



Broomfield, Colorado News for OCTOBER, 2021

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

On October 15, fourteen Broomfield Spellbinders volunteers gathered at Brunner Farmhouse for our monthly meeting. **Ellen Klement** welcomed all and reported that members of the Steering Committee would be leading these meetings to relieve **Kay Landers** while she cares for her injured husband. The opening question ("What was your favorite fairy tale or folktale when you were a child?") produced few duplicate answers with only Snow White and Cinderella being mentioned more than once (twice each). The other answers ranged from the well-known (Rumpelstiltskin, Mary Poppins, the Three Bears, Puff the Magic Dragon, The Emperor's New Coat, Brer Rabbit, Uncle Wiggily, and Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes) to the less familiar (*There Are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden* and *Five Little Firemen: A Golden Book*). One movie (*Bambi*) was remembered fondly.

Janis Lievens reported that she has contacted nine schools and delivered Fact Sheets and discussed the services we offer. She will be following up. **Vicki Tiedeman** reminded us that she needs to know who is telling where. She has developed the 2021-22 spreadsheet that we should use to report our activities. **Sheila Brush** distributed and collected 3x5 cards on which we were asked to provide details on our current telling activities. She has also updated the membership list, which will be distributed as soon as we are sure that it is accurate. (See page 2 for a related request.) Sheila also reported that **Kathy Daniels** is willing to arrange to meet other members who need access to the Spellbinders library at Brunner Farmhouse. Contact her if you want to take advantage of this opportunity. **Sandy Hopper** reported that she had found a new source for stories that she highly recommends--<https://www.storyberries.com>. It contains lots of stories organized by age level, length, and topics. **Wynn Montgomery** asked everyone to check out the updated Spellbinders website (<https://spellbinders.org>) and let him know of any problem areas.

NEXT MEETING
NOVEMBER 19
12:45 PM
at
BRUNNER FARMHOUSE



We then heard stories from two members. **Donna Leard** shared a story called "The Story Stone" that she is developing from the bones of a story she heard. **Vicki Tiedeman** provided an animated version of "Jack(ie) and the Haunted House" reimagined with a female protagonist.

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Monthly Meeting Summary (continued from page 1)

Following a refreshment break, **Cathy Lichty** offered a thought-provoking program on "Changing Up Fairy Tales, Fables and Folk Tales." Cathy began by explaining that she found the "Most Important Thing" (MIT) in many classic tales to be inappropriate for today's young listeners. She used Aesop's "Ant & Grasshopper" as an example and shared her revised version, which ends with the ant's family giving the grasshopper a meal in exchange for his sharing his musical talents and encouraging him to offer those talents throughout the community. Cathy encouraged all of us to be more aware of current sensibilities. The follow-up discussion acknowledged the power of Cathy's new version, with some members suggesting that it might be as effective to share both versions with a class, thus ensuring that they knew both the "classic" tale and the revision and could compare the MITs. This discussion led several tellers to discuss the possibility that the common ending for "The Ghost with One Black Eye" is too violent and might encourage bullying. That discussion ended without a resolution other than that each of us would continue to use an ending that makes us comfortable. Perhaps the topic merits further discussion in a future program; it definitely offered food for thought.

TRAINING UPDATE

Three of the four members of our August training class have completed their "shadowing" process and are now fully certified as Spellbinders Storytellers. **Jan Osburn** set a new speed record by completing that step the day after the final training class. She is already co-telling virtually for Boulder Valley Spellbinders and will be telling for us as soon as we identify a suitable site. **Debby Horton** and **Leah Nelson** are also ready to tell as are many of our experienced storytellers. **Nancy Bradfield** has observed two tellers and is scheduled to tell with Wynn on November 5.

LISTENING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Friday & Saturday, November 5 & 6:** Stone Soup Storytelling Festival is the official storytelling festival of South Carolina, but you can "attend" virtually. There are two evening sessions (5:00-7:00 MST) which are offered on a "what it's worth" basis with a suggested donation of \$10 for each event—"Fun Friday" and/or "Scary Saturday." Both feature five excellent tellers, one of whom is Colorado's own Cooper Braun. You can get details and register at <https://stonesoup.org>. Please be sure to include the "sc" before ".org"
- Listen to some of the late Kathryn Tucker Windham's ghost stories from the International Storytelling Center's Story Vault. Go to <https://www.storytellingcenter.net> and choose "Stories." Scroll down and you will find links to audios of several noted tellers, including Kathryn. Listen to as many of those tellers as your time and interest allows. Kathryn perhaps epitomizes Southern storytelling. You may not want to tell her stories, but you should enjoy hearing them.

TELLING UPDATE: PLEASE HELP!

A quick survey of attendees at the October 15 meeting indicated that seven of our members are now telling regularly---to 25 classes in 15 schools and three senior facilities. Most of this activity is being done virtually, but a few of us are telling in-person either outside (and unmasked) or in the classroom wearing a mask. Sheila Brush is currently collecting this information, so if you are now telling or have a specific schedule to start in the future, please e-mail her at shebrush@yahoo.com and give her the school, grades, teacher contact info, and the schedule. You no longer have to do this every month; give us the schedule and then notify us only if one of these sessions is missed and not rescheduled. Thank you for your help. **If you are not telling stories either virtually or in person and have not attended meetings, please let Sheila know if you want to remain on our "active" list.**



TO KAREN GREEN on NOVEMBER 30th.

OCTOBER STORY CIRCLE by Julie Toepper

While costumes were not required to join in the fun at the October 29 Story Circle, masks were most appreciated. Eleven Broomfield Spellbinders and one guest from the Littleton group (**Lisa Radford**, who is on the National Spellbinders Council) met at **Cathy Lichty's** house to listen, share stories, and provide feedback.

Sandy Hopper kicked things off with her original story, *Kate's Mountain Hotel*. After a brief introduction about the origins of this true story from Greenbriar, Virginia, Sandy transformed brilliantly into *Kate Carpenter*, performing a first-person account of Kate's historic and fascinating life.

On a lighter note, **Marc Brown** encouraged audience participation (CLAP, CLAP-CLAP) and a great deal of laughter, as he sang an Irish shanty titled, *The Thing*. In keeping with this funny/creepy theme, **Kay Landers** shared *The Hearse Song*, a poem about burial and decomposition (...*the worms crawl in, the worms crawl out...*) that she put together at the request of her high-school-aged granddaughters. This prompted **Denny Thompson** to get in a groaner about why you never see a dead penguin...because penguins bury their dead in the ice and sing, "*Fre-eeze a Jolly Good Fellow!*"

Following a short refreshment break, **Donna Leard** shared a story she likes to tell to First Graders called, *Buddy the Dog*, a fun spin on Aesop's tale, *The Dog and His Reflection*. Her story featured audience participation by using a thumbs up signal to prompt a shout of: "*Top Dog!*" Honoring Halloween and her grandfather, **Ellen Klement**, told the tale of strange, creepy, mumbled voices in the night whispering "*It floats...*" After numerous trips to the creepy woods and hearing the same thing, night after night, the heroine of the story finally asks, "*What floats?*" The answer, "*Ivory soap*" of course!

After a brief discussion on how to quickly revise scary (and funny-scary) stories to accommodate various ages and fears, those who told and those who came primarily to listen, get ideas, and provide feedback (**Karen Green, Kathy Daniels, Janny Darby, Julie Toepper, and Lisa Radford**) heard from one more teller, the hostess herself. Cathy shared a story she is working on from the book, *Strange Thing Sometimes Still Happen: Fairytales from Around the World*, edited by Angela Carter, and titled *The Crafty Woman*. The story is from Lithuania, centering on a couple so sweet and loving "*they make my teeth ache*" and a trickster's attempt to cause trouble between them (with the aid of a not-so-sweet old woman).

Story Circles are a wonderful way to hear new stories, try out stories in progress, and just enjoy the camaraderie of fellow tellers. Everyone is always welcome, with or without a story.

IN MEMORIAM: GERMAIN DIETSCH

Germain Dietsch, the founder of Spellbinders, passed away peacefully in Denver on October 14. She was 89 years old. There will be a celebration of her life and legacy, but details are not final. Her family says that her obituary will request that donations offered in her name go to Spellbinders National to support the growth of licensed Spellbinder storytelling groups. A full obituary and details regarding donations are on the Spellbinders website (<https://spellbinders.org>). Only a few of us met her personally, but all of us and our listeners are beneficiaries of her dream.

