

  
**Spellbinders**  
WWW.SPELLBINDERS.ORG  
of  
**Broomfield, Colorado**  
**News for JUNE, 2024**

**YEAR-END MEETING/PARTY**

On May 17, sixteen Broomfield Spellbinders and one guest (Ruby Sanchez, a possible new member invited by **Julie Toepper**) gathered at Broomfield Farmhouse for a year-end meeting/celebration/ party. We began with lunch—a wonderful selection of meat, cheese, various yummy breads, veggies, and drinks provided by **Janis Lievens** as well as wonderful homemade cookies from **Tiffany Painter** and more delicious cookies provided by **Sheila Brush**.

When the meeting portion began, Janis reminded us that several summer storytelling opportunities still need volunteers, and a few more members signed up. It seems clear, however, that evening outdoor family events have little appeal. **Wynn**

**Montgomery** encouraged all to sign up to help BCAH with its summer activities. Julie then invited each of us “tell two truths and one lie” about ourselves. The group then discussed which one they thought was the lie. Of course, this activity took quite some time because each of the three “Facts”



often was presented in great detail. We are storytellers, after all. Of course, we did learn two important facts about each member. **Sheila Brush** and **Kay Landers** bestowed “Years of Service” ribbons on all attendees except for first year members. Our longest-serving member is **JANIS LIEVINS**, who has been a Spellbinders Storyteller for **16 YEARS!** The group thanked **Julie Toepper** for all she has done as our Leader, giving her a card, a flowering plant, and a vintage book of *Grimm’s Fairy Tales*. **Tiffany Painter** is stepping up to be our Leader. We then headed outside where our guest took a group photo (see page 2). Then we went back inside and played a quick “Tell it All” game that **Denny Thompson** facilitated. We had a choice of three questions to answer, and the responses were quite interesting. The questions were: 1) What was your worst haircut? 2) What was your least favorite pet? or 3) Have you ever been arrested (or should have been)? We then adjourned the meeting and commenced clean-up. There will be a “5<sup>th</sup> Friday” story circle on **May 31** at Brunner House, and likely on **June 21** and **July 19**—our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday meeting dates. Stay tuned for details.

## TEACHER FEEDBACK

At the time of the Year-End Meeting, Julie had received some responses to the Teacher Survey. As you can see from a sample of the responses (below), our efforts are appreciated. While these remarks cite specifics, the most frequently used verb was “LOVE”!

- *While listening to the stories, the students are engrossed in the characters and plot.* 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
- *I absolutely love this program! Students are engaged and love listening to the stories each month.* - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
- *The kids make great connections throughout the year back to the old stories. It complements our curriculum by validating the importance of oral storytelling.* 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
- *It was a great connection when we talked about the oral traditions of the Native American cultures.* Teacher, Grades 3-5

## HAIL, HAIL THE GANG'S MOSTLY HERE

The photo below, taken after our year-end meeting, captures most of our active members. Pictured are (Back Row; L-R) Judy Kundert, Julie Toepper, Jan Osburn, Denny Thompson, Tiffany Painter, Jim Mariner, Wynn Montgomery, Carla Randall (just barely). "Middle" Row: Janis Lievens (in front of Jim) and Kay Landers (in front of Carla). Front Row (L-R): Sheila Brush, Donna Laird, Cathy Lichty, and Karen Green. Two meeting attendees—Ed Winograd and Sonja Wendt—had to leave early.



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