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'Bridge of Spies'

Spielberg's Cold War thriller

By Derek Zembrak



Image courtesy DreamWorks all rights reserved

Bridge of Spies opens as a masterpiece displaying the art of motion pictures with the use of artistic cinematography to set the thriller tone of the movie. The first several minutes of the film have no dialogue – the picture tells the story.

The viewers are introduced through the camera lens that the FBI is on the trail of a Soviet Union spy, Rudolf Abel, masterfully played by Mark Rylance (“Bing,” “Wolf Hall”). Rylance’s performance reminded me of James Whitmore’s amazing performance in “The Shawshank Redemption.” One can only hope that Rylance will not be overlooked for his performance when award time arrives, as Whitmore was for “Shawshank.”

Rudolf is arrested and must stand trial for spying. Of course, he is convicted in the press as the most hated man in America before he even sees the inside of a courtroom.

The CIA hires a law firm to represent Rudolf’s defense and when none of the senior attorneys want to take on the case, insurance attorney James Donovan (Tom Hanks) is assigned the duties.

Donovan quickly becomes the second most-hated man in America. Donovan believes that everyone should have the right to a fair trial as the U.S. Constitution clearly states, putting himself and his family in danger.

As the Cold War continues the United States plans a secret mission for U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers (“Austin Stowell,” “Whiplash,” “Dolphin Tale”) to photograph the Soviet Union. Powers’ plane is shot down and he is captured by the Russians. Although Powers’ leaders are disappointed in him for not committing suicide before being captured, the U.S. government decides to offer the Soviet Union a trade – Rudolf Abel for Francis Gary Powers. Donovan is assigned the negotiation duties.

“Bridges of Spies” is a solid spy thriller but not a Spielberg masterpiece like “Schindler’s List.” The cinematographer and two-time Oscar recipient Janusz Kaminski (“Schindler’s List,” “Saving Private Ryan”) is deserving of a third Oscar for his artistic magic in “Bridge of Spies.”

“Bridge of Spies” is rated PG-13 for some violence and brief strong language with a TRT (total running time) of 2 hours and 21 minutes.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Combatants for Peace at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23 in the Social Hall of the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek. Founded in 2006, Combatants for Peace is nonprofit volunteer organization of ex-combatant Israelis and Palestinians — men and women — who have laid down their weapons and rejected all means of violence. Entrance fee is \$10 to cover event costs. For more info about Combatants for Peace, visit www.cfpeace.org.

Yard Sale supporting St. Giles Church, Moraga from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at 501 Moraga Way, Orinda.

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. Wednesday, 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.women-scommission.com.

A community screening of the groundbreaking film, “Girl Rising,” is being held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30 in the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets (sold at door) are \$8 for adults; \$5 for students. The event is hosted by Acalanes’ SAGE Club (Students for the Advancement of Global Education).

Custom Garage Tour featuring live music, classic cars, food trucks and, of course, custom garages from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Check-in at Blodgett’s Flooring at 1 p.m., 3291 Mt Diablo Court in Lafayette. Cost: \$35 per ticket. Lunch available for purchase. For info, visit www.LafayetteCF.org, email info@LafayetteCF.org or call (925) 284-8214.

Join Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, for an All Souls’ Day Festival, inspired by the traditions of Dia de Los Muertos from 9:30 to 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1. Bring along a small photo of someone you have lost for the shrines we will create. Also featuring musical guest Cascada de Flores and face painting for the kids.

North Shattuck Association presents Dia de los Muertos Celebration in the Gourmet Ghetto from 5 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2 North Shattuck Ave., 1400-1800 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. Build a community altar, wear costumes, face paint, Aztec dancers, DIY art projects, food, beer and wine, and a sidewalk candlelight procession. Free. For more info see <http://www.another-bullwinkeshow.com/day-of-dead/> or call (510) 334-6523 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkeshow.com.

A Gathering of the Tribal Knowledge – a two night panel discussion of the Grateful Dead starting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 6 and 7 at the Town Hall Theatre. For schedule and tickets, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.

Lafayette Juniors 22nd Annual Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Special early bird entrance fee: \$5 per adult from 7 to 8 a.m. Pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, toys, and gear, furniture, household goods, and much more. For info, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Eldercare Services will be participating in the AFA National Memory Screening Week by appointment only, Nov. 2-6 at 1808 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Call (925) 937-2018 to schedule a free screening with an Eldercare professional care manager.

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 is new with Medicare for 2016 and how to optimize your coverage. For more info, visit www.cchicap.org or call (925) 602-4163.

Dementia Roadmap: From Diagnosis to Family Care at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Eldercare Walnut Creek office at 1808 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Join Linda Fodrini-Johnson as she discusses what you need to know, what you need to plan, and what you and your family can do when faced with the challenges of dementia. No fee and limited seating. Advance registration required. To register for an event call (866) 760-1808 or email us at info@eldercareanswers.com.

GARDEN

Master Gardeners present Pruning Basics from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, 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.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, Nov. 9 at the Gardens at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The topic of the program is Special Flowers and Arrangements for the Holiday Season. Anna Cambell grows unusual flowers on her own farm and will share her "live art" with a hands-on demonstration of unique and simple arrangements. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For more info, email mslittle44@gmail.com.

SENIORS

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com



MORAGA Asian American Club

Thanks supporters of the 2015 MAAC Charity Golf Tournament

- MONTEREY HILTON GARDEN INN
- CHUCK CORICA GOLF COMPLEX
- MORAGA GARDEN CENTER
- BERKELEY BOWL MARKETPLACE
- LEE’S FLORIST & NURSERY
- RUSSELL TAKEI
- RONALD WAKE
- KEN KAWAICHI
- ED OSHIKA
- DERREK TOMINE
- CRAIG YAMADA
- EDA FUKAYAMA

The Holiday Marketplace

Beautiful handcrafted items, gourmet goodies, and works of art.



Friday, Nov. 13
11 am - 7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 14
9 am - 5pm

ELK’S LODGE
1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek

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.

<p>LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary <i>Friends, Fun, Service Above Self</i></p>	<p>We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com</p>
October 23:	October 30:
Speaker: Catherine Baker , District Assemblywoman, on Priority Issues and Challenges.	Speaker: Tom Guyette , recent Regatta maven, exposes himself
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.	

<p>SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680 <i>Best for Women</i></p> <p><small>"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"</small></p>	<p>Please join us for our next meeting:</p> <p>WHEN: Wednesday, November 4th Social 5:30-6:00 p.m. Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>WHERE: The Buttercup Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.</p> <p>"Save the Date for our Crab Feed" Saturday, January 23rd</p> <p>For more information, contact: Regina Englehart @925-876-9076 or go to: soroptimist24-680.org</p>
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