

Lamorinda Community,

Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar

City Council 7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School
1010 Camino Pablo
Wednesday, Apr 11
Wednesday, Apr 25

Planning Comm. 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, Apr 2
Monday, Apr 16

Design Review 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, Apr 9
Monday, Apr 23

Park & Rec. 7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room
2100 Donald Drive
Tuesday, Apr 17

Youth Involvement 7:30pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, Apr 12

Liaison 8:00am
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Friday, Apr 13

check online:
Town of Moraga:
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>
for:
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates

Local Artist

Robert Wahrhaftig Featured

The Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit, "Vibrant," will be running from March 22-June 3. The exhibit features Robert Wahrhaftig, who paints portraits, figurative works and an occasional landscape using strong, vibrant colors. In his portraits, Wahrhaftig aims not to create a precise representation of his subject, but rather to illuminate a person's character. "If I can, via portraits, create

something that approaches that explosion of color and emotion, and in some small way, capture the essence of a person I will be more than satisfied," says Wahrhaftig.

The Moraga Art Gallery is in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 570 Center St., Moraga.

For more information, call 376-5407 or go to their web site at www.moragaartgallery.com



Featured Artist Robert Wahrhaftig at the Saturday Reception
Photo by Jonathan Glidden

That's Italian!

Italian Nights at Rheem Theater Entertain, Inform By Jennifer Wake



Photo by Jennifer Wake
Saint Mary's Italian professor Maria Grazia De Angeles

Do you know about the Red Brigades? Most people don't. Yet the audience at the Rheem Theater who watched *La Meglio Gioventu'*, an Italian movie based entirely on this 1970s militant organization known for kidnapping, murder and sabotage, felt completely at ease thanks to Saint Mary's Italian professor Maria Grazia De Angeles.

For the past two years, De Angeles has been serving as a curator of sorts, outlining the specific genres, cultures, and histories behind some of Italy's finest films before their full-screen viewing at the Rheem on the first Tuesday of each month.

"I try to prepare [the audience] for the movie; give them a panoramic view," said De Angeles. "I give them an idea about

everything they're going to see: the location, the history and specific details if there is a connection to the history, as well as some language tips and words to listen for in a scene. I want to open a window to a specific culture."

Born in Rome, De Angeles came to the United States in July 1993, after a long period traveling throughout Europe and Africa following graduate school. Once at Saint Mary's, De Angeles began to seek out authentic Italian restaurants with real Italian staff so her students could practice the language.

She found Ristorante Amoroma in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center and came to know its owner Michele Lavecchia, who is also from Rome. "One day at the restaurant, he came up to me with an idea," said De Angeles. "He thought we could rent a space at Rheem and make the Italian culture known to people, with appetizers and wine based on the region from a movie - complete immersion."

It has proven to be a popular concept. Since Italian Nights began, it has grown from 40 people to nearly 200 attending the evenings, which include antipasti appetizers and wine, catered by Ristorante Amoroma, prior to the short presentation and movie. The audience has learned not only about the Red Brigades, but about unique ways of life, important mon-

uments, and historical facts about Italy.

"People know Florence, Rome, and Venice, but Italy is so diverse," she said. "Each invasion influenced art and history. I believe that film is a very versatile tool. It is a great way to introduce a region, discuss cultural aspects, and practice language."

Although space is limited for the beginning portion of the evening which begins at 6 p.m., seating is plentiful for the 7 p.m. presentation and film. In addition to Italian Night, French Nights are held on the second Tuesday of the month, catered by Left Bank of Pleasant Hill.

Tickets are \$12 with appetizers and wine, or \$8 just for the movie. Saint Mary's students can watch the films for \$5. For information on upcoming films and availability, call the Rheem Theater at (925) 988-3411.

Italian and French Movie Nights in April:

Tuesday, April 3
Francesco, 1989, directed by Liliana Cavani

Tuesday, April 10
Divina, 1981, directed by Jean-Jaques Beiniex

Lamorinda Skate Park Update

By Nee-Sa Lossing

When the Lamorinda skate park was built, controversy abounded as local residents feared the negative outcomes of the construction of the park. The most widely known apprehension was the possibility of the park attracting the "wrong crowd" from surrounding

Until recently, these fears went largely unrealized. This spring, however, the Town of Moraga had to spend over \$5000 to clean up graffiti vandalism, which has raised concern among city officials and citizens alike. There has also been an increase in "tagging" incidents around town.

skater Maria Sarmiento, a sophomore at Miramonte.

So far the park has been a success amount local skaters. "My friends and I were on the committee that helped plan the skate park," said park regular Jeff Schroeder. "We went to Board meetings and City



Graham Keeley, Conor MacKinnon, Tyrone and Devontae Briscoe enjoy the park
Photo by A. Scheck

areas, and the havoc they could potentially wreak on the community.



Conor MacKinnon

Another concern of parents was the issue of safety at the park. Helmets are mandatory at the park, and although this safety precaution isn't regularly monitored or enforced, park users say they try to respect the rules and look out for themselves and their own safety. Also, the Moraga police observe the park from time to time and check for helmets. "People might have thought it was a safety hazard, but I think that it's not really a concern anymore, because it doesn't seem to be that big of a problem," said frequent

Council meetings, we did fundraising and we also modeled plans out of clay." Schroeder continued, "I think it's better to have the skate park here than not. I don't think it brings a bad crowd." Sarmiento added, "I think that people's views have changed, because it provides a nice place for kids to hang out, where it's safe, and parents know where their kids are."

Nee-Sa Lossing is a feature writer, and a student at Miramonte High School



MORAGA TREELINE TRIATHLON

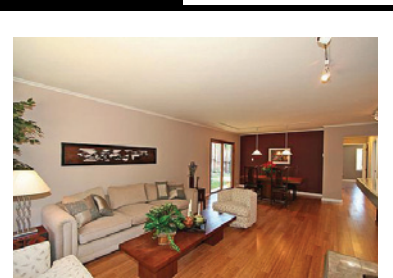
Moraga TreeLine Triathlon April 28

Registration Deadline: April 23, 2007

It's not too late - you can still sign up to swim, ride and run for fun and to benefit great local organizations! Register for the Moraga TreeLine Triathlon at www.moragatri.com by April 23!

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