

we can all find meaning in being, even for a moment, part of the lives of others.

"Great books help you understand, and they help you feel understood."—John Green

Until next month, happy reading!
The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.

December Library Events

Learn to play the ukulele, improve your diet, and hear about the work of a forensic pathologist

By Harriet Halbig

January brings opportunities to learn new skills such as playing the ukulele and increasing plant-based foods in your diet. Be sure to check the section below about programs at the Palmer Lake Library for additional opportunities.

Children's programs

Regularly occurring children's programs at the Monument Library include *Book Break* on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 to 11, *Story Time* on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15, *Toddler Time* on Thursdays at 9:30 and 10:30, and *Paws to Read* on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 5.

On Saturday, Jan. 11 from 2:30 to 3:30 there will be a *STEM for Kids* class on *propulsion*. Children will explore the science of motion, conduct experiments with balloons, build a marshmallow catapult, and create their own mini "hovercraft." Ages 6 to 12 are welcome.

Homeschool @ Monument on Monday, Jan 13 from 1:30 to 2:30 will feature the story of *Epic Engineering Disasters: the Titanic*. When the passenger liner Titanic left port on its maiden voyage on April 10, 1912, it was the largest and most luxurious ship in the world and described as "unsinkable." In this program, homeschoolers will learn about the history of this ship, examine engineering mistakes made by the ship's engineers, and test principles such as buoyancy and overflow. Program is for ages 5 to 12.

Kidsmake Pom Pom Mobiles on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 4 to 5 will show kids how to paint, string, and wrap while creating a mobile to be displayed in the home. Ages 5 to 12 are invited, and no registration is needed.

Lego Build will meet on Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 to 11:30. Use our large collection of Legos to build to your heart's content.

Homeschool @ Monument on Monday, Jan. 27 from 1:30 to 2:30 invites kids to explore *Ancient Egypt*. Discover a world where time is read by water, stories are written in pictures, and the most extravagant buildings are tombs. Spark your child's interest in history by way of simple activities. Work together or independently at multiple activity stations to understand life in ancient Egypt. Recommended for ages 7 to 12.

Teen and Tween programs

See above for description of *Lego Build*.

Every Wednesday from 3 to 5 in the study room, an *All Ages Knitting* group meets. Practice materials are provided but attendees are encouraged to bring their own projects.

Tweens and teens (ages 12 to 18) can enjoy an *Introduction to Dungeons and Dragons* from 3:30 to 5:30 on Monday, Jan. 6. Come and learn the basics. Our expert Dungeon Masters will cast 4+ storytelling and introduce you to this wonderful game. No experience is needed, and character sheets will be provided. Registration is preferred.

On Mondays, Jan. 13 and 27, come to the library from 3:30 to 7 to take advantage of *AfterMath*, free math tutoring for all levels taught by experienced adult tutors. No appointment needed. Not held on Jan. 6 or 20 due to school and library closings.

The Teen Creative Writing Group will meet in the study room from 6 to 7:30 on Tuesday, Jan. 7. Meet fellow writers, do writing exercises, and share snacks.

Learn about the uses of *forensic pathology in the real world* with *El Paso County Coroner Dr. Leon Kelly*, who will give a fascinating look into how to identify someone, determine a cause of death, and solve crimes. This program, from 4 to 5:30 Tuesday, Jan. 14, is presented by one of only 500 forensic pathologists in the country.

The Paper Tigers Origami Club will meet from 4:15 to 5:30 on Friday, Jan. 17. This group is open to adults and teens of all skill levels, introducing new projects each month. Registration is preferred but not required.

Teens Make Tuesday on Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 4 to 5:30 features a *Self-Care Spa Day*. Treat yourself! In this program you'll learn to make your own foot scrub, dry shampoo, lip balm, and chocolate mask. You will leave with a container of each and instructions so you can make them at home for yourself or a special gift. All supplies are provided and registration is required.

The Monument Library Anime Club will meet from 5 to 6:30 on Thursday, Jan. 30. Share anime with others who love it, enjoy snacks, and help shape the club for the future. Nothing rated above TV-14. Recommended for ages 13 and up.

Adult programs

See above for descriptions of *All Ages Knitting*, *Paper Tigers Origami*, and *Forensic Pathology in the Real World*.

The Senior Chats group meets each Wednesday from 10 to noon. Enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation.

A *free beginner's yoga class* is offered every Thursday from noon to 1.

The Life Circles writing group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 on Monday, Jan. 6. The Jan. 20 meeting is cancelled due to library closure for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The group concentrates on writing about

life experiences.

The Second Thursday Craft on Jan. 9 from 2 to 4 is *Stress Relief Spa*. Back by popular demand, we will make some of our most relieving spa items, including hand scrub, bath bombs, and a soothing lavender spray.

The Monumental Bookworms will meet from 7 to 8:30 on Tuesday, Jan. 14 to discuss *The Wailing Wind* by Tony Hillerman. This group, sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library, is open to all.

History Buffs will meet from 1:30 to 3:30 on Wednesday, Jan. 22. Discuss history with other buffs. This year's discussion topic is *The Making of America (1783-present)*. No registration required.

