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of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for OCTOBER, 202

IN MEMORIAM

Judy Malo Ragland Lloyd

With great sadness, we report the passing of Judy Lloyd, our dear friend and former leader of Broomfield Spellbinders. She had been in poor health for the past several years, most recently at Adara Living, where she joined in when other members of our group shared stories. She will be missed by many. Her smile was infectious and her love of storytelling contagious. Information on final arrangements is not currently available. Keep her husband, Tom, and other friends and family in your thoughts.



BROOMFIELD SPELLBINDERS IN THE NEWS

The front page of the "Local" section of the Boulder Daily Camera of Sunday, November 5 featured an article on Broomfield Spellbinders under the headline "Volunteers Keeping the Art of Storytelling Alive." The reporter/author of the article, Corbett Stevenson, who conducted telephone interviews with **Julie Toepper** and **Wynn Montgomery**, seems to have captured what we do, and the article should attract potential new members. A copy of the full article accompanies this newsletter.



NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 (12:45-3:00 PM)

STORIES GALORE!

STORIES by CARLA & SANDY

THEN, FOUR VERSIONS OF "CINDERELLA"

[by JULIE, KAREN, KATHY, & WYNN]



OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

[A special thank-you to **Sheila Brush** for taking the notes that made this report possible]

On October 20, sixteen Broomfield Spellbinders gathered at Brunner Farm House to share stories and fellowship. **Julie Toepper** welcomed all and asked each to share a favorite Halloween memory. There were lots of memories of favorite costumes worn or made and memorable house and yard decorations, including at a castle in Edinburgh, Scotland. **Sheila Brush** distributed an updated membership list and requested corrections. **Janis Lievens** reported on non-school storytelling opportunities. The Septembers 15 Anthem Ranch session (**Janis, Sandy Hopper, and Sheila**) attracted eight children and ten seniors. Additional Anthem Ranch dates are November 5th (2:00-3:00) and December 9th in the morning. Contact Janis if you are interested in telling at the December event. Janis is reaching out to Mountain View Elementary about hosting a Tell-a-bration where we supply tellers to all their classes on a single day. We did this a few years ago, and Janis is hoping to spark interest in this school as we only have tellers in their Kindergarten classes. We congratulated our new members—**Janet Rope** and **Scott Carrico**, who have completed their shadowing assignments, and **Sonja Wendt**, who will soon complete hers. Julie reminded us that **Vicki Tiedeman** has created the **2023-2024 Data Sheets** and sent instructions via emails. Contact Vicki for more information or help. Julie reminded us to look for information regarding Colorado Gives and to consider giving to BCAH or Broomfield Spellbinders.

Julie shared an e-mail from Spellbinders National regarding a student's letter about being told a "too scary" story by a Boulder Valley Spellbinder. It cautioned all of us to be mindful of the need for age-appropriate stories--especially this time of year. We decided to discuss that issue although it would delay Kathy Daniels' planned tour of our library. We agreed that ALL kids say they like scary stories, but that may not be true. Most of us tell funny "kinda" scary stories for younger listeners, and **Vanita Moore** suggested that we prep the class prior to the story. We agreed to take this warning to heart and to carefully reconsider the scary stories in our repertoires. We then took a break to enjoy snacks provided by **Janny Darby** and Wynn. Kathy reminded us that we have plenty of plates, napkins, cutlery, and glasses. There is no need to for members providing snacks to purchase more.

Wynn opened the second half of the meeting with "The New Mother"-- a creepy story by Lucy Clifford that is a favorite of his 5th grade listeners. In an unplanned (but perfectly-timed) moment in the midst of the story, a woman opened the door just as Wynn yelled "Stop! Go away! We don't want you here!" She quickly backed away from the door, shocked. Wynn stopped his story, went to the door, and asked if she was here for storytelling? She said: "No, just out for a walk." Wynn apologized profusely and invited her in. She stayed and enjoyed the stories. Afterwards, she said she might be interested in becoming a Spellbinders volunteer. **Vanita** then recited two poems by James Whitcomb Riley-- "Raggedy Man" and "Little Orphant Annie" ("The goblins will get you if you don't watch out!"). **Kathy Daniels** closed the meeting by showcasing some books for Halloween and Thanksgiving. Referring back to the discussion of scary stories, she suggested that we all read the stories and put our own twist on them. She reminded us that there are four identical binders that list our library books; they are available for check-out. Books are listed alphabetically and by genre. Check them out to help you plan stories for the rest of the school year. Kathy then took interested members on a "tour" of our library.

REMINDER: The people who provide snacks are responsible for cleanup, but everyone should help out. Thanks!!

SEPTEMBER STORY CIRCLE

On Friday, September 29, fifteen Boulder Spellbinders volunteer storytellers gathered at Brunner Farm House for the quarterly "Fifth Friday Story Circle." Wynn announced that **Janet Rope** had completed all aspects of the training and presented her certificate to her. **Sonya Wendt**, who missed the final day of training, completed that process by telling her graduation story (The Belly Button Monster) to group. The other storytellers and their "stories" were:

- **Julie Toepper**: "The Black Cat's Message"
- **Sandy Hopper**: a discussion of props for stories featuring owls
- **Marc Brown**: a rousing bar ballad about "The Thing"
- **Scott Carrico**: "The Cherry Tree Buck"
- **Wynn Montgomery**: "The Yup-Pea Uprising" (a punny blending of two Pete Seeger stories)
- **Kay Landers**: a story in which a boy becomes a peanut
- **Donna Leard**: Jack and the Singing Leaves (adapting a Bill Harley song)
- **Denny Thompson**: a joke/story featuring Wynn (birthday boy) and a familiar parrot

As always at these Circles, those who did not tell a story were avid listeners and provided useful feedback. The next "Fifth Friday" is March 29, 2024, which is also Good Friday. The Steering Team will make a decision on when we will gather for the next Story Circle.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **CARLA RANDALL (November 3)**
- **JANET ROPE (November 8)**
- **KAREN GREEN (November 30)**



THE ART OF STORYTELLING: The "Mother" of All Navajo Storyteller Dolls

During a recent vacation in Arizona and New Mexico, Millie and I spent one night at Dos Casitas, a B&B in Socorro, NM. At breakfast, we were greeted by the storyteller doll pictured below. I have seen many of these figures, but this storyteller had many more listeners than any other I have seen.

