

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Martian'

By Derek Zemrak

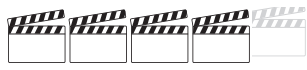


Photo courtesy 20th Century Fox all rights reserved

The Martian is a true "Real Hollywood Story" that has a great back story. Bay Area resident, writer Andy Wier, began working as a computer programmer at the age of 15 at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore. He

originally started "The Martian" as a free serial on his website. The popularity of "The Martian" grew and Wier made the decision to make the novel available on Amazon Kindle for a fee of 99 cents. It quickly rocketed to the Kindle's bestseller

list. Crown Publishing Group came knocking and published the book, which quickly jumped to number 12 on the New York Times Best Seller's List.

What does that mean? Hollywood was next and the movie rights were sold.

"The Martian" is directed by three-time Oscar nominee Ridley Scott ("Black Hawk Down," "Gladiator," "Thelma & Louise" and "Alien"). It is Scott's best SciFi film since "Alien" and possibly his greatest film ever. The movie has a stellar cast which includes: Oscar recipient Matt Damon ("Good Will Hunting"), two-time Oscar nominee Jessica Chastain ("Zero Dark Thirty," "The Help"), Oscar nominee Kristen Wiig, four-time Golden Globe nominee Jeff Daniels ("The Squid and the Whale," "Something Wild") and the very talented actor Michael Pena ("Ant-Man," "American Hustle").

The story begins with the top NASA

crew on Mars. When a violent storm erupts, the crew must make an emergency departure from the planet. One crewmember, astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon), is presumed dead and left behind on Mars. Watney must call upon all his scientific knowledge to stay alive and find a way to inform NASA on Earth that he is still alive.

"The Martian" is thrilling, intense, thought provoking and it will keep you on the edge of your seat. The wit of Damon's character will assist in breaking down the occasional scientific theory in the movie. The cinematography is amazing. I am sure "The Martian" will be receiving several awards come award season.

"The Martian" is rated PG-13 for some strong language, injury images and brief nudity, with a TRT (Total Running Time) of 2 hours and 21 minutes. A must see on the big screen.

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

Art of Mixology Cocktail Competition and Tasting from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at Orinda Theatre Square. Competitors will serve up their signature cocktails to a distinguished panel of judges as they vie for the title of Mixologist of the Year, and a \$500 cash prize and trophy. Tasting tickets for adults 21 years of age and older are \$45. For more information about the Art of Mixology craft cocktail competition, to enter and to purchase tickets, go to <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology>.

Brighten your October days with a new kitten or cat. Meet the adorable adoptables at Community Concern for Cats weekend showing from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

The Campo Girls Water Polo team is hosting a garage sale fundraiser from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at 881 Camino Ricardo in Moraga to earn money to purchase field markers for the Soda Center pool. Treasures from 30-plus families will be for sale, including clothing, toys, electronics, housewares, tools, and more. Homemade baked goods will also be for sale.

Volunteers needed to prune the Fire Blight - damaged branches from the 102-year-old pear orchard adjacent to Joaquin Moraga School in Moraga (1000 Camino Pablo at Canyon) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday in October. Bring pole pruners, loppers and hand pruners, water, gloves, hat and sunscreen. Wear sturdy shoes. Reply to barbarampreston@comcast.net with which day and number of adults and kids (ages) and what tools you will bring.

Blessing of the Animals - 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 451 Moraga Way in Orinda. Come celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with us at St. Mark's United Methodist Church to bless our animal friends. Enjoy singing, praising, puppets, poetry, and fun. Bring your animal friends on leash or in a crate. A pot luck lunch and treats will be served after the service. For more info, email stmarksumc@stmarksumcorinda.org.

Saint Mary's College Guild presents Italian Night at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 in the Soda Center. Live Italian music and food will be offered. \$35 per person. Make checks payable to Saint Mary's College Guild, 628 Augusta Drive, Moraga, 94556, or call Cynthia Kelly at (925) 388-0437.

Borderland hip-hop at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 11 at 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. The service will include reflections from Sandhya Rani Jha of the Oakland Peace Center, live hip-hop, interactive poetry

stations for kids, and poetic readings. For info, call (925) 283-3722 or visit www.oslc.net.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its October meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12 in the Concord I Room at John Muir Medical Center - Concord Campus, (2540 East Street, Concord.) The speaker will be Maureen DeGarmo, who will discuss "Reorganize your life after a Trauma." For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

Gather with friends, neighbors and peers to watch the Frontline documentary, "Being Mortal," from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church - Fellowship Hall, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The film explores what matters most to patients and families experiencing serious illness. Register at: www.lamorindavillage.org/calendar.

