

Spellbinders
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of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for MAY (and SUMMER), 2023

MAY MEETING SUMMARY

On May 19, fourteen storytellers gathered at Brunner House for Broomfield Spellbinders annual “end-of-the-school-year” celebration. Those participating were **Sheila Brush, Scott Carrico, Kathy Daniels, Karen Green, Sandra Hopper, Judy Kundert, Kay Landers, Donna Leard, Cathy Lichty, Tiffany Painter, Carla Randall, Denny Thompson, Vicki Tiedeman, and Julie Toepper.**

Julie Toepper opened the meeting and explained that this was a celebration of a successful year (see page 3). She thanked **Sheila Brush** and **Janis Lievens** for arranging the delicious selection of food and drinks. Janis was not there to enjoy the celebration, however, having contracted Covid while on vacation. Our new associate (and chef) **Scott Carrico** contributed a homemade banana cake.

Sheila Brush and **Karen Green** distributed ribbons recognizing years of service as a Spellbinders storyteller, and **Julie Toepper** announced that our next training class has been scheduled for September 12, 14, 18, and 21. **[NOTE: A flyer providing details accompanies this newsletter. Please post it in appropriate locations in your neighborhood and give copies to anyone you think would be a good storyteller.]**



Story Circles are scheduled for **June 16** [see page 2] and **July 21** at Brunner House from 1:00 – 3:00. These summer Story Circles replace our usual monthly meetings and are intended to be a time when we can try out new stories and get feedback from other storytellers. They also offer an opportunity to stay in touch over the Summer.

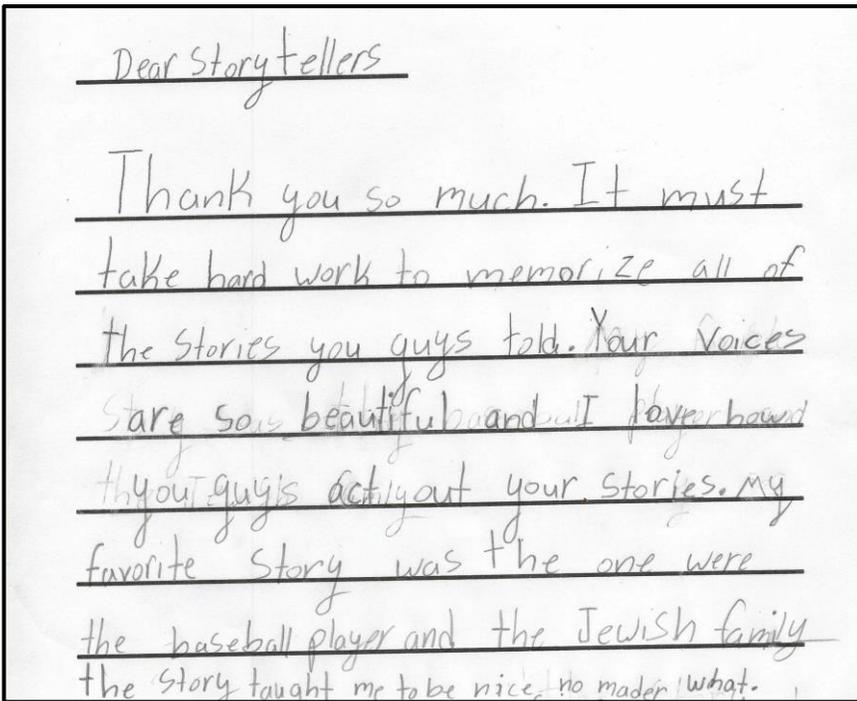
After everyone had gathered their food and drinks, the group decided to have a casual, open discussion while enjoying the goodies. There was a discussion of how to recruit storytellers. **Scott Carrico** mentioned that the NFL Debate Club has a story-telling category. **Cathy Lichty** discussed teaching youngsters to tell stories in the classroom. **Karen Green** shared an experience that left her feeling “older by the minute,” which made everyone laugh. **Scott** got another laugh by noting that storytelling is the second oldest profession. After **Julie** closed the meeting, everyone pitched in doing clean-up and saying our goodbyes for this year—or until the Summer Story Circles begin.

