



Spellbinders
WWW.SPELLBINDERS.ORG
of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for FEBRUARY, 2021

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

On February 19, thirteen members of Broomfield Spellbinders and one guest gathered via Zoom for our monthly meeting. **Kay Landers** welcomed all and invited us to name our favorite Irish story or other activity for March. Many tellers are new enough that they have not told in March, so the ones named by others (e.g. "Half Blanket" and "One Wish") may give them some ideas. Kay shared a limerick and another poem that she uses. **Kathy Daniels**, our Librarian, talked about an author and books that she had recently discovered—Natalie Babbitt (1932-2016), who wrote *The Devil's Storybook*, *The Devil's Other Storybook*, and *Jack Plank Tells Tales*. She noted that this devil is mischievous, not diabolical, coming to earth to play tricks on people when he is restless. Each book contains several humorous stories. One Plank story is about a pirate who can't find a suitable job after he quits pirating. Babbitt is probably best known for writing *Tuck Everlasting*.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Broomfield storyteller Pam Faro, who offered tips on effective ways to engage children when telling stories on-line. Her handouts provided helpful suggestions, and Pam demonstrated a true mastery of those techniques with two stories. One was a tale of "The Two Falcons;" the other was "Apple Dumplings." Versions of both stories can be found on-line¹; Pam made them come alive. You can learn more about Pam at www.storycrossings.com.



ZOOM MEETINGS on the HORIZON
CHAPTER MEETING: Friday, March 19, 2021 at 1 PM
["Using Poetry to Enhance Storytelling-DEBORAH CRABBE"]
STORY CIRCLE: Friday, March 26, 2021 at 1 PM



SPELLBINDERS ANNUAL MEETING: SATURDAY, MAY 15 (10AM-3PM)

Mark your calendars for this annual event (on Zoom again this year). The date is set; the times are tentative and it may be shorter. An application is available if you want to present a workshop; proposals are due April 1. Contact Wynn if you want an application or if there is a topic you hope is included.

¹ A version of "The Two Falcons" is at www.dailytenminutes.com/ A version of "Apple Dumplings" is at <https://storiestogrowby.org/>. Both sites are possible sources for other stories.

SIX-WORD CHALLENGE: THE VOTES ARE IN!

Many thanks to the members who voted for your favorites from the 24 thoughtful and inspiring six-word summaries of “what storytelling means to me” that appeared in our January issue. Fourteen of the entries received at least one vote, and five received at least one first-place vote, but three emerged as the clear favorites. Two were tied for the top choice and one was a close second. Those three are listed below with the names of the members who submitted them:

1. Connecting with children feeds my soul. (**Cathy Lichty**)
1. Preserving old stories; creating new ones. (**Wynn Montgomery**)
3. Spreading joy, one story after another. (**Julie Toepper**)



Thanks to all who participated. Storytelling means so much to all of us that boiling that feeling down to six words is truly a challenge. Congratulations, not just to the “winners,” but to everyone who shared their wonderful and powerful thoughts.

STORY CIRCLE:

On January 29, eleven members and one guest gathered via Zoom for a Story Circle. As usual, we heard “works in progress,” and the tellers received appropriate praise and helpful feedback. The storytellers and their stories were:

- **Karen Green:** “Meant to Be” (from one of the “Chicken Soup” books)
- **Julie Toepper:** “The Other Side” (adapted from a book by Jacqueline Woodson)
- **Linda Brotman Evans:** An original story about the Underground Railroad
- **Kathy Daniels:** The story of the WWII Christmas Truce (told in first person by a nurse)
- **Wynn Montgomery:** “The Frog and the Ox” (adapted from Aesop for the “Year of the Ox”)
- **Cathy Lichty:** “Great Joy” (another ox tale)
- **Kay Landers:** “The Monkey and the Crocodile” (a Jataka tale from India)

Kathy also described some “story dice” that she had discovered and suggested that they might be useful in training or as a game during a monthly meeting. **Denny Thompson** ended the meeting and brightened our day with a few “groaners.”

