

let he's never seen before. What follows is an odyssey that takes Arthur from London to Paris to India in an epic quest to find out the truth about his wife's secret life before they met—a journey that leads him to find hope, healing, and self-discovery in unexpected places.

### Breaking Wild

By Diane Les Becquets (Penguin Random House) \$16  
Diane Les Becquets tells the story of one woman missing in the Colorado wilderness and another bent on discovering her whereabouts. Following them in alternating threads,

*Breaking Wild* assumes the pace of a thriller, laying bare Amy Raye's ultimate reckoning with the secrets of her life and Pru's dogged pursuit of the woman who she believes she can find.

### A New Way to Bake

From the Kitchens of Martha Stewart (Clarkson Potter Publishers) \$26

Here is the go-to, next generation home-baking bible, with 130 foolproof recipes that take us beyond white flour and sugar to include better-for-you and delicious ingredients—

superfoods, coconut oil, farro flour, quinoa, and more. It includes a DIY section for making your own nut butter, yogurt, coconut milk, and other basics, and more than 150 photographs.

*"To describe my mother would be to write about a hurricane in its perfect power. Or the climbing, falling colors of a rainbow."*—Maya Angelou

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).

## May Library Events

# Come to the library for intergenerational fun

By Harriet Halbig

As the school year winds down, consider joining us for an intergenerational activity at the Monument Library.

Activities this month include an intergenerational knitting group on May 3 and 17 from 3 to 4:30 (some supplies provided or bring your own), or, an annual favorite, our Mother's Day Tea Party on May 13 at Palmer Lake Town Hall (see the Palmer Lake section for details).

### Family programs

On Saturday, May 13 from 2:30 to 3:30, Marc Straub from Cool Science will teach us how to make Dippin' Dots ice cream using liquid nitrogen. Science never tasted so good! The Lego Build Club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, May 20.

### Teen programs

Need a last-minute Mother's Day gift? Teens and tweens are invited between 3:30 and 4:45 on May 9 to create handmade cards, origami projects and bookmarks for Mom. No registration required.

The Monument Teen Creative Writing Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 in the study room. Next meeting is June 6.

Teens are invited to the intergenerational knitting group, which meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 3 to 4:30.

Saturday, May 6 is Free Comic Book Day. Come to

the library from 1 to 3:15 to watch a comic book-themed movie, receive free comics, and enjoy snacks and super hero-themed crafts.

Having trouble with math? Free math tutoring is available at the library on Mondays from 3:30 to 7 during the school year. Drop by for AfterMath and get help from experienced tutors.

The Teen Arts and Crafts Open Studio is on Wednesday, May 31 from 4 to 6. Come use our meeting room for your creative space. Supplies will be provided as available, or bring whatever material your current project needs.

### Adult programs

The Second Thursday Craft for May, from 2 to 4 on May 11, is Recycled Paper Jewelry. We will make handmade beads out of used magazines and wrapping paper and use them to make original jewelry. Supplies will be provided. Registration is necessary and opens a week before craft day.

Yoga at the Monument Library will be offered from noon to 1 on Thursday, May 11 and 18 before beginning the summer recess.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, May 19 to discuss *Rebecca* by Daphne de Maurier. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

Interested in genealogy? Ancestry.com has billions of records for discovering your family's history. Come join us

on Monday, May 22 from 1 to 3 as you learn to create a solid search and new ways to use the information you find. No registration required.

As summer nears, fire awareness mounts. On Saturday, May 27 from 4 to 5 p.m. our local firefighters will teach us how to be safe. Learn to prepare yourself and your family and how to protect your property. No registration required and all ages welcome.

Watercolors by Judith Haynes will be on display during May.

### Palmer Lake Library Events

Come to a Tea for all Ages on Saturday, May 13 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. All ages are welcome. Wear your Sunday best (hats optional) and bring your own unique tea cup. Space is limited, so please register at the Palmer Lake or Monument Library. There will be treats and activities for all ages.

Regularly occurring events at Palmer Lake include Story Time on Wednesdays, Toddler Time on Fridays, and the Palmer Lake Book Group, which meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the current selection.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

## Palmer Lake Historical Society, April 20

# The story behind the pioneering Alexander Film Co.



Above: Presenter Steve Antonuccio told the story behind the Alexander Film Co. Photo by Mike Walker.

