



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 2011**



Read on to see which  
guild members got the

**Special Awards and  
Honors Issue**

**Guild members are being  
recognized for their many  
talents and  
accomplishments both in  
puppetry and outside of  
puppetry!**

**From your temporary newsletter editor:**

Our usual newsletter Editor, Talib Huff, has been ill for some weeks, with doctors thus far having little success in figuring out what is happening to him. Our best wishes go out to Talib and his wife, Olivia, with hopes for better health very soon!

In the meanwhile, enjoy this interim newsletter including a marvelous flurry of awards, welcome to new board members, reviews of our exceptional June Guild Meeting and a host of interesting articles and member news!

*Michael Nelson, acting editor*

**Inside this issue...**

- ◆ Awards and Honors Galore (Images in Motion, Ruth Stotter, Ronna Leon, Sharon Clay's 4 H Puppeteers)
- ◆ Calendar of events
- ◆ Reviews of Quixote and June Guild Meeting
- ◆ New Library Addition Complete DVD Fraggles Rock
- ◆ Guild member news

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and Guild Officers**

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## From Your President:

Good things happening. First off, my effusive thanks to our two retiring board members, Lee Armstrong and Mary Decker. During their service, they've had multiple responsibilities, and I'd say how much we'll miss them - except that they'll still be doing lots of stuff for the Guild. So we'll only miss them when they actually have a chance to catch a breath. They have been, and will continue to be, among the Guild's true human treasures. Thank you, Lee and Mary! And to our newest board members, Jesse Vail and Art Gruenebaker, and reelected member Talib Huff. Our first board meeting after the election this past Thursday was bursting with energy - I felt at times I was presiding over a non-violent Punch & Judy show. And Sharon Clay, our returning secretary, is to be commended for her attempt in electronic presence (on a flat laptop screen, via Skype, at the end of the table) to take minutes. And we actually got through the full agenda.

Just a few highlights: Next Guild meeting, August 28th as part of Fairyland's Day of Puppetry - more about that soon. Guild officers for the year include myself as President, Art Gruenebaker as VP, Sharon Clay and Valerie Nelson returning as Secretary and Treasurer, Michael Nelson as Membership Officer. Jesse Vail will head the Programming Committee, and right now that's all I remember. Soon we'll be sending out a survey about meetings to the full membership: what's the best location for you, what kinds of programming are most interesting, and what makes the difference in whether or not you attend. It's a simple form, but like the Census Bureau we'll be persistent in soliciting answers, so please respond. Our meetings are the heart of the Guild's purpose, and we want to make them work for us all. Next year, SFBAPG celebrates its 50th

Anniversary! Traditionally, at each decade, there's been an unforgettable celebration. Myself being a relative newcomer, it sorta sounds as if these have just about wiped out half the membership every time they've transpired, but we hope to produce something memorable without being cataclysmic. We'll be sending out more info soon about forming the team.

## June Guild Meeting, "Quixote" by Award Winning Filmmaker Stephen Ritz-Barr- *Reviews and Reports*

### From Conrad Bishop:

Our June 12th Guild meeting was at a screening room of the Academy of Art in downtown San Francisco, a beautiful facility given us through the savvy of our political operative Michael Nelson. We had a five-minute Guild meeting to elect new Board members, plus some informal noshing of corn chips, soda and tea, but the main event was QUIXOTE.

