

bors, a chatty young couple and their two boisterous daughters. What follows is a heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unlikely friendships, and a community's unexpected reassessment of the one person they thought they had all figured out. Backman's story is an uplifting exploration of the unreliability of first impressions and a gentle reminder that life is sweeter when it is shared with other people.

The Glass Kitchen

By Linda Francis Lee (St. Martin's Griffin)
\$15.99

Portia Cuthcart always intended to run The Glass Kitchen restaurant she inherited from her grandmother, but a string of betrayals and the loss of her legacy force her to leave Texas to start a new life with her sisters in Manhattan. Soon, she finds herself back in a world of magical food and swirling emotions, where she must confront everything she has been running from. Portia discovers

that a kitchen—like an island—can be a refuge, if only she has the courage to give in to the pull of love and the power of forgiveness and accept the complications of what it means to be family.

The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons

By Sam Kean (Little Brown & Co.) \$17

After patients suffered strokes, seizures, infectious diseases, and horrendous accidents, scientists were amazed at the transformations that took place when different parts of the brain were destroyed. Parents suddenly didn't recognize their children. Some people couldn't speak but could still sing. With lucidity and razor-sharp wit, Kean unearths the stories behind such neurological curiosities as phantom limbs, viruses that eat patients' memories and blind people who see with their tongues. He illuminates the brain's secret passageways as he tells tales of ordinary people whose struggles, resilience, and deep humanity

made neuroscience possible.

Close Your Eyes and Hold Hands

By Chris Bohjalian (Random House)
\$15.95

Emily Shepard is on the run. The nuclear plant where her father worked has suffered a cataclysmic meltdown and all fingers point to him. Now orphaned, homeless, and certain that she's a pariah, Emily hides out on the frigid streets of Burlington, Vt., creating a new identity inspired by her favorite poet, Emily Dickinson. When she meets Cameron, a 9-year-old with a string of foster families behind him, she protects him with a fierceness she didn't know she possessed. But when an emergency threatens the edgling home she's created, Emily realizes that she can't hide forever.

All Fall Down

By Jennifer Weiner (Simon & Schuster)
\$16

Allison Weiss's husband has been sleeping in the guest bedroom. Her 5-year-old daughter is having meltdowns. Her father's early Alzheimer's has him thinking that Allison is still in college, while her oncedistant mother cannot stop calling for help. Her big suburban house sits unfurnished, and the stress from her dream job is unbearable. When she happens upon a magazine article about addiction, she wonders if her use of prescription drugs is becoming an issue. With a sparkling comedic touch and tender, true-to-life characterizations, Weiner turns one woman's slide into addiction and her struggle to find her way back up into an unforgettable tale of empowerment and redemption.

Until next month, happy reading.

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

July library events

Summer reading is in full swing

By Harriet Halbig

The library's Summer Reading programs are in full swing. At the Monument Library, 111 babies, 1,331 kids, and 544 teens are now participating by reading and collecting prizes. Many thanks go to our teen volunteers for their help in registering and rewarding participants and helping with other tasks during this busy time.

The program continues through July, so there's plenty of time to sign up and participate! All reading since June 1 counts toward your goal. Sign up on line or at any library.

Family programs

Special programs are set for the first three Tuesdays of July at 10:30. The first, on the 7th, is Tall Tale Heroes. July 14 meet Kathy's Kritters, a selection of reptiles, hedgehogs, and other critters. July 21 will be a puppet show.

For kids 7 and older, there will be a program July 6 on Optical Illusions. On July 13 will be a program on forensics for

kids: solve a mystery using science and forensic techniques. Both programs begin at 2:30.

Every Thursday at 2:30 will be stories and crafts for ages 5 and older. On July 2 make super hero finger puppets and masks. July 9, come and imagine what kind of hero you could be. July 16 will be a craft involving a crocodilian and July 23 will revolve around Reading Super Stars.

Learn to play chess! On Mondays and Wednesdays between July 1 and 22, all ages and skill levels are welcome from 4 to 5:30 to learn how to play chess. Our teen volunteer will teach a lesson at the beginning of the session and then match players for games.

