

Next MEETING

Friday
April 16
1:00 PM
via Zoom

Next Story Circle

Friday
April 30
1:00 PM
via Zoom



MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

On March 19, fourteen Broomfield Spellbinders storytellers and two guests gathered via Zoom for our monthly meeting. **Kay Landers** welcomed all and invited us to share a time or place or story setting we would like to visit. The answers ranged from visits (or returns) to Africa (2), Ireland, Scotland, and Okinawa. Some wanted to visit specific eras such as Colonial times (one with a special interest in Betsy Ross), America after the Civil War, Ireland after the Potato Famine, World War I, Paris in the 1920s, the US during the heyday of old-time radio, and World War II. Several of these visits into the past were related to learning more about relatives. One wanted to visit the area described in the "Little House on the Prairie" series. Another wanted to visit the fictional places associated with Harry Potter and *Star Trek*, while one wanted to go 20 years into the future to see how grandchildren turned out.

In keeping with the theme of this meeting, Librarian **Kathy Daniels** reported that our Brunner House library includes 37 books of poetry and two books of songs. She recommended these four: *Fiddle with a Riddle* (Joanne Bernstein); *Zoo Doings: Animal Poems* (Jack Prelutsky); *Tongue Twisters* (Charles Keller); and *Jamberry* (Bruce Degen). Kathy reminded us that she can now access the books in our library and reiterated her willingness to bring specific books to members. Just contact her. **Vicki Tiedeman** reported that she needs that information on telling activity to complete a report needed by Spellbinders and BCAH. She asked that everyone who is telling stories virtually **complete the data sheet by March 31 or send your data to Vicki** and she will enter it for you. She will send the link to the worksheet again. **Denny Thompson** reported that Highland Trails is ready to resume "live" storytelling for its seniors, all of whom have been vaccinated and enough tellers have volunteered to allow us to return. Kay then introduced Deborah Crabbe, a member of the Longmont Spellbinders affiliate, who shared her thoughts on "Using Poetry to Enhance Your Storytelling". Deborah reminded us that April is "National Poetry Month" and encouraged us to integrate poems (and other types of wordplay¹) into our storytelling sessions. She suggested that we "start small" and read them if we must. She emphasized that poetry builds vocabulary and noted the impact of nursery rhymes on young listeners. Deborah later provided handouts, which have been shared with everyone who attended this meeting. If you were unable to attend and want the handouts, email Wynn.

Three members shared stories to close the meeting. **Vicki Tiedeman** told "The Legend of Knockmany" (a Finn McCool tale); **Kay Landers** shared "The Thing in the Woods" (a story from Lyn Ford); and **Ellen Klement** told "Johnny Chuck Finds the Greatest Thing" (from a series by Thornton W. Burgess).

¹ Alliteration, metaphors, puns, riddles, similes.

STORY RESOURCES

Many of us are using this fallow time to develop new stories. Here are a couple of good resources:

[Home - Folktale and Fairy Tale Resources in the CRC - LibGuides at BGSU University Libraries](#)

This guide will connect you with the folktales, fairy tales, variants, and fractured versions of traditional tales from around the world. It includes sub-categories such as American Tall Tales, Collections from Around the World, and Folktale Variations. It does not provide the actual story, but gives details on the books where such stories can be found so that you can search for those books on-line or at your local library.

[Fairy tales, fables and folk tales | Fairytalez.com](#)

This site contains more than 4000 fairy tales, folk tales, and fables (both "Classic" and original "User Tales") in a format that can be downloaded or read on-line. There is an alphabetical index for both of these categories as well as an invitation to submit your own.

STORY CIRCLE

Our March 26 attracted a dozen members, most of whom had a story. These stories were in various stages of development, and the tellers requested and received helpful feedback. **Sheila Brush** shared a touching personal story that she is just beginning to develop with a working title of "Ruby to the Rescue." **Julie Toepper** presented her polished first-person telling of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's story, which she will debut to a 5th grade class on Monday. **Cathy Lichty** told a story (with a fine Irish accent) that she has developed from a "snippet" in Fredrik Backman's *Anxious People*. The story does not yet have a name, but Cathy knows she will tell it to seniors. **Ellen Klement** shared another animal story from Thornton W. Burgess ("Paddy the Beaver Wins an Argument") and received praise for her bird and animal "voices." **Kay Landers** followed that with a Joe Hayes story about "La Mariposa" (the Butterfly), also using several animal voices. **Kathy Daniels** shared her early attempt to develop a story inspired by a book in our library (Vera Williams' *A Chair for My Mother*). There was some concern that there is also a book called "Mama's Chair," which is Kathy's working title for her story, but she was encouraged to keep working on the story since she obviously wants to share its message. **Wynn Montgomery** shared a personal story based on Shel Silverstein's poem "Smart," which several suggested would be perfect for telling at a Math Camp. During the wrap-up discussion, Cathy recommended Angela McAllister's *A Year Full of Stories*, which includes 52 stories organized by month.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- **Sandy Hopper (4/16)**
- **Liz Ryan (4/23)**

Personal stories are only interesting if they offer a universal message that can be grabbed and held by the audience.

-Storyteller Mary Gay Ducey

MEMBER NEWS: COMINGS & GOINGS

- **Judy Lloyd** expects to be home by the end of March. She will still be confined to a hospital bed and her recovery will be slow, but she will be able to join our Zoom meetings.
- **Dan Keenan** has announced that he has bought a condo in Vero Beach, Florida and will be moving there this summer. We will miss him; he has been a valued member of our chapter since 2011.