

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



of
Broomfield, Colorado
News for DECEMBER, 2024

NOVEMBER MEETING

On November 15, fourteen members gathered at Brunner Farmhouse for our monthly meeting. In **Tiffany Painter's** stead, **Sandy Hopper** opened the meeting, asking all to introduce themselves and say whether they would rather be the host or a guest for Thanksgiving gatherings. There was not a clear preference in the group as five preferred each of these roles while four indicated that they were happy in either role. In the "business" portion of the meeting, **Janis Lievens** reported that Boulder Valley Spellbinders and St. Vrain Valley Storytellers will conduct training in January and February, and **Wynn Montgomery** said he can provide training at Brunner House in March if there is interest. We again talked about placing newly trained tellers, and Wynn suggested asking the teachers we are already visiting to help us recruit other in their schools. **Jim Mariner** announced that his sixth book (*Nemesis*) has been published and is available on Amazon. **Denny Thompson** invited everyone to come and enjoy two classic old time radio cartoon holiday comedies performed LIVE on Sunday, December 15th at 1:00 PM at Advent Lutheran Church in Westminster. **Scott Carrico** said he needed help updating our teller spreadsheet and **Julie Toepper** volunteered to help him. Our January meeting will feature a presentation by local professional storyteller Pam Faro, and Boulder and Longmont storytellers will be invited to join us.

Before a break for socializing and enjoying yummy snacks provided by **Scott Carrico** and **Janet Rope**, we heard **Karen Green's** delightful dog story--"How Scout Found His People". The story circle following the break included:

- **Jan Osburn:** "Enemy Pie", which can be found online at Reading Rainbow.
- **Sandy Hopper:** a personal story about "Gilbert, The Scarecrow"
- **Wynn Montgomery:** the bones of "The Monkey Who Wanted to Fly" that needs an ending
- **Sherry Potter:** "Stinky Face" (a first-"person" account of a wolf pup's adventure
- **Sheila Brush:** "It Never Snows in San Francisco", a mostly true story from her childhood.
- **Scott Carrico:** "The Abominable Snowman" adapted from Terry Pratchett's version

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 (12:45-3:00 PM) at BRUNNER FARM HOUSE
ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE

Bring a DOZEN (or more) cookies & holiday memories to share !!!



A "HOLLY JOLLY" TIME AT ANTHEM RANCH

On December 7, six Broomfield Spellbinders brought some holiday joy to Aspen Ranch grandparents and their grandchildren (aged 2-10) in what has become an annual event organized by **Janis Lievens**. As usual, the audiences were great, and we received many compliments from both kids and adults, including a Grandpa who may have coined a new word when he called our tellers "eloquists".

Pictured below are the storytellers who participated. On the left, **Denny Thompson** shows youngsters the mechanical prop he used for his story "Santa Got Stuck in the Chimney". At the right (clockwise from the left) are **Sheila Brush, Janet Rope, Sandy Hopper, Diana King, and Janis Lievens**. The stories they shared are:



- Sheila: The Elves and the Shoemaker (from the Brothers Grimm) [Thanks to Sheila for the photos]
- Janet: Santa Visits the Moes (an Appalachian tale from *Ready-to-Tell Tales*)
- Sandy: The Legend of the Christmas Spider (from Germany/Ukraine)
- Diana: The Gift-Making Persian (from 500 AD) & Steadfast Tin Soldier (Hans Christian Andersen)
- Janis: Mr. Walloughby's Christmas Tree by Robert Berry
- Denny also shared "Silver Pine Cones" (multiple sources)

SOME GOOD NEWS

Vicki Tiedeman reports that her surgery was successful. She is recovering at home. The back pain is gone, and she has been assured that the sore throat that makes swallowing difficult is normal and will soon disappear. She appreciates the kind wishes she has received from many of us,

Stories told to children can make a difference. Scholars have found that stories have a strong influence on children's understanding of cultural and gender roles. Stories do not just develop children's literacy; they convey values, beliefs, attitudes, and social norms which, in turn, shape children's perceptions of reality. I found through my research that children learn how to behave, think, and act through the characters that they meet through stories.

Peggy Albers Professor of Language and Literacy Education, Georgia State University

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