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of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for SUMMER, 2024

SUMMER IS ALMOST OVER! TIME TO PREPARE FOR 2024-25



Schools are starting early this year! The first day of school for Boulder Valley elementary grades is **Wednesday, August 14**. St. Vrain Valley schools start a day earlier than that. If you tell in another school district, check their start dates. Teachers will be planning at least a week before those dates, and that is the right time to CONTACT THEM about including storytelling in their schedules.

TUNES & TALES in LAFAYETTE

Three Broomfield Spellbinders shared stories at the second annual "Tunes & Tales" concerts in Lafayette. **Vicki Tiedeman** and **Wynn Montgomery** teamed with Boulder Valley Spellbinder Dave Hooley to kick-off the series on June 12 with an all-story event that earned coverage (with a photo of Wynn) in the *Boulder Daily Camera*. On July 24, Boulder Valley Spellbinders and a bluegrass band performed before a season-high crowd of 80 people. **Jan Osburn** closed that session on a high-note with a "Rock Star" version of "Gold Rush Rap" and the inspirational story of Clara Brown, a former slave turned philanthropist now buried at Denver's Riverside Cemetery.



Save
the
Date

NEXT MEETING

Friday, August 16 (12:45-3:00 PM)

Brunner Farm House

Stories by Sheila Brush & Jan Osburn

PANEL DISCUSSION: Best Practices for Starting the New School Year

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of



MORE SUMMER STORYTELLING

On August 3, **Scott Carrico, Janis Lievens**, and **Julie Toepper** told stories at Barr Lake to about 25 people. On August 17, that trio will be joined by **Sheila Brush, Kay Landers, Carla Randall**, and **Janet Rope** to tell nature stories at the Metzger Farm Nature Fest.

SUMMER STORY CIRCLES

While participation in our Summer Story Circles was more limited than in the past, those who attended were able to try out new stories or simply to hear (and give feedback on) some good stories. Details on each session follow.

May 31 at Brunner Farmhouse

Only three members (**Sheila Brush, Scott Carrico**, and **Kay Landers**) attended. Scott provided rhubarb blondies and shared stories about robberies in and outside the Denver Mint. Scott also introduced an original story featuring fairies and Barney, the Bullion-Sniffing Burro. Sheila requested (and received) help in restructuring a story about a diabetes service dog. With the help she received, she plans to have a new version in the Fall. The group also suggested that future Story Circles have a host(ess) to send out reminders, receive RSVPs, and decide whether to cancel if attendance is too small.

June 21 at Brunner Farmhouse

Our "hostess" (**Jan Osburn**) arrived early, but illness caused her to leave soon thereafter. Only three of the other seven attendees shared a story. **Janet Rope** asked for (and received) help with "The Young & Dashing Princess," which she really wants to tell. **Wynn Montgomery** reported that (based on *What Your Third Grader Needs to Know*) he is feeling the need to share more myths and legends. He then shared his version of "The Riddle of the Sphinx," leaving Oedipus' later life for a future story. **Scott Carrico** offered a continuation of the adventures of Barney, the Burro. Other members (**Karen Green, Donna Leard, Jim Mariner**, and **Tiffany Painter**) provided useful feedback to all the tellers.

July 18 in Erie

Last minute drop-outs resulted in another small group at the home of **Donna Leard** (and husband Mark). Donna led off with a version of "The Gunnewolf" incorporating audience participation. **Karen Green**, who is adding some 5th grade classes next year, followed with a story about Scott the Auto Mechanic and asked about its appropriateness for that grade level. All agreed that it was suitable and suggested ways she could adapt it to increase her comfort level. **Wynn Montgomery** promised to send Karen a list of the stories he tells to 5th graders and then tried out an Irish version of "The Half Blanket," saving the title until the end. **Janis Lievens, Denny Thompson**, and Mark were supportive listeners, and Denny gave everyone the opportunity to add to their collection of storytelling books as part of his current down-sizing effort.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STORYTELLERS' STORY CAMP: September 6-8 in Hillside, CO. This annual event offers a full weekend of storytelling in a beautiful retreat in the Colorado mountains. The cost (\$225) includes food, lodging, two workshops, and lots of opportunities to share your stories and hear others. For details, visit <https://www.rmstory.org>.



Story, as it turns out, was crucial to our evolution—more so than opposable thumbs. Opposable thumbs let us hang on; story told us what to hang on to.

-Lisa Cron, Wired for Story