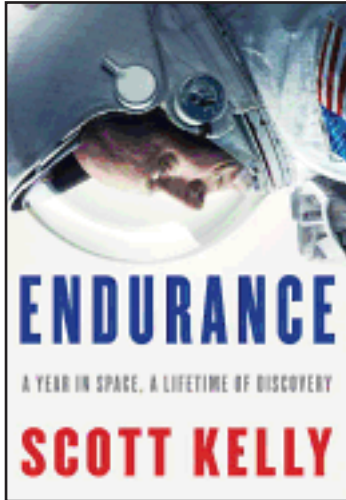


Endurance: A Year in Space, a Lifetime of Discovery
By Scott Kelly (Alfred A. Knopf) \$29.95

Veteran of four spaceflights and the American record holder for consecutive days spent in space, Scott Kelly has experienced things very few have. He describes navigating the extreme challenge of long-term spaceflight and life in zero-gravity: the devastating effects on the body; the isolation from everyone he loves and the comforts of Earth; the catastrophic risks of colliding with space junk; and being unable to help should tragedy strike at home. The latter was an agonizing situation Kelly faced when his twin brother's wife, U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, was shot while he still had two months in space to complete. Kelly's humanity, compassion, humor, and determination resonate throughout as he recalls his rough-and-tumble New Jersey childhood and the youthful inspiration that sparked his astounding career.

**Leonardo Da Vinci**

By Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster) \$35

Based on thousands of pages from Leonardo Da Vinci's notebooks and new discoveries about his life and work, Walter Isaacson weaves a narrative that con-

nects Da Vinci's art to his science. He shows how Da Vinci's genius was based on skills we can improve in ourselves, such as passionate curiosity, careful observation, and an imagination so playful that it flirted with fantasy. With a passion that sometimes became obsessive, Da Vinci pursued innovative studies of anatomy, fossils, birds, the heart, flying machines, botany, geology, and weaponry.

Becoming Leonardo: An Exploded View of the Life of Leonardo Da Vinci

By Mike Lankford (Melville House) \$28.99

For a different approach on Da Vinci, this book is unlike anything ever written about the Renaissance genius. Mike Lankford explodes every cliché about Da Vinci and then reconstructs him based on a rich trove of available evidence—bringing to life for the modern reader the man who has been studied by scholars for centuries, yet has remained a mystery. Lankford transports readers back to a world of war, plague, court intrigue, viciously competitive famous artists, and murderous tyrants with exquisite tastes in art.

Origin

By Dan Brown (Doubleday Books) \$29.95

The fifth book in the Robert Langdon series navigates the dark corridors of hidden history and extreme religion. Langdon and Vidal must evade a tormented enemy whose all-knowing power seems to emanate from Spain's Royal Palace itself and who will stop at nothing to silence billionaire Edmond Kirsch and his discovery that "will change the face of science forever." On a trail marked by modern art and enigmatic symbols, Langdon and Vidal uncover clues that ultimately bring them face-to-face with Kirsch's shocking discovery and the breathtaking truth that has long eluded us.

Artemis

By Andy Weir (Crown) \$27

The bestselling author of *The Martian* returns with a near-future thriller, a heist story set on the moon. Life on Artemis, the first and only city on the moon, is tough if you're not a rich tourist or an eccentric billionaire. Everything changes when Jazz sees the chance to commit the perfect crime, with a reward too lucrative to turn down. But pulling off the impossible is just the start of her problems, as Jazz learns that she's stepped into a conspiracy for control of Artemis itself, and she'll have to hatch a truly spectacular scheme to have a chance at staying alive and saving her city.

Wild Horse Country: The History, Myth, and Future of the Mustang

By David Philipps (W.W. Norton & Company), \$27.95

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter David Philipps traces the rich history of wild horses in America, investigates the shocking dilemma they face in our own time, and points a way forward that will preserve this icon for future generations. Philipps explores how wild horses became so central to America's sense of itself, and he delves into the hold that wild horses have had on the American imagination, from the early explorers to the best-selling novels of Zane Grey to Hollywood Westerns.

"There's so much more to a book than just the reading."—Maurice Sendak

Until next month, and next year, happy reading.

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

December Library Events**Enjoy holiday music and a planetarium at the library**

By Harriet Halbig

You can experience a variety of things at the library this December, from choral holiday music to a planetarium to creation of last-minute gifts.

Family programs

The December Fun for the Family program on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 2:30 to 4 is Planetarium at the Library. We will crawl into an inflatable planetarium and explore our galaxy, solar system, and constellations as they are projected onto the dome. We will discuss such things as the meaning of days and years on different planets and the interaction of the sun and planets in their orbits.

