



of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for OCTOBER, 2024

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On September 20, thirteen Broomfield Spellbinders and two guests from Boulder Valley Spellbinders (Laura Deal and Diana King) gathered at Brunner Farmhouse for our monthly meeting. Diana reported that she has moved to Anthem Ranch and will be affiliating with our group. **Tiffany Painter** was away, so **Wynn Montgomery** opened the meeting and asked that attendees introduce themselves with a one sentence answer to “Who are you and what is (or was) your favorite pet?” The majority of people picked a dog (or dogs) and most others named cats. The most interesting pet may have been Diana’s pet rat Harry (yes an actual rat!) There were several extremely long sentences despite (perhaps to spite) Wynn’s explanation that he had chosen the one-sentence approach in an effort to avoid a repeat of last April’s meeting when anecdotes about “first cars” took so much time that the program had to be shortened. **Kay Landers** then shared a fun story--“How the Elephant Got His Trunk” from Rudyard Kipling’s *Just So Stories*.

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Announcements began with details about the joint meeting with Boulder Valley Spellbinders on October 3 for a presentation by Susan Marie Frontczak (see page 2 for a summary of that meeting). Wynn reported that **Kathy Daniels** has experienced major medical issues and will no longer be able to be our Librarian. We also learned that **Jan Osburn**’s father has passed away. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts. Two Halloween storytelling opportunities were announced; there were no volunteers as one had been poorly attended in the past and the other was to pre-school children. Wynn reported that BCAH needs volunteers at three events. He also said that the Spellbinders 2025 Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 26th. Though this date is not final, you may want to go ahead and put it on your calendar. Boulder Valley Spellbinders will present “Stories in the Dark” (true stories) on October 24th at 7:00 at the Louisville History Museum at 7:00. **Diana King** discussed insurance coverage being provided by National for all Spellbinders storytellers. **Cathy Lichty** recommended that we all get our own insurance as well. **Janny Darby** then shared “Little Orphan Annie”-- a poem by James Whitcomb Riley—and we took a break for socializing and snacks provided by **Karen Green** and **Kay Landers**, including Kay’s delicious pumpkin bread. [\[continued on page 2\]](#)

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	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u> FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 @12:45 PM BRUNNER FARM HOUSE PROGRAM: “Sharing Personal Stories” See page 2 for details.</p>	
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[SEPTEMBER MEETING \[continued from previous page\]](#)

When the meeting resumed, Wynn reported that we are losing two valued members. **Vanita Moore** has moved to New Orleans, and **Janny Darby** is moving to New Jersey. Wynn then continued the discussion of "Crafting Personal Stories" that began last April. He began by thanking **Scott Carrico** for pointing out in April that the reflections on first cars were anecdotes, which are a form of stories. That observation led Wynn on a Google-search where he found multiple discussions of "anecdote vs. story." He concluded that, although anecdotes have many of the elements of a story, they are typically told spontaneously while stories are more carefully crafted—"a deep dive versus a quick dip." He encouraged everyone to turn some of their anecdotes into personal stories, noting that "If you're telling a true story, you're gonna have a great connection with your listeners that you might not otherwise have." The October meeting will provide an opportunity to share personal stories in small groups. Please develop a personal story to share. **NOTE: Please come to the October meeting even if you have not prepared a personal story. You can offer feedback to those who do share a story—and perhaps get ideas for your own story.**

[SUSAN MARIE FRONTCZAK – JOINING IN](#)

On Thursday, October 3, three Broomfield Spellbinders (**Julie Toepper, Sandy Hopper, and Carla Randall**) joined 27 members of the Boulder Valley Spellbinders, and the St Vrain Valley Storytellers to enjoy a wonderful workshop led by Susan Marie Frontczak, a professional storyteller based in Boulder. (**Note: Sherry Potter, Jan Osburn, and Diana King**, who belong to both BVS and Broomfield Spellbinders also attended. The title of the workshop was "Joining In" with Susan Marie telling a variety of complete and partial stories that demonstrated various way of getting your audience to participate. She used "Three Perfect Peaches" by Cynthia DeFelice and Mary DeMarsh to demonstrate such techniques with "Fill in the Blank" stories with a repeating phrase or event, and stories with a repeating gesture or sound. Susan Marie showed how to get audience participation by doing something as simple as asking questions or singing familiar or repetitive songs. She ended with a demonstration of how chain stories like "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything" lend themselves to participation by recruiting volunteers to be part of the story. (The picture is of the volunteers including Julie Toepper and Jan Osburn) who "became" the scarecrow at the end of the story.) Anyone who has a chance to see Susan Marie perform or present a workshop will not be disappointed. Opportunities to see a performance can be found on her website (www.storiesmith.org). **(by Julie Toepper)**



[HELP WANTED](#)

LIBRARY: We need someone to replace Kathy as Librarian! We have received many new books that need to be catalogued, and we need to decide whether to recycle some of the older books as we are almost out of shelf space.

CO-TELLERS: Kathy Daniels was co-telling with **Jim Mariner** at Nativity Faith and Reason School (4th and 5th grades) and Jim might need someone else to tell with him there. Jim also reported one remaining opening on October 31st at Sunrise Senior Living with Jim, Tiffany, and Wynn. **Marc Brown** volunteered. **Denny Thompson** needs someone to tell with him at Meridian Elementary (3rd graders) on October 30 from 12:00-1:00.

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

