



### MONTHLY MEETING RECAP

On October 16, twelve members and one guest (Donna Leard from the Longmont chapter) attended the monthly chapter meeting via Zoom. **Kay Landers** welcomed all and invited each to name a favorite holiday story and to report on their experiences with virtual storytelling. The favorite stories included four Halloween stories ("The Ghost with One Black Eye" [named twice], "Big Hairy Toe", and "Purple Gorilla"); four Christmas/ Hannukah stories ("The Magic Dreidel", "The Miracle of the Menorah", "Santa Gets Stuck in the Chimney", and *Jackie Robinson's Christmas*); two winter stories ("Why the Evergreens Never Lose Their Leaves" and Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snowman"); one Thanksgiving story (*Molly's Pilgrim*); and one story about drunk turkeys that can be adapted for either Thanksgiving or Christmas. Only four members reported that they have shared stories with students, and all said that there have been technological challenges that vary from school to school because each is using a different approach. Kay responded to the many requests for help by indicating that members of the Steering Committee would be calling each member and compiling a list of the specific challenges encountered and would try to develop a strategy for addressing the problems. It is clear that the teachers are struggling with these challenges which only add to their already heavy workload, so it is not surprising that many are not yet ready to include us in their plans. We need to continue to be available, but certainly should not push the teachers. We then enjoyed the following stories:

#### NEXT ZOOM MEETING

DATE: Friday, November 16, 2020

TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 PM



- "Skunny Wundy & the Stone Giant"<sup>1</sup> by Guest Teller Donna Leard
- "Old Coyote's Rain Dance" (a Native American tale) by **Dan Keenan**
- "Grammy's Personalized Pumpkin" (an original story by **Sheila Brush**)
- "Little Tuppen"<sup>2</sup> by **Ellen Klement**, who provided her own "twist" for the ending

**Kathy Daniels** talked briefly about setting up a system for accessing the library in Brunner House, but dropped the idea in the absence of any apparent interest. Kay closed the meeting by remembering our disappointment a year ago when a snowstorm led to cancellation of our annual Halloween event at Anythink Library and the fun we had at November's "saturation" telling at Mountain View Elementary.

<sup>1</sup> From *Stories in My Pocket* by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss

<sup>2</sup> Ellen found this story in an old anthology. There is also a picture book by Paul Galdone.

## [A SUCCESSFUL STORY CIRCLE](#)

There was a great turnout for the Story Circle on October 23! Ten members and one guest joined the Zoom meeting, and eight shared stories. The meeting began with good news about authors and publishers who have given Spellbinders storytellers permission to tell stories that are covered by copyrights (see page 3 for details). **Kathy Daniels** kicked off the stories with "The Pumpkin Giant." **Dan Keenan** followed with "Groundhog's Dance" (a Cherokee tale), and **Julie Toepper** shared her version of a spooky story from New York that she found on [www.americanfolklore.net](http://www.americanfolklore.net). On the website, it is called "Fifty-Cent Piece," but Julie took inflation into account and calls her version "Silver Dollar." **Kay Landers** brought us some poetry—"Our Grandma Kissed a Pumpkin" by Darren Sardelli; "The Snaggle Toothed Beast" by Shel Silverstein; and two of the really creepy Witches' Songs from *Macbeth*. **Cathy Lichty** shared Isaac Bashevis Singer's "Zlateh the Goat," and **Donna Leard** (our guest from Longmont) offered her version of "Wait til Whalem-Balem Comes" (also from *Stories in My Pocket*). **Denny Thompson** told a true (and truly weird) story ("Denver's Spiderman") and asked for and received suggestions on how to make it better. **Wynn** told his version of "Skatt, the Magic Cat" to test whether his props work virtually. **Tom Tjarks, Lisa McIntyre, and Marylin Bittner** chose not to share a story, but were helpful listeners. This session clearly demonstrated that there is no better way to improve as virtual storytellers than to practice with other storytellers who can offer useful feedback. Please plan to join us at the next Story Circle, which is scheduled for **Friday, December 4** at 2:00. Since there will not be a December chapter meeting, this will be our last get-together in 2020. We chose early December to avoid conflicts with Hanukkah and Christmas; please mark your calendars now.

