

# Inland Valley Storytellers

## Summary of Zoom meeting on Sept. 8, 2020

We had a lovely Zoom session, thanks to Angela, and enjoyed seeing 16 of us! We were Angela Lloyd (Zoom Master), John St. Clair (IVS Leader extraordinaire), his wife Chris St. Clair, Elisabeth Anghel, Nick Smith, Ron Chick (with cameos of his wife Robin, plus a young grandson), Glenn Grant, Sarah Daum, Ron Evans, Irum Shiekh, Karl Moller, Adrian Lowery, Rd Plasschaert (Dusty Skye), Juliann Anderson, Barbara Brown (a Victorville friend of Angela's who stayed but a short while), and myself Barbara Rugeley.

While we waited for people to check in, we heard about John's camping trip Aug. 11-20, and learned that his oldest son is in remission from Crones Disease (new, and good, news for me) and that his other son in Maryland can't do the research he was hired to do because of COVID-19 restrictions.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John gave us an update on plans for a Joint Tellabration!™ on Zoom on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, with the Sonoma County Storytellers, named "Do Tell Storytellers". Ron Evans urged a time around 7:00 pm, not midnight or early morning. They will select 4 tellers and we need to select 4 tellers. There will be no story swap.

Ron Chick told us that Timpanogos Storytelling Festival will be on Zoom, Sept. 10, 11, 12 from 10 to 10: this weekend! Just \$25! I got mine!! I've missed one day already. Arg.

Note from John: The stories are online from September 10-20. My Internet was down and missed a day and a half but I'm going to be able to watch the whole festival. It looks like you might still be able to purchase a virtual pass at <<https://timpfest.org>>

Nick told us about a virtual storytelling program for school age kids. Check it out at <<http://pasadena-library.net/kids/telling-tales>>

Storytellers of San Diego are producing a live Zoom event called "The Viking Are Coming" on September 17.

Listen to Karen Rae Kraut tell "The Royal Elephant and the Hungry Little Stray Dog" at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fs-eVGpMI88>>

### STORIES

Nick offered to start our telling by referencing his knowledge of history through Disney. It was Mike Fink who took a barge and crew from Pittsburg to New Orleans but going back home was harder because there was no motor. He always sought a way to get food cheap for the crew. One time he rubbed snuff on several sheep's noses, setting up a sneezing fit. He told the farmer, "Your sheep might have Black Moraine Disease. It killed a whole flock unless you shoot the sick ones." "Shoot them for me! And I'll give you 2 jugs of brandy." They tossed the dead sheep into the shallow part of the river, then, once out of sight, retrieved the sheep and enjoyed a fine dinner, with some fine peach brandy.

Elisabeth shared next an Italian story from a book recommended by Karen Rae Krout, *Once Upon a Midlife: Classic Stories and Mythic Tales to Illuminate the Middle Years*, by Allan B.

Chinen and Roger Gould. A shopkeeper ran away, left his family, because he feared to be accused of the death of a man. He worked for a wise man for 20 years, never asking for any money, until he decided to return to his village and family. The wise man gave him 300 gold coins, then charged him for the advice the shopkeeper sought: 1) 100 coins for "Follow the old road, not the new. 2) 100 coins for "Don't meddle in other peoples' affairs. 3) 100 coins for "Stay calm. Wait til the next day before acting." Then the man gave him a little cake for his family and said, "Don't eat it til you see them." He had several adventures in which those 3 wise sayings kept him safely home, where he shared the cake with his family. It had 300 gold coins in it!

Adrian told a Hans Christian Andersen story, "There is a difference." A Countess cut a lovely apple branch and placed it in water at her castle. It was lovely. The apple branch knew how lovely it was. And so it happened that the apple branch grew proud, and that's quite human. The apple branch looked with pity on the lowly dandelion outside the window. But the sunbeam kissed all the flowers, and said, "You don't see very clearly. There is beauty in all God's creatures."

Angela mentioned that each Saturday morning at 8:00 AM, there is a Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Festival, with Laura Simms. I found one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USeq2DMajog>

Ron Chick said he hopes to submit this story to SAC, Storytelling Assn. of California. He combined 2 Hungarian folktales. Amalfi went in search of a bride, bringing 7 seed cakes and some cherry cordial. He had several trials, helping a man who needed a cloak, finding the silver bridge and facing the demon, who said, "I know you are looking for a bride. Go to the seventh village, never stopping, to find the bride for you." At each village, Amalfi searched for a bride, but they only looked at his seed cakes or his cherry cordial. At the 7<sup>th</sup>, the bride only looked at Amalfi. But she, too, had wisdom to save them both when the Demon came knocking.

John St. Clair told "The Best Wish," a Dan Keding story from his book, *Stories of Hope and Spirit: Tales of Eastern Europe*. Two angels argued, "Men are good" or "Men are bad." The challenge was to find 3 good, kind people within 3 days and tell them." As a beggar he found 3 brothers. He asked one brother for a pear. His answer was, "I don't own this tree; I share it with my brothers. But I will give you the pear I had planned to eat." The second and third brother said the same. To reward the 3, he returned as a rich man and gave them the riches they sought but advised them "Remember God's poor." A year later he returned as a beggar and was rebuffed by the first and second brother, who lost all their riches. They had not remembered God's poor. The third brother gave the man the water. The man turned into an angel and took the couple to a lovely mansion to live forever.

Barbara Rugeley

IVS scribe