



of Broomfield, Colorado News for NOVEMBER, 2021

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY-Julie Toepper & Wynn Montgomery

Thirteen Broomfield Spellbinders and one guest joined together at the Brunner Farmhouse on November 19, 2021, for our monthly meeting. **Judy Lloyd**, along with her husband Tom, surprised the group with her welcomed presence after a long absence due to illness. Our masks and enthusiastic simultaneous conversations sometimes made hearing difficult, but it was wonderful being together.

Introductions were made by explaining, *if you were a car, what kind would you be and why*. As expected, answers were both thoughtful and amusing. A number of vintage cars were named, including a 1920 Duesenberg, two 1964 Volkswagen Beetles, a Volkswagen Karmann Ghia, a 1965 Ford Falcon convertible, a late 1950's Chevy Bel Aire, and an old jalopy with lots of replacement parts. Several members went practical, naming a Cooper Mini Countryman station wagon, a dependable SUV, a crew cab pick-up truck, a "macho" Humvee, and a Subaru Crosstrek. Of course, there were a few fanciful picks including the flying cars from *Flubber* and *Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*.

NEXT MEETING

**JANUARY 21, 2022
12:45 PM
at
BRUNNER FARMHOUSE**

As part of her steering committee update, **Kay Landers** reminded members that BCAH is sponsoring a fundraiser on December 5, where pictures can be taken with Santa for a \$35 donation. Since there will be no official Spellbinders meeting in December, **Cathy Lichty** proposed a social gathering with a cookie exchange, instead. (See page 3 for details). **Sandy Hopper** handed out a current membership list and asked those present to confirm all the information is correct. **Sheila Brush** (who was unable to attend this meeting) is coordinating updating the list of members and potential subs. All trainees are fully certified! **Wynn Montgomery** presented Spellbinder certificates and nametags to **Nancy Bradfield** and **Jan Osburn**, who were present at the meeting. Most of the new graduates either are, or soon will be, telling stories in schools.

Kathy Daniels said she would be opening the Broomfield Spellbinders Library (located in the basement of Brunner Farmhouse) on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:00am to 12:00pm (when Kathy plans to work on organizing the books) and the third Friday of the month (before and after the monthly meetings) from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Anyone who wishes to utilize the library, please confirm the date and time with **Kathy** just in case there is an unexpected conflict with her schedule. Kathy also showed a collection of puppets donated by Leonard Munez. They will be available to borrow from the library.

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MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY—continued from page 1

Denny Thompson mentioned several entertainment opportunities available over the next few weeks. The Broomfield Community Players are presenting *A Gift to Remember* on November 26, 27, 28 in the Broomfield Auditorium. **Janis Lievens** noted that BCAH is seeking volunteer ushers, who would be able to see this play for free.

With the business portion of the meeting complete, it was time for some stories. **Denny** dusted off an old German Christmas story, *Silver Pinecones*, from the Margaret Read McDonald collection, *Celebrate the World*. He was followed by one of our new tellers, **Jan Osburn**, and her wonderful rendition of *Freedom Bird*, a musical tale from Thailand found in the book, *Ready-to-Tell Tales*.

After a short refreshment break, **Kathy Daniels** led a discussion on *Fillers: Successful and Less Successful*. She focused on four major categories (short stories, riddles/puzzlers, jokes, and songs/poems/tongue twisters) and provided a large selection of books from our library related to each topic. She invited members to share examples of successful and unsuccessful uses of each. The highlights of these examples included:

- Every teller should have a few short stories in reserve. Margaret Read MacDonald's *Three-Minute Stories* and *Five-Minute Stories* are excellent resources. Obviously, a 3-minute story for one teller may become a 5-minute story for another teller (and vice versa), but it is important not to try to make a longer, more complex story a shorter one by eliminating details or by speaking faster than normal. Fables by Aesop and Arnold Lobel also are short and effective.
- Kids love riddles and puzzlers, but there is a "danger" that they will not think a session is complete without a riddle. One member has started saving the riddles for the end of the session, using them only if there is enough time and emphasizing that he is a "storyteller, not a riddle-teller." Several members talked about stories that are "riddle tales" (e.g., George Shannon has several books called *Stories to Solve*).
- Jokes are really one type of short story, and cartoons often can be converted into such a story.
- Songs, poems, and tongue twisters are popular with young listeners, but (unlike stories) must be memorized. There are many on the internet, and several members suggested Shel Silverstein as an excellent source.

