

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries June 13, 2023

Sharon Elwell told the first story of the evening: an Appalachian folk tale from the Cathryn Fairlee collection about an ornery farmer and his equally ornery mule.

Liz Nichols joined as a guest teller and delighted us with two folk tales: one a Japanese story of a young man who was “three times unlucky,” and the second from the Hassidic tradition dealing with the age-old question of how to accept the bad with the good.

Bev Schwarz shared an adapted fairy tale in which a frantic mother must figure out how to rescue her babies who have been traded by goblins for changelings.

Laura McHale Holland told an enthralling story she wrote about a niece who was “different,” called “When She Wakes Up.”

Kenneth Foster made us laugh with a poem about patched jeans.

Vicky Ness told a thought-provoking story about adults who cautioned their worried daughter not to let her imagination run away with her, but their own imaginations were carrying them away.

Genevieve Franklin told of helping a friend clean out a storage unit and getting trapped in the facility when the gates locked for the night.

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries May 9, 2023

Brandon Spars began the evening with a personal story about using the book, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* in teaching his high school students. His admiration for the author, Jared Diamond, was such that he produced a manuscript of his own about using the book in his classes. When the opportunity came to meet Diamond in person, however, everything changed.

Beth Wakelee shared a delightful African folktale about a giant caterpillar that teaches a lesson about courtesy.

Elaine Stanley, a founding member of the Do Tell swap, recited the much-loved ballad, *The Face on the Barroom Floor*.

Sharon Elwell told a personal memory that taught her that people are very much alike under their superficial differences.

Laura McHale Holland, a newcomer to the group, told a sweet story about a tailor who never had enough fabric to make himself a garment. His ingenuity solved the problem.

Kenneth Foster, another Do Tell founding member joining us from Utah, told of a favorite summer when buckets of pollywogs resulted in dozens of bullfrogs.

Katy Mangan shared a story about a blank book that comes to life and adds a twist to the plot of an old fairy tale.

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

April 11, 2023

Ed Lewis told a story about Fred, a freeloading friend who was determined to hitch a ride on Ed's two-month trip up the Amazon River. Fred is a kidney stone – a kidney stone who decidedly did not want to foray into the big world and kept retreating back to the comforts of his favorite kidney. That is, until Ed adopted a genius strategy for ushering the little fellow out.

Vicky Ness told a story about a poor widow with two daughters who lived in the shadow of a perfectly beautiful and very prosperous town. Bringing gifts of vision, hope, compassion and creativity, the two daughters help the town realize that it takes more than beauty and wealth to make a community.

Tom's story, Big Joe, was a poetic recitation of a haunting song made popular by the group, Asleep At The Wheel. A tale of a hitchhiker getting a ride from "Big Joe" whose truck, number 309, was barreling down the highway before stopping to pick up the hitchhiker. Part ghost story, part popular urban myth material, Big Joe left us creating our own endings.

Elaine Stanley told an old favorite. What happens when two master pickpockets fall in love? Yep, they steal each other's hearts. But what happens when they want to settle down and start a family? "And baby makes three" turns out to be more than they bargained for.

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries March 14, 2023

Brandon Spars opened the evening with a personal story about trying to help his first grade son prepare for a speech. The boy had to face Louie the bully and Larry the one-eyed bullfrog during his presentation, with hilarious results.

Beverly Schwarz zoomed in from New York to share an experience that caused her to face down Pan Am Airlines.

Vicky Ness told about Linnea's attempt to document on a spreadsheet all of the names of the various plants in her neighborhood, until a friendly witch with a taste for elegant clothing showed her the futility of such an idea.

Diamond paid homage to Dr. Seuss with a story and some of his famous sayings.

Meg Brown paid tribute to our dear Sher Christian, who recently passed away, by reading one of her poems that included the line, "Something that comes from the heart urges us to share our gifts."

Katy Mangan related another chapter in the magical, mysterious life of Eduardo, who dances with cranes and learns the healing ways of women.

Sharon Elwell told a Japanese folk tale from the collection that Cathryn Fairlee bequeathed to the group.

Genevieve Franklin told about the power of the poem "Invictus" in the life of a hospitalized man facing death.

Do Tell Story Summaries February 14, 2023

Brandon Spars and **Katy Mangan** served as hosts for a remarkable evening of stories.

Beth Wakelee started us off with an Appalachian folk tale with a cast of characters involving a hungry bear and a clever squirrel.

Beverly Schwarz joined from New York to share another animal story about the day that Jimmy's muddy dog showed up at school.

Elaine Stanley told a story from Maine about that is based on a pun about Mrs. Pott's pit, where she didn't want the snakes in Piscataquis County to hiss.

Kenneth Foster shared a story about the owner of a mercantile store in 1907. He told all of the judgments he was able to make to assess job candidates based on their grooming and behavior. Respect, kindness, and patience are characteristics that show in daily behavior.

Sharon Elwell told a Japanese folk tale about a cracked tea cup that ended up feeding 1000 people for a whole year.

Vicky Ness shared an original story about a couple struggling with the rigors of old age and accepting beauty and joy through pain and sorrow.

Laurie Reaume was a welcome sight back in the group. She told of a cutting board made by her father that was falling apart and useless, but hard to give up. She taught us that it is good to renew, and to experience the gifts of kindness.

Katy Mangan brought Shirley Anne, her English friend, back to life for us in an imagined visit to California, "Women Cry When They're Happy."

Diamond ended our evening with a heartbreaking story of a near-kidnapping in her teenage years. She discovered after the fact that she had actually encountered Jaycee Dugard during Jaycee's time as a prisoner.

Do Tell Story Summaries

January 2023

Meg Brown started a winter's evening with a story of traveling through a white out snow storm in Minnesota. All of us put on another sweater and got a warm cup of tea.

Beth Wakelee in Hawaii took us to the other extreme, telling a story of Pele, the fire goddess. An arrogant young man treated an older woman disrespectfully when she asked to race him on a slide down the lava. Pele is still angry today, sending out fire from Mauna Loa and Kileaua. It is best to treat elders with deference!

Sharon Elwell told a Chinese folk tale curated by Cathryn Fairlee. A spoiled young girl, Xian-Ling, learns to care for others through difficult experiences.

Beverly Schwarz shared a story about a WWII survivor of the Nazi concentration camps who discovers her real identity many years later through a preserved family necklace and pendant.

Kenneth Foster, in Ephraim, Utah, told of a Christmas when his father taught him that the real joy of the season comes in giving, as he took his young son to help an impoverished family.

Vicky Ness ended the evening with a story contrasting Abner, who found jewels in pomegranate seeds and broken bottles, with his acquisitive neighbors, whose greed and anger destroyed their home. A great night of stories!