

Inland Valley Storytellers January 10, 2012

Barbara Rugeley (I) emceed and brought home-made, pistachio chocolate swirl Bundt cake, some fresh fruit and vegies, and mango juice. Chris brought banana nut bread and Jayne brought some cheese.

We were a group of 15: Charlie Young, Jayne and John Sjodin, John Schmalstig, Rhoda Huffman, Ron Chick, Adrien Lowery, Chris & John St. Clair, Jan Baskin, Judy Piette, Ron Evans, and I. Two visitors listened: Corey and her mom M & M (face painter, who left her e-mail and I left it behind!)

We heard 5 tellers.

- John Schmalstig told a personal story, "If I Could." ...dream, open up to others, love all.
- John St. Clair is reworking stories from long ago. He told a Russian tale, "My Mother Sends her Wisdom." The Widow Petrovna makes payments to the moneylender, Old Boris, whose voice was raspy with greed. Her payments were in the form of 2 laying geese, then 2 pigs, then a sack of wheat. When Old Boris rejected her wisdom and sold the items, instead of investing in them, he lost the balance of his payments.
- Ron Evans commented that the current political campaigns are noisy and grating. He has a story about times that were hard, perhaps as they are today. When a rich man laid a \$100 bill on the counter of the hotel and asked to view the rooms in advance, the hotel owner took that bill to pay off his debt to the farmer for his wheat and meat, who took that bill to pay off the feed and grain store owner, who took that bill to.... A stimulus package that paid off!
- Ron Chick told the story of Roshok, a peasant who wanted to own his own land. One cossack told him he could buy the amount of land that he could cover by walking from sunup to sundown. He started at dawn and ran and ran, to return to the beginning, at sundown,... but died at the finish. In answer to the question of how much land does a man need, in Roshok's case, it was 6 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 6 feet deep.
- Adrien told her Christmas/Advent tale, "The Secret of the Gifts," by Paul Flucke. <<http://www.homiliesbyemail.com/Special/Epiphany/story.html>> The Three Wise Men brought their precious gifts, but the Angel Gabriel said to them, "Your gift must be the essence of yourself, something precious to your soul." Each thought he had brought something wonderful: gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but when they went to place the gift before the baby, they found a hammer, vinegar, and a spear: not suitable for an infant. They worried about leaving their unintended gifts but "That fear you must leave to heaven," the Angel Gabriel replied. Having left their burdens with the Christ child, The Three Wise Men appeared younger and full of life and vigor.

A business meeting followed the stories and it was decided that we will provide a potluck lunch at the 29th Annual Southern California Story swap Festival. Chris St. Clair volunteered to coordinate the potluck . It was also decided that there will be no intermission at the spring concert. We will instead have the refreshments served at the reception after the concert. John

Schmalstig announced that he is hosting a storytelling meeting in Riverside next Wednesday night, January 18. Email John at john1724@earthlink.net for details.

Rhoda offered to host our next meeting on February 14, Valentine's Day.