Los Angeles filmmaker Steven Ritz-Barr was on hand, with his wife and son who had served on the filmmaking crew. He showed his half-hour adaptation of Cervantes' 1000pp

masterpiece, plus his DVD "extra" about the making of the film, then answered questions until we were near to being chased out of the building. A deeply memorable program. I had seen his previous film FAUST, which received a UNIMA-USA citation several years ago. QUIXOTE is a follow-up, in some ways similar, in other ways a new departure. Both use small marionettes created by Russian artist Eugene Seregin, who worked many years with Obrastzov's theatre. Both combine a slightly "primitive" feel to the manipulation with an extreme sophistication in scenic effect, lighting, sound and basic film-making smarts. To my taste, FAUST was a more directly moving piece, telling a very simple story wordlessly, and having a specific story arc and conclusion, with a stunning effect at the end. At the same time, QUIXOTE marks an advance on a number of fronts. With moving mouths, lip-sync, a cast of voice actors (including English veteran actor Michael York in the title role), and a wide range of settings, the filmmaker set himself new challenges, brilliantly realized. As the "making of" feature illustrates, it's possible to create extraordinary scenic effects on a micro-budget solely through the sweat and talent of a dedicated team.



*Wooden marionettes from Quixote film at June Guild Meeting.*

QUIXOTE, necessarily, selects only a few of the book's episodes: the windmill, the killing of sheep, the destruction of the puppet show, and a few others, and creates a rather arbitrary plot turn to give it an ending. This may strike the viewer as a flaw, ending when you really want to see another couple of hours of it, but as the filmmaker said, that's a matter of how far the money would go. And if it's a flaw to leave us wanting more, it's the best possible flaw you could have. The characters are beautifully drawn. York's voicing of Quixote meshes perfectly with the puppet's expression of innocent insanity, and he's not afraid to use small non-verbal sighs, breaths, etc., to create a vibrant immediacy. We truly believe in the man's obsession, and we share it. The small size of the actual puppets, necessary because of the scale of the backgrounds, makes them somewhat less fluid in movement than the best marionette artists; but to me that's part of the power: we never forget that they're puppets, dead things brought to life, and that focuses us ever more strongly on their aliveness. DVDs are available at <http://www.classicsinminiature.com/>, and we also have copies of FAUST and QUIXOTE for borrowing in the Guild library. Stephen's next project is St. Joan.--Conrad Bishop

### From Mary Decker

The SFBAPG meeting on Saturday, June 12 was a wonderful event. We were treated to a screening of "Don Quixote" at the Academy of Art in San Francisco with behind-the-scenes explanations by the producer of the film, Steven Ritz-Barr. Steven was given free reign to set up his film sets in a friend's temporarily vacant house, and then he and a small team of puppeteers and artists created this delightful half-hour "Quixote" under a tight time schedule.



*Puppets doing puppets in Quixote.*

Michael York gives voice to the character Don Quixote and our own SFBAPG President, Conrad Bishop, is the voice of the puppeteer character who performs for Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Steven Ritz-Barr's wife and son also played key roles in the film's production.

Steven occasionally teaches at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. He has puppeteered on several films, including, "Batman Returns," "Men in Black," "Aliens Resurrection," "Team America: World Police," and "Muppets Tonight."

"Quixote" is the second in a series called, "Classics in Miniature." The first was "Faust." Both can be purchased directly from Steven.

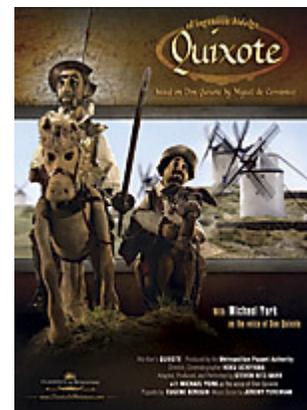
Contact [lapuppet@gmail.com](mailto:lapuppet@gmail.com).

### Bits and Pieces, News:

#### From Conrad Bishop:

On my own home front: We're building a new show of short sketches, RASH ACTS 3, for an October run; we're also in pre-production phase of a FRANKENSTEIN for 2011; and we're working on a screenplay. In November,

we're thrilled to be going East to do directorial consulting with a long-time colleague, Kevin Augustine, on his new show, which will play in San Francisco in January 2011. His show BRIDE played at the national P of A festival in Atlanta last year, with some people (including dear friends) thinking it was horrific, others that it was genius. I'm in the latter category. In any case, it'll be a great way to spend two weeks.



