

April Library Events

Celebrate Earth Day and attend a book signing in April

By Harriet Halbig

There are events for all ages at the library in April. The One Book 4 Colorado program will kick off with a Mouse Party, teens will celebrate Earth Day by making seed bombs, and adults will be able to attend an author signing and create a new anime club.

Family programs

The library's Coloring for Everyone program will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 on Friday, April 7. This program, open to all ages, will feature the theme of Wild Animal Fun. We provide a selection of coloring pages, pencils, gel pens, and crayons. You are also welcome to bring your own supplies. Drop in anytime between 3 and 5:30. No registration necessary.

Come to a Mouse Party on Saturday, April 8 from 2:30 to 3:30 to kick off this year's One Book 4 Colorado program. Every 4-year-old will receive a free book and have a squeaking good time! This statewide initiative was created by Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia to emphasize the importance of early literacy and reading to children.

On Friday, April 14 from 11:30 to 12:30 and again from 4 to 5, make some Easter crafts at the library, including one that's edible. Please register so that we know how many are coming.

The Lego Build Club will meet on Saturday, April 15 from 10 to 11:30. We will provide the Legos as you bring your imagination.

Teen programs

Join the Monument Teen Creative Writing Group on Tuesday, April 4 from 6 to 7:30. This is a writing group for ages 12 to 18. No registration is required.

April is National Poetry Month. Join us to celebrate it by creating your own customized magnetic poetry set using old magazines. The program will be held from 4 to 5 on Tuesday, April 11. All materials will be provided and registration is required.

Join an intergenerational knitting group from 3 to 4:30

on April 5 and 19. This group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction provided for beginners.

Having problems with math? Experienced tutors will assist students of all ages and grade levels each Monday from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Drop in for help; no appointment needed. There is no charge for this program.

Celebrate Earth Day by making seed bombs on Saturday, April 22 from 1 to 3. These small clay balls contain local seed and fertilizer and when thrown they will grow on their own. Ages 9 to 18 are welcome and registration is required.

The Teen Arts and Crafts Open Studio will be held from 4 to 6 on Wednesday, April 26. Use our meeting room as space to create. Supplies will be provided as available, and feel free to bring whatever you are currently working on. No registration needed.

Adult programs

See above for details on intergenerational knitting and coloring programs.

April's Second Thursday Craft program is Basic Drawing with Debbie Ross on Thursday, April 13 from 2 to 4. Join us for a basic pencil drawing class presented by Pikes Peak Library District's (PPLD) first Artist in Residence. Supplies are provided and registration is required.

The Monumental Readers will meet on Friday, April 21 from 10 to noon to discuss *These is My Words* by Nancy Turner. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

On Saturday, April 29 join local author LeAnna DeAngelo for a reading and signing of her novel *Maestro Satriano*, based on the life of the first musician to perform at Red Rocks. Copies of the book will be available for sale. No registration necessary.

Every Thursday from noon to 1, join PPLD's first established yoga group. Classes are held following D-38's

calendar.

Interested in founding an Adult Anime Club? Come to the library study room from 6 to 6:30 on April 27 to discuss how you'd want a club to look and possible activities. There will be snacks! This group will be for ages 18 and up.

On the walls during April will be editorial cartoons by Chuck Asay. In the display case will be *Depression Glas*.

Palmer Lake Library Events

The Palmer Lake Book Group will meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 7. Please call 481-2587 for the current selection. All patrons are welcome to attend.

Come to the Palmer Lake Library at 10:30 on Saturday, April 15 for a One Book 4 Colorado party. Enjoy mouse-themed crafts and games and have a squeaking good time. Each 4-year-old will receive a free book from this program developed by Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia to emphasize the importance of early literacy and reading the children.

Regularly occurring programs at Palmer Lake include Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:30 and Toddler Time on Fridays at 10:30.

Please note that all PPLD facilities will be closed on Sunday, April 16.

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Above: Brittany Thiele, with children Avi and Jason, enjoyed reading together during the Monument Library Dr. Seuss Day. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

Palmer Lake Historical Society, March 16

From boy soldier to Colorado teacher

By Mike and Sigi Walker

As part of the Palmer Lake Historical Society's monthly history series, Bob Easterly presented "An Act of Congress" on March 16. Easterly told the story of Lewis Henry Easterly, his great-grandfather. Lewis arrived in Monument in 1878 and lived for five years in the Palmer Divide area. While obtaining his teaching credentials, he worked for the school board. He then taught school in Pring, Pratt, Rich Valley, and elsewhere in El Paso and Douglas Counties. The one-room Spring Valley School still stands and has been restored.

