

Inland Valley Storytellers Tales told on 4/9/19

We were 12 storytellers and listeners gathered to hear and tell stories on April 9, 2019: Barbara Rugeley, Chris and John St. Clair, Jayne Sjodin, Josh and Paul Bublin, Lillian & Louis Sergio, Ron Evans, Suzanne Douglas, and Tom and Aynn Freeman. Thanks to Tom and Aynn for bringing a delicious spread of food artistically presented on a tablecloth covered table.

Jayne Sjodin shared a story about a famous stage coach driver. “Charlie Parkhurst was dying.” He was famous for bravery, once crossing a bridge just before it collapsed in a flood. We also learned about stage coach horses: lead (front), swing (middle), and wheelers (nearest the wheel). Placerville used to be called Hang Town, due to vigilante law. And that’s where Charlie was dying. The audience was enlisted to create hoof sounds and creaking bridge sounds. There is a surprise ending.

John St. Clair told a personal story about the summer of 1964 when he was a high school student with a summer job: sports announcer for the Little League! He loved it because he loved baseball, loved statistics (batting averages, etc.), and because it gave him extra points for his organization, National Forensics League, a public speaking group that he still belongs to. When his mother didn’t come on time to pick him up at 10:00, and then his father showed up in the car, he knew something terrible had happened. His father was a functioning alcoholic, but, by 10 pm, John didn’t trust him to drive. So John drove them to the hospital: his mother had been t-boned by a truck that ran a red light. The

car flipped more than once, but she survived. This was before seatbelts. His mother's picture was in the paper the next day, with the title "Fido Comes First." Until their dog was cared for, his mother had refused to get into the ambulance. The car was a 1959 Ford Anglia.

Aynn Freeman brought several props with her to tell the poem, "Late Passenger," by C. S. Lewis. She shared carnations and demonstrated her "unicorn horn" around her neck, as well as the stuffed animal. Plus, she had on a unicorn themed sweater! Then she told another poem, by James Thurber, also about unicorns. Ron Evans noted that Columbus OH has the Thurber House, and in the yard, on a plinth, with lilies all around it, stands a statue of a unicorn.

Louie Sergio told a story about Cecil B. DeMille. He had great plans to film "Six Days of the Creation," and invested in four camera crews to catch the action all at once. But each camera crew, at great expense, failed to record the momentous action.

Ron Evans began, "Early on a Sunday in May" in a forest, two scouting parties neared a clearing. They each moved toward the sound of a bell, a school bell. When they saw the meeting house in the clearing, they saw each other. Then a grey-haired woman came out and yelled, "Put down your weapons." They didn't. The woman yelled to 2 boys, who opened the windows and showed their muskets. The scouts, one blue and one grey, put down their weapons and washed up to enter for the Lord's service.