



of  
**Broomfield, Colorado**  
**News for APRIL, 2020**

**CHAPTER MEETING SUMMARY**

On April 17, nineteen intrepid chapter members ventured into the uncharted (for some) world of Zoom for our monthly chapter meeting. It was great to be “together” and to learn that everyone was faring well. We began the meeting with everyone quickly sharing what storytelling activities they have undertaken during this period of isolation. **Tom Tjarks** is learning “Ashpet,” an Appalachian version of Cinderella from Richard Chase’s *Grandfather Tales*. **Karen Green** is learning stories from *Chicken Soup for Dog and Cat Lovers’ Souls*. **Janis Lievens** is exploring Kipling’s *Just So Stories*. **Ellen Klement** has created a YouTube channel for the chapter (see article on page 3) and is putting stories there. **Sandy Hopper** is sharing stories from the Audubon Society with her granddaughter and is developing a very personal story. **Kay Landers** is polishing a Grimm Brothers’ tale called “The Little Tailor” or “Seven with One Blow.” **Dan Keenan** recommended Margaret Read MacDonald’s *20 Tellable Tales* and *Elder Tales* by Dan Keding. **Judy Kundert** talked about her new book—*Abigail and Sego’s Magical Train Ride*—and *A Year Full of Stories*. **Larry Riesberg** is working on genealogy and some stories from *Riddling Tales from Around the World*. **Judy Lloyd** is learning some Han Christian Andersen stories. **Ed Winograd** has written two stories that he hopes will be his fifth and sixth in the “Tummy Tales” anthology series by Rocky Mountain Storytelling, and **Marc Brown** has been writing some autobiographical stories. **Linda Brotman-Evans** is polishing a Syrian tale, “Talking Turkeys.” **Julie Toepper** “told” *Mr. Peabody’s Apples* to two classes this week and has added a few stories to the chapter’s YouTube channel. **Vicki Tiedeman** also did a virtual session this week, sharing her African “drum” story. **Cathy Lichty** missed storytelling so much that she put a sign in her yard and attracted a few listeners. **Denny Thompson** has been working on his radio play and hopes to add stories to the chapter channel soon. **Wynn Montgomery** also has created a YouTube channel, which now has a dozen or so stories posted, and has done virtual sessions with two classes. He has also developed a Virtual Storytelling Tutorial at the request of the Council of Trustees. Let Wynn know if you want a copy. **Marylin Bittner** was tuned in; she could not be seen or heard, but said she enjoyed seeing and hearing us.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**DATE: Friday, May 15, 2020**  
**TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 PM**  
**PLACE: VIA ZOOM!!!**



After **Linda B-E** shared Aesop’s “The Stag at the Pool,” **Kay** provided a Chapter Update (see page 2). **Ellen** shared a Jewish folk tale called “The Mountain and the Cliff,” and **Sandy** provided the introduction her original story based on the arrival of her ancestors in West Virginia. *Continued on page 2*

## [CHAPTER MEETING SUMMARY \(continued from page 1\)](#)

Following the stories, Wynn noted that we need to be sure that we respect copyrights when we record stories and observed that, since Madonna make it clear that her Mr. Peabody book is based on an old Jewish tale, tellers should reference that old tale rather than Madonna, craft their own lead-in, and change the title appropriately. It would, of course, be fine to use the “original” title—“A Sack (or Pillow) Full of Feathers.” At the end of the meeting, we voted unanimously to meet again in May (via Zoom if necessary). If you need help accessing that meeting, contact Wynn.

EDITOR’S NOTE: A big THANK-YOU to **Denny Thompson** for taking detailed notes during the meeting!

## [CHAPTER UPDATE](#)

Broomfield Spellbinders is now officially a program of the Broomfield Council on Arts and Humanities (BCAH). We will begin using their logo as well as the Spellbinders logo, and the BCAH webpage (<http://www.artsinbroomfield.org/>) now has a link under “Programs” to “Broomfield Spellbinders.” We have signed the required Licensing Agreement with Spellbinders and have paid the associated annual fee of \$250 that allows us to continue to use the name, logo, and training materials. We have received our share of the Imagination Station funds that Spellbinders transferred to “stand-alone” chapters and now have a very healthy bank account.



**Tom** had announced earlier that the **Jump Start** Summer Camps (Math and Literacy) will NOT occur this year, and **Kay** reported that the **BCAH Summer Sundays** will NOT be live, but we may be asked to provide storytelling as part of a virtual gathering in June.

The chapter will need to handle the annual **Teacher Survey**, and **Cathy** indicated that the Council of Trustees is trying to develop a prototype. It may be more difficult that usual to get teachers to respond, but we will need every member to encourage the those they work with.

**Cathy** also announced that the Council is planning a virtual **Annual Spellbinders Celebration**—tentatively set for **May 8**. Be on the look-out for a formal announcement and plan to participate.

## [ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE: SPELLBINDERS \(COUNCIL of TRUSTEES\)](#)

The Spellbinders Resource Center (SRC) no longer has any staff. Former Executive Director Maria Medina has been hired as a consultant for six months, using a grant designated for that purpose; her role will be to provide help needed by those chapters that have not yet achieved “stand-alone” status. The small, but dedicated, Council of Trustees has become a working group that will maintain the Spellbinders website and provide local chapters with essential services. Seven new Trustees were recently elected and will join the council on April 24, bringing the total to 11 Trustees. **Wynn Montgomery** is leaving the Council, but **Cathy Lichty** remains and is the sole (for now) candidate for the role of Council Chairperson to be selected by the Council on April 24. Cathy is now handling mail and telephone calls for the Council, but for now any contact with the Council should be made through our Chapter Leader.



