

Inland Valley Storytellers Tales told on 1/8/19

We were 12 storytellers and listeners gathered to hear and tell stories on 1/8/19: Barbara Rugeley, Cass Armstrong, John & Chris St. Clair, Glen Grant, Jan Baskin, Ron Evans, Lillian & Louis Sergio, Darcel Cannady, Sosan Mitchell, and Sharon Gautier.

John emceed, and he and Chris brought healthy snacks, which we lingered over quite a long time. Next hosts are Lillian and Louis Sergio, for Feb. 12, 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

John shared announcements of upcoming events, including our own mid-year Storytelling Concert on Saturday, April 27, at the Quaker Meeting House in Claremont. We were sorry to hear of the death of Ellen Law, at 99, who had shared with us years ago about finding out, at 85 years old, that she was adopted.

Introductions included anything of interest that happened to us recently or where we came from or what we did for a living. Some included admissions of ages (gasp!), and retirements from school counseling, teaching, or nursing; some were still employed as a speaker or free lance editor some had been on cruise trips or lived in Claremont for 50 years one had a new granddaughter born Jan. 2. Three of us admitted buying the book *Plato and Platypus Walk into a Bar*, mentioned by Louis Sergio at the last meeting.

STORIES:

1. Louis Sergio told a true story from an old Reader's Digest. He calls it "The Devine Miss M" about a sixth-grade teacher who started her new class with the challenge to create a poem from their own first names. She was impressed by their poetic abilities, and by one student's precocity.
2. Ron Evans referred to his years in an "East African culture" where it was rude to end a conversation, so some quiet "ums" were used to keep the communication going. It was also a trait that one didn't speak unless you could answer the questions, 1) Is it true? 2) Is it good? 3) Is it useful? But sometimes some important information can be lost, as one man never found out.
3. Darcel Cannady drew us in with her inviting voice, beginning, "Once there was, and always shall be, an old old woman who lived on the edge of town. Some say she was wise; some said that she was crazy."
4. John St. Clair dove into his past repertoire of stories for children and got us helping tell the tale of "Fat Cat", a Danish folk tale. "I ate the gruel and the pot and the old woman too. And now I'm also going to eat you!"

Meeting summary by Barbara Rugeley