Guided Meditation provided at 9 a.m. every Wednesday at St. Mark's United Methodist Church 451 Moraga Way, Orinda with a focus on health, healing, harmony, and wholeness. For info, call (925) 254-5965.

Uncharted - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 16 and 17 in Downtown Berkeley's historic Arts District (2025 Addison Street, Berkeley.) Uncharted was founded in 2013 as the Bay Area's first ideas festival. It brings together some of the world's great thinkers, designed to engage and inspire. It's an interactive, eye-opening two days of discussion, debate, workshops, and good food, beer and wine. For more info, visit: <http://www.berkeleyideas.com/about/>.

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will feature Ellen Tauscher, the U.S. Representative for California's 10th congressional district from 1997-2009, on Tuesday Oct. 20 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Coffee will be served at 9 a.m. For membership information, visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

What is human trafficking? Why should we care? What can we do? Join a presentation from Soroptimist International, "Look Beneath the Surface," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21 at St. John Vianney Church, Mullen Commons, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more info, go to www.soroptimist24-680.org.

Women's Spiral Dance - A Multi-Cultural Celebration of Our Beloved Ancestors and Crones from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23 at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Road. Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple welcomes women and girls of all ages to its annual Spiral Dance. During this multi-cultural ritual, led by Kahuna Leilani, and accompanied by spiritual elders of

Not to be missed

different traditions, we come together to honor and celebrate our loved ones who have passed away. Tickets: \$23 in advance; \$29 at the door. For tickets or info, contact Leilani at (925) 787-9247 or Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com.

The Contra Costa Women's Commission in partnership with JFK University's Entrepreneurial Leadership Center will present a dynamic panel discussion on how to become a successful entrepreneur from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 28 at 2151 Salvio Street, Ste. 350 in Concord. Five women entrepreneur's from various fields will share their personal insights gained along the way and highlight how they became successful. For more info, or to make a reservation, go to www.womenscommission.com.

It's Medicare Open Enrollment time. Do you have questions about your Medicare plan for 2016? This is the time to understand your coverage. Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will be at the Moraga Library at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3 to talk about what's new with Medicare for 2016 and how to optimize your coverage. For more info, visit www.cchicap.org or call (925) 602-4163.

SENIORS

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116 welcomes guest to socialize at its monthly luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Leigh Kjeldsen, Au.D. audiologist, with Valley Audiology, will present information regarding hearing loss, causes and remedies. She will also touch on the latest in hearing and balance research. Please call (925) 322-1160 to make lunch reservations. Cost for lunch: \$15.

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club meeting and program at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8. Oktoberfest and tour of the Master Gardeners' "Our Garden," led by master gardeners Janet Miller and Helen Erickson at North Wiget Lane and Shadelands Dr., Walnut Creek. Anyone interested in attending, please email Carolyn Poetzsch cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its general meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 12 at the Gardens at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The program topic is "Keeping Your Garden Habitat Friendly in the Drought." You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For more info, email mittle44@gmail.com.

The Moraga Garden Club meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga, at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. Guest speaker will be Jill Appenzeller, author of "Postcards from the Hedge," who will give a presentation on "Year

Not to be missed

Round Color--Flowers Can Be Fleeting." Interested parties are welcome for the 9:30 a.m. social time, marketplace table and meeting at 10 a.m.

Montelindo Garden Club will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Topic: Water Wisdom - Drip by Drip by speaker Roxy Wolosenko, landscape designer and owner of Roxy Designs, Moraga. For info, visit www.montelindogarden.com.

Master Gardeners present Pruning Basics from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 28 at the Moraga Library. UC Master Gardener Lorraine Frey will share the basics of healthy pruning practices for your trees, shrubs and roses: why to prune, what tools to use, how to prune, when to prune and what to prune. The focus will be on what you should be pruning late fall through early spring.

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.

Please join us at our new location
THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL
on Friday mornings at 7am.
For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

October 9:
District Governor Ken Courville will update us on the District 5160's achievements and goals for this year!

October 16:
Robineve Cole will present the sensible principles of Universal Design to make your home "user friendly" for all ages.

Look for an upcoming Cold Weather Coat and Clothing Drive to help members of Monument Crisis Center. There will be donation drop-off locations in Lamorinda on November 6 and 7.

Lamorinda Weekly

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