

## **Do Tell Story Swap Summaries**

### **December 9, 2025**

**Vina Greyfogle** started the evening with a heartwarming story about a wandering cat who may or may not have had a great adventure.

**Rose Owens** shared a Patricia Polacco story, “The Christmas Tapestry,” which teaches that everything happens for a reason – although we can’t always see it right away.

**Laura McHale Holland** took us back to childhood memories of colorful cards and unexpected gifts.

**Renu Narayan** called in from India to tell the story of an old wrestler who learned and then taught how to fight without harming an opponent.

**Sharon Elwell** told a story of a German child who taught his family how to help immigrants from Poland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Meg Brown** shared a Norwegian folk tale featuring an ice bear and trolls.

**Walter Wilson** ended the evening with the old favorite, “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” revised to include the listeners.

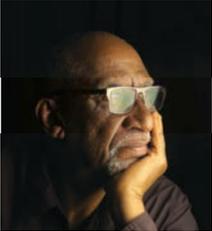
# TELLABRATION!™ 2025



TIM ERENETA

## TELLABRATION!™ Summaries - November 11

**Tim Ereneta**, our first guest teller, entertained us with a folk tale from the Uyghur people of northern China. In this delightful and wonderfully told story, a young man whose kindness to three animals in distress help him avoid death and win a princess's hand in marriage.



BROTHER BEN

**Brother Ben** told us about the Black soldiers in WW 2 and their struggles for equality. The story centers on one soldier's efforts to get permission to marry the French woman he loved and wanted to bring home to a Jim Crow America. A letter to the Supreme Court resulted in the Army allowing him to bring his wife and child to America, though under certain conditions. This story is a part of the efforts to abolish miscegenation laws in the South and allow inter racial marriages.



ROSE OWENS

**Rose Owens** told a folksy story about her large family and their resilience and love for each other. Her mother died after having her last baby and the baby was taken to live with a relative. The father and the whole family worked to make a home so they could stay together and bring the baby home. When their father married again the family grew even larger and the baby was reunited with the family.



KENNETH FOSTER

**Ken Foster** honored Veterans Day with his story of being a young medical officer with the Hospital Corp during Viet Nam. He recounted the bravery and fearful experiences of being on the battle field and his efforts to treat the wounded.



SHARON ELWELL

**Sharon Elwell** told a story of a bruja who was hired to cook for a young unmarried man who loved to eat. After discovering the bruja's tricks, a young woman saved him from the bruja's witchery, married him and they lived happily ever after.



## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

### October 14, 2025

**Beverly Schwartz** let us in on a not-so-secret elixir that can magically change meatballs into marbles, brownies into food of the gods and a quiet night out into a wild adventure.

**Meg Brown** told a classic southern tale of a return from the dead... all through the eyes of a rather pragmatic child who sees through the fear, despair and horror of a situation to a happier than expected ending.

Travel with **Laura McHale Holland** down a road so "devoid of light as to resemble another universe". Who is that stranger by the side of the road? What is behind that feeble light and creaking door?

**Vicky Ness** told a series of childhood vignettes, summer into Christmas, circa 1956, witnessing a world full of magical things.

**Rose Owens** told The Wooden Sword, a tale from Afghanistan about generosity, gratitude and power of simple faith to flummox even the most potent powers of the "all-powerful" king.

**Renu Narayan** told a story about secrets: those that can be kept under wraps and those that will come out no matter how hard we try to keep them.

**Katy Mangan** told a magical story about a young man's sacred journey of taking leave, transformation and the weaving of the natural with the sacred, the human with the magical.

**Do Tell Story Swap Summaries**  
**September 9, 2025**

**Meg Brown** opened the evening with “The Household Snake,” a story she found in the book, *Five Minute Stories*. In Cairo, where a snake in the house is considered good luck, a mother snake decides to take revenge on the family when the children abuse her baby snakes. But the good luck prevails.

**Rose Owens** delighted us with a story called “The Never Forgot Doll,” that she had found in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Taking the part of seven-year-old Nancy, she recounted her adventures and ended by showing us her real doll.

**Renu Narayan** joined us from India and shared a story she wrote about a girl who lost her mother and found her again.

**Beth Wakelee** shared a version of a famous folktale about a smuggler and the border patrolman who couldn’t figure out what was being smuggled.

