

# 'Love, Simon'

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

In the vein of the great John Hughes' films of the 1980s, "Pretty in Pink" and "Sixteen Candles," the teen romcom (Romantic / Comedy) "Love, Simon," which is based on the 2005 novel "Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda," is now playing at the Orinda Theatre.

"Love, Simon" is an important film as it is the first coming-out film distributed by a major film studio (Fox 2000 Pictures) that is rated PG-13. The studios have released previous gay coming-out movies in the past few years, such as "Moonlight" (2016) and "Call Me By Your Name" (2017), but both were rated R. The PG-13 rating will give more teens an opportunity to

see "Love, Simon."

The story centers around Simon (Nick Robinson from the television sitcom "Melissa & Joey") who is dealing with coming out. He soon befriends another young man online from his high school who is struggling with the same issues. Although they both have not revealed to each other who they are, their friendship and support grows.

When the protagonist in the movie, Martin (Logan Miller, "The Walking Dead") finds out Simon's secret, he begins blackmailing him. The film has all the right elements: a solid script with humor, meaning and a positive message for the movie-going audience. The casting is spot on with several very talented young actors (Kathrine Langford, "13 Reasons Why"), Alexandra Shipp ("X-Men: Apocalypse") and Keiynan Lonsdale ("The Flash"). Some strong supporting roles with Golden Globe winner Jennifer Garner ("Alias") and Josh Duhamel ("Transformers") as Simon's supportive parents. When Simon's dad has a discussion with his son about being gay, it will bring a tear to your eye.

In the movie a Ferris wheel is used as a metaphor that "Life has its ups and downs" but when is the right time to get on or off? "Love, Simon" is a charming crowd pleaser which was evident at the press screening when the teens in the audience cheered and applauded numerous times throughout the movie. Go see "Love, Simon."

The movie is rated PG-13 for thematic elements, sexual references, language and teen partying. The total running time is 1 hour and 49 minutes.

## Springtime events set for local kids



Fun was had by all at Lafayette Plaza last year during the Lafayette Rotary's Candy Scramble. Photos provided

The Big White Bunny is getting around this year, hopping to several Lamorinda locations March 24 and 31 as part of four community events designed to delight local children, as well as their shutter-happy parents who will have ample opportunity to capture happy egg-or candy-hunting moments.

The Moraga Junior Women's Club will host its 36th annual Spring Egg Hunt from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 24 at Moraga Commons Park. This popular fun-filled event will not

only include the exciting egg hunt, but games, bounce houses, a rock climbing wall, face painting and arts and crafts – and, of course, a photo op with the big bunny himself. Tickets for the event are \$15 per child, age 0-8, and are available online at [www.moragajuniors.org/events/spring-egg-hunt](http://www.moragajuniors.org/events/spring-egg-hunt). Food will be available at the event, which will be held rain or shine.

The following weekend will feature the Lafayette Rotary Club's annual Candy Scramble at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 31 at Lafayette

Plaza on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. The park lawn will be covered with candy for the kids to put in their baskets, and the youngest will be given extra time to get their share. Open to all children ages 2 through second grade, the Candy Scramble will also feature visits from the Big Bunny himself, as well as police and fire department representatives who will be there for picture time with the kids. The Scramble will start promptly at 10 a.m., and will include the Jonny's Donut Dive (for adults only).

The Easter Bunny will also be at the Rheem Shopping Center (Rheem Boulevard at Moraga Road) in the suite between Dover Saddlery and Nation's Giant Hamburgers between noon and 3 p.m. Saturday, March 31 in Moraga. Bring your camera!

On the other side of Lamorinda that day, the Orinda Rotary will host its annual Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. March 31 at the Orinda Community Center Play Field, featuring over 2,000 eggs and prizes for all as well as pictures with the White Bunny. The event is limited to toddlers or kids in kindergarten, first or second grades only. Be sure to bring baskets for the children, arrive at least 30 minutes beforehand, and park on the street or the Rite Aid lot. Rain does cancel this event.

Happy hunting!  
– J. Wake



Children chat with Mr. Bunny at last year's Orinda Rotary Egg Hunt.

**When I say "good," you say "neighbor."**

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## Service Clubs Announcements

Meets Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Check us out at [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or email us at [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

<p><b>March 23</b> <b>STEVE WARE</b> presents in gripping tales of being misunderstood, often imitated but never duplicated.</p>	<p><b>March 30</b> <b>WHO?</b> Paul Bettelheim! <b>WHAT?</b> His charted course along life's byways.</p>
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**When spring comes the grass grows by itself. Tao Te Ching**

**Lafayette Rotary Club**

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.  
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

<p><b>March 22:</b> <b>Chester Santos,</b> Memory Fun 101 – Memory Training for Everyone</p>	<p><b>March 29:</b> <b>Gus Kramer</b> Marriage, Divorce and Taxes</p>	<p><b>March 31, 10 a.m.</b> <b>Candy Scramble at Lafayette Plaza Park</b></p>
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[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366)

## Not to be missed

**OTHER ... continued**

**Stanley Middle School Rube Goldberg contest:** Pour a Bowl of Cereal at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28 in the Stanley Middle School Gym, Lafayette. Based on the 2018 National Challenge, and in the spirit of inventor/artist Rube Goldberg, students must create a machine using objects such as marbles, dominoes, magnets or levers that will pour cereal into a bowl in 12 steps. Students' machines will be judged on creativity, timing and accuracy. Free and open to the public.

**Join a National Park Service ranger for a Springtime Saunter** beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 31 on Mt. Wanda, part of the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. This free, two-hour program begins with a moderately strenuous hike to look for wildflowers and learn about the plants and animals native to the area. The trail includes about 650 feet of elevation gain, but the reward is a beautiful 360-degree view from the top. Visitors should meet at the parking lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez. Reservations are not required. Please call the John Muir NHS Visitor Center at (925) 228-8860 if you have questions. For more information, please visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu).

**Giorgio Tavechhio, a Campo grad who is a kicker** for the Oakland Raiders, will be the special guest speaker at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Men's Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. Tickets are \$25 via [www.mvpctoday.org](http://www.mvpctoday.org) and must be purchased by April 4.

**Area residents who own classic cars are invited** to participate in the 11th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 12 as part of the 2018 Moraga Community Faire. The \$35 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 2, but space is limited to 70 cars, so register early to secure a spot. To register, go to [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire) or call Gloria at (925) 247-4473.

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**Assemblywoman Catherine Baker is holding** a Moraga Walk and Talk Town Hall beginning at 10 a.m. on March 24 at Rancho Laguna Park, 2101 Camino Pablo, Moraga. Enjoy a walk on a local trail and get the latest updates on state legislation. RSVP to [asmrc.org/AF/WALKTALKRSVP](http://asmrc.org/AF/WALKTALKRSVP) or call (925) 328-1515.

### SENIORS

**Senior Scam Workshop presented by Pearl Yon,** Better Business Bureau from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 22 in the Lafayette Community Center Cedar Room. This workshop will educate you on the scams that most frequently target older adults. You will learn to recognize the red flags and receive tips on how to avoid the scammers' tactics. Additionally, you will be provided with useful resources that will help lower your chances of falling victim to these scams. Handouts of the information will be yours to take home. Members: Free, Non-Members: \$10.

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