



Broomfield, Colorado News for DECEMBER, 2020

STORY CIRCLE

Although there was no chapter meeting in December (there never is), a December 4 Story Circle allowed a few members to share stories. **Linda Brotman-Evans** offered "Light the Menorah," a story that she has written that provides insight into the history and traditions of Hannukah. **Kay Landers** shared "Little Piccola," the story she plans to tell for the September 12 webinar (details below). **Donna Leard** told "The Wish Tree," and **Wynn Montgomery** told a true story from WWI that he calls "Christmas in No Man's Land." He used multiple sources to verify the story and drew heavily on John McCutcheon's *Christmas in the Trenches*. **Dan Keenan** gave his version of "Who Stole the Baby Jesus," which will be his contribution to the Webinar. **Denny Thompson** offered helpful feedback and timed the stories. We will continue to offer these opportunities monthly at least as long as social distancing requirements restrict us to virtual storytelling.

HOLIDAY WEBINAR: STORIES FOR THE SEASON

On Saturday, December 12, we offered our first Webinar—"Stories for the Season." It was a definite "growth experience," which provided many lessons that will help us if we decide to do another one. **Wynn Montgomery** planned the event and acted as host. After encountering and coping with several technology glitches at the start, six tellers delivered wonderful stories that were true to the goal of getting our audience "in the spirit of the holidays." **Vicki Tiedeman** led off with the tale of "Anansi and Turtle's Feast;" **Kay Landers** shared "Little Picolla;" **Ellen Klement** offered "The Fourth Candle;" **Judy Kundert** gave us the true story of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer;" **Cathy Lichty** told the story of "Zlateh, the Goat;" and **Dan Keenan** wrapped up the session with "Who Stole the Baby Jesus?" Our audience was small, probably 20-25 viewers (mostly other Spellbinders, family, and friends, and at least one teacher) on the 19 devices that signed in. The feedback was quite positive despite the early glitches.

FUTURE MEETINGS: DON'T MISS THESE

- **JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING: Friday, January 15, 2021 @ 1:00 PM**
- **JANUARY STORY CIRCLE: Friday, January 29, 2021 @ 1:00 PM**



[LISTENING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

For the past six years, two of our best local storytellers (Cooper Braun and Rachel Ann Harding) have performed together as "Stories with Spirit. Before the next newsletter is published, they are offering two performances, both of which are worthy of our support. Both shows are geared toward ADULTS and are offered on a "Pay What It's Worth; Pay What You Can" basis. Register now and pay after the show. When you get your ticket (you only need one, regardless of how many will watch), you will receive a confirmation email with the ZOOM link to the show. Details and the registration links are below:

- **Friday, December 18 (7:00 PM-8:30 PM MST): Winter Solstice Stories.** As the darkest days of winter draw near, join Cooper and Rachel Ann to celebrate their completion of six years together. This performance is bittersweet as it is the first time their solstice show will not be held at Still Cellars Distillery and Arthouse. Join them for the bittersweet and the joyous, for the dark and the light, as all of us step out of this very strange year and into a new one. [Winter Solstice Stories Tickets, Fri, Dec 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



- **Friday, January 18, 2021 (6:00-7:00 PM MST): Fairy Tale Variations (Hansel & Gretel):** Five tellers will bring you five very different versions of this fairy tale classic. From side-splittingly funny to the deeply dark these tellings and re-tellings will range from humorous to very dark, so the show is recommended only for those over 18 years of age. A similar approach to Snow White in November was storytelling at its best. [Fairy Tale Variations: HANSEL AND GRETEL Tickets, Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



There is also still time to take advantage of this opportunity:

- **Saturday, December 26-Monday, January 3: TIMPANOGOS ENCORE.** If you did not "attend" this year's virtual Storytelling Festival (or even if you did), for a bargain price, you can watch almost the entire event--and you will have nine days to do so. This is an opportunity to watch performances by some of the best storytellers in the world (Charlotte Blake Alston, Donald Davis, Ed Stivender, Tim Tingle, Donna Washington, Kim Weitkamp, and many more!). Order your ticket **before December 22**, and it will cost \$25. Afterwards, until December 30, the cost is \$30. For more information and to order tickets, visit:

<https://timpfest.org/product/encore-benefit-festival-ticket/>

I must tell the story in such a way that its meaning can be understood in today's world.

- Storyteller Laura Simms

It's my duty...to take the essence of the story and...make [it] just as relevant as it was centuries ago.

-Native American Storyteller Gayle Ross

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Six Broomfield Spellbinders will celebrate birthdays in January. They are Larry **Reisberg** (Jan. 2); **Lisa McIntire** (Jan. 10), **Kathy Daniels** (Jan. 11), **Sheila Brush** (Jan. 13), **Vivian Hamilton** (Jan. 16), and **Clark Mikkelsen** (Jan.20). May they live long and prosper and may their lives be filled with good stories and enthusiastic listeners.

MEDICAL UPDATES

On a less happy note, two of our members are dealing with health challenges and could use cheering up. **Judy Lloyd** has moved from Intensive Care into rehabilitation following a long surgical procedure. She is at Manor Care Health Services-Rehab (2800 Palo Parkway, Boulder 80301) and cannot have any visitors because of Covid-related restrictions. **Kathy Daniels**, who was scheduled to share a story for our Webinar, had to cancel because she tested positive for Covid. She is at home (quarantined, of course). Her daughter lives with her, and **Ellen Klement**, who lives nearby, has offered her help. Let's keep both Kathy and Judy in our thoughts and/or prayers. Both would appreciate note or cards, and Kathy might appreciate a phone call.



A SIX-WORD CHALLENGE

The *New York Times* recently asked readers to summarize in exactly six words what they were grateful for in 2020. More than 10,000 readers responded. The idea is a variation on the six-word memoir project founded by *Smith Magazine*, which seeks to provide a platform for storytelling in all its forms. So, it seems appropriate to apply that concept to our own experience as storytellers. Below, you will find a few examples of the "gratitude" responses published by the NYT:

- This stinking year is nearly over.
- I am bored, but not dead.
- Wildfires took much but we survived.
- Zoom Thanksgiving beats an ICU Christmas.

With those examples as inspiration, please tell in exactly six words "What storytelling means to me." Send your response(s)—as many as you like—to wynnmill@comcast.net by December 31. Responses will be published in the next newsletter. Maybe we will vote on the best ones.

A CARTOON CHALLENGE: DO YOU "GET" IT?

I don't know anyone (including myself) who understood this cartoon at first glance. Do you? It might help if you sing a certain song. Then you will realize that Rudolph should have seen this coming.



By Mark Parisi ("Off the Mark")