

Boulder Valley Spellbinders - Tunes & Tales

\$500 Grant from the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund - 2023

Report by David Hooley

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Boulder Valley Spellbinders is a group of volunteers who perform oral storytelling in schools, libraries, senior centers, and museums to demonstrate that storytelling is an art form that can touch the hearts of people, just like music does. The grant from the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund provided the means for the Spellbinders to host a series of eight performances in Lafayette, CO, over the summer months. Weather permitting, the series took place near the Lafayette Recreation Center, at the Outdoor Classroom Amphitheater overlooking Lafayette's beautiful open spaces.



- **May 31, 2023:** Boulder Philharmonic String Quartet following Dave Hooley, who opened the event with a story, "The Debate in Sign Language."
- **June 14, 2023:** Christie Schneider and Her Bluegrass Friends, featuring The Stories Behind the Songs by 4 Spellbinders (Wynn Montgomery - "Tom Dooley"; Sharona Fein - "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald"; Dave Hooley - "Hector the Hero"; and Jan Osburn - "Amazing Grace").
- **June 28, 2023:** Professional Storyteller Angel Vigil. An engaging solo performance by Angel of traditional stories of the Hispanic Southwest and Mexico that included whip and lasso demonstrations with audience participation.
- **July 12, 2023:** Professional bluegrass musicians Pete and Joan Wernick, along with 4 Spellbinders (Wynn Montgomery - A Native American origin story, "A Dog Tale"; Diana King - An African Ananzi story; Dave Hooley - An Appalachian folktale, "Old Dry Frye" and a Persian tale, "The Dervish and the Fox"; and Vicki Teideman - A Zulu tale, "The Strange Animal").
- **July 26, 2023:** Professional musician Antonio Lopez mixed his singing and playing with stories of growing up in San Luis, Colorado.
- **August 9, 2023:** The Breezy Three Brass Trio.
- **August 23, 2023:** Finn O'Sullivan, a young guitarist/singer/composer from Lafayette, along with three Spellbinders (Kathy Randall - "Kate Slaughterback's Astonishing Adventure"; Sherry Potter - "A Hole and a Devil's Head"; and Kira Quan - "The Three Clever Sisters").
- **September 6, 2023:** Professional storyteller Susan Marie Frontczak. The concert series concluded with a compelling solo performance by Susan.



Audiences expressed gratitude for the series bringing this combination of artists to their community. Musicians thought storytellers were a good complement to their performances and vice versa.