



The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild
*Looking for updates and missed information?
Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG*

SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization

July 2006



**HEADLINE! NEWSLETTER DELAYED DURING
TRANSITION - INTERIM GOVERNMENT
PROMISES BETTER FUTURE**

The July 2006 newsletter was delayed in the transition from the outgoing board to the incoming. August should see the newsletter again assuming its normal schedule, being sent out at the first of each month. Watch for the work of the new newsletter editor in coming issues!

Inside this issue...

- ◆ GUILD ELECTIONS: New Board in Place
- ◆ AUGUST GUILD MEETING, PARTY, BBQ, CHAMPAGNE, SHOW!
- ◆ New President's Message
- ◆ Lettie Schubert Memorial follow-up
- ◆ Mary Nagler Receives Scholarship
- ◆ Calendar

**2006—2007
SFBAPG Board of Directors**

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FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT:

The New SFBAPG Board

While it can't be said that I have a mandate from the voters, the nominating committee has informed me that the proposed slate of candidates for guild office need not be put to ballot as there are no contested guild officer positions. So be it. I look forward to the opportunity of working with the new board and our membership in forwarding the aims of our guild and the art form that we all support and love.

I would like to extend a great thanks to our retiring guild officers Tim and Emily Guigni, who have well served our membership this past year as president and secretary. As we all know, it is through the volunteer efforts of people like Tim and Emily that our guild continues to do the work it does. We thank them for their time and energy and leadership, and look forward to their continued active roles in the guild as members and ex-board members.

Thanks also to returning board members Elisheva Hart and Valerie Nelson who have served the guild this last year respectively as vice president and treasurer and who have agreed to continue in these roles for the next year. And thanks and welcome to incoming co-vice president Mike Wick. I will look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

And while we are recognizing our various guild officers and support people, let us not forget Mary Decker who keeps us all connected through the guild email Yahoo group (this being only one of the very many services that this dedicated guild member provides the guild...there is probably no one who really knows all that Mary does for the guild), and Matt Baume who does the esoteric work of maintaining our guild website.

As retiring newsletter editor, I would like to say that I have enjoyed being

Thank you to all the candidates that volunteered for office this year. Because of summer plans and people getting ready to go the Regional Festival in Seattle, there will be no July meeting. At the July meeting, we were planning to have the election of officers. However, our bylaws allow for the candidates to assume duties without an actual election in the case where there is not a contested election (in other words, if there have been no other nominations).

The Nominating Committee had stated in the June newsletter "If any SFBAPG member would like to run for the board, or nominate a member to run for the board, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee by June 15th for guidelines, etc." As we received no calls or emails, it is an uncontested election. It appears that we can proceed with the new board without a vote or delaying the vote. As it would be desirable for the new Board to be working on the preparations for the August meeting at Fairyland, the Nominating Committee would like announce the new Board for 2206/07. Your new officers are:

President Michael Nelson
Co-Vice Presidents Elisheva Hart & Mike Wick
Treasurer Valerie Nelson
Secretary Sharon Clay

Thank you to the incoming Board for your willingness to serve this coming year. We hope that all members will lend a hand. The Guild is an organization to foster and encourage the art of puppetry. We need the help and support of every member.

The Nominating Committee
Patty Wick 510 222-2417
Mary Decker 650-361-1310
Lee Armstrong 707 996-9474

newsletter editor for the past year and a half, and welcome (and thank you) to Jeff Pidgeon who has agreed to take on the extremely important task of editing our newsletter. I would urge all of you to help Jeff in this task by sending him articles, reviews, calendar listings and other items that will help keep our diverse and geographically spread out membership connected with each other and the world of puppetry. Many have said in the past that our newsletter is one of the most important things that the guild does for puppetry.

Past and Future Events-

In this issue of the newsletter Mary

Decker has written a thanks recognizing the many people who stepped forward to help her in organizing Lettie Schubert's memorial. It was a stupendous event, bringing together Lettie's family members with puppeteers from the Bay Area (including, of course, the Sacramento area, Santa Cruz area, and all points in-between), the LA and San Diego Area, Canada, the East Coast and the middle of the country as well. In addition to thanking all of those who assisted Mary, I would like to also recognize the incredible work that Mary did to make the event happen. It was a great expenditure of time, energy, organization, and money (and it is not

Pres. message, cont. from page 2

too late for guild members to donate to help defray the costs of this event which was paid for out of private pockets-contact Mary or your president if you wish to help) that Mary spearheaded so very well. Thanks, Mary, for bringing us all to gather to celebrate the life and work and friendship of a guild founder and major influence on so many of us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a special celebration coming up in August 26. Oakland Fairyland will be dedicating their new puppet theatre and the celebration of 50 years of puppetry at Fairyland, definitely achieving venerable elder status in the world of

permanent puppet theaters in the U.S. The guild is invited to free attendance (with guild membership card), and to stay after the park closes for a catered bar-b-que (with champagne!) and a special puppet show designed for adult audiences. There will also be numerous puppet performances throughout the day, a guild sponsored craft area and a puppetry exhibit. Look for more details in the August newsletter and mark your calendars today! Don't miss this extra special celebration.