**Chester Weems** called in from Oklahoma City to share an Icelandic story that he learned on a trip there. A sheep dog who was injured by a scythe became the best of all.

**Sharon Elwell** recalled Rudyard Kipling’s *Just So* story about King Solomon and the butterfly.

**Brandon Spars** brought the evening to an end with a hilarious story about disposing of his aunt’s collection of Middle Eastern literature.

## **Do Tell Story Swap Summaries**

### **August 12, 2025**

**Beth Wakelee** opened the evening with a delightful folk tale from Canadian Indigenous people. The gods had to find a way to keep the sun from going too far away or getting too close. A net was devised, but wasn't working well until Beaver saved the day and was rewarded with sharp teeth and beautiful fur. His tail, however, had a special purpose.

**Renu Narayan** joined us from India with a story about a butterfly and a dragonfly who were able to find a way to help a person in spite of their small size.

**Chester Weems** called in from Oklahoma to tell a personal story of a memorial service for a remarkable family member: "Uncle Leo."

**Rose Owens** in Livermore told of growing up in Vernal, Utah, which came to be known as "Dinosaur Land" because of the bones found there. Her personal adventure tracking fossils becomes the stuff of legend, and "the roar of the dinosaur is heard again."

**Vicky Ness** shared a story about Celeste and her mother, who face life's difficulties, including the "Moo Monsters" next door.

**Sharon Elwell** in Montana recited a poem celebrating the writing of J.R.R. Tolkien.

**Sree Karuna**, in India, told of a schoolboy who brought home his own shoots to grow, but couldn't understand why all of his classmates had plants that grew well, and he did not.

**Katy Mangan** completed the evening with a personal story of the end of summer in her village in England, where her days of riding freely through the fields came to an end with the start of school.

## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

July 8, 2025

**Rose Owens** began the evening with a personal story about 17 ladybug rocks that mysteriously disappeared from her yard: the whole collection, in fact, except for Bertha Louise. Fortunately, a young neighbor, Zach, came to the rescue.

**Renu Narayan** zoomed in from India to share a story about a worried mom who found a unique way to overcome her constant worrying.

**Sharon Elwell** told a historical story about Joshua Norton, who declared himself emperor of San Francisco in 1859 and was beloved of his city.

**Vicky Ness** wowed us with an imaginative tale about a banana that changed the lives of many other plants and people in surprising ways.

**Shilpa** called in from India to share a folk tale about an old woman who unknowingly saved herself from robbers by talking to the fish she was about to eat for dinner.

**Genevieve Franklin** shared a heartwarming personal story about coming to recognition and understanding of her life as a Mexican American, including a quote from Benito Juarez, "Peace is to be found in respect for the rights of others."

**Katy Mangan** ended the evening with the enchanting story of Eduardo in the Emerald Forest.

## **Do Tell Story Swap Summaries**

### **May 13, 2025**

We had a full evening and a great variety of storytellers!

**Meg Brown** kicked off the evening with the poem, “The Glory Trail,” from a book called Sun and Saddle Leather by Badger Clark. The poem recounted the unfortunate fate of a man who roped a mountain lion.

**Chester Weems** called in from Oklahoma City with the story of a funeral service where the hearse was frozen shut.

**Ken Foster** came to us from Ephraim, Utah, with a story of Luther Burbank’s walnut trees that ended up made by Ken himself into bowls.

**Vicky Ness** told about a grandma who smoked without tobacco and shared secrets with her granddaughter.

**Sharon Elwell** shared a personal story of a hospital patient who endured his situation by cherishing his favorite memories.

**Laura McHale Holland** sang a poem about an aspiring San Francisco artist.

**Renu Narayan** called from India to tell of a wise mother who settled disputes between her son and daughter-in-law.

**Genevieve Franklin** quoted Edith Wharton’s line: “My little dog – a heartbeat at my feet,” to tell us about her beloved pet, Chipper.

**Sree Karuna** called from India to tell about a disciple of Buddha who needed to improve in order to prepare himself to teach.

**Katy Mangan** ended the evening with a visit to the magical world of Eduardo, and a birth that celebrates the spring equinox.

## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

April 8, 2025

What a night!