"Quixote" is the second in a series called, "Classics in Miniature." The first was "Faust." Both can be purchased directly from Steven. [lapuppet@gmail.com](mailto:lapuppet@gmail.com).

*Bits and Pieces, News, continued*

So let this be an example: send info on your own doings, great and small, to the newsletter. We want to know what's happening! And forgive the length of this, but ya know, I've never been President of anything before. In school I was never even nominated for home-room sergeant-of-arms. So it kinda goes to my head.  
Peace & joy-Conrad



**From Art Gruenberger:**

My puppeteer Rachel is in charge of booking and performing all of our birthday party shows. She recently had a request for our show "Goldilocks and the Three Sharks" (performed at January's Guild Meeting). I almost never perform at birthday parties. I just don't enjoy doing them. I think I'm spoiled by the great audiences in Northern California Libraries. Since Goldilocks is a two person show requiring me to be there I told her to push our one man shows. That didn't work. They wanted Goldilocks. It turns out the family had purchased our "Storytime" CD that features

"Goldilocks." They'd just about worn out the CD and really wanted to see the show. Rachel convinced me they were hard core "Puppet Art Theater" fans (to which I replied, "We have hard core fans?!") so I agreed to perform the show. It was a delight! The family really went the distance and rented a conference room at a local hotel so we'd have enough space to do the show.

In our show the sharks eat Squid in Fish-Blood Sauce, not porridge so the mom made up a batch of "Squid in Fish-blood Sauce" for the kids to have for lunch after the show. (See the photos.) She strung spaghetti through hotdog chucks to make the squid and labeled ketchup "Fish Blood Sauce." Nice. Enjoy the pictures!

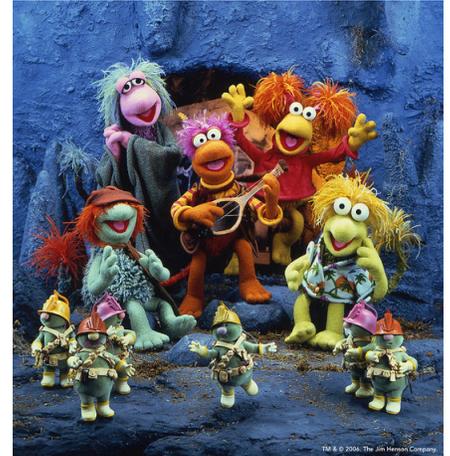
**Report from the Mary Decker, Scholarship Chair:**

The SFBAPG Scholarship Committee accepted applications for the 2010 summer festivals in April and was happy to award one scholarship this year. The Scholarship Committee consisted of Sharon Clay, Sue Brinton and Mary Decker. Long-time SFBAPG member Larry Schmidt was awarded a \$300 scholarship to attend the MidWest PuppetFest in July. Congratulations to Larry! (see letter below)

**Letter From Larry Schmidt:**

I'd like to take this newsletter opportunity to thank the Scholarship Committee (Sue Brinton, Mary Decker and Sharon Clay) for giving me the opportunity to attend PuppetFest MidWest. This is a week long festival in Trenton, Missouri In July. It is not a regional festival of the Puppeteers of America. I was attracted to this one because of the 20 hour marionette manipulation workshop lead by Phillip Huber. Phillip is one of the best marionette puppeteers and also one of two marionette consultants for the

Puppeteers of America and has been very helpful over the last several years answering questions by e mail. I will be bringing a camera along and documenting some aspects of the festival to share in a presentation for the guild when I get back. *Larry Schmidt*



**Complete Fraggles Rock New Addition to the Guild Library**

This is the complete series. 20 disks. Usually \$100.00. Offered one day only for \$37.50. What a steal for Fraggles Rock fans. See the work of members Karen Prell & Lee Armstrong. Thanks to Randal Metz for finding this deal and jumping on it for the guild!



