

it was halfway up the front door. At first it was fun. But four days later when the snowplows still hadn't come, rations were running low. Someone had to take action. This beautiful picture book shows how one resourceful boy triumphed over a fearsome blizzard. Rocco is a survivor of the infamous Blizzard of '78 that covered his Rhode Island town with 40 inches of snow when he was a boy.

My Grandfather's Coat

By Jim Aylesworth (Scholastic) \$17.99

When Grandfather came to America, he had almost nothing. But he worked hard, became a tailor, and made himself a handsome coat. He wore it, and he wore it, until it was all worn out. So what did he do? He snipped and he clipped and he stitched and he sewed, and out of all the still-good cloth of his coat he made himself a smart jacket. How many wonderful things can Grandfather make out of that old, frayed coat? Barbara McClintock's heartwarming pictures celebrate the clever recycling of a beloved coat that lasts through four generations—until it becomes this story.

Spirit Animals Series

By Tui T. Sutherland (Scholastic) \$12.99

In Book 5 of this "Read the book. Unlock the game" series, readers meet four young heroes and follow their quest to save Erdas. As the four navigate the crystal waters of the Hundred Isles, hounded by pursuers who always seem to know just where to find them, the team can't help but suspect each other. There's a spy in their midst, and before this mission is over, a deadly trap will close around them.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid – The Long Haul

By Jeff Kinney (Amulet Books) \$13.95

The latest in this beloved series finds the Hef eyes on a journey that starts off full of promise but quickly takes several wrong turns. Gas station bathrooms, crazed seagulls, a fender bender, and a runaway pig—not exactly Greg's idea of a good time. But even the worst road trip can turn into an adventure, and this is one the Hef eyes won't soon forget.

I Am Malala

By Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick (Little, Brown) \$17

In this Young Readers Edition of her bestselling memoir, Malala's powerful story shows how one young person can make a difference. At the risk of nearly losing her life, Malala stood up for education and changed the world. She has become an international symbol of peaceful protest and was the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

The saying, "A book is a present you can open again and again," is especially true for children. They enjoy rereading favorite stories and admiring colorful illustrations over and over. Until next month, and next year, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures Bookstore can be contacted at books@ocn.me.

Art Matters

Pop-ups and pleasures: gifts in art



By Janet Sellers

Illusion is the first of all pleasures.—Oscar Wilde

Is it art, or is it an illusion, or is it an illusion of an art? Is it an art gallery, an illusion, or the illusion of an art gallery? From holiday shops to big-budget movies (Tron) to Prada, Hermes, Godiva chocolates and more, pop-up shops are popular and lucrative all over the world. The short-term shops live for a day to up to three months to make the most of a season or a brand in a popular or fun location, usually with lots of foot traffic. And they are lucrative.

The pop-up shops phenomenon has hit the Front Range in towns and storefronts, and it is quite popular here, too. Pop-up shops use a "shared economy," meaning that they add to a current retail merchant with unusual merchandise, or beautify an otherwise empty retail space. They allow for great exhibability in ideas and a smaller investment of time and money. Some pop-ups are for art and retail, some are created by real estate firms and the like. It's all about the moment and offerings.

I first heard about them a few years ago, and I thought they were something like a craft mall or craft festival, but not at all. They are much more than that. They are top-tight products and nice venues with an ephemeral timeline. Many pop-up shops go from city to city or have an annual schedule (Halloween, winter holidays, Valentine's Day, spring and summer shops).

Online artsy craftsy goodies at Etsy online, nice as it is, don't really compare to the art and products available at a pop-up art shop, as many pop-ups are fine art and gallery works, and one can take their purchases home the same day. These pop-up venues usually have an elegant feel and particularly nice works.

The genre of sudden pop-ups as shops reminds me of the trendy underground clubs, when a music and dance venue is up for just one night, with a sought-after "in the know" required to know enough to attend, or at least have friends who know the whereabouts of such happenings. The fleeting nature of these events has made them all the

more desirable and memorable. Worldwide, pop-up shops have become a nice mix of keeping local storefronts beautiful and busy, while offering local artisans a place to exhibit and sell their works.

