

to it.”

#### **Walk this World at Christmastime**

By Debbie Powell (Big Picture Press) \$17.99

It's a book. It's an advent calendar. Take a colorful, lyrical journey around the world at Christmas. Lift the numbered flaps to discover how different cultures and countries celebrate Christmas in this dazzling, festive quest. Designed in a fun format to be read again and again.

#### **The Way Things Work, Revised and Updated**

By David Macaulay (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) \$35

This newly revised edition embraces all the latest developments, from touchscreens to 3-D printers. Each scientific principle is brilliantly explained with the help of a charming woolly mammoth. An illustrated survey of significant inventions closes the book, along with a glossary of technical terms, and an index. What possible link could there be between zippers and plows, dentist drills and windmills? Parking meters and meat grinders, jumbo jets and jackhammers, remote control and rockets, elec-

tric guitars and egg beaters? Macaulay explains them all.

#### **Upstream: Selected Essays**

By Mary Oliver (Penguin Press) \$26

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver contemplates the pleasure of artistic labor, her boundless curiosity for the flora and fauna that surround her, and the responsibility she believes has inherited from Shelley, Wordsworth, Emerson, Poe, and Frost, the great thinkers and writers of the past, to live thoughtfully and intelligently, to observe with passion. Oliver positions not just herself upstream, but us as well, as she encourages us to keep moving, to lose ourselves in the awe of the unknown, and to give power and time to the creative and whimsical urges that live within us.

#### **Born to Run**

By Bruce Springsteen (Simon & Schuster) \$32.50

Rarely has a performer told his own story with such force and sweep. Over the past seven years, Bruce Springsteen has privately devoted himself to the writing of the story

of his life, bringing to these pages the same honesty, humor, and originality found in his songs. Like many of his songs, his autobiography is written with the lyricism of a singular songwriter and the wisdom of a man who has thought deeply about his experiences.

#### **Map Stories: The Art of Discovery**

By Francisca Matteoli (Ilex Press) \$29.99

Through this magnificent collection of historical maps, travel writer Francisca Matteoli takes us on a geographical adventure, telling the stories of 20 places and voyages that inspired her and the creation of these fascinating charts.

Some of the best memories are made relaxing with a mug of hot chocolate and reading with a child. We wish all of you the happiest of holidays, the merriest Christmas, and a peaceful and healthy new year. Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).

### December Library Events

## Seasonal activities on tap at the library

By Harriet Halbig

Come to the library for special seasonal activities or just for an escape from the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

#### **Family programs**

Come to the library from 2:30 to 3:30 on Saturday, Dec. 10 to make a variety of beautiful Christmas crafts for children of various ages. See our library fliers for pictures.

The Lego Build club will meet on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 10 to 11:30. We provide the Legos and you bring your imagination. We will be meeting in the children's area this month.

#### **Teen programs**

Join us in the meeting room from noon to 2 on Saturday, Dec. 3 for gaming. We will have tabletop games, card games (like Superfight) and Wii video games. We encourage attendees to bring any kind of games you would like to play. Please keep things age appropriate, nothing too adult. For teens, ages 12 to 18. No registration required.

The Monument Teen Creative Writing Group will meet from 6 to 7:30 on Wednesday, Dec. 7. This group is for grades 6 to 12.

Interested in learning to knit? An intergenerational knitting group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. This month's meeting will be on the Dec. 7. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged

to bring their own materials. Some instruction provided for those new to knitting.

Help us plan future events and parties for teens here at the Monument Library. The Teen Advisory Board will meet on Friday, Dec. 9 from 4 to 5. Meet us in the study room for snacks and conversation. No registration required.

Having trouble with math? Experienced math tutors assist students of all ages during AfterMath, every Monday from 3:30 to 7. No appointment is necessary, just drop in and bring your homework.

A Teen Arts and Crafts Open Studio will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 28 from 4 to 6 p.m. Come use our Meeting Room as a space to create! Supplies will be provided as available; however, feel free to bring whatever materials you are currently working with and use the space. No registration required.

#### **Adult programs**

Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 3 to 4:30 for an intergenerational knitting group. It meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Practice materials are supplied, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials and projects. Some instruction provided for those new to knitting. No registration necessary.

December's Second Thursday Craft on Dec. 8 from 2 to 4 is handmade Christmas ornaments. Guest host Harriet is back to help create beautiful handmade orna-

ments of various materials. All materials are provided (bring small scissors if you have them) and registration is required at 488-2370 or online.

