

November is Picture Book Month. Come and celebrate by hearing some of our favorite stories, write and illustrate your own picture book, and play a game or two. The pro-

gram will be on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10:30. Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will close at 6 p.m. on Nov. 25 and remain closed Nov.

26 in observance of Thanksgiving. Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Oct. 15

George Washington comes to life

By Al Walter

President and former General of the Continental Army George Washington visited Palmer Lake Town Hall on Oct. 15 and provided a brief history lesson and words of wisdom to an attentive audience of adults and schoolchildren. President Washington, as portrayed by Dave Wallace, appeared in the uniform of a general of the Continental Army. Wallace explained the origin and components of the uniform, gave details of the use of swords to communicate orders in battle, and described the use of muskets and “rifles” in the Revolutionary War.

Using volunteers from the audience, Wallace demonstrated the minuet and quizzed potential army recruits on the two important questions they needed to answer before they could enlist. The two questions were: “Do you have two front teeth?” and “Are you over 18?” Teeth were needed to rip the paper musket cartridges. Youngsters not old enough to join put a piece of paper in their shoe with the number 18 written on it so they could say they answered truthfully when asked if they were “over 18.”

Wallace cut an imposing figure as Washington and

provided interesting details and facts regarding aspects of Washington’s childhood and his rise to the presidency.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, the Palmer Lake Historical Society presents Jane Milne, who will provide an in-depth look at the origins and operation of the “orphan trains.” Beginning in the 1850s, a welfare program known as the Orphan Train Movement transported orphaned and homeless children from crowded Eastern cities of the United States to foster homes located mostly in rural areas of the West and Midwest. Milne provides a fascinating look into this movement, which operated between 1853 and 1929. During that time about 200,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children were relocated. The program starts at 7 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall.

Right: Dave Wallace portrays General George Washington. Photo courtesy of the Palmer Lake Historical Society.



Art Matters

Fine art as gifts: ideal or not?



By Janet Sellers

Fall is the biggest art sales time of the year with galleries in towns and cities nationwide. There’s something about the season that brings the energy up a notch for art sales. This is true for the big art sales on the coasts (six figures and more) and the relatively smaller local galleries in cities and towns. I’ve heard the market is best in the four-to-five figure range. Our local artists have a lot to offer this time of year for artworks to purchase, or even gift certificates for the art. Many times, a person likes an artist’s work, or those at a gallery, and would love to have a gift certificate to choose something special.

One idea to keep in mind for art at this time of year is that, if giving fine art or an artisan work as a gift whether you are the artist or giving from one art lover to another, a hugely important factor is knowing if the art is what the person would like to have, and there are great ways to determine that and not fail to please—sad but true.

The most obvious way to know how to give a gift of art is to ask the person directly if they have a preference or special artist or subject they like to collect or own, and they just might. Some people have a definite idea and collect all things, say, in cats, dogs, owls, elephants, turtles, horses, hummingbirds, etc. My students and I used to get juried into the annual fall show at Colorado College and a number of visitors specifically asked for these images as they make it a habit collect them. Truth be told, at the time I didn’t know that was a “thing” but we learned fast and

made sure to include those subjects in our inventory.

Another good back pocket idea is to get a wish list—at least listen carefully for hints—for gifts of any season. In the art realm, that is vital for making an optimal choice as a gift in art, which can be a very personal taste, unless you know for sure the recipient will want to have an artwork as a gift. The right art as gift can be the best memory-maker in the world, you know. Our family has collected a number of favorites over the years, but Dad was keen to listen and took Mom to the galleries and to scout out the favorites first.

Art events

This month begins art events at our venues that offer a range of art and artists to discover. Join them for the special shopping and celebration events in November and December.

Bella Art and Frame Gallery offers the unique artwork of their local, member artists for the upcoming holiday season. Artists are constantly putting up new work as their work sells, so be sure to buy the art you like now, or the next person just might get it instead. Bella Art and Frame Gallery, 183 Washington St., Monument.

Palmer Lake Art Group will have a fall show, “Fall into Winter,” Nov. 6, 7, 14 and 21. Opening reception is Friday, November 6, 5 to 7 p.m. The show will be open on the other days 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Show includes fine art, fine jewelry and fiber arts, at Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TCLA) Member Artist Exhibition, paintings, sculpture, photography, and more, show runs through Jan. 2. Meet the artists at the reception Nov 6, 6 to 8 p.m. TCLA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Wisdom Tea House hosts a new art show through Saturday, Nov. 20. “The Peep Show People Exhibiting Extraordinary Paintings,” artwork from Carol Losinski Naylor’s art classes. Wisdom Tea House, 65 Second St., Monument.

Holiday pop up shops—the new ad hoc way to shop in style, have been a big hit nationwide and in Southern Colorado the last few years. Pop up shops are local, last-minute trunk show/sale type venues that just “pop up” out of seemingly nowhere and discovered by word of mouth, so keep an eye/ear open or you might miss the chance to get in on one. You can Google them for the Front Range and Tri-Lakes areas, or check out this Facebook page for a fashionably incomplete list: <https://www.facebook.com/Local-Pop-Up-Holiday-Shops>.

Janet Sellers is a Colorado artist and art teacher, making paintings and sculptures and mini-movies, too. Her public art sculptures are in exhibitions in Colorado city and museum venues and throughout the Tri-Lakes area. Sellers lives in Woodmoor. She can be reached at Janet-Sellers@OCN.me.



Left: The Palmer Lake Arts Group annual holiday art market and sale was Oct. 3, 4, 5 at Palmer Lake Town Hall. Sales proceeds go to the artists and to the group’s fund for scholarships for graduating high school art students. **Above:** From left, member artists Margarete Seagraves, Beth Carroll, and Meredith Bromfield were instrumental in the success of the holiday sale. **Right:** Artist Ernie Knoth won top prize Oct. 9 for the first annual Miniature Fine Art Exhibit at Bella Art and Frame Gallery. Entries had to be rendered no larger than 1/6th the natural size of the subject to comply with the traditional genre of miniature fine art. Photos by Janet Sellers.

