

- Forest Community Club, 12530 Black Forest Rd. Meet alpacas and shop for clothing and accessories, fleece, yarn, and more. Free, open to all. Info: 495-6693, <http://secab-extravaganza.weebly.com>. See ad on page 20.
- **Covered Treasures Bookstore Book Signing**, Sat., Dec. 1, noon-2 p.m., 105 Second Street, Monument. Caroline Johnson, a former Colorado Springs resident, will sign *Jet Girl*. Refreshments will be served. Info: 481-2665, [www.coveredtreasures.com](http://www.coveredtreasures.com).
  - **Palmer Lake Yule Log Potluck Dinner**, Tue., Dec. 3, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Circle. Please bring a potluck dish to share and place settings for your family. Info: 481-2953.
  - **The Hazel Miller Band Concert at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts**, Fri., Dec. 6, 7 p.m., doors open 6 p.m., 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Tickets & Info: 481-0475, [www.trilakesarts.org](http://www.trilakesarts.org).
  - **Monument Hill Kiwanis Club's 14th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair**, Sat., Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Grace Best Education Center, 66 Jefferson St., Monument. Browse hundreds of handcrafted items and Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Cookie Walk. Music throughout the day by D-38 choirs/bands & local talent, and Miguel Dakota, America's Got Talent Season 9 finalist. Admission is free with nonperishable food item, toy, or cash for Tri-Lakes Cares; or used sporting goods for 4KidsSports. All proceeds go to help fund D-38 schools and Tri-Lakes Cares. Info: Bob Nissen, 304-8705, [bob@mifigroup.com](mailto:bob@mifigroup.com), [www.MHKiwanis.org](http://www.MHKiwanis.org). See ad on page 13.
  - **Downtown Monument's Small Town Christmas**, Sat., Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus and their reindeer, kids' activities and crafts, hayrides, open houses, and more. Tree-lighting 5 p.m. at Limbach Park. Info: 481-2954.
  - **Small Town Christmas at Covered Treasures Bookstore**, Sat., Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 105 Second St., Monument. Carmela Lavigna Coyle will sign "Can Princesses Become Astronauts?" 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Nancy Oswald will sign "Ruby's Christmas Gift," 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Margaret Mizushima will sign "Tracking Game, A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery," 1-3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Info: 481-2665, [www.coveredtreasures.com](http://www.coveredtreasures.com).
  - **Santa Fe Trail Jewelry Darlene Armstrong Show**, Sat., Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 106 2nd St., Unit A, Monument. Shop Small Town Christmas with one-of-a-kind jewelry that showcases the beauty and harmony of natural gemstones. Info: 481-0250. See ad on page 4.
  - **Monument Tree Lighting**, Sat., Dec. 7, 3-6 p.m., tree lighting 5 p.m., Santa 5-6 p.m., Limbach Park, 151 Front St. Watch for more details. Please bring a canned food item for Tri-Lakes Cares or a new, unwrapped toy for Santa on Patrol. Info: Madeline, 884-8013, [www.townofMonument.org](http://www.townofMonument.org).
  - **Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt**, Sun., Dec. 8, 1 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Trek up the mountain in search of the Yule Log. Hunt

- participants should arrive 11 a.m.-noon. The winner will ride the Yule Log back to town and get the first cup of wassail. Non-hunters can stay warm indoors with carols and stories. Info: 481-2953.
- **Black Forest Community Potluck & Tree Lighting**, Sun., Dec. 8, 5:45 p.m., 12530 Black Forest Rd. Tree-lighting 5:45 p.m. at NE corner of the Log School Park, at the corner of Shoup and Black Forest Roads, followed by potluck dinner. Black Forest Players will perform a one-act play, music by Fusion from Pine Creek, and Christmas sing-a-long. Bring your favorite dish to share. Info: 719-495-2207.
  - **Santa Fe Trail Jewelry Starborn Creations Show**, Sat., Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 106 2nd St., Unit A, Monument. Shop one-of-a-kind jewelry. Info: 481-0250. See ad on page 4.
- Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to [calendar@ocn.me](mailto:calendar@ocn.me) or Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.*

**Our Community News** is a member of the **Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce**. Visit the chamber at [www.trilakeschamber.com](http://www.trilakeschamber.com)



**TRI-LAKES**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
VISITOR CENTER

### Letters to Our Community

*Our Community News* welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that *OCN* contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of one (1) letter per issue and six (6) letters within a twelve (12) month period. To submit a letter, please:

- Email your letter, preferably as an attached Microsoft Word document, to [editor@ocn.me](mailto:editor@ocn.me) or mail a copy to **Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742**.
- Identify your submission as a letter to the editor and confirm that it has not been submitted to any other publication.
- Include a suggested headline or title that summarizes the topic you are addressing.
- Limit your letter to no more than 300 words including your suggested headline and closing.
- Include your full name, home address, phone numbers, and email address, if you have one. Only your name will be published.
- Submit your letter so we receive it no later than midnight, Friday, two weeks prior to the publication date.

