



of Broomfield, Colorado News for NOVEMBER, 2025

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On October 17, eighteen Broomfield Spellbinders plus John Kolber (who recently completed the classroom portion of the training in Boulder and will be shadowing several of our members to complete the certification process) gathered at Brunner House for our monthly membership meeting. **Sheila Brush** opened the meeting. In lieu of a monthly question, she invited a discussion of better utilization of our library. After much discussion, we decided to keep it as it is for now. **Jane Askham** and **Janis Lievens** volunteered to cull the library to remove duplicates and damaged or obsolete books. Jane showed some books of interest from the library including *The Haunted Spy*, *Why the Crab Has No Head*, *Owl Moon*, *Snowflake Bentley*, *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*, *The Journey of the Third Sea*, *The Curious Garden*, and *How and Why Stories*. Several were claimed/checked out by attendees.

Sheila then asked for a vote on whether to donate \$50 to share Rafe Martin's Zoom presentation on May 7 for Boulder Valley Spellbinders. We voted yes; details will follow. **Janis Lievens** reviewed the October storytelling opportunities, all of which had enough tellers. Some of them are discussed below. Janis also reminded us of our annual "Holly Jolly Christmas" at Anthem Ranch on December 6 and reported that Meadows School is looking for storytellers; **Cathy Lichty** will follow up on the details.

In follow-up discussion of Viki Tiedeman's presentation on reporting our telling activities, we agreed that (1) co-tellers should be counted as either an adult or senior on the datasheet and (2) we call Vicki with any questions. **Diana King** announced that the **2026 Spellbinders Annual Meeting** will be hosted by Littleton Spellbinders on **Saturday, May 2nd** at the **Highlands Ranch Senior Center**. Details to come.

Marylou Dobbins shared some "groaners" and then the story "I'm Not Scared, You're Scared" by Seth Myers, which she found on Storyline.net. There was lots of audience participation. Afterwards, great snacks were supplied by **Sandy Hopper** and **Wynn Montgomery**. [\[continued on page 2\]](#)

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 (12:45-3:00 PM) at BRUNNER FARMHOUSE
PROGRAM: "Making A Story Your Own": Wynn Montgomery
PLUS: More Stories, Snacks, and Fellowship



OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING [continued from page 1]

Following the break, **Sherry Potter** shared her delightful version of “The Ghost with One Black Eye”, and then we talked about Thanksgiving stories. **Sheila Brush** shared “Turkey Come Home” by Diane Mayr (aka “Run Turkey Run”) and “The Firefighters Thanksgiving” by Maribeth Boelts. **Wynn Montgomery** asked about a story that Dan Keenan used to tell about an All-American Thanksgiving; he was referred to “Thanksgiving at the Tappletons,” which is on YouTube. Wynn said there is also a Turkish story about training turkeys to talk, but it is NOT a kids’ story! **Sandy Hopper** mentioned several Thanksgiving stories: “Anansi’s Feast”, “Going to Grandma’s House”, “Strawberry Thanksgiving” (Multicultural), “The Relatives Came”, “Why the Leaves Have Many Colors”, “I Know an Old Woman Who Swallowed the Pie”, and “The Leaf Thief” by Alice Hemming.

The program was “Engaging Your Audience Using Cut-and-Tell Stories.” **Sheila** recommended an entire book of Cut-and-Tell stories. **Kay Landers** shared “Scat the Cat,” cutting out a cat in the process. **Jan Osburn** shared “The Little Witch” while cutting out a Jack-o Lantern using orange construction paper. Sheila cited “Mr. Snowman’s Ride” and “A Cut-and-Tell Winter Tale” from her book and shared the cut-outs she had done ahead of time. She then closed the meeting, and we cleaned up the rooms before heading home.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES FUTURE PROGRAMS

Thanks to **Cathy Lichty** and **Jan Carlson**, we now have a Program Committee! Some dates may change, and some topics need to be negotiated, but the tentative schedule for the rest of the school year looks like this:

- December 19: Holiday Cookie Exchange (& the stories that go with the cookies)
- January 16: Denver Spellbinders Ray Moore & Tom Hobbs (Topic TBD)
- February 20: Cathy Lichty (Math Stories)
- March 20: Four Versions of the Same Story (chosen by volunteer tellers)
- April 17: Interactive Stories (Story Circle)
- May 15: End of Year Celebration



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!
2026 SPELLBINDERS ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026
HIGHLANDS RANCH SENIOR CENTER
DETAILS TO FOLLOW



THE ART OF STORYTELLING



Sheila Brush shared these photos of a storyteller statue in the Bavarian Village of Leavenworth, WA. The sculptor is Cornelia Bradburn. Thanks, Sheila!!





