

to get their share. This, of course, never happened because they knew that they were not included in the MLO.

To summarize, the 1999 MLO was never intended to include Lewis-Palmer Charter Academy. No communications concerning this MLO suggested that the charter school would benefit from the MLO funds.

*Jeffery M. Ferguson, Ph.D.*

### D38's responsibility to Monument Academy children

There seems to be a strange sort of cognitive dissonance when it comes to school funding in Colorado. On one hand, education establishment-minded school board members are constantly wringing their hands and demanding that the state pay them what they believe they deserve. On the other hand, those same leaders vehemently oppose

charter school efforts to gain equitable funding.

We've seen these fights play out among union-backed board members in districts across the Front Range. Now we're seeing it happen on our doorstep in Lewis-Palmer School District 38.

D38 Board of Education President Mark Pfoff recently characterized Monument Academy's request that the district honor the plain language of a 1999 property tax increase for schools "district-wide" as theft. He called a letter asking parents at our school to advocate for fair funding "intimidation." Yet just weeks ago our district was perfectly happy to sign on to a highly publicized letter demanding more money from the state Legislature.

Pfoff issues lofty proclamations about respecting the will of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 voters. Yet with grasping hands outstretched toward the Colorado Capitol, he fails to acknowledge that Colorado voters overwhelm-

ingly rejected an enormous tax increase—and the extra state education funding it would have brought—in 2013.

Most importantly, Pfoff has made no mention of the fact that charter school funding inequities come from the local level, not the state level. No additional amount of state funding will alleviate his responsibility to treat every student in Lewis-Palmer School District 38 fairly.

As the parent of students at Monument Academy, we find these contradictions to be both confusing and disheartening. Pfoff and his fellow board members should reflect carefully on where their priorities lie, and ensure that their spoken principles align with their actions.

*Jennifer Martin*

*Kristen McWilliams*

*Tammy John*

*Daryn and Melanie Strop*

*Brad and Kimberlee Bush ■*

## Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

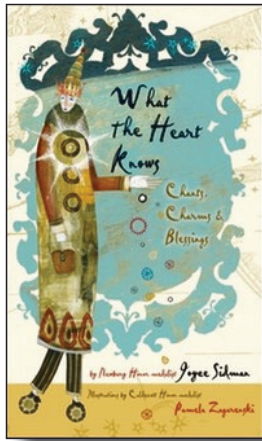
### The magic of poetry

*By the staff at Covered Treasures*  
"Poetry is language at its most distilled  
and most powerful."—Rita Dove

April is National Poetry month, so why not take a fresh look at some of this powerful language, whether in the simple verse of a children's book, or in a more subtle, but beautiful, adult volume?

**What the Heart Knows:  
Chants, Charms & Blessings**  
By Joyce Sidman (Houghton  
Mifflin Harcourt) \$16.99

In this inspiring book, a Newbery Honor-winning poet calls up ancient forms of the spoken word and translates them into the 21st century. Included are chants to summon happiness, invocations to ask for forgiveness, and charms to face a hostile crowd. Perceptively illustrated, this book of hope and wisdom offers strength for all kinds of moments.



**The Trouble with Poetry**

By Billy Collins (Penguin Random House) \$15

Collins shows that good poetry doesn't have to be obscure or incomprehensible—which is perhaps the real trouble with most "serious" poetry. This dazzling collection explores boyhood, jazz, love, the passage of time, and, of course, writing. Funny and empathetic, we recognize our own lives through Collins' poetry.

**Journey On: Beauty and Grit along the Way**

By Anna Blake Godbout (Mountain Tapestry Press), \$12.95

The journeys described in this touching volume are landmarks from the life of a daughter, granddaughter, wife, mother, teacher, and writer. As Godbout (aka local resident Nancy Jurka) travels from winter to autumn, she takes us through the beautiful, the sad, and the soulful places in our own hearts.

**The Selected Poems of Donald Hall**

By Donald Hall (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) \$22

Now in his 80s, Hall, who served as poet laureate of the United States from 2006 to 2007, has taken stock of his body of work and presented us with a handpicked, concise selection, showcasing engaging work, rich with humor and simplicity. For the first-time reader or an old friend, these are, above all others, the poems to read, reread, and remember.

**Daniel Finds a Poem**

By Micha Archer (Penguin Random House) \$16.99

Rich, multilayered collage illustrations offer early readers an introduction to poetry through the warmhearted relationships between a young boy and the friendly animals in his local park. The liveliness of the language discloses early poetic mechanics, such as alliteration (sun-warmed sand) and onomatopoeia (crisp leaves crunch) and makes it a favorite for teachers and families alike.

