

gons, and a different flower made with three different shapes. All materials are provided, but please bring small scissors if you have them. Registration is required and opens a week before the class.

Join the Pikes Peak Library District's (PPLD) first established yoga group each Thursday from noon to 1. Classes are held following the school calendar.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, March 17 to discuss *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

Linda Smith, PPLD's Maker in Residence will offer a program on image transfer: making art out of photographs from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, March 17. Students will learn to create photo transfers using simple materials such as hand sanitizer and gel medium. Each participant is encouraged to bring personal photographs to work

with during class. Registration is required and open to patrons 16 years of age and older.

On the first Friday of each month, patrons of all ages are welcome to Coloring for Everyone. The next meeting will be on Friday, April 7 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The theme for April is Wild Animal Fun. Research shows that coloring is good for your health and a great way for all ages to enjoy time together. We will provide a selection of coloring pages, pencils, gel pens and crayons. You are also welcome to bring your own supplies. Drop in any time between 3 and 5:30. No registration necessary.

Quilts and related items by the Palmer Divide Quilt-makers will be on display during March.

Palmer Lake Library Events

The Palmer Lake Elementary School Art Club will present a sun-themed project on Saturday, March 18 at 10:30.

Come to the library to make a sun catcher for your window.

During spring break, on Wednesday, March 29 at 10:30, the Pikes Peak Children's Museum offers a makerspace workshop, which uses everyday recycled materials and craft supplies to allow imaginations to invent, build, tinker, and create by making everyday objects into works of art.

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. All patrons are welcome to attend this group.

For questions on Palmer Lake Library programs, please call 481-2587.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Jan. 19

Colorado "coal baron" built a fortune

By Sigi Walker

On Feb. 16, spring-like weather brought a "full house" for the Palmer Lake Historical Society's presentation of "John C. Osgood: Colorado Coal Baron." Mike and Sigi Walker presented the story of this not-so-well-known 19th-century "robber baron," one of the nation's wealthiest (variously reported at No. 5 and No. 6) but least-known entrepreneurs, who made his money from Colorado coal.

When Gen. William J. Palmer's Colorado Coal and Iron Co. collapsed, Osgood (portrait at right) merged it with his Colorado Fuel Co. to create the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. (CF&I), headquartered in Pueblo. Osgood built coking facilities near his coal mines to turn coal into coke, which was used in his steel mills. Of the 249 coke ovens built at Redstone, Colo., (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) 90 remain and four have been fully restored.

Experimenting with welfare capitalism, Osgood built Redstone as a model community with attractive worker cottages, a 40-room bachelor dormitory, schoolhouse, recreational facilities, company doctor, and a washroom for the workers to clean up before going home. He built his 42-room Tudor mansion just south of



Above: (left) Rick and Pam Faler (right) John C. Osgood. Photos by Mike Walker.

the town. But in 1913, his unshakable anti-union stance and his dominance of the joint committee of the three largest coal companies in Colorado resulted in a strike.

At Ludlow, the miners were evicted from company housing and relocated by the United Mine Workers of America to a tent colony. The coal companies hired "goons" and asked for the deployment of the Colorado National Guard to control the miners and their families. This led to the tragic events of April 20, 1914, now known as the Ludlow Massacre, when fire swept through the camp and killed 17 people.

At the end of the program, there was a surprise for attendees: Black Forest residents Pam Faler, the great grandniece of John Osgood, and her husband Rick were introduced. Pam displayed mementos from her grandmother and gave a brief overview of the family history.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 16, when Bob Easterly will tell the story of Lewis Henry Easterly, his great-grandfather, who became a teacher in his home state of Illinois and then in 1878 followed his cousin west to Colorado. He taught school in Borst, Pratt, and Spring Valley. In 1883, he homesteaded in the Ohio Creek Valley, raised his family, and lived the rest of his 90 years there. Find out why it took an "Act of Congress" for Lewis Henry Easterly to receive a certain treasured piece of paper.

Bob Easterly is a fourth-generation Coloradoan, retired from banking and the U.S. Naval Reserve, and the author of *By an Act of Congress*. This program is free and open to all. Venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7. Light refreshments are served after the presentation. For information on the Palmer Lake Historical Society visit / www.palmerdividehistory.org. ■

Art Matters

Art and arborglyphs: a boost for our health



By Janet Sellers

This time of year, with our weather predictably unpredictable, snow and cold thankfully change quickly to warm, sunny days. That can be hard on our health and our outlook, though. Fortunately, there are many things we can do to feel our best. One of our go-to remedies is often the arts, especially viewing and making visual art. Here in Tri-Lakes, we have a number of venues that promote the arts, and a variety of places and events where we can be in the art spirit for ourselves and with friends.

One the greatest values in art is that it inspires awe and wonder with the curiosity of inquiry to the moment at hand. Being in the moment is almost a requirement to take in the art and the artist's intentions and impulse. And it can have a very good outcome for more than just entertainment. Awe and wonder help keep out stress and inflammation, which deters or eliminates disease opportunities. So, going to an art show, art museum, art gallery, outdoor public art place, or art class is not only educationally and culturally powerful, it also adds health power.

"Awe, wonder, and beauty promote healthier levels of cytokines, and this suggests that the things we do to experience these emotions—a walk in nature, losing oneself in music, beholding art—have a direct influence on health and life expectancy," said researcher Dacher Keltner, a psychologist at University of California at Berkeley.

In photos here, I've included what my students and I found recently on our local art hikes. Similar arborglyphs, or tree pictures, have been discovered in forests by interested citizens—and researchers—at local parks and federal lands in Colorado and the U.S. Southwest, and interest in arborglyph history is growing worldwide.

Perhaps our local forest arborglyphs were created centuries ago by our area's earliest Native American inhabitants—I'd like to think so. We all can try out our imagination and visual abilities to ponder our trees and

the possible images found in them. Let's go out and see what we can discover on a walk, a hike, or in town. Our local art is outdoors in our forests, in our public art, and indoors at our brick and mortar art venues.

March art events

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts: fine art photography show, *Visions of Light*, open through March 24. 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Call for Entries—Kids! Conservation through the arts with the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program art contest: Colorado deadline is March 15. K-12 kids create a design for the habitat stamp per the criteria. Entry forms and information online: www.fws.gov/juniorduck. Colorado state coordinator is Seth Beres: seth_beres@fws.gov.

Tri-Lakes Views' Artsites 2017, a yearlong outdoor public art exhibit. Entry due date is April 30. For questions please contact bkonarski@earthlink.net; entries can be emailed or mailed to: Tri-Lakes Views, P.O. Box 2564, Monument, CO 80132.

Janet Sellers is a local fine artist, writer and art teacher. She has paintings and public art sculptures in many Colorado cities, local drawing and painting classes for all ages. She can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Right: While looking for some culturally modified trees to draw and paint, thinking of the interesting bends and peeled bark, the author and her art students began to find actual imagery in the bark of the trees. It is not currently known how these were made, but by investigating further via books, videos, and local informative presentations, the artists discovered it is quite possible such arborglyphs, or tree pictures, may be some of the living art or historic artifacts within our forests. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