Kathy also shared some handouts from previous meetings on tongue twisters and limericks and reminded us that the internet is also a great source for riddles and jokes.

LISTENING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Thursday, December 9** (6:00-8:00 PM MST): "Food, Folx, and Fun Storytelling Show" presented by Better Said Than Done Storytellers. The show features eleven storytellers including our friend Laura Deal. You can get more information and purchase a "ticket" for this virtual show at:
<https://www.betersaidthandone.com/2021/11/08/food-folx-and-fun/>
- **Sunday, December 12** (1:00-2:30 PM): *The Advent Radio Players* (directed by **Denny Thompson**) will be re-enacting two old-time radio programs--*Fibber Paints a Christmas Tree White* (a Fibber McGee and Molly comedy) and *The Big Little Jesus* (a Dragnet drama). You can attend at the Advent Lutheran Church, 7979 Meade Street, Westminster, Co or watch it on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/adventwestminsterco>

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Ed Winograd (12/11)
Gail Erwin (12/25)**



HOLIDAY COOKIE SWAP: A NEW TRADITION??

Historically, Broomfield Spellbinders has not had a membership meeting in December, but **Cathy Lichty** suggested and we agreed at the November meeting to have a special meeting this year. On **Friday, December 10**, everyone is invited to gather at Brunner Farm House at **1:00** to swap cookies and share memories of our family holiday traditions. Bring a dozen or so of your favorite holiday cookies and be prepared to share a few childhood (or later) memories of ways that your family made (or makes) this a special season. Please make sure that your cookies are not "spiked" (i.e., are alcohol-free) and indicate whether they contain gluten and/or nuts. If possible, please bring the recipe for your cookies. This should be a fun afternoon. At the very least, you will go home with cookies you did not make. Who knows, we might be starting a new tradition for our organization.

UPDATE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Your Steering Committee met on November 19 just before the membership meeting and discussed ways to strengthen our organization. Here are the highlights:

- Spellbinders National: **Cathy Lichty** reported that a Memorial Fund in honor of Spellbinders Founder Germaine Dietsch has been created. Details are on the Spellbinders website. Succession planning is underway as the group will be losing some board members and officers in the next year. The annual meeting will be held on April 22 at the Heritage Eagle Bend Clubhouse in Aurora; it will also be available via Zoom. The Legendary Ladies are booked for entertainment and will also lead two workshops.
- BCAH: **Kay Landers** encouraged support of the "Holiday Photo with Santa" event. We voted to fund a photo opportunity for a needy family (at a cost of \$35)
- School Placements: **Denny** suggested contacting those schools where we told pre-Covid but are not telling at now. We will compare the two lists and Janis will make appropriate contacts.
- Program Committee: **Ellen** was out-of-town. **Kathy** reported that future programs for our monthly membership meetings will be:
 - January 21: Problem-Solving in the Classroom (Facilitator: **Ellen**)
 - February 18: Use of Musical Instruments/Folk Songs (**Ellen & Vicki Tiedeman**)
 - March 18: Historical Stories (**Denny**)
 - April 15: Voices & Warm-Up Exercises (Susan Marie Frontczek)
 - May 20: End-of-Year Celebration
- Membership: **Sheila Brush** is updating the membership roster. It will be distributed to all members when completed.

A storyteller...is an artist, one link in a long chain of tellers that goes back before the beginnings of recorded history. A storyteller sees stories as living things, constantly growing and changing. Storytellers always add something of themselves to the stories they tell. That is their art.

-Eric Kimmel. Author and Storyteller

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