Do you have questions about using your computer? Come in on the second Friday of the month from 9 to 10 a.m. for our Computer Help Lab. Registration is required and opens a week before the lab.

Join PPLD's first established yoga group at the Monument Library every Thursday from noon to 1. Classes are held following D-38's calendar. There will be no class on Dec. 29.

The Monumental Readers will meet on Friday, Dec. 16 from 10 to noon to discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.

The display case and wall art during December will be provided by students from Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

Information on Palmer Lake events was not available at press time.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed Dec. 24 and 25, will close at 4 p.m. Dec. 31 and remain closed Jan. 1.

Happy holidays from your library!

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See the photos of library activities on page 24.

### Art Matters

## What memories are you making this season—for yourself?



By Janet Sellers

Do you and your holiday shopping list need some space? Take a break with art and a cuppa and watch what happens! In the time-honored book, *The Artist's Way*, Julia Cameron has creative people do some tasks every day and every week for 12 weeks, and people often do it long after, many for decades. In this season of extra busy-ness, it is more important than ever to do such a re-creative task. They are pleasant and can be free—and on top of that, they make us amazingly effective and efficient for the rest of the week.

I've taught these workshops over 20 years, and I never tire of the book, the “work” or the camaraderie of a group of like-minded writers, artists, crafters and more who look to make the most of their interests—and their pocketbook. By filling the inspirational well this way, we are more able to do what we need to do and thrive. I took the workshop in Taos with Cameron herself years ago, with over 100 people, for several days. I thought doing it with the author would be rewarding and it was, but we found out we didn't need her (and she had said that from the get-go), we just needed each other in our group and to actively participate.

My favorite task of the many we learned is the “artist's date.” It is a weekly requirement for a person to think up a fun thing to do, by oneself and not with another person, but not just think about doing it. The ritual of planning the date and time, doing the deed, and then looking back on the date is a powerful, powerful thing,

and it builds strength for not only creative endeavors, but also daily life.

The task can be as simple as eating a lush bowl of raspberries on one's own, or a trip to a museum, gallery, or park. In winter I like to go to a greenhouse or indoor garden, or have lunch, or just tea, and be treated like royalty for a while (nope, no cheapo places where you stand in a line for the gas station coffee). The point is to treat oneself with love and respect for the “date time” and just for oneself. Yep, you have to make and keep the date or something else will get in there and rob you of the fun and the practical effect. For some, walking the dog is nice, but if it is not a treat that can be cherished, it is not an artist's date.

This artist's date turns out to be a powerful and pivotal part of not letting our well run dry. While I am often tempted to make a date with a friend or family, which can also be nice, it doesn't do the job of filling the creative well of the soul and strengthening us in storing up for the drive and resolve we need for finishing projects. This practice also does another amazing thing: We feel strong, composed, and capable. This translates into a better handling of our day, our creativity, and our life. And we can do it every week.

I'd like to encourage you to do this over the course of December into January, and try it for yourself. Let me know what happens. And take in some local art events while you're at it. The artists have been busy creating art for you to purchase for home or office to perk you up

when you see it during the day.

#### **Local art exhibits and calls for artists**

**Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts**, annual member and resident artists show, through Jan. 6. Artist call: *Visions of Light*, early entry deadline is Dec. 24, exhibit dates Feb. 28-March 24. The underlying theme is the vision, visual use, and interpretation of light. For additional questions about the *Visions of Light* show or the Palmer Divide Photographers Group, contact Lynn Roth: [lynn.pdphotographers@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.pdphotographers@gmail.com) or 719-649-4241.

Interested Tri-Lakes artists may also apply for the Whitney Biennial, a prestigious national exhibition. Occupy Museums is seizing the means of cultural production with Debtfair, an exhibition dedicated to the overworked and underfunded. Creators, performers, and thinkers have until Dec. 9 to see their arduous narrative showcased in the 2017 Whitney Biennial. Debtfair serves to expose the aggressive business models that permeate leading art institutions while encouraging solidarity among all encumbered populations of the economically segmented social landscape. Necessity may be the mother of invention, but no artist needs to bear the burden of Atlas, so for details: <https://debtfair.submittable.com/submit>.

Janet Sellers is a local artist, teacher and writer and gives talks on art and creativity at events, schools, and art venues. Her paintings and sculptures as public artworks are exhibited in Colorado cities and museums.

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