Michael Nelson

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked on the Memorial Tribute to Lettie Schubert:

The folks who arrived early to help set up the Exhibit Room and front hall: Blake Maxam, Luman Coad, Pam Brown, Alan Cook, Kathy Foley, Elisheva Hart, Bruce Chesse, and Mary Nagler.

The generous people who offered puppets for the display: Bruce Chesse (Brother Buzz puppets), Blake Maxam



Images from a sad and joyous send off for Lettie Connell Schubert by Michael and Valerie Nelson.

(Vagabond puppets), Lewis Mahlmann, Kevin Menegus, Randal Metz, Gary Busk, John Stackpole, and the Conservatory of Puppetry Arts.

Michael and Valerie Nelson for setting up their sound system, making signs for the display, helping to tear down, and being supportive in so many ways.

The Exhibit Guards: Kathy Dodge, Pam Brown, Ronna Leon, Talib and Olivia Huff, and Pam Wade.

Nick and Rose Barone for compiling the booklet of Lettie's contributions to the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild Newsletter.

Patty Wick for making tons of extra desserts.

Elisheva Hart, Tia Smirnoff, Pam Brown, Michael and Valerie Nelson, Kamela Portuges and Kathy Dodge for helping to tear down.

Luman Coad for spending a whole day cutting, gluing, taping, peeling, sticking, and tying.

Lee Armstrong for receiving all the photographic material for the video montage, for providing the large-screen projection equipment, and for being such a communicative supporter on the phone.

Rhys Wade for managing the sound system and video equipment.

Forrest Patten for compiling the wonderful

music for the video montage, including music from Lettie's Vagabond years and the Brother Buzz show.

Anita Coulter and Sam Hale for providing film footage of the interview they did with Lettie.

Randal Metz and Lewis Mahlmann for preparing and performing the revival of "Mrs. Witherspoon's Busy Day." What a treat!

Huge, enormous, gigantic, colossal thanks to Lynne Jennings and Kamela Portuges for spending days and days and DAYS preparing their contributions to the Celebration of Lettie's Life:

Lynne hunted for information about Lettie like a bloodhound, and she created the fabulous Memorial Wall which will now travel to several puppet festivals. She even bought a new printer for the occasion. Thank you, Lynne!

Kamela spent untold days with the Final Cut Pro computer program, editing the marvelous video montage which celebrates Lettie's wonderful life. Not a dry eye in the house. Thank you so much, Kamela.

And personal thanks to the SFBAPG members who made monetary donations toward the rental of the hall.

Now, onward with LIFE until we meet Lettie again someday. In the meantime, let's make the most of our time here.

Mary Decker

Quotes from Speeches at the Celebration of Lettie's Life

(Blake Maxam introducing the puppet show "Mrs. Witherspoon's Busy Day".)

"Lettie was one of the kindest people I know... This is really "Lettie Schubert's Busy Day" because the puppet spends all her time dispensing good advice, a little magic, but mostly ... kindness."

Blake Maxam, Vagabond Puppet Theater, Oakland, CA

"Lettie's knowledge, her generosity, her giving to the next generation, gave us a model of how we have to keep giving that gift of art, on and down the line. She did it with dolls, she did it with puppets, but she did it out of a center of self that was beauty and poetry. If I could just continue to give small bits of that, which she gave to me.... When I think of Lettie, I think of that model, of what a human being can do, which goes out to the wider circle of the world."

Kathy Foley, Professor, University of Santa Cruz

"I still feel Lettie sitting beside me. That was the kind of support she offered to us. The love in this room is so palpable. All of us feel like we were as special to her as she was to us. And that is a very special gift. I just feel so fortunate to have been one of Lettie's special people and to be here with more of Lettie's special people. The ripples go on."

Jan van Schuyver, Arkansas

"I always knew Lettie was special, because there was always a crowd of people around her. Sparks flying out and lots of laughter. When I decided to go to UCON to get my Masters degree in Puppetry, Lettie gave me a

Thank You Mary Decker!

Sometimes people work very hard, but quietly, behind the scenes to make good things happen. Lettie's Celebration Day at Fort Mason was beautiful. A heartfelt thank you to Mary Decker, who spent countless hours organizing the Day. Not only did she take care of all the logistics of space, people, food, but she was the first person there to setup and the last person of the cleanup detail. Then she wrote thank yous to everyone who participated. THANK YOU MARY DECKER.