NEWS FROM YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee met on February 19, just before the monthly meeting, and is pleased to report:

- **Ellen Klement** has graciously agreed to be responsible for recruiting storytellers for our monthly meetings. Once we are able to resume in-person meetings at Brunner Farm House, she will also recruit members to provide snacks at those meetings. When Ellen contacts you, please sign up.
- **Kay** provided health updates on **Liz Ryan**, who is now cancer-free, and **Judy Lloyd**, who remains in rehab, and is recovering slowly.
- **Cathy Lichty** announced the Spellbinders Annual Meeting (see page 1). We suggested a short meeting offering a few stories and perhaps a choice of one workshop in a small group. Denise Rucks (drrucks@me.com) is leading the planning effort. Contact her if you want to help.
- **Tom Tjarks** may plan another Fall “showcase” event at Anthem Ranch.
- **Denny** reported that Highland Trails wants us to return to “live” telling, but he thinks it too soon.
- **Wynn** agreed to plan a session on “Telling Personal Stories” for our April 16 meeting. Contact him if you are interested in sharing such a story.

LISTENING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Saturday, March 13 (6:00-7:30 PM)-Stories with Spirit: Fairy Tale Variations: RUMPELSTILTSKIN.** This is the 3rd in a series in which top storytellers share their versions of "classic" tales. The sessions on Hansel & Gretel and Snow White were amazing! This show is for ADULTS ONLY and is offered on a "Pay What It's Worth; Pay What You Can" basis. Register at www.eventbrite.com.
- **March 19-21: Women's Storytelling Festival** offers a virtual line-up of fabulous female storytellers including Laura Deal, Boulder Valley Spellbinder and hostess of the semi-monthly Boulder Story Circle. Details are available at www.betersaidthandone.com/womens-festival.

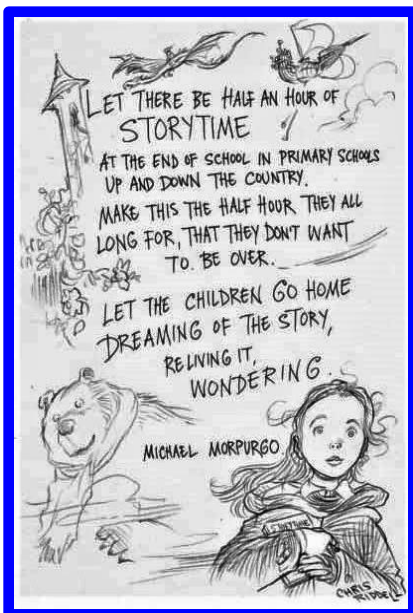


ONLY ONE MARCH BIRTHDAY:

Dick Clement on March 12
May there be many more!

HEALTHY AGING SURVEY: A SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Spellbinders recently polled members of four affiliates (including Broomfield). While the results are not surprising, they do reinforce our belief that being a volunteer storyteller involves activities that play a key role in healthy aging as promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA). Specifically, more than 90% of respondents believe that storytelling has had a positive impact on their memory (97%) and mental health (96%) as well as on the children in the classrooms (99%) and their contribution to their communities (96%). The survey also asked why members attend meetings, and the following reasons were cited: improving storytelling skills (96%); story suggestions (90%); and social interaction (90%). Almost all (95%) considered their training to have been useful. More than three-quarters (87%) of the respondents were Seniors (aged 60+); 67% had been Spellbinders storytellers for four years or more; and 91% indicated that they plan to continue storytelling. If you would like to have a copy of the entire report, contact Wynn.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A friend recently shared the picture at the left via Facebook. I think it powerfully captures the spirit and power of our storytelling efforts. I hope you agree.

Sir Michael Morpurgo (1943-), the source of the quote, is an English author, poet, playwright, and librettist who is known best for children's novels such as *War Horse*. He is a strong advocate for Story Time in all UK schools and recently urged that it be reinstated. Learn more about him at www.michaelmorpurdo.com.

Chris Riddell (1962-), the artist, is an award-winning British illustrator, political cartoonist, and author of many children's books. This drawing was posted on his Facebook page in July, 2017. You can see other examples of his art on-line and a detailed biography on Wikipedia.