NEXT STORY CIRCLE: FRIDAY, JULY 21 (1:00-3:00 PM)
FIRST MEETING OF 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 (12:45-3:00 PM)

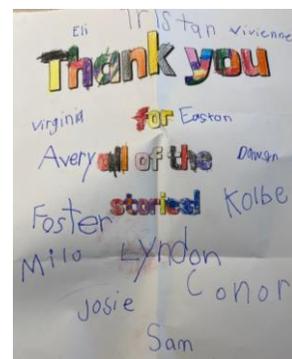
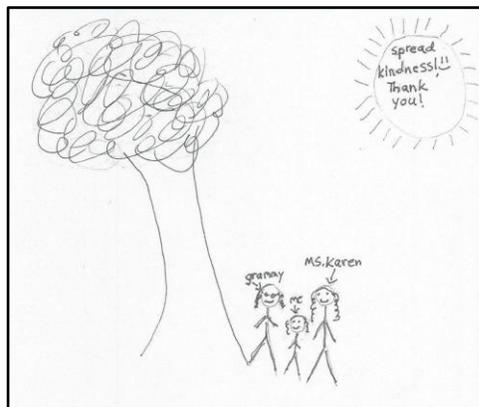
FIRST SUMMER STORY CIRCLE

On June 16, nine storytellers gathered at Brunner Farmhouse for first of two Broomfield Spellbinders Summer Story Circles. **Cathy Lichty** led off by sharing that the first graders at Aspen Creek love her Anansi stories so much that several of them wrote original stories for her when she ran out. She combined these versions into one story ("Anansi & the Hot Air Balloon") that she sent to them as a year-end gift. She then shared her version of "Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock" and asked for other Anansi stories. We also discussed several ways to pronounce "Anansi". **Kay Landers** shared *Dragons Love Tacos* (by Adam Rubin) and was assured that her descriptions adequately reflected the book's illustrations. **Wynn Montgomery** asked for and received suggestions on how to handle certain aspects of *Millions of Cats* by Wanda Ga'g. **Scott Carrico** shared the personal story that he wished he had told at the meeting where we discussed our "Best Vacation Ever". His story involved a trip to Washington, D.C. with his grandmother when he was a teenager and a surprise gift from his aunt. **Kathy Daniels** asked again for help with "The Mirror of Matsuyama," the Japanese folk tale she really likes, but struggles with. **Julie Toepper, Denny Thompson, Karen Green,** and **Sheila Brush** did not share a story, but offered helpful suggestions to those who did.

STUDENT THANK-YOU NOTES (A SMALL SAMPLE)



Here are just a few of the many "cards" & letters our tellers received from young listeners.



2022-23 RESULTS

Thanks to **Vicki Tiedeman**'s computer skills and record-keeping talent and those of you who entered your own data or provided it to Vicki, we can report the following results for the 2022-23 school year:

- 22 active members (19 told stories in a school)
- 90 classrooms in 20 schools
- 6 senior facilities
- 7 other venues (e.g. Anthem Ranch, Boulder Story Circle, Tunes & Tales events)
- Total different listeners: 2773
- Total Storyteller/Listener Experiences: 28, 949

TEACHER SURVEY RESULTS

Numbers such as those above and student thank-you notes and art (see page 2) tell only part of our story. Thanks to the 39 teachers (from 21 classrooms in 15 schools) who took the time to respond to our survey (an amazing 43% response rate), we know how teachers feel about storytelling in their classrooms. **Julie Toepper** has shared individual feedback with each of the 16 members who tell in the responders' classrooms. Below are a sample of the comments

[Our storyteller] inspired many students to write their own stories. They want her to tell them to other students

The stories were engaging and got the students interacting with the story. Students learned new vocabulary words.

