



of  
Broomfield, Colorado

News for JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2024

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On January 19, eighteen Broomfield Spellbinders and a guest (Kari Reiquam) gathered at Brunner Farmhouse for the monthly membership meeting. **Julie Toepper** opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves by sharing where they grew up. What a diverse group we are! There are five native Coloradans—four from the Denver/Boulder area and one (**Karen Green**) who named two other states where she spent her childhood. The rest of us come from eleven different states—California, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas (2), Nebraska (2), New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Within these geographical differences, there were many who shared the experience of growing up in rural or small-town environments.

**Janis Lievens** discussed the Tell-a-bration at Coyote Ridge and thanked all the members who shared stories there [see page 2]. Janis also discussed future storytelling opportunities at Prospect Ridge, at Anthem Ranch, and Bal Swan’s Tiny Tot Town. **Jim Mariner** needs 3-4 people at Sunrise Senior Living on February 29.

Julie announced that the February meeting “program” will be a Story Circle about “Love” stories, not necessarily romantic love. The two tellers already signed up for February--**Kay Landers** and **Karen Green**—can share stories with that theme or any other that they choose. Anyone else who would like to share a “love” story should contact Wynn ([wynnmill@comcast.net](mailto:wynnmill@comcast.net)) to get on the list. There will NOT be a Steering Committee meeting in February, so a few “business” items may be discussed at the regular meeting. Julie asked everyone to be sure to fill out the Data Sheets for **Vicki Tiedeman** and reminded us of the BCAH Usage Guidelines for our meetings that require us to sign both the sheet in the bathroom and the one by the front door stating that the required cleaning has been done after our meetings.

**Denny Thompson** shared a story, “The Snow Queen with the Cold, Cold Heart” that included lots of audience participation, and **Kathy Daniels** shared a story about a fox based on an Aesop Fable. We took a break for socializing and snacks provided by Kathy and **Sherry Potter**. Our guest, Karen Culver, then gave an engaging presentation on “Incorporating Participation in Storytelling” that included the story “The Goat from the Hills and the Mountains” from *Tales Our Abuelitas Told*.



NEXT MEETING/Story Circle

Friday, February 16, 2024 (12:45-3:00 PM)

THEME: LOVE STORIES [Broadly Defined; Not limited to Romantic Love]

PROGRAM: Story Circle

Come prepared to share a story or to just listen to others!

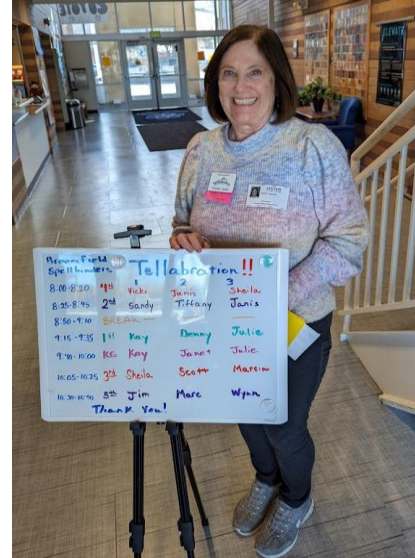


## A SUCCESSFUL TELL-A-BRATION

Thanks to the leadership of **Janis Lievens**, a talented team of terrific tellers told tales in every classroom at Coyote Ridge Elementary on the morning (8:00-10:50 AM) of January 18. The line-up was:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Vicki Tiedeman, Sheila Brush, Janis Lievens**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: **Sandy Hopper, Tiffany Painter, Janis Lievens**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: **Kay Landers, Denny Thompson, Julie Toepper**
- Kindergarten: **Kay Landers, Janet Rope, Julie Toepper**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: **Sheila Brush, Scott Carrico, Marsha Coons**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Jim Mariner, Marc Brown, Wynn Montgomery**

That was 14 storytellers in 18 classrooms in less than three hours thanks to Janis' organizational skills and the assistance provided by School Secretary Christine Bullock and the support of the Principal, Dr. Michael Keppler. Of course, the true measure of the success of this effort will be how many teachers ask us back into their classrooms on a regular basis.



## NEW LEADERSHIP: PASSING THE TORCH



After two years as Leader of Broomfield Spellbinders, **Julie Toepper** (L) has announced that she will step down in May, and **Tiffany Painter** (R) has agreed to accept that responsibility. Making the decision this early allows for a smooth transition, and all members of the Leadership Team have pledged their support to Tiffany. Julie will continue to be on that team and will be as active as a storyteller as her trips to North Carolina to visit grandchildren will allow. Both Julie and Tiffany deserve our thanks and our continued support.

## SPELLBINDERS ANNUAL MEETING: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many volunteers will be needed to fulfill our role as co-hosts (with St. Vrain Valley Storytellers) of this year's annual meeting of all Spellbinders. A major need is a team to set up the meeting site on **Friday, April 12** from **1:00-3:00 pm**. We will also need a clean-up crew immediately after the meeting (from **3:00-4:00 pm on Saturday April 13**). If you are available for either or both of these teams, let Denny Thompson know ([denny49@aol.com](mailto:denny49@aol.com)) ASAP. Also, be sure that you have set aside Saturday, April 13 to participate in this year's Annual Meeting and look for regular updates on what will happen at that meeting and instructions on how to register.

### A STORYTELLING TIP from KAREN CULVER

When trying to get audience feedback/participation, say: "Raise your hand if you have a thought" and call on several who do so. This prevents one listener from blurting out all the answers (s)he can think of or several listeners responding at once.

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

