

Inland Valley Storytellers March 8, 2011

Marlene Carter exceeded and brought wonderful Irish cheeses, lemon cookies, crackers, bottles of water, tea bags, and thermoses of something. You missed a good repast. She asked us to introduce ourselves and “name our favorite mystical animal.” It was fun. There are more such animals than I thought.

We were 12 members tonight: Chris & John St. Clair, Jayne Hayes and John Sjodin, Paul and Josh Bublin, Patricia Snow, Rhoda Huffman, Virginia Stark, Marlene Carter, myself, Barbara Rugeley, and a late new arrival: Sam Quinones with his charming but tired young daughter. We heard 5 tales.

1. John St. Clair told an Irish story, “The Lawyer and the Devil,” from *Favorite Folktales of the World*. A poor Irish man had 3 sons whom he hoped to send to college. To do so, he sold his soul to the Devil. The first son became a priest, the second a doctor, the third a lawyer. After 7 years, the devil returned to take home his prize, but the eldest son, the priest, prayed and prayed and gained his father some more time. And so on.
2. Marlene Carter told an original tale, in honor of Patricia and of St. Patrick’s Day, “The Other Side of the Story.” It’s a story from the snakes’ point of view about the ridding of the snakes from Ireland by St. Patrick. You can hear the tale at Kruger’s Pub in County Kerry. Just ask Paddy Fitzgerald. It was rich in detail and soft with the accent: charming.
3. Sam Quinones, from Pasadena, told a true story that he wrote, which comes from his experience living in Mexico City for many years and from his career as a reporter for the LA Times. “The Popsicle Kings.” Nacho left his home in Tocumbo after one too many fights with his father. He walked 11 days to the big city, Mexico City. He would take any job, any place to live; he finally was hired to make popsicles. It took many years before he was able to make his own Popsicle creations, stuffed full of the rich fruit of Mexico. They were very successful, so much so that he opened a little shop, and lived in that little space there. Finally he needed extra staff, so he returned to Tocumbo and brought back 2 friends into the business. After many years, he opened new little paleta (popsicle) shops, and franchised the business to many of his home town’s compatriots. Go to Tocumbo yourself to see the 2 story tall stone statue of a Popsicle. It is the source of that village’s riches.
4. Chris St.Clair told a story from the Algonquian peoples of North America. The great Gluskap who thought he was invincible. "I am the great Gluskap. No one can defeat me!" That is until a woman introduced him to Wasis, a baby. The story is from *A World Treasury of Myths, Legends and Folktales: Stories from Six Continents*, as told by Renata Bini.
5. Josh Bublin told a story from hundreds of years ago, in China. There were 2 brothers, Ping and Pong. As they walked along, one brother picked up a stick and a

rock, and then hit the rock to his brother. Back and forth they went; badminton was born!

Sam invites us all to contribute True Stories to his blog, “Tell Your True Tale,” www.samquinones.com . He has a passion to promote storytelling about real events. He also offers to edit our submissions, a generous offer from an LA Times reporter!