

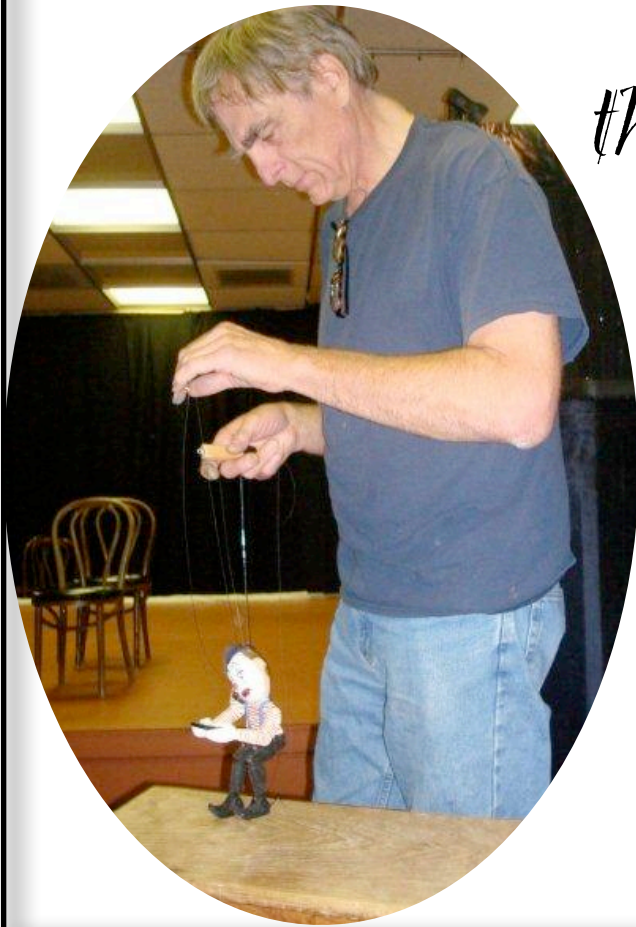


The official newsletter of  
**San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild**  
*Looking for updates and missed information?*  
*Check for it at [SFBAPG.ORG](http://SFBAPG.ORG)*

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

December 2009

*Pictures From  
the November  
Meeting!*



*In this issue:*

- Holiday Meeting Update
- October Meeting Reviews
- Guild Doings
- From el Presidente
- Calendar
- And Much More!

## JANUARY MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY!

Christ Presbyterian Church, 620 Del Ganado Road, San Rafael

4:00-9:00 pm

Mark your calendars for this Guild traditional celebration of the Holidays and New Year, featuring Puppet Art Theater (and other possible performers)

Holiday Potluck Supper  
Gift Exchange  
and More!

### POTLUCK SUPPER

Please your favorite dish to share with others. Appetizers for the Social and Main courses are always appreciated. Microwave and refrigerator available. Dinnerware will be provided.

### ADOPT A TABLE & TRIM THE ROOM

Our dining area will have five foot round tables. Individuals and companies are invited to adopt a table. Bring in a tablecloth or covering for the table and any decorations to make it a wonderful table to dine at. There will be prizes for participation, but the greatest prize of all is knowing that you're lending your artistry to make the holiday party festive! To adopt a table, contact Valerie Nelson at 707 363-4573, mail@magicalmoonshine.org. Also, holiday decorations for the room will be greatly appreciated. Doors open at 4:30, so bring in some decorations (no nails please) to trim the room. At the end you just take your decorations down and take them home.

### GIFT EXCHANGE

If you wish to participate in the exchange, bring a puppet related, wrapped gift to add to the pile (in the past, \$10.00 approximate value has been suggested.) All who bring a gift will get to receive one.

### PUPPET DISPLAY

Do you have a puppet that you've made, that you'd like to display? A table will be provided for an informal puppet exhibit, so bring your puppet (on a stand, if needed) and share your puppet(s) with others.

### GUILD LIBRARY

The Guild library has hundreds of books covering a variety of topics. Books & DVD's will be available for checkout at the meeting, to people that have been members for at least 6 months. Are you looking for books or DVD on a particular topic? Contact the Guild Librarian, Lee Armstrong, images@vom.com 707 738-5906. She can email you a list and she can bring related books to next meeting.

### TENATIVE SCHEDULE (not strictly kept to, after all it's a party!)

4:30 – 5 Adopt a table & trim the room (Volunteers welcome, contact Valerie Nelson)

5-6 Guild Welcome, Social & Gift Exchange

6-7 Potluck Supper

7-9 Short Guild meeting & announcements, Performances & Party

If anyone would like to perform a short piece at the January meeting, or ANY meeting, please contact Lee Armstrong, images@vom.com or 707 738-5906.

