

St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda 254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org

\$ 925-377-0977 Not to be missed Not to be missed \blacklozenge

ART

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "A Visual Feast" - an exhibit featuring children's book illustrators through Dec. 31. Original art, reproductions and children's books for sale.

"Intercepting Light: The Mind's Eye" at the Moraga Art Gallery. The Moraga Art Gallery kicks off the new year with an exhibit of eye-catching landscapes by photographer Wenda Pyman, whose work calls to mind such masters as Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter. The show, which includes paintings, ceramics, jewelry, and more by the gallery's 15 member artists and several guest artists, runs from Jan. 13 to March 19. The public is invited to an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16. "Yellowstone: Beauty, Beasts, and Boneyards," which runs through Jan. 9, features oil landscapes by Orinda's Lisa Gunn, whose imaginative palette captures the primitive character and timelessness of Yellowstone National Park and its environs. Also featured is a boldly-hued collection of one-of-akind etched tableware, handmade by guest artist Lisa Neimeth. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance invites you to its premier photography show at Town Hall Theatre Gallery in Lafayette. The new show, which features six local photographers, will run through Feb. 20. Works include black and white and color photos inspired by nature, travel and nostalgia. For more information contact JoAnn Lieberman, THT Curator at olabambola@sbcglobal.net. (See story page B5)

MUSIC

Audition for WomenSing by appointment on Jan. 5. All voice parts are welcome. Scholarships are available for qualified singers. Our spring concerts will give voice to the variety of traditions that have shaped America and WomenSing, including works by William Billings, Aaron Copland, Alice Parker, Libby Larsen, and a world premiere by Marjorie Halloran. WomenSing will be touring Northern Italy June 21-28, participating in the Alta Pusteria International Choral Festival. For info, email audition@womensing.org, or go to womensing.org. **Under Arrest: Tales of Classical** Music's Most Notorious Felons. Although the connection between classical music and notorious crimes may seem obscure, Gold Coast Chamber Players' Crime and Punishment will expose the criminal lives of Bach, Gesualdo, and others. Soprano Christine Brandes will be highlighted in a program for strings, voice and harpsichord. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23 (preconcert talk at 7 p.m.) at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Tickets and information: www.gcplayers.org, (925) 283-3728 THEATER

of the exciting new titles coming out this spring and will also discuss what the bookstore can do to help teachers and librarians in their programs – by arranging author visits to schools, for example. Also highlighted will be what Orinda Books offers in discounts for teachers and librarians when purchasing books for school use. Refreshments will be served. For info, visit www.orindabooks.com.

A free lecture series, "Shared Humanity, Different Faiths" will be presented by Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, at 433 Moraga Way, Orinda from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday evenings beginning Jan. 6 with Dr. David Matsumoto (Buddhism), followed by Rabbi Mates-Mushin (Judaism) on Jan. 13; Professor Ali Ataie (Islam) on Jan. 20; Father Nicholas Borzghol (Orthodox) on Jan. 27; Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein (Lutheran) on Feb. 3. Add to your understanding of current events. All are welcome.

This is All a Dream We Dreamed: An Oral History of the Grateful Dead. Authors Blair Jackson and David Gans, who chronicled oral history of the 50-year-old band using multiple perspectives to tell the story of a group that began as a San Francisco jug band of penniless hippies, morphed through multiple musical incarnations, and created a colorful psychedelic subculture, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The more than 100 voices in the book include members of the Dead, including deceased guitarist/de facto leader Jerry Garcia, and keyboardists Ron Pigpen" McKernan and Brent Mydland and their collaborators as well as business partners and fans. Cost: \$15 general admission; \$10 current LLLCF donors (please call (925) 283-6513); \$35 reserved seat and a copy of "This is all a Dream We Dreamed." (See story page B3)

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Can't make it to midnight? Welcome the New Year early at the Moraga Library from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. Countdown to 1 p.m. with balloons, time zones resolutions, crafts and sparkling cider. The library is located at 1500 St. Mary's Rd. Call (925) 376-6852 with any questions.

Thursday, Jan. 14 at Orinda Books. 2016 at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4 fea-Orinda Books staff will feature some turing guest speaker Susan Lane, a textile artist who uses fabric to create pictorial or abstract images, at Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill. Texture, color and movement inspire her work. Visitors are always welcome. Admission: \$5/person.

