

NEXT MEETING  
Friday, November 18  
12:45 PM  
BRUNNER FARMHOUSE



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

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

On October 21, eighteen Broomfield Spellbinders storytellers (and **Marsha Coons**, a guest who was considering joining our ranks)<sup>1</sup> gathered at Brunner Farmhouse for our monthly membership meeting. **Julie Toepper** welcomed all and invited introductions, which were made along with answers to the question: "What is your favorite Halloween story to tell?" Several stories were named, but "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything" was the clear favorite. "The Ghost with One Black Eye" and various versions of "Long Bony Fingers and Floppy Red Lips" also were mentioned more than once. **Wynn Montgomery** then presented certificates of completion and name badges to **Tiffany Painter** and **Sherry Potter**, who have completed the "shadowing" portion of the training. **Carla Randall** has also completed that requirement, but was not at the meeting; **Janis Lievens** will deliver her certificate and name badge. **Jim Mariner** will soon shadow **Denny Thompson** to complete his training. Janis then talked about new schools that need tellers, and **Vanita Moore** shared an energetic version of "Little Orphan Annie" from James Whitcomb Riley's *Complete Works* and told how she had learned it as a child to prove to her mother that it wasn't too hard.

After we enjoyed snacks provided by **Cathy Lichty** and **Karen Green**, our featured guest, Martin Ogle, gave a presentation he called "Telling the Stories We Need: Native American Culture and Nature". He referenced *The Decline of Pleasure*, a 1962 book by Walter Kerr that suggested that the "everything must have a purpose" culture was robbing us of our enjoyment of "useless" down-time. Martin suggested two key antidotes—(1) contemplation (letting the mind play like a cat in a sunny window) and (2) free narrative and storytelling. He then shared a poem: "A Very Short Sutra on the Meeting of the Buddha and the Goddess." He noted it was not short at all, but we found it quite entertaining. Martin added a mantra which he summarized as "emptiness is bliss and bliss is emptiness" and if you just try "you can't miss". He circulated for review a few resource books<sup>2</sup> and closed the thought-provoking presentation with a story from the Seneca Indians: "How Stories Came to Be."

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<sup>1</sup> Marsha has now completed her classroom training (in Longmont) and shadowing and is now a certified Spellbinders storyteller.

<sup>2</sup> *Keepers of the Earth* (Michael J. Caduto & Joseph Bruchac); *Connected Wisdom* (Linda Booth Sweeney); *A Dictionary of Creation Myths* (David & Margaret Leeming); and *The Indian Way* (Gary McLain)

## MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY [continued from page 1]

**Kathy Daniels** gave the library report, noting that she cannot accept more books until we have new shelves. We have so many books she is storing some of them in her car and at her home until we have room for them. **Cathy Lichty** reported that the Rocky Mountain Story Camp which she and **Jan Osburn** attended was a valuable experience. The presenters were wonderful, and the storytelling was therapeutic with everyone sharing personal stories. Cathy then shared (with an impressive Irish brogue) a tale about a young fella who started with no story to tell, but soon had one

Since we do not have a monthly meeting in December and our regular Fifth Friday Story Circle date falls on December 30, we decided to use our normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (December 16) for a Cookie Exchange like the one that was so successful last year. Everyone should bring at least a dozen cookies and a story about holiday foods and/or traditions and should plan on taking plenty of cookies home.

## RIDDLE, RIDDLE, SEVERAL OF US CREATED RIDDLES

Last month's newsletter invited all Broomfield Spellbinders to put on their thinking caps and come up with variations on the classic riddle: "Why did the chicken cross the road?" The first response came from

**Karen Green:**

- Why did the wizard cross the ditch? Because he was running away from a witch!

**Sandy Hopper** (with help from Bob) suggested:

- Why did the witch cast a spell? To have a story to tell!

From **Jan Osburn:**

- Why did the punk rocker cross the road? He was stapled to the chicken."

It will surprise nobody to learn that "**Just Denny**" **Thompson** submitted the most:

- Why did the turkey cross the road? It was the chicken's day off.
- Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? He didn't have any guts.
- Why did the frog cross the road, jump in a mud puddle and then cross back across the road? He wanted to be a dirty double crosser.



**Kay Landers** contributed:

- Why did the ghost float across the river? Because he didn't have a boat.

An Anonymous Donor added:

- Why did the milkmaid cross the road? It was on her bucket list.

Don't quit now. Perhaps these examples will inspire you to develop your own variations. If so, share them and there might be enough for a future newsletter. The initial request hinted at a possible prize, but there are too many good ones to choose from. The "honor" of being published should be reward enough.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- **NANCY BRADFIELD** (December 7)
- **ED WINOGRAD** (December 11)

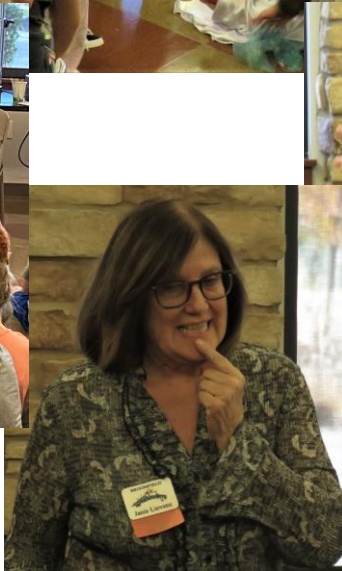


## SCARY STORIES AT ANTHEM RANCH

On Sunday, October 30, four Broomfield Spellbinders storytellers told scary stories to a “packed house” of Anthem Ranch residents and their children and grandchildren. They had asked for “scary (but not too scary)” stories to celebrate Halloween. **“Pop” Montgomery** led off with “The Belly Button Monster.” **Janis Lievens** became “The Little Old Lady Who Wasn’t Afraid of Anything.” **“Just Denny” Thompson** followed with his funny/scary version of “The Ghost with One Black Eye,” and **Kay Landers** wrapped things up by introducing the audience to “The Thing in the Woods.” **Sheila Brush, Sandy Hopper**, and their husbands were there for moral support, and Sandy’s granddaughter was one of our young listeners. Rumor has it that we will be invited back to share holiday stories in December.



TELLERS: “Pop” (above) & Janis (at right).



TELLERS: “Just Denny” (above) & Kay (at right).



## ALSO AT ANTHEM RANCH

The following week, the Community Theatre of Anthem Ranch staged its first post-Covid play—a farce called “Here Comes the Judge”—and one of the cast members, in a small but crucial role, was **Sandy Hopper**, who made a grand entrance (at left) mid-way through Act One.

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

