

10 to 11:30. You bring your creativity and we will provide the Legos.

Looking forward to March, join the Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Group and the Monument Library to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on Wednesday, March 2 from 3 to 5. Enjoy birthday cake, Dr. Seuss stories, crafts, and then choose a Dr. Seuss book to take home.

Teen programs

Each Monday from 3:30 to 7, come in for free math tutoring with AfterMath. Students of all ages are welcome and no appointment is necessary. Bring your homework and get some extra help from experienced tutors.

In honor of Black History Month, the First Saturday Teen Movie will be Akeelah and the Bee. The program will be on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 1 to 3. Snacks and refreshments are provided, no registration needed.

Adult programs

Join us for the first session of Second Thursday Craft on

Thursday, Feb. 11 from 2 to 4. This month's craft is wood burning. We will provide wood burning equipment, stencils, and some wood for practicing. If you'd like, bring a wooden spoon or other wooden item to customize. Please register online, call 488-2370, or see a staff member.

Every second Friday there is a Computer Help Lab at the library from 9 until 10. This is an informal session devoted to questions and answers to help you navigate computer use. Please register online, call 488-2370 or see a staff member. The Lab in February will be on Feb. 12.

Meet local author Robert Liparulo on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 2 to 3:30. Liparulo has written several popular thrillers for young adults and adults and will discuss the writing life, pursuing your passion, and other writing topics. No registration required.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Feb. 19 to discuss *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly

book club.

On the walls and in the display cabinet during February will be works by Lewis-Palmer High School artists.

Palmer Lake Library programs

The Family Fun program for February will be Leapin' Leap Year on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 10:30. It's Leap Year and we will celebrate with a "froggy" theme. Enjoy stories, crafts, and some jumping games. All ages welcome.

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. New members are welcome. Call 481-2587 for the current selection.

Artwork from Palmer Lake Elementary School will be featured in the library during February.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on Monday, Feb. 15 in observance of Presidents Day.

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

Palmer Lake Historical Society

New board members elected

By Al Walter

On Jan. 21, members of the Tri-Lakes Community joined members of the Palmer Lake Historical Society for its annual pot luck dinner and membership meeting at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Outgoing President Al Walter discussed the major accomplishments of the Historical Society during 2015, among them the award as the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year and the Tour of Estemere attended by almost 800 members of the community.

Walter also mentioned several initiatives the Board of Directors will be pursuing in 2016, one examining the possibility of awarding annual scholarships to a student at both Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Ridge High Schools.

During the business portion of the evening, the membership elected the slate of officers for 2016. Those nominated and elected to serve a one-year term were: president, Tom Baker; vice president, Pat McCarthy; secretary, Mike Walker; and treasurer, Barbara Arbuthnot. Following the election, Walter turned the meeting over to Baker to say a few words and chair the remainder of the program.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, those assembled joined in an old-fashioned potluck dinner complete with plenty of baked ham, rolls, and an abundance of

food and desserts brought by the community members. In the spirit of community, the members of the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, who helped set up and take down the tables and chairs, were invited to participate in the dinner.

Local historian and re-enactor Don Moon appeared as Jonathan Tumbler, an early mayor of Old Colorado City. Moon gave a lively and fact-filled history of the area, including the beginnings and early days of Colorado City and some early and not-well-known history of El Paso County.

The next program in the Historical Society's monthly History Series will be on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake. Local historian Benny Nasser will present a program on "Young Boys Who Fought in the Civil War." More than 100,000 boys less than 16 years old were part of the Union and Confederate Armies during the war. Many of these young boys joined because they wanted to fight alongside their fathers and brothers, or were runaways or orphans.

This event is free to the public. For more information, visit www.palmerdividehistory.org or call 719-559-0837.



