

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

The Friends Corner Book Shop 'bookies' will have a sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 underneath the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For info, call (925) 283-1967. Proceeds benefit LLLC.

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) will present the illustrated lecture "Living in the Berkeley Brown-Shingle House" on Thursday, Aug. 8 at the University of California's Anna Head Alumnae Hall, 2537 Haste Street, on Berkeley's Southside. The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. and will be preceded by remarks by architect Chris Wasney on the award-winning restoration of Alumnae Hall. At 6 p.m., local historian Steven Finacom will lead a tour through the Anna Head campus, including an inside look at the old Study Hall and one of the classrooms. This tour is free with a lecture ticket and requires advance reservation. The evening will conclude with a book signing. Advance tickets may be purchased online. For complete information and ticket purchase, visit <http://berkeleyheritage.com>, e-mail baha@berkeleyheritage.com, or call (510) 841-2242.

Diablo Ballet and Diablo Magazine's Gourmet Gallop food and wine walk returns to downtown Walnut Creek from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8. The public is invited to sip, sample and stroll their way through 13 downtown Walnut Creek locations as they experience a one-of-a-kind culinary adventure. This self-paced, self-guided stroll offers the opportunity to savor amazing food and wine while being joined by the Diablo Ballet dancers. The Gourmet Gallop benefits Diablo Ballet and its PEEK Outreach Program, bringing arts education to 5,000 underserved East Bay elementary school students each year. Tickets: \$45. To purchase tickets or for more info, visit diabloballet.org or call (925) 943-1775.

Lafayette Hiking Group will meet at the city parking lot, 941 Moraga Road, at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 9 and will form carpools to the trailhead, Valle Vista to Red-

wood Park. Bring lunch or snacks, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes, sun protection and money to contribute toward gas (\$3 local). From the Valle Vista staging area enjoy oak and bay woodland, crossing Indian and San Leandro Creeks. From there, climb through the ferns and redwoods to the East Ridge trail in Redwood Park. Moderate with one steep hill, about 4 miles. Leaders: Alison Hill and Joyce Tse. Questions? Email LafayetteHiking@comcast.net.

Shelly Ryan, representing Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, will give a multimedia presentation titled *Climate Reality: An Impending Disaster or a Wake Up Call?* Presentation starts at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16 at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church Owl Room, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Co-sponsored by the Green Group, Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Walnut Creek. Free. For info, visit www.mduuc.org.

Planting Justice is a non-profit based in Oakland dedicated to food justice, economic justice and sustainable local food systems. Presenters will be promoting sustainable urban agriculture in the East Bay starting at 6 p.m. with a potluck, followed from 7 to 9 p.m. with a presentation Thursday, Sept. 5 at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church Owl Room, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. For info, call (925) 933-7850. Co-sponsored with Friendly Favors. Suggested Donation: \$20 and dish to share if attending potluck (free for students). If at all possible, please RSVP so that we may inform you of any changes. No login required: www.favors.org/MDPC.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County invites you to attend its 82nd annual barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17 at the Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area, 6531 San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. Tickets: \$20 per person; children up to age 12 free. Sponsorships are available at \$50, \$100, \$350, and \$500. To purchase your event tickets, visit <https://secure.act-blue.com/page/dpccc82>. For more info, contact Selina Williams at selina.williams@gmail.com.

Please submit:

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MOVIE REVIEW

"The Wolverine"

By Derek Zemrak



Logan (Hugh Jackman) races into a battle that's shattered a sacred ceremony.

Photo Ben Rothstein

Oscar nominee Hugh Jackman ("Les Misérables") reprises his role as Logan "The Wolverine" for the sixth time in this new chapter from the X-Men movie series which is truer to its comic book origins than most superhero films.

This movie is based on the celebrated comic book arc, which takes Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), the most iconic character of the X-Men universe, to modern day Japan. Out of his depth in an unknown world he faces his ultimate nemesis in a life-or-death battle that will leave him changed forever. Vulnerable for the first time and pushed to his physical and emotional limits, he confronts not only lethal samurai steel but also his inner struggle against his own immortality, emerging more powerful than he has ever been before.

The story begins as a flashback to World War II when the young Logan saves the life of one of his Japanese captors. The film then returns to today and Logan is a hermit in the back reaches of Alaska, suffering the mental damages from killing the woman he loved. Wolverine is tracked down by Yukoi (Rila Fukushima) and returned to Japan as the dying

wish of his aged archenemy, Yashida (Haruhiko "Hal" Yamanouchi). Through varying twists and turns, Wolverine has lost his ability to heal and is damaged by his adversaries during each battle.

This is an interesting film that gives viewers the best examination of Logan so far. It is a much better movie than "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" that came out in 2009, also starring Jackman. The Wolverine provides the audience with the appropriate amount of action for a comic book movie of this nature. It is not over the top and forced.

This is a summer flick that's mostly a good deal of fun and that is all anyone can expect from a superhero summer movie. Moviegoer tip: As an extra bonus for all X-Men fans -- wait for the Easter egg in the credits.

"The Wolverine" is rated PG13. Total running time is 2 hours, 9 minutes

Derek Zemrak is a film critic, film producer and founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news. Derek can be heard every Friday on KAHN 950AM on the Poppoff Show.



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