

Church at Woodmoor, 18125 Furrow Rd. Meets 1st Thu. each month. Info: Teresa Kovacic, 559-0083, or email teresa.kovacic@biofunctionusa.com.

- **MOMS Club of Monument and Colorado Springs North.** Meet other stay-at-home moms and kids in our area for weekly activities such as play dates, lunch out, park days, and even Mom's night out. Info: email monumentmomsinfo@gmail.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Christmas Tree Pick-up & Recycling for Boy Scout Troop 78, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, & 12-13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Christmas trees can be picked up from homes or businesses in the Academy School District 20 area or brought to four drop-off locations: Eagleview Middle School (Vindicator Blvd.), Rampart High School (Lexington and Union), Western Museum of Mining (Northgate Blvd and I-25), and the Air Force Academy (North gate, B-52 Scout Camp). Cost: \$10 for drop-off, \$15 for pick-up, suggested donation for trees less than 10 feet tall. Please remove all lights and ornaments. Info or to arrange a pick-up, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/usafatroop78> or call 719-428-5402, or email usafatroop78@gmail.com.
- **Recycle your Christmas tree, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Baptist Road Trailhead at Baptist Road & Old Denver Hwy.** Drop off your natural-grown tree. Please remove all lights and decorations. Discarded trees will be ground into mulch that will be given away free to El Paso County residents on a self-serve basis while supplies last. A tax-deductible minimum donation of \$5 supports El Pomar Youth Sports Programs throughout El Paso County. Info: El Paso County Environmental Services, 520-7878; or visit the websites www.elpasoco.com or www.TreecycleCOS.org.
- **Tapping into Theology at the Pikes Peak Brewing Company, Thu., Jan 10, 7-9 p.m., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument.** (Snow date is Jan. 17). Do you have questions about faith? Join Father Larry Brennan, Director of Continuing Formation for the Diocese of Colorado Springs, for his presentation, "The Act of Faith." This monthly series of challenging talks is open to the public. Come for a great discussion and a casual dinner at Monument's finest brew pub. Info: Stephanie Kemp, 481-4355.
- **Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA), "From the Earth: Fine Art in Wood & Clay" Opening Reception, Fri., Jan. 11, 5-8 p.m., 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake.** Exhibit Dates, Jan. 8 - Feb. 2. Info: 481-0475 or www.trilakesarts.org.
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Stolen Thyme, Fri., Jan. 11, opening act at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:15.** Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Cost: \$7 general, \$4 BRAS members, \$5 nonmember students. Info: Joe Maio, 528-6119, or email jrmtn@comcast.net, or visit www.blackroseacoustic.org.
- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Rock'n Good Stories, Sat., Jan. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** Rocks tell wonderful stories of earthquakes and volcanoes, forests and beaches, crystals and jewels, and amazing creatures that roamed a former world. Geologist and educator Steven Veatch will present tables full of hands-on crystals, rocks, minerals, and fossils. Find out about the rocks in your food, pan for gold, perform mineral identification, measure up to a mammoth, and dig in the dirt for crystals, minerals, and fossils to take home. Everything will be inside

the museum. Cost: \$8 adults, \$7 military/AAA, \$6 seniors & students, \$4 children 3-12, free to children under 3 & museum members. WMMI is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A) in Colorado Springs. RSVP & info: 488-0880, rsvp@wmmi.org, or www.wmmi.org.