Lee Armstrong & Kamela Portuges

substantial financial gift. I was so surprised because I thought "That lady doesn't even know me!" ... When I heard she was gone, I felt a void, but you're right. She's like the pebble that made the ripples happen... "
Mary Nagler, University of Connecticut

"Although puppetry is sometimes considered one of the "small" arts, Lettie never lost the sense of the big art world and how we related to it... One thing that I will treasure about her is that she thought so much of people around her that she always went that extra step to make sure we would feel welcome. I hope that all of us reach out to others and make them feel welcome, as Lettie reached out to us."
Ronna Leon, Caterpillar Puppets, Benicia, CA

"Lettie was the most lovable person I have ever known...She knew how to bring people together."
Bruce Chesse, Oregon Puppet Theater

Lettie Connell Schubert was a gentle, yet dynamic guide for me from the first

moments when I realized that the Puppet Arts were the path I should walk. I was not unique. She opened this path for many of us. Lettie's knowledge and expertise were offered through her overwhelming care for the art that was her life - to those who were sincerely pursuing their own expression within it. Thank you, Lettie, for your noble and considerate gifts. The Puppet Arts are in a better place because of you. Through you, and that which you have given, my students at the University of Connecticut will continue to grow in their remarkable possibilities as Puppet Artists. You have shared the gift of creation with all of us. For this, I applaud you.
*Bart. P. Roccoberon, Jr.
Director, Puppet Arts Program
University of Connecticut*

I have commenced writing a biography on the artistic genius puppeteer Burr Tillstrom, creator of the Kukla, Fran and Ollie show and The Kuklapolitan Players.

I seek interviews with anybody who knew Mr. Tillstrom and has personal or professional reminiscences.

I am a longtime freelance writer based outside of New York City.

Many thanks to you for your consideration. Please make contact.

Jay Blotcher
845-687-2284
jblotcher@hvc.rr.com

Mary Nagler Receives Frank Ballard Scholarship

Mary Nagler, a longtime Bay Area Guild member has successfully completed her first year of the Masters in Dramatic Arts (Puppetry) at the

Bits and Pieces

NEW BOOK ON BURR TILLSTROM SEEKS INTERVIEWEES



Mary Nagler with some of her creations at UConn. Has anyone else noticed how the puppets often look like their creators?

University of Connecticut. She was the recipient of the prestigious Frank W. Ballard Scholarship. Frank Ballard was an internationally renowned puppet master and the Emeritus Professor of Dramatic Arts at UConn. The recipient is chosen on the basis of demonstrated talent, contributions to the Department and productions, and professional promise. Congratulations Mary! Photos: As part of the Masters Puppetry Program at UConn, students are required to build different types of puppets. These photos show some of Mary Nagler's puppet building projects this year for her coursework. PS In Lettie's quotes I wrote UCON instead of UConn in Mary's quote-not a big deal, but if you can change it, great.

CALENDAR

Celebrate the magical blending of giant shadows and cinema with ShadowLight's 30 year film retrospective. Shadow theatre director Larry Reed, will screen award winning performances with backstage footage and cast interviews. Hear the music and taste the food that evokes the cultural spirit of the evening. The Delancey Street Screening Room San Francisco, CA 94107
 Fridays: June 30, July 7, **July 14, July 21, at 8:15pm**
 For More Information and to purchase tickets, please visit:
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5506>



Tinker's Coin Productions will be performing at Colonial Heights

Library (4799 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento) **Thurs July 27 3:30pm**
 "The Golden Donkey, The Wishing Table and the Magic Stick."

CALENDAR LISTINGS FROM ANITA COULTER:

Multiple listings for Puppet Show: B.A.R.K. The Robot Dog

Date: Tuesday August 1, 2006, 10:30 pm Location: Meadow Vista Library Address: 16981 Placer Hills Rd., Suite B-6, Meadow Vista, CA 95746

Date: Tuesday August 1, 2006, 2:00 pm Location: Granite Bay Library Address: 6475 Douglas Blvd., Granite Bay, CA 95746

Date: Wednesday August 2, 2006, 2:30 pm Location: Saratoga Library Address: 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga CA, 95070

Date: Wednesday August 2, 2006, 7:00 pm Location: West Valley Branch Library Address: 1243 San Tomas Aquino Rd., San Jose, CA 95117

Date: Thursday August 3, 2006, 2:30 pm Location: Mountain View Library Address: 585 Franklin St., Mountain View, CA 94041

Date: Friday August 4, 2006, 3:00 pm Location: Rancho Cordova Library Address: 9845 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95827

Date: Saturday August 5, 2006, 11:00 am Location: Belvedere Tiburon Library Address: 1501 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon, CA 94920