Our local Tri-Lakes art venues have that ephemeral joys'avor as well in their changing art exhibits and studio visits. The fine art expectation puts an extra classy spin on items that are original and unusual and locally made. For a taste of the "now" in local art, be sure to enjoy these venues, and keep your eye out for pop-up shops



Above: Maggie Williamson, owner of Bella Art and Frame, is pictured with the shop's December art show, "Snow Softly Falling." Williamson recently was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Town of Monument. **Photo by Janet Sellers.**

as you drive around town enjoying the lights and festive decor. You can check the Facebook page "Local Holiday Pop Up Shops" (lists Front Range places) so you don't miss out!

So get your local art gifts while you can—they are

originals and limited editions that, once they're gone, they're gone! Here are some last minute ideas—go to these December art shows with a nod to great gifts:

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TCLA) member show runs through Jan. 3, with a wide variety of fine art, collectable pottery, sculptures, photography, jewelry, and of course, music events. TCLA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Bella Art and Frame hosts a group of eight photographers in the show, "Snow Softly Falling," expressing the beauty of the winter months. The gallery also has its niche walls of their member artists filled with fine art in paintings, sculptures, jewelry, fiber art, photography, and a gift shop, too. Bella Art and Frame, 183 Washington St., Monument. Through Dec. 24.

Wisdom Tea House art exhibit, "The Nature of Secrets" oil and acrylic alla prima paintings by Laura Reilly. Alla prima (Italian for "first attempt") is a technique in which artists start and finish a painting in one go, and must paint wet over wet paint, usually oil, requiring a fast way of working, offering the urgency and excitement of a one-shot finish. Through Jan. 3. Wisdom Tea House, 65 Second St., Monument.

Monument School of Fine Arts: Artists and students' Pop Up Holiday Shop—an ad hoc art show and gallery for art, vintage style crafts. Visit the above-mentioned Facebook page for all info on venues and dates. The locations will vary in the Tri-Lakes area.

Janet Sellers is a local artist and art teacher.

Her paintings and public art sculptures are on view in Colorado cities. She can be reached via OCN at JanetSellers@OCN.me.

Photo credit correction

The photo for the weed eradication picture in the November issue of OCN was by Terri Watson, not Janet Sellers. Watson created the idea of "adopt a spot" and is instrumental in ongoing efforts for noxious weed eradication in Palmer Lake. □

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Nov. 20

Jedediah Smith, early mountain man

By Tom VanWormer

Members and friends of the Palmer Lake Historical Society enjoyed listening and learning from Dave Wallace, a noted re-enactor and former high school history teacher, about the mountain men in the Rocky Mountains from the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1803-4 until the late 1840s when the frontier line of America moved west.

At the society's November meeting, Wallace introduced Jedediah Smith, who was dressed in his buckskins and moccasins with his animal-based hat. He also brought the tools of his trade to allow the audience to learn about the importance of these early multi-tools and his ability to adapt these tools to survive for many years in the wild.

Very early on in the beaver pelt trade, the mountain men and the buyers from the outposts along the Mississippi River realized that too much time was wasted when the mountain men would transport their pelts back to

civilization, sell them, get into trouble in civilization, and then return to the mountains to start trapping again. So the buyers would go each summer into the mountains with their wagons, supplies, and trade goods to a rendezvous to cut down the trapping time and allow a week for the mountain men to see old friends, get rip-roaring drunk, and become rich for a very short time.

It turned out that Jedediah as a mountain man had multiple wives who would habitat with him based upon which Indian tribe he was living with at the time. The Indian wives were a joint survival tool in addition to a spouse. They were usually daughters or close relatives of the chiefs of the tribe with a duty to "ensure Jedediah did nothing to damage the tribe." The wives generally would not leave tribal lands, so when Jedediah would move on, the wife remained with her tribe.

Jedediah always ensured his wives had a good sup-

ply of steel tools, trade goods, and lots of brightly colored cloth so they could exhibit an exalted position among the women of the tribe. This trait ensured his position of trust with all the tribes in whose territories he trapped and ensured the chief was an ally over the years.

The audience, consisting of Cub Scouts, interested seniors, and a large group in-between, was treated to a large number of tall tales, refreshments and a very detailed question and answer time along with a chance to be photographed with the tools of Jedediah's trade. This was the last presentation for the Palmer Lake Historical Society until 7 p.m. on Jan. 15 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall for the Annual PLHS/LVM Potluck and election of the officers of the society. The members and visitors are asked to provide the vegetables, side dishes, and desserts while the society will provide the meat. □