

Inland Valley Storytellers December 13, 2011

John and Chris St. Clair hosted the meeting and brought fresh pineapple, cheese spread with crackers, homemade apple cake, and hot tea for refreshments.

17 people attended: Chris & John St. Clair, Paul Bublin, Virginia Stark, Jan Baskin, Nick Smith, Glenn Gary, Ron Chick, Charlie Young, John Schmalstig, Lady Zaja, Karen Rae Kraut, Angela Lloyd, Ron Evans, and three new members (we hope), Ann Valleroy, Joe Whyte, and Jeff Warhol.

We heard 6 tellers.

1. John Schmalstig told a personal story starting at age 3 with his learning how to talk. Then he told about his early struggles in school and while walking home finding comfort in a bush.
2. Karen Rae Kraut told a Japanese kamishibai story called Hats for the Jizos. The Japanese kamishibai illustrations were beautiful to look at and the story was beautiful to listen to.
3. Angela Lloyd told a haunting story about a beautiful princess who was blind but nobody but the King and Queen knew that she was blind. Her beauty was so bright that to look straight at her was blinding, so nobody looked at her until it was discovered that it was safe to look at her through colored glass. I won't tell you the ending because I can't tell it as well as Angela.
4. Nick Smith told a Christmas story about baby Jesus and the Romani people or Gypsies. The Gypsies helped shelter Jesus and his parents on a cold winter night but refused a reward offered to them by an angel of the lord. Ask Nick for the ending of the story.
5. Ron Chick told a Christmas story called The Legend of St. Bernardo's Gold. Bernardo was a farmer who was converted to Christianity by a friar and wanted to visit Bethlehem. Bernardo worked hard and saved money until he had 10 gold coins, enough to pay for his travel to Bethlehem. He was just starting on his trip when he rescued a badly beaten slave boy and used his gold coins to secure the boy's freedom. Bernardo again saved up 10 gold coins but again spent to help establish a Monastery which he joined instead of traveling to Bethlehem. Years later, as a very old man, his dream of Bethlehem, caused him to make the first Nativity ever in a church. As he worshiped that Christmas Eve, an Angel appeared and gave 10 gold coins, saying they had only been lent!
6. John St. Clair (that's me) told the first story I ever told at the Folk Music Center in 2006, called Pepito's Story. It is the story of how a lonely little boy learned that he could bring joy to people through his dancing.

After enjoying the food and conversation the business meeting was held but only 6 people stayed. We had some important decisions to make about the two spring events and decided that I would send out an email asking for input. John Schmalstig announced that he is going to try to start a Riverside storytelling group that will have its first meeting in January at a coffee shop. If you are interested send John an email to john1724@earthlink.net asking for the details. Barbara Rugeley has offered to host the January 10 meeting. Hope to see you at that meeting.