About the Performer, taken from the Puppet Arts webpage:

Art Grueneberger began his puppet career working with Master Puppeteer Richard Bay. His puppet performance premiere was as lead puppeteer in "A Thousand Cranes," a UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence winner.

Grueneberger formed Puppet Art Theater Co. in 1994 and began producing outstanding children's productions that have been seen by thousands of audiences across the United States. His shows have also toured internationally. He has directed productions for adults that have been seen at Here Theater in New York City, Zeum Theater in San Francisco and the Mondavi Center in Davis California.

Grueneberger has puppeteered for many film, television and video projects including the award winning film "Ola's Box of Clovers," the "Emmy" nominated video "We're Gonna Be OK" and the WB's national children's series "Phantom Investigators." He has worked with Shadowlight Theater on the award winning productions "Coyote Stories" and "The Wild Party" and has collaborated with talented shadow puppeteer Wendy Morton on several projects including "The Little Dragon," a nationally distributed DVD produced for the Bose© Speaker Company.

In addition to writing and consulting for theater and video productions, Grueneberger has also co-authored the book *The Actor's Lab Book: A Practical Supplement for the Beginning Actor*.

In Summer 2006 Grueneberger traveled to China where he led puppet workshops at The Shanghai Theater Academy.

In March of 2007, he was a featured Guest Director at University of California, Davis directing a production of "Man of La Mancha" featuring life-sized puppets. The production was nominated for four regional Elly Awards.

Grueneberger earned a BA in Liberal Studies and Drama at CSU, Sacramento and an MFA in Theater Arts at University of California, Davis.

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### **HIGH-FIVES TO YOUNG GUILD INVOLVEMENT!**

Hats off to two young persons who contributed a lot to our Guild in November.

Eli Nash wrote an excellent review of "The Hobbit", by Theater Sans Fil, in the Newsletter. He was very descriptive of the methods used and of how the story was adapted, plus injected some of his feelings towards the performance. I'm looking forward to many more reviews and articles by this enthusiastic Guild member.

At our November Guild meeting, the sound track for the shadow play was flawlessly managed by another young person, Tessa Henry. This was tremendous support to the puppet manipulators and gave a coherent story line which we easily followed.

Also Eli presented a fun and suspenseful handpuppet entry in the guild challenge which was very well done. (He won a prize too!)

With an AS in theatre technology, and some journalistic training I value the importance of an alert techie and a conscientious reviewer. These take concentration and work. So much credit is due to these two, and good wishes for your futures, which I hope will continue to be "hand and glove" with our Puppetry Guild. We need the input, enthusiasm and viewpoints of new kids in the booth!

Thank you both,

Sincerely, Elisheva Hart



## MEMBERS' DOINGS-

From Fool Moon Puppetry Arts: Jesse Vail is rehearsing The Puppet Company's "A Time to be Jolly" with Randal Metz in preparation for a fun filled Holiday Season. In addition, he will be covering some performances of "The Snow Queen" at Childrens' Fairyland. And, finally, working on food props for Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Program's "The Best Me". Mixed amidst all of this, he hopes to complete at least SOME puppets for his new show "Goldilocks and the Three Pigs".

From Ron Coulter: Peter Pan re-imaginedŠ New "Cirque du Soleil" style tent production, in-the-round, with spectacular F/X, puppets, projections, flying, to premiere in San Francisco next Spring!

From Herbert Lange: I love the idea of this extra column. Over time, I will throw in some new ideas on Puppets in Therapy. I've just returned from my first weekend workshop on this topic that took place in Frankfurt.

From Alan Cook: If any members are visiting Los Angeles on or before December 13, consider Arias With a Twist at the Redcat Theater ([www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org))-this unique production features prominent drag artist Joey Arias (formerly with Zumanity in Las Vegas), a puppet orchestra, puppet showgirls and large devils, a Joey puppet an ape, and space aliens.

From The Independent Eye: Conrad Bishop & Elizabeth Fuller are editing an in-performance dvd of their Tempest and preparing for a 10-school tour of a condensed version in February/March. They've started a once-a-week rehearsal session to revive and revise some short pieces to create a larger repertoire for informal gatherings. And they're looking ahead at a staging of Frankenstein in 2011.



Thank you to SB Parks and Jesse Vail

A special thank you to SB Parks and Jesse Vail for their contributions to the November Guild meeting. SB Parks brought very interesting samples of her shadow puppet work to share and by the end of the workshop, everyone was involved in creating their own colorful shadow paintings, using Modpodge and food coloring on acetate.

