

## Colors of Colorado Winters

*By Nancy Martz*

Sitting here at my computer in attempt to write about the colors of winter, I'm pulling a white out, appropriate since I'm staring at a pure white page without so much as a black letter on it. Better to peer left out my office window to concentrate on the topic. Aha! The sky is extraordinarily wisteria, but that may be because in my peripheral vision are the deep amethyst walls of my office, and the sky may actually be 'just blue.' Yet, look at the pearly swan white of the puffy stratocumulus clouds! Or could they be influenced by the zinc white plantation shutters at my window and be 'just white.' Still, look over there. Wow! The mocha and raffia tree trunks, branches, and twigs take on gold and flaxen hues in the sunshine; on the other hand, I have a 200 watt bulb under the topaz lamp shade by the window. All these colors are blending together now as I narrow my gaze to the chalky white tail of a jet heading southwest toward the hot pinks, Castilian reds, lemon yellows, and parrot greens of southern California or Mexico.

Colorado's winter colors might seem drab compared to the neons natural to the more equatorial regions; however, were Colorado running a campaign for winter color supremacy as nasty as the presidential ones we've just experienced, those warmer regions that seem tempting in winter could be called garish, flaunting, brazen, and shameless. Colorado's winter colors, on the other hand, should be noted as soft, subtle, mature, and decent.

As I finish my writing and the sun leaves behind the high Rockies, a few sweet flakes of silvery snow dazzle down under the glow of street lamps. A light crystal mantel sweeps over the lawns, and a whisker of powder sets down on the evergreens. Maybe tonight more snow will bank and drift. Maybe tomorrow I'll shiver when I open my lanai door, but I'll wear my lily white long underwear beneath my denim blues, pull on my tourmaline turtle neck, step into my chocolate brown snow boots, zip up my violet ski jacket, tug my indigo woolen cap down over my ears, and step out with my Shih Tzu whose cardinal-red and sapphire-navy fleeced jacket and holly-green flannel leggings make him cozy in the Colorado cool.