec. 17** at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Moraga Library, this is a perfect way to celebrate the holiday season!

Candlelight Christmas Service from 7 to 8:30 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 20** will include worship, scripture reading, biblical message and a dessert banquet at Refuge Com-

munity Church, 155 Moraga Road. For more information, visit www.refugecommunity.org. *S. Braccini*

**Orinda**

Annual Holiday Dinner, Orinda Historical Society. Be there or be square for what is sure to be one of the community's most enjoyable and memorable evenings this holiday season **Wednesday, Dec. 4**. Laugh and learn while dining on scrumptious salmon, chicken or vegetarian delights. Presentations: History of Holden School (Joel Weber and Caroline Cogan); What's New at the Old Yellow House (James Wright). Social hour begins at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. at Orinda Community Church. Cost: \$40. For more information, call the Orinda Historical Society at (925) 254-1353.

A community sing of Handel's Messiah will be held at 7:30 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 6** at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Dr., Orinda. The Messiah Sing will be directed by Minister of Music Robert Train Adams, with Festival Choir, professional soloists and chamber orchestra with harpsichord and organ to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Childcare is available by reservation. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information contact Brenda Free, office@ststephensorinda.org or (925) 254-3770, ext. 10.

Family fun holiday events at Orinda Theatre Square from 4 to 7 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 7** and from 3 to 7:30 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 14**. Make your own ornaments, enjoy a holiday a cappella performance by Miramonte High School students and a tree lighting ceremony (Dec. 7), or build a real snowman in the afternoon and a take a horse and carriage ride before dinner (Dec. 14). Schedule details available at www.orindatheatresquare.com.

The 12th Annual Tarabrook Holiday Boutique will feature one-of-a-kind handmade gifts and food from over 30 local artisans from noon to 8 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 6**, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8** at 1 Tarabrook Drive, Orinda. Lots of parking. A percentage of the proceeds benefit the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Orinda Tree of Lights Holiday Celebration. Get yourself in the spirit before fessing up to the big guy about whether or not you've been naughty or nice in 2013. Program begins at 4:30 pm **Saturday, Dec. 7** at the Bank of America parking lot. To sponsor a light in memory of a loved one, visit the Hospice of the East Bay's website: https://hospice.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/2013TreeofLights/OrindaTree/tabid/482630/Default.aspx.

Jingle Festival. Everyone is invited for an afternoon of family fun from noon to 3 p.m. **Sunday, Dec. 8** at St. Mark's, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Come decorate gingerbread houses, sing holiday karaoke, and make ornaments and other crafts. There will be a holiday bazaar for your shopping pleasure featuring handmade scarves, crafts, jams, jewelry, baked goods, and books. After the festival stay from 3 to 4 p.m. for the Jingle Festival Holiday Concert. For more info, contact (925) 254-5965. *L. Snyder*

**Lavande Gift Cards for the Holidays**

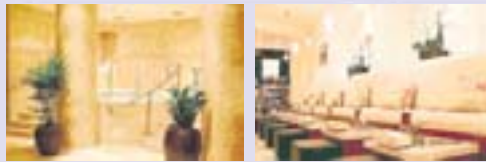
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You're Invited\*  
To Take a Photo  
with Santa  
So Bring Your Camera!  
Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>  
Noon - 3:00 p.m.  
Holiday Clowns • Balloon Art

New Location between Tuesday Morning and Nation's Giant Hamburgers

\*With your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25.00 or more Or visit us online at rheemvalley.net (See stores for details. While supplies last)



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...a Moraga tradition

