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of

Broomfield, Colorado

News for OCTOBER, 2025

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On September 19, eighteen (18) Broomfield Spellbinders gathered at Brunner House for our monthly meeting. We were joined by two guests—Mary Ann Hard, who learned about us from **Sheila Brush**'s recent presentation at the Broomfield Rotary Club, and John Kolber, an Anthem Ranch resident invited by **Sandy Hopper**. Both guests expressed interest in joining our group, and John enrolled in training by Boulder Valley Spellbinders, which he will have completed by our October meeting.

In Sheila's absence (vacationing on the West Coast), **Janis Lievens** opened the meeting with the question "What is one thing on your bucket list that you hope to accomplish soon?" Lots of traveling was mentioned. One person simply wants to fly a kite; another wants to climb a mountain. One of our older members has begun developing a "reverse bucket list"—thinking back on all the things already accomplished. Janis reported that two organizations (BCAH and a senior center) want tellers for Halloween events. She circulated sign-up sheets, and both requests will be honored. **Jim Mariner** reported that the event at Sunrise Senior Center October 30th has enough tellers. Janis reported the loss of several sites where we have been telling for years. She also noted the need for volunteers to join Jan Osburn and Cathy Lichty on our Program Committee and someone to be our Membership person.

Janet Rope then shared "The Storyteller and the Samurai"-- a story from *Elder Tales* by Dan Keating. After wonderful snacks provided by **Vicki Tiedeman** and Janet, Vicki shared "The Hedley Kow"—a story from Irish folklore—and then offered an introduction to using our Data Spreadsheet (2025-2026 BROOMFIELD SPELLBINDERS STATS) that she has developed and maintains so that we can report our activities. It is IMPORTANT that we have this data, and Vicki's system makes it as easy as possible. Please become familiar with this spreadsheet and use it to record your storytelling activities.

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025 (12:45-3:00)

TOPIC: Engaging Our Audiences (Presentation & Discussion)

Please bring suggestions for good Thanksgiving stories.

THERE WILL BE NO STORY CIRCLE on OCTOBER 31.

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of



BROOMFIELD SPELLBINDERS on TV!!



Thanks to **Cathy Lichty's** initiative and support from Boulder Valley Spellbinders' Dave Hooley, Broomfield Spellbinders was the subject of a profile on Denver's Channel 7 on October 5. The three-minute piece, developed by Colin Riley, featured Cathy sharing a story with Sara Sloan's first grade class at Aspen Creek plus Ms. Sloan talking about the impact of stories on her students and Cathy and Dave sharing why they get so much joy from their interaction with the children. It ended with a referral to the Spellbinders website. The link to the video is a bit temperamental, but try it (<https://youtu.be/w5vJnLIajao?si=uFePFy0hcM-hNopC>) Dave's photo (left) shows what happened.

CORRECTION

The August newsletter contained an article on a recently-discovered story resource--"Shorts on Line." Unfortunately, the link provided was incorrect. The correct link is <https://xpressenglish.com>. Try this new link and then go to "Short Stories." It is a treasure trove—especially if you note that the very short (and therefore most tellable) stories are indicated by a clock symbol.

LISTENING OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, October 25 (6-8 PM MDT). Just in time for Halloween, Stories with Spirit is back with another Fairy Tale Variation program. This time it is variations on a theme—Ghosts!! One of the tellers is Laura Deal, a Boulder Valley Spellbinder, whom many of you know. Tickets are available on Eventbrite and no payment is due until you watch and then pay what you think it was worth. If you register, you will receive a recording which you can watch later.



