

April Library Events

Easter crafts for kids featured in April

By Harriet Halbig

Welcome spring at the library with Easter crafts, a no-sew tote bag, and a visit from the library district's maker in residence.

The Winter Adult Reading Program ended March 31 with 281 participants at the Monument Library.

Children's programs

Regularly occurring children's programs include *Story Time* at 10:30 and 11:15 each Tuesday for children 3 and up, *Toddler Time* for 1- and 2-year-olds each Thursday at 9:30 and 10:30, *Book Break* (a short read-aloud session for preschoolers) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 to 11, and *Paws to Read* (children reading to dogs) on Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5.

Celebrate the anniversary of publication of *Apollo the Misguided Missile* with a reading by the author, a craft, and cake. This program, on Saturday, April 13 from 10:30 to 11:30, is suggested for ages 5 and up.

Come to the library on Friday, April 18 from 2 to 3:15 to make some fun Easter crafts—a bunny headband, a bunny magnet and a sand-filled egg necklace. Registration is required.

Family programs

Coloring for Everyone will be held on Friday, April 12 from 4 to 5:30. Join us as we color themed coloring sheets at all skill levels. Coloring tools are provided, and you are welcome to bring your own as well.

All Ages Knitting meets in the study room each Wednesday from 3 to 5. Practice materials are provided, or bring your own project.

Lego Build will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, April 20. Take advantage of our large selection of Legos and build to your heart's content.

Teen and Tween programs

See above for descriptions of *Coloring for Everyone*, *All Ages Knitting*, and *Lego Build*.

Join other gamers on Wednesday, April 10 from 4:30 to 5:30 to explore the world of classic video games on the Nintendo and Super Nintendo Classic Consoles. Snacks provided.

Is math a challenge for you? Each Monday from 3:30 to 7 the library offers free tutoring by experienced adult tutors. No appointment is necessary and help is available for all levels of math. *AfterMath* is on the D-38 calendar and will not meet when schools are closed.

Members of the Palmer Lake Art Group will offer a free drawing class from 1:30 to 3:30 on Thursday, April 18. Bring your own paper, but pencils and erasers will be provided. Open to teens 16 and up and adults. Registration is recommended.

The *Paper Tigers Origami Club* will meet from 4:15 to 5:30 on Friday, April 19. This group, open to teens and adults of all skill levels, will learn two new designs each month. All materials are provided and you need not have attended previous classes. Registration is preferred but not required.

The *Teen Arts and Crafts* project for the month is paper bead jewelry. The class will meet from 4 to 5:30 on Wednesday, April 24. Make your own custom beads out of paper and craft them into keychains, necklaces, and bracelets. All supplies will be provided and registration is required.

The *Monument Library Anime Club* will meet from 5 to 6:30 on Thursday, April 25. Share anime with others who love it too! We will watch videos (nothing rated above T-14) and enjoy snacks.

The *Teen Creative Writing Club* meets in the study room on the first Tuesday of the month from 6 to 7:30. This group, ages 12 to 18, shares ideas, does writing exercises, and enjoys snacks.

Adult programs

Regularly occurring adult programs include *Senior Chats* on Wednesdays from 10 to noon and *Yoga* on Thursdays from noon to 1.

See above for descriptions of *Coloring for Everyone*, *All Ages Knitting*, *Paper Tiger Origami* and Palmer Lake Art Group drawing classes.

The *Life Circles* writing group meets on the first and third Monday of each month (April 1 and 15) to write about memories of life experiences. No registration re-

quired.

A program on Retirement: *Managing Savings and Investments* will be offered from 1 to 2:30 on Monday, April 8. This workshop offers unbiased information about managing your finances before and during retirement. The class is taught by Melanie Wehrle, older adult librarian for the Pikes Peak Library District, who has a background in accounting. Registration is required.

The *Monumental Bookworms* will meet from 7 to 8:30 on Tuesday, April 9 to discuss *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn. No registration is necessary.

A class will be offered on *Monotype Printing*, unique prints made without a press and using various types of plates and paints. Experiment with stencils, masking, colors, and pressure. Registration is required for this class, scheduled for Thursday, April 11 from 2 to 4.

The *Monumental Readers* will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, April 19 to discuss *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan. All are welcome to attend and no registration required.

Create a beautiful yet sturdy, no-sew tote bag with faux leather handles on Monday, April 22 from 1 to 2:30. This bag is perfect for groceries, books, or the gym. Registration required.

The *History Buffs* will meet from 1:30 to 3:30 on Wednesday, April 24 to discuss the origins of modern Europe. All are welcome to attend.

The spinning group will meet from 1:30 to 3:45 on Thursday, April 25.

Palmer Lake Library Events

The *Palmer Lake Book Group* meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the latest selection.

Family Story Time is at 10:30 on Wednesdays, and *Toddler Time* is on Fridays at 10:30.

Lego Build at the Palmer Lake Library will be at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 18.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library Facilities will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 21.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Feb. 21

Rock Island Railroad a force in the Pikes Peak area

By Sigi Walker

On March 21, the Palmer Lake Historical Society heard the story of the Rock Island Railroad in the Pikes Peak area, including the history of the railroad's construction, its early days, its ups and downs, some unusual firsts, and finally the operation of the unique AB6 locomotive that brought the Rocky Mountain Rocket from Limon to Colorado Springs.

Inspiration for the program was drawn from the work done by the late Steve Pelles, who had extensive knowledge of the Rock Island. His legacy is the Roswell Rock Island Museum, housed inside a railroad baggage car on the grounds of the Pikes Peak Trolley Museum. Many of the displays are from Pelles' personal collection. Making it a special evening was the presence of Steve's sons, Ken and Terry.

In October 1888, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad began operations into and out of Roswell (later annexed to Colorado Springs); the last train was in March 1980. Facilities included a roundhouse (now only four stalls but still in use by the Pikes Peak Trolley Museum), turntable, water tower, coaling tower, coach repair shop, and stockyards. A company town, Roswell was



Above: The AB6 locomotive is shown in Colorado Springs in 1943. Photo by Joseph Schick, courtesy of Mel McFarland.

built to support this western terminus of the railroad. Ups and downs in the U.S. economy, two world wars, labor strikes, changes in technology, and the advent of the automobile impacted all railroads. But two local events, a flood in 1935 and a runaway freight in 1938, had significant impact on Roswell.

In the early days of operation, under a trackage agreement with the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad

(D&RG), the Rock Island regularly ran through Palmer Lake. It also shared the depot in Colorado Springs with the D&RG, which became, until recently, Giuseppe's Restaurant. The most unusual sight to be seen at the depot was the AB6 locomotive, used to bring the train from Limon to Colorado Springs. There was no other like it in the world, built for the Rock Island to accommodate the "Limon Shuffle"—where the Rocky Mountain Rocket split into two trains, one to Denver and the other to Colorado Springs.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 18, when the Palmer Lake Historical Society Monthly History Series will present Katherine Scott Sturdevant, professor of history at Pikes Peak Community College, telling the story of Emma F. Langdon in *Hidden Hero of the Printing Press*. The setting is the 1904 miners' strike in Victor. Langdon is among noted women working with miners' rights in the early 1900s. The venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Palmer Lake Historical Society events and programs are free and open to all. ■

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Bomb cyclone devastates America's food

By Janet Sellers

Our home gardens might become more than a hobby this year due to the bomb cyclone effects on Nebraska and American farming. Historic losses faced by Nebraska farms will impact food on every table. Farmers have already suffered over \$1 billion in corn and livestock losses, with additional economic losses expected. Infrastructures of rail lines and roads have been washed away, with no way to transport food. And farmers can't haul their grain to the ethanol plants; even cattle feeders can't pick up feed.

Home gardens to our rescue! I have hundreds of little kale, parsley, beets, romaine, tomatoes, and beans started in window boxes. We prepped Monument Community Garden last fall with aged "alpaca beans" manure for spring planting. Local wisdom says, "start seeds in April, plant after Mother's Day" so plant window sill seedlings now and seed cold crop greens in garden beds to grow at their own rate under pine straw mulch. Heavy

mulching protects the plants, and organic soil is smart—the seeds and microbes know when the soil is ready for growing.

Clean food changeover

Costco, Walmart, and Whole Foods have become the top organic food providers, nixing GMO food, and joining most of Europe and much of Asia in clean food production and sales. Might be a good time to switch to non-toxic farming for a lot of places including Nebraska, which must start over. The devastating blizzard and floods that hit Nebraska hard will translate into vast shortages of food that Nebraska provides to the United States and the world, causing spikes in food and energy prices.

It took moxie to make this healthier food happen. American wallets voted, so big-box retailers are changing over from harmful products to safe, organic ones nationwide. We can encourage everyone locally to do the same for landscaping—protecting our pollinators, yards, and pets. Organic dandelions are spring's first plants

and flowers offer amazing nourishment for pollinators, people, and all kinds of creatures, but disappear soon enough. I'll put up my trusty paper bag yellow jacket defenders on each side of the house now for a safe, wasp-free summer. Wasp queens avoid the brown paper nest look-a-likes.

Bluebird and hummingbird scouts are already here looking for good places to nest near food, water, and protection. As spring hums along, out come the bird feeders, sugar nectar, and suet. Remember to keep feeders in a shady area with water and flowering plants nearby so the scouts will identify your place as one worth visiting. To get things going now, have flowering plants in pots and feeders outside by day, bringing them in at night for bear-proofing.

Janet Sellers is a writer, artist and ethno ecologist posing as a nature-led lazy gardener. She offers talks and hands-on organic gardening workshops for success in local mountain/forest climes. janetsellers@ocn.me.