*Giant Lady Liberty puppet made by Michael & Valerie Nelson for the Vallejo July 4 parade. See Calendar Listings for more info.*

# SPECIAL AWARDS AND HONORS SECTION

## Courtesy is a Treasure for Images In Motion

Pirates, parrots and pigs discover the treasure of common courtesy and Images In Motion Inc., (IIM) receives a national TV Telly award for their efforts. The client was NISE (National Institute for Service Excellence) of Barbados. IIM is a Bay Area based a production company that specializes in puppets for TV and film.

Barbados has a reputation for being one of the most polite islands in the Caribbean and intends to be proactive in remaining so. NISE is a Barbadian government agency promoting ethical behavior within their vital tourist industry. NISE envisioned a video on manners and values to be shown in Barbadian schools and broadcast on TV. Their search, via internet and networking, for a production company to produce these videos lead them to Sonoma based Images In Motion (IIM.) IIM was awarded the project after Kim Tudor, NISE CEO visited their studio in Sonoma, CA.

The IIM team of Lee Armstrong, Bill Ferguson and Kamela Portuges-Robbins came up with a concept which integrates puppets, who test their good manners in a game show format, with Barbadians, who show by example. The puppets were built by Mike Wick, Lee Armstrong & Kamela Portuges. They all puppeteered on the video, shot at IIM's studio, concurrent with a live action shoot by NISE in Barbados. Sets were built by Kieron Robbins, Lighting by Bill Ferguson. NISE provided footage of beaming Barbadian children and adults practicing common courtesies. The DVD was edited and mastered by Kieron Robbins and Kamela Portuges-Robbins.

Lee Armstrong, IIM producer is enthusiastic. "This was a great opportunity to utilize our entire team. From generating scripts, building sets

and puppets, shooting, editing, animation, it was a great creative endeavor. It's nice to get the Telly recognition for the quality of the work."

Videos for the national Telly awards compete against a standard of excellence. There were approximately 13,000 entries this year from all 50 states and countries around the world.

Although courtesy is its own reward, this Telly brings the booty up to six Tellys, six regional Emmys and assorted other awards for puppet production company Images In Motion.

**Congratulations Images in Motion!**

## Ruth Stotter: Lifetime Achievement Award

Long time guild member Ruth Stotter is receiving the National Storytelling Network's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2010. The NSN Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to individuals in the storytelling community who have dedicated their lives to the art form of storytelling and who have demonstrated meritorious service to the National Storytelling Network, as well as to the community of storytellers at large. The individuals who are awarded are those who have expanded public awareness of the art of storytelling by virtue of their preservation of traditional art forms or the significant originality of their body of work.



*On the set with Telly Award winners Images in Motion.*

Ruth writes:

*At the July 2010 National storytelling conference I am receiving the Oracle Lifetime Achievement Award. Also doing a workshop on storytelling with a*



*Ruth Stotter demonstrates string storytelling (and has written a book on it!)*

loop of string and also telling a California history story in the closing storytelling session.

In addition, if any libraries or schools would like a display of puppets from around the world I love to do displays. Did a major one a few years ago at the SF main library and at the Reading the World conference. (Also do Masks from around the world)

**Congratulations Ruth!**

## **Ronna Leon Designated as Poet Laureate of Benicia**

Long time guild member Ronna Leon has been selected as the city of Benicia's Poet Laureate. The official announcement will be made at the Benicia City Council Meeting July 20, but as a *poet-tee* with a mission, she is not waiting for the official announcement, but will begin her duties by hosting a First Tuesday Poetry Gathering, July 6 from 7-9pm at the Benicia Public Library (150 East L Steet, Benicia - (707) 746-4343). Bring poems (yours or ones you love,) friends and curious relatives...all are welcome.

**Congratulations Ronna!**



## **4-H PUPPET TEAM = GOLD by Sharon Clay**

Other than "The Lion King" or "Avenue Q", or "Sesame Street", we don't hear very often about puppet shows winning awards - outside of their organization, like UNIMA. So, you may not realize how important it is to 4 kids to "win gold".

