



Spellbinders
WWW.SPELLBINDERS.ORG
of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for January, 2021

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

On January 15, fifteen Broomfield Spellbinders storytellers gathered via Zoom for our monthly chapter meeting. **Kay Landers** welcomed all and invited self-introductions that could include (1) responses to the Six-Word Challenge announced in the December newsletter; (2) hopes for storytelling in 2021; or (3) suggestions for stories appropriate for Black History Month (February) and/or Women's History Month (March). Most of the responses took the form of six-word summaries of the effect of stories, which were added to the complete list on page 2 of this newsletter. Other members suggested stories of famous women in history (e.g. Molly Pitcher, Rattlesnake Kate, and Sarah Hale, the "mother" of Thanksgiving). Other suggestions included stories featuring strong women (e.g. Robert Munsch's *The Paper Bag Princess* and "The Woman Who Left No Footprints.") **Julie Toepper** is developing Ruth Bader Ginsburg's story to be presented in the first person. Suggestions for Black History Month included Deborah Wiles' *Freedom Summer* and the legend of John Henry. **Denny Thompson** talked about a recent article about Justina Ford, Denver's first licensed African American female physician as a possible story for either month. **Kathy Daniels** presented a list of several books for both of these special months. That list has been sent to all members with another list of sources for stories about strong women.

Cathy Lichty reported that Spellbinders has developed a 2021 calendar featuring art by school children and story suggestions for each month. It was printed in a very limited edition; she has only ten copies, which cost \$13 apiece. The Spellbinders Board of Trustees is considering developing a 2022 calendar with each chapter taking responsibility for one month. The plan would be to print enough copies that the unit cost would be much lower and chapters could sell them as a source of funds. Cathy and your other chapter leaders would welcome your feedback on this idea.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to stories. **Ellen Klement** shared her original, first-person account of a former slave. Her source was www.enslaved.org. **Kay Landers** then shared her delightful version of Rudyard Kipling's "The Elephant Child," and **Wynn Montgomery** closed with the story he will tell for a Longmont Library Spellbinders meeting featuring three variations of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." His version is based on Alan MacDonald's *Beware of the Bears*.



ZOOM MEETINGS on the HORIZON
STORY CIRCLE: Friday, January 29, 2021 at 1 PM
CHAPTER MEETING: Friday, February 19, 2021 at 1 PM
["Engaging Children during Virtual Storytelling"-PAM FARO]



SIX-WORD RESPONSES

Many thanks for the numerous thoughtful and inspiring responses to last month's "challenge" to summarize what storytelling means to you in exactly six words. Including those who offered theirs during the January chapter meeting, 15 members submitted a total of 24 responses. **Dan Keenan** deserves recognition for being the first to respond, and **Julie Toepper** supplied the most with six. All of the responses are listed below (anonymously). Read them all, decide which three you like best, and send an email to wynnmill@comcast.net identifying those three in order of your preference. The member whose six-word response gets the most votes will receive a fabulous prize as well as recognition in the next newsletter. The responses are listed in alphabetical order, so you can vote by simply listing the number. **Please respond by February 1.**

1. Children's smiling faces; my heart's expanding.
2. Connecting with children feeds my soul.
3. Connections...listening skills...history...laughter...compassion.
4. Friendships formed through love of stories.
5. Happy faces in all the squares.
6. I receive affirmation from story listeners.
7. Learning new stories keeps me young.
8. Meaning...purpose...connections...history...and tradition
9. Preserving old stories, creating new ones.
10. Smiles and hugs and eager anticipation.
11. Smiling faces; unexpected questions; classroom joy.
12. So happy I enrolled in training!
13. Spreading joy, one story after another
14. Storytelling challenges me; feeds my soul.
15. Storytelling fills my heart with joy.
16. Storytelling helps me find my voice.
17. Storytelling is chicken soup for people.
18. Storytelling is fun and educational, too.
19. Storytelling to children brings me contentment.
20. "Sunny" is struggling to come out.
21. Teaching about the world through stories
22. Telling stories makes my heart sing.
23. Telling trickster tales, making listeners laugh
24. The students' faces make me smile.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- **Julie Toepper** on February 16
- **Ann Cress** on February 22



MEDICAL UPDATE

Let's hope this does not become a regular feature of our newsletter, but several of our members or their family members are in the middle of, or recovering from, significant health challenges. Here is an update and a request that we keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

- **Kathy Daniels** and **Julie Toepper** and Julie's husband Lance all have recovered from bouts with Covid-19 and are doing well. Lance had the most severe case; he was hospitalized for a while and is now recovering at home.
- **Vivian Hamilton** and her husband Ray are in Texas, where their two adult children are battling cancer and Ray is being treated for melanoma. Vivian has decided that she must take a hiatus from Spellbinders. Let's hope she will be back soon.
- **Judy Lloyd** is recovering slowly from her November surgery. She has been at Manor Care Health Services-Rehab (2800 Palo Parkway, Boulder 80301) since December 1 and is making slow, but steady progress. Thanks to her husband Tom's persistence, she now has an Amazon Echo device that allows her to make a few outgoing calls. Wynn talked with her on January 26, and she sent her best wishes to all of us. Judy still cannot have visitors and would appreciate cards and/or letters at the address above.
- Many of our members have received their first dose of the Covid vaccine, and others have theirs scheduled. Things are looking up a bit., so let's stay positive and keep our senses of humor intact. A friend told me recently that he had set a goal to lose 10 pounds during the quarantine and now must lose only 19 pounds to achieve his goal.

A NEW RESOURCE

Rocky Mountain Storytelling recently posted on its website a compilation of the thoughts of its member storytellers on the power of story. It is called **Story Wisdom: A Gift of Story**. You can access it and download a copy at <https://rmstory.org/story-wisdom>. It includes offerings from **Wynn Montgomery** (page 18); former member Vanita Moore (page 24); Pam Faro (page 26), who will be the presenter at our February meeting; and many other local storytellers. This is not a source for new stories; it is an invitation and opportunity to reflect on why we tell stories.

LISTENING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Saturday, February 20 (6:00-7:00 MST):** "Fire in the Dark" presented by Stories with Spirit. Cooper Braun, Rachel Ann Harding, and special guest Pam Faro bring the warmth of story to the darkness and coldest part of winter. Stories of winter, fire, cold, and warmth will kindle your heart! This is a concert suitable for all ages and is on a "Pay what You Can; Pay What It's Worth" basis. Registrations are required and can be made at: [Fire in the Dark Tickets, Sat, Feb 20, 2021 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#).
- **March 19-21: Women's Storytelling Festival** offers a virtual line-up of fabulous female storytellers including Laura Deal, Boulder Valley Spellbinder and hostess of the semi-monthly Boulder Story Circle. Details are available at www.bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival.



REMEMBER THAT

- 2021 is the Chinese "Year of the Ox" (Know any good bovine stories?)
- February is Black History Month
- February 26 is "National Tell A Fairy Tale Day" (Bet you know one !)

