GATHERINGS

Volume 1

SPRING 2013

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ESTES VALLEY LIBRARY www.estesvalleylibrary.org
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“I Like to Listen”

Ernest Hemingway once said, “I have learned a great deal from listening carefully.” There is much wisdom in this simple adage, and in 2012, we sought to listen to you through a very important community survey process. We asked about how the resources and services of the Estes Valley Library are best utilized to meet the vibrant needs and aspirations of our great home and its people. Know that we will be studying those results for months and years to come, and they will be a light to guide us.

Some of those very worthy objectives will take time and planning and fund-raising to bring to fruition. Others, we have already begun to implement. In fact, this newsletter, in its inaugural edition, is born of that spirit of listening.

Library users told us overwhelmingly that they wanted more and better information on all the wonderful programs, resources and services at the Library. We continue to share Library happenings in our local newspapers, on our website, and on the display wall and feature book tables inside the library. We launched a popular Facebook page just over a year ago. And last fall, we began an e-newsletter that many of you now receive conveniently in your inbox.

And now, we are pleased to present this debut edition (might we call it a Collector’s Edition) of Gatherings. We seek to deliver this to you on a quarterly cycle with upcoming library events, new services, and a convenient calendar to help you plan. You won’t want to miss our upcoming events. So, when you receive Gatherings in your mailbox, we hope you share in the joy that we have had in assembling its special content.

We thank the Friends of the Estes Valley Library for their financial support in making this publication possible.

And, as you’ll see, this edition incorporates our 2012 Annual Report. Thank you, Estes Valley, for making your Library one among many great reasons to call this place home.

Sincerely,

Claudine FERRAULT
Library Director

2012, The Year of eServices

In that spirit, a flourishing new “Cloud Library” of electronic books took flight. Hundreds of readers are now enjoying the convenience of reading Library eBooks on their Nooks, Kobos, iPads, and other portable devices. Reading’s “Newest Frontier” was made possible by the Friends of the Library.

100 Years and a Shared Legacy

The Estes Park Woman’s Club opened the first library in Estes Park in 1916, then operated it for five decades. They built the first library building in Bond Park, then donated it to the Town. It was only fitting that the Club celebrated its 2012 centennial inside today’s modern library, with a kick-off event in January and a grand finale gala in November.

Stories in the Garden

Stories and gardens are a joyous blend. In years to come, young minds will be enchanted and inspired amid the new outdoor storytime garden, constructed and funded in partnership with the Library Foundation and Rotary Club of Estes Park. 2013 children’s programs will help dedicate this glorious new summertime space.
A Doctober Spectacular

It was a One Book One Valley to remember: a visit by bestselling Doc author Mary Doria Russell highlighted last fall’s community-wide reading spectacular. Twenty special events drew a total of 1330 attendees, up 32% from 2011.

As a lifelong lover of books, meeting Mary Doria Russell and hearing her delightful presentations was one of the best nights of my life.

Buck Starts Here

A new resource launched in 2013 to help business owners and job seekers alike. An April Jobs Fair was made possible by grants from the Friends of the Library, the Mayor’s Discretionary Fund, and Larimer County.

In April, the Jobs Fair at the Conference Center brought together dozens of local businesses and a steady line of job seekers. Attendees made face-to-face connections with local employers, landed interviews, and—in some cases—a new job. The Library made it happen.

Can Your Fines

November’s Can Your Fines campaign succeeded in raising 436 pounds of food to benefit the community. Held in partnership with Crossroads, this successful event was the result of the generosity of library users, as cardholders brought in canned goods to pay off late fees.

Storytimes for All

The library’s youth department expanded their storytime program to offer bilingual storytimes every Saturday morning. The storytime uses books, music, storyboard activities, puppets and other storytelling techniques to promote and encourage the development of early literacy skills and inspire a love of reading in both English and Spanish.

This program draws richly from the decades of storytelling experience of Youth Services Librarians Kerry Aiken and Melanie Kozlowski. Learning and creativity are attached to the magic and fun that take place every Saturday at the Library. Culture is transmitted through storytelling, and the opportunity to alternate between languages strengthens this rewarding experience for all participants.

Passport to Reading and Fun

Estes Valley Library’s youth services team took students on an international tour to exotic places in their Passport to Reading Fun program. Eighty children attended the 3-day program to learn about Australia, Egypt, and Italy through books, songs, food, art activities, games and more. The multicultural program helps children explore new pathways to imagination and to look at the world in fresh and exciting ways.
Learn

Worlds of Discovery

Discovery Packs are theme-based kits that help develop and encourage literacy skills. Children and their parents and grandparents benefit from easy access to the motivational and educational activities provided by the library’s Discovery Packs.

