

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

SENIORS

The LLLCF Distinguished Speaker Series welcomes noted travel expert and TV personality Rick Steves at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at the Orinda Theatre. Steves, host of the PBS series Rick Steves' Europe and best-selling author of over 50 European travel books, will share tips on becoming a "temporary local" and connecting with your destination more intimately and authentically. Post-presentation book signing; books available for purchase at the event. For info, visit www.lllcf.org.

Covered California is the new healthcare exchange marketplace created because of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. Join representatives from Covered California's Community Outreach Network to find answers for you and your families. Enrollment counselors will be on site to sign you up! The event is free and will be held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 7 and Dec. 14, in the Homework Center. No pre-registration necessary.

Swing by Bailey Orthodontics for a combined open house, grand reopening, and holiday celebration. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and raffle prizes from 5 to 8 p.m. on Dec 12 at 15 Altarinda Road, Suite 104A, Orinda. www.baileysmile.com.

Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird-Watching - Experience nature at its finest along our local trails. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend, all the while learning to identify a variety of birds. Trail maps will be distributed. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. Join us every Wednesday or whenever you are able from 9 to 11 a.m. Meet at Lafayette Senior Services (Alder Room at the Community Center) at 9 a.m. For more info, or to place your name on the route email/phone list call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050.

Creative Writing Workshop - Examine the possibilities of self-expression through writing from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays bi-monthly in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. This friendly group, with an ever-changing membership but lots of returning participants, will welcome you and any of your writing efforts. Find encouragement and feedback and bring out the writer in you. If you can speak, you can write, and we will show you how! Beginners to established writers welcome. Cost per session: \$1 Senior Services members; \$3 non-members.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

See the list of wonderful holiday events planned in Lamorinda throughout December on page B8-B9.



'Tis the Season of Giving

The Moraga Police Officers Association along with S.A.F.E. (Stuffed Animals For Emergencies) is collecting new or gently used stuffed animals to help children through traumatic experiences. The stuffed animals are given to local police and fire departments to distribute to children they encounter who are affected by traumatic events. S.A.F.E also facilitates the distribution of donated stuffed animals for a variety of charitable purposes to help children. This year's annual holiday collection drive continues through Jan. 2, 2014. New or gently used stuffed animals can be dropped off in the collection area located in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd. Thank you for your support!

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Look for the Toys for Tots bins located in front of each MOFD fire station. Toy donations will be accepted through Dec. 25. If you have any questions, please call the MOFD administrative office at (925) 258-4599.

Need Donations?

During the holiday season, Lamorinda Weekly will accept and publish opportunities for local giving. Please send 100 words or less describing the cause, type of donation needed, and where to bring/send it. The organization collecting the donations, or receiving the donations, should be within our extended community. Submissions must be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com by Dec. 12 for inclusion in our Dec. 18 issue. Include "Season of Giving" in the subject line.

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MOVIE REVIEW

"Frozen"

By Derek Zemrak



that Elsa created in the ballroom, Anna receives a head injury and is unconscious. The only way to save her is for the king and queen to take her to the chief troll who saves Anna's life, but erases her memory of the event and her knowledge of Elsa's powers.

After the untimely death of the king and queen, Elsa becomes queen at the age of 18. During the coronation she tries to conceal her powers, but when Anna announces her engagement, Elsa goes into a rage, freezes the entire kingdom and runs away to create her own ice palace. It is Anna who must save the kingdom and her sister as she sets out on her journey. Along the way, Anna encounters new friends to assist her: Kristoff (Jonathan Groff) the local ice salesman, his horse and a snowman named Olaf, voiced by Broadway star Josh Gad ("The Book of Mormon"). Olaf is the much-needed comedic relief in the film. He lights up the screen in all his scenes. So with the help of these "Wizard of Oz" type characters, Anna must break the spell.

"Frozen" is rated PG, due to the death of the king and queen and the evil, gigantic snow monster that might frighten the little ones. The total running time (TRT) is 1 hour and 48 minutes. The movie goes along at a quick pace.

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 can be heard every Friday on KAHN 950AM on the Poppoff Show.

It is the time for holiday blockbusters and the family animated film "Frozen," which comes from Disney Animation not Pixar. The quality is not up to Pixar standards but overall the film is very well produced. I believe it is Disney's best film in recent years.

The filmmakers deliver a few surprises in the film: a strong female presence – the main leads are both girls and Jennifer Lee is a co-director. Lee wrote last year's Oscar nominated animated film, "Wreck-It Ralph." She brings a female perspective to the film especially in the form of "Wreck-It Ralph" humor. Chris

Image provided
Buck ("Surf's Up," "Tarzan") is the other director.

"Frozen" focuses on the two princess sisters: Anna, played by Kristen Bell ("Forgetting Sarah Marshall") and Elsa, the older sister played by Broadway actress and Tony winner Idina Menzel ("Rent," "Wicked"). The movie opens showing the closeness of the two as they play in the kingdom enjoying each other and establishing their sisterly bond. One day while playing a near tragedy strikes Anna. Apparently Elsa has magical powers that produce snow and ice from her fingertips. As the sisters are playing on the ice playground

MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM
THE MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM & LAFAYETTE LIBRARY PRESENT
Opera & Ornaments
A Merola Opera Program Holiday Concert
Saturday, December 7, 2013 • 2 pm
Lafayette Public Library • Community Hall
3491 Mt Diablo Blvd
\$10
Start your holidays with a concert featuring opera, Broadway and holiday favorites by Kristin Clayton & Bojan Knezevic!
For tickets, contact the Library at (925)283-6513 x103 or reserve@lllcf.org. Tickets may be available at the door.
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Comedy returns to the Rheem Saturday December 14th! Come join the laughs!

Bunjo's Comedy All Star Show
A Stand Up Comedy Showcase With Some of the Best Comedians in the Bay Area

Hosted By: Phil Johnson, Tim Krider, Sandra Rizzer, Dan Miras, John McKeever, Richard Severin, Emily East, Pete Wilcox, Tessa Anderson

Saturday December 14 @ 8PM (doors open at 7PM)
Tickets - \$12
www.lamorindatheatres.com or 925-388-0751
The New Rheem Theatre - 350 Park St., Moraga