### [MAY BIRTHDAYS:](#)

Two of our members celebrate birthdays in May—**Marylin Bittner** (May 24) and **Jill Martus** (May 30). Best wishes to both. Here’s hoping that they can GO OUT for a big celebration!!

## [REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR NEEDED!!!](#)

For several years **Vicki Tiedeman** has coordinated the refreshments and chapter storytellers that are an important part of our monthly meetings. She needs a replacement. The job requires an initial recruitment effort at the start of the school year (the August meeting) and friendly reminders each month to those who volunteered. Vicki can give you details. Please contact her at [vatear@gmail.com](mailto:vatear@gmail.com). The entire chapter will thank you.



## [SPELLBINDERS TV](#)

In response to the restrictions on group gatherings and the schools' shift to home learning, some of our chapter members and other Spellbinders volunteers have turned to "virtual storytelling" to continue to share oral storytelling with our young listeners. As reported during our "virtual" April chapter meeting, several Broomfield Spellbinders have coordinated with teachers to share stories with students during virtual meetings, and **Ellen Klement** has created the Spellbinders-Broomfield channel on YouTube. She and **Julie Toepper** each have posted several stories there. Check them out at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvyZYrw2Spf22bLqC3fJm1w>. Wynn also has a YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLly7Gkc5oln2RkQbKfFIA>). Both are linked to other storytelling channels that you can access by clicking on "Channels" at the top their pages. The videos are most easily viewed on your laptop or PC. You may also be able to see them on your or "smart" TV or phone.



If you haven't already done so, please check in with your teachers and offer them whatever level of support you are comfortable with. At a minimum, tell them about the above resources. Even better, offer to tell a "virtual story and/or make a video of one or more of your stories that you can share with them and with Ellen to be added to the chapter's YouTube channel. As mentioned above (see page 1), a "tutorial" on virtual storytelling is available. Use this "down-time" to learn a new skill and show the teachers that we appreciate their support. See page 4 for a further discussion of virtual storytelling.

## [TRAINING NEWS:](#)

We have our fingers crossed, hoping that the current social shutdown will be over in time us to hold our next training classes, which are scheduled for:

- **Thursday, August 6**
- **Monday, August 10**
- **Thursday, August 13**
- **Monday, August 17**

We already have a few interested potential members. Start thinking NOW about people you know who would enjoy being a Spellbinders volunteer storyteller; we would love to have a full class. Participants in these classes will get a special treat as our chapter now has two Certified Trainers. As usual, all classes will be at the Brunner Farm House from 1:00-4:00 each day, and **Cathy Lichty** and **Wynn Montgomery** will lead the classes together.



**[LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO DURING THE QUARANTINE?](#)**

**This would be an EXCELLENT time to update your DATA SHEETS!  
Contact Vicki Tiedeman if you need help.**

## VIRTUAL STORYTELLING: To Do or Not To Do?

As discussed above, some storytellers are responding to social distancing by recording and sharing their stories. Others (not in our chapter) have expressed concern that doing so makes our stories more like TV and is not consistent with the Spellbinders approach to storytelling, even going so far as to express the fear that virtual storytelling might become Spellbinders' focus in the future. Below, is my response:

*"Nothing we do on-line can ever replace face-to-face, heart-to-heart interaction in the classrooms. In fact, it seems to me that when we are in front of a live audience, perhaps WE are a major part of the message. Without that contact, we lose one of Spellbinders' primary goals--building intergenerational connections--and if virtual storytelling were our only service, we would lose most of our members and attract few new volunteers.*

*Personally, I have always believed that one of our goals, while not stated specifically, is to ensure that our young listeners hear some of the classic stories. My primary goal in putting some of my stories on line was to give the teachers who have been so supportive another resource as they struggle with virtual lesson-planning, and all have expressed gratitude for this support.*

*I look forward to getting back into the classroom, but until I can, I am happy to offer stories via any means possible. This is a unique time which requires new approaches. What eventually happens to those on-line stories can be discussed when life is once again 'normal'."*

I believe that it is important to offer any support we can to the teachers, who are also our "customers." Without the support of the teachers, we would not be in any classrooms. These strange times offer a unique opportunity to show our appreciation and to shore up their support. I am not an expert in this field, and I am a techno-dinosaur, but I managed to create and share a few videos. I also have managed to "visit" a few classrooms via my computer and have more such visits scheduled. This approach was not nearly as rewarding as interacting with those youngsters face-to-face, but it was rewarding—and it was appreciated. If you need more incentive, consider what one teacher said to me: "You owe it to your family to preserve some of your stories."  
-Wynn Montgomery

## NATIONAL HUMOR MONTH

Do you find it ironic (funny?) that April is National Humor Month. Well, on second thought, perhaps it is well-timed. During stressful times like this, we should never lose our sense of humor—even though it may be harder to find than usual. Earlier this month, in more normal times, the Conference on World Affairs would have been drawing huge crowds to the CU campus; instead the University offered a series of video panels to replace the cancelled conference. One of these, which was called "Humor in Hard Times," emphasized that we humans are "hard-wired" for humor and that "humor reduces stress." One of the best quotes came from musician Mark Stewart, who describes himself as "serious about being completely ridiculous." He described humor as "an essential food filled with necessary nutrients." So, find something to laugh about every day and stay well.

In the spirit of the above:

**We only thought dogs were hard to train; look at how few humans can sit & stay!**

