

NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 15  
12:45 PM

BRUNNER  
FARMHOUSE

STORY CIRCLE

OCTOBER 29  
1:00 PM

CATHY LICHTY'S  
HOME



*Broomfield, Colorado*  
*News for SEPTEMBER, 2021*

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY-Julie Toepper

Ten Spellbinders met on September 17 at the Brunner Farmhouse. Introductions were based on the question, "How I got my name?" **Kay Landers** told of an incident in Mexico where she was asked her name by a young boy. She answered, "Kay" to which he kept repeating the question. After a few rounds of this, she realized he thought she was saying "que" which means "what?" in Spanish! **Denny Thompson's** parents told him Dennis the Menace was probably named after him and not the other way around. **Janis Lievens** frequently told people she was named after Janis Joplin, just so they would spell her name correctly. **Sheila Brush** received her moniker when the original Irish name her mother wanted to give her was determined too hard to spell. **Sandy Hopper** took on her Spellbinder persona, Nana Marie, because her granddaughter decided Nana must be Sandy's first name and Marie her middle name (because wasn't everyone's middle name Marie?). **Janny Darby** is known by many names. She was officially named Catharine Janice, but has been called Janet, Cathy, Jan, and Janny, depending on who was asked. **Karen Greene** had no idea why she was named Karen but was happy to find out her name meant *Genuine*. **Ellen Klement** goes by Ellen Louise, a middle name she shared with her maternal grandmother. **Kathy Daniels** is Kathryn Lois, the unique spelling courtesy of a stranger in the hospital bed next to her mother when Kathy was born. **Julie Toepper** is officially Julie Ann and, although her parents said they just liked the name, she always pretended she was named after Julie Andrews.

Introductions complete, **Kathy Daniels** proceeded with the library report. She is trying to figure out a way to get in the library more often. Kathy would like to set dates and times so members can browse the books and check them out more easily. Kay is checking to see if she can get the door code for Kathy. Kathy also had some story CD's (but no player) that Janis is going to review and summarize for inclusion in the library. [NOTE: Kathy has the door code and will soon provide a schedule.]

Everyone received a sample of a flyer that **Janis** has been handing out to local schools, promoting Spellbinder storytelling. She encouraged others to use the flyers in their area schools. Many districts are still taking a "wait and see approach" for visitors, so it is good to keep the teacher connections alive. **Karen Greene** kicked off the storytelling with her rendition of *The Love of a Grandparent*, about a little boy and his hero of a grandmother, from *A Cup of Comfort for Grandparents* by Colleen Sell. **Sheila Brush** offered her Native American Cinderella story which she called, *Little Scarface*, adapted from the story *Little Burnt Face* from *Ready to Tell Tales*, edited by David Holt and Bill Mooney.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Monthly Meeting Summary (continued from page 1)

After snacks provided by Karen and Sheila, **Kathy Daniels** gave a short program on the benefits of using poetry as part of your repertoire. She gave examples of long and short poems, brought a large selection of poetry books available in the Broomfield Spellbinders library for members to peruse and handed out some sheets of limericks and tongue twisters.

**Kay Landers** closed out the meeting with one more story, the humorous tale, *Cabin Fever*, about a man, a fly, and their unusual friendship from the book *Colorado Legends and Lore* by Stephanie Waters. Kay also reminded us of the Storytelling Camp on October 1-3 in Hillside, CO and announced that this will be her last year as chair of Broomfield Spellbinders. Since that meeting, we have learned that Kay's husband Gary has suffered a broken back and needs her attention. The Steering Committee is working on a plan to quickly relieve Kay of her leadership responsibilities. She will, of course, remain an important member of our group.

Our next meeting will be **October 15** at the Brunner Farmhouse, where **Cathy Lichty** will present a session called "Changing Up Fairy Tales." There will also be a **Story Circle** on October 29. at Cathy's home in Thornton.

