

Virtual Reality and Dogs at the Orinda Theatre

By Derek Zemrak

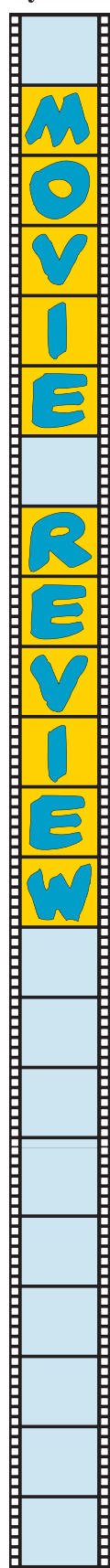


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Image provided

The film "Ready Player One" starts out with the great Van Halen song, "Jump," playing in the background. What's not to like when a movie gets you rocking at the beginning?

Based on the bestseller science fiction novel from 2011 by Ernest Cline, "Ready Player One" is directed by Oscar winner Steven Spielberg. Set in 2045, with the world in chaos and nearing collapse, people find escape in a virtual reality universe called the Oasis. This world was created by a brilliant and eccentric individual by the name of James Halliday, who is portrayed by Oscar winner Mark Rylance ("Bridge of Spies"). When Halliday passes away he leaves his fortune to the first person to find the hidden digital Easter egg located somewhere in the Oasis.

"Ready Player One" is an entertaining film that pays homage to many Hollywood classics such as "Back to the Future" (yes, there is a DeLorean in the movie), "King Kong," "The Shining" and many more. As with any virtual reality video game there is so much to see. This movie should be seen on the biggest screen possible. It is good to see Spielberg get back to the genre that made him successful.

"Ready Player One" is rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action violence, bloody images, some suggestive material, partial nudity

and language. It has a total running time of 2 hours and 20 minutes. Yes, a bit long to be in the Oasis.

"Isle of Dogs" is a stop-motion animated film from director Wes Anderson. As with previous Anderson films, like "Moonrise Kingdom" (2010) and "The Royal Tenenbaums" (2001), "Isle of Dogs" has that same quirky comedy style. The stop motion animation has the same feel as Anderson's 2009 Oscar-nominated film "Fantastic Mr. Fox."

This time around the movie takes place in the future and is set in the city of Megasaki, Japan where Mayor Kobayashi has ruled that dogs can no longer live in the city limits and must all be transported to Trash Island. Arika, a 12-year-old boy, is determined to save his dog, Spots. He travels to Trash Island and befriends a pack of dogs to assist him in locating Spots.

I truly enjoyed this film, but Anderson's style is not for everyone. There is a lot of Japanese in the movie, but Anderson chooses not to add subtitles, which adds to the film's quirkiness.

"Isle of Dogs" is rated PG-13 for thematic elements and violent images and has a total running time of 1 hour and 41 minutes. This movie is not for little kids.

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Service Clubs Announcements

LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary
Friends, Fun, Service Above Self

Breakfast, Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Check us out at www.lamorindasunrise.com or email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

April 6 Four Russian women and local Rotarian Dick Burkhalter with U.S. Activist Sharon Tennison, President of the Center for Citizens Initiatives, to forge a constructive relationship with the Soviet Union.	April 13 Club Assembly
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April hath put a Spirit of Youth in Everything. William Shakespeare

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.

April 5: Carol Louisell Cancer Support Community	April 12: Perry Shusta Towing and Recovery
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

Not to be missed Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

The 2018 Moraga Community Faire & Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 12 at the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center - offering a wonderful opportunity for a "family fun day". Kid's Zone activities include pony rides, climbing wall, bounce house and basketball shoots. Grab a quick lunch at the food trucks, relax with a glass of local wine or beer and check out the over 70 amazing classic cars. Introduce yourself to over 50 local artists, business and organizations. Live entertainment will be presented all afternoon from the Saint Mary's Jazz Band to local Battle of the Bands winners. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated monthly luncheon from 10:15 to 1:30 p.m. on April 19 at the Orinda Country Club. The speaker is Timothy Donnelly, who is a Republican Candidate running in the primary for Congressional District 8. He has served as an assemblyman in the California State Assembly and has written for Breitbart. Cost of event: luncheon and speaker \$31; speaker only \$15; speaker only student discount \$5.

