

## October Library Events

## October events feature Halloween and art themes

By Harriet Halbig

The Monument and Palmer Lake libraries will offer many programs in October to celebrate Halloween and the arts.

**Family programs**

Many programs at the library are open to all ages. See below for a listing.

*Coloring for Everyone* is a fun and relaxing Friday afternoon activity, from 4 to 5:30 on Oct. 12. We will color themed coloring sheets at all skill levels. Colored pencils, markers, and gel pens are provided. Drop in and stay as long as you like.

The October Family Fun event on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 2:30 to 3:30 is *Take a Trip to China*. Play games, make art, and try a new tasty treat from a different culture.

Come to the library for a different craft for kids age 5 to 10 on the third Friday of each month from 2:30 to 3:30 on Oct. 19.

Also on Friday, Oct. 19, from 4:30 to 5:30, all ages are welcome to participate in an *Origami* class. This will be a monthly class with two new designs each month (call the library at 488-2370 for details). All materials are provided and registration is preferred but not required. No experience necessary.

On Wednesday, Oct. 24 there will be a program on *Celtic Tales and Songs for Children* from 4 to 5:30. See below for more details.

**Teen programs**

See above for information on coloring, origami, and Family Fun.

The Monument Teen Creative Writing Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 in the study room. The group is open to ages 12 to 18.

Every Wednesday from 3 to 4:30 on the study room, join us for an *Intergenerational Knitting* session. Practice materials are available, but attendees are urged to bring their own projects. Some instruction is provided for those new to the craft.

Having trouble with math? Come to the library every Monday from 3:30 to 7 for *AfterMath*, a free math tutoring program. Adult tutors are available to help with all levels of math. No appointment is necessary, just drop in. *AfterMath* is available throughout the school year, following the D-38 calendar.

Celebrate *Teen Read Week* by making a miniature version of your favorite book as a keychain. This program on Wednesday, Oct. 19 from 4:30 to 5:30 is open to ages 9 to 18. Use the covers we've prepared or tell us the book you want when you register.

Come to the library on Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 8 for *Celtic Tales and Songs for Teens and Adults*. Join Willson and McKee for lively Celtic immigration tales, music, and dance.

The Monument Library Anime Club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 25 from 5 to 6:30. Share anime with others who love it. We will watch videos (nothing rated above TV-14) and enjoy snacks. This program is recommended for those 13 and older.

Hey, Teens! Join us for an after-hours Halloween party at the library on Friday, Oct. 26 from 6:30 to 8:30. There will be candy, spooky crafts, a movie, and more. Please register so that we can get a headcount for food. Open to ages 9 to 18.

The Teen Arts and Crafts project for October will be Bat Boxes on Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 4 to 5:30. We will learn about the benefits of having bats around. Enjoy Halloween candy with us while you make our craft. All supplies are provided. Registration is required.

**Adult programs**

See above for information about *Coloring for Everyone*, *Intergenerational Knitting*, *Origami*, and *Celtic Tales and Songs*.

The Palmer Lake Art Group will continue to offer free drawing classes in November. Please call the library for dates.

The *Monumental Bookworms Book Club*, sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library, will meet from 7

to 8:30 on Tuesday, Oct. 9 to discuss *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline. All are invited to attend and no registration is necessary.

The *Monumental Readers* will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Oct. 19 to discuss *The Girl with Seven Names* by Hyeonseo Lee. All are welcome to attend this monthly book club and no registration is required.

The *Monument Library Spinning Group* will meet from 1:30 to 3:45 on Thursday, Oct. 25.

Join us for a program on advanced care planning on Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 2 to 3. The program will be offered by hospice professionals.

Regularly occurring adult programs include *Socrates Café* on Tuesdays from 1 to 3, a *German Conversation* group from 3:15 to 4:45 on Tuesdays, *Senior Chats* on Wednesdays from 10 to noon, and *Life Circles* on the first and third Mondays of the month from 9:30 to 11:30. All events are free and open to all.

In the display cabinet during October will be paintings and clay figures by Amy Giacomelli. On the walls will be photography, watercolor, and mixed media by Polly Wojnarowski.

**Palmer Lake Library Events**

Please note a new time and day for *Lego Build* at the Palmer Lake Library. The program will now be on the third Thursday of the month (Oct. 18) from 4 to 5 p.m. This program is open to ages 3 and up, with DUPLOs for young builders.

*Make a Mask* on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 10:30. Spooky, elegant, furry, or feathery? Make a mask at your library. All ages are welcome.

Come to the library to enjoy *Not So Scary Stories* at 4:30 on Friday, Oct. 26. This program is recommended for ages 3 to 9. Costumes are fun but not required.

The *Palmer Lake Book Group* meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Call the library at 481-2587 for the current selection.

