

offered. On Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30, Summer Fun programs for ages 3 or 5 to 11 will be held. These programs will include puppet shows, the science of sound, alpacas, and a variety of critters. Please call the library or check the website for age recommendations.

The first three Wednesdays of June from 2:30 to 4, there will be a different craft program each week, suggested for elementary school kids.

The Lego Build program will be on Saturday, June 16 from 10 to 11:30. All ages are welcome.

Toddler Time will continue at its usual times of 9:30 and 10:15 each Thursday during the summer. Story Time on Tuesday morning is suspended, to be replaced by the Summer Fun programs.

The Paws to Read dogs will be at the library from 4 to 5 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

#### Teen and Tween programs

An intergenerational knitting group meets each Wednesday from 3 to 4:30 in the study room. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own projects. All are welcome.

The Monument Teen Creative Writing group will meet from 6 to 7:30 on Tuesday, June 5 in the study room. This group for ages 12 to 18 offers a chance to meet fellow writers, share ideas, and do writing exercises. Snacks included!

A teen *Summer Adventure* program on Taiko drumming will be on Thursday, June 7 from 3 to 5.

The Taiko Society will be teaching a workshop. Registration is required. We recommend that you dress comfortably and be prepared to remove your shoes.

Other teen programs will be offered on Monday, June 11 (sketch and play instruments), Thursdays June 14 and 21 from 3 to 5, and Wednesday the 27th from 4 to 5:30.

The Monument Library Anime Club will meet from 5 to 6:30 on Thursday, June 28.

#### Adult programs

See above for a description of intergenerational knitting.

The Monumental Bookworms will meet from 7 to 8:30 on Tuesday, June 12 to discuss *Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. All are welcome to attend and no registration is required.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, June 15 to discuss *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress* by Rhoda Janzen. All are welcome to attend.

Local firefighters will offer a free fire mitigation workshop on Saturday, June 23 from noon to 1. They will offer tips to keep us safe and protect our property during fire season and all year. No registration is required.

In honor of Pet Week, there will be a program from 2 to 4 on Friday, June 29 to make simple dog and cat treats and no-sew pet toys. Drop in and join us! No registration necessary.

All regularly occurring adult discussion groups will meet as usual during the summer. These include Life Circles (June 4 and 18 from 9:30 to 11), Socrates Café (Tuesdays 1 to 3), Senior Chats (Wednesdays, 10 to noon), German Conversation (Tuesdays from 3:15 to 4:45 in the study room) and History Buffs (June 27, 1:30 to 3:30).

In the display case during June will be a replica of the Magna Carta owned by Dale Condit.

#### Palmer Lake Library Events

The Palmer Lake Library will offer programs for young children on Wednesdays at 10:30. These include plays, a makerspace for ages 5 to 11, and a zoo program and a wildlife program for ages 3 to 11.

On Thursdays at 10:30, a different program will be offered each week for kids 7 and up. These include programs on origami, engineering, and planet art. Registration is required. Please call the library at 481-2587 or go online as described above to register.

Toddler Time at the Palmer Lake Library is on Fridays at 10:30.

The Palmer Lake book group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the latest selection.

Palmer Lake Lego Build is on the first Saturday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30. All ages are welcome.

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### Palmer Lake Historical Society, May 17

## Pioneer woman's tale sheds light on massacre motive

By Sigi Walker

On May 17, the Palmer Lake Historical Society welcomed Pikes Peak Community College history Professor Katherine Scott Sturdevant as the monthly history series presenter. She told the story of Sarah Chivington Pollock Girardin, a Colorado pioneer woman and daughter of Col. John Chivington, Methodist preacher and hero of the Battle of Glorietta Pass. Compiling family recollections and the work of local women historians, Sturdevant unlocked a particularly troubling family skeleton, bringing new understanding of Colorado massacre motives.