Join vegan chef JL Fields to learn *Three Ways to Add More Plants to Your Diet* on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 6 to 7. Registration is required and the class is geared to ages 18 and up.

The Monument Library spinning group will meet from 1:30 to 3:35 on Thursday, Jan 23. Explore the craft of hand spinning.

Palmer Lake Library programs

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. *Family Story Time* is at 10:30 each Wednesday, and *Toddler Time* is at 10:30 each Friday.

The Homeschool @ Palmer Lake program from 1 to 2 on Friday, Jan. 10 is *Mess Around with Sound*. What makes sound and how does it travel? We will experiment with the Chladni plate, tuning forks, and other items and talk about the sound production of a stringed instrument. For ages 7 to 12.

Children are invited to the *Third Saturday @ Palmer Lake Library* on Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 to join Mrs. Blake to use a sgraffito technique to make a Palmer Lake Star tile. This class is for ages 7 and older and registration is required.

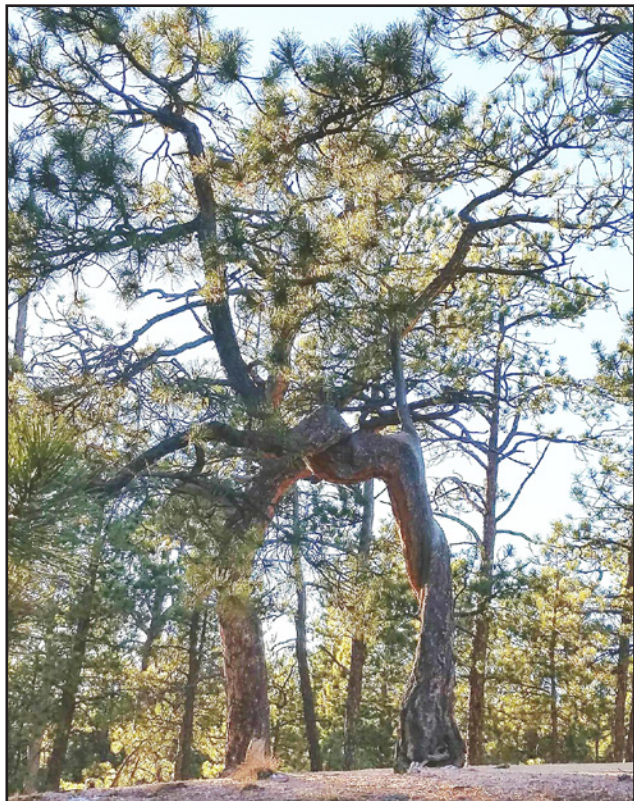
Have the winter blues? Adults are invited to come to the Palmer Lake Library on Wednesdays, Jan. 15, 22, and 29 from 4 to 5 to *learn to play the ukulele* with local music teacher Nichole Murphy. The ukulele is a surprisingly easy instrument to learn. If you have experience and have a uke, bring it along! A number of ukuleles will be available if you are just looking to try it out. Registration is required so we know how many to bring.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Our forests and trees can talk, cry, and sing to us



Left: Listening to a tree's ultrasonics is more accessible to most people with an ear horn or stethoscope (some parks and botanic gardens keep earphones and MIDI devices right at the tree), and for many trees, springtime is optimal listening because the tree will be pulling up water. Pine trees can recover from dry spell damage in hours or days, but most trees need all season, if they recover at all. We have many local ponderosa pine culturally modified trees (CMT) as shown here, and many of those are attributed to the Ute Nation. Some of our CMT are hundreds of years old and were likely spared the logging ax from timber industry due to their unique shape. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

By Janet Sellers

It's known that inside trees, their drying out creates an ultrasonic scream for water. Trees also make noise when they are scared, in pain, or cold. Most humans cannot hear it, but scientists in France at Grenoble University, led by physicist Alexandre Ponomarenko, have separated and analyzed the sounds. Trees have straw-like tubes called xylem for soaking up water; it takes great pressure to draw up the water, more when there is less water to take up. Then, air bubbles form and block the tube, and the stressed tree has to work

harder to pull water up from root to crown via more pressure; this creates a sound.

These ideas may sound like science fiction of Western science culture, but they hint at a parallel universe with plants. In the book *Knowing Home*, authors Dr. Gloria Snively and Dr. Wanosts'a7 Lorna Williams (her actual name from the Lil'wat Nation, British Columbia) acknowledge that in indigenous traditions, plants and animals are our oldest teachers. Braiding indigenous science with Western science takes into account the multidimensional world of nature and the multidimensional cultural world of each of us.

Indian Science is based on observation in many ways and includes sight, sound, resonance, personal experience, and more, and can refer to the communication as the trees talking. In Eurocentric language and science culture, this is set off from personal experience and called cavitation, and microphones can pick up the sounds the cavitations make. Arizona geologists are building acoustic detectors to decode the sounds. They look to help trees before they are so stressed that they may die, especially important decodings for "I'm thirsty" or "I'm cold" or "You're hurting me."

An exhibit at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens