



Spellbinders
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of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for MARCH, 2023

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

On March 17 (St. Patrick's Day), sixteen Broomfield Spellbinders and two guests (Scott Carrico and Karen Culver) met at Brunner Farm House. **Julie Toepper** opened the meeting with an introduction/ discussion topic: "Which do you like better – veggies or fruit – and why?" Answers varied, but veggies won by one vote. Some people mentioned specific veggies such as broccoli, corn, green beans, and tomatoes while others mentioned specific fruits such as raspberries and bananas. Our visitor, Scott Carrico, introduced himself and shared his work history (broadcast radio, TV satellite news, commercials, and narrating bus tours and audio books). He plans to return for future meetings/Story Circles with the goal of joining our group. He learned about Spellbinders in the *Denver Post* article about Larimer County.

Kathy Daniels gave her Library Report. She has been reading donated books to determine which area of the library they belong in. She noted that we have over 400 books in our library and she has read nearly all of them. Julie encouraged all to attend the Spellbinders 2023 Annual Celebration on April 15 in Loveland. Those who are interested can prepare a short (5 minutes max.) story and put their "name in the hat" to participate in the story circle. Julie also reported that BCAH will have a *Cinco de Mayo* celebration at the Grange on May 6 and wants storytellers. [NOTE: That request has been cancelled.] Julie will be sending Teacher Surveys in May. Please let your teachers know to expect them and that we look forward to receiving their input.

Tiffany Painter reported that one of her teachers was recognized by her school for bringing a Storyteller into the school. **Wynn Montgomery** announced that "The Story Beast" has published his poem, ("I Am a Storyteller") in its Spring 2023 issue (see page 2). **Sheila Brush** told a hilarious story, "A Pot of Gold", with a laughing leprechaun she brought back from Ireland. **Karen Green** told "The Gum Chewing Rattlesnake" and "Cinderella's Three Wishes," which had an unexpected ending.

After a break for socializing and delicious snacks brought by **Tiffany Painter** and **Jim Mariner**, our Guest Presenter Karen Culver discussed "Humor in Storytelling". She began with a story from Zimbabwe and then distributed and reviewed a handout. She also circulated a large collection of comic strips with fairy tale themes and shared the folk tale "Lazy Jack" from *Ready-to-Tell Tales*.



NEXT MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 21 @12:45 PM
PROGRAM: Laura Deal: Reimagining Traditional Tales



MARCH STORY CIRCLE

On March 31, nine Broomfield Spellbinders and one guest (Scott Carrico) gathered at Brunner Farm House for our regular "Fourth Friday Story Circle." Almost everyone shared a story, and all were avid listeners who provided helpful feedback and encouragement. **Tiffany Painter** led off with "Robin Hood & the Golden Arrow," leading many of us to wonder how many of today's youngsters know of this legendary hero and agreeing that they should. **Sheila Brush** then asked for (and received) help in adapting the fable of "The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg" to include a figurine she found in Ireland. She got several suggestions for this "work in progress." **Karen Green** tried out a new story called "Hippo and Rhino," and **Jan Osburn** introduced us to "The Araboolies of Liberty Street" (a book by Sam Swope), which deals with challenging the status quo and poetic justice. **Donna Leard** then demonstrated the difference between a short and a longer version of the same story—"The Story Not Told; The Song Not Sung." The longer version was by Simon Brooks. Several listeners suggested that these stories might be the basis for a presentation at a future meeting. **Kathy Daniels** recommended a Chinese folk tale called "The Mirror of Matsuyama." and **Carla Randall** showed two picture books that she is considering adapting. One was "The Wartville Wizard" by Don Madden, which Wynn used to tell regularly, but was unaware that it was a picture book. He noted that it is a perfect Earth Day story and promised to send a copy of his version to everyone. [NOTE: Based on this discussion, Wynn told this story to 2nd Graders in early April and learned that many had heard the story from Eco-Cycle representatives.] Our guest then shared a delightful story about a village that saved itself by making music together; unfortunately, he could not remember the name of the book from which he improvised his story. **Wynn Montgomery** then told "Aunt Nancy and Cousin Lazybones" (by Phyllis Root), which he loves but is struggling with and received positive feedback. **Denny Thompson** did not tell a story, but offered many helpful ideas to the other tellers.

A REMINDER ABOUT ANOTHER RESOURCE

Back in August, 2022, this newsletter introduced a new e-publication called **The Story Beast** when the first issue was published. The intended audience is "story artists, listeners, and dreamers." It features "articles, short stories, poems, and art." From the beginning, readers were invited to submit their own works. Seven editions of that magazine are now available on-line, and the most recent edition (Spring 2023) includes (on page 56) a poem by **Wynn Montgomery**. Those of you who own a copy of "Pop Tales" may have already read the poem, but please view this as an opportunity to check out this (and other) issues. Along with the poem, Wynn had to submit a 2-minute video introduction. You might enjoy seeing it because it includes a "shout-out" to Spellbinders. The link to that video is <https://youtu.be/Z65Vri0X66g>



“Authors do not choose a story to write, the story chooses us.”

— **Richard P. Denney**, author

EDITOR’S NOTE: Is this also true of storytellers and the stories we tell?

TELLING STORIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOMS



While sharing stories in elementary school classrooms will always be our primary focus, Broomfield Spellbinders love to take their tales to other listeners. In March, we had two such opportunities, and both led to invitations to return. The first of these events was in a familiar location—Anthem Ranch, where many of our members live. We have told there in the past at special holiday (Halloween and Christmas) events. Starting in February, Anthem began monthly (always on a Sunday) special events for grandchildren of residents. On March 12, three of our members (**Sheila Brush, Sandy Hopper, and Janis Lievens**) shared stories with 35 young listeners and their grandparents. Of course, we have been invited back. **Jim Mariner** also organized a May storytelling session at Sunrise at Flatirons Senior Living, where he is a resident. On March 15, he and **Sheila Brush** enthralled an audience of 31 avid listeners (See photos above). We have already been invited to return on Monday, May 8, and Jim is recruiting tellers to join him.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Belated "Happy Birthday" wishes to **Leah Nelson** (04/01)
...and timely ones to **Sandy Hopper** (04/16)!

STORIES & MUSIC IN LAFAYETTE THIS SUMMER

Starting on Wednesday, May 31, there will be bi-weekly concerts at Lafayette's Outdoor Classroom Amphitheater on alternate Wednesdays through July 6. The schedule is still tentative, but we know that the concerts will be free with registration required. Boulder Valley Spellbinders has been an integral part of the planning after the success of last summer's event (which included stories by **Jan Osburn, Vicki Tiedeman, and Wynn Montgomery**). Unlike that event, not all of these sessions will feature both music and stories, but some will, and current plans are for two sessions to feature professional storytellers. Others will feature Spellbinders storytellers and music. Be on the lookout for the final schedule.



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