

Inland Valley Storytellers September 13, 2011

Patricia Snow was emcee and both Patricia and Rhoda Huffman brought refreshments.

18 people attended: Chris & John St. Clair, Jayne & John Sjodin, Paul & Josh Bublin, Virginia Stark, Jan Baskin, Patricia Snow, Nick Smith, Glenn Gary, Ron Chick, Charlie Young, Rhoda Huffman, John Schmalstig, Judy Piette, and new members (we hope), Suzanne Douglas and Maricela Perez.

We heard 8 tellers.

1. John Schmalstig told a personal story about taking a vacation in San Diego with his dog named Shilo. John entertained some people while dressed in a tutu (which he was wearing for this storytelling) and big clown shoes. He also took his dog to a dog beach and had a good time.
2. Jan Baskin told a personal story about recently witnessing a terrible injury accident on the freeway that reminded her of her own life a few years back when she was so down she didn't want to go on. While traveling on the crowded freeway one day, the car in front of her suddenly stopped and when she braked, her car spun out of control, yet ending up safe and sound on the left shoulder, but facing the wrong way. She felt God was reminding her that He was in control and still had plans for her. The recent horrible accident she saw recalled her incident because that car, too, was on the left shoulder, facing the wrong way.
3. Jayne Sjodin told us about the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, which occurs on September 15 and traditionally is celebrated by giving mooncakes to family and friends. She then told two Chinese legends about the moon.
4. Ron Chick began by telling the haunting story of old Bob Crawford as background for the story of the two Elizabeths. One Elizabeth went by the nickname of Ella and the two of them were rivals. They surprisingly wore the same dress to a Halloween dance and the result was a hauntingly interesting story.
5. Nick Smith told a folk tale about a young woman who lost her parents and her friends to the plague. A mysterious traveler stayed one week at her farm and she convinced him to take her with him to his home, even though he warned her that she might not like it there. It was an unusual home but she died happily thereafter with the mysterious traveler, who turned out to be death.
6. Chris St. Clair told a story from Laos about a giant released by a farmer who opened a clay jar containing the giant. The giant pledged to do any work for the farmer until there was no work to be done, at which time the giant would eat the farmer. Chris asked the audience what work we thought the farmer should have the giant do. Then she told us how the farmer solved his problem.
7. Patricia Snow told a story about a man walking his dog in the after life and choosing the correct gate to heaven based on the man's love for his dog.
8. John St. Clair told a 60 second story about a cat in the trunk of a car.

Barbara Rugeley has offered to host the Oct. 11 meeting. Hope to see you at that meeting.