[The storytellers] integrate comprehension and listening skills while building a love of literature for my students!!

We love having storytellers! Being able to listen and follow an oral story is becoming lost with so much technology use in everyday life. This time is so valuable for students. It's most helpful when the storytellers are comfortable with the age of the students and can pace their stories and choose stories that the students can follow.

[Our storyteller] picks stories that go with current holidays/events and asks us if there are any topics she can support. She is a great supplement of our folktales unit and adds richness to our study of native peoples and cultures.

We love having the chance for students to experience oral storytelling, which strongly supports our curriculum. In addition, the wonderful folktales and fables go great with our standards.

Students love having the Spellbinders program and are highly engaged. Parents have commented that they come home and share stories with them.

The storytelling program is a wonderful service that is provided to students. The storyteller engages and holds the attention of the students. They love to talk about their experience with one another after their time with her.

Kindergarten standards include speaking and listening. It is important to be able to listen and remember what they hear.

The kids were able to create mental images and discuss comprehension.

One of our literature standards focuses on recounting stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determining the central message, lesson, or moral; and explaining how it is conveyed through key details in the text. The storytellers included all of those elements.

I am a great admirer of oral storytelling tradition and loved how excited my students got when they saw that the storytellers were coming! To me, it's important to keep storytelling alive, especially in a culture that is so media/video oriented.

It is truly a treat for us, and any way to make learning fun is a win.

The students are so engaged in her stories. You could hear a pen drop. They are all quiet and hanging on every word she says. They laugh, they smile, they get into the stories, and even feel for each character. There's always a wonderful buzz after storytelling where the kids talk about and discuss the stories.

SEPTEMBER TRAINING CLASS: PLEASE HELP US RECRUIT

Our next training class is scheduled for **September 12, 14, 18, and 21**. Our most effective method of recruitment is YOU! Please make a copy of the flyer that accompanies this newsletter and post it in any appropriate place in your neighborhood (church, library, recreation center). Most effective, however, is word-of-mouth. Talk to friends, neighbors, casual acquaintances—anyone you think would enjoy doing what we do and would be a good addition to our group. You know that no single piece of paper can truly describe the fun we have. Encourage interested and appropriate people to contact Wynn.

“TUNES & TALES” in LAFAYETTE

These events were announced in our last newsletter. The first two were well-attended and enjoyable. The remaining concerts are listed below:

- June 28: Storyteller Angel Vigil
- July 12: Pete & Joan Wernick (Dr. & Nurse Banjo)
- July 26: Antonio Lopez & Jonathan Sadler
- August 9: “The Breezy Three” Brass Trio
- August 24: Finn O’Sullivan (Guitar & Vocal)-Irish music
- September 6: Storyteller Susan Marie Frontczak

Jan Osburn & Wynn Montgomery participated in the June 14 concert, which told “The Stories Behind the Songs.” Wynn shared the legend behind “Tom Dooley” and Jan (at right) shared the origin of “Amazing Grace” and then joined the musicians and the audience in singing that classic hymn. On July 12, **Vicki Tiedeman** and **Wynn** are among the storytellers who will join bluegrass musicians Pete and Joan Wernick. Register at OpenSpacePrograms@lafayetteco.gov.



BCAH SUMMER SUNDAY FESTIVALS

BCAH’s first Summer Sunday Festival was a victim of bad weather, but two future Festivals are still set to go. As in the past, there will be lots of kid-centered activities from 4:00 until 6:00 followed by a band performance from 6:00 until 8:00. This year brings something new—starting at 4:00, there will be a 30-minute storytelling session by Broomfield Spellbinders on the stage behind Brunner Farm House. The dates and the scheduled tellers are:

- **July 9: Julie Toepper and Cathy Lichty**
- **August 13: Denny Thompson and Wynn Montgomery**

We could one more storyteller at each Festival. If you are interested, let Julie know,

Stories bring the past to the present and influence the future.

-from a storyteller's eulogy