

Is math a challenge for you? Each Monday from 3:30 to 7 during the school year, the library offers free math 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. The last session of the year will be May 20.

Join us on Tuesday, May 14 from 4 to 5:30 for a *Teen Arts and Crafts program on Button Art*. All supplies will be provided, and the program is recommended for ages 9 to 15. No registration required.

The *Paper Tiger Origami Club*, open to teens and adults of all skill levels, will meet on Friday, May 17 from 4:15 to 5:45. Two new designs will be featured each month. All materials are provided and registration is preferred but not required.

Join us from 4 to 5:30 on Wednesday, May 29 to make *Star Wars-themed Hoth Snowglobes*. All supplies will be provided and registration is required.

**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 Every-*

*one, All Ages Knitting, Paper Tiger Origami Club, and Palmer Lake Art Group Drawing Classes.*

The *Life Circles* writing group meets from 9:30 to 11:30 on the first and third Monday of each month (May 6 and 20) to write about memories of life experiences. No registration required.

The *Monumental Bookworms* will meet from 7 to 8:30 on Tuesday, May 14 to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. No registration is required for this monthly club sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library.

The *Monumental Readers* will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, May 17 to discuss *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. All are welcome and no registration is required.

Come to the library from 1 to 2:30 on Friday, May 17 to hear a program on *Transformational Aging* presented by Kent Mathews from the Family Caregiver Support Center of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments' Agency on Aging. This class will set the foundational basics for understanding and learning how to live fully as you age.

The *History Buffs* will meet from 1:30 to 3:30 on Wednesday, May 22. This year's discussion topic is the

*Age of Exploration*. No registration required.

The *Monument Library Spinning Group* will meet from 1:30 to 3:45 on Thursday, May 23.

May is *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*. Join the Pikes Peak Library District as we host the *Golden Lotus Foundation* for an afternoon of haiku and painting on Saturday, May 25 from 2 to 3:30. In this class learn how to write a haiku and then watch your creation come to life on canvas. Registration required.

**Palmer Lake Library Events**

See above for the description of *A Tea for All Ages*.

The *Palmer Lake Book Group* meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the current 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 from 4 to 5 on Thursday, May 16.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

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*Palmer Lake Historical Society, April 18*

**Emma Langdon was resilient advocate of miners' rights**

*By Sigi Walker*

At the April 18 monthly program of the Palmer Lake Historical Society, attendees were rewarded with a many-faceted presentation on the life and times of Emma Langdon, a noted woman advocate of miners' rights around the turn of the 20th century. Presenter Katherine Scott Sturdevant highlighted Langdon's personal life as well as her professional accomplishments.

Langdon was in Cripple Creek when gold miners went on strike in 1904, and the *Victor Daily Record*, a pro-union newspaper of which her husband was co-publisher, supported the miners. The National Guard rounded up the newspaper's male staff and imprisoned them in a bullpen. But Emma Langdon, an apprentice linotype operator, was able to publish the paper and distribute it, much to the consternation of the authorities.

She left Cripple Creek not long after the strike and moved to Denver, where she remained for the rest of her life. Langdon had been secretary of the Victor Women's Auxiliary, vice president of the Victor Trades Assembly, a member of the Typographical Union in Victor and later of TU Local No. 49 in Denver. She became chair of the Typographical Union executive board and was honored by the organization.

She first published *The Cripple Creek Strike: A His-*



**Above:** From left are PLHS President Michele Lawrie-Munro, presenter Katherine Scott Sturdevant, and PLHS Vice President Su Ketchmark. *Photo by Peter Blaney.*

*tory of Industrial Wars in Colorado (1903-1904, 1905).* Her 1908 book, *Labors' Greatest Conflicts*, tells the story of her printing the morning edition and foiling the National Guard's efforts to suppress the paper. For her

part, Langdon was presented with an engraved gold medal at the Western Federation of Miners convention in 1904, made an honorary member of the union, and was its publicist for a time.

Langdon was a friend of the famous Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, the fearless fighter for workers' rights and the "grandmother of all agitators." Langdon remained committed to the cause of workers' rights. She attended the 1905 founding convention of the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World, headed by socialist Eugene Debs), becoming its assistant secretary.

She had a daughter, who followed in her activist footsteps. They lived together in Denver until Emma's passing.

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Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 16, when the Historical Society Monthly History Series will host Donna Guthrie, noted Colorado Springs author, presenting *Troubadours on Horseback: The History of the Singing Cowboy*. Through music, slides and movie clips, Guthrie tells the story of the creation of the singing cowboy and the simple melodies, harmonies, and instrumentation of cowboy songs. The venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. Palmer Lake Historical Society events and programs are free and open to all. ■

*Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide*

**American goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*)**

*By Elizabeth Hacker*

Each spring I look forward to observing the male American goldfinch morph from its dull brown winter plumage into a spectacular yellow and black burst of color. All year, both American and lesser goldfinches flock to my finch feeders filled with niger thistle seed. May is the month they molt their winter feathers and the transformation begins.

**Description**

The American goldfinch is a small bird about 5 inches in length, with an 8-inch wingspan, and weighs about 0.5 ounces.

The male finch is known for the bright yellow feathers on its breast, neck, and back with contrasting black feathers on its head and wings. In comparison, the female is much duller, but her feathers will have a pale yellow tinge. In winter both the male and female look much like any other little brown bird, except for the distinctive white wing bars on their greater and medium covert feathers.

**Habitat, range, and migration**

The American goldfinch can be found across much of North America and southern Canada. It favors bushy, overgrown grassy areas interspersed with tall trees like cottonwoods.

During non-breeding season, goldfinches form large flocks. Where there are well-stocked feeders, small families may remain near them all winter. Depending on the availability of food, some finches can survive by moving within a region, while others must



migrate to warmer climates where food is more abundant. Often in the fall I see large flocks of migrating goldfinches high overhead and I can recognize the species by their distinctive uniform undulating flight pattern that resembles a wave.

**Diet**

The goldfinch is the ultimate vegetarian. It prefers plants with seeds, flowers, and small fruits, with fibrous stalks such as thistle, sunflowers, and milkweed. Its beak is designed to extract and crack seeds that make up the bulk of its diet. It also can be seen

eating catkins from aspen and cottonwood trees. Nesting, chicks need protein for rapid growth, so the parents must feed their chick insects, and they may consume a few themselves to keep up with the rigorous demands of raising a family. The goldfinch's brightly colored plumage is derived from pigments found in newly sprouted spring plants, flowers, and seeds.

**Breeding and nesting**

Because their diet is derived from plants that are not available until late spring, goldfinches nest later than many other songbirds. Pairs form in the spring and are monogamous for at least one season. Several males vie for the attention of a female by singing and showing off their brilliant plumage. The female observes her suitors while being busy building in a tree. Her criteria are anyone's guess, but after she makes her selection and the nest is complete, the courtship begins and she will start laying one egg a day. Nests range from three to seven light blue eggs. The female will brood the eggs for two weeks while her mate brings her food. Two weeks later, the chicks hatch. They are totally dependent on their parents for food, warmth, and protection for another two weeks, at which time the chicks will have grown to the size of an adult, have flight feathers, and within a few days will learn to fly and leave the nest. The entire nesting process generally takes five to six weeks.

Weather permitting, the pair may raise a second brood. Male goldfinches have been observed feed-

