

  
**Spellbinders**  
WWW.SPELLBINDERS.ORG  
of  
**Broomfield, Colorado**  
**News for MAY, 2022**

**MAY MEETING SUMMARY**

On May 20, a dozen Broomfield Spellbinders gathered at Brunner Farmhouse for our traditional year-end meeting/celebration. It became even more festive when Dan Keenan, who relocated to Florida last year, paid us a surprise visit. Before the meeting, we enjoyed food provided by **Denny Thompson, Sheila Brush, and Wynn Montgomery**. To start the meeting, we presented **Kay Landers** (pictured here with Denny and Wynn) with flowers and a thank-you card as tokens of our appreciation for her years as our Leader. **Janis Lievens** noted that we should also thank **Julie Toepper** for taking the leadership reins from Kay, and **Denny Thompson** reminded us of the outstanding job **Ellen Klement** and **Kathy Daniels** did in planning and running our meetings over the past few months. We applauded all of them.



Everyone had been invited to bring a “special” object from their home and to share a brief story about why it was important to them. The resulting stories ranged from funny to heart-warming. **Wynn** shared a photo of his grandfather (the original “Pop”) and the story behind the pocket watch that he inherited from Pop. Denny and Dan both shared stories about their fathers. **Denny** showed a Liberty Ship token that symbolized his father’s WWII service in the Merchant Marines, and **Dan** shared a recently-discovered 1925 photo of his father as member of the cast of a local play, which made him aware for the first time that his father shared his interest in acting. He also talked about his memories of the nightstick that his policeman father carried and Dan’s unsuccessful efforts to twirl it. **Kay** talked about a gold pin that her mother wore on her wedding gown and shared old photos (given to her by a member of the Kozisek family) of the area where the Brunner Farmhouse now stands. Janny Darby also talked about her father—his love of music and practical jokes—and surprised us all with one of his toys. **Jan Osburn** told the harrowing story of her father and his mother being on a ship that was bombed by a German raider. **Nancy Bradfield** shared the story of her recent alpaca-induced concussion, and **Cathy Lichty** described her recent foray to downtown Denver and its aftermath. **Sheila** told of a lost wedding ring and its replacement. **Julie** relived her debut as a storyteller—in her school talent show when she was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade—sharing the notes (in beautiful cursive handwriting) that she recently rediscovered and then regaling us with a rendition of “RenderCella” (a “Spoonerized” version of Cinderella).

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**NEXT STORY CIRCLE:** Friday, JUNE 24 at Donna’s home in Erie.  
Please RSVP by June 20.



## MAY MEETING SUMMARY [continued from page 1]

**Sheila** then distributed “Years of Service” ribbons to those in attendance and announced the years of service by those members not in attendance. A complete list of members’ years of service is on page 3. **Janny** then shared her delightful version of “Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock” and Dan (pictured here) offered his signature story—“The Magic Pot.” **Julie** closed the meeting with an announcement of BCAH summer activities (see page 4) and encouraged our support. She also reminded us of the monthly Summer Story Circles—on May 27 (at **Wynn’s** home), June 24 (at **Donna Leard’s** home), and July 29 (at Brunner House).



## STEERING COMMITTEE CHANGES

As announced at the meeting, Broomfield Spellbinders has a new Leader! After more than four years as our Leader, **Kay Landers** has passed the torch to **Julie Toepper**. Kay will stay on the Steering Committee as will **Sheila Brush**, **Kathy Daniels** (Librarian & Program Committee), **Cathy Lichty**, **Janis Lievens** (School Outreach), **Wynn Montgomery** (Newsletter), **Vicki Tiedeman** (Record-Keeping), and **Denny Thompson**. Two valued members (**Ellen Klement** and **Tom Tjarks**) have left the Committee for health reasons. Please contact any of these members to share ideas or concerns.

