

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

True holiday spirit in action

“Oh what fun it is ...” to be bell ringing at Safeway on a balmy Friday morning just before Christmas. Spirits were bright and faces smiling as the folks approached

the doors. I was so very pleased at the response as coins and dollars were generously pushed into the red kettle. Individuals and families were filling the kettle and parents were teaching their children to joyfully put in a donation. All of this made me smile and “blessings and Merry Christmas” fall easily off my tongue the two hours I spent ringing that tiny bell.

During this time, the holiday spirit was exhibited in an incident that needed some of the staff of Safeway to

assist a lady who had fallen ill. The staff held her and consoled her and her friend while an emergency call was made. Monument police and Tri-Lakes EMT responded quickly. I was pleased to see the gentle way each handled the situation until the lady was taken in the ambulance to the hospital.

Congratulations to them. The true holiday spirit. Thank you everyone.

John Howe ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

A new year, a new you?

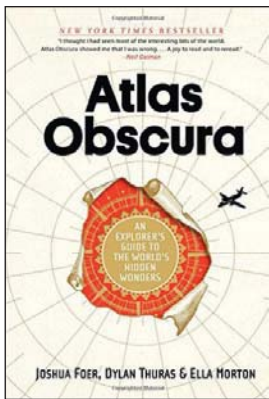
By the staff at Covered Treasures

Want to make 2017 the best year ever? Here are some great reads to get you started, from exploring our world to living well.

Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders

By Joshua Foer, Dylan Thurau, and Ella Morton (Workman Publishing) \$35

Inspiring equal parts wonder and wanderlust, *Atlas Obscura* celebrates over 600 of the strangest and most curious places in the world. It revels in the weird, the unexpected, the overlooked, the hidden, and the mysterious. Every page expands our sense of how strange and marvelous the world really is. And with its compelling descriptions, hundreds of photographs, surprising charts, and maps for every region of the world, it is a book you can open anywhere.



Parent Hacks: 134 Genius Shortcuts for Life with Kids

By Asha Dornfest (Workman Publishing) \$12.95

Here's an indispensable collection of 134 simple, unexpected solutions to kid-related problems. Drawn from a community of real-life MacGyvers—fellow parents who share their flashes of problem-solving genius—these inspired hacks cover all phases of life with kids, including pregnancy, sleep, eating, bath time, travel, and more.

Mindset: The New Psychology of Success

By Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D. (Random House) \$16

Dweck explains why it's not just our abilities and talent that bring success—but whether we approach our goals with a fixed or growth mindset. She makes clear why praising our children's intelligence and ability doesn't foster self-esteem and lead to accomplishment but may actually jeopardize success. With the right mindset, we can motivate our kids and help them to improve in school, as well as reach our own goals, personal and professional.

Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear

By Elizabeth Gilbert (Riverhead Books) \$16

Sharing her unique perspective on creativity, the author offers potent insights into the mysterious nature of inspiration. She asks us to embrace our curiosity and let go of needless suffering. She shows us how to tackle what we most love and how to face down what we most fear. Balancing between soulful spirituality and cheerful pragmatism, Gilbert encourages us to uncover the talents that are hidden within each of us.

Play Anything: The Pleasure of Limits, The Uses of Boredom, and The Secret of Games

By Ian Bogost (Hachette Books) \$26.99

Life is boring: filled with meetings and traffic, errands, and emails. Nothing we'd ever call fun. But what if we've gotten fun wrong? In *Play Anything*, visionary game designer and philosopher Ian Bogost shows how we can overcome our daily anxiety: by transforming the boring, ordinary world around us into one of endless, playful possibilities.

Younger Next Year for Women and Younger Next Year for Men

By Chris Crowley and Henry S. Lodge, M.D. (Workman Publishing) \$12.95

Bestselling references for over 15 years, each edition

addresses the specific aging issues of men and women. Menopause, cardiac disease, osteoporosis, prostate issues, sexuality, and many other topics are covered. These books are bibles of information on aging. “A must-read for anyone interested in being active and living well when they are seventy, eighty, and ninety-plus.”