It starts in September or October when 4-H'ers decide which "projects" they are going to take. This year, we had 4 kids. The youngest - Tenaya is only 10 years old, and this is her first year in puppetry. John, age 17 is in his 2nd year, and Megan, age 16, and Sean, 18 have both been in for 6 years. As the kids grow in their projects, they are supposed to also grow in their skills. So, that often provides a challenge for me as a leader to provide different options for them so they can learn new things. The kids decided what their skit should be and wrote their lines. We primarily use foam based puppets, but this year they also incorporated 2 marionettes. The kids decided to use one marionette in their skit this year, plus go on and try building a lever action puppet. My skills in puppet building are really nil, but through the use of a puppet building video, we forged full speed ahead. All went fairly well (though slowly) until the night before our first competition - when the lever action mouth decided to go it's own way. A frantic call to Randal Metz and a speedy trip to San Leandro, and our puppet mouth got a chiropractic adjustment and was able to perform the next day.

This was our first competition - Alameda County 4-H Presentation Day. A Gold Award here qualifies the presenter to go on to Sectional Presentation Day - at U.C. Davis. All different types of presentations are given that day, and our "4-H Variety Show" was in the "Share the Fun" category. Performances are judged against a rubric criteria so we do not compete against other performances. If we rate high enough on the judging scale, we get the gold. We got the gold. That was in January. Sectional Field Day was in March where they got another Gold. That qualified the kids to go on to State Field Day - on May 29th. Again they got another Gold. And now, we are going on to State Fair on July 25th. This is not a competition - but

really a reward

In other years, they may also put together puppet shows to do at other venues -like nursery schools, or senior homes, or even at a toy store, but this year, we just did this one puppet show, because 3 of the 4 kids were also in a film making project - and that's another story.

**Congratulations 4H Puppeteers!**

## **CALENDAR LISTINGS**

*It is recommended that you check with the performer's website or the venue to confirm calendar information.*

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July 4, Giant Puppets on Parade, Vallejo July 4 Parade, Michael & Valerie Nelson puppet makers, Kevin Menegus and others, puppeteers. Free. Parade starts at 11 am, downtown Vallejo. Music, festivities, fireworks to follow.

<http://magicalmoonshine.org/giantpuppet.htm>

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"Water Works" by Images In Motion Creative play abounds as a child and a duck splash through the seasons. Water Works is an original show, using a variety of beautifully crafted rod, shadow and hand puppets, presented by the award winning puppet company, Images In Motion.

Images In Motion has been delighting families for over twenty years with their quality puppetry.

Corporate clients include Disney, Leapfrog Toys and PBS. Awards include six regional Emmys and 6 national Tellys. More info can be found at [www.imagesmedia.com](http://www.imagesmedia.com). Catch a "Water Works" show at a public library near you.

Tues, July 6 - 2pm @ Windsor Regional Library

Tues, July 6 - 7pm @ Rincon Valley Regional Library (Santa Rosa)

Wed, July 7 - 11am @ Guerneville Regional Library

Wed, July 7 - 2pm @ Healdsburg

Regional Library  
 Wed, July 7 - 7pm @ Cloverdale  
 Regional Library  
 Thurs, July 8 - 11am @ Petaluma  
 Regional Library  
 Thurs, July 8 - 2pm @ Sebastopol  
 Regional Library  
 Thurs., July 15 - 3pm @ Milpitas  
 Library  
 Wed, July 21 - 11am @ Sonoma Valley  
 Regional Library  
 Wed, July 21 - 2pm @ Central Library  
 (Santa Rosa)  
 Thurs, July 22 - 11am @ Rohnert  
 Park/Cotati Regional Library  
 Thurs, July 22 - 2pm @ Northwest  
 Regional Library (Santa Rosa)  
 Wed, July 28 - 3pm @ Cupertino  
 Public Library  
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Benny & Bebe's Magic Circus  
 "Incredible Magic Hat Show" Tue, July  
 20, 6:30 pm Napa Library, 580 Coombs  
 St. Napa CA  
<http://www.MagicCircus.cominfo@magiccircus.com>  
 \*\*\*

