

Next MEETING

Friday
May 21
1:00 PM
Face-to-Face??

STORY CIRCLE

Friday
April 30
1:00 PM
Via ZOOM



MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

On April 16, fifteen Broomfield Spellbinders and four guests met via Zoom for our monthly meeting. **Kay Landers** welcomed the group, asking what character they would dress up as if attending a costume party. Many gained their inspiration from characters they enjoy telling stories about, including a swallowtail butterfly, Anansi the Spider, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the mean fairy from the Anansi tale of *How Stories Came to Earth*, the Lion from Aesop's Fables, the historical Molly Pitcher (described as wearing a long skirt with a bullet hole and a jacket with sergeant stripes), and Pecos Bill in his trusty cowboy hat. One considered various storyteller personas he currently uses, which included Shmuel the Storyteller, Manuel the Spaniard, and Sam the Story Man, before settling on the trickster Herschel of Ostropol. Others thought a little more broadly, picturing themselves in Native American ceremonial costume, as an Old West character, or in a Japanese kimono (which inspired story suggestions of *The Magic Paintbrush*, a Japanese folktale, and *Ming Lo Moves the Mountain* by Arnold Lobel). Characters from books also provided ideas, including The Lord of the Rings protagonists, The Lady of the Lake, and King Arthur (or is it King Denny?). Our guests even joined in the fun by adding the Red Queen from Alice in Wonderland, the wife of a Roman Senator, and Puss 'n Boots or Mother Goose.

Kay reminded us that our May Meeting will be held on May 21, outside at the Brunner House (weather permitting)¹. The chairs and picnic tables on the patio can be used, but members should bring a chair if they can. Feel free to bring lunch; Steering Committee members (**Janis Lievens** and **Sheila Brush**) will provide drinks. **Tom Tjarks** will be presenting "Years of Service" ribbons, and members will have a chance to share a three-to-five-minute personal story. Bring a MASK!

Keri Dillingham, Executive Director of the Broomfield Council on the Arts (BCAH), of which Broomfield Spellbinders is a program, presented information on the organization. The BCAH goal to *Entertain, Educate, and Enrich* aligns perfectly with the Spellbinders purpose to *Ignite Imaginations, Build Literacy Skills and Strengthen Communities*. Keri encouraged support of BCAH by donating financially, volunteering, and just showing up to events and spreading the word. More information can be found on the BCAH website (artsinbroomfield.org), which includes a link to the Spellbinders page. **Kay** suggested that since we no longer pay dues to the Spellbinders organization, a donation to BCAH would be a great way to support both BCAH and Spellbinders. Donations of twenty-five dollars or more can be made via the website or mailed to BCAH, PO Box 681, Broomfield, CO 80038. *Continued-page 2*

¹ If it is too wet or too cold to meet outside, Wynn will send a Zoom link.

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY [continued from page 1]

Cathy Lichty encouraged everyone to attend the Annual Spellbinders meeting on May 15, which will be held over Zoom. Register as soon as you can, using the Evite link that **Kay** has provided. While the meeting is from 10:00am to 3:30pm, you are not expected to attend all the sessions. There are a variety of opportunities, including two keynote speakers/storytellers, training, and question/answer sessions. Pick the breakout groups that interest you when registering. There is no cost to attend, but there is an opportunity to donate if interested.

The next **Story Circle is April 30 at 1:00pm** via Zoom. **Wynn Montgomery** will send out a link. This is a great opportunity to get feedback on stories you are working on, practice telling virtually, and just hear some good stories. Let Wynn know if you have a story to share when you receive the invitation email.