Easterly was born in 1852 in Murphysboro, Ill. At the start of the Civil War in 1861, he traveled with his 21-year old uncle to deliver horses to the Union Army. It was commonplace for family members to travel with soldiers, so when his uncle was recruited by the 9th Illinois Infantry Volunteer Regiment, 9-year-old Lewis became a boy soldier serving in the fife corps. The commanding officer of the fife corps was Major Warren Jenkins. At the end of his eight-month enlistment, Lewis was returned home as his uncle was a casualty at Shiloh. His honorable discharge was verbal and never recorded.

In 1883, Lewis moved to Gunnison where he became a rancher, outstanding citizen, and one-time deputy sheriff.

During a Memorial Day parade, he met Civil War veteran Jenkins, who encouraged him to apply for membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Lewis' application was rejected because he did not have documentation of his service or honorable discharge.

Through Jenkins' efforts and those of members of the GAR and politicians, "Private Act No. 79 of the 70th Congress" awarded Lewis Henry Easterly his discharge certificate in 1928—80 years later. He became a distinguished member of the GAR and was grand marshal of the Pittsburgh Encampment Parade in 1939. He died in 1943.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 20, when Steve Antonuccio will present "The Alexander Film Company." Founded in 1919, the company moved to Colorado Springs in 1928 and purchased 260 acres on North Nevada Avenue. The Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce purchased an additional 90 acres of land for an airfield and raised \$50,000 in private subscriptions to ensure the firm's relocation. The 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s saw sustained growth until the late 1950s—the advent of television and the closing of many local theaters throughout the country. Find out what dealt the most crippling blow, making it impossible for national advertisers to use Alexander-produced commercials.



Above: (Left) Bob Easterly with his great-grandfather's fife. Photo by Mike Walker. (Right) Lewis Henry Easterly was grand marshal of a parade in 1939. Photo courtesy of Bob Easterly.

This program is free and open to all. Venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7. Light refreshments are served after the presentation. ■

High Altitude Nature and Gardens

Dandelions benefit gardeners, soil

By Janet Sellers

In the March issue of the Harvard Business Review, a leadership article reported that the dandelion is a powerful metaphor for leadership, stating, "The resilient, flexible, nurturing style of the dandelion might be more emblematically better suited to today's modern digital world and its constant change than the rigid, inflexible style of leadership reflected by the banyan tree." (The banyan tree has long been a symbol of leadership in Southeast Asia).

The dandelion (or lion's tooth in the French translation), of the sunflower and daisy family, is an abundant ancient foodstuff worldwide, offering superb nutritional and medicinal benefits. Commonly, people deride the dandelion, but in looking at local flora in terms of forest living and healthy gardens, one surprising helper is the humble yet powerful dandelion.

Although the plant is native here, European settlers brought their own, valued root to flower, as food just in case the New World didn't have any. Dandelions provide the first nectar food for birds and our vital honeybee population, and are our natural predictors for garden season readiness. They truly support our gardens, bringing up deep earth nutrients closer to the surface via their long taproots. It may seem they fight for garden space, but their season is short and the benefits last. We just need to optimize them for ourselves.

All parts of the plant support human and animal life. The roots make a medicinal tea that has been used in Asia for thousands of years, the leaves offer beneficial nutrients in a salad or cooked greens, the flowers are tasty in salads, batter fried as fritters, piled into a batter for a pancake, pickled with ginger, and used in cookies

and wine.

Not only is the dandelion a rich source of nutrients as a food, it offers powerful healing qualities against disease. Canadian researchers found that dandelions can kill cancer cells without harming normal cells. It slows the growth and eventually kills the cancer cells. I read the research article edited by Keshav K. Singh, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, "Efficient Induction of Extrinsic Cell Death by Dandelion Root Extract in Human Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia (CMML) Cells," and it seems the humble dandelion has proved itself a hero.

We think of dandelions as a pervasive plant in most places, but it's interesting that we do not see many dandelions in our rich, pine-filled forests. Looking further, I found that the ponderosa forest is not only nutrient