**Echo Echo: Reverse Poems about Greek Myths**

By Marilyn Singer (Penguin Random House) \$16.99

This is a unique book of reversible poems based on Greek myths. Read one way, each poem tells the story of a fa-

miliar myth; but when read in reverse, the poems reveal a new point of view. Readers will uncover the dual points of view in well-known legends, such as Pandora's Box and King Midas and his golden touch. The great art also mirrors the spirit of the poems.

**When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons**  
By Julie Fogliano (Henry Holt & Co) \$16.99

Using a diary-like approach, this book takes a different look at poetry for the seasons. Beginning and ending with the spring equinox, it offers poems for different days throughout the year. A bluebird's song starts off, "poking a tiny hole through the edge of winter and landing carefully, balancing gently on the tip of spring." Double-page gouache and pencil crayon illustrations range from effectively simple to tantalizingly detailed.

**A Great Big Cuddle: Poems for the Very Young**

By Michael Rosen (Candlewick Press) \$19.99

This joyful new collection of poems bounces right off the page and into your heart, making it the perfect read aloud for both boisterous celebration and cozy cuddling up. These exuberant poems, paired with vibrant illustrations, will delight little ones over and over again.

*"In the end, the poem is not a thing we see; it is, rather, a light by which we may see—and when what we see is life."—Robert Penn Warren*

Maybe it's time to pick up the poetry books we put aside after high school and college—and see life through a magical lens. April 21 is "National Poem in Your Pocket Day." Until next month, happy reading.

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

## April Library Events

### Families invited to Jungle Party

*By Harriet Halbig*

#### Family programs

April's Family Fun program is a Jungle Party with themed crafts and games. Come on Saturday, April 9 at 2:30 and celebrate One Book 4 Colorado, a statewide initiative emphasizing the importance of early literacy and reading to children. Four-year-old children will receive a free book.

The Legos Club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, April 16. All ages are welcome. Legos are provided—you bring the creativity.

#### Teen programs

Every Monday from 3:30 to 7, consult experienced tutors for free help with your math problems. No appointment is necessary.

The First Saturday Teen movie for April is *Dead Poets Society*, in honor of National Poetry Month. The program will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. Snacks and refreshments are provided; no registration necessary.

The Monument Teen Advisory Board will meet at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 8. Help us plan future events and parties for teens at the Monument Library. Meet us in the study room for snacks and conversation. Please fill out a volunteer application in order to get credit for volunteer hours.

#### Adult programs

Friday, April 1 from 11 to noon, a representative from the

Denver office of the Social Security Administration will help patrons learn to set up their own accounts and demonstrate the various services accessible online.

Also on April 1, come from 2 to 3:30 to enjoy coloring with other adults and teens. Coloring pages and utensils will be provided and you are encouraged to show what you have worked on.

You are also welcome to bring your own supplies. No registration required.

A laddertrack crochet workshop will be offered from 10 to noon on Saturday, April 9. Learn to make a beautiful laddertrack crochet necklace for yourself or a gift. Materials provided, but participants should know how to crochet a chain stitch and bring a size I crochet hook if they have one. Attendance is limited, so please register on line or call 488-2370.

The Second Thursday Craft of the Month in April is cookie painting! Join us on Thursday, April 14 from 2 to 4 and learn this craft from the district's Maker in Residence. Registration is required.

A program on Internet Safety for Seniors will be offered on Friday, April 22 from 1 to 3:15 p.m. Topics include how to avoid Internet scams, common email scams, keeping computers secure, and real-life stories of people scammed online.

The Monumental Readers will meet on Friday, April 15 from 10 to noon to discuss *Swift Justice* by Laura DiS-

ilverio. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book club.

Have you ever wanted to create your own art journal? Learn to create a journal with painting, stamping, stenciling, and other techniques. You will learn techniques that you can use at home and choose a word for your page such as "gratitude." Each page will be like a tiny canvas. The program is offered on Monday, April 25 from 10 to noon. Registration is required online or call 488-2370.

The walls and display cases in the library will feature works by students from Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

#### Palmer Lake Library events

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the latest selection. All patrons are welcome to attend.

The Family Fun program for April is Super Dogs on Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. A Wiley Wolf is after Sienna's sheep. Will she be able to outsmart the wolf and save her sheep or will they become sheep stew? Learn how to train your dog to be a super dog in this fun interactive program. No registration required.

Ceramics and water colors by Palmer Lake Elementary School students will be on display throughout the library during April.

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