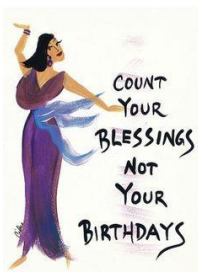
Wynn Montgomery and **Denny Thompson** gave a presentation on "Telling Personal Stories". Wynn began by asking who told personal stories – about half the people present said they did. Then he asked who told personal stories to friends and family – just about everyone said they did. *Why, then, do we not all tell personal stories as part of Spellbinders?* Because we are not sure if our story is really a story? Because we are not sure we have a story to tell? How do you make a life event a story? So many questions! Wynn explained that all stories are about people, places, and events, usually focusing on a life changing event. We all have a story to tell, we just need to figure out what that story is. When planning a story, think, *"If this were not about me, would I want to hear the story?"* Wynn reviewed the three handouts he sent prior to the meeting: *Seven Basic Plots, Elements of a Story, and Story Sparks*. As examples of two different types of personal stories Denny told, *"My Best Christmas Ever"* and Wynn told *"The Little Stone House"*. **As an assignment, each Spellbinders member is encouraged to come up with a personal story for the May meeting, three to five minutes in length.**

OTHER NEWS:

- Watch for an email from **Dan Keenen**, as he is looking for someone to take over his classrooms once he makes the move to Florida.
- **Judy Lloyd** had a bit of a setback on her recovery. She is back in rehab and could use some cards and notes of encouragement. Please send them to Judy Lloyd, Manor Care Health Services, Room 219, 2800 Palo Parkway, Boulder, CO 80301
- Don't forget to fill your data sheets. **Vicki Tiedeman** has compiled what was turned in so far and needs everyone to document their storytelling.

"After nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world."

– Sir Philip Pullman



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- **Marilyn Bittner** [May 24]
- **Jill Martus** [May 30]



LISTENING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **WORLD LAUGHTER DAY STORIES: SUNDAY, MAY 2 (5:00 PM)**. Patchwork Storytelling Guild shares stories "to rouse the spirit and nourish the soul." Requested fee is \$15 or pay-what-you-wish. Get details and register at [World Laughter Day | Patchwork Storytelling Guild](#).
- **BROOMFIELD SPELLBINDERS AT ERIE COMMUNITY CENTER: THURSDAY, MAY 6 (3:30-4:30)**
Spring is here and Broomfield Spellbinders are coming out of hibernation to bring "A Spring Bouquet of Stories" to Happy Hour. Join us as **Dan Keenan, Kay Landers, Donna Leard, and Wynn Montgomery** share the joys of oral storytelling with four very different stories. Some will make you smile; all will give you food for thought. Bring your favorite beverage or simply drink in the stories. **Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84028755785?pwd=Q05kSk9BQ2YyeUc2a2NFZ0RrTkpDZz09>
Meeting ID: 840 2875 5785 **Passcode:** HappyHour
- **SPELLBINDERS ANNUAL MEETING: SATURDAY, MAY 15 (10:00 AM-3:30 PM)**. "Embracing Change & Transformation: Breakthrough Innovation & Creativity, Leading Change, Reengagement." The conference is virtual and there is no fee although donations are possible and appreciated. You can pick and choose which sessions interest you and come and go as you please. See details and register at <http://evite.me/R56KJBdNQ8>
- **SHOALS VIRTUAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL: May 21-31**. This festival features storytellers Donald Davis, Kevin Kling, Pippa White, and Dolores Hydock; lively music; interviews; and Norton Dill's documentary tribute, "*Kathryn: The Story of a Teller*," that shares the life of Kathryn Tucker Windham, a legendary Alabama storyteller. Inge Auerbacher, a Holocaust survivor, is also a featured presenter. The cost is a mere \$20, and you can order your ticket at **SHOALS FESTIVAL TICKET**



SPELLBINDERS IS ON FACEBOOK

Spellbinders now has a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SpellbindersStory). There are very few posts so far. Check it out. Better yet, post something about what storytelling means to you. Larimer County Spellbinders has its own Facebook page, which includes a wonderful short video by Kindra Hall who tells about the time that she memorized a story and delivered it flawlessly only to realize that "it was bad." When she asked her mentor, Donald Davis, what she had done wrong, he replied: "**You told the words, not the story.**" There, in a nutshell, is why we should never memorize our stories; we should "tell" them rather than "recite" them.

SPECIAL THANKS to **Julie Toepper**, who has joined the newsletter team and who took detailed notes during the April meeting and prepared most of this issue's first two pages.



To be a person is to have a story to tell.

- Isak Dinesen

Stories are a communal currency of humanity.

- Tahir Shah, *In Arabian Nights*