Food Anatomy: The Curious Parts & Pieces of Our Edible World

By Julia Rothman (Storey Publishing) \$16.95

Get your daily allowance of recommended facts and fun with Rothman's third installment of her best-selling Anatomy series. Delve into the culinary world with this delightful visual tour of cookery and international cuisine. Histories and curiosities of food around the world are illustrated and explained with Rothman's uniquely charming style.

Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations

By Thomas Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) \$28

Friedman exposes the tectonic movements that are reshaping the world today and explains how to get the most out of them and cushion their worst impacts. His thesis: to understand the 21st century you need to understand that the planet's three largest forces—Moore's law (technology), the Market (globalization), and Mother Nature (climate change and biodiversity loss)—are accelerating all at once. These accelerations are transforming five key realms: the workplace, politics, geopolitics, ethics, and community.

We at Covered Treasures wish each of you a healthy and interesting 2017. Until next month, happy reading.

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

January Library Events

Get involved in 2017

By Harriet Halbig

Make a resolution to get involved at the library during the new year. We have programs for toddlers and seniors and everyone in between. Weekly discussion groups, free math tutoring, a book club, and a yoga class are among the offerings for adults at the Monument Library. Toddler Time and Story Time are weekly features. There are also programs by community members about such subjects as travel, cooking, and health issues.

Family programs

January's Family Fun program from 2:30 to 3:30 on Saturday, Jan. 14 is a presentation by the Black Falcon School of Arms. Travel back to the middle ages and come to Knight School. See a 15th-century fully armored combat demonstration and learn about sword-fighting techniques from instructors from the Black Falcon School of Arms. Learn about sword-fighting myths and which are true.

The Lego Build Club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, Jan. 21. We provide the Legos and you bring your imagination.

January's Homeschool program on Monday, Jan. 30 from 1:30 to 2:30 is All About Insects. Adam Strong and Kellie Kuhn from the Air Force Academy Biology Department will bring insect specimens and explain their role in nature and their life cycles.

Teen programs

Come to the library for Teen Gaming on Saturday, Jan. 7 from noon to 2 p.m. Join us for table top games, card games and Wii video games. We encourage attendants to bring any kind of game they would like to play. Please

keep things age appropriate. For teens ages 12 to 18, no registration is required.

An intergenerational knitting group meets at the library on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4:30. January meetings will be on the 4th and the 18th. Practice materials are provided but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction provided for those new to knitting.

Join us from 3 to 4 on Saturday, Jan. 7 for Youtuber Basics, a class taught by a teen for other teens. Registration required.

The Monument Library Teen Advisory Board will meet on Friday, Jan. 13 from 4 to 5 p.m. Help us plan future events and parties for teens at the library. Meet us in the study room for snacks and conversation. No registration required.

Every Monday (following the D-38 schedule) come to the library between 3:30 and 7 for free math tutoring. AfterMath offers the services of experienced math tutors at no charge. No AfterMath on Jan. 2 or 16 due to school and library closings.

The Teens Arts and Crafts Open Studio will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 4 to 6. Come use our meeting room as 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 the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4:30 for an intergenerational knitting group.

Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction is provided for those new to knitting.

The January Second Thursday Craft on Jan. 12 from 2 to 4 is origami. Taught by Connie Stanton, all materials will be provided. Registration is required and opens a week before the class.

On the second Friday of each month, come to the library between 9 and 10 for our Computer Help Lab. This is an informal session to help with your computer questions. Registration is required and opens one week before the class.

Join Pikes Peak Library District's first established yoga group at the Monument Library every Thursday from noon to 1. The first class of the new year will be held on Jan. 12. Classes are held following D-38's calendar.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Jan. 20 to discuss Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group, and no registration is required.

Join paper-crafting teacher Theresa Pingel on Friday, Feb. 3 from 10:30 to noon for Valentine's Day card-making and other paper crafts. Anyone age 14 and up is welcome. Please bring scissors and your favorite adhesive if possible. Space is limited and registration is required online or at 488-2370.

Art on the walls and in the display case during January will be provided by Palmer Ridge High School art students.