Common Cents Counts

Last summer came exciting news that the Library’s two-year financial literacy initiative was extended for another two-year cycle. This prestigious grant from the FINRA Foundation means that residents have new opportunities in 2013 to sharpen their money management skills through workshops and one-on-one assistance. The goal: to make the Estes Valley the most financially literate small community in Colorado.

A local high school student faced a dilemma. “Can I earn a living and contribute to the well-being of future generations?” Then Common Cents Counts brought an organic agriculturalist to the classroom. “I can do something I love and still make a living!” the student declared.

Emergency Response

Following June’s devastating Woodland Heights fire, the Library partnered with many local agencies to prioritize service for fire victims and to make emergency information available. Emergency Readiness learning remains a priority in 2013. Watch for workshops and information throughout the year.

The Estes Valley Library was one of five libraries in the state honored with the Intellectual Freedom Award for service to fire victims in their communities. “These libraries proved they were at the heart of their communities,” noted the award’s sponsors.

Books for Babies

Parents of new babies born to Estes Valley residents receive a special baby book bag. Each handmade bag contains a board book, helpful early literacy pamphlets, games to play with babies booklet, a lullaby music CD, and information about storytimes. We hope all parents will embrace the idea of making books and the Estes Valley Library part of their family’s routine.

“Your time and willingness to create darling book bags for children is very much appreciated” said Audrey Neimuth. “What a wonderful way to help children become excited about books and what a practical item for them to carry their literary treasures!”

Storytimes for Preschoolers

Stories, songs, finger puppets, and active learning. For ages 5 and under, every week. Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 10:30 am. Saturdays at 10:30 am. Bilingual storyline on Saturdays at 10 am.
Friends of the Estes Valley Library

The Friends of the Estes Valley Library exists to provide financial and volunteer support to the Estes Valley Library. The Friends of the Estes Valley Library annual used book sale held last August generated more than $28,617 in sales and brought in $1,300 in new memberships. In 2012, the Friends of the Library dedicated more than $75,000 in support of library programs and purchases, including the new E-books holdings program.

The book sales wouldn’t be possible without the community’s generous donations of books and materials, and the many Friends volunteers who work throughout the year to sort and move the donations and set up and work at the book sales.

“I want to extend a special thanks to the crew from the town’s Public Works Department who pitch in every year,” said outgoing president Jim Kiple. “They load and unload all the boxes and boxes of heavy books and other materials. I can’t imagine how we would pull this off without their help!”

The book sales wouldn’t be possible without the community’s generous donations of books and materials, and the many Friends volunteers who work throughout the year to sort and move the donations and set up and work at the book sales.

On the first day of the sale, Friends members have the opportunity to select from more than 40,000 gently-used books on sale at bargain prices, along with DVDs, audiobooks and children’s materials.

The Pre-Holiday Used Book Sale will be held December 6 and 7, 2013 in the Library. This sale will feature a nice selection of some 3500 quality used books ideal for holiday gift-giving.

Estes Valley Library Foundation

The Estes Valley Library Foundation provides ongoing support for both capital improvements and for special projects and programs of the Library that are outside of available Library general operating funds. Currently your Library Foundation is providing support funds for the One Book/One Valley program, Common Cents Counts, and the newly-improved automated check-out/check-in system for library materials. Our library is a tremendous resource for the residents and visitors to the Estes Valley as the place of choice for everyone to gather, learn, and grow.

Mark your calendar now for two upcoming events sponsored by the Library Foundation. The Hillerman Landscapes program, scheduled for Sunday, June 30, featuring Tony Hillerman’s daughter and the photography of her husband Don Strell exploring the country described in Hillerman’s novels of the Southwest. The Library Foundation’s Author Dinner will be on Sunday, October 6 featuring Wyoming mystery writer Craig Johnson.

2012 Summer Book Sale  $28,617  
2012 New Memberships  $ 1,300  
Support Given to Programs and Services  $75,000  

2012 Annual Report  
Financial Status  
2012  
Endowment Investments $ 93,188  
Dividends $ 29,900  
Total Net Assets $1,071,942  
Grants to Library $ 83,984  
2011  
Endowment Investments $ 900,245  
Dividends $ 28,379  
Total Net Assets $1,008,426  
Grants to Library $ 30,000  

www.estesvalleylibrary.org
Looking Forward

“Mark your calendar for this upcoming season of special Library events. We are pleased to offer you a handy new reference guide on the pages that follow.”