Multiple listings for Puppet Show: Rex and Boots Super Sleuths

Date: Tuesday August 8, 2006, 4:00 pm Location: North Sacramento Library Address: 2109 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95851

Date: Wednesday August 9, 2006, 4:00 pm Location: Vacaville Public Library Address: 1020 Ulatis Dr., Vacaville, CA 95687

Date: Thursday August 10, 2006, 2:00 pm Location: Sunnyvale Public Library Address: 665 West Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Date: Friday August 11, 2006, 11:00 am Location: Stinson Beach Library Address: 3521 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Date: Friday August 11, 2006, 4:00 pm Location: Inverness Library Address: 15 Park Ave., Inverness, CA 94937

Date: Saturday August 12, 2006, 1:00 pm Location: San Leandro Main Library Address: 300 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

Date: Monday August 14, 2006, 3:00 pm Location: Martinez Library Address: 740 Court St., Martinez, CA 94553

Date: Tuesday August 15, 2006, 7:00 pm Location: Albany Library Address: 1247 Marin Ave., Albany, CA 94706

Date: Thursday August 17, 2006, 2:00 pm Location: Concord Library Address: 2900 Salvio St., Concord, CA 94519

Date: Thursday August 17, 2006, 7:00 pm Location: Pleasant Hill Library Address: 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR NICK BARONE
 Monday, July 24 - 2:00 pm
 "Puss In Boots"

CALENDAR (cont. from page 6)

Castro Valley Branch Library
20055 Redwood Road, Castro Valley,

Wednesday, August 2 - 3:00 pm
"T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West
Review"

Los Altos Library
13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Saturday, August 26 - 2:00 pm
"Puss In Boots"

Children's Fairyland
Storybook Puppet Theater's 50th
Anniversary
699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland

CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR
MAGICAL MOONSHINE THEATRE
**On Sunday, July "Chester's Pirate
Adventure" at Studio Arts Napa**
Valley, 2931 Solano Ave, Napa, at 3:00
PM, with an additional show at 4:00 pm
should the 3:00 show fill up. Tickets are
\$8.00 at the door. For more information
call Magical Moonshine Theatre at 707-
257-8007 or check
www.magicalmoonshine.org for
updates.

**Magical Moonshine Theatre with
Steve Ventrello in Cirque du Café**
Friday, August 11, 7 PM --\$25/\$15
To buy tickets at the Box Office call
707-226-7372.

***Join The Paper Pyramid Workshop
With Magical Moonshine Theatre**
Wed., August 9 & Thurs., August 10,
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Café Theatre --
\$50 inclusive fee (workshops and ticket
to the 7 p.m. show on Fri., August 11)

Workshop participants will team up
with Michael and Valerie Nelson, 25
year veterans of Magical Moonshine, to
create large scale puppets that can
perform various circus acts. Participants
will take home their creations when the
workshop is over. During the
workshops, circus acts will be written
and rehearsed, culminating in a

performance at 2 p.m. on Thursday for
the participant's families. The workshop
group, dubbed "Paper Pyramid" will
also perform on Friday, August 11 as
part of the Magical Moonshine show.
Space is limited to 14 children, between
the ages of 10 to 15. For workshop
information, email evy@nvoh.org.

**JULY GUILD EVENT:
FAIRYLAND CELEBRATES
NEW STAGE, TURNING 50
BIG FESTIVAL, PRIVATE
PARTY FOR GUILD WITH
CATERED BBQ, PRIVATE
SHOW, CHAMPAGNE!**

Mark your calendars now so you don't
miss this special guild event, **August
26, 2006 at Oakland Fairyland**. The
guild will host a 2 hour crafts table for
children during the day (and help with
the exhibit), then after hours a special
guild party with a special not-for-
children performance.

Daytime Schedule: Saturday and
Sunday:

The Magic Mushrooms by Lewis
Mahlmann

The Puppet Circus by The Puppet
Company

Wizard of Oz (Fairyland regular
puppet show)

Rumpelstiltskin by the Vagabond
Puppets

Puppet displays all day

Saturday Only:

Puss in Boots by Nick Barone Puppets

Sunday only:

CLASSIFIEDS

*Magical Moonshine Theatre is
moving! We will be getting rid
of various puppet making
materials and possibly stages,
puppets, equipment, etc. If you
would be interested in
notification of what is available
for free or for sale, send an
email to
mail@magicalmoonshine.org*

Peter & the Wolf by Fratello
Marionettes

Guild members will get free admission
into the park with their membership
cards.

Volunteers may get special parking!
Contact Michael Nelson to volunteer.



NOTE: Michael Nelson's article
on the French Mourmelon Festival
started in the June, 2006 issue will
have to be continued in the next
issue, due to lack of room in this
issue.

...The suspense builds....