Jesse Vail was a great master of ceremonies for the Guild Challenge. He brought his new stage (very portable and quick to set up). Our youngest participant, Eli Nash, explored "What are you Hiding?" with inventive action by two hand puppets he built. Lanie Wieland and Jesse presented their challenge with two busy troll-like characters and lots of shoveling. To encourage more members to participate, Jesse threw puppets into the audience and the ensuing improv was great! The evening also included vignettes by puppeteers, including a very fun dog improving and reciting his poetry (courtesy of Brian Narelle), a number of pieces by the inventive Ernie Fosselius. and a thought provoking piece, "Five Minutes," (performed at the Atlanta Festival) by the Independent Eye's Conrad Bishop and Elizabeth Fuller. Everyone received a gift for participation from the Karen Prell stash of "cool Pixar memorabilia."

Thank you Jesse and SB for sharing your time and talents with the Guild.

## FROM EL PRESIDENTE-

Hello. Recently, I've become both President of SFBAPG and the Regional Director of the SW Pacific Region of Puppeteers of America. How all that happened, other than through my chronic inability to say "no," I'm not sure, but there it is.

For SFBAPG, I don't see anything changing in terms of the direction we're going, barring another earthquake. Our board and officers are moving forward on programming, website renovation, pursuit of new member benefits, and education initiatives. We have some new blood coming into the group, and need more, and especially to foster more hands-on participation. The last few meetings, especially, have been very exciting, and we need to convince more current members that something special is happening.

My main talents are in running a tight board meeting and supporting others who'll take the initiative in particular projects. And now that The Tempest is calmer, I'm hoping to spend some time meeting the many Guild members I haven't met and also reaching out to others who're not yet part of us.

The Regional Directorship is more problematic. It's been dormant for a while, and just finding out what's what seems to be fairly labor-intensive. What's the decision-making process? What's needed on a "regional" level? How do we serve regional P of A members (in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah & Wyoming!) who're not part of a guild, or even know who they are? I'm reaching out in multiple directions on this and have had some useful conversations, expect to have many more.

And, besides locally, I need to meet a lot more people in the broader spectrum. As I've mentioned, we've been involved in puppetry since 1969, but only recently have migrated into the "puppetry scene" or subculture, with its own superstars, its history, its baggage and its unique range of flavors. In over my head? You bet. But that's the old-fashioned way to learn to swim.

Peace & joy-  
Conrad Bishop



*Sez here the  
Holiday party  
will be great!*

2008-2009 SFBAPG

Board of Directors and Staff

### BOARD

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### STAFF

Matt Baume, Webmaster

415-688-7679 \* mattymatt(at)gmail.com

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CALENDAR

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Nick Barone Puppets  
www.nbpuppets.com

"Holiday Treats"

Saturday, December 5, 11:45 am & 1:00 pm  
Filoli House and Gardens Annual Christmas Festival  
86 Canada Road, Woodside, CA

Sunday, December 6, 11:00 am  
Friends of Dolores Park Playground Holiday Treats  
Event  
St & 18th St, San Francisco, CA

Tuesday, December 8, 11:00 am  
North Beach Branch Library  
2000 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA

1:30 pm  
Chinatown Branch Library  
1135 Powell St., San Francisco, CA

"The Princess Mermaid"  
Wednesday, December 9, 10:00 am  
Richmond Main Street  
Nevin Community Center, 598 Nevin Ave.,  
Richmond, CA

"Holiday Treats"  
Wednesday, December 9, 3:30 pm  
Los Altos Library  
13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA

7:00 pm  
Richmond Main Street  
Nevin Community Center, 598 Nevin Ave.,  
Richmond, CA

Monday, December 14, 4:00 pm  
Atherton Library  
2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton, CA

7:00 pm  
Pacifica-Sanchez Library  
1111 Terra Nova Boulevard, Pacifica, CA

Monday, December 21, 10:15 am  
Sausalito Park & Recreation Holiday Magic  
420 Litho Street, Sausalito, CA

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Art Grueneberger  
Puppet Art Theater  
www.puppetarts.com

The Boy Who Cried Wolf (Holiday Version)  
Dec. 3, 3:30 pm  
Ripon Library  
www.stockton.lib.ca.us/ripon/

Dec. 16, 10:30 am  
Temescal Library, Oakland  
www.oaklandlibrary.org/Branches/tem.htm

Little Red Riding Hood (Holiday Version)  
Dec. 12, 10:30 am  
Koukla Kids Store Puppet Show Series  
www.kouklakids.com/4.html

7 pm  
San Leandro Library  
www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us/sllibrary.html

Dec. 29, 1pm and 2:30pm  
Modesto Library  
www.stanislauslibrary.org/

Dec. 30, 10:30am and 12:30pm  
Turlock Library  
www.stanislauslibrary.org/  
about\_hours.shtml#turlock