SENIORS

Creative Aging: A Workshop in Renewal through Creativity at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 16 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Join us for a highly interactive experience that will help you access your creativity and open the way to greater awareness and satisfaction.

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. Monday, April 9 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. "Fifty Years in the Nursery Business and I Still Love to Smell the Roses!" Buzz Bertolero is well known in the community as the former owner of Navlets Nurseries. We invite you to attend a meeting. Questions: mslittle44@gmail.com

Lafayette Garden Club April meeting from 9:45 a.m. to noon on April 12 at Lafayette Veteran's Building located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Program: Aesthetic Pruning of Japanese Maples, featuring speaker Yuki Nora, who will share her extensive expertise about how best to care for these beautiful trees. The Japanese maple, when pruned well, has an essence of grace and elegance. www.lafayettegardenclub.com

Montelindo Garden Club March Meeting (third Friday of every month, September through May) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, April 20 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Presentation: The History of Mt. Diablo and its Open Space Preservation by Seth Adams, the Land Conservation Director at Save Mount Diablo. Since 1988, Adams has contributed to SMD's growth into a major force for conservation in the East Bay. Everyone is welcome.

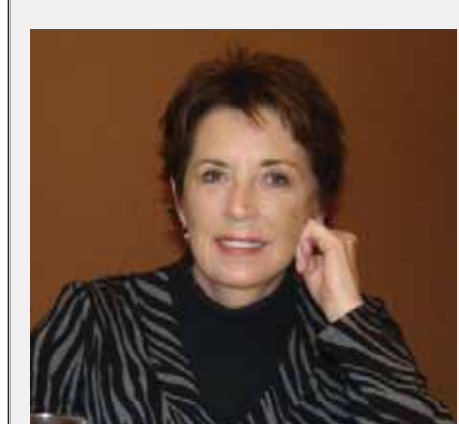
The Lafayette Garden Club will hold its first garden tour in many years from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at a series of five unique, private gardens in Lamorinda. The tour, Artful Gardens, also will include a pop-up market and a plant sale. The tour can give you good ideas of what you might want to do in your garden, to learn about new plants, and to have a fun day out with friends and family. The pop-up market, which will be located at one of the gardens, will offer a wide selection from local artisans featuring jewelry, ceramics, botanical art and specialty food items. The plant sale will include specimens propagated by club members. Tickets cost \$40 or \$35 each when four or more are purchased. lafayettegardenclub.com

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Contact us:
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Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Schreck; 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 Schreck; 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, Moya Stone, Jon Kingdon, Derek Zemrak
Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Schreck. 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

In Memory

Kathy Hillis Wood



Kathy Hillis Wood passed away on March 12, 2018 surrounded by her family in her home in Orinda, California from a six-month battle with lung cancer. Kathy touched many lives in her 74 years and will be missed and remembered by all.

Kathy was the eldest child of Fair and Charles "Chuck" Phipps of The Dalles, Oregon. Born on March 4, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois, she grew up in The Dalles, was a member of the high school National Honor Society and Homecoming Queen. She spent summers filled always with friends and family at her family's summer cottage on the beach in Neskowin, Oregon.

She married Allen Michael "Mike" Hillis in 1966, and lived in Bend, Oregon, where they reared their two children, Heidi and Greg. She married J. Roger Wood in 2005 and became step mother to Roger's children Heather, Whitney and Derrick. She graduated from the University of Oregon in 1966 with a BA in French and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority where she made life-long friendships.

Kathy met the love of her life, Roger Wood, 1997, and they were married in 2005. After retiring from Wells Fargo Bank and moving to Orinda, Kathy assumed perhaps her favorite role: that of grandmother to her seven grandchildren from her two children and Roger's three children. Whether Kathy was going to the farmer's market or to a glamorous evening party, she always looked beautiful. With a strong sense of self, unwavering confidence and a gracious caring, she nurtured many friendships in Oregon, Utah and California.

Kathy is survived by her husband Roger, her sister Gayle Meredith (Ralph), her two children, Heidi Hillis-Koerber (Damien), Greg Hillis, and three step-children, Heather Wall (Tyler), Whitney Wood and Derrick Wood (Kirsten). And her much-loved grandchildren: Max, Sam, Ashley, Parker, Luke, Connor, and Sadie.

Our family wishes to thank our dear friends who have provided food, love and support. A Celebration of Life was held in Orinda, California March 31st.