



Spellbinders
WWW.SPELLBINDERS.ORG
of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for SEPTEMBER, 2025

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On August 15 twenty Broomfield Spellbinders, including two additions to our group—**Shirley Jamiel** and **Linda Ross**—met at Brunner Farm House to kick off the 2025-26 school year. The two new members were trained as Spellbinders in other LLSOs and want to affiliate with us.

Sheila Brush opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves with their answer to the “Question of the Month”: “What is your favorite summer food?” Watermelon was mentioned four times and peaches three times. Other favorite foods included ice cream, home-grown green beans, tomatoes, barbeque, asparagus, hot dogs, cucumbers, cantaloupe, corn on the cob, salads, and all Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables. **Scott Carrico** reported on his experience at the Barr Lake Family Campout, where he told six stories in an hour and really enjoyed it. **Janis Lievens** reported that we had tellers every Wednesday all summer at First Art Christian Academy and thanked everyone who volunteered. **Jim Mariner** has arranged for Sunrise Senior Center to host storytelling every fifth Thursday. The next session is on October 30. **Sheila Brush** reported on her presentation to a Broomfield Rotary Club and shared the story that she told there--“Grandfather Bear is Hungry” from Margaret Read McDonald’s *Teaching with Story*. Sheila also shared a technique where she drew pictures as she told her story.

After we enjoyed wonderful snacks provided by **Marylou Dobbins** and Sheila, **Carla Randall** shared her adaptation of an African folk tale called “Who’s in Rabbit’s Burrow?” **Sheila** reported that, at the request of BCAH, she and **Scott** moved our library into the corner of the basement near its previous location. Scott is working on improving the lighting. The Leadership Team is discussing ideas for making this valuable resource more accessible to all members. That group typically meets for an hour (11:45-12:45) before our monthly meeting, and other members are invited to visit the library during that time. Please be mindful of the Leadership Team’s meeting and enter via the back door and go quietly downstairs to the library. **Jane Askham**, a former children’s librarian, has volunteered to investigate a way to create an online catalog of our books. **Jan Osburn** and **Cathy Lichty** have agreed to lead our Program Committee and need other members to join them in planning our monthly programs. This is a wonderful opportunity to help us ensure that our meetings help all of us to improve our storytelling tools and techniques.

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 (12:45-3:00) at BRUNNER FARMHOUSE
A Data-Reporting Workshop (Bring a Laptop if you use one)
PLUS: Stories, Food, and Fellowship!!!





STORYTELLER in the SPOTLIGHT: CARLA RANDALL

*This is the first in a series that will focus on one member of our Broomfield Spellbinders team each month. These articles “continue” a series that started years ago and has been on hiatus for a good while. We offer it as proof that all storytellers have their own (and usually interesting) stories. This month, meet **Carla Randall**.*

Carla Randall is a member of Broomfield Spellbinders Class of 2022. She came to our group after being recruited by **Janice Lievens**, an Anthem Ranch friend and neighbor. Carla grew up in Boulder, graduating from CSU with a degree in Physical Education with an emphasis in Recreation and Health. She has no children from her first marriage, but enjoys “grandchildren” that belong to Andy, her significant other.



Beginning her teaching career in Olathe and Montrose on Colorado’s Western Slope, Carla taught PE and served as the gymnastics coach. In addition to coaching, she also took her teams to other venues to give clinics on gymnastics. She eventually returned to the eastern slope to teach in the Douglas County School District after a stint in Rifle.

At Ponderosa High School in Parker, Carla taught PE and coached gymnastics, but what she had learned at a conference in Snowmass a few years earlier about the value of kinesthetic learning stayed with her. Basic academic skills, such as reading, could be improved by involving movement. Convinced she could have a greater impact

teaching younger children using the concept of kinesthetic learning, Carla moved to the elementary level, where she remained for the next 17 years. She was also happy that at the elementary level, there were no long trips with a team.

Now retired after 34 years, Carla has returned to the classroom as a storyteller, a natural and comfortable retirement activity. She partners with Janice at Coyote Ridge Elementary (K and 1st grade) and Black Rock Elementary (K). Stemming from a trip to Tanzania, Carla enjoys telling stories that incorporate folk tales and fables from Africa, particularly those that engage her audience through kinesthetic participation. Anansi the spider is often one of the main characters in her stories, and she tries to make a particular story fit with the teacher’s curriculum. She claims to be surprised by the attentiveness of her young listeners, but if you’ve ever heard her “tell,” you’d be surprised at her surprise.



In high school, Carla was a competitive swimmer (freestyle), and in retirement, she maintains an active lifestyle that includes travel, biking, swimming, walking (she prefers this term instead of hiking), and games, such as Mahjong and Hand, Knee, & Foot. On a recent trip with Janice, she traveled to Italy to see the sights by bicycle. She is also an active member of PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), “an international women’s group raising money to help women around the world advance through education,” regardless of race, creed, age, or educational level.

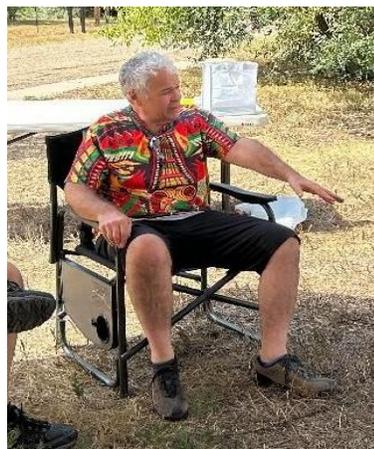
[Thanks to **Jim Mariner** for this and future “Spotlight” articles!]

LISTENING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Donna Leard** returned from the National Storytelling Conference with news of a FREE 4-hour concert sponsored by the Healing Story Alliance (HSA) on **September 21** from 5:00-9:00 MDT. Twenty-five (25) storytellers from across the U.S. and beyond will honor the sun and wind and other renewable energy sources that can save our planet. The tellers include Margaret Read MacDonald, Laura Simms, Heather Forest, and many more. The event is free on Zoom, but you need to register. You can do that at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/sun-day-storytelling-concert>.
- **Rocky Mountain Storytellers** has announced its Story Camp for this year. This annual event is a weekend of fellowship and story crafting in Hillside, CO. There will be workshops by Kate Lutz and Cooper Braun plus story circles and lots of time to hone your own skills. The dates are September 29-October 1. The cost is \$245. For more details, visit <https://www.rmstory.org>.

A FUN MORNING AT METZGER FARM

Broomfield Spellbinders was well-represented at Metzger Farm's Nature Fest on August 16. We had the first tent that visitors saw when they entered the event. Despite lots of competition from exhibits featuring live animals, birds, and reptiles, our storytellers were able to share stories with small groups throughout the morning. **Janet Leivens** and **Sheila Brush** handled pre-event organization as well as sharing stories. **Jim Mariner** was our greeter (below) as well as taking a turn in the telling tent. Other storytellers included **Sandy Hopper**, **Scott Carrico**, and **Wynn Montgomery** (below L-R) plus **Carla Randall** (see page 2), who arrived before our photographers woke up. That evening, Wynn shared the stage with tellers from Boulder Spellbinders for an event in Superior attended by several Broomfield Spellbinders, other Spellbinders, and disappointingly few others.



People are hungry for stories. It's part of our very being. Story-telling is a form of history, of immortality too. It goes from one generation to another. –Studs Terkel

A story is a way to say something that can't be said in any other way. –Flannery O'Connor

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