



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

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY by Julie Toepper

Ten Broomfield Spellbinders and one guest (professional storyteller, Susan Marie Frontczak) met on Friday, April 15, at the Brunner Farmhouse. As part of their introductions, members named their favorite spring flower. Some members were far more botanical than others as demonstrated by their answers. Familiar flowers included the crocus with their resilient purple colors, lovely smelling lilacs, colorful tulips, Easter lilies (if they didn't cause an allergic reaction...so maybe columbine would be better), and azaleas (even though they don't grow in Colorado). The less familiar, causing people to pull up pictures on their phones, included the night blooming cereus, pasque flowers, and hellebores.

Ellen Klement reminded members to sign up for the National Spellbinders Annual Meeting being held April 22 "live" in Aurora and via Zoom. Ellen also reminded us that Broomfield Spellbinders is part of the Broomfield Council on the Arts and Humanities (BCAH), and members are encouraged to become BCAH supporters by making a yearly donation of \$35.00 at the website (artsinbroomfield.org).

Kathy Daniels gave away several one-page stories from the library. She is putting together a binder of short stories and biographies, most of them related to Colorado history. It will soon be available for checkout. In response to a question from the March meeting, Kathy also showed several books from our library on stories using song. **Janis Lievins** distributed flyers promoting storytelling in the classroom and a promotional flyer. She encouraged using them to recruit new tellers and suggested asking "our" teachers to share them with any teachers who might be retiring.

The May meeting will be an end-of-the year party with food, stories, and fun. See page 2 for details.

Sandy Hopper shared a heart-warming personal story that invited listeners to determine "What was missing from the garden?" (Answer: Her grandchildren!). Sandy and **Janny Darby** provided delicious snacks, and everyone settled in for a presentation by **Susan Marie Frontczak** on *Voices*. She started with a story, *The King's Breakfast*, demonstrating several different voices and character embodiments. She provided much useful information (see the handout that accompanies this newsletter) and had us practice in dyads. That handout ends with a "homework" assignment that all of us should try. Her best advice is to practice, practice, practice.

NEXT MEETINGS

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 (1:00-3:00)-QUARTERLY STORY CIRCLE

FRIDAY, MAY 20 (12:30*-3:00)-YEAR-END CELEBRATION

*** Note different start time & see details on page 2.**



MONTHLY STORY CIRCLES DURING THE SUMMER

Our regular quarterly Story Circle will be on **Friday, April 29**, at Brunner Farm House. Come and bring a new story you are working on or an old one you haven't told in a while. In preparation for our expected return to classrooms when the 2022-23 school year begins, we are planning monthly Story Circles during the summer. We have invited the recent graduates of St. Vrain Valley Storytellers (formerly Longmont Library Spellbinders) to join us for all of these gatherings. **Donna Leard** and **Wynn Montgomery**, who are members of both groups, will host meetings in their homes in Erie, which is a central location, in May and June. The schedule for these summer events is:

joint Story Circles (all of which will start at 1:00 and will last for two hours) is:

- Friday, May 27-Wynn's home in Erie
- Friday, June 24-Donna's home in Erie
- Friday, July 29-TBD (Quarterly Broomfield Fifth Friday Story Circle)

Please RSVP to Wynn (wynnmill@comcast.net) by the Monday preceding the Friday of the meeting.

BROOMFIELD SPELLBINDERS' YEAR-END CELEBRATION

The May 20 monthly meeting will be our traditional year-end celebration. It will start a half-hour earlier than usual (at 12:30) and lunch will be served, so we ask that you **RSVP by Monday, May 16** to **Sheila Brush** at shebrush@yahoo.com. Your Steering Committee will provide sandwiches, chips, and desserts; **please bring your own beverage**. Besides enjoying lunch and conversation, we will distribute "Years of Service" ribbons. We also plan to share stories, so please **bring an object that is important to you** (an ancestor's watch, for example) and be prepared to share a **brief story** about it—who or what it represents, why you treasure it, etc.



TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER: START RECRUITING!