**Brother Ben Tucker** was our guest teller, and he delighted us with an Armenian folk tale about an invincible rooster who outsmarted a greedy king.

**Rose Owens** joined in the spirit of poultry with a story called “The Little Rooster and the Turkish Sultan.”,

**Sharon Elwell** in Washington shared a children’s story about Milli McBean, who was “meaner than any kid you’ve ever seen.”

**Chester Weems** called in from Oklahoma to tell the true story of a blind man who led federal workers to safety when the Oklahoma City federal building was bombed.

**Beth Wakelee** told a thoughtful folk tale called “The Traveler and the Bear,” which led her listeners to think about where to put your trust.

**Shilpa** called “from tomorrow” in India to share the story of a woman who learned the importance of telling your stories and sharing your songs.

**Renu Narayan** in India told a heartwarming story of the reconciliation of a father and son.

**Meera** in India told a “crispy, crunchy” story with music about rice cakes and chutney that made all of us hungry.

**Sree Karuna** ended the evening with the tale of a traveler caught between a bear and a tiger – with an unexpected outcome.

## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

March 11, 2025

**Rose Owens** called in from Livermore to share a personal story about life in a household of 16 children.

**Meg Brown** told “The Wish Ring,” a folk tale about a man who helped an old woman and got a ring from her as a gift. The ring granted only one wish. What should he wish for?

**Renu Narayan** joined us from India to tell the story of a lazy donkey who could never wake up on time. All of the animals tried making their sounds to rouse him, and one finally succeeded.

**Vicky Ness** shared her latest story about a refugee girl who had learned from shadow puppet stories that courage and generosity always win in the end. With “highly improbably optimism,” she collected leftover vegetable seeds to plant gardens to feed her family.

**Sree Karuna** called from India to tell of a young woman going through all the trials of a marriage decision, a husband who didn’t cook, morning sickness, post-partum depression, and eventually menopause. Her beloved daughter gives her the key to surviving the turbulent waters of a woman’s life.

## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

February 11, 2025

**Beth Wakelee** opened the evening with an indigenous creation folktale. Hawk searches the watery world for a place to land, and finally the lowly coot is able to dive deep enough under the water to bring up enough mud to start the world.

**Vicky Ness** told the story of Alma Tidybones, a sturdy woman who resisted the plans of Elias Grubb to turn her five-acre wood into a retail development.

**Rose Owens** shared the tale of a princess who would give her hand to the man who could bring her a blue rose.

**Sharon Elwell** shared one of her stories about Mary Ellen Pleasant, a 19th century abolitionist.

**Renu Narayan** called in from India to tell us about a wife who was jealous of her husband's love for his puppy – until a dramatic event changed her mind.

**Laura McHale Holland** shared a tale from her new book, *Shinbone Lane*. The scary story advises listeners not to go near Stowe Lake in Golden Gate Park at night.

**Sree Karuna** told us about a popular professor who prepared an elaborate lecture, only to find that there was just one student to listen. What should he do?

**Katy Mangan** ended the evening with a visit to the magical world of Eduardo, who taught his friend Alice how to honor her mother, her mother's mother, and her mother's mother's mother.

## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

January 14, 2025

**Vicky Ness** started the evening with a “pocket story,” a short one you always have ready to tell. Her pocket story was about multi-colored ribbons that hung down from a dark cloud above. Should we pull on one? Would it bring disaster down upon us? Would it bring the answer to all our dreams?

**Renu Narayan** joined us from India to tell the story of two men who spent the night in a village where snoring was punishable by death. Would they survive the night?

**Kenneth Foster** called in from Ephraim, Utah, to tell the story of being hit by a golf club as he tried to help his friend learn the proper stance. The days in the hospital were eye-opening and full of ice cream, and the scar is still there to show.

**Sharon Elwell** told a true story of a woman alone who faced an intruder and told her story from the stand in a courtroom.

**Brandon Spars** recounted one of his first days as a 9th grade teacher on a retreat in the redwoods. When one of the boys needed emergency batteries, social dynamics changed dramatically.

**Genevieve Franklin** told of her long relationship with a red vacuum cleaner, which she eventually had to give up.

**Shirley Anne**, portrayed by **Katy Mangan**, told of the Christmas when Covid changed the celebration in their tiny English village.