

Preserving Memories

By Jennifer Kaylor

On Nov. 15, Bethesda Gardens Monument hosted an educational program to help adult children of aging parents in the process of transitioning called *Preserving Memories and Honoring Legacies*.

Local businesses COSVideo Productions and SchurSuccess Group provided practical tips for those who need to update movies, photos and audio for longer-lasting, higher-quality storage or prepare a home for sale, respectively.

Mark Tachna, COSVideo owner, advised converting VHS videotapes, 8mm tapes, 8mm and 16mm film, vinyl records, and audio cassettes to more current media formats such as DVDs, CDs, and flash and hard drives. Tachna cautioned that the equipment designed to play the older formats, especially VCRs, can be unreliable and prone to destroying recordings.

A fun and exciting option for families to preserve memories is to create a legacy video. Tachna suggested planning interviews with friends and family members and basing the interview questions on photos. Tachna added that a photo party is a good way to organize and make decisions about the pictures that accumulate over a lifetime. More information is available on Tachna's website, coloradospringsvideo.com.

Erin Turner, associate broker and marketing and administration manager of SchurSuccess Group, provided a checklist for keeping the home moving process manageable that included:

- Know your time frame.
- Begin with the end in mind.
- Schedule backward and set deadlines—"checking things off of a list is great for releasing endorphins."
- Enlist your realtor's help to get suggestions regarding your assets and home.
- Establish five designated locations to place items into these five categories: move, family, sell, donate, and discard.
- Use colored stickers to confirm an item's designation.
- Use graph paper or a computer program to plan spacing of furniture.
- Be prepared to be overwhelmed.
- Take photos of items you want to remember.
- Throw an "asset party" before disseminating items to family members.

Michael "Whit" Whitfield, auction and appraisal services manager of SchurSuccess Group, distinguished between an appraisal and an evaluation. An appraisal is a professional opinion on the value of an asset and includes factors that contribute or detract from its value. An appraisal is mandatory when making a charitable donation. An evaluation is an informal, not-so-well researched opinion that provides guidance in deciding whether or not to keep an asset.

Whitfield added that the sale of personal property is not regulated in Colorado, so be sure that you understand the terms and conditions of any sales agreement and contract with professionals who have a good network or are at least willing to work with others in the transition profession. Additional information about SchurSuccess Group is available at schursuccessgroup.com.

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Above: Erin Turner, associate broker and marketing and administration manager, left, and Michael "Whit" Whitfield, auction and appraisal services manager of SchurSuccess Group discuss ways to ease the transition to a new life phase. Caption and photo by Jennifer Kaylor

Senior coffee at the YMCA



Above: Senior Coffee at the Tri-Lakes YMCA is a weekly event open to the public. Every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. seniors meet to share coffee, provided by the Y, and swap stories, be it local news or reasons to live in Colorado. Here, several people relax after their exercise class and talk about their Thanksgiving plans. From left are Kay Cooper, Shirley Monk, and Harry Sullivan. The inset shows Tommy Olson and Arlene Fisher-Olson. Photos by John Howe.

Dakota Blond at TLCA, Nov. 17



Above: On Nov. 17, the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) hosted Dakota Blonde. Bandmembers Mary Huckins, Don Pinnella, and Tony Raddell played original music and some well-known covers. On this night, Gordon Burt and Ernie Martinez joined the usual bandmembers. Their musical style, acoustic folk mixed with bluegrass, enveloped the audience like a warm, cozy blanket keeping the snowy evening at bay. In Bus Stop, originally by the Hollies, Huckins' crisp, sweet voice mixed with Raddell's and Pinnella's, creating deep harmonies. Mary's Waltz, a slow, flowing love song, benefits from Burt's slow methodic pull of the violin. The bass in the background of Steve Earle's My Old Friend the Blues imparted a hearty mellowness. Dig Real Deep was upbeat and encouraging. Between songs, the band's authentic friendships were in evidence in their humorous playful banter with each other. They sat among original paintings done by local artists that reflected their artistic creativity and made the venue all the more inspirational. Pictured, from left, are Pinnella, Huckins, Martinez, Raddell, and Burt. Information on upcoming events at the nonprofit TLCA is at trilakesarts.org. Photo by Allison Robenstein.

Outpouring: Demographics



Above: Irv Halter, executive director of the state Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), spoke at the Nov. 21 meeting of "Outpouring: A Local Version on TED Talks" sponsored by Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church. Halter spoke on demographic trends in Colorado, the mission of DOLA, the rural vs. urban divide, and affordable housing concerns. He has traveled over 50,000 miles and visited almost every part of the state, with a strong focus on the eastern plains, the western slope and mountain towns. He noted that Colorado has grown 10 percent since 2010 and is one of the top 10 fastest-growing states in the country. DOLA helps extraction- and agriculture-impacted communities (e.g. loss of mining jobs, drop in commodity prices), the 22,000 Colorado kids who are homeless, and communities who want to fund town managers, build courthouses, and restore riverfronts formerly used to dump tailings from mines. Halter says the "it" factor that ensures community success is an engaged public. He ended his talk with a quote from the author Wallace Stegner: "One cannot be pessimistic about the West. This is the native home of hope." Outpouring talks are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Pikes Peak Brewing Co. More information on these talks can be found at <http://tlumc.org/outreach/outpouring>. DOLA distributes over \$300 million in grants to support community development and affordable housing. More information on DOLA is available at <https://www.colorado.gov/dola>. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Palmer Lake Chili Fundraiser



Below: Firefighters Patrick Pearce, left, and Dominic Maffia and Key Club members helped with the festivities. Photo by John Howe. See photos on page 1.