Storybook Puppet Theater Children's  
 Fairyland, Oakland  
 July 3-4 11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm The Wind  
 In The Willows. The story by  
 Kenneth Graham of Mr. Toad, Badger,  
 Mole and Ratty comes to life at  
 Fairyland. It's up to Mr. Toad's friends  
 to save the day when he gets into  
 trouble. Will it work out in the end?  
 Come to Fairyland and see. Puppets and  
 script by Randal Metz, with scenery by  
 Lewis Mahlmann.  
 July 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31, Aug. 11  
 am, 2 pm, 4 pm The Petrified  
 Princess. Baron Bullyrag wishes to  
 marry the lovely princess. The baron  
 owns most of the lands and the poor,  
 indebted princess is being forced into  
 marriage. When she refuses, he turns  
 her to stone. The knight Puff Louse has  
 twenty four hours to find the ingredients  
 to reverse the curse. Join us as Puff  
 Louse meets the Man in the Moon, the  
 strange Wizard Wel-read, the Dragon of  
 Brizee and tries to beat the Baron at his

own game. Fun for everyone! Puppets  
 by Benjamin Blake, and original story  
 by Don Ingraham. Scenery by Annie  
 Wong.  
 \*\*\*  
 Nick Barone  
 "The Princess Mermaid"  
 Thursday, July 1, 2010 - 3:00 pm  
 Biblioteca Latinoamericana Branch  
 Library 921 South First St., San José,  
 CA  
 Tuesday, July 13, 2010 - 3:00 pm  
 Hillsdale Branch Library  
 205 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, CA  
 Wednesday, July 14, 2010 - 10:30 am  
 Excelsior Branch Library  
 4400 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA  
 Wednesday, July 14, 2010 - 2:00 pm  
 Portola Branch Library  
 380 Bacon Street, San Francisco, CA  
 Wednesday, July 14, 2010 - 5:00 pm  
 Ingleside Branch Library  
 1298 Ocean Ave, San Francisco, CA  
 Thursday, July 15, 2010 - 1:30 pm  
 Richmond Branch Library  
 351 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA  
 Thursday, July 15, 2010 - 3:45 pm  
 Western Addition Branch Library  
 1550 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA  
 Saturday, July 17, 2010 - 11:00 am  
 Grand Opening Celebration for the new  
 Walnut Creek Library  
 Walnut Creek, CA  
 Tuesday, July 20, 2010 - 2:00 pm  
 Cambrian Branch Library  
 1780 Hillsdale Ave., San Jose, CA  
 Wednesday, July 21, 2010 - 11:30 am  
 North Beach Branch Library  
 2000 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA  
 Wednesday, July 21, 2010 - 2:30 pm  
 Chinatown Branch Library  
 1135 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA  
 Wednesday, July 21, 2010 - 5:30 pm  
 Glen Park Branch Library  
 2825 Diamond St, San Francisco, CA  
 Thursday, July 22, 2010 - 4:00 pm  
 Vacaville Town Square Library  
 1 Town Square Place, Vacaville, CA  
 "T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West  
 Revue" Tuesday, July 20, 2010 - 6:30  
 pm Hillview Library 1600 Hopkins Dr.,  
 San Jose, CA

