

An insider's perspective into life under Communist Russia at SMC Museum of Art

By Kara Navolio



Leninism: Our Banner, V. Ivanov, The Hollingsworth Collection

The current exhibit at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art offers an insider's perspective into life under Soviet totalitarian rule.

"Darker Shades of Red: Soviet Propaganda Posters from the Cold War Era" is a collection of 55 posters compiled by Gary Hollingsworth during trips to Russia after the fall of communism. Hollingsworth, an art restorer who was in Russia to restore religious paintings, came across the posters at Flea Markets as most Russians were trying to purge all things related to communism. He saw them as an opportunity to preserve a piece of Russian history. Over a 20-year period he returned to Russian many times, bringing back a few posters at a time.

The collection shows the official government-sanctioned communication to the masses with images

and text that convey strength, progress and abundance under communism. Communism was not compatible with religious images, so, in many ways, the images created during this period are an attempt to replace the religious iconography of Christianity with Communist Party ideas. "Images of Saints were being replaced by cosmonauts and the farm worker," explains Museum Director Lauren MacDonald. "What the people should venerate was being changed by the imagery." Other common heroic figures were the border guards, soldiers, and strong women workers. One poster depicting Lenin states, "Live by Lenin's ideas and grow up as a Communist, to bring new glory to the country."

Among the collection are some posters created by a group called the Fighting Pencil. They used satire to focus on social problems of the '60s and '70s, like alcohol-

ism, violence, laziness and corruption. Other posters show messages directed at bringing children up as good communists or comparing the prosperity of socialism to the oppression of capitalism and the west.

The exhibit is a very visual and powerful lesson on Russian history from 1945 to 1991, with English translations for each piece and helpful background information posted throughout. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday with free admission for all. Public tours are offered on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m., and can also be arranged at other times for school groups by calling John Schneider at (925) 631-4379. Saint Mary's professors will offer informative art chats at 1 p.m. on February 28, March 21 and May 1. The show closes on May 20. For more information, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.



Increasing the Field is the Main Goal..., Solovjev, The Hollingsworth Collection

Service Clubs Announcements

February 23

Where? Who?
Steve Ware from whence he came to be.

BREAKFAST MEETING:
Friday mornings, 7:00 am.
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa,
Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. More info.
at www.lamorindasunrise.com

March 2

Photojournalist **PAUL GOLDSMITH** presents amazing photographs and stories that will thrill you to the bone.

Ordinary people making a difference

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>February 22: Racheal Zinn Lafayette School District Superintendent re: district's budget and a plan to go for another parcel tax.</p>	<p>March 1: Sharon W. A New Day Human Trafficking</p>
--	---

www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA
26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

Contact us:
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com
Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Copy Editor: Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com,
Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com
Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com,
Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
John T. Miller; john@lamorindaweekly.com,
Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
Thoughtful Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers:
Conrad Bassett, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, B.B. Kaye, Michael Lupacchino, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Alexandra Reineke, Victor Ryerson, Moya Stone, Jon Kingdon, Derek Zemrak
Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
Mailing address:
Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Please submit:

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

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

The Elfenworks Center for Responsible Business invites you to its fourth annual conference from 12:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1 in the Soda Activity Center to explore how businesses have defined and honored human rights. Learn what actions businesses have taken to comply with standards and prevent violations of human rights. Explore models and practices that can inspire other businesses. The conference check-in will begin at 12:30 p.m., followed by panels exploring the interdependence of business and human rights, a keynote address, and ending with a networking reception. The event is \$20 (free for current SMC students, staff and faculty) and open to all, but registration is required.

Summer camp job fair with the town of Moraga and cities of Lafayette and Orinda 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 at the Lafayette Community Center, Live Oak Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. There will be many summer camp providers ready to hire local talent for the summer months.

In addition to meeting with employers and finding out which jobs are available, there will also be a resumé building workshop to get your resumé updated and ready to stand out. For more information visit moragarec.com.

All are invited to celebrate with Saint Mary's College Guild St. Patrick's Day Dinner/ Auction Fundraiser from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 10. Featuring a delicious, traditional, Irish corned beef dinner with all the trimmings. Guinness, Harp, wine, Irish coffee available. Cost: \$50 per person. Make checks payable to: SMC Guild, Send to: Shirley Bohuslav, 782 Augusta Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. For more info: (925) 284-7750.

Persian New Year Chaharshanbeh Souri: Festival of Fire - Persian Center will be hosting its 19th Annual Chaharshanbeh Souri from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 13 at the 2000 block of Durant Avenue in Berkeley. Jump over bonfires to celebrate the change of seasons and welcome spring. Enjoy Persian food, music, dancing, and

children's activities. Rain or shine. Free. <https://www.facebook.com/PersianCenterOrg/>

Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) will now host its Third Annual ShortDocs Film Fest at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center at 3 p.m. on April 15. Originally scheduled for Feb. 11 this year, this documentary film festival provides local filmmakers an opportunity to create new work as well as showcase it at a community screening. The extended deadline for Entries for the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest is now March 18. To learn more about the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest competition and to enter go to <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs>.

17th Annual Women's Film Festival LunaFest at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 at the Orinda Theatre. This unique film festival highlights women as leaders in society, illustrated through nine short films by women filmmakers. The films range from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women's health, body image, relationships, cultural diversity and breaking barriers. There will be a

VIP reception starting at 6 p.m. in the Fourth Bore Tap Room. Tickets are \$25. Advance tickets only, purchase at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-film-festival-tickets-43121612905?aff=es2>.

Come break all the rules at the "Night at the Library" - includes cocktails, vino, silent Disco (!?!!) and fun around every corner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2 in the stacks of the Lafayette Library. Immerse yourself in merriment, while supporting the library and its programs. www.LLLCF.org/Night2018

Join LOPC for Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28. Andy Amstutz from Lamorinda Village will speak on the topic of "Over 55? What can Lamorinda Village do for you?" Bring friends and family. \$5 donation at the door for breakfast. RSVP by noon on Feb. 27 to janet@LOPC.org. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. (925) 283-8722. LOPC.org.

GARDEN

Volunteers are needed to prune Fire Blight from the Moraga 104-year-old pear orchard from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24 from at 1000 Camino Pablo (cross street Canyon). Instructions, gloves/tools provided. Wear sturdy shoes/bring water; bring loppers, gloves, hand/pole pruners, and orchard ladders if you have them. For info, contact Bobbie Preston at (925) 376-8474 or barbarampreston@comcast.net.

Montelindo Garden Club March Meeting (third Friday of every month, September through May) will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 16 at Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Presentation: Big Ideas for Designing Your Small Back Yard; speaker Susan Morrison. Susan is a nationally-recognized landscape designer and authority on small-space garden design. Her most recent book, "Less Is More in the Garden," was released early in February. Ms. Morrison's presentation will focus on how to create unique small-space gardens that are lovely, family friendly, and low maintenance.

SENIORS