

Movement. By sharing their stories, they were able to put a personal perspective on this unique story of American history.

On Nov. 24, the Palmer Lake Historical Society presented an engraved crystal plaque to Roger and Kim Ward, the owners of Estemere Mansion in Palmer Lake, in appreciation for their continued support of the Historical Society and the local community. Historical Society President Al Walter, Vice President Phyllis Bonser, and Kim Braun, the organizers of the Estemere Mansion Tours in September 2015, presented the plaque to the Wards in recognition of the many years they have opened their home to the Historical Society and allowed the society to sponsor tours of the historic Victorian Mansion and its surrounding buildings.

No events are scheduled by the Historical Society for December. On Jan. 21, 2016, the Historical Society will hold its Annual Potluck and Membership Meeting. The event will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall and feature local artist and musician Joe Bohler on the piano. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will provide the baked ham. ■



Above: Historical Society Vice President Phyllis Bonser, right, and Kim Braun, left, presented the plaque to Kim and Roger Ward (center left and right) in recognition of the many years they have opened their home to the Historical Society. *Photo courtesy the Palmer Lake Historical Society.*

Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Nov. 5

Mining association president gives perspective on spill

By David Futey

On Nov. 5, Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association, offered a perspective on the Gold King Mine spill into the Animas River and a summary on the status of mining in Colorado during a presentation at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry.

Sanderson said the Gold King Mine, located near Silverton, operated from the late 1800s through 1923 with gold and silver as the predominate minerals mined. As with mines from that era, there were no regulations regarding the responsibilities and reclamation procedures after mine operations ceased. Over time mines as the Gold King discharge certain levels of heavy minerals and acidic water, due to water's reaction with pyrite and oxygen, as hydraulic processes fill the mine tunnels and erode tailings.

Sanderson said the Environmental Protection Agency was assessing the mine's status when excavation caused a breach to occur, spilling up to 3 million gallons of mine wastewater and tailings into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas.

Sanderson suggested that mining companies should be allowed to address situations as the Gold King because they have knowledge and expertise of mine operations and thus can best address them. However laws, regulations and "unlimited liabilities on persons conducting activities" on mine locations dissuade such action. He then highlighted differences between how modern mining is conducted versus historically and noted mine reclamation projects that have been successfully completed or are ongoing by mining companies such as the Robinson Tailings at the Climax Molybdenum Mine near Leadville.

Related to Colorado mining, Sanderson noted that a common comment he hears is "I did not know there was mining in Colorado." In fact, Colorado historically and present day offers a diverse rock and mineral production. Coal, gold, aggregates, gypsum, sodium bicarbonate, marble and molybdenum are among the rocks and minerals mined that provide \$3 billion in direct sales to Colorado and \$9 billion in total value to the Colorado economy. Colorado is first nationally in molybdenum production, fourth

in gold and 11th in coal.

Information on upcoming events at the museum is at www.wmmi.org.

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Above: Annette Sibert and Stuart Sanderson of the Colorado Mining Association visited the Western Museum of Mining & Industry on Nov. 5. Sanderson presented a talk on the breach at the Gold King Mine and the status of mining in Colorado. *Photo by David Futey.*

Art Matters

Art saves lives: The U.S. Army and the Monuments Men



By Janet Sellers

For real art success in the making of it or enjoying it, forget inspiration and connect to success with, of all things, real, actual efforts. Practice, action, and introspection is what creates mastery. I have a studio motto that says, "Creativity follows mastery." It's an old craft motto from the middle ages era of the craft guilds. It emphasizes that when we get going and doing our art or art viewing, we are in the art moment, we have creative inspiration, and to reliably get in the groove, we need to be taking action, most prosperously when on a regular basis.

This is true for most human activity, but arguably most important when we wish to generate a project from the get-go such as a drawing or painting, or hobbies and crafts. Even our passive use of art impacts us: When we go to see art, wherever that may be, it can have a life-changing effect. Art is often a tracing of the path of human experience and meaning in life. Taking in some art by way of our local venues or classes can make this come true for you.

