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Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Service Clubs Announcements




Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

The Saklan School will be sponsoring a free showing of "Project Happiness" for the community at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18 at the Orinda Theatre. Filmmaker and "Project Happiness" founder, Randy Taran, will be in attendance and will host a question and answer session after the film. To reserve your free tickets, email marketing@saklan.org. Please provide your name and the number of tickets needed. Please note: this movie is appropriate for students sixth grade and up.

Social Media Strategies Workshop Series - Building a Strong Local Network in a Social Media World will highlight local opportunities for forging new connections and how social media can build upon those face to face interactions at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Lafayette Library.

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) has created a new scholarship for high school students who are implementing waste reduction and recycling programs on their high school campuses. Up to three scholarships (\$4,000 each) will be awarded to high school seniors entering college next fall. Please contact Ruth Abbe or Nancy Deming for more information about the program: Ruth.Abbe@abbeassociates.com (925) 974-2575/
nancyldeming@gmail.com (510) 290-4875.

Orinda Community Event - Over 45 unique vendors from holiday decorations, hats and scarves, pottery, custom-made quilts, jewelry and much, much more! Free Santa visits, Scooter the clown, and children's activities from 9:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Questions? Call the Orinda Community Center at (925) 254-2445.

Join Valley Stitchers and Fiber Artists Guild members for a luncheon where members provide the salads and the board provides desserts. There's always food to share with guests. And you have the bonus of members showing off their talents along with a surprise to all. Doors open for a little shopping at 9:30 a.m., and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 1 at Faith Lutheran Church at 50 Woodworth Lane, Pleasant Hill. For info, call Sheila at (925) 945-1338.

SENIORS
Words of Wisdom ... From the Philosophical to the Lighthearted - discussion group Led by Craig Janke from 10:30

a.m. to noon on the third Tuesday monthly in the Cedar room of the Lafayette Community Center. Take part in this free-wheeling exchange of inspiration, information, and humor. Topics - from soup to nuts - will be explored, examined, and discussed by participants. Stories and photographs will stimulate humorous discoveries regarding the benefits of becoming the 'elders of our tribe.' Cost: free for Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

Apple Basics - facilitated by Sharon Beck, owner of Mac-Senior from 10:30 to noon on the first and third Thursday's in the Elderberry room of the Lafayette Community Center. This series will start at the very beginning: the technology needed for wireless communication, your Apple ID, iTunes, iCloud and the basics of iPad and iPhone usage. Topics for future sessions will be determined by participants' input and needs. There will be time for Q&A at the end of each class. Please note: this series deals with Apple devices only. Cost per class: free to Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

Lamorinda Village is presenting an informational session from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 15 at Holy Shepherd Church in Orinda. The "Village" is about enabling residents to age in their own homes by providing valued services and programs, volunteer opportunities, and enriching relationships. The Village is volunteer based, not for profit, and is part of a national movement of more than 150 Villages, each designed to meet their members' unique needs. In addition there will be a free workshop to learn new ways to improve your "brain" health.

Downsizing and Moving - an interactive and engaging presentation offering tips and techniques on how to go about the moving process as well as the actual physical move of your belongings - presented by Gentle Transitions and Seniors on the Move, in conjunction with Merrill Gardens Lafayette from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 2 at Merrill Gardens Lafayette, Corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Second Street, Lafayette. Free.

GARDEN

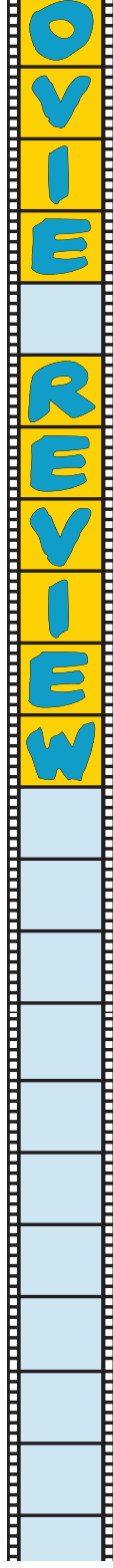
The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 10 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek at 9:30 a.m. (business meeting); 10:30 a.m. (social time); and 11 a.m. (program). Tim Nash of Navlet's Nursery in Pleasant Hill will speak on the choosing and caring for houseplants. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For info, contact mslitle44@gmail.com.

