



of  
**Broomfield, Colorado**  
**News for JANUARY, 2023**

**JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY**

On January 20, fourteen members gathered at Brunner Farm House for our first meeting of the New Year. **Julie Toepper** opened the meeting and asked all to introduce themselves by sharing where and how they practice their stories and why it works for them. A variety of techniques and locations were discussed with many emphasizing their need to practice aloud. **Sheila Brush** discussed using the "Voice Memo" app on her phone to record and then listen to her story. **Marsha Coons** suggested *Twenty Tearable Tales: Audience Participation Folktales for the Beginning Storyteller* by Margaret Read MacDonald as an excellent source for stories. Julie then gave an update from the Steering Committee including a storytelling opportunity for several tellers at Anthem Ranch on March 12 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Interested members should contact **Janis Lievens**.

**Vicki Tiedeman** then told an engaging and energetic version of "Tatterhood". Following a break for snacks provided by Vicki and Sheila, **Wynn Montgomery** shared a story he calls "Granny to the Rescue" (adapted from Joe Hayes' "Beware of Clever Women"). Julie then distributed copies of a handout ("Volunteer Storytelling Program") that outlines for teachers the support we need from them when we tell stories in their classroom. Ideally, it is shared at the beginning of the school year. Cathy Lichty suggested that this form could be copied on colored paper to make it easier for teachers to find. We then had a group discussion on *Handling Interruptions, Disruptive Behavior, Teacher Issues*. There was general agreement that the students are more attentive when the teacher also is a listener. There were funny stories about interruptions and student comments. Cathy emphasized her belief that we are volunteers who can (should ?) stop telling in places where we are not respected. Others seemed willing to be a bit more lenient. The discussion was still lively when we ran out of time.



**NEXT MEETING**  
**Friday, February 17 (12:45-3:00 PM)**  
**Brunner Farm House**



**TOPIC: Include Your Listeners in Your Story (Audience Participation)**  
**Presenter: Linda Martyr: St. Vrain Valley Storytellers**



## STORYTELLER IN THE SPOTLIGHT: KATHY DANIELS

**KATHY DANIELS** became a Spellbinders volunteer storyteller in 2017 after seeing an ad in a local newspaper. Broomfield Spellbinders, the local group nearest her home in Westminster, did not have a training class scheduled, so she completed the required course in Longmont and then was welcomed into Broomfield Spellbinders, where she became a regular teller at Broomfield's Mountain View Elementary and Thunder View Elementary schools and a frequent substitute teller at Black Rock Elementary in Erie.

Kathy's love of books and stories led her to take on another important role with Broomfield Spellbinders. When she learned that we had a "library" of story books and storytelling resources in the basement of Brunner Farm House, she volunteered to become our Librarian. She soon found that we had, not a library, but a huge bunch of books. Some were shelved; many were in dusty old boxes. Kathy simply says "It was nasty."



She diligently reviewed ("eye-balled" in her words) every book in that collection. She has now categorized and labeled each book and shelved them all according to category. She created an Excel catalogue of approximately 300 books and made notebooks for miscellaneous stories and storytelling articles as well as a listing of the stories in the collection back issues of *Storytelling* (the magazine once published by National Storytelling Network). Thanks to Kathy, Broomfield Spellbinders now has a true library that is a valuable resource for each of our members. Kathy has also encouraged use of the library by bringing a selection of books to each of our monthly meetings, usually choosing books which are related to upcoming holidays or seasons of the year.

It should come as no surprise that Kathy, who grew up in Lima, Ohio, is a former teacher. After graduating from The Ohio State University, she moved to Fresno, California with her new husband and began her career in education there, teaching grades 4-8 in a small school district. After two years, she and her husband returned to Ohio, where she earned a Master's Degree in Educational Administration while teaching special-needs high-schoolers. She spent the rest of her career instructing 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

When she retired, Kathy moved to Colorado to be near her daughter, Rachel. They now live together, and Rachel's support is a blessing as Kathy continues to deal with a variety of medical challenges, which have caused her to walk with a cane and to drive as little as possible (if at all). Despite these ills, Kathy continues to be upbeat. She fills her time reading "grown-up" books, playing board games, and taking short walks. She loves museums, but now seldom visits them. She says that she enjoys Spellbinders monthly meetings, where the stories she hears always make her think of other stories that she knows are in library she created. She also says that her favorite story is (and probably always will be) "The Three Dolls."

Unfortunately, Kathy's medical challenges have caused her to stop visiting classrooms and senior centers and to announce that she may have to relinquish oversight of the library that she created. Whenever she has to step away from Spellbinders, as we all eventually must, she can look back with pride on the gift she gave to all present and future Broomfield Spellbinders volunteer storytellers. THANK YOU, KATHY!!!

***[NOTE: Once, this was a regular feature in our newsletters. Look for more "Spotlights" in future issues.]***

## [BIG NEWS](#)

Thanks to **Julie Toepper**'s leadership, our library has been upgraded. Julie bought new bookcases, and in two days --with help from **Sheila Brush** (and her husband **Ed**), **Karen Green**, **Vicki Tiedeman**, **Denny Thompson**, **Kathy Daniels**, and **Wynn Montgomery**—the old book shelves and a huge unused file cabinet are gone and the books are re-shelved. Karen has agreed to be Kathy's back-up for now and they are already planning to label and shelve the books that Kathy has been keeping in her car because there was no more room in the library. The photo at the right shows how happy Kathy and Karen are about what has been accomplished.



**A SUGGESTION/CHALLENGE:** As those of us who worked on this project discovered, our library is a rich source of inspiration that is often forgotten and therefore under-used. As we removed books from (or returned them to) shelves, each of us found a book or books that we wanted to examine more closely as the source of a new story to tell. With that experience in mind, it would be wonderful if every one of us ventured downstairs, chose a book or two, and found—and told—at least one new story before the school year ends.

## [PLEASE SUPPORT BCAH](#)

When Spellbinders National required local chapters to become self-sufficient, Broomfield Spellbinders' transition was easier than most because of our long relationship with Broomfield Council on the Arts & Humanities (BCAH). We simply became a "program" under that organization, which had long served as our administrative agency. BCAH depends on individual contributions as a major source of its funding. For several years, Spellbinders National required members of local chapters to pay annual membership dues, and some of the local Spellbinders groups still require members to pay dues. Our Steering Committee has opted not to charge dues at this time. However, we do encourage all of our members to support BCAH, which is now conducting its annual membership drive. The cost of an annual membership is \$35, and as a BCAH member you will receive "Spotlight on the Arts," a quarterly publication that provides a calendar of the many arts-related events in Broomfield. You can join by bringing a check to our next meeting or by going to [www.artsinbroomfield.org/give.html](http://www.artsinbroomfield.org/give.html).

## [LEARNING OPPORTUNITY](#)

**Saturday, March 4 (9:00-10:30 AM): Storytelling is a Circle: Listening to Your Audience.** This workshop by Mo Reynolds explores "how can we tune into the energy of our audience and create an experience that connects with them where they are." **Cost:** Sliding Scale Tuition: \$5 minimum, \$25 suggested donation, on up to \$50. For details and to register, go to <https://storycrossroads.org/allthingsstory/>. While on this website, take time to look at Story Crossroads' other offerings, including its FREE 8-hour session on "Storytelling Basics."

**"The amateur tells the words, the professional tells the story - but the artist tells the listener"**

*-quoted by Storyteller Richard Martin as his favorite epigram*

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