—Kurtis Kelly, Adult Services Librarian

Day of the Books

Join us for the special community celebration called El Dia de los Niños, El Dia de los Libros for all ages on the evening of Saturday, April 27 at the Estes Park High School Auditorium, featuring a Book Walk for children and a live mariachi band for all ages.

3rd Annual One Book One Valley

Two years and growing—and enthusiasm continues to build each year for this community-wide reading adventure. Help us choose the next book by casting your vote.

see pages 22 & 23

Download an Audiobook

Residents will enjoy the convenience of listening to a popular book at home simply by downloading a file. Watch for details of this service in 2013.

eMagazines

Digital editions of the magazines you love, delivering the exact same content as you get in print, plus exclusive features like video, audio and live links on your tablets, smart phone, PC or other devices.
**APRIL**

**MAY**
APRIL IS FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH in the United States and in the Estes Valley. The financial landscape has changed in the past several decades—both nationally and locally. To keep their personal budgets strong and solvent, individuals must take greater charge of their financial well-being, both during and after their working years. April offers a tremendous opportunity to take part in a variety of financial education opportunities, all made possible through a generous grant from the FINRA Foundation.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11
**eBook Drop-in Session**
6:00pm  Harper Room
Bring your questions and receive hands-on answers about downloading Cloud Library eBooks to your iPad, Android, Nook, or Kobo reader devices.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12
**Small Steps to Health and Wealth**
2:00pm  Hondius Room
Did you know that financial problems can affect health, and poor health can affect personal finances? Laurel Kubin from Colorado State University Extension offers this special workshop to help uncover the links between health and wealth habits, and how to make small changes that can make a big difference in both.
Advance registration recommended. Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
**Movie Matinee: Millions**
3:00pm  Hondius Room
FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH MOVIE. Ethics, being human, and the soul itself all come to the fore when a 7-year old finds a bag of pounds just days before the currency is switched to Euros and suddenly learns many lessons about life and humanity. Snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
**eBook Drop-in Session**
2:00pm  Harper Room
Second hands-on session about downloading Cloud Library eBooks to your tablet or reader devices.

**Goal Setting and Financial Planning: Common Cents Counts Workshop**
7:00pm  Hondius Room
This seminar is designed for those who would like to begin, restart, or reevaluate their relationship with their personal finances. All the basic, simple tasks of money management will be reviewed: creating a personal balance sheet, building a monthly budget, tracking everyday spending, differentiating between needs and wants, and establishing short and long term saving goals. This class is a great starting place for those who “missed the class” in school, a timely learning experience for teens before they launch into the real world, and a motivational review for everyone.
Advance registration recommended. Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org

MONDAY, APRIL 15
**Movie Matinee: Wall Street**
3:00pm  Hondius Room
FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH MOVIE. “Greed is Good.” This is the credo of the aptly named Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas), the anti-hero of director Oliver Stone’s Wall Street. Revisit this 1987 classic as we explore what it says about ethics—and ponder its relevance for today. Snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.
Thursday, April 18

The Taxing Situation: Common Cents Special Event
7:00pm  Hondius Room
Say farewell to Tax Season 2013 with an informative perspective on what taxes mean in our society. Guest speaker Eric Waples will explore the historical facts about our tax code. Have you ever considered where and how the concept of income taxes originated? Waples will be joined by Ivan Wilkerson, who leads Estes Park’s tax preparation assistance program. Wilkerson will discuss the increasing complexity of the tax situation, and the issues it presents. A fun and fascinating tour into the “taxing situation” we all face. Advance registration recommended. Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org

Friday, April 26

Special Movie Night: Young Frankenstein
7:00pm  Hondius Room
This kickoff to a three-part movie series celebrates classics from the horror genre, starting with an acclaimed satire from 1974. Lending its burlesque touch to 1970s genre revision, director Mel Brooks followed his hit “western” Blazing Saddles with this parody of 1930s Universal horror movies. A prelude event to the Stanley Hotel Horror Film Festival coming in May.