Moraga Garden Club will meet Thursday, Nov. 20 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social time at 9:30 a.m., meeting starts at 10 a.m. featuring speaker Susan Morrison, who will discuss "Design Solutions for Small Spaces." Guests are welcome.

Montelindo Garden Club meeting will feature speaker Matthew Levesque, author, designers, speaker and advocate for material reuse, who will discuss "Reuse in the Garden" at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. For info, visit www.matthewlevesque.com.

'St. Vincent'

By Derek Zemrak



Oliver (Jaeden Lieberhaer), a young boy whose parents have just divorced, finds an unlikely friend and mentor in the misanthropic, bawdy, hedonistic war veteran, Vincent (Bill Murray) who lives next door. Photo courtesy Weinstein Co.

Each year one movie becomes the surprise gem that everyone should go see. Last year I said it was "Parkland" and this year it is "St. Vincent," starring Bill Murray, Melisa McCarthy, Naomi Watts and Jaeden Lieberhaer. At first glance one might say, based on the outstanding cast, "St. Vincent" would be a slapstick comedy. It is far from slapstick! It is a 'dramedy' about a young boy, Oliver, who is dealing with his parents' separation. He moves to a new neighborhood, new school and finds an unlikely friend in his new neighbor, Vincent. Oliver finds the good in Vincent, who is a grumpy, unhappy old man. A lesson all of us can learn - that there is good in all people. Newcomer Jaeden plays Oliver and he does an excellent job opposite the veteran actors, Oscar nominees Murray ("Lost in Translation"), McCarthy ("Bridesmaids") and two-time Oscar nominee Watts ("The Impossible," "21 Grams"). Based on Jaeden's performance, we will see him for years to come. Murray as Vincent is outstanding and should

receive his second Oscar nomination. An unknown fact about Murray - he does not have an agent. You need to call his 800 number and pitch him the role you would like him to play. If Murray likes what he hears, he will call you back. If not, well - so sorry. First time feature film director Theodore Melfi, who also wrote the screenplay, succeeded in his pitch and Murray agreed to the role. Murray worked with Melfi on the script and it truly shines on the big screen. Other supporting cast includes Oscar nominee Terrance Howard ("Hustle & Flow") and Chris O'Dowd ("Bridesmaids," and the 2012 'gem' "The Sapphires" - rent it if you have not seen it.) "St. Vincent" is my favorite film so far this year. I have seen it now three times. Do yourself a favor and go see this wonderfully acted, scripted and directed movie. If you are not touched by this movie you have missed the point. "St. Vincent" has a PG13 rating with an enjoyable 102 minutes that will make you laugh, cry and learn a valuable lesson in life.

'The Snow Queen' Opens at OIS

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



"The Snow Queen" Icicle Cast Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater fall dramatic production, "The Snow Queen," will run Nov. 13-15 at OIS. The play is written by Ron Nicol and produced in agreement with Samuel French, LTD. In this adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's tale, childhood friends, young Gerda and Kay learn about the Snow Queen through their grandmother's description: "On win-

ter nights when we are asleep she flies silently through the streets and alleyways. Sometimes she stops to look through a window and when you get up the window is covered with flowers of frost for she has breathed on the glass." The Snow Queen casts her icy spell on the world and turns young Kay's heart to ice and takes him away as her eternal prisoner to her ice palace at the very top of the world.

Gerda, Kay's friend, must journey forever north and brave many dangers in her attempt to save Kay and break winter's grip. The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre as part of their Youth Education Program. Rachel Robinson serves as director with Brett Jones as assistant director and acting coach. In reference to the production, Robinson notes, "The bonds of friendship run deep in 'The Snow Queen.' It motivates all the characters' actions - even the bad ones. As is often the case, the themes of the play have seeped into our rehearsal process. Theatre tends to be the great equalizer. It takes 52 students from three different grades, with different social groups and interests, and brings them together to tell a story." For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

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