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## Palmer Lake Historical Society, September 20

## Harvey Girls brought hospitality to West

By Sigi Walker

The Palmer Lake Historical Society's "Third Thursday Monthly History Series" program on Sept. 20 featured Jane Milne and Kathy DeHerrera's presentation of "The Harvey Girls Story" to an enthusiastic full house. Wearing the iconic spotless black-and-white uniforms, Milne and DeHerrera described the women who personified hospitality in the 1880s West.

DeHerrera began by telling the story of Fred Harvey, from his immigration to the U.S. at age 15 to his partnership with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad in building cafes to serve passengers at intervals along the Santa Fe route. Insisting on the highest quality food and service, Harvey was distressed to learn of drunken and brawling male servers at his Raton, N.M., cafe. It spurred Harvey's decision to hire young women, 18-35 years of age, and earned him the title "Cupid of the West." Harvey girls lived in dormitories under supervision, with rules and curfews, and earned \$17.50 per month plus room and board. They came from all over and all walks of life, drawn by good wages and the opportunity to enroll in college when not working.

Passengers had only 30 minutes at cafe stops, so they were given menus while on the train. They would circle their choices, which were telegraphed ahead so

the meals would be ready when passengers arrived. The Harvey Girls even had a code to indicate coffee, tea, water, or milk by the placement of the coffee cup at each table setting.

Milne described Opal, a young woman from west Texas, who was hired because she didn't chew gum! She stayed with the Harvey Girls for 45 years. DeHerrera told the story of Nina, a young woman from rural New Mexico who got a job at La Castaneda in Las Vegas, N.M., and attended New Mexico Highlands University. Milne and DeHerrera had a chance to meet Nina, now 96, in Raton, N.M.

Changes such as the advent of railroad dining cars, automobiles, the Great Depression, WWII, and airliners took their toll. Yet, Fred Harvey restaurants lasted for 90 years (1870-1960), employing over time more than 100,000 young women. Surprisingly, several people in the audience had family members who had been Harvey Girls. There was even one woman who had been a Harvey Girl at the Albuquerque Airport!

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Mark your calendars for Thursday, Oct. 18, for the next monthly history series program. Local filmmaker Jim Sawatzki's *Above and Beyond: A Hero's Story* will be followed by a short presentation by Bob McLaughlin, COO

of Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center. U.S. Air Force Academy janitor William J. "Bill" Crawford was raised in Pueblo, became a Golden Gloves champion in high school, and then enlisted in World War II. When his platoon was pinned down by intense enemy machine-gun fire, he single-handedly destroyed the machine gun and killed three of the crew. He was then captured by the Germans. Learn the rest of the story at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent St. The event is free and open to all. ■



Above: From left, Kathy DeHerrera and Jane Milne. Photo by Su Ketchmark.

## High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

## Ponderosa pine needles: free champions, lazy gardening victory

By Janet Sellers

As I mentioned earlier this summer, Washington State University (WSU) forestry stewards reported, "... Decreasing fire danger around your homes by gathering ponderosa pine needles and turning them into compost creates a win/win situation, and it might even make for an alternative product to sell locally. Many gardeners will pay for the high quality, herbicide-free compost that many small forest landowners are ideally situated to provide."

When we let our gardens stay natural for the winter, aka lazy gardening, we create bio availability for the whole ecosystem to thrive and balance itself over the winter and create optimal conditions for garden success come spring. I am including here the ponderosa game plan: It's simple, easy to do, and a proven landscape success. Pine straw is sold baled or loose, but most of us

have plenty in our yards to use for free. A 3-inch application will help prevent weeds, retain moisture, and moderate soil temperature.

With our plethora of pine needles, we can start piling needles in a container (a trash can half-full or so) and use a weed eater just like a stick blender to chop up the needles, exposing more needle surface area for bioavailability to microbes, mycelium, and fungi to work their magic and create soil, and dump the buzzed pine needles back on their spot.

The simple version is to just shred the pine needles to overwinter as mulch that will keep moisture and the soil in place. A faster but still simple version WSU used in their pine straw (needles) soil program mixed 122 pounds of needles with 110 pounds of coffee grounds (for nitrogen), 67 pounds of freshly cut grass, and 23 pounds of dried leaves from hardwood trees, with four

replicates of each treatment.

Winter gardening in our area needs a greenhouse, cold frame, a sunny windowsill—even grow lights. I bring in my potted cherry tomato plants and get tomatoes in December! Be sure to have good drainage using pebbles at the window box bottom or a catch basin for a pot's drain hole, protecting your sills and floors. Other good indoor crops include salad greens, chard, kale, tasty garlic greens, microgreens (aka veggie sprouts) and mushrooms (use a purchased kit or a DIY laundry basket version).

Janet Sellers is an ethnoecologist and avid lazy gardener, sharing traditional and contemporary ethnoecology success methods for local ornamental and food gardening.

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