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SANTA'S BAG

Friday - December 2
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday - December 3
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - December 4
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Gift Baskets will be sold by the Lafayette Community Center Foundation to benefit the Community Center.

Lafayette Community Center
500 Saint Mary's Rd.
Lafayette

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Local Artist at Santa's Bag Bo

By Cathy Tyson

Once shoppers have nibbled their way through the vast array of samples in the food room of the extensive Santa's Bag Boutique; it's time to move over to an even bigger room at the Lafayette Community Center full of unique holiday and gift items. Keep an eye out for lifelong Lamorinda resident Kristin Gregersen who has been working diligently on hundreds of gorgeous hand painted note cards and plaques along with very special hand painted goose eggs ornaments.

It's not unusual for her to work until the wee hours of the morning. "I'm a night owl," says Gregersen, who works eight to ten hours per day, with her legs up and pillows behind her back to prop her up. "I just love it. It's very relaxing for me."

It's a labor of love for Gregersen, after preparing scores of cards – that can take anywhere from a half hour to an hour to paint, she will be selling them at the Boutique. All of the cards have original designs, and there's even a coordinating image on the back envelope flap. Priced around \$5 for a note card, her paintings are the deal of the century. This year



she has an assortment of design snowmen, along with teddy bugs, cats and beyond.

"People like my simple designs," said cat lover Gregersen, who works at Lafayette Community High School back in the day on duck eggs, but enjoys the large goose eggs. The eggs are sent to Dakota, all carefully packaged, transformed into a work of art.

'Tis the Season

Lafayette

Wednesday, November 23, 7:30pm. Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in the Temple Isaiah Sanctuary 3800 Mount Diablo Boulevard, entrance off of Risa Road. The entire community is welcome at Temple Isaiah for this annual event. Bring your friends and neighbors for an evening of interfaith prayer and inspiring music from a collection of adult and children's choirs. Refreshments will follow the service.

Sunday, November 27, 11:45am-2pm. Advent Festival: games, crafts, food and fun for all ages at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Have questions? Call (925) 283-3722.

Friday, December 2 through Sunday, December 4 Santa's Bag Boutique at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Lots of delicious handmade treats, jewelry, ornaments and holiday sparkle will be on sale to benefit the Lafayette Community Center Foundation. Don't miss out on quite possibly the best toffee you have ever had. A wide variety of gift baskets from area merchants will be available at the silent auction, hint: think coffee, books, wine and more. Admission is free. 12/2, 11am-7pm; 12/3 and 12/4, 9am-5pm. For more information, call Judy Gregersen at 510-918-2280 or email santasbag@comcast.net.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-2pm. Nutcracker Storytime with Diablo Ballet. Enjoy a sweet holiday treat with this special retelling of the classic fairytale featuring dancers from the Diablo Ballet. Don't forget to wear your favorite dancing finery! Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. (925) 385-2280.

Sunday, December 4, 5:30pm, Tree of Lights
Hospice of the East Bay invites the public to participate in its 25th annual Lafayette Tree of Lights ceremony at the corner of Mt. Diablo & Lafayette Circle East, near the Round Up. Each light on the tree is symbolic of a life and will shine in honor or memory of a beloved friend or family member.

Sunday, December 4, 7pm. Master Chorale at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian church, the area's longest performing Korean Choir group. The evening will feature both Korean and English language holiday pieces. Tickets are \$20 a piece, available at the door, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Friday, December 9, 1:30-3pm: Annual Holiday Concert and Fundraiser – Performance by Rossmoor and Moraga Community Chorus at the Live Oak Room of the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Get in the holiday spirit with a festive afternoon of music, caroling, light refreshments, and a chance to win wonderful raffle prizes. Funds raised will go to support the Lamorinda Spirit Van paratransit program. Call 284-5050 to reserve a spot. \$3 for member and \$5 for non-members.

Moraga

Saturday, December 3, 6:30pm, Tree Lighting at the Moraga Commons Park (tree lighting at 7pm) Don't miss the cookies, cocoa, music and Santa.

Saturday, December 3, 5:30-8pm, Live Nativity – See the Christmas story come to life as the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church courtyard is transformed into a Bethlehem manger.

Tuesday, December 6, 8pm, and Wed., Dec. 7, 1pm, the Saint Mary's College choirs return from the Interkultur American International Festival with a Gold Rating to sing a program of sacred music and holiday favorites. Concerts in the Chapel. Free admission.

December 8 from 11am-2pm Saint Mary's Guild is hosting a Merry Christmas Luncheon at Saint Mary's College Soda Center as a fundraiser for student scholarships. The Saint Mary's College Chamber Singers will sing a wide variety of selections; including classical, traditional, jazz, and Broadway songs. Enjoy champagne cocktails and a Christmas raffle. The price of the luncheon is \$45. For more information call Jeffrey-Lynn Dunne (925) 284-7750.

Orinda

Friday, December 2, Noon-8pm, Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4: 11am-6pm, 10th Annual Orinda Overhill Holiday Boutique. Now in its new location: 1 Tarabrook Drive, Orinda (one block from the old location – look for the signs). One-of-a-kind handmade gifts & food from over 30 local artisans. All items handmade. Lots of parking. Great Prices! A percentage of the sales of many of the artists goes to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Friday, December 2 at 7:30pm. A community sing of Handel's Messiah will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St Stephens Drive, Orinda, on The Messiah Sing will be directed by Minister of Music Robert Train Adams, with Festival Choir, professional soloists and chamber orchestra with harpsichord and organ. This event is an annual fundraiser for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Childcare is available by reservation. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information contact Brenda Free, office@ststephensorinda.org or (925) 254-3770 x10.

Saturday, December 3, 4:30-6pm, Tree of Lights, Orinda Village Square, Orinda Way. Hospice of the East Bay invites the public to participate in its 25th annual Tree of Lights ceremony. Each light is symbolic of a life and will shine in honor or memory of a beloved friend or family member. Please join the commemorative ceremony to enjoy music, poetry, remembrances by family members and friends of Hospice, and the special moment

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For Lamorinda Merchants please visit:

www.lafayettechamber.org | www.moragachamber.org
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