In 1860, Sarah Chivington was only 16 when she married 31-year-old Tom Pollock in Denver. Shortly after their marriage, they joined the large Baker Party seeking gold in Colorado's San Juan Mountains. Supplies ran short when they reached the San Juan Valley, so Tom Pollock and a friend struck out for Santa Fe, where they knew supplies were available. Sarah was left behind, and it is thought she was the only female in the party, which might have been either attacked or taken hostage by the Utes. Sarah's first child, a girl named Jesse Fremont Pollock, was born after the parties abandoned their gold quest and returned to Denver. Tom and Sarah adopted a Navajo boy and had two more children. After the Civil War, they returned to the San Juan Mountains, where Tom died of a heart attack. Sarah subsequently married William Girardin, with whom she had two more children. She is buried in Hermosa Cemetery north of Durango.

Katherine Sturdevant uncovered substantial reasons to believe that Jesse Fremont Pollock was half Native American, although it was not publicly acknowledged by family members. Both "Captain Jack" and Chief Ouray were suggested as the girl's father. Sturdevant spoke with Jesse's descendants, examined photographs of her children, and consulted DNA tests that confirmed Native American heritage. She dispelled the myth of Sarah's rescue by her father, Col. John Chivington. But she acknowledged that Chivington's massacre of mostly Cheyenne and Arapahoe women and children at Sand Creek may have been related to Sarah's experience. When Chivington was criticized for the massacre, he apparently said "nits make lice"—thought to be a reference to Sarah's experience with the Utes.

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#### Mark your calendars

**June 17**—Free Annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social on the Village Green, 2-4 p.m.

**June 21**—Mike and Sigi Walker will present the story of Otto Kuhler, famous for industrial etchings, streamlining of steam locomotives, and paintings of locomotives and landscapes. Why then, at age 54, did he leave the East Coast and buy a ranch in Colorado? This program is free and open to all. The venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation. ■



Above: Presenter Katherine Scott Sturdevant told the story of a Colorado pioneer woman. Photo by Su Ketchmark.

### Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide

## Ecosystems of northern El Paso County and the birds that live in them

By Elizabeth Hacker

For many years, OCN has printed columns on the birds found on the Palmer Divide. Often, the birds featured in these articles have specific habitat requirements and don't frequent feeders, so they can be difficult to find. Knowing their habitat preferences is often the key to locating them.

In 1991, the Denver Museum of Natural History classified Colorado into eight ecosystems: riparian, grasslands, semi-desert shrubland, pinyon juniper woodland, montane shrubland, montane forest, sub-alpine, and alpine tundra.

Consider a 10-mile cross-section beginning at the top of Mount Herman extending east through Monument, across I-25, through Woodmoor, passing by Prairie Winds Elementary, and ending just east of Highway 83 near Ray Kilmer Elementary School. Of the eight defined ecosystems, four exist along this cross-section. Very few areas in Colorado, or the world, can claim four major ecosystems in a 10-mile area.

#### Riparian ecosystem

The museum defines riparian habitats as areas near rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. These are zones where the greatest biodiversity is found. Colorado has fairly distinct low-, medium-, and high-altitude riparian zones.

Monument Creek drops about 2,000 feet in elevation as it flows from the top of the Palmer Divide (elevation about 8,000 feet) to where it merges with Fountain Creek in Colorado Springs (elevation about 6,000 feet). According to the Museum's definition, this would classify it as a medium-altitude riparian zone, but as with any broad definition there can be variation and exceptions.

Low-altitude zones, below about 6,000 feet, are defined as riparian habitats that include grassy underbrush mixed with cottonwoods and other deciduous trees. Characteristic birds include the downy woodpecker, screech owl, white-breasted nuthatch, black-capped chickadee, house wren, catbird, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak, song



Above; Wilson's warbler: Found in medium-altitude riparian habitat. Illustration by Elizabeth Hacker.

sparrow, barn swallow, Bullock's oriole, and many others, most of which can be seen here.

Medium-altitude riparian zones occur between