Singers from Palmer Ridge High School will perform holiday music from 4:30 to 5:30 on Dec. 12 and 14. They will be singing near the entrance and treats will be provided.

The Lego Build Club will meet on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 to 11:30.

Teen and tween programs

The Monument Teen Creative Writing Group will meet from 6 to 7:30 on Tuesday, Dec. 5. Join us to meet fellow writers, share ideas, do writing exercises and share snacks. No registration is required. This group is for ages 12 to 18.

Come to the library from 3:30 to 7 on Mondays to take advantage of free math tutoring with AfterMath. Students of all ages are welcome to work with adult tutors. AfterMath follows the D38 schedule and will not be offered on days when the library or the schools are closed.

Do you enjoy knitting or wish to learn how? The library hosts an intergenerational knitting group on

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13, and 20 in the meeting room. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own projects. Some instruction is provided for those new to the craft.

Are you concerned about bullying? Two trained educators will be at the library from 5 to 6 on Wednesday, Dec. 6 to explain Path 2 Empathy, a hands-on program that is being used in schools and elsewhere to deal with bullying and other behavioral issues. Educators, parents, students, and homeschoolers are encouraged to attend. No registration is required.

Drop by the library from 3:30 to 4:30 on Tuesday, Dec. 12 to create small last-minute gifts for friends and family before the start of winter break. Open to ages 9 to 18.

The Teen Arts and Crafts Studio will be offered on Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. Get ready for New Year's by creating your own noise makers, confetti sticks, party poppers, and more. Supplies will be provided. Please register at 488-2370

Adult programs

Local author Diane Sawatzki will read from her new time-travel novel, *Manyhorses Traveling*, from 2 to 3:30 on Sunday, Dec. 3. The reading will be followed by a question-and-answer session and a book signing. Copies of the book will be offered for sale, with part of the proceeds to benefit the Friends of the Library.

Please see the section above about holiday music, knitting, and the Path 2 Empathy program.

The First Thursday Craft for December will be Wood Burning. We will create picture frames, ornaments, and more for the holiday season. Registration

is required and opens two weeks before the class. All materials are provided. This program was moved up one week due to schedule conflicts.

The Monumental Bookworms will meet from 7 to 8:30 on Tuesday, Dec. 12 to discuss *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. All are welcome to attend this monthly book club sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library.

On Thursday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 3, instructor Joanna Bolek from Joyful Mind Arts LLC will teach a class on creating artistic collages. All materials are provided and registration is required.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Dec. 16 to discuss *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

In the display case during December are holiday items crafted by library staff. On the walls are photographs by Alatheia Bubke.

Palmer Lake Library Events

Palmer Lake's Lego Build Club is on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30. Story times for 3- and 4-year-olds are on Wednesday at 10:30 and Toddler Time for children 1 to 3 is on Friday at 10:30.

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. All patrons are welcome to attend. Please call 481-2587 for the current selection.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on Dec. 24, 25, and 31 and on Jan. 1.

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

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)**Winter's Back to Eden: No till, no tractor, no trouble gardening**

By Janet Sellers

If you were like me and didn't get to prep your 2018 flower or food garden—or even come up with ideas for it—we can still get a bit more gardening in for the year and it will be ready to plant next spring. No till, no tractor, no trouble lazy gardening to the rescue! Enter the Back to Eden garden, using wood chips and fallen debris. We take our education and cues from our very own forest habitat yet again, since the forest knows what it is doing and has been successful at it. Our natural ponderosa forests do this all year long, for their entire lives of up to 600 to 800 years.

The hardest work done on a wood chip garden bed is picking up the wood chips, and picking up the manure if you use manure in your composted soil culture, and putting them around the garden. The Back to Eden wood chip garden, now a standard for home gardening and using wood chips from the property or a chip day, is just layered, not mixed.

Paul Gautschi, author, gardener, and filmmaker, states, "For an ideal Back to Eden garden, apply three to four sheets of newspaper. Then apply 3 to 4 inches of organic compost or composted manure. Then an additional 2 to 4 inches of wood chips or alternative

covering on top."

The magic is in the fungi, chewing up the chips into great humus, the organic component of soil formed by the decomposition of leaves and other plant material by soil microorganisms, and making happy food trees. Back to Eden relies on the spiritual and physical steps to the successful gardening traditions of the ancients.

Gautschi has a website, films, and more explaining the spiritual and physical steps to the successful gardening traditions of the ancients.

In our personal landscaping for an optimal food