



San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

July 2011



Bert (last name unknown), Lewis Mahlmann, and Frank Oz

Guild History *Celebrating 50 Years of Puppetry*



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SFBAPG ELECTIONS

The election for SFBAPG board members was held at the June meeting. The vote by the membership was unanimous to accept the slate as presented by the nominating committee.

Randal Metz and Conrad Bishop will be returning for another term. Lex Rudd will be joining the board and Barbara Grillo will be stepping down after fulfilling her full term. Conrad, on behalf of the membership, thanked Barbara for her contributions to the Guild. In addition to new board members, the board elected new officers the next time it met. The new officers are: Art Gruenberger, president; Randal Metz, vice president, Michael Nelson, treasurer; Valerie Nelson, membership. Sharon Clay will continue as secretary and Talib Huff will continue as newsletter editor.

Many thanks to all the Board members for their work on behalf of the Guild.

Sincerely
The Nominating Committee
Padmini Sokkappa
Elisheva Hart
Lee Armstrong

SFBAPG 50th Celebration!

You may have heard some rumors that the date of the 50th Anniversary Celebration has been changed, but it is most definitely going to be on September 24th, unless it changes (we're still working on performances and space, but that date is looking more and more firm). So, hold that date (and any others we may choose [just kidding!]). In the meantime, here are a few fun facts for you.

Although we are celebrating the SFBAPG 50th anniversary, the Guild has been active longer than that, since 1954 actually. Here are a few other things that happened in 1954:

- IBM announced a vacuum tube "electronic" brain that could perform 10 million operations an hour (computers are now measured in "gigaflops." i.e. 1,000,000,000 operations per second and speeds in the 100's of gigaflops are not uncommon).
- The Tasmanian Devil cartoon character debuted in "Devil May Hare" by Warner Bros..
- The BBC broadcasted its first television news bulletin.
- Construction began on Disneyland.
- "Father Knows Best" premiered.
- "Peter Pan" opened at Winter Garden Theater NYC for 149 performances.
- Walt Disney's 1st television program, "Disneyland," premiered on ABC.
- The first Burger King is opened in Miami, Florida, USA.
- The 1st TV soap opera "Secret Storm" premiered.
- The 1st shopping mall opened in Southfield, Mich..
- RCA manufactured the 1st color TV set (12½" screen at \$1,000).
- Elvis Presley recorded his debut single, "That's All Right."
- The TV Dinner was 1st put on sale by Swanson & Sons.
- Hammerin' Hank Aaron hit the 1st of his 755 homers.



August 20 Meeting at Fairyland:

The meeting will be similar to before, with several performances throughout the day, an exhibit that Randal Metz will set up and a meeting with potluck at 5 pm. See the August newsletter for more details.

PUFF THE MAGIC DRAGON PUPPET SHOW

is featured at the Marin County Fair, June 30 through July 4th, across from the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center. "This charming show features colorful marionettes and hand puppets, delightful songs, and an energetic live performance by The Puppets & Players Little Theatre founder Gil Olin, who is also the storyteller and pirate. Presented in a self-contained theatre on wheels in a Baroque style and inspired by an Italian opera house located in Milan, this imaginative version of 'Puff, the Magic Dragon' is perfect for all ages. Shown at 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4:30 p.m." [assumedly daily]

SAVE WAITING IN LINES TO PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FAIR! The Marin Center Box Office has advance tickets on sale June 1 to June 29th. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. 415.499.6800 (\$1.00 per ticket handling fee) or print your own tickets at home through Ticketmaster.com 24/7 for \$1.50 per ticket handling fee. at www.ticketmaster.com/marincountyfair. The Marin County Fair is a one-price gate - all concerts, entertainment, 28 free carnival rides, fireworks and exhibits are free with the affordable family-friendly gate admission of \$15, adults, \$13, children 12 and under and seniors 65 and over. [And this fair is very cozy and doable in one visit.]

Puppets and Players Little Theatre
presents
"Puff the Magic Dragon"
*Little Jackie Paper returns to the land of Honalee
in a traditional marionette production!*
Tuesday, July 5th at 6:00pm
142 Throckmorton Theatre, Mill Valley
tickets: \$8 kids, \$10 adults,
purchase at box office: 415-383-9600, web site, or at event
proceeds to benefit Marin Youth Performers
the Youth Program of 142 Throckmorton, a non-profit organization
www.142ThrockmortonTheatre.org

submitted by Elisheva, mostly from the Marin County Fair info magazine

And from the puppeteers themselves:

Hello SFBAPG

We, The Puppets & Players Little Theatre from Orange Co. Puppetry Guild are coming up your way to perform at the Throckmorton Theatre on July 5th. Would you be so kind and let your puppet community know about this event? All the info is on the poster above.

