


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

MEETING SUMMARY by Julie Toepper

Twelve Broomfield Spellbinders, a combination of active and currently inactive members, met at the Brunner House on Friday, March 23, 2022. In answering the opening question, *what kinds of stories are you least comfortable telling*, there were some common themes. Stories with lots of dialog came up three times, stories from another culture or religion also came up three times (With or without accents? How do you use accents without being offensive?), along with funny stories, violence in stories, and non-fiction stories with lots of facts. One person said she enjoyed telling all kinds of stories (it was the kids who couldn't sit still that challenged her!) and a newer member said she is still nervous about all stories...period.

Members of the steering committee gave updates with **Kay Landers** leading things off by reporting that Broomfield Spellbinders is financially healthy. **Kathy Daniels** gave away some old stories and books she found in the library. She will be organizing a collection of short, recently located biographies into a binder for check-out. **Julie Toepper** gave a brief update on the National Spellbinders Annual Meeting. **Donna Leard** announced that the early April Spellbinders training in Longmont has reached capacity, with eight trainees registered.

Following the reports, **Donna Leard** was excited to tell a slightly more complicated story than she usually tells via Zoom to first graders. Donna gave a wonderful rendition of an old Jewish folktale that can be found in *Favorite Folktales from Around the World*. She cleverly examined how not everyone interprets what is being said in the same manner through her humorous tale, *A Dispute in Sign Language*.

Following snacks provided by **Julie Toepper** and **Jan Osburn**, long-time Spellbinder **Vivian Hamilton**, gave a farewell performance of her Broomfield History presentation. Vivian entertained not only with her historical story, but also through the many props and artifacts she brought. Vivian has been a key member of Spellbinders for fifteen years, starting in 2007; she moves to Texas in June. As a farewell gift, Vivian donated a large variety of musical instruments from the collection that she used for storytelling over the years.



Goodbye, VIVIAN.
We will miss you!

NEXT MEETINGS @ BRUNNER FARM HOUSE
APRIL 15 (12:45 PM)-REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING
APRIL 29 (1:00 PM)-QUARTERLY STORY CIRCLE

LISTENING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Saturday, April 9** (9:00-10:30 AM): Laura Deal offers a workshop on **Reimagining Traditional Tales**. She promises to explore ways to breathe new life into familiar fairy tales and make obscure folk tales more accessible to a modern audience. The workshop will play with different ways to reimagine stories and brainstorm new variations and will cover which tales work best for this process and which to avoid. See what to expect through a video at <https://youtu.be/kENoPJqMX5I>. Cost is on a sliding scale with a minimum of \$5 and a suggested price of \$25. Register at <http://www.storycrossroads.org/AllThingsStory>.
- **Any Time:** Story Crossroads also offers a **FREE** course called "**Story Telling Basics in 8 Hours**." You can learn more and register at <https://storycrossroads.org> and then complete the modules on your own schedule.
- **Saturday, April 16** (6:00-8:00 PM): Stories with Spirit presents another "Fairy Tale Variations." Six tellers will share different versions of "Sleeping Beauty." As usual, tickets are available at www.eventbrite.com and you can "pay what it's worth" afterwards. If you register, you will be able to watch the show later.



MORE NEW RESOURCES

- **Spirit of the Trees: Featured Folktales** (<https://spiritofthetrees.org/featured-folktales>) contains a collection of stories (related to trees, of course) from contemporary storytellers and accompanying essays that offer deeper insights into the stories. You can search for stories by country.
- **Zeluna.net** is "dedicated to the study of fairies." It contains a wealth of information on fairies and a collection of fairy tales organized by country.

SPELLBINDERS ANNUAL MEETING



The April 22 Spellbinders Annual Meeting is less than a month away and **registration ends on April 15**. We need to know how many people will attend in person so that we can order food, so please sign up at <https://spellbinders.org> and pay with a credit card or with the promise of a check. See you there!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

We wished **Leah Nelson** a Happy April 1 Birthday in the March newsletter. **Sandy Hopper** has the only other April birthday (on the 16th). Happy Birthday, Sandy!



SOUTHERN-FRIED STORYTELLING



Wynn Montgomery missed the March meeting, but he had a good excuse. He was back in Atlanta to visit with family and friends and was happy to agree when his grandson James asked him to share stories with his 3rd grade class at Wood Acres School. Two small classes combined to create an audience of 21 avid listeners (at left) most of whom had never before experienced live storytelling. They have now heard a "Pop" Tale and "One Wish." Wynn hopes they had as much fun as he did.

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