By Mike and Sigi Walker

On April 20, the Palmer Lake Historical Society's monthly history series featured "The Alexander Film Company" presented by Steve Antonuccio. Illustrated by photos and video, Antonuccio told the story behind the company that in the 1940s and 1950s occupied 260 acres on North Nevada Avenue and employed 600 employees in Colorado Springs. The company pioneered the production of advertising for upcoming films and commercials for TV and radio of well-known products of the time.

The company was founded in Seattle by two brothers, J. Don and Don M. Alexander. J. Don was the older by eight years with an extroverted "salesman" personality. Don M. was an introverted technical genius with a degree in electrical engineering. As the company grew, they needed a more central location, locating first to the Denver suburb of Englewood in 1923 and then to Colorado Springs in 1928.

To complement their advertising business, J. Don became interested in aviation as a way to quickly travel to customer's facilities. This led to the brothers forming a separate aviation company in 1925, the Alexander Aircraft Co. It produced four models of aircraft, including a number of successful versions of the "Eaglerock" biplane. An Eaglerock 24 is on display at the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum and an Eaglerock A-14 is now on display at Denver International Airport. Unfortunately, after moving to Colorado Springs in 1931, the Depression forced the aviation company into bankruptcy in 1932.

Antonuccio showed a number of the advertisements that he helped archive for the Carnegie library in Colorado Springs. In all, about 150 of these short films are in the archives, all filmed and produced at the Colorado Springs facility. Although the company headquarters no longer stands, the production studios still exist and are now used by a local TV station. At the end of Antonuccio's presentation, several members of the audience shared their personal experiences as employees or relatives of employees of the Alexander Film Co.

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Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 18, when Laurel Campbell and Linda Crawford will present "Charles Good-

night in Colorado." The presentation includes his early interest in Texas Longhorns, his partnership with Oliver Loving and their first cattle drives through Colorado, and the settling in 1868 of his Rock Canyon Ranch near Pueblo, and his life there. The presentation focuses on the building of Goodnight's magnificent stone barn in 1870 and the current efforts to restore the barn. Campbell and Crawford are co-chairs of the Goodnight Barn Preservation Committee and will provide updated information on this effort. This program is free and open to all at 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.

Sigi Walker can be reached at [mikensigi@comcast.net](mailto:mikensigi@comcast.net).

## Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide

# Spring bird migration



By Elizabeth Hacker

Spring is here, but on days when the weather turns cold and snow covers the ground, it may not seem like it. Why do birds fly thousands of miles only to land in possibly unfavorable conditions? Short answer: They don't have a choice. Bird migration is the seasonal movement between a bird's wintering and breeding grounds. Timing of migration is thought to be controlled primarily by changes in day length rather than weather, but much is yet to be learned. While some birds, generally sea birds such as the albatross, circle the globe, the birds that migrate to El Paso County generally follow a north-south route referred to as the Rocky Mountain Flyway.

### How do birds prepare to migrate?

In the weeks before birds begin their epic journey, they must molt and increase their body fat. Old worn feathers are not suitable for long-distance flights and must be replaced by new, stealth ones. To attract a mate, male birds must stand out from their competition and new feathers will often be colorful.

One example is the American goldfinch. During the winter, it is dull and blends in with all the other little brown birds. Each spring after the male molts, it continues to feed at the thistle feeder but suddenly one day it appears with bright yellow, black and white plumage, and it is truly striking. It will continue feeding until it doubles its body weight, at which time it leaves and I won't see it again until fall.

Most songbirds fly at night and rest during the day. While resting, they forage to restore the body fat they've lost. Wind conditions are generally more favorable at night and the threat from predators, such as hawks, diminishes. Often, after a storm or in high wind conditions, I'll find birds uncommon to this region seeking shelter in trees near a source of water like Monument Creek. Their stop is a brief one. As the sun sets and weather conditions become more favorable, these birds will again lift off to continue their journey.

It is difficult to spot small birds because they know how to hide, but they often communicate through calls. Experienced birders identify birds both by sight and sound and can identify hidden birds by their songs and chirps. Sometimes in the evening, I'll hear flocks fly overhead and identify them by their chatter.

### How do birds know where to fly?

It has long been thought that birds use the stars and earth's magnetic field to guide their navigation, but scientists continue to discover new information and have found that there are great variations between species. Migration routes and departure and arrival dates are unique to each species. While wind direction and velocity are a factor for some species, it doesn't appear to matter to others. Some birds fly nonstop, while others make frequent stops. Some fly great distances, while others move about the region. Much is yet to be discovered.