Above: The Historical Society's 2016 board members are, first row from left, Su Ketchmark, Treasurer Barbara Arbuthnot, and Museum Director Rogers Davis. Second row, Community Liaison Phyllis Bonser and Melissa Robohn. Third row: Vice President Pat McCarthy, Rodger Voelker, President Tom Baker, and Secretary Mike Walker. *Photo courtesy of Anastasia Borner.*

Art Matters

Art in nature: sacred prayer trees and art outdoors



By Janet Sellers

I was last year and again recently this year privileged to talk with John W. Anderson about the local Ute prayer trees. They are breathtaking, live ponderosa pine trees that were transformed to mystical shapes by the Ute tribe of Native Americans on their journeys to the Pikes Peak region to their revered mountain, Tava (we call it Pikes Peak), their word for sun, and the tribe name, Tabeguache, means "people of Sun Mountain." I had first seen the trees on a walk at Fox Run Park when Anderson gave a talk and walk last summer to educate the current people of our area about the trees and help save them from land use destruction.



Above: In this photo from last summer's Ute prayer tree hike series at Fox Run Park, John Wesley Anderson, retired El Paso County sheriff, historian, artist, and author (*Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region*), relates the history and meanings of the Ute prayer trees. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

This time it was my turn to offer a view of local art, and I gave author and former sheriff Anderson a tour of the local outdoor art around town and in the Monument Sculpture Park on Second Street. We talked about the different sculptures and the variety of mediums represented there, on the large grassy areas surrounded by centuries-old ponderosa pines. The grounds had been made over a few years ago from a scraggly dirt patch to the lush park with eight large, outdoor sculptures, via the efforts of Tri-

Lakes Views, the Town of Monument and School District 38. The grand ponderosas seemed to hold up the sky for the much smaller, relatively recent art works there.

Anderson told me about how the Ute tribe had made the bent trees of our region, requiring the task from generation to generation, creating living outdoor art with the ponderosa trees being created into meaningful shapes over many hundreds of years—it is art that takes hundreds of years to make—and the fact that our local area has many, many of these trees but that they need to be protected. Some people have them on their property and think they are malformed or diseased, when they actually are carefully made to a meaningful form.

The Ute tribe had a number of specific meanings for the tree shapes and placement, and I am still learning about them. I now drive the region in search of the bent trees, many visible from the road, and in areas such as Elephant Rock, Roller Coaster Road environs, and Fox Run Park they abound.

I encourage you to discover these precious works of art embodied in the trees with a human history and in some mysterious way that only art can provide, meet the hearts of the people who made them, and find meaning in them for yourself. We can bring friends and visitors to enjoy them as well.

It is vital to spread the word to protect them. It is a special, if not sacred, endeavor to hold dear, truly a part of our home and heart for our beautiful natural living here. Anderson's book, *Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region*, has many references to the location of the trees in addition to the extensive history of our region and the Ute people. The book is available at Covered Treasures and online at www.JWander.com (his website), and our local library has some copies. He also gives presentations for an honorarium.

Thanks for Wisdom Tea House

I would like to thank, on behalf of all the artists and art lovers who enjoyed their time at Wisdom Tea House, Tom and Diane Wisdom for their kindness and goodness in creating our beloved Wisdom Tea House for community, art and convivial pursuits, and making a beautiful and joyful place for us all to share. While the Wisdoms joyfully go on to their next adventure, we will miss the special place they created for us to enjoy art, tea, and community, and we thank them wholeheartedly for that place and time in our lives. For eight wonderful years, it was a small town dream come true.

Artsites 2016 call for artists

Submit entries for this local yearlong outdoor public art exhibit. The juried exhibit accepts entries until March 30 and artwork is installed each June. Selected artists receive a \$300 honorarium. For details, visit www.TriLakesViews.org or contact Dr. Betty Konarski at bkonarski@earthlink.net. Email entries accepted.

Art on view around town

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) exhibits: Feb. 2-27, TLCA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake. Lucy Owens gallery: member artists exhibit, *Dreamers and Realists*. Main Gallery: Palmer Lake Art Group Winter show and sale supports scholarships to our local high school seniors.

Bella Art and Frame Gallery: Artworks of member artists are currently on exhibit. 2016 Miniature art show call for entries form available now at www.bellaartandframe.com. 183 Washington St., Monument.

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