If you have not received an acknowledgement two days after your email submission or one week after you mailed your letter, please contact Jennifer Kaylor, Managing Editor, at (719) 488-3455 or [editor@ocn.me](mailto:editor@ocn.me). At *OCN's* sole discretion, we may ask you for clarification of your statements. Include references, such as website links, in your letter for any facts and figures you cite. *OCN* does not guarantee every letter will appear in print or on-line and does not guarantee a publication date. Depending on the space available, the number of letters printed in an issue may be limited to the first 12 received. Letters containing personal attacks or endorsements for or complaints about individually-named commercial products or services will not be published.



**Our Community News**  
Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area

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### Content

Articles in *Our Community News* focus on the deliberations of Tri-Lakes area governmental bodies such as the Monument Board of Trustees, Palmer Lake Town Council, and many of the local water, sanitation, fire, and school district boards.

Unlike papers that try to figure out what the "story" is and then get quotes on each side to presumably lead the reader to conclude what the "truth" is, *OCN's* role is to report in detail on public meetings of local governmental entities. We report what was talked about and what was decided. By reading *OCN*, you can find out what you might have learned if you had attended those public meetings. In this context, "truth" is that the articles accurately represent what transpired at the meetings.

The content of ads and inserts in *OCN* is solely the responsibility of the advertisers who place those ads and inserts. The appearance of an ad or insert in *OCN* does not imply endorsement of the ad or insert's content or purpose. While *OCN* does not knowingly run false ads or inserts, we do not research the accuracy of that content. Readers are encouraged to do their own research prior to committing to use the products or services offered. Readers with concerns about the content of an ad or insert should take up those concerns with the advertiser.

Contact John Heiser, Publisher, at [johnheiser@ocn.me](mailto:johnheiser@ocn.me) or (719) 488-3455 with any questions.

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Please join us today! Meet a group of interesting and committed people. Learn new skills—use your enthusiasm and creativity to benefit our community and celebrate unfiltered information. Please call John Heiser, Publisher, at (719) 488-3455, or email [johnheiser@ocn.me](mailto:johnheiser@ocn.me) to see how you can contribute. Contact us today!

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## The Rabbi's Corner

# Our Life Experiences and their Message to Us—Part IV

By Oswald Garagorry

In the past three issues of *OCN*, I have been describing to you a very painful experience I had with a close friend who was very dear to me. For the first year after our separation, I thought about the situation I have described to you almost every day. I carried with me deep sadness and disappointment over the loss of my former friend and dear colleague. I asked myself, and I also asked God why this had happened. I never came to a conclusion of why and I never got an answer from God. Yet, today I can see the why and I can tell you that He had mercy on me; He was using this situation to teach me a very important lesson that when learned, would help me for the rest of my life. What I have described to you under the title in the last few articles of "Our Life Experiences and their Message to Us" will start to make more sense to you.

But, before I share this lesson, I need to confess this one thing to you: I, being a believer since I was 14 years old, having graduated from four years of Bible College, and being very involved in being His witness...I didn't know what forgiveness was. In spite of this lack of understanding, God had mercy on me.


One day while walking on the street called Twenty Four of May, in the great metropolitan city of San Paulo, Brazil, I passed by a Christian Book store, called Maranatha (Our Lord has come). So, I decided to go in and look at their new editions, since I was not looking for anything specific. While I was looking around, I noticed a new book, picked it up and concluded I needed to read it. As I looked around at the rest of the new editions, no other book caught my attention. The book that I picked up was: *The Freedom of Forgiveness* translated into Portuguese by an American Author, David Augsburg. I was familiar with Mr. Augsburg's radio program called *The Mennonite Hour*, but I was not familiar with his book. After reading this book, even after knowing the Lord and having Him in my heart for so many years, I wondered how I could have missed an understanding of such an important issue as forgiveness. I found out that I didn't know what forgiveness was until after reading this book.

Maybe you too, my dear reader, also don't know what forgiveness is; but I will tell you how I was taught this lesson next month.

*Shalom to you.*

*Dr. Garagorry is the Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation that meets on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake, CO 80133 [www.aliyahcongregation.com](http://www.aliyahcongregation.com) • (719) 330-2382*

**Visitors are welcome!**



### Look for our next issue

## Saturday, December 7

**Ad space reservations due: Fri., Nov. 15**  
**Finished ad artwork due: Fri., Nov. 22**  
**Letters to the editor due: Fri., Nov. 22**  
**Calendar items due: Fri., Nov. 29**

Visit our website to read, download, and search all the back issues at **[WWW.OCN.ME](http://WWW.OCN.ME)**

### Support Our Community Advertise in OCN!

*Our Community News* (OCN), with a circulation of over 21,000, is a unique all-volunteer monthly newspaper mailed FREE to every resident and business in the Tri-Lakes area. OCN is a primary source for Tri-Lakes area news that gives advertising preference to Tri-Lakes and Black Forest businesses. OCN's contract-free low ad rates and monthly publication schedule help stretch your ad budget while supporting an important Tri-Lakes-focused effort to present factual, comprehensive news to all Tri-Lakes area residents and business owners.

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