

## Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter written is an OCN volunteer

### Shop Monument for the Holidays thank you

Thank you to all the merchants who contributed to the totally incredible gift baskets awarded to the winners of the Shop Monument for the Holidays contest. I'm glad Mad-

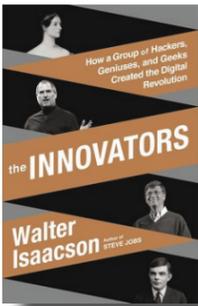
eline VanDenHoek organized this contest to encourage more "in your ZIP code shopping" by Tri-Lakes residents, and I hope the contest happens again next December, too. We have so many neat stores right here in our own area.  
*Lisa Hatfield* □

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Life lessons from the famous

By the staff at Covered Treasures

What can the innovators and the geniuses who rise to the top of their professions teach us ordinary humans? Some new books, ranging from politics and technology to war and religion, give us a glimpse of these people and the lessons they offer.



### **The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution**

By Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster) \$35

What were the talents that allowed certain inventors and entrepreneurs to take creative leaps and turn their visionary ideas into realities? Why did some succeed and others fail? In this thrilling tale, Isaacson begins with Lord Byron's daughter, who pioneered computer programming in the 1840s. He explores the fascinating personalities that created our current digital revolution, including John von Neumann, Bill Gates, Steve Wozniak, Steve Jobs, and Larry Page. For an era that seeks to foster innovation, creativity, and teamwork, The Innovators shows how they happen.

### **41: A Portrait of My Father**

By George W. Bush (Crown Publishers) \$28

George H.W. Bush's life is a great American story. Following Pearl Harbor and against his father's wishes, he delayed college to pilot torpedo bombers in the Navy during World War II. After surviving enemy fire, he returned home to

marry his wartime sweetheart, make a name for himself in the oil business, and enter public service. George W. Bush describes his father's eventful and remarkable three decades in politics, his service as a diplomat and CIA director, his eight years as vice president, and finally his election as president in 1988. More than a biography, *41* provides insights into the lessons learned by a son from watching a man he admires and adores.

### **The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope**

By Austen Ivereigh (Henry Holt & Co.) \$30

Based on extensive interviews and years of study, this is the story of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the man who went from lower-middle-class child of Italian immigrants in Buenos Aires to spiritual leader of more than a billion Catholics worldwide. This biography sheds light on the influence of Argentina's nationalist movement on Pope Francis and the inspiration provided by early Jesuit missionaries, his radical embrace of a Church for the poor, and the hair-raising tightrope he walked during the military dictatorship of the 1970s. This thrilling account of one man's journey through the intersection of faith and politics is the definitive account of how this radical pope came to be.

### **Don't Give Up, Don't Give In: Lessons from an Extraordinary Life**

By Louis Zamperini & David Rensin (HarperCollins) \$22.99

Zamperini reveals the essential values and lessons that sustained him throughout his remarkable journey, chronicled in the biography, *Unbroken*. A 1936 Olympian and a world-

class miler, Zamperini put aside his superstar track career, volunteered for the army, and was thrust into the violent combat of World War II as a B-24 bombardier. His plane went down in the Pacific, where he survived, against all odds, drifting 2,000 miles in a small raft for 47 days. Captured by the Japanese, he courageously endured torture and psychological abuse for two years in a series of prisoner-of-war camps and returned home to face more dark hours until his spiritual rebirth in 1949.

### **Killing Patton**

By Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard (Henry Holt & Co.) \$30

O'Reilly recounts the dramatic final months of World War II in Europe and Gen. Patton's invaluable contributions to the Allied victory before his mysterious death in a car collision in December 1945. Patton had become known around the world as both an exalted commander and a controversial hero, relieved of his duties by Gen. Eisenhower, in part because of his brusque manner and outspoken nature. For almost seventy years, there has been a suspicion that his death was not an accident—and may very well have been an act of assassination. This book reveals the true man and the many powerful people who wanted him dead.

These books may inspire you to great things, or simply entertain for a few hours, but it's worth catching a glimpse of the lives of some of those who have changed our world. Until next month, happy reading.

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

### Art Matters

## Colorado is tops in arts attendance



By Janet Sellers

"Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working."

— Pablo Picasso

Recently, a federal government survey was published on peoples' visits to the arts in the United States. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) data showed Colorado was No. 2 nationally in the number of adults who visit visual arts venues, with 35-40 percent of our population attending art museum or art gallery venues annually. This is quite impressive, since Colorado has a smaller overall population than nearly all the other states in the top 10.

When children have access to art classes, the benefits are lifelong. The benefits derived from enjoyment in the arts by adults have a strong correlation to the access to the arts in their childhood, and is a leading factor for the remarkably high interest and attendance in Colorado.

With Colorado's adults, who consistently rank highly in performing arts attendance, the shares that took classes as children or went to events in childhood are well above the national average—45.9 percent and 63.5 percent, respectively. The survey indicated a very strong correlation with the arts and college grads," a college graduate is nearly twice as likely to have taken an art class or lesson in childhood than a high school graduate (59 percent compared to 32 percent). Adults of all racial and ethnic backgrounds reported similar rates of taking arts classes or lessons in the last year.

And the benefits to children and adults are not as related to parent income or social status as one might think. The survey indicated it was having access to the arts that made a huge difference lifelong to the people and to their community as a whole. I like to think that our wonderful outdoor art, on view all the time, contributes to all ages in their benefits from the arts. Actually, that's a proven fact, too.

Here in our community, we have plenty of ongoing

arts events, classes, and shows to enjoy all year round. If you have the interest and an idea, why not go ahead and join the fun. Here are some calls for artists you can get ready for now. Get out your paintbrush or your camera and go for it! Or, take a class and get ready, too.

### Upcoming art events and calls for artists

Tri-Lakes Views (TLV) is a local arts group dedicated to public art exhibits in the Tri-Lakes area. Tri-Lakes is the region north of Colorado Springs encompassing the municipalities of Monument and Palmer Lake as well as unincorporated northern El Paso County and is home to over 50,000 people. The current public art exhibit extends from Palmer Lake through Monument along the Santa Fe Trail and more, and is on view outdoors 24/7. Maps available at local shops.

TLV just announced its annual Call for Entries for its ARTSites. ARTSites is a yearlong, June-to-June outdoor sculpture on-loan exhibit displayed in the Tri-Lakes area. Due date is April 15. Details at: [www.trilakesviews.org](http://www.trilakesviews.org)

**Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TCLA) exhibit**, "Visions of Light" photography exhibit featuring the use of light in the artworks, March 3-28. Opening reception: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 6. TCLA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

**Colorado Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest**—Call for student artists grades k-12. Time to start getting those great duck stamp artworks going! The 23rd annual student design contest is put on by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and each state. The due date for Colorado postmarked entries is March 15, and details about the program are available online at the Colorado link here: [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck).

Janet Sellers is a local artist and art teacher, and helps produce local arts programs. Her paintings and art sculptures are on view in local art venues and her public

art is on view in Colorado and California cities. She can be reached via OCN at [JanetSellers@OCN.me](mailto:JanetSellers@OCN.me)

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