- **Black Rose Acoustic Society: Grant Gordy Quartet Farewell to Colorado Tour, Sat., Jan. 12, opening act at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:15.** Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Cost: \$15 general, \$10 BRAS members. Info: Jeff Smith, 719-548-1743, or Joe Maio, 528-6119, or email jrmtn@comcast.net, or visit www.blackroseacoustic.org.
- **Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Free Concert, Sat., Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., Sunrise United Methodist Church, 2655 Briargate Blvd., Colorado Springs.** Pricilla Navarro, the sensational 18-year-old Peruvian pianist, will return this season following her debut at Carnegie Hall. Tickets are free but must be reserved. Tickets & Info: Pam Brunson, 646-2791, PianoByPam@gmail.com, or www.rmmaonline.org.
- **Tri-Lakes Cares Blood Drive, Tue., Jan. 15, 3-7 p.m., 235 Jefferson St., Monument.** License ID required. No appointment necessary. Sponsored by Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP). Info: Nurse Jackie Sward, 481-4864 x 103.
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Bryan Bowers, Fri., Jan. 25, opening act at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:15.** Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Cost: \$7 general, \$4 BRAS members, \$5 nonmember students. Info: Joe Maio, 528-6119, or email jrmtn@comcast.net, or visit www.blackroseacoustic.org.
- **RevitaSoul Counseling, Life Consulting by Meg Lodes, MA, NCC, LPCC.** Helping you find balance and fulfillment in life, business, and relationships. Info: 719-445-6476 or www.revitasoul.com.

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 488-3455, or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.

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The Rabbi's Corner
Vayigash (He Approached)
Genesis 44:18-47:217

By Oswald Garagorry

"Judah approached Joseph and said let your servant say something to you privately." - Genesis 44:18

This is how the Torah portion begins as Judah goes on to tell Joseph what had become an old family lie. For many years, it had prevailed in the family; it was repeated again and again, it was embraced and accepted by the family as if it were the truth, "Joseph is dead."

It was like a family secret with many unanswered questions that they were afraid to ask because of what they may find out or how this discovery would affect their lives and relationships in the family. So we have a loving father who honestly believes he has lost his son. He carries constant pain and sadness associated with his loss as the rest of the family continues to repeat the lie to themselves and to others, "Joseph is dead." Yet in this Torah portion they receive the revelation that Joseph is alive! Just image the scene, that after so many years of believing and perpetuating the lie that Joseph is dead, they have to accept the reality, "Joseph lives."

But what made this revelation possible? They were his brothers, they were seeing him and yet they did not recognize him. They had to do their part, when Joseph told them, "Come closer." Only after they exercised their free will and acted upon what he asked, were they able to hear the words, "I am Joseph your brother who you sold into Egypt." - *Genesis 45:4*

It is an ancient Jewish view that Joseph is a type of the Messiah. This view is expressed by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov in his book, *Divine Conversation* (Chassidei Breslov, Brooklyn NY, pg. 21). "The long awaited redemption will first bring Messiah Ben (son) Joseph a descendent of Joseph..."

Please notice that just being part of the family was not sufficient to receive the understanding individually that Joseph was not dead. To the contrary, he was alive ruling the world (in biblical literature Egypt sometimes represents the world). For his brothers to be liberated from the lie that they had embraced, they had to get up from their comfort zone and follow the instructions he gave them: "Come closer."

Today, Messiah's call to his family is the same: Stop believing and perpetuating the lie of so many years and come closer; search for yourself; think for yourself. If you do, you will also hear those comforting words from the Messiah as Joseph's brothers heard from him: "Don't be sad...or angry at yourselves because it was God who sent me ahead of you to preserve life." - *Genesis 45:5*

A sweet reunion awaits you.
 Shalom to you.



Dr. Garagorry is the Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation that meets on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at 19925 Monument Hill Road.
www.aliyahcongregation.com • (719) 330-2382
Visitors are welcome!

Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest. The *OCN* editorial board has established a policy that we do not knowingly print letters that have appeared in substantially the same form elsewhere. Please identify your submission as a letter to the editor and include your full name, home address, and day and evening phone numbers. A limit of 300 words is recommended. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy. Send your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail to *Our Community News*, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132-1742. In response to problems receiving e-mail, if you send your letter by e-mail, we will send an e-mail acknowledgement. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please call Susan Hindman at 481-8511 to confirm that we have received your letter.

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

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