



**Spellbinders**  
WWW.SPELLBINDERS.ORG  
of  
**Broomfield, Colorado**  
**News for AUGUST, 2021**

**MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY-Julie Toepper**

On August 20, fourteen Spellbinders and one future member gathered in the Brunner Farmhouse for the first meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. It was great to see everyone and to welcome **Debbie Horton**, Spellbinder in Training, to her first meeting.

**Kay Landers** opened the meeting, asking members to introduce themselves and share their storytelling plans for this school year. Many members have contacted teachers with some starting in-person telling in September or October, others are again telling virtually, and others taking a wait-and-see stance. Some are looking into telling outside or with clear masks. (Kay has a potential source for clear masks and will try to get samples.) Some members have been telling stories in person to Seniors over the summer and plan to continue as long as they are able. Each member has his/her own comfort level of interaction during this time of Covid, and it is okay to work within those constraints, even if it means another pause year. Flexibility will be the key.

**Kathy Daniels**, our librarian, cataloged the *Storytelling Magazines* in the library and put together binders to simplify searches for articles and stories. She also handed out copies of *The End*, a story about stories, and an article, *The Prize and Pitfalls of Telling Personal Stories*, for anyone who did not receive them this summer. Kathy showed a variety of great books that **Dan Keenan** gifted to the library before he moved to Florida. The library is in the basement of the Brunner house and for now is only available during limited times. Anyone wanting to check out a book or magazine can do so on the third Friday of the month, shortly before or after the monthly meeting or by emailing Kathy.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 (12:45-3:00)**  
**BRUNNER FARM HOUSE**

Next, three storytellers entertained with three very different stories. **Janny Darby** told a currently untitled personal story about eighth grade, a devastating fire, and the resiliency of children. Using singing, rhyming and repetition, **Julie Toepper** entertained with an English folktale called *Fox's Sack*. **Cathy Lichty** and her hand puppet turtle closed out the telling trio with an original story on the importance of kindness titled, *Max the Turtle*.

After a short break, the members broke out into three groups for an improvisation exercise. Each group received a Norman Rockwell picture and had five minutes to come up with a story based on that picture. The first group (**Kay Landers, Kathy Daniels, Debbie Horton, Donna Leard**) team-told a story about

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a nightly, magical checker game between two old friends. The second group (**Wynn Montgomery, Julie Toepper, Sandy Hopper, Sheila Brush** and their designated teller, **Vicki Tiedeman**) used a picture of a boy getting an eye exam to rattle the floorboards and proclaim the magic that eyeglasses can bring to baseball. The third group (**Denny Thompson, Karen Green, Janny Darby, Tom Tjarks**, and their teller **Ellen Klement**) told the story of a girl who wanted to be the best at playing marbles, ending with the iconic line, "And just like Denny, those boys lost their marbles that day."

The meeting concluded with a request for suggestions on future programming for this year's meetings. What activities, guest speakers, and topics would you like to see covered? If you have suggestions, please let **Kathy Daniels** know; she and **Ellen Klement** are heading up our Program Committee. Also, don't forget to sign up to bring a snack or tell a story at a future meeting. Contact **Ellen** for details.

BCAH "SUPER SUNDAY" FEST

On Sunday, August 15, the area around Brunner Farmhouse was teeming with people of all ages drawn there by a smorgasbord of entertainment options—carnival games and prizes, balloon animal creators, frisbee golf, jugglers, a jumping castle, and a live band. Despite all this "competition," **Cathy Lichty** and **Julie Toepper** (see photos below) managed to attract several groups of listeners. Those who did not heed the call of story don't know what they missed. Both Cathy and Julie were at the top of their game, delivering great stories with energy and enthusiasm. They represented Broomfield Spellbinders well!



*Photos by BlindPigPix*

BIRTHDAYS

Several of our members celebrated birthdays during the newsletter's summer hiatus, so we offer here our belated good wishes for those events (and for many birthdays to come) to **Denny Thompson** (July 26), **Ellen Klement** (July 30), **Janny Darby** (August 3), **Marrton Dormish** (August 8), and **Janis Lievens** (August 21). The following members will be celebrating birthdays in September:



- **Mary Ann Drury** (11)
- **Linda Brotman-Evans** (15)
- **Judy Kundert** (19)
- **Vicki Tiedeman** (23)
- **Donna Leard** (26)
- **Wynn Montgomery** (28)

**NOTE:** The numbers in parentheses are the days of the month, not the celebrants' ages.

**The most powerful person in the world is the storyteller. The storyteller sets the vision, values and agenda of an entire generation that is to come. -Steve Jobs**