STORYTELLER in the SPOTLIGHT: JIM MARINER

*This is the third in a series that will focus on a member of Broomfield Spellbinders 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 **Jim Mariner** (aka “**Mr. Jim**”), who joined Spellbinders in 2022.*

What brought you to Spellbinders? I was recruited by *Wynn Montgomery* on our first meeting. When I told him that I had often led nature tours, he said that anyone who led tours was a storyteller and told me about Spellbinders. “I attended a meeting at Brunner House and signed up for the training.”

Where do you tell? *Linda Ross* and I share stories with 4th and 5th graders at Nativity: Faith & Reason in Broomfield—once a month with each grade. *Julie Toepper* and I tell quarterly at a senior center in Brighton, and I coordinate story sessions at Sunrise Senior Living, where I now live. Those sessions are now scheduled on every 5th Friday in a month and usually involve me and two or three other Broomfield Spellbinders.



What do you like best about storytelling? I love being in the classroom and engaging those young listeners, but I believe that I am a better storywriter than storyteller.

What is your favorite story? I always tell the story of how a man saving a turtle started a chain of events that eventually saved the man. I also have created a character named “Herkimer Aloysius Dorkman” who becomes the central character in many stories (e.g. “The Frog and the Snake”).

What was your career? After getting a BS in Biology and another BS in Education and spending time in the National Guard, my wife, Anne and I joined the Peace Corps and taught in Ghana for two years. Back in the States, I became the entire science department in a rural public school in Kansas.



After earning a Masters degree in Biology from Emporia State University, I moved my family to Steamboat Springs where I taught in a private boarding school for a year before moving to Colorado Springs where I taught Science at Fountain Valley School for 34 years until I retired in 2002.

What are your hobbies and other volunteer activities? When I was younger, I loved spending time in the outdoors especially backpacking. I also enjoy woodcarving and genealogical research. I love to travel and have visited all 50 states and 19 countries. My main “hobby” now is writing; I have published seven novels (available on Amazon). I also spend considerable time with the upkeep of my cabin in Westcliffe and serve on a couple of committees at Boulder Valley UU Fellowship.

Tell me about your family. My wife Anne passed away in 2019. Our daughter lives in Anchorage, one son lives in Albuquerque, and another son in Superior. I have six grandchildren.

-written by Wynn Montgomery. Jim will return as author of this series in the next newsletter

HALLOWEEN STORIES GALORE

This time of year usually brings additional opportunities for spooky stories and we are happy to help.

Kay Landers and **Carla Randall** shared non-Halloween stories with a women's Bible Study group. Kay told "Betty Doll" by Patricia Polacco, and Carla shared "High As A Hawk"—a true story about the youngest girl to climb Long's Peak.

Jim Mariner wasn't available, but he arranged for the "5th Thursday" event at Sunrise Senior Living to continue on October 30 thanks to:

- **Shirley Jamiel** ("The Legend of Marjorie McCall"-a true story about a premature burial)
- **Diana King** ("Big Fraid & Little Fraid"; "Wait Til Martin Comes", "Ghost at the Foot of the Bed")
- **Cathy Lichty** ("The Haunted House" and "Willy and the Hairy Man")

John Kolber received a "baptism by fire" as he told solo at the BCAH Annual Halloween Event because co-teller **Jan Carlson** was in an auto accident en route. After finally gathering an audience, he shared his go-to Halloween story—"Wanda the Witch and Benny the Magic Broom".

These tellers teamed up to share stories at Silvercrest Senior Apartments:

- **Sandy Hopper** ("Pretty Girl Alongside the Road")
 - **Marc Brown** ("Brer Rabbit & the Zombie Frogs")
 - **Linda Ross** ("The Candle in the Window")
 - **Wynn Montgomery** ("Trick or Treat" aka "Long Bony Fingers & Floppy Red Lips")
- (The first three are pictured below in action.)



The difference between telling a story and having a conversation is when you tell a story the audience can't ask you questions so you have to anticipate what they might want to ask.

Storyteller Bil Lepp

Stories are a gift given by an elder to a younger person.

Velma Wallis in *Two Old Women: An Alaskan Legend*

Broomfield Spellbinders® is a program of

