

Inland Valley Storytellers Summary of meeting on March 10, 2020

It was a dark and stormy night, when THREE gathered to enjoy each other's stories: Jayne Sjodin, the host with lots of delicious treats and drinks, Paul Bublin, and me, Barbara Rugeley.

We sat in a very small circle and reminisced about our first jobs. Jayne said she helped, at age 12 or 13, with a fashion show, lying about her age. Paul said he worked as a dishwasher in junior high school and quit when he saw how much advantage the owner took of him, while another "dishwasher" just stood and talked with the chef. I said I was a lifeguard, at 19, and recently had a skin graft on my nose because I didn't use enough sunscreen.

I told a story, "Harvey, the Foolish Pig," who had the Gift of Good Luck from the King of the Animals but didn't have the sense to find his riches.

Paul remembered helping a man build onto his cabin in the Glendora hills each winter when Harold came from Montana. The first job was to go to a wood pile and take out all the nails, then sort through all the wood. He went to it and was finally called off to help with the cabin. Other would-be applicants finished the chore in 15 minutes and were let go by lunch. Paul remembers watching Harold file a saw tooth saw: each tooth! But when Paul brought his nail gun, Harold fell in love with it. There was one time when they ran out of nails and resorted to straightening the old nails and using them to finish a project. It takes real skill to hammer in a bent nail! Harold had that skill.

Jayne shared a story about little wooden creatures, grey dots; others had lots of shiny stars. He wished he had pretty stars. He wondered how to get Wemmicks, created by Eli the Wood Carver. The Wemmicks went around all day putting stars or grey dots on each other. Poor Punchinello had lots of stars. He wondered why Lucia had no stars and no dots. How did she do that? Jayne shared with us the picture book, *You are Special*, by Max Lucada. I went home and ordered a copy.

We hope John and Chris enjoy the Tejas Festival, and say, hi, to Rhoda for us all. I canceled my plans to attend (and the hotel, plane, and car rental). Just too worried about the virus. I'm in the age range that should avoid unneeded group events. I certainly hope that all this will be over by October, when I plan to go to National. The LA Book Festival has deferred their event until the very weekend of Jonesborough. Arg.

Barbara Rugeley IVS scribe