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◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

FAMILY HOLIDAY EVENTS

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," presented by Town Hall Theatre, runs Dec. 3-17 in Lafayette. For show times and tickets, call 925.283.1557 or see www.TownHallTheatre.com. (See story page B1.)

North Shattuck Association presents "Snow? In Berkeley?" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4, at Gourmet Ghetto, 1451-1495 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Bring boots and mittens to play in the snow. There will be a Snow Queen, pony rides, DIY crafts, holiday craft vendors and more. Cost: Free. For more info see www.anotherbullwinkelshow.com/holiday-berkeley/holiday-gourmet-ghetto.html, call (510) 334-6523 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkelShow.com.

Kids Mega Challah Bake. Join dozens of children from across Lamorinda in making, kneading, & shaping challah from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 7. For youth of all ages. \$10 a child. <http://www.chabadoflamorinda.com>.

You're invited to take a photo with Santa from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10 in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, in the suite directly next door to Starbucks. There will also be holiday clowns and balloon art. Free with your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25 or more. www.rheemvalley.net.

Orinda Theatre Square Free Family Holiday Fun is 5 to 8 p.m., tree lighting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3, Free Santa visits and Photo Op, Kids Ornament Workshop, Horse and carriage rides. 5 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 10, Meet the Frozen Princesses, photo booth/face painting, horse and carriage Rides, free gourmet coffee and hot chocolate.

Holiday Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 1 at the Moraga Commons Park. Join Santa and his Moraga Youth Involvement Committee helpers for cookies and hot cocoa in the Moraga Commons Park for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting. Entertainment with the Lamorinda Theatre Academy begins at 6:30 p.m.

"It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" community holiday celebration is scheduled from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 in Lafayette's Plaza Park, located in downtown Lafayette. Complimentary admission. Arrive early and plan to stay. This fun and festive event includes visits from Santa, official holiday tree lighting ceremony, one-of-a-kind photo ops, live entertainment, crafts, holiday treats and a holiday sing-along.

See the Christmas story come to life at the 12th annual viewing of the Live Nativity at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC). Come by anytime from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 when the MVPC Courtyard will be transformed into a Bethlehem manger. While the Courtyard will be a reverent scene, there will be additional activities, music and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. The Sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection. Free.

Find all your handcrafted holiday gifts and support local artisans at the annual holiday faire at the historic Hacienda de las Flores. Hand-crafted gifts, décor and specialty foods by over 45 local artisans. All items hand-made. This event is sponsored by and is a fundraiser for The Hacienda Foundation. 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 and 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. For more information email HaciendaHolidayFaire@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/Hacienda-HolidayFaire/.

The Orinda Hospice Tree lighting ceremony will be take place at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 outside Bank of America in Orinda Village. (See page A7.)

All are welcome to join the Saint Mary's College Guild to attend their annual Christmas luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Dryden Hall, St. Mary's College. Social hour and a bake sale featuring holiday treats and a money tree raffle will begin at 11 a.m. with a delicious lunch served at noon. Entertainment by the Saint Mary's College award-winning chorale. Cost is \$45 and all proceeds benefit financial aid scholarships. RSVP by Nov. 30. For questions: phone Pat Mc Enaney at 376 - 3306.

Second Annual Afternoon of Gratitude, to be held on Friday, Dec. 9 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr. This end-of-year event is Lamorinda Village's way of thanking members, volunteers, and donors with a nice social gathering for folks to meet each other. Entertainment by a local Irish Celtic group. If you have any interest in helping out with the event, please contact Anne@LamorindaVillage.org.

The Peter Pan Foundation proudly presents its holiday show, "Twas the Opening Night Before Christmas." It follows a high school in the midst of auditions, callbacks, opening night, and all the drama that comes with it. The show will be performed at Northgate High school Little Theater Dec. 9 to 11. Visit www.peterpanfoundation.org for show times and to purchase tickets.

The Contra Costa Mega Challah Bake is 7 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 15 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Discover the art of challah making from scratch and the mystique of the time-honored tradition. \$18 with advanced registration. RSVP required at www.Jewishcontracosta.com/ChallahBake.

ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents Social Justice: It Happens to One It Happens To All. It showcases 43 artists on the themes of social justice that examines timely subject matter being debated during this election year. Through Dec. 11. Also, The American Soldier, A Photographic Tribute, an exhibition of 116 photographs, from the Civil War to the War in Iraq, is on display. This is a dramatic exhibition of photographs from the Civil War to the War in Iraq that captures the essence of American soldiering over more than

150 years. It will run through Dec. 18. 1928 St Mary's Rd., Moraga, (925) 631-4000.

The David Lew Art Exhibition runs through Dec. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette,

Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit Beauty Near and Far features oil landscapes by Walnut Creek artist Kerima Swain, whose vibrant colors and sun-dappled landscapes transport viewers to sites around the world, from Saint Mary's College and the Golden Gate to the Greek isle of Hydra and beyond. Also featured is a boldly-hued collection of pit and saggar-fired ceramics by guest artist Lesley Jensen. The show runs through Jan. 7. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance is proud to announce a new show at the Orinda Library, *People, Places and Things*, opening Dec 3 and running through Jan. 2. This show represents all media and many styles from realism to abstraction. Many of the paintings and photographs are scenes that will be familiar to Bay Area residents. A free reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 4. Chat with the artists and partake in appetizers and beverages while you enjoy fifty plus pieces of artwork.

Jennifer Permuter Gallery presents *It's the Small Things* holiday small works exhibit Dec. 8 through 23, with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Dec 8. Enjoy wine and refreshments, art by Bay Area artists, priced for gift giving. Original Oils, mixed media, photographs, Pit fired and Raku ceramics.

MUSIC

The Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, a nonprofit organization, will be performing "Fairy Tales: A Holiday Concert" at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr. Tickets: \$25 general, \$10 senior and students, kids free. <http://oebgmc.org>.

Handel's "Messiah" remains the most well-known oratorio ever written and will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church and 4 p.m. on Dec. 4 at the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland. Cantare's Chorale and Ensemble will join with soloists and a full orchestra to present this masterwork. Tickets: \$40 General and \$35 Senior. For groups of eight or more, tickets are just \$30 per person. Purchase tickets online at www.cantareconvivo.org or call (510) 836-0789.

Diablo Choral Artists presents "Christmas Pudding," a concert of traditional English songs featuring works by Rutter, Tavener, Vaughan Williams, Byrd, Holst, and more at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill. Details and ticket purchase on website www.dcachorus.org Info (925) 680-7089, info@dcachorus.org

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Lamorinda's Religious Services

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www.christianscienceorinda.org



Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

10 Moraga Valley Lane | www.mvpc.today.org | 925.376.4800

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holy shepherd.org



WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 NOVEMBER 20, 2016 - JANUARY 8, 2017

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

Please...



...thanks

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
 Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
 Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com