> Pink Fitness Night Out from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6 at NextBarre Lafayette 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Learn about the benefits of exercise and healthy nutrition in decreasing breast cancer recurrence. Enjoy a demonstration of Pink Ribbon Pilates, a new exercise program specifically for women who have had breast cancer. Speakers will include Leslie Jerge, certified pilates instructor, Tiffany Svahn, MD, breast cancer specialist and Tinrin Chew, RD, oncology nutritionist. Space is limited, please RSVP to Leslie@nextbarre.com.

> Medical Qi Gong is an internal Chinese meditative practice that uses slow graceful movements and controlled breathing techniques to promote the circulation of Qi within the body and enhance overall health. The exercises are not physically demanding and can be easily learned to achieve relaxation, concentration and breathing. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and supportive tennis shoes with smooth soles for this class. This class will be led by Dr. Alex Feng, PhD, OMD, LAC, a renowned Qi Gong Master and teacher. The classes run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Herrick Campus, Maffly Auditorium, 2001 Dwight Way in Berkeley. Please call (510) 204-4785 for information (free valet parking is available).

> The League of Women Voters of **Diablo Valley** presents its monthly Saturday program and discussion about Water - Our Precious Resource by watching and discussing the award winning film: "Last Call at the Oasis" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. This film examines current water availability and distribution systems and introduces viewers to individuals who are trying to improve access. Learn, discuss and share. Light refreshments served. League and non-League members welcome



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"Beyond the Horizon" will be presented in a staged reading as part of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation's Playwrights' Theatre series at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10 at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, in Danville. Reservations are available online at www.eugeneoneill.org, or by phone at (925) 820-1818. Tickets: \$25.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Moraga Movers and the Moraga Library present Book Talking at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13. Author Christopher Gortner will discuss his novel, Mademoiselle Chanel, a creative reimagining of the life of iconic fashion designer Coco Chanel.

An Educational Happy Hour. All teachers and librarians from public and private schools are invited to a special event just for them at 4 p.m.

Acalanes High School Parent Education Event: Harmful Stress and Its Impact on Teen Health at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 in the Acalanes Performing Arts Centre (PAC). In conjunction with the first annual "Green Ribbon Day" for mental health awareness at school, the Acalanes Parent Club, Wellness Committee will host a panel discussion of presenters. Each presenter will give a brief introduction of their background and the work they do in the community to alleviate teen stress. This will then be followed by an interactive panel discussion with questions raised from the audience. Tickets are \$11.49 via Eventbrite and proceeds will support the work of the Acalanes Parents Club Wellness Committee. This event is open to all AUHSD High Schools, Stanley Middle School Parents/Teachers/Staff and interested members of the local Lamorinda and Walnut Creek community.

Practice SAT - The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Scholarship Committee has scheduled two tests for 8:30 a.m. check-in, one on Jan. 30 at Miramonte High School in Orinda, and the other on Feb. 20 at Campolindo High School in Moraga. A week or so later, parents and students return to receive their scores and participate in an interpretive discussion. Space is limited; register today! Cost: \$35. For more information and to register for the test, visit the website at Miramonte: omlca.aauw.net/mhs/ or at Campolindo: oml-ca.aauw.net/chs/.

OTHER

Valley Stitchers and Fiber Artists Guild will hold their first meeting of

Mindful Aging at the Moraga Library - Introduction to Tai Chi for Better Balance at 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 14. Cynthia Black, trained in Tai Chi for better balance and certified in Chair Chi, a form of Tai Chi practiced from a chair, will show you how to improve your balance through Tai Chi.

As this new year begins you may be thinking of activities you would like to pursue. SIRs Las Trampas Branch 116 welcomes guest to socialize at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18 at its monthly luncheon at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, and learn of membership activities, which include book discussions, bridge, computers, dine-outs, dominoes, fishing, golf, hiking/walking, investments, poker, travel, wine tastings and more fun things. For more information about these activities for retired men, visit www.Branch116.org. Call (925) 322-1160 for lunch reservations; cost for lunch is \$15.

Cooking Basics: Soups and Chowders with Mike Weller, Byron Park Executive Chef and Former Le Cordon Bleu Director of Education from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26 at Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. Who doesn't love the smell of a hearty batch of soup simmering on the stovetop? These onedish meals are the ultimate comfort food on a cold winter's night. Come taste Chef Mike's scrumptious recipes and watch as he demonstrates these easy-to-prepare soups and chowders. Space is limited; reservations required by Wednesday, Jan. 20. Call Lafayette Senior Services: (925) 284-5050. Cost: free for members; \$10 nonmembers.

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