

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries July 11, 2023

Beth Wakelee started the evening with a story from Tales from Wales. It seems that giants are too big for their caves. We learned that the tallest giants must stick out their toes while they sleep, and their cold toes make them cranky and cruel. Only a clever Welsh boy can defeat such a giant!

Sharon Elwell brought a personal story about a teenage tragedy that turned out to be a triumph.

Meg Brown shared the legend of St. Christopher, who searched the world for the most powerful king, eventually found the Christ, and became the patron saint of travelers.

Marie told of being a graduate student while working 24-hour shifts at a rehab facility for mentally ill patients who were disturbed and taking psychotropic drugs. She was attacked by one and has never forgotten that terrifying moment.

Brandon Spars recounted an experience with Jared Diamond, the author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. As a high school teacher, Brandon had used Diamond's book as a text for many years and had great admiration for the author. Multiple attempts to get the writer's attention led to hilarious results.

Elaine Stanley recited the famous poem, "The Quitter," by British author Robert Service, something we all need to hear sometimes!

When you're lost in the Wild, and you're scared as a child,
And Death looks you bang in the eye,
And you're sore as a boil, it's according to Hoyle
To cock your revolver and . . . die.
But the Code of a Man says: "Fight all you can,"
And self-dissolution is barred.
In hunger and woe, oh, it's easy to blow . . .
It's the hell-served-for-breakfast that's hard.

"You're sick of the game!" Well, now, that's a shame.
You're young and you're brave and you're bright.
"You've had a raw deal!" I know — but don't squeal,
Buck up, do your damndest, and fight.
It's the plugging away that will win you the day,
So don't be a piker, old pard!
Just draw on your grit; it's so easy to quit:
It's the keeping-your-chin-up that's hard.
It's easy to cry that you're beaten — and die;
It's easy to crawfish and crawl;
But to fight and to fight when hope's out of sight —
Why, that's the best game of them all!
And though you come out of each gruelling bout,
All broken and beaten and scarred,
Just have one more try — it's dead easy to die,
It's the keeping-on-living that's hard.