

Inland Valley Storytellers February 8, 2011

There were 19 listeners on February 9, 2011, in Claremont Forum. There were: myself, Chris & John St. Clair, Glenn Gary, Marlene Carter, Rhoda Huffman, Paul & Josh Bublin, Ron Chick, Nick Smith, Penelope Mann, Ron Evans, John Sjodin, Jayne Hayes, Karen Rae Kraut, Patricia Snow, Charlie Young, Jan (Janice) Baskin and Chris's aunt and uncle Penny and Henry Bomgardner.

Paul emceed and brought wonderful homemade cookies. He asked us to introduce ourselves and "tell something that you remember from your very youngest self." We learned a lot.

We heard 8 tellers. It was a rich evening!

John St. Clair told a Puerto Rican folktale, "Juan Bobo," a simple boy whose mother admonished him to "Feed the pig & tidy the house" while she was gone. Alas, he fed the house and tidied the pig. But they lived happily ever after anyway.

Glenn Gary shared a folktale from Brazil, taken from Pleasant DeSpain's *Thirty Three Multicultural Tales to Tell*. A warrior, Gihan (sp?) was in love with a beautiful woman, Mira (sp?). She said she couldn't marry him till he gained wisdom. He approached a wise chieftain for help. "You must want wisdom more than the air you breathe." In a different way, the warrior was able to prove his wisdom to Mira's satisfaction.

Nick Smith told a Chinese tale, in honor of Chinese New Year's: "The Parrot & Mr. Pepper Peel." Jau Dah (sp?) wanted to trick his miserly boss, so he trained a parrot to say just one phrase, "Yes, of course." To demonstrate, Jau Dah, in front of his boss, asked the parrot, "Is there treasure buried here?" and the answer, of course, was, "Yes, of course." And there was treasure there! At least, the first time.

Ron Evans gave us 3 short stories with a punch. The first story had a boy playing baseball by himself. "Strike one!" "Strike two!".... "Great pitching!" The second was about penny candy and the remembrance from childhood of its delicious flavor. The third dealt with a customer at a bank, who needed identification. (You had to be there; sorry.)

Penelope Mann told a dramatic story of a mother of 4 daughters, the 4th being the least favored by the mother. "My daughters, one, two, three, come to me. Mesmeranda, stay behind the kitchen door." There was the bias, there was tragedy, there was forgiveness. Jayne Hayes told her own creation about 2 brothers, one of whom stayed to take care of the farm and his father; the other went off to town. When the father died, the brother chose to go himself to inform his brother. What a surprise to find his brother so rich, with such a beautiful wife. How did he make his money? Why was he so mean to his wife? Why did she cry every day?

Ron Chick told a personal story of resenting his older brother who got to stay up late to watch Tombstone Territory on TV, while he had to go to bed 30 minutes earlier. One night he was scared to death by two glowing eyes outside his window. Each time he ran for help, he was sent back to the dark dark room, and yet again, those 2 glowing eyes came up to his window, so he ran back into the living room. Finally his mother put him back to bed and stayed to comfort him to sleep. Then she, too, saw the two glowing eyes!

Karen Rae Kraut helped us celebrate Chinese New Year's too with the information that a happy bunny will jump straight into the air and that's called a "binky." She also told us of "Ho Ye" an emperor who was happy to marry the most beautiful girl in the world. Too bad the girl didn't feel the same about him. Ask her about the "pill with the elixir of immortality."

Marlene Carter will be host for our next meeting, March 9, 7:30-8:30, in the Claremont Forum. We hope to see all of you.