Monday, April 22

Movie Matinee: Who Killed the Electric Car?
3:00pm  Hondius Room
Movie Event Honoring Earth Day and Financial Literacy Month. Filmmaker Chris Payne explores the many factors that played into the ultimate failure of the electric car to catch on with consumers, even as gas prices began to skyrocket, in a thoughtful meditation on the increasingly important role that renewable energy plays in modern society. Snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

Tuesday, April 23

Key Investment Concepts: Common Cents Counts Workshop
7:00pm  Hondius Room
This seminar explores those simple, but fundamental, financial principles that guide individuals as they begin and as they monitor their personal investment portfolios. Whether you use an investment advisor or go-it-on-your-own, everyone needs to understand the ten major concepts that guide investment planning. The goal is the creation of a sound investment portfolio strategy that is understandable, tailored to your personal goals, low in cost, easy to execute, and relatively worry-free. Advance registration recommended. Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org

Thursday, April 25

Poetry Cafe
5:30-7:30pm  Elementary School Cafeteria
For 3rd, 4th and 5th graders along with their parents and siblings. The 10th annual Poetry Cafe celebrates kids and poetry with live poetry readings. Share your favorite Shel Silverstein poem, Mary Ann Hoberman poem or better yet, an original poem of your own creation! Memorizing poems is encouraged because it sounds better when you’re familiar with all the words. Each participant will be able to share at least two poems in front of your peers and parents. Lights and a microphone will be set up in a darkened cafeteria to give a cafe-like atmosphere. RSVP to youthservices@estesvalleylibrary.org to get a free slice of pizza for each member of your family. After your free slice, more pizza will be available for only $1/slice. Don’t be square, be there!

Saturday, April 27

El Día de Los Niños/El Día de Los Libros
Family Celebration
4:30-8:30pm  High School Commons
Estes Valley Library, Estes Park Schools, and Multicultural Connections, along with community partners, invite you to join a community celebration of children, books, family and fun with a Mariachi Band, dance, games, activities and more. Mexican food provided by Mountain Home Cafe Restaurant from 5:00-6:00.

Monday, April 29

Movie Matinee: The Undying Monster
3:00pm  Hondius Room
Travel back to the glory days of movie matinees in this prelude to the Stanley Hotel’s Horror Film Festival weekend. In this classic thriller from 1942, a town in England is plagued by strange legends, mysterious happenings, and one family that seems to have a link to—a relative who is part man, part wolf. Accompanying the movie will be a special reading selection (performed by Kurtis Kelly) from the stories of suspense author Clay MacLeod Chapman, the Library’s featured guest on May 4.
**MAY IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH** in the Estes Valley. The Library is partnering with many other local agencies to help highlight the importance of being organized and ready for an individual or community emergency. Join us in making "readiness" a community goal and a family affair.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**

**eBook Drop-in Session**  
2:00pm  Kind Coffee

Bring your questions and receive hands-on answers about downloading Cloud Library eBooks to your iPad, Android, Nook, or Kobo reader devices. Held at Kind Coffee in downtown Estes Park, across from the Library.

**Movie Matinee: Hangover Square**  
3:00pm  Hondius Room

Set in turn-of-the-century London, this period thriller stars Laird Cregar as George Harvey Bone, a composer who suffers from a rather severe case of artistic temperament. Driven to distraction by the discordant sounds of the city, the usually sensitive Bone occasionally snaps when exposed to undue stress, and the results can be deadly. Accompanying the movie will be a special reading selection (performed by Kurtis Chapman) from the stories of suspense author Clay MacLeod.

**THURSDAY, MAY 2**

**Denver Zoo Animal Discovery**  
4:00pm-5:00pm  Hondius Room

Children ages 5-11 are invited to discover the distinction between vertebrate and invertebrate animals by observing and interacting with live animals and biofacts. Advance registration required.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**

**Author Event: Homeroom Headhunters**  
1:00pm  Hondius Room

By Clay MacLeod Chapman

“All Schools are the same and Spencer Pendleton expects no less from Greenfield Middle. But Spencer hasn’t met them yet—the Tribe, a group of runaway students who secretly own the school.” This is the suspenseful premise of Clay MacLeod Chapman’s newest book Homeroom Headhunters, the first of three-part trilogy. Kirkus Reviews calls it “an engaging, over-the-top tale with much to say about how schools treat individuals and outsiders.” This event is for ages 10 and up. Held in partnership with the Stanley Hotel and the inaugural Horror Film Festival Weekend.

