



of  
**Broomfield, Colorado**  
**News for SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Apologies for the time gap between newsletters and for the length of this edition. August and September have been busy months, so this newsletter contains summaries of two monthly meetings. Thanks, as always, to **Karen Green** for her detailed meeting notes that make these summaries possible.

### AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

On August 18, fourteen Broomfield Spellbinders members and two candidates who will be in the September training class gathered at Brunner Farm House for our first monthly meeting of the 2023-24 school year. **Julie Toepper** introduced the opening topic (*Do you have a favorite first story of the new school year? What is it?*) Only a few indicated regular first stories—"Skat, the Cat"; "The Three Dolls"; and "Annie's Backpack"—but several indicated that they like trickster tales, especially Anansi. Julie then reminded everyone to contact "their" teachers and listed a number of possible one-time opportunities. Julie also alerted all that she has sent out a survey which we need to complete and return to her. **Sheila Brush** then entertained us with her version of "Borrowed Feathers" (an Aesop fable), which she ended by balancing a large peacock feather on her hand, finger, elbow, and nose. **Julie** then shared a folk tale, from Thailand ("A Drop of Honey") showing what could happen if a small issue went unresolved. It was a fun story with a great lesson at the end.

After a break for socializing over snacks provided by **Sheila Brush** and **Julie Toepper**, **Kay Landers** gave a presentation on "Cut and Tell Stories," demonstrating that technique while telling three tales-- (1) a Halloween story about a witch's house that became a jack-o-lantern; (2) a story about a boy's dirty bedroom that housed a "Mess Monster"; and (3) a chief's teepee that became a snowflake. **Kathy Daniels** then showed four books from the library: 1) Aunt Nancy stories; 2) "The Art of the Story Teller"; 3) "Kentucky Folktales"; 4) "Bruh Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl." **Julie** reminded all of the BCAH Gala on September 8<sup>th</sup> and **Denny Thompson** invited all to listen to another Old-Time Radio show in which he will be The Lone Ranger. **Scott Carrico** reported that he just finished recording a new book and now has 33 books on Audible.com. If you want to listen to any of his books, you can contact him for details. **Julie** then adjourned the meeting.

### NEXT EVENTS

**Fifth Friday Story Circle: September 29 (1:00-3:00 PM)**  
**Monthly Membership Meeting: Friday, October 20 (12:45-3:00 PM)**

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

On September 15, thirteen Broomfield Spellbinders and one soon-to-be member gathered at Brunner Farm House for our monthly meeting. **Julie Toepper** welcomed all and opened the meeting with a question: "What is your favorite thing about Autumn?" The answers were varied. **Julie** likes wearing sweaters. **Kathy Daniels** also likes the lower temperatures. **Janis Lievens** loves raking leaves, both hers and the ones at her daughter's house. [NOTE: Several people offered their yards if Janis wanted to do more raking.] **Wynn Montgomery** loves post-season baseball, especially the World Series (aka "The Fall Classic"). **Vicki Tiedeman** likes that her birthday is in the Fall. **Marsha Coons** likes harvest time and anything pumpkin. **Jim Mariner** likes the brisk mornings and football season. **Scott Carrico** loves seeing the changing colors of the aspen trees and especially "loves" getting stuck behind all the slow-moving cars making their way into the mountains for the same reason. **Tiffany Painter** loves everything about Autumn now that she is no longer teaching school. **Sherry Potter** loves the colors of the trees. **Janny Darby** thinks fall is poetic and loves the memories of her grandmother's pies. **Denny Thompson** loves that school is fresh and new; he also loves football. **Kay Landers** loves the fall smells, especially spices like cinnamon and cloves. **Karen Green** loves the leaf colors and the sound the fallen leaves make as she walks through them.

**Julie** asked that we all let her know where we are telling this year by filling out the surveys. **Janis** shared several one-time telling opportunities at Anthem Ranch and elsewhere. **Kay** asked for two tellers for her PEO group; **Karen** and **Denny** volunteered for this. **Denny** needs another teller for seniors at The Retreat at Church Ranch on October 17; **Wynn** will join him there. Prospect Ridge 3rd grade is on hold. **Jim Mariner** needs tellers at Sunrise on October 19 at 3 p.m.

**Tiffany Painter** told a story based on the book *If You Plant a Seed*, and **Vicki Tiedeman** told "Tiger Tail Soup" where, as usual, Anansi was cunning and Vicki was energetic. Vicki's songs during the story were especially entertaining. After the stories, we took a break to enjoy yummy snacks provided by **Kay** and **Denny**. Then, **Kathy Daniels** gave the Library Report and emphasized a couple of great books. **Julie** then opened a Panel Discussion about (a) setting standards with students and teachers and (b) handling disruptions, questions, and other interruptions. This discussion emphasized the need to meet with teachers before the first session to discuss expectations. We should also establish ground rules with the students at beginning of the first session and remind them as needed. **Wynn** announced that the final day of Training is September 21 from 1:00-4:00 at Brunner House. He invited all current members to come by and listen to our new Spellbinders' "graduation" stories.



**Let [your] tales live in your heart, for it is the heart which is the home of a story, not the words on a page.**

**-Julius Lester, *Uncle Remus: The Complete Tales***

## NEW TELLERS ON THE WAY

Three talented storytellers have completed the classroom portion of their training, and another will do so before and during the September 29 Story Circle. Our latest training class was led by **Wynn Montgomery** with assistance from Diana King, as a Trainer-in-Training. Diana is also Leader of Boulder Valley Spellbinders and Chair of the Spellbinders National Council of Trustees. These new members must now complete the required “shadowing” experience before becoming certified Broomfield Spellbinders. The class is pictured below thanks to **Julie Toepper**, who also served as our Guest Teller during Session 3 and returned for Session 4 to hear the trainees’ final stories. **Karen Green** also took photos and was in the audience for those final stories.



Front Row (L-R):  
Sherry Woodruff (who will join Boulder Valley Spellbinders), Janet Rope, and Diana King.

Back Row (L-R):  
Scott Carrico, Karine Schnitzspahn, and Wynn Montgomery.

Below: Sonja Wendt, who will make up Session 4 on September 29.



THE CLASS OF  
2023

“Storytellers have as profound a purpose as any who are charged to guide and transform human lives. I knew it as an ancient discipline and vocation to which everyone is called.”

– *Nancy Mellon, The Art of Storytelling*

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

