

as individuals react to it is an entirely individual action. Many of us properly comply with the directions issued by the honest health experts, e.g., wear a mask while in public places, stay at least six feet away from others (excluding close family members), avoid mass gatherings. Others, actually far too many others, simply ignore that advice. Somehow, these folks believe they know better than the doctors and scientists; that they are immune to COVID-19 and not concerned

that they could be infected even if asymptomatic and thereby spread the virus simply by not complying with the rules.

I get it. Our way of life has changed dramatically, and certainly not for the better. Jobs lost, incomes slashed, schools shuttered. And worst of all, many people have fallen seriously ill with far too many having perished. It's a horrible situation, but that's where we are, and it's likely to remain so for the near term.

So, as we await an effective and safe vaccine as well as drugs that can treat the COVID-19 disease, what can or should we do? To my way of thinking, the answer is clear. Follow the published guidelines: maintain social distancing, wear a face mask while out in public, and avoid large gatherings. And please, think about others.

Ross Meyer

*Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore*

## Books to keep you and your family sane and productive

*By the staff at Covered Treasures*  
*"Instructions for living a life. Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."—Mary Oliver, poet*

These are difficult days, but there is help out there! Books can take you on adventures without leaving home. No matter what your age or circumstances, you can travel the world, learn a new hobby, learn how to plant a garden, and travel back in time through historical fiction and nonfiction. Challenge your mind with Sudoku, crossword puzzles, and activity books; explore new hikes and so much more at your fingertips.

For adults and kids of all ages, consider games and activities that spark conversation. For example, there is a series of games called *After Dinner Amusements* that features a variety of conversation starters and different topic areas. *Mad Libs* have been great fun for many generations and all ages.

Start a series of books to read aloud as a family. Or pick some classics to read aloud.

Teens and adults might consider starting a mystery series. There are so many great ones available. You might want to consider the *Aunt Dimity* series by Nancy Atherton, the *Timber Creek K-9* mystery series by Margaret Mizushima, the *Chief Inspector Gamache* series by Louise Penny, and the *Longmire* mystery series by Craig Johnson. Pick a book series that has been made into a television series; read the books and compare them. Which do you like better?

**Kitchen Science Lab for Kids: Edible Edition: 52 Mouth-Watering Recipes and the Everyday Science That Makes Them Taste Amazing**  
 By Liz Lee Heinecke (Quarry Books), \$24.99

Make science fun for all ages with 52 edible, delicious ways to explore food science in your own kitchen. You might want to combine it with Heinecke's book *Kitchen Science Lab for Kids: 52 Family-Friendly Experiments from Around the House*.



**Art Lab for Kids: 52 Creative Adventures in Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Paper, and Mixed Media for Budding Artists of All Ages (Lab for Kids No. 1)**

By Susan Schwake (Quarry Books), \$22.99  
 Kids and adults will enjoy these lessons for art projects of varying styles, including drawing, printmaking, and mixed media.

**Tell Me Why? (Tell Me Series)**

By Isabelle Fougere (B.E.S. Publishing), \$14.99  
 The Tell Me Series offers fun-filled books packed with more than 180-plus answers to all kinds of questions kids ask. Plus, there are lots of games and stickers. Other books in the series are: *Tell Me How?*, *Science and Inventions*, *What is That?*, *How Many?*, and *Earth and Sky*.

**The Boy's Book of Adventure: The Little Guidebook for Smart and Resourceful Boys**

By Michele Lecreux with Celia Gallais and Clemence Roux de Luze (B.E.S. Publishing), \$14.99  
 This guidebook (great for girls, as well) offers more than 40 ideas for outdoor activities and fun-to-do

crafts projects that will get you acquainted with facts about nature, how to identify different insects and birds, recognize different kinds of rocks, read a map, protect yourself against the weather when camping out, and much more.

**How to Build Treehouses, Huts & Forts**

By David Stiles (Lyons Press), \$17.95  
 Filled with fun projects and step-by-step instructions for kids and their parents to build outdoors, it also has a section on "cool stuff for kids to make" such as treasure chests, cannons, catapults, and several fun projects to build in the snow.

**Learn Chess the Right Way Book 1: Must Know Check-Mates**

By Susan Polgar (Russell Enterprises), \$19.95  
*Learn Chess the Right Way* is a five-volume series aimed at the novice, beginner, and intermediate level player, using the unique methods of the award-winning coach and former world champion Susan Polgar. Each volume contains over 500 puzzles.

Yes, these are challenging times we are in; however, we can look at this as a time of opportunity to bond closer with our families. To paraphrase Mary Oliver, "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).

*June Library Events*

## Curbside service now available, Summer Reading game cards ready for pickup

*By Harriet Halbig*

Since May 13, patrons have been able to pick up their holds at the library. Call the library (488-2370 for Monument, 481-2587 for Palmer Lake) and reserve a time to collect your holds. It's been great to speak with you on the phone, and we look forward to meeting again face to face.

Book drops are now open for returns, but materials are being quarantined for 72 hours before processing due to COVID-19. This delay will not result in any fines.

Also at Monument, Rapid View DVDs and Rapid

Read books can be seen in front of the entrance and may be checked out.

During this time, libraries are working with half of the usual staff and all are wearing masks and practicing social distancing in the library. We are shelving books, checking in quarantined materials after 72 hours, processing holds coming in from elsewhere, and reorganizing the physical space to make reopening possible within Colorado Department of Health and Environment guidelines

This involves making some of the public computers unavailable and moving furniture to allow for so-

cial distancing. We will also have Plexiglass barriers between staff and patrons. Further details can be seen on our website [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) at the top of the homepage.

All virtual services are still available, including virtual story times, streaming of videos and music, access to databases for research, access to the catalog for placing holds, and access to your account to learn the status of holds placed previously.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Harriet Halbig can be contacted at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me)



**Above:** Curbside pickup of holds is now available at the library.

**Inset:** Library Assistant Sherry Hoover takes a call from a patron about picking up holds.

**Right:** The community room houses three days' worth of returns being quarantined before processing. Items are boxed or bagged and dated. Photos by Harriet Halbig.