## APRIL STORY CIRCLE (by Julie Toepper)

Seven Broomfield Spellbinders gathered at the Brunner Farmhouse on Friday, April 29, 2022, to share the love of storytelling. Everyone present had a tale to share (even those who weren’t sure they would). **Sheila Brush** started off with a personal story she calls “Travel Team Troubles” about her slightly naughty adventures during an out-of-town swim competition and the lessons she learned. Using a combination of Spanish and English (and a bit of barking), **Julie Toepper** followed with her rendition of *The Barking Mouse* by Antonio Sacre, illustrating the value of speaking another (sometimes unexpected) language. **Donna Leard** presented two stories by Margaret Read McDonald that she plans to tell her first-grade students--hopefully in person. From the book *Peace Tales*, she told *The Two Foxes* and from *Three Minute Tales* came the story of *Two Goats on a Bridge*, which featured two alternate endings, prompting the question, “Which goat are you?” **Denny Thompson** suggested a third groaner version featuring the worrisome 13’6” Clarence (Clearance) the Goat. Local storyteller, Baily Phelps who sadly died in 2018, inspired **Wynn Montgomery’s** story of the Cheyenne legend, *Pretty Bird*, an explanation of how the sun came to be and why the raven is black and caws instead of singing. **Denny Thompson** shared *A Chicken Story* built around a personal memory of his favorite animal, the cherished fried chicken. Using a true story from Tanzania, **Cathy Lichty** taught the meaning of a symbiotic relationship in *The Honey Bird* (also known as the Honeyguide) and its connection with man. After having only read the story once, **Karen Green** told a heartfelt tale from the *Chicken Soup* book series called, *Rescued by Love*, all about the power of a dog’s love. Our Story Circles continue to be a wonderful way to practice telling in a relaxed and supportive environment.

## LISTENING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Wednesday, June 8 @ 5:15 PM MST.** The Folklore Society of Greater Washington (aka The Grapevine) features Broomfield storyteller Pam Faro and Andy Offutt Irwin via Zoom. You can register at <https://www.fsgw.org/grapevine>. The suggested donation is \$15.

## MAY STORY CIRCLE

On May 27, ten Broomfield Spellbinders (including Dan Keenan, who was visiting from Florida) were joined by three recent new members of St. Vrain Valley Storytellers (one of whom brought a guest) at Wynn's home in Erie for the first of three Summer Story Circles. We heard the following stories:

- **Cathy Lichty:** "Rabbit and Crab." One version is at <https://indigenouspeople.net/rabbcrab.htm>.
- **Julie Toepper:** "The Lion with Bad Breath" an expanded version of Aesop's fable by that name at [www.longlongtimeago.com](http://www.longlongtimeago.com). Similar stories are at <https://aesopsfables.org> ("The Lion and His Three Councilors") and in Margaret Read MacDonald's *Three Minute Tales* ("The Hare and the Lion King"). [NOTE: The "Long Time Ago" site has many other good stories.]
- **Donna Leard:** "How Dogs Lost Their Tails" adapted from a YouTube story by Patrick Lewis at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wvbHRQaALY>. A Native American story on the same theme ("Dog Tails") can be found in *Ready-to-Tell Tales*
- **Laurel Miller (SVVS):** "The Rare Book" from the Spellbinders website.
- **Kathy Daniels:** "A Boy Called Slow" based on the book by Joseph Bruchac.
- **Dan Keenan:** "The Edge of the Earth" (a classic folk tale from *More Ready-to-Tell Tales*).

The next Story Circle will be at Donna Leard's home on Friday, June 24. RSVP to [djleard1@gmail.com](mailto:djleard1@gmail.com).