Venerable collections on the arts spectrum from fine art to vintage collectibles attest to the personal importance and meaning people attach to artifacts. Museums and galleries include contemporary and historically revered works because art is socially and culturally important to our quality of life and our sense of self and society.

In October, the four still-living "Monuments Men" were awarded the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal. In the words of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, the Monuments Men saved the "creativity that connects us to the heritage of civilization." More than 5 million cultural objects were seized by the Nazis in World War II.

The U.S. Army sent out eight "Monuments Men" (and 350 "civilian soldiers" of architects, curators, art historians) to save important artifacts and public art such as architecture, sculpture, bridges and buildings from Nazi

seizure and desecration. A book and film with the above name came out in 2009 and 2014, respectively.

During the promotional interviews for the film, actor Bill Murray said that he had had an extraordinary experience in his life with a painting. He had desperately run out of the theater where he was performing in Chicago and got lost. He felt personally destroyed and apparently was thinking of ending his life when he wandered into the Chicago Art Institute and saw a painting that he feels saved his life. The painting is called *The Song of a Lark*. It shows a young woman working hard in the fields at sunrise and she takes a moment to listen to the song of a lark. He related that at that moment he had an epiphany that if that girl was trying so hard to make a life that he could continue to make a life as well; the painting inspired him to keep on trying and keep on living.

In this season of holiday rush, end of the year work schedules and stresses, with short days and long, dark nights, be sure to take in some art and handicrafts with a friend or loved one at a leisurely pace to refresh your spirit and help stay balanced. Who knows, it may save your day, or save your life, too, in some creative way.

Public art news

The El Paso County Commissioners have just approved installation of a sculpture at the Baptist Road and Old Denver Highway roundabout site. This is the first roundabout to have art for the entire I-25 corridor, making it a significant installation and visible landmark for the intersection. Tri-Lakes Views (TLV) has been approved to commission the art and is currently seeking sponsorship for the proposed sculpture to be created by Reven-Marie Swanson. TLV, a 501(c)(3) organization, has been bringing art to the Tri-Lakes area since 2003 and currently holds an annual exhibit of public art, this year installing 13 sculptures throughout the area, with five permanent local pieces. For sponsorship details, contact TLV President

Sky Hall at (719) 491-3638 or at skyhall@mac.com, or fundraising Chair Dr. Betty Konarski at (719) 481-2769 or bkonarski@earthlink.net.

Art exhibits this month

Wisdom Tea House art exhibit through **Jan. 9**, "The Language of Art" with artists Marie Simpson, Kathleen Nalley and Carol Groesbeck. Wisdom Tea House, 65 Second St., Monument.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) member show "Oh, my!" group of 20 artists, show runs through **Jan. 2**. Call for Artists: "Visions of Light" early entry ends **Dec. 12; Jan. 16** – Entry deadline. Photographers of all levels are invited to submit their original fine art photography for consideration. The VOL Exhibition is a juried photographic exhibition of fine art. Details at www.trilakesarts.org. Shows at TLCA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Bella Art and Frame Gallery exhibition of their gallery of artists for December. Over a dozen artists each have a nook with their artwork for sale, as well as a gift shop with cards, jewelry, glassworks, and small works, 183 Washington St, Monument.

Holiday Pop Up Shops—Kind of like a last-minute trunk show. Pop up shops are local, last minute trunk show/sale type venues that just "pop up" out of seemingly nowhere and discovered by word of mouth. Some are holiday craft marts this time of year. You can google them for the Front Range and Tri-Lakes areas, or check out this Facebook page for a fashionably incomplete list: go to www.Facebook.com and look up Local-Pop-Up-Holiday-Shops.

Janet Sellers is a Colorado artist and art teacher. Her artworks and public art sculptures are in exhibitions in Colorado city and museum venues, and throughout the Tri-Lakes area. Sellers lives in Woodmoor. She can be reached at JanetSellers@OCN.me.