3pm  
Salida Library  
www.stanislauslibrary.org/about\_hours.shtml#salida

3pm  
El Dorado County Library (Placerville)  
www.eldoradolibrary.org/

Three Billy Goats Gruff  
Dec. 12, Noon  
Dad and Me at the Library  
San Carlos Library  
[www.smcl.org/features/DadMe.html](http://www.smcl.org/features/DadMe.html)



Storybook Puppet Theater  
Children's Fairyland  
Oakland, CA  
Dec. 5-6, 11-20  
11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm  
The Snow Queen. Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale is told this holiday season. This heartwarming tale of love, friendship and adventure features the Snow Queen, the North Wind, and of course a flying reindeer. Script adapted by Lewis Mahlmann. Puppets by John Gilkerson and Lewis Mahlmann.

The Puppet Company  
Children's Fairyland  
Oakland, CA  
Dec. 11  
5:30 pm  
The Nutcracker- The Puppet Company Based on the tale by E.T.A. Hoffman and the music of Tchaikovsky, our show features dancing candies, The Snow Queen, prancing clowns, mechanical toys, and Chinese dragons. Don't miss the big battle between the Mouse King's armies and the toy soldiers!

Dec. 20  
5:30 pm  
"One Wacky Winter"- Join us for a bit of holiday fun as The Puppet Company spoofs our classic holiday tale "How The Grinch Stole Christmas".



Magical Moonshine Theater

Magical Moonshine's Cirque du Cafe  
Sun, December 6, 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Sala Salon, 1315 First St., Napa, CA

Saturday, December 12  
7:30pm - 9:00pm

Magical Moonshine Theatre's holiday production is a table top circus for the whole family, where salt shakers do a trapeze act, a wine bottle and a baguette perform magic, a bread roll rides a pizza cutter unicycle and a banana swallows swords longer than it's body. This is object theatre and puppetry and circus and great fun! Tickets \$20.00- to reserve call 707-252-0202. Online tickets at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/90211](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/90211) Website info and reviews: <http://magicalmoonshine.org/cirque.htm>



Zanzibar Fairytale Puppet Theater  
Cinderella

Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2 & 4 pm  
at Uptown Body and Fender  
401 26th Street, in Oakland  
[www.zanzibarpuppets.com](http://www.zanzibarpuppets.com) or 510-388-9228

You know how charming the story of Cinderella is, and you have seen how delightfully it is enacted by the marvelous puppets of Zanzibar Fairytale Puppet Theater. Come and see the magic once again! Bring your friends and neighbors, children and elders – enchantment is always best when shared! At this holiday season, take the time to reconnect with some of the good things in life – the kindness a young girl shows for her poor neighbor, the strength of character that keeps her spirit uplifted despite her stepmother's scolding, and finally the joy she feels when her dreams come true.

Tickets are \$10, with children under 2 years old admitted free. You may purchase tickets at the door, or you may buy tickets in advance by mailing a check to: Zanzibar Puppets, 298 Fairmount Avenue, #1, Oakland, CA 94611. (Please indicate on a separate piece of paper the date, time and number of tickets for the show you wish to attend. All ticket orders must be received at least 2 weeks prior to the show date. Tickets will be held at the door.)

# December 2009

Special tear-out calendar! See Calendar listings for details on events.  
 Due to space limitations, not all times or show titles are listed here.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Snow Queen</li> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> <li>■ 2:00 PM Zanzibar Cinderella</li> <li>■ 1:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> <li>■ 11:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Snow Queen</li> <li>■ 11:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Snow Queen</li> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> <li>■ 2:00 PM Zanzibar Cinderella</li> <li>■ 1:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> <li>■ 11:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Snow Queen</li> <li>■ 5:30 PM Puppet Company Nutcracker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 3:00 PM Magical Moonshine Clique du Cafe</li> <li>■ 11:00 PM Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Puppet Art Theater</li> <li>■ 2:00 PM Zanzibar Cinderella</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 PM Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Nick Barone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 PM Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 AM Storybook Theater Snow Queen</li> <li>■ 2:00 PM Zanzibar Cinderella</li> </ul>						
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 2:00 PM Zanzibar Cinderella</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 PM Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11:00 PM Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Puppet Art Theater</li> <li>■ 11:00 PM Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ... Puppet Art Theater</li> </ul>		



SFBAPG  
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild  
5137 Robertson Ave.  
Carmichael, CA 95608



*A bit of Guild history*



2001 Oakland Children's Fairyland revival of *Mrs. Witherspoon's Busy Day*, originally written and designed by Lettie in the late 1950s. Photographer: Kristin Loken