Please start looking for potential new volunteer storytellers. We are confident that we will be allowed to return to classrooms in 2022-23. We have lost some members during the Covid-related hiatus, so we will need new storytellers. We will provide recruitment flyers later (probably in August), but we know that the most successful recruitment tool is an enthusiastic member who shares with a friend the fun we have and the importance of what we do. As you know, the training consists of four 3-hour sessions followed by shadowing an experienced storyteller. All four classes are required, but we usually are able to make necessary arrangements if a trainee must miss one class. **Cathy Lichty** and **Wynn Montgomery** lead the training. All classes are at Brunner Farmhouse from 1:00-4:00. The cost is \$50; the dates are:

- Tuesday, September 20
- Friday, September 23
- Monday, September 26
- Thursday, September 29

STORY ARTISTS MEMORIAL

Story Crossroads has created a website (<https://storycrossroads.org/memorial>) where storytellers who have passed away can be remembered and honored—a "sacred space" that allows people of the present and the future to know the wonderful people of the past. Spellbinders National has honored Spellbinders founder **Germaine Dietsch**, and **Denny Thompson** has done the same for Broomfield Spellbinders' "**Grandma Jean**" **Barnett**. There is also a page for Bailey Phelps, a Lafayette storyteller who once shared his thoughts on Native American stories with our group. Now that those pages have been created, you are invited to share your own memories of these talented tellers.

LISTENING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **May 9-12: Story Crossroads' 7th Annual Summit & Festival.** This "hybrid" event is offered live in the Salt Lake City Utah area and virtually. The cost for either is \$15 (until May 1) and \$20 thereafter. It offers stories by 15 Featured (but not nationally-known) Tellers and 40 local youth and adult tellers.
- **Any Time:** Story Crossroads offers a FREE 8-hour on-line course on "Storytelling Basics" that is a good refresher for experienced storytellers and an excellent resource for new tellers.

Details on both of the above opportunities as well as other opportunities (e.g. an overview of other opportunities that are available at <https://storycrossroads.org>. You may want to get on their mailing list or become a member (\$25 annually for retired teachers; \$50 for others).

SPELLBINDERS NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Broomfield Spellbinders was well-represented at the April 22 Annual Meeting. Eight of us travelled to

Aurora, and three others—**Sandy Hopper, Ellen Klement, and Janis Lievens**— joined (or tried to join) via Zoom. **Donna Leard** had to leave early, but (L-R) **Jan Osburn, Julie Toepper, Wynn Montgomery, Sheila Brush, Karen Green, Denny Thompson, and Cathy Lichty** were available for this photo. Cathy, Julie, and Wynn helped with on-site registration. Wynn's workshop on "Crafting Personal Stories" attracted more than 20 folks. Denny did a fine job as Emcee despite the many schedule changes caused by technical glitches. As requested by Spellbinders National, **Kay**



Landers has sent an Annual Meeting Survey to all of our members. **Please complete this Google Poll** whether you attended the Annual Meeting or not. [NOTE: One of the victims of the technology glitches was Karen Culver's presentation called "Lists & Links & Books, Oh My!" That 14-minute guide to finding traditional tales can now be viewed on the Spellbinders website. It is, of course, especially valuable for new storytellers, but any storyteller would benefit from watching it.

Storytelling is not opening your mouth. It is opening your heart and mind.

-Alicia Dongjoo Bang (Director, Korea International Storytelling Festival)



Spring Cleaning Day!

Brunner Farmhouse

May 7, 2022

Who: Any regular or occasional users of the Brunner Farmhouse

What: Annual Spring Cleaning Day to apply a deep cleaning to our favorite meeting place!

When: Saturday, May 7 - 9:00 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Where: Brunner Farmhouse, 640 Main Street, Broomfield (Northeast corner of Main and Midway)

Why: The transformation of the Brunner Farmhouse into a community meeting center was primarily a grassroots effort...of the people, by the people, and for the people! General upkeep is accomplished by those who use the property and reflects pride in "our" home.

Join us for a morning of cleaning. Windows will be washed, floors will be scrubbed, woodwork will be dusted, and a good time will be had by all! Feel free to bring your favorite mop or bucket.

We guarantee that this is the only time you will have FUN cleaning!

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

