



Spellbinders
WWW.SPELLBINDERS.ORG
of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for MAY, 2020

MONTHLY MEETING RECAP

On May 15, our lucky number was 13. That's how many members met via Zoom for updates, stories, and togetherness. **Kay Landers** welcomed all, and we began by sharing our 2019-20 storytelling sites and memories. Many of the memories involved forgetfulness with no major damage and often with a valuable lesson. For example, our audiences are very forgiving when we admit that we almost forgot a key point; they may even assume that we did it on purpose. When we have to tell a new story a day earlier than planned, we find that we knew the story better than we realized. Sometime we just have to apologize to our neglected co-teller. Of course, there were also memories of the kinds of things that remind us of why we do what we do. **Tom Tjarks** remembered the heartfelt hug he received from a teacher at a concert, and **Dan Keenan** reported that many of the students in one of his classes told their teacher that what they missed most about not going to school was "not hearing 'Grandpa' Dan's stories." **Karen Green** and **Larry Riesberg** bemoaned the fact that the school closure had cut short their first year of telling, and Larry asked for and received guidance on a new story he is working on. **Julie Toepper** reported that she has been able to tell stories remotely with all of her classes. **Sandy Hopper** shared the benefits of using a world globe to introduce her stories and recommended a poem called "The Great Realisation"¹ **Wynn Montgomery** noted that one benefit of telling stories remotely is that parents can hear them; one e-mailed the teacher to say that she now understood why her child loved her storyteller.

After **Tom Tjarks** thanked all members for their years of service (see list on page 2) and promised to present their ribbons at the next "face-to-face" meeting, Cathy Lichty provided an overview of the Spellbinders Annual Meeting/Celebration and the new Council of Trustees and organizational structure (see articles on page 2), emphasizing that there will be numerous committees to help the "working" Council. Once those committees and their responsibilities are finalized, each will need representatives from local chapters. **Denny** then told a few "groaners" followed by his version of "The Frog Princess" from the Spellbinders website, and **Wynn** debuted his original story "You Don't Know Jack!" in which the giant tells his side of the "Beanstalk" story. **Denny** urged all to have compassion for teachers and school administrators during this difficult period and suggested discussing at a future meeting a teacher's thoughts on historical stories. He also provided links to a radio play project.² **Kay** closed the meeting by thanking all for their efforts this year and urging us to have a good (and safe!) summer.

¹ It can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck7eaoHjnZ9LPODv_S7ZJhA

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eaJe3hDYtl> and <https://facebook.com/projectaudion>

YEARS OF SERVICE

As the school year comes to an end, our tradition is to present service ribbons to members thanking them for their years of service to Spellbinders. Because we cannot gather together, we did not award actual ribbons, but we do acknowledge and thank each of you for your service as follows:

- 14 years: **Jean Barnett** (posthumously)-We will miss Grandma Jean!
- 13 years: **Vivian Hamilton**
- 12 years: **Janis Lievins**
- 11 years: **Tom Tjarks**
- 9 years: **Dan Keenan, Kay Landers, Judy Lloyd, Liz Ryan, Denny Thompson**
- 8 years: **Wynn Montgomery**
- 7 years: **Marc Brown, Ann Cress, Mary Ann Drury, Judy Kundert, Cathy Lichty**
- 5 years: **Linda Brotman-Evans, Vicki Tiedeman**
- 4 years: **Dick Clement, Janny Darby, Marrton Dormish, Clark Mikkelsen, Gail Samuelson**
- 3 years: **Kathy Daniels**
- 2 years: **Sandy Hopper, Lisa McIntire, Ed Winograd**
- 1 year+: **Marylin Bittner, Patty Franklin, Darlene Grandy, Jill Martus**
- <1 year: **Sheila Brush, Karen Green, Ellen Klement, Larry Riesberg, Julie Toepper, Donna Whitaker**



SPELLBINDERS ANNUAL MEETING/CELEBRATION: SUMMARY

On May 8, the leaders of the reorganized Spellbinders presented the first "Zoomed" Annual Celebration, which was attended by 50+ members throughout with some attending the entire meeting and others opting for either the AM or PM session. Seven Broomfield chapter members were present for all or part of the meeting, which included introductions of the new Trustees and Council Officers (see related article on below), three stories (one of which was discussed by a "Coaching Panel"), recognition of long-term (10+ years) Spellbinders members including **Vivian, Janis, and Tom**, and workshops on remote telling and "cut-and-tell" stories. The stories were "A Portrait of Peace" from the Spellbinders website; "Lo-Sun, the Blind Boy" from Norman Pitman's *A Chinese Wonder Book*; and "The Parts of the House Argue" from *Wisdom Tales from Around the World*. The discussion of the Lo-Sun story focused on the sensitive and possibly disturbing theme. Despite a few technical difficulties, the celebration went smoothly and received many positive comments in the "Chat" box. For those who missed it, a video version will be available on the Spellbinders website.