**MONDAY, MAY 6**

**One Book 4 Colorado Birthday Party**  
4:00pm  Hondius Room

Four-year-olds are invited to attend a birthday party in their honor and receive a free book courtesy of Colorado State Library. One Book 4 Colorado is a project that gives away copies of the same book to every 4 year old in Colorado through public libraries. Here in Estes Park, we will have a special storyline and birthday party including games for your 4 year old.

Register by contacting the library at 586-8116 or email youthservices@estesvalleylibrary.org.

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**

**Common Investment Types: Common Cents Counts Workshop**  
7:00pm  Hondius Room

The seminar provides simple insight into the investment choices available in current financial markets by exploring three widely available core financial investment categories: stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents. The goal will be for each participant to recognize a personal allocation model that is both comfortable and comprehensible, with awareness of cost and risks as well as potential return. Advance registration recommended.

Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org.

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**

**Emergency Preparedness for Evacuations: What You Need to Know**  
8:30am  Hondius Room

“What You Need to Know” is a 45-minute workshop designed to highlight the core principles of being ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice. This session will review the financial and medical documents that are important to have assembled, as well as other items to gather such as checkbooks, medications, family photos and heirlooms. The session will offer insights in how to conduct a home inventory and provide tips for reducing fire risk. Advance registration recommended. Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org.

**MONDAY, MAY 13**

**eBook Drop-in Session**  
5:00pm  Harper Room

Bring your questions and receive hands-on answers about downloading Cloud Library eBooks to your iPad, Android, Nook, or Kobo reader devices.

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**

**Creating a Paper Trail for Your Heirs**  
7:00pm  Hondius Room

Marsha Yelick from the Library’s Common Cents Counts program leads an informative session on how best to prepare important documents and materials so that a surviving spouse or child can process your estate materials should you pass away or fall ill.

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**

**eBook Drop-in Session**  
11:00am  Harper Room

Bring your questions and receive hands-on answers about downloading Cloud Library eBooks to your iPad, Android, Nook, or Kobo reader devices.

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**

**Emergency Preparedness for Evacuations:**  
7:00pm  Hondius Room

The seminar provides simple insight into the investment choices available in current financial markets by exploring three widely available core financial investment categories: stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents. The goal will be for each participant to recognize a personal allocation model that is both comfortable and comprehensible, with awareness of cost and risks as well as potential return. Advance registration recommended.

Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org.
COMING THIS SUMMER

2013 Summer Reading Program
This ever-popular summer event offers reading incentives and activities for young readers of all ages, featuring:

• Reading Incentives
• Book Clubs
• Workshops
• Passport to Reading Fun
• Family Entertainment
• Movies

From babies and toddlers (ages 0-3) to children (ages 4-11) and on to young adults (ages 11-18), reading logs specific to each age group will be available to record time spent reading. Those not yet reading may earn credit for time spent listening to stories. Any book will do—comic books and magazines as well. Summer is the time to read for fun!

The purpose of the Summer Reading Program is to encourage reading for pleasure. Reading fills vacation time with a constructive, entertaining and inspiring activity. In addition, while kids might think they’re just having fun, educators know that informal reading in the summer maintains and even increases children’s reading skills, making them all the more primed to learn when school returns in the fall.

Watch for full details on this year’s series coming in May—and mark your calendars for adventure every Monday night this summer.

Our Wonderful World

It’s becoming one of the grandest summer traditions. Every Monday evening, throughout the summer, settle back and travel vicariously to some of the most exciting and beautiful adventures around the world. The Our Wonderful World adventure series offers attendees the chance to hear the stories and see the pictures of those who have made extraordinary journeys to the most breathtaking and fascinating places on our planet.

Watch for full details this May—and get reading to “Dig into Reading”!

Sign-ups begin on Friday, May 17.
Reading Log Incentive Program begins on Thursday, May 23.

Our Wonderful World begins
Monday, June 3 at 7:00 pm, continuing through September 9.

TUESDAY, MAY 14
Managing Money During Retirement: Common Cents Counts workshop
7:00pm Hondius Room
Explore concepts and theories associated with managing money during a happy and relaxing retirement. Review how to determine spending without running out of money, allocation of invested assets, beating inflation, establishing safety nets, and reducing expenses. The goal is to reduce financial worry and enjoy a comfortable retirement.
Advance registration recommended.
Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org

TUESDAY, MAY 21
Healthy Reading Book Club
7:00pm Hondius Room
“The way you eat is inseparable from your core beliefs about being alive,” says author Geneen Roth. Join us at this first-ever gathering of an ongoing book discussion club focused on the best books with a health theme. The discussion spotlights Roth’s acclaimed book Women, Food and God: an unexpected path to almost anything. Co-sponsored by Salud Family Clinic and the Estes Valley Library.
Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org

SATURDAY, MAY 25
Trail Head Trail Blazers: Hike to Gem Lake
9:00am-2:00pm Meet at Gem Lake Trailhead
Children ages 7-15 are invited to join library partners, Rocky Mountain Nature Association and hike to a favorite destination, Gem Lake.
Advance registration required.