## [CHANGES ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE](#)

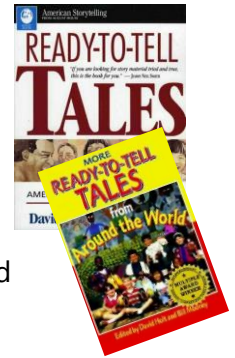
Most of the time, our Steering Committee works behind the scenes, focusing on those often mundane tasks such as planning monthly chapter meetings (choosing programs and recruiting presenters and refreshment providers), organizing Story Circles, overseeing the budget, gathering the data needed to develop reports required by our umbrella agency/sponsor (BCAH) and Spellbinders "Headquarters," marketing our program, maintaining the membership roster, organizing training for new volunteers, etc. For the past year or so, this group has included our Chapter Leader (**Kay Landers**), our Librarian (**Kathy Daniels**), our Data Manager (**Vicki Tiedeman**), our Newsletter Editor (**Wynn Montgomery**), and two "at large" members (**Janis Lievens**, and **Tom Tjarks**). Vicki has just announced that she needs to step away from the committee although she has agreed to continue to maintain the data sheet. We thank her for her past contributions and for her willingness to keep our data current and to carry on as one of our best storytellers. We are also happy to welcome **Denny Thompson** back to the Steering Committee along with three new at-large members (**Sheila Brush, Ellen Klement, and Cathy Lichty**). Please thank all of these dedicated volunteers for what they do to support the chapter and share with them any ideas or concerns that you have. The committee meets monthly (via Zoom for the foreseeable future). If you would like to see the group in action, let Wynn know and he will share the link.

**The plain fact is that the planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, [storytellers](#), and lovers of every kind. It needs people who live well in their places.** --David W. Orr (Oberlin College)

Thanks to **Sheila Brush** for sharing the above quote

## GOOD NEWS: PERMISSIONS TO TELL !!!

**Cathy Lichty**, in her role as Chair of the Spellbinders Council of Trustees, has been busy contacting authors and publishers seeking permission for us to tell stories covered by copyright. The response has been mostly positive. So far, **Margaret Read MacDonald** and **Pleasant DeSpain** have said that we may tell their stories. They ask only that we cite the source (author and story title, and the book it came from). DeSpain also asks that we name his publisher, usually August House. As Dr. MacDonald notes, this will allow (and encourage) the children to "go to the library and find the books these stories came from." **August House** has granted permission to tell and record any of the stories in **Ready-to-Tell Tales** and **More Ready-to-Tell Tales**. Again, we are required to cite the source and, of course, are not to charge a fee or derive any income.



Cathy continues to contact story sources and asks that we advise her if there are particular authors whose permission we want. She asks that we let her make the contacts on behalf of the "parent" organization so that the permissions clearly apply to all Spellbinders affiliates. Unfortunately, Robert Munsch, who is one of the most popular authors for many Spellbinders, asked that we refer the request to his publisher. Stay tuned for the results.



OUR ONLY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY BELONGS TO KAREN GREEN—ON THE 30<sup>th</sup>! HERE'S HOPING IT IS FILLED WITH FUN, FRIENDS, & FAMILY AND THAT HER STORY HAS MANY MORE HAPPY CHAPTERS!

## MORE GOOD NEWS: A NEW MEMBER

**Donna Leard**, who was our Guest Teller at the October 16 Chapter Meeting and participated in the Story Circle, has decided to become a Broomfield Spellbinder. She found us to be "fun and welcoming," and she appreciated our "enthusiasm and willingness to give feedback and suggestions." Like several other members she will belong to more than one chapter, retaining her Longmont Library membership. Donna lives in Erie and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm of her own.

## OPPORTUNITIES to LISTEN & LEARN-VIRTUALLY, OF COURSE

**October 30-November 1: National Storytelling Network's Halloween Gala:** This three-day event offers lots of opportunities to hear spooky stories for kids and for adults. There is a suggested donation for each event and for a weekend pass, but all events are "pay-what-you can." Nobody will be turned away. For details and to register, go to <https://storynet.org/nsnevents/gala/>

**Thursday, November 12 (7:00 PM):** Laura Deal presents "*Folk Tales, Slams, and Wild Imaginings: How Stories Move Us Toward Healing.*" Oral storytelling is uniquely human and essential to our individual and collective mental health. Laura will tell some of the stories that have helped her in these physically isolated times and offer suggestions for using storytelling to navigate this strange new world. Contact [info@inmi.us](mailto:info@inmi.us) for information on registering.

**November 13-15: NORTHEAST STORYTELLING (NEST)** presents "Nest Fest"—a weekend of joy, love, heartbreak, sorrow, intrigue, inspiration, and all of the other emotions that stories bring. Join in to experience the power of storytelling. There will be performances for adults and children, panel discussions, story swaps, and workshops. There is a suggested donation for each event or for the entire weekend. For details, please go to <https://www.nestorytelling.org/>.