SPELLBINDERS COUNCIL of TRUSTEES: UPDATE

During the May 8 Annual Meeting, **Cathy Lichty** (the new Chair of the Council of Trustees) reported that the Council has five new Trustees elected by chapter delegates. They are:

- Nora Heaton (Larimer County)
- Dave Hooley (Boulder Valley)
- Gene Kozleski (Douglas County)
- Lisa Radford (Littleton)
- Cindi Ryan (Douglas County)

One other elected Trustee has resigned, but these five join four returning Trustees: Kate Fotopoulos (Mesa), Denise Jurgens (At Large), **Cathy Lichty** (formerly of Cherry Creek), and Denise Rucks (now representing Cherry Creek instead of Douglas County). The Council also elected Jim McCauley, the former Acting Chair, as an At-Large Trustee, bringing the total number of Trustees to ten. The Officers for the coming year are **Cathy Lichty** (Chair), Gene Kozleski (Treasurer), and Cindi Ryan (Secretary). Cathy will continue to be the Council's Chapter Coordinator, and Jim McCauley will be the IT & Website Manager. There will be a number of other committees that will take on tasks previously done by staff, and the council hopes to have chapter representatives on each committee. Stay tuned for details.

[STORY CIRCLES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER](#)

In normal times, we take the summer off to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. In case you haven't noticed, these are not normal times. We always ask that you use some of the summer to find and refine new stories for the coming school year. This year, even though (perhaps because) we face uncertainty about what will happen when the new school year starts, it seems more important than ever that we use these months to expand our story repertoire and hone our telling skills. Therefore, we have scheduled a Story Circle for each of the next three months. **May 29** is a fifth Friday, which is the date we usually hold Story Circles, and we have set up a two-hour Zoom Session **starting at 1:00**. Put that date on your calendar NOW and look for an invitation from **Wynn** a few days before the session. We have also scheduled sessions for **June 19** (our usual chapter meeting date) and for **July 31** (another Fifth Friday). These sessions also will run from 1:00 to 3:00. The guidelines for these sessions remain the same:



- Join us and either tell a story or just listen
- If you tell a story, please share one you are working on, not one you already know well
- If you want feedback (and we hope you do), ask for it
- If you offer feedback, start with the positive
- If you receive feedback, remember that we are offering suggestions. It is YOUR story.

In the current environment, these Circles have a new advantage. **You can practice (and receive feedback on) virtual/remote storytelling.**

[MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LISTEN & LEARN](#)

Individual storytellers and storytelling organizations everywhere are struggling to continue to share the power of oral storytelling during these difficult times. As a result, there are more opportunities to hear and learn from many of the best tellers in the world. Some of these opportunities are free; others have a fee, but often we are allowed to "pay what we can afford." Listed below are a few with considerable promise:

- **Friday, May 29 (7:00 PM):** Laura Packer offers "Light in the Darkness," stories for grown-ups. COST: \$10. See <https://laurapacker.com/storytelling-from-home/zoomconcert/>
- The **National Storytelling Network** (<https://storynet.org/>) offers numerous articles on its website and has created a YouTube channel where several of its members have posted stories. This is one of several YouTube channels that you can access through Wynn's channel (see below). NSN also just announced a week-long **Virtual Storytelling Conference and Festival** for **May 31-June 7**. Details are available at <https://storynet.org/virtual-conference-registration/>. It is worth checking this site even if you do not intend to register for anything because it includes links to the websites of many of the storytellers, some of which include videos of stories. To get pricing information, click on "Package Registration" and look under "COVID-19 Relief Pass" for the "pay-what-you-can" link that will enable you to select individual workshops (suggested donation for each is \$20 for NSN members/\$30 for others) or individual performances (@ \$10 each). Pam Faro, a local teller, will participate in the Western Regional Showcase on **Friday, June 5 at 6:00 MDT. NOTE:** The times listed in the program are Central Time, so we should tune in an hour earlier than that here in Colorado.
- The International Storytelling Center (<https://www.storytellingcenter.net/>) has created a "Learning Library" where you can watch various storytellers tell a story and then access a related Story Guide.
- Many Spellbinders are posting their stories on YouTube, and you can access them through Wynn's channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLly7Gkc5oln2RkQbKfFIA>). Find the other sites by clicking on "Channels." The NSN site mentioned above is there as is "Broomfield Spellbinders."

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Best wishes for a very happy birthday and many more years of sharing old stories and making new memories to the following Broomfield Spellbinders:

- 10: **Marc Brown**
- 13: **Judy Lloyd**
- 16: **Tom Tjarks**
- 29: **Cathy Lichty**



TEACHER SURVEYS

Special thanks to **Vicki Tiedeman** for doing all the work necessary to send the annual Teacher Survey to all of "our" teachers. The response rate was gratifying (25 responses within 24 hours and more coming in), and the comments remind us of the value of what we do. Here are just a few:

- *Students are fascinated with hearing the oral language tradition of storytelling! They sit enthralled!*
- *It really helps with building a love of literature, while reinforcing listening comprehension, vocab, and story structure!*
- *Every student is so engaged during storytelling! [Our storyteller] makes stories come alive and imaginations run wild! It's SO fun!*
- *It helps with our listening goals and helps us practice appropriate behaviors and responses.*

TRAINING

It is increasingly unlikely that we will be able to hold the training classes now scheduled for August 6, 10, 13, and 17, but please continue to promote Spellbinders to those people you think would be good additions to our chapter. If we have to reschedule, we will do so ASAP and will invite potential members to join us at chapter meetings—even if we are still meeting via Zoom.

When we tell a story, we take on some of its life and share it in a direct way, looking at our audience, responding to them rather than to a book. When we read a story, by contrast, we rarely improvise.

-Jeanette Ross, *Telling Our Tales*



...and **RACCOON** is almost an anagram for **CORONA**