

ters, several of them dangerous, all lost in some way, and each a part of the pi story Early continues to reveal.

**Mister Monday: The Keys to the Kingdom Series**

By Garth Nix (Scholastic Inc.) \$7.99

In the first book of this spellbinding series for teens, Arthur Penhaligon is thrust into a world of bizarre creatures from another realm. Mister Monday, his avenging messengers with bloodstained wings, and an army of dog-faced Fetchers will stop at nothing to gain the key, which saved Arthur from an early death. Desperate, Arthur ventures into a mysterious house in an attempt to unravel the secrets of the key—and discover his true fate.

**Monument 14: Sky on Fire**

Emmy Laybourne (Feiweil and Friends) \$17.99

Trapped in a superstore by a series of escalating disasters, including a monster hailstorm and terrifying chemical weapons spill, brothers Dean and Alex learned how to survive while working together with 12 other kids to build a refuge from the chaos. When strangers appeared, they destroyed the group's fragile peace, and brought both fresh disaster and a glimmer of hope.

**Fault in Our Stars**

By John Green (Penguin Putnam) \$17.99

Sixteen-year-old Hazel more or less accepted her diag-

nosis of Stage IV terminal thyroid cancer until a chance meeting with a boy at a support group forces her to re-examine her views on love, loss, and life. Green, an author who writes "for youth," rather than "to them," develops authentic characters who are trying to live one day at a time and who will live a long time in the minds of the readers who come to know them.

As end-of-summer boredom sets in, getting kids excited about reading can transport them to another world during a stormy afternoon and give weary parents a respite. Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be contacted at books@ocn.me.

*Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide by Elizabeth Hacker is taking a hiatus this month.*



# Local beekeepers share important buzz on honeybees

By Janet Sellers

On July 25, the Palmer Lake Community Garden group held a special event at Palmer Lake for locals to learn more about local honey and honey bees, and their importance to our community. Beekeepers Rick Squires and Claudia Swensen discussed the basics of bee care while giving a detailed demonstration of how a hive works and how both new and seasoned beekeepers can put together a hive as well as maintain or at least support honeybees throughout the year.

Together the two have over two decades of beekeeping, swarm protection, and management, and they are understandably enthusiastic about protecting and educating others on the importance of the welfare of the honey bee population and the bees' importance to human quality of life.

The beekeepers said, "It is estimated that about one-third of the human food supply is directly dependant on insect pollination of crops, and most of that is accom-



plished by bees, especially the domesticated European honey bee." While great numbers of honey bees are transported to orchards and large farming industries, the stress on the bees being transported is tremendous, and that, along with pesticide use by humans, mono-cropping, and lack of flowers, is causing "colony collapse disorder."

Local citizens can help the bee population to thrive by avoiding all pesticides and planning their landscapes with these important creatures in mind. It's best to plant a wide variety of flowering plants that bloom as long as possible. Some of the plants that support the bees and thrive in our area are, of course, wild native plants, but also Rus-

Left and above: On July 25, the Palmer Lake Community Garden group hosted a free session with beekeepers Rick Squires and Claudia Swensen, who demonstrated aspects of their work in local beekeeping and hive maintenance for honeybees and bee safety. Their combined efforts in beekeeping, the often unknown vital roles of honeybees in our lives, honeybee welfare, and swarm issues protection span over two decades. Photo by Sky Hall.

sian sage, alfalfa, borage, clover, and wildflowers. Janet Sellers can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.

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**Art Matters**  
**The citizen artist: making art that is relevant to our lives**



By Janet Sellers

In the United States, a model for arts programming in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that was wildly popular and vital to ethnic communities was the idea of the "citizen artist." The movement aimed to support the immigrants in their new country in terms of imaginative capacity to believe in their own potential in their futures, to at least hope for a bright future.

"The settlement arts tradition embraces the notion that the arts are powerful tools that can serve meaningful social purposes, and it assigns great value to engaging communities in making art that reflects and is relevant to their lives. That is the essence of the citizen artist

idea."—Nick Rabkin, arts and cultural policy analyst at the *Huffington Post*.

One such center for the movement was Hull House in Chicago, in 1889. It was established as a social services center, not unlike our own local Tri-Lakes Cares, but it included the arts to help the people keep a connection to their sense of self, in this case their cultural roots and identities, while they moved into a new society and cultural identity.

The concept of an art movement and a social services center that supported the imaginations of the new residents who were poor was not only new, but courageous, since it became a foundation for social reforms. The Hull House was started by Jane Addams and Ellen Starr Gates, and grew to support human rights such as those for labor, women's rights, public health and education, and immigration issues. It was such a powerful movement that Addams, who was a reformer, was considered by J. Edgar Hoover as "the most dangerous woman in America."

Here in our community, we are lucky have a wide variety of arts venues and artists, artisans and crafters. Our community is home to the summertime monthly Art Hop and the year-round Friday Art Nights as well as special open studio events. In that sense, we have the ability to be exposed to a wide variety of visual art, but it is due to the personal and singular efforts of an artist, his or her studio, or a local gallery or shop.

This creative support by the artists and local merchants is what drives our local art scene, and it is remark-

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