

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Pot luck, membership meeting set for Jan. 21

By Al Walter

Join the Palmer Lake Historical Society on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. for its annual pot luck dinner and membership meeting at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake. At the annual business meeting, the outgoing president will provide the membership an overview of the Historical Society's activities and present

the Board of Directors' nominees for president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer for 2016 for a vote by the membership. Nominations for the four officer positions will also be accepted from the floor. The elected officers serve a one-year term and must be members of the Historical Society.

Following the business meeting, attendees are invited

to enjoy an old-fashioned pot luck dinner. Baked ham, coffee, and tea will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. As a special treat, local artist and musician Joe Bohler will amaze with his skills on the piano. This event is free to the public. For more information, visit the Historical Society's website at www.palmerdividhistory.org or call 719-559-0837. ■

Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Jan. 2

Museum hosts Geology Day

By David Futey

On Jan. 2, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) hosted its annual Geology Day. Visitors had a variety of activities to choose from during their visit. The Gold Prospectors of Colorado taught visitors how to gold pan and provided demonstrations on sluicing techniques; Richard Sweeney of Pilot Mining demonstrated modern assaying processes to separate minerals; the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and their Pebble Pup program offered a hands-on digging activity, provided information on fossils, rocks, and minerals along with free mineral samples; Florissant Fossil Beds provided information on the geology and history of the park; and museum staff operated their historic steam engines and provided guided tours of exhibits.

If you missed this day, the museum will offer a Science Day on March 12. Information on that event and other upcoming events at the museum is at www.wmmi.org.

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Right: A member of the Gold Prospectors of Colorado demonstrates sluicing, a process to separate heavier minerals such as gold from lighter materials, at the WMMI Geology Day. **Below left:** Autumn Ascano, a volunteer with Florissant Fossil Beds, explains the geology and history of the park to a visitor. **Below center:** WMMI tour guide Ken Aron explains the operation of the 35-ton Corliss engine. **Below right:** In the museum's library, hands-on activities were available and visitors learned about fossils and formation of minerals, and could select a mineral to take home. *Photos by David Futey.*



Art Matters

Artist inspirations: of cows, long walks and coffee



By Janet Sellers

"Every artist was first an amateur." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

January is a great month to hunker down and read or draw pictures. The cold weather and emptiness after the holidays just begs us to go inside ourselves and connect with our imagination. It is a time to rebalance ourselves and our life direction. We all have ways that we get in touch with our creative feelings, and there is a way to get creative in less than five minutes.

A popular *Huffington Post* article "18 Things That Creative People Do Differently" by Carolyn Gregoire (which generated 5 million views and 500,000 Facebook shares in one week), has inspired her to write book on the subject with psychologist Scott Barry Kaufman titled, *Wired to Create*. Their research indicates, of all things, that when taking a shower one taps into deep insights more so than at one's job or workplace.

So many artists and innovators live in serial paradoxes with their abilities stimulated by, as the book aptly points out, "mindfulness and daydreaming, seriousness and play, openness and sensitivity, and solitude and collaboration — to show that it is by embracing our own contradictions that we are able to tap into our deepest creativity".

If hopping in the shower is, for the moment inconvenient, other creativity boosters such as daydreaming, taking time for solitude, seeking out new experiences, making time for play, nurturing emotional sensitivity, turning challenges into opportunities for growth (aka turning fail-

ure into success), and achieving mastery are tops on the list. Other activities that stimulate creative imagination are running, walking the dog, and drinking coffee at a busy cafe as the Impressionists did, as well as taking a class with others on a creative subject. Even looking at kittens and puppies or just photos of baby animals boosts creativity and productivity as well. (Per a Hiroshima University study in Japan a few years ago.)

It seems that doing something out of one's common habit offers the novelty part of our minds a chance to explore and discover more to enjoy. Nikola Tesla said that his most creative thoughts came to him while on a leisurely stroll with a friend. Gertrude Stein was inspired while driving her car. She was most inspired by looking at cows, and would drive the countryside looking for the perfect cow to observe each day. She wrote for 30 minutes a day. Arguably creativity is quite a necessity these days, as our era of creative innovators make visual games, electronics, and special-effects movies to the tune of billions of dollars and millions of loyal customers.

As I sit enjoying the sunshine from my sunny window surrounded by bright red geraniums and a poinsettia—and even some ripe red tomatoes in a pot—I feel glad. While the cold weather may keep us indoors quite a bit, let's take an artful chance on our creative senses and do something with our imagination. We can start a sketchbook, take a class, visit with friends and artful places, or just take a friend for a ride and enjoy the beautiful local scenery from the warmth of the car.

Art around town this month

Wisdom Tea House exhibit, "The Language of Art" with Marie Simpson, Kathleen Nalley and Carol Groesbeck, through Jan. 16; 65 Second St., Monument

Bella Art and Frame, ongoing resident artists show with over a dozen fine artists in painting, sculpture, mixed media, glass, jewelry, and more. 183 Washington St., Monument

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) Call for Artists, Jan. 16 – Final Entries/Registration Due to TLCA for "Visions of Light" photo show. Online application at www.TriLakesArts.org.

Public art news: The El Paso County Commissioners approved an 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. 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.

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