SATURDAY, MAY 18
Who Pooped on the Knoll?
9:30am-12:00pm Meet at Library Entrance
Children ages 7-15 are invited to identify animal signs in the Knoll Willows area with library partners, Rocky Mountain Nature Association.
Advanced registration required.

THURSDAY, MAY 16
Sing with our Kids
6:30pm-7:00pm Hondius Room
Children ages 0-5 along with their families are invited to 30 minutes of singing traditional songs with Nancy Bell of Life Rhythms Music Therapy. Bring along a favorite stuffed animal, cozy up and learn some “new” old songs.

LIBRARIES, TECHNOLOGY AND CREATIVITY ON THE NEW FRONTIER
3:00pm Hondius Room
Technology is revolutionizing the ways in which we receive information, share our culture, and interact with one another. From authors publishing their works instantly to readers enjoying a more vast range of books than ever before, innovations are transforming our experiences and our lives. Public libraries are a major crossroads on this bold new frontier. Join Douglas County Libraries Director Jamie LaRue for a fascinating glimpse into our future—and how readers, writers, artists, librarians and technophiles are working together toward an exciting new tomorrow. Open to the public.
Advance registration required.
Register online at estesvalleylibrary.org
Thanks to the generous sponsorship by the Library Foundation, this fall’s Third Annual One Book One Valley will offer another great opportunity for the Estes Valley to share in a common reading experience, with discussions, live talks, storytellings, exhibits, and movies all built around a single theme. With so many great books to choose from, we once again seek your advice on which book to select. The planning committee has narrowed it down to these four acclaimed titles:

**AGE OF MIRACLES**  
by Karen Thompson Walker  

On an otherwise ordinary Saturday morning, 11-year-old Julia and her parents awaken to learn that the Earth’s rotation has begun to slow. Days and nights grow endless, birds plummet to the ground as gravity becomes stronger, the Earth’s magnetic field starts to shift, solar storms light up the sky, and essential crops wither. Touching and harrowing, but above all magical, The Age of Miracles is Walker’s debut novel.  

Themes: Earth science, adolescence, climate change, our relationship to time.

**ROCKET BOYS**  
by Homer Hickam, Jr.  

In 1957, fourteen-year-old Sonny watches Sputnik fly over his hometown and his life is changed forever. Wanting to be part of the space race, Sonny and his friends set out to learn as much as they can about launching rockets. Soon, these Rocket Boys enlist the help of everyone in town—blowing up some of Sonny’s mother’s best kitchenware in the process. The book was the inspiration for the movie October Sky.

Themes: Astronomy, space flight, the 1950s, the Cold War, education, West Virginia.

**RED**  
by Tony Tempest Williams  

Pursuing the question of why America’s red-rock wilderness matters, Red bridges the divide between the political and the poetic and shows how this harshest and most fragile of landscapes inspires a soulful return to “wild mercy.” The preservation of wilderness is not simply a political process, Williams argues, but a spiritual one. Through a beautiful collection of essays and personal stories, Williams reminds us of how we might reclaim our humanity in the stillness of the desert.


**PLAINSONG**  
by Kent Haruf  

Kent Haruf reveals a whole community as he interweaves the stories of a pregnant high school girl, a lonely teacher, a pair of boys abandoned by their mother, and a couple of crusty bachelor farmers. From simple elements, Haruf achieves a novel of wisdom and grace—a narrative that builds in strength and feeling until, as in a choral chant, the voices in the book surround, transport, and lift the reader off the ground. A National Book Award Finalist.

Themes: Colorado prairie traditions and history, family relationships, agrarian life.

VOTE THROUGH APRIL 30th and enter to WIN!  
Drop your ballot off at the Library  
OR  
vote online at estesvalleylibrary.org  
Please rank your favorites from 1 to 4, with 1 being your top choice.

FREE NOOK donated by the Friends of the Library.

Vote valid with your Estes Valley Library Card # 7522/___________

www.estesvalleylibrary.org
POSTAL PATRON