## WHAT'S THE HURRY?

A recent exchange on the National Storytelling Network's listserv offered an interesting insight into the ways we tell our stories. Eric Miller, Co-Founder of the World Storytelling Institute in Chennai, India, shared the following observations after leading a storytelling workshop:

*Sometimes storytellers tell rapidly and at a steady pace due to fear that if they...take pauses, they might lose their "train of thought" and/or their listeners might "walk away." But this is an illusion. If one is telling well --visualizing the images, feeling the emotions, and [is] illuminated by one's sense of the meaning of a story -- pauses could draw listeners further into the telling. Of course, when telling a story, it is good to know the story inside out and to be clear regarding one's sense of the meaning of a story. However, it is also good to keep in mind [that] storytelling is not just for teaching (with the teller being goal- and results-oriented). Storytelling is also for activating listeners' imaginations (encouraging listeners to wonder and wander and to visualize and to think for themselves).*

Carol McCormick (Storyteller/Trainer/Public Speaker at SpiritMind Institute in Minneapolis) agreed and added the following scientific explanation:

*If the teller is in a relaxed state and speaking slower and taking pauses, the listeners can more easily be relaxed and go into slower alpha brain waves (imaging, accessing the senses), and maybe even slower into delta brain waves (subconscious). If the teller speaks rapidly, the listener is apt to stay in beta brain waves (faster, logical, judgmental).*

Perhaps a bit too technical, but certainly good advice. Carol's website ([www.carolmccormick.net](http://www.carolmccormick.net)) has a list of links to a number of storytelling websites, several of which were new to me. Check it out.

**Language and creativity need to be provoked and practiced. Storytelling is as vital as air.**

**-Carol McCormick, Storyteller**

## LISTENING OPPORTUNITIES

- **OCTOBER 22-23: National Storytelling Network** presents “HAUNTED Legends and Lore,” a series of events focusing on spooky stories, including a session on how to craft and tell them. Check the NSN website (<https://storynet.org>) for details and prices.
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23: Rocky Mountain Storytelling** is hosting **A Tiny Story Fest!** The current plan is to be in-person at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, but RMS is Covid-aware, so the event might have to go virtual. It will offer a mini-concert of four stellar Rocky Mountain Storytellers (Cooper Braun, Laura Deal, **Wynn Montgomery**, and Kathy Santopietro Weddel)<sup>1</sup> and a mini-concert (not a slam) of four successful slam tellers. There will also be a guided group dive into what YOU want to know about storytelling and a fun slam (theme: First Times) where you can cheer other folks on or put your name in the hat with your choice of a personal story or a traditional tale. The daytime activities will be from 1:00 through 5:15, and the evening slam will follow from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. **COST:** \$10 for everything. See <https://rmstory.org/events/> for details and updates.



## AN AMAZING JOURNEY & TWO VALUABLE RESOURCES

Story Crossroads (<https://storycrossroads.org>) recently offered a video presentation called “Following Folktales Around the World.” It featured Zalka Csegne, a Hungarian storyteller, who spent five years traveling the world and reading collections of folktales in more than 200 countries. In only 12 of those countries was she unable to find books containing local folktales, and she reports that she read 10,284 folktales. The presentation was not as informative as I had hoped, even though Margaret Read MacDonald was the interviewer. Ms. Csegne spent most of the time discussing logistics and citing numbers. She did not discuss specific tales or interesting commonalities. However, she has created a blog that offers a more detailed report on each country as well as some “themed” blogs. There are few complete stories, but many story names and thumbnail plot descriptions and information on the specific books she read. This blog—The Multi-Colored Diary (<http://multicolorediary.blogspot.com/>)--is worth a visit. Check it out. The other resource is Story Crossroads itself. Its website (see above) offers regular programs that sound interesting, and they offer a FREE on-line self-led eight-hour course in “Storytelling Basics.” They offer many free resources and even more for an annual membership fee.



The greatest tales, well told, awaken the fears and longings of the listeners. Each man hears a different story. Each is touched by it according to his inner self. The words go to the ear, but the true message travels straight to the spirit.

– Juliet Marillier, *Son of the Shadows*

<sup>1</sup> Three of the four storytellers represent three Spellbinders local groups.