

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries June 11, 2024

Beth Wakelee began the evening with a delightful Scandinavian folk tale called “Backing Up Your Story,” from the book *Apples from Heaven*. A boastful husband gets himself into trouble, but his wife saves him, proving that “a rooster can crow, but it’s the hen who delivers the goods.”

Ken Foster called in from Ephraim, Utah, to share a story about a stingy baker in Peru who wanted to charge his neighbor money for enjoying the delicious aromas of his baked goods.

Meg Brown told a Norwegian folk tale about a hand mill that wouldn’t stop grinding.

Renu Narayan called from early morning in India to tell an original story she shared with children about dinosaurs who fought each other until a tiny mouse taught them wisdom.

Sharon Elwell told of a prince in search of a wise bride.

Sree Karuna joined us from India to share the story of a cockroach who felt that wigs, false eyelashes, and bright lipstick made her more attractive.

Genevieve Franklin told us about her journey to become an undesignated kidney donor.

Vicky Ness gave us an original story of Jewel – a woman whose heart was broken when her three hens – Arabella, Zina, and Butterball – were killed by a predator. Could she ever find joy in living again?

Katy Mangan shared a story of an Oliver Trout – a strange visitor who came during the summer solstice, when things “are not always what they seem to be.”

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries May 14, 2024

It was a great night of stories!

Beverly Schwartz started the evening with a heartwarming personal story of an experience she had as a teacher. Her third-grade students surprised her with a Mothers' Day party to honor the idea that she had been like a mother to them.

Beth Wakelee shared a North Carolina folktale from Richard Chase about an old woman who fooled three robbers.

Elaine Stanley told about a coyote who got revenge on dogs who wouldn't let him in to the dog party.

Laura McHale Holland gave us an Irish folktale of a woman under a fairy spell who had an unsolvable dilemma. Her story included a lovely folk song Laura had written herself.

Renu Narayan called in from early morning in India to tell the story of a young man with the problem of settling on a career.

Sharon Elwell told a personal story of an orchid no one wanted.

Sree Karuna called from India to share the story of a hummingbird who tried to put out a forest fire and inspired a miracle.

Meg Brown shared a Norwegian folk tale about a young bride who was challenged to spin, and weave, and sew. Her kindness resulted in a happy result.

Deb shared a scary story of a near-drowning experience in her childhood that taught her a lot.

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

April 9, 2024

Neshama Franklin, a newcomer to the group, enchanted us with a story about everyone's favorite witch: Baba Yaga.

Sharon Elwell related how a storyteller changed a long bus ride from an ordeal to a fascinating adventure.

Renu Narayan called from early morning in India to delight us with the story of a confrontation between a temple deity and a terrible singer.

Vina Breyfogle called attention to the fact that the seed spores of trees on the ground were only half-visible in the shadows during an eclipse.

Vicky Ness told a moving story about three women: young Elsbeth, her mother, and her grandmother, as they experienced Easter.

Sree Karuna called in from India to share the story of a generous wise man and his beloved horse, Sultan.

Katy Mangan took us into Eduardo's magical world to share a story about "Old Willem," the gardener of the magic walled garden.

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries March 12, 2024

Ken Foster joined in from Ephraim, Utah, to share a delightful Indian story about an unambitious youth whose father gave him a challenge to prove himself. Could he buy a single item at the market that one could eat, drink, chew, plant, and feed to a cow? The boy came home with such an item. What could it have been?

Vicky Ness let her inimitable imagination run wild in the story of a crumbling old haunted-seeming house that was beloved by its community. A developer took it down to replace it with shiny, clean buildings, but the town had different tastes.

Sharon Elwell called from Bremerton, Washington and told a personal story of a brief encounter on a dark night.

Renu Narayan joined us from India with a legend of twin children who went on a perilous quest to recover a golden singing bird.

Katy Mangan shared a prequel to the Eduardo legend, telling of his grandmother Eleanor, and her unfulfilled wish for a granddaughter to carry on her great knowledge of women's magic and mysteries.

Brandon Spars, our genial host, ended the evening with a personal story of a river near their family vacation cabin, and the effects of the river over generations from his grandparents to his children.

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries February 13, 2024

Beth Wakelee shared a folk tale that Linda Yamane pieced together from several Ohlone legends about how Eagle solved the problem of the great flood with a single feather.

Laura McHale Holland told a charming story of a lonely couple in a wintry land who built a snow child.

Sharon Elwell took us back to 1952 and what seemed to her to be a perfect summer day.

Katy Mangan took on the persona of her British friend, Shirley Anne, to relate how the search for mistletoe to celebrate the solstice led to a great discovery.

Vicky Ness told us about Abner and his problem with mumbling rocks in his garden, which led him to a great discovery and a new friend.

Elaine Stanley bamboozled us with a “stretcher,” an autobiographical story that delighted us as it became wildly impossible.

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries January 9, 2024

Co-hosts Katy Mangan and Vicky Ness filled in for Brandon Spars, who is traveling abroad with his high school students.

Kenneth Foster zoomed in from Ephraim, Utah, with a Cuba folk talk about the great god Obakala and his search for someone to be the god of our specific world. His helper, Orula, was tasked with preparing the best possible meal for him. Succeeding at that task, Orula was asked to prepare the worst possible meal. Turns out the two meals were the same – and for a very interesting reason.

Vicky Ness told of a woman named Midge who entered an invention in a community makers' fair called "Lean into the Future." Her fascinating invention taught the townspeople that what they needed was what they had all along.

Beth Wakelee called in from Hawaii to share a Suquamish folk tale about gossiping clams.

Sharon Elwell took us through transitions in music that changed the lives of her family.

Laura McHale Holland told part of a novel she's writing about a French trapper and his battle with noisy frogs.

Genevieve Franklin shared a piece she has written about Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has become a ubiquitous symbol of hope to Latino people everywhere.

Kenneth Foster ended the evening with a favorite story of 1953, when a forgotten wagonload of pollywogs upended their family life.