*Thanks to Tom Tjarks for sharing the above quote*

## STORY CIRCLES (JUNE & JULY)-Julie Toepper

Eight Spellbinders met under the shade of the Brunner Farmhouse pergola for a fun afternoon of stories on Friday, June 18. **Julie Toepper** kicked off the session with a folktale, *The Turtle of Koka*, testing out her song and dance routine to see if it will work for Kindergarteners. **Kathy Daniels** tried out a new story she is working on, *All's Well That Ends Well*, based on a children's book *Blackbeard: Pirate for Hire (The Hairiest Pirate Who Ever Lived)* by Matthew McElligott, about Blackbeard and his search for a new job (needed because he could not follow the pirate rules). **Marc Brown** reminisced in his original story, *Birthdays*, making everyone smile as they identified with his excitement (and disappointments) with milestone birthdays. **Donna Leard** gave a wonderful rendition of *The Man with No Luck*, otherwise known as *The Edge of the Earth* to those familiar with Dan Keenan's version. **Ed Winograd** told *The Mayor of Chelm and the Fish*, a Jewish folktale with similarities to *The Turtle of Koka*, showing that there can be many versions of the same core story. **Kay Landers** entertained with *Thunder Cake*, a charming story by Patricia Polacco where she explains why not to be afraid of thunder (and how to make an unusual cake). **Wynn Montgomery** asked for opinions on developing a story based on *The Interlopers* by Saki, setting it in Kentucky and using the Hatfield-McCoy feud as his inspiration. Everyone thought it sounded like a great idea. Then Wynn proceeded to dust off a story from his vault, *The Pickpocket*, much to everyone's enjoyment. **Denny Thompson** closed out the meeting with a story he was also resurrecting from his vast story library, Christine Price's *The Valiant Chattee-Maker*, a story of a pot maker in India who falls into fame and fortune despite all his best efforts to the contrary.

On Friday, July 16, seven Broomfield Spellbinders enjoyed stories, snacks, and mild morning temperatures all from the comfort of **Denny Thompson's** back patio. **Janny Darby** kicked off the storytelling with her entertaining rendition of a poem by James Whitcomb Riley titled *Raggedy Man*, to which she seamlessly added a new verse of her own. **Kathy Daniels** asked for thoughts on telling some tongue twisters to her student – and adult – listeners. She gave an example of a story first published in 1899 (no copywrite issues there!) that began *Betty Botter bought some butter; but she said, the butter's bitter...* (Now, that's a mouthful!) **Wynn Montgomery** had everyone enthralled with his original tale centering on the *Hatfield/McCoy Feud* and inspired by the H.H. Munro (Saki) story, *The Interlopers*, with an ending that had everyone saying, "Wait... what?". **Julie Toepper** lightened the mood with her fractured fairytale based on the children's book by Jon Scieszka called *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs (As Told by the Wolf)*. **Denny Thompson** closed the morning out with *The Fourth Question*, a story by Vida Chu, found in the book *Fire & Wings, Dragon Tales from East and West*, edited by Marianne Curus. **Karen Green** and **Janis Lievens** were helpful listeners. As always, the Story Circle provided entertainment, encouragement, and inspiration for even more stories.

## HEALTH UPDATES

**Judy Lloyd** continues her slow recovery in a local rehabilitation facility. **Vivian Hamilton** was recovering well from hip replacement surgery when she had a life-threatening bout with blood clots in her lungs that put her back in the hospital. She is now back home and recovering nicely. It has been one of a series of medical challenges this summer for Vivian, her husband Ray, and their children and a long, long recovery for Judy. Please keep them in your thoughts.



## [NEW MEMBERS ON THE WAY!!!](#)

On August 26, four volunteers from four different communities (Broomfield, Brighton, Erie, and Lafayette) completed our 12-hour training program and will soon become Certified Spellbinders Storytellers. **Cathy Lichty** and **Wynn Montgomery** facilitated this training session. **Kathy Daniels** and **Denny Thompson** sat in and provided feedback as the trainees shared their "graduation" story on the final day of training. All of us agree that all four will be excellent storytellers as soon as they can complete the usual shadowing experience. **Jan Osburn** has already completed that requirement by co-telling virtually with a Boulder Valley Spellbinders storyteller. Jan plans to join both organizations. Thanks to Denny for taking the group photo that appears below.



**Broomfield Spellbinders: Class of 2021 (L-R) Cathy Lichty (Trainer), Jan Osburn, Nancy Bradfield, Leah Nelson, Debbie Horton, Wynn Montgomery (Trainer).**

## [LISTENING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

The annual Timpanogos Storytelling Festival is less than two weeks away, and it is not too late to buy an on-line pass that will allow you (between October 4 and January 4) to enjoy the Festival for a 14-day block beginning when you first log on. Details at <https://timpfest.org>.

**Broomfield Spellbinders is a program of**

