

## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

### July 9, 2024

Our host, **Brandon Spars**, opened the evening – and ended it as well - with the delightful story of how he met and courted his wife. Thirty-five years ago, he was a volunteer English teacher in Bali and Irma, his future wife, was his student. After some hilarious misadventures with the language, Brandon won her.

**Renu Narayan** zoomed in from India with charming hand puppets to tell the story of a bird who lost his song. The song traveled to other animals: a butterfly, a fish, an elephant, and even a camel before finding its way back.

**Beth Wakelee** shared an old English folktale called “Tops and Bottoms,” in which a farmer makes a successful deal with an imp.

**Laura McHale Holland** told an original story about an empty cardboard box that arrives unexpectedly and produces a wonderful gift.

**Sharon Elwell** told an old story of a neat little woman for whom everything seemed to turn out just right.

**Vicky Ness** has invented another charming story of nine-year-old Edmond, whose dream was to become a toll taker on the New Jersey Turnpike – until he is attacked by a uniform.

**Katy Mangan** shared a Scottish tale of Limping Norman, whose name is changed after an adventure with the Little People – the fairies.

# Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

## August 13, 2024

**Meg Brown** kicked off the evening with a delightful tale of a grumpy mother-in-law who hoped to get rid of two daughters-in-law, Moon Flower and Lotus Blossom, by asking them to bring her impossible gifts.

**Brandon Spars** told an Indonesian folk tale, very reminiscent of Cinderella, about two sisters with opposite personalities who faced the same challenge in different ways and with different results.

**Ken Foster** shared a Persian folktale about one of his favorite characters: Nasreddin. Nasreddin was invited to a banquet at the sultan's palace where he was treated differently when his clothing was different.

**Katy Mangan** told a story of her character, Eduardo, and what happened in his world when the grain harvest was poor, and the village had to cooperate to find another source of income.

**Renu Narayan** called in from India to tell a story she wrote about a young singer who learned how to express her own talent.

**Sharon Elwell** told a Just So Story about King Solomon and his encounter with a butterfly with an argumentative wife.

**Genevieve Franklin** ended the evening with a story she put together extemporaneously about her mother becoming a curandera.

## **Do Tell Story Swap Summaries**

### **September 10, 2024**

September 10 was a short evening of stories. Many of our tellers and listeners were anxious to watch the presidential debate on TV, so we met only briefly. But the few stories we heard were memorable (and much more relaxing than the debate proved to be).

**Renu Narayan** called in from India to tell us about a master high in the mountains who instructed his students, “Remember that with everything you think, everything you say, and everything you do, someone is always watching you.” The students wondered who that mysterious watcher might be. Is it God? Angels? Parents? The master himself? The surprising answer makes for a delightful story.

**Deb** shared a story she is writing about foxes and wolves who share territory because wolves eat sheep and foxes eat chickens. When their relationship becomes a matter of debate, coyotes have an opportunity to grab the territory for themselves.

**Meg Brown** told a folktale called “The Little Rooster and the Turkish Sultan,” about a rooster with a magic stomach who tricks the powerful sultan into giving him a diamond.

## **Do Tell Story Swap Summaries**

### **October 08, 2024**

We had a great night of storytelling!

**Vicky Ness** opened the evening with a story she composed about a woman who wanted a beautiful kimono to wear to the August Bon festival. As she helped cook, clean up, and assist others attending the festival, her kimono became stained. Her husband taught her an important lesson about those stains.

**Rose Owens**, a professional teller, joined us from Livermore. She shared a Chinese folk tale about a boy who wanted to paint the most beautiful things he saw and eventually got a magic brush. After that, everything he painted became real, with surprising consequences.

**Meg Brown** told “The Widow’s Broom,” a story by Chris Van Allsburg. The widow gets a broom that cleans for her and does many more tasks. Is it a good thing or – as her neighbor Mr. Spivey believes – an evil thing?

**Sharon Elwell** told an O. Henry story about Stubby Smith, a cold, penniless vagrant in search of a warm bed.

**Renu Narayan** called in from India to share a story about a girl who traded her luck claw pendant for an irresistible blue umbrella with unexpected results.

**Genevieve Franklin** shared a personal story about her dog Chipper, who was bitten by a rattlesnake and lived to share her life.



# TELLABRATION!™ 2024

## DO TELL STORY SWAP SONOMA COUNTY

### TELLABRATION!™ Summaries – November 12

Joining with storytellers in 40 states and nine countries, more than 300 groups are telling stories during the annual November TELLABRATION!™. The Do Tell group shared a delightful evening. We were joined by Ken Foster in Utah and Marian Ferrante, both of whom were founding members of our group in 2011, and Alicia Retes, our guest teller, who told her first stories with us a few years ago and has gone on to be a professional teller in libraries throughout California.

**Alicia Retes**, drew on her ethnic heritage, which includes Yaqui, the “fighting farmers,” from whom she took the story of a man who sold his brother to perform as a bear. The betraying brother gets an unexpected recompense.

**Meg Brown** also drew on her heritage to tell the story of her grandfather, a merchant marine during World War II, who saved his ship, which was sinking in the freezing water of the North Atlantic, because tea – his lifeline – was on that ship.

**Katy Mangan** shared a personal story of her “Sacred Stones and Sites” pilgrimage to Scotland. We were shivering as she recounted her visit to the shrine of the Cailleach – the goddess of winter – and what she learned from that challenging adventure.

**Vicky Ness** told a “gentle, slightly magical” story of the spirits of the past and the spirits of the future who share a profound respect for a struggling teenager, whose life represents the present.

**Brandon Spars** ended the evening with a hilarious story of his disastrous honeymoon, when he took his Indonesian bride to visit his grandmother’s cabin in a remote area of Missouri.



## Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

December 10, 2024

**Vicky Ness** started the evening with a pocket story – a short story a teller can always have ready to tell for any occasion. Hers was the tale of a strange peddler who came to town offering what he called the Elixir of Life. It was a smelly, disgusting brew. Would people drink it?

**Beth Wakelee** told a traditional fairy tale from The Jupiter Tree, in which the hero tried to find a situation that would make his flesh crawl. And he did!

**Renu Narayan** came to us from India to share a story about a cat who wanted to find the best and strongest friend. Was it the lion? The elephant? Or someone else altogether?

**Sharon Elwell** told a personal story about her 7 th grade student and his bad luck pants. Rose Owens told a story she wrote about the Santa Train that goes through Appalachia every year and a child who learned the best gift.

**Sree Karuna** joined from India to tell the story of a wife who learned how to win the heart of her grumpy husband.

**Katy Mangan** closed the evening with a solstice story that begins with the goddess of winter, the Cailleach, turning Eduardo's world cold and ends with a sunrise promising a return to light and warmth. A perfect ending for a December evening of stories!