A FEW HALLOWEEN RIDDLES

- Why don't vampires have more friends? Because they are a pain in the neck.
- What do you call a ghost in a torn sheet? A holy terror.
- What do you call a skeleton that won't work? Lazy bones.
- What's a skeleton's favorite musical instrument? A trom-bone!
- Why did the skeleton cross the road? To get to the body shop.
- What tops off a ghost's ice cream sundae? Whipped scream.
- What is a monster's favorite food? Kids gave me these answers:
 - Human beans...Spook-getti-o's...Monsterella cheese...Moan pies...Ice cream (I scream)





STORYTELLER in the SPOTLIGHT: SHERRY POTTER

Sherry Potter is another member of Spellbinders Class of 2022. One cannot miss the smile that is seemingly a permanent resident on a very happy face. She comes to storytelling quite naturally having grown up with a mother to whom the arts were simply a way of life. Sherry attributes much of her storytelling ability to her dramatic mother, who sang and acted in community theatre while Sherry was growing up. Sherry also performed in community theatre, as an adult, when she lived in Montrose in western Colorado, as well as working a few years writing and voicing advertising spots at the small-town radio station.



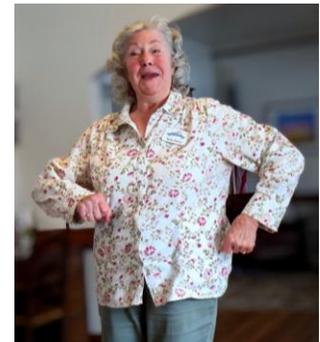
Nevertheless, she was a “math and science geek,” as she describes herself, and aspired to lead a professional life as a biologist. However, as the saying goes, “life happens when you’re making other plans.” After growing up in northern New York (really northern New York, as Sherry puts it), she left the North Country for Alaska back in '72. After a year in Fairbanks, she lived in

New Mexico, Wyoming, and the Colorado western slope, before coming to the Front Range.

Over the years she attended several colleges and eventually earned a degree in biology and environmental conservation from the University of Colorado in Boulder when she was 42. But she worked as a biologist for only two summers as a biotech with the US Forest Service. She ended up as the consumer specialist at the Colorado Attorney General’s office for several years. And lastly, as the compliance coordinator at Environmental Health and Safety on the CU-Boulder campus

Unlike many of our Spellbinder colleagues, Sherry is not a former teacher. The notion of storytelling ruminated in her consciousness for a while after hearing about Spellbinders and having a brief conversation with Susan Litt. Eventually, she attended a *Tunes and Tales* event in Lafayette, where she met **Wynn Montgomery**, and you all know how that would turn out.

Sherry juggles dual membership with both the Boulder Valley Spellbinders and the Broomfield group. She currently tells for 3rd-grade students at Superior Elementary, which is in the Boulder Valley School District. One of her favorite stories is “The Ghost with One Black Eye,” from Wynn Montgomery’s *Pop Tales* collection. She also cited an Aesop Fable, “The Lion and the Mouse” as being a particular favorite. The story she most loves to tell is “Wolf Winter,” an adaptation she took from a story she first heard Kathy Randall tell. Her ability to project the characters in her stories through voice and gestures is an especially strong aspect of her storytelling. Being a biologist, Sherry is sensitive to truths about real animals and sedulously avoids portraying them with behaviors and traits that are untrue.



Sherry has also been singing with the Boulder Chorale for over 30 years. Music has always been part of Sherry’s life, and she told about her mother who would go about the house constantly singing arias from various operas. While in high school, Sherry participated in an All-County chorus with over 100 students selected from schools in three counties in Northern New York. It was a choral experience that stayed with Sherry her entire life and which Boulder Chorale so satisfyingly fulfills. Over the years, Sherry has had the privilege of performing a vast range of music genres, including many of the classical masters. She claims to have sung in every Requiem there is. Sherry does not get to travel much, but her most memorable trip was visiting friends in Asuncion, Paraguay, with a stopover in Rio de Janeiro in 1976. And recently, she tagged a 10-day trip to the UK with a friend onto a 10-day Irish music tour with local musicians, Moors and McCumber, and swears she heard every variation of Irish music there is.

[Thanks to **Jim Mariner** for this article]