

TELLABRATION!™ 2023

Do Tell Story Swap Sonoma County

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

The Do Tell story swap joins with storytellers all over the world each November to celebrate TELLABRATION!™.

Brandon Spars, our host, read the proclamation declaring the international celebration. And what a great night it was for the swap! Brandon kicked off the event by recounting his debut as a storyteller at Spanky's bar in Cotati, where patrons actually threw things at him.

Beth Wakelee recounted two folktales. The first was the Norwegian story of a husband who thought he could handle the housework better than his wife – with disastrous results. The second was a Cornish story about Duffy, a girl who made a pact with a devil.

Dr. Ruth Ochoa, who worked for many years as an ER doctor, touched us with a personal story of losing and recovering her jam (joy and meaning) after experiencing burnout.

Kenny Hamann, a 10th grader, told of annual visits to Samuel P. Taylor park with his sister and cousins. Each year they hiked the Devil's Gulch trail, getting closer to the end, passing the sign that said, "Continue at your own risk!" wondering what they would encounter at trail's end. A pot of gold? Well, no.

Luz Navarrette told us that she always waits for three signs to know that the spirit is directing her to take action. In one instance, she found herself in Nepal with the Dalai Lama, experiencing her own hero's journey – the quest where one leaves the safety of home and undertakes a pilgrimage, returning with new knowledge.

Ken Foster concluded the evening with a delightful narrative about a moment in history, when the women of a besieged castle found a way to save themselves and their beloved men. Ken reminded us that there is always another way to solve a problem.