## YEARS OF SERVICE

As discussed above, members who attended the May meeting received ribbons that can be attached to their name badges indicating the number of years they have been active Broomfield Spellbinders volunteer storytellers. **Sheila** will mail ribbons to those members who were not at the May meeting. The current list of active members includes:

- 14 Years: **Janis Lievens**
- 13 Years: **Tom Tjarks**
- 11 Years: **Kay Landers, Denny Thompson**
- 10 Years: **Wynn Montgomery**
- 9 Years: **Mary Ann Drury, Judy Kundert, Cathy Lichty**
- 8 Years: **Vicki Tiedeman**
- 6 Years: **Janny Darby**
- 5 Years: **Kathy Daniels**
- 4 Years: **Sandy Hopper, Donna Leard, Ed Winograd**
- 3 Years: **Sheila Brush, Karen Green, Ellen Klement, Julie Toepper**

While we do not offer ribbons for one year of service, three members of the Class of 2021 have joined our active ranks. They are **Nancy Bradfield, Leah Nelson, and Jan Osburn**.

Many people don't realize the extent to which stories influence our behavior and even shape our culture. Think about how Bible stories teach the fundamentals of religion and rules of conduct. Think of the fables and parables that molded your values. Think of how stories about your national, cultural or family history have shaped your attitudes about yourself and others. Stories are particularly effective in influencing the way our children think and behave, because they like to hear and read them over and over again. This repetition, combined with your children's imaginations and the inestimable power of your presence, makes stories one of the best ways to influence their thinking.

- Lawrence Shapiro, Child Psychologist and Author

## OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

Our **Program Committee** wants YOUR ideas. **Kathy Daniels** is heading up a committee that will design the program portions of our Monthly Meetings. She would welcome your suggestions. Better yet, join Kathy and **Nancy Bradfield** on the Program Committee. You can do either or both by e-mailing Kathy at [klteacher5@gmail.com](mailto:klteacher5@gmail.com).

**BCAH Summer Event Series.** Broomfield Spellbinders will have a booth at each event. We will hand out recruitment flyers for both new tellers and new schools. We will also hand out bookmarks (if we can find them) and have an activity for the children (coloring pages, making a puppet with paper and popsicle sticks, etc.) The dates for the events and Steering Committee members who have agreed to staff the tables are listed below. We could use a few more volunteers to help. You can volunteer by emailing Julie Toepper ( [julie.toepper@gmail.com](mailto:julie.toepper@gmail.com) ). The dates and locations are:

- **Saturday, June 11** at Flatirons Mall (outdoor courtyard): Set up (4-5:30PM); Event (5:30-8:00)  
-Kathy Daniels
- **Sunday, July 10** at Brunner House: Set-up (1:30-3:30PM); Event (4:00-6:00); Music (6:00-8:00)  
- Cathy Lichty
- **Sunday, August 14** at Brunner House: Set-up (2:00-3:30PM); Event (4:00-6:00); Music (6:00-8:00)  
-Julie Toepper & Denny Thompson

BCAH is also planning to participate in a Creative Immersion Gala in September. A Broomfield Spellbinders member will tell one story to adults during the performance portion of the event. Contact Julie if you are interested.

**Recruit New Volunteers.** Our next training class is scheduled for September. The flyer describing the training accompanies this newsletter. Please post it in appropriate spaces in your neighborhoods (e.g. community bulletin boards in churches, libraries, groceries). Remember that the best recruitment is personal. Tell a friend how much fun storytelling is. Remember that all classes are from 1:00 to 4:00 at Brunner House. The training dates are:

- **Tuesday, September 20, 2022**
- **Friday, September 23, 2022**
- **Monday, September 26, 2022**
- **Friday, September 29, 2022**

## SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

The following Broomfield Spellbinders members will celebrate birthdays before our next meeting. Here's hoping all of them have wonderful birthdays filled with love, laughter, and inspiration for new and delightful stories. Try to find time to tell them how wonderful they are.

### JUNE

- 13-**Judy Lloyd**
- 16-**Tom Tjarks**
- 29-**Cathy Lichty**



### JULY

- 26-**Denny Thompson**
- 30-**Ellen Klement**



### AUGUST

- 3-**Janny Darby**
- 21-**Janis Lievens**
- 23-**Jan Osburn**