The Legos Club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on July 18. You bring your imagination and we supply the Legos. All pieces remain the property of the library. All ages are welcome.

Teens are invited to a Superhero After Hours Movie Night on Friday, July 24

from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a friend and watch a superhero movie with us on the big screen. There will be food, drink and superhero trivia.

Adult programs

Wednesday, July 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. join local historian Jim Sawatzki for a free walking tour in Palmer Lake and around the Glen Park Chautauqua Grounds. Meet at the Palmer Lake Village Green gazebo. Registration is required. Call Jim at 481-3963.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, July 17 to discuss Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

The Tri-Lakes Crafters will meet on July 3 and 24 from 1 to 3. Bring your own knitting or other project and enjoy the company of like-minded crafters.

Palmer Lake Library events

The special summer reading programs

in Palmer Lake will take place at 10:30 on Wednesdays. July 1 will be a Super Villain Boot Camp. July 8 is Super Hero Training Camp. July 15 is a visit from Kathy's Kritters, July 22 is Tall Tales, and July 29 will be a Craft Extravaganza.

The Palmer Lake Book Group will meet at 9 on Friday, July 10 to discuss We Are Water by Wally Lamb. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book club.

Come one, come all to the Summer Reading Party

The grand finale to the summer reading program will be a fun party on the Palmer Lake Village Green on Tuesday, July 28 from 10 to noon. Bring the whole family! There will be snacks, games, and activities for all ages.

All Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed on Saturday, July 4.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Trains, ice cream, apple pie and bluegrass music

By Al Walter

On June 18, local railroad enthusiast Mel McFarland educated and entertained over 60 history buffs at Palmer Lake Town Hall with stories and pictures of trains that plied Ute Pass from the late 1800s

to the mid-1900s. McFarland focused on the Colorado Midland Railroad, which operated between Colorado Springs and Divide. Using old photographs, McFarland took the audience on a historic ride up the Pass—pausing at each town and tourist

hotel to describe the impact of the railroad on local communities. Highlights included the towns of Manitou Springs, Cascade, Green Mountain Falls, Woodland Park, and Divide.

On June 21, the Palmer Lake Historical Society sponsored its annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Although the event is to honor dads, it seems the kids had the most fun, eating ice cream and pie provided free by the Historical Society and frolicking on the Village Green to the toe-tapping bluegrass tunes played by the music group Fox Run. The Historical Society is grateful to the Rock House in Palmer Lake for donating the delicious ice cream and to the Village Inn in Monument for its donation of fabulous pies. Over 200 people enjoyed the food, music, and wonderful Palmer Lake weather.

The Historical Society has several upcoming events promoting local and Colorado history. On July 16, at 7 p.m. at Palmer Lake Town Hall, retired Navy Officer Dick Cooper will discuss the history of the four U.S. Navy ships named for the State of Colorado. These range from an 1800s sailing ship to a modern-day advanced nuclear-powered submarine. This free program is part of the History Series

sponsored by the Historical Society on the third Thursday of each month that brings local researchers and historians to Palmer Lake to discuss topics involving regional, Colorado, and national history.

On July 18, the Historical Society presents its Seventh Annual Colorado Springs Native American Powwow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Mortgage Solutions Financial (formerly Freedom Financial Services) EXPO Center at 3650 N. Nevada Ave. in Colorado Springs. Enjoy Native dancers, singers, arts and crafts, food (Indian tacos and fry bread—yum!), a live wolf exhibit, birds of prey, an Indian lodge, and children's activities. Highlights include attendance by members of the WWII Navajo Code Talkers and demonstrations by Aztec Dancers. Admission is \$4, with children 12 and under free. Over 3,000 people attended this family-friendly event last year. Please bring a nonperishable food donation to feed the hungry. For more information, visit www.palmerdividehistory.org or call 719-559-0525.

Finally, we are planning the annual Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua to Palmer Lake on Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. We plan to return brie y to the 1890s by presenting old-time music, re-enactors



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