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 Puppet Art Theater Co.  
 July 1 2:30 pm Goldilocks and the  
 Three Sharks City of Mountain View  
 Public Library  
 6:30 pm Los Gatos Library  
 July 3 11 am Tommy's Splashy Pirate  
 Adventure Asian Branch Library,  
 Oakland  
 July 6 2 pm Tommy's Splashy Pirate  
 Adventure  
 Mission Viejo Library, Orange  
 County 7pm Canyon Hills Library,  
 Orange County  
 July 7 Noon  
 Tommy's Splashy Pirate Adventure El  
 Dorado Branch Library, Long Beach  
 3:30 pm and 7 pm Rancho Santa  
 Margarita Branch Library, Orange  
 County  
 July 8 10:30 am Tommy's Splashy  
 Pirate Adventure Ladera Ranch Library,  
 Orange County 2 pm Downey City  
 Library, LA  
 4pm Carson Library, LA  
 July 9 3:30pm  
 Tommy's Splashy Pirate Adventure  
 North Branch Library, Berkeley  
 July 12, 11 am  
 Tommy's Splashy Pirate Adventure  
 Carlsbad City Library 3:30 pm Georgina  
 Cole Library  
 July 13 10a m and Noon, Tommy's  
 Splashy Pirate Adventure Newport  
 Beach Library 3:30 pm Haskett Branch  
 Library, OC  
 7pm Goldilocks and the Three Sharks  
 Burlingame Library  
 July 14 11 am and 1 pm  
 Tommy's Splashy Pirate Adventure  
 Whittier Library, Whittier CA 3:30 pm  
 Anaheim Library, OC  
 July 15  
 Manhattan Beach Library 2 pm and 3:15  
 pm Tommy's Splashy Pirate Adventure  
 Arden Dimmick Library, Sacramento  
 July 16 2 pm Tommy's Splashy Pirate  
 Adventure South Lake Tahoe Library  
 July 20 2 pm Tommy's Splashy Pirate  
 Adventure Linden Branch Library  
 7 pm Goldilocks and the Three Sharks  
 Burlingame Library 7 pm Tommy's



San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild  
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*CALENDAR, cont. from page 7*

Splashy Pirate

Adventure Dimond Branch Library,  
Oakland

July 21 1pm Tommy's Splashy Pirate  
Adventure San Anselmo Library 3:30  
pm Mill Valley Library

July 22 1:30 pm Tommy's Splashy  
Pirate Adventure Carmel Library

July 27 4 pm and 7 pm  
Goldilocks and the Three Sharks  
Redwood City Branch Libraries

July 28  
4 pm and 7 pm Goldilocks and the  
Three Sharks Redwood City Branch  
Libraries

July 29 11 am Tommy's Splashy Pirate  
Adventure Golden Gate Library,  
Oakland

3:30 pm Goldilocks and the Three  
Sharks Escalon Branch Library  
July 31 11 am Goldilocks and the Three  
Sharks Belvedere Tiburon Branch  
Library 2pm Tommy's Splashy Pirate

Adventure Cesar Chavez Branch  
Library, Oakland

4:15pm Tommy's Splashy Pirate  
Adventure Potrero Branch Library, San  
Francisco

\*\*\*Seth Eisen - Blackbird July 1-3, 8-10  
8:00 pm Mama Calizo's Voice  
Factory 1519 Mission St. at 11th,  
SF [www.eyezen.org](http://www.eyezen.org)

Blackbird is a full-length, musical  
pastiche of queer music by solo artist  
Seth Eisen, depicting seven gay  
performers from the 1930s to the  
present who, despite living outside the  
cultural norms of their times and  
cultures, found innovative ways to be  
out, queer and vocal. \$20-25 sliding  
scale at the door or Brown Paper  
Tickets.

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**SUMMER PUPPET  
FESTIVALS**

July 6-11

At PuppetFest MidWest, Trenton, MO,  
Nick Barone presents a four-day  
workshop, "Making a Moving-Mouth  
Puppet," and Art Grueneberger offers  
"Table-top Puppetry."

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July 30 - August 1 Puppet O Rama,  
Puppeteers of America Regional  
Puppetry Festival in Seattle, WA.  
Performances, workshops, puppet slam,  
open mic, puppetry store, and much  
more. Check it out online at  
<http://www.puppet-o-rama.org/>