Thank You So Much

Laurie Branham & Gil Olinger

The Puppets & Players Little Theatre

(949) 855-9442

See the last page for information on these images.



<http://dutchdirt.com/?p=213>



<http://goo.gl/jxs4c>



<http://goo.gl/hjlur>

Building Giant Number 5 for Vallejo

Each year the Vallejo 4th of July Committee commissions a giant puppet from Magical Moonshine Theatre. Past giants have included Mariano G. Vallejo, his wife Benicia, his horse, and Lady Liberty. This year the committee selected the USS Mariano G. Vallejo nuclear submarine, which was built in Vallejo in the mid sixties at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The sub itself was 425 feet long, was launched in 1965 and decommissioned in 1995. In between those dates the sub ran numerous top secret missions during the cold war.

In setting out to create a submarine puppet, I wanted to try to preserve the feel of the original sub, while making it a fun parade puppet, not just a large object to carry. I started with the original shape of the sub, scaled down, and realized that it would either be too long or too skinny for my vision of what the puppet sub would do, so I ended up truncating the design, making it shorter and stouter than the original would be in scaled down form. Part of my fun puppet design included a dozen "Ken" fashion dolls in Navy uniform that could salute from the deck (done) and a periscope with blinking eyeball (done, with eye mechanism created by guild member Kevin Menegus.) In addition I had envisioned a pinwheel propeller to turn in the wind (still not done as of this writing) and bubbles coming out of the rear of the sub. The bubble machine we got turned out to blow bubbles up instead of out, which kind of fed into an additional street theatre innovation of having a submerged Soviet sub (you can only see the "sail" of the sub, the rest of the sub is under the pavement) with the bubbles coming out of the top of the Soviet sub (done, except that the bubble machine stopped working after about 3 minutes of use!) With this idea, the US sub can "chase" the Soviet sub along the parade route.

The sub structure is made from plastic tubing hoops, connected together by pvc pipes (the white pipes used for plumbing.) The pvc itself is strong but not rigid enough so there is a very light wooden frame to help hold the 25 foot long sub horizontal and mostly flat. Then the entire structure is covered by a fabric cover, completing the sub. At the time of this writing, the sub is almost finished. Most critical will be a stress test later this week when we take the sub outside for the first time. Vallejo is a city on the Bay with strong winds, so we always have to make sure the giants can handle the wind, and that the operators who will manipulate the puppet can keep control of it. Two years ago when we took the 14 foot tall horse puppet outside for the first time, we realized that for safety we would have to have 2 spotters with lines up to the horses head for security, something we might not have been prepared for without the test.

The entire building of the sub puppet was intended to be a community project, but to date there has been little (but some!) community participation. We have been given a very nice workshop space in the Ferry building in Vallejo, but due to paperwork, lawyers and insurance issues, we only got it a week before the parade, so most of the work on the puppet was done at our home studio and not at a public place where we might have garnered more public interest. Oh well. Much of the time I find I can get more done by myself as opposed to trying to help others to make the sub. One exception to that has been guild members who come to work with many useful skills and the ability to work unsupervised and make real progress.



Michael works on mounting the saluting fashion dolls to the deck of the sub, mimicking the original launch photo.

All 5 of the giant puppets will be in the Vallejo 4th of July parade (see calendar for details) and the July 4 Committee is sponsoring a contest to see what next year's giant puppet will be. Then, whatever it is, I will have to figure out how to make it a puppet and how to build it. Great fun!



This is a photo of the actual launching of the USS Mariano G. Vallejo sub. I was delighted to see how colorful it was, as I had originally pictured having to make a plain gray submarine.



The initial internal structure sagged a bit too much but the addition of a lightweight wooden structure greatly helped.



Valerie (and Bella) working on the skin to the submarine in the waterfront studio at the Vallejo Ferry Building. Across the water is the actual launch spot of the submarine in 1965. Coincidentally, Valerie's father was an inspector at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and helped build the original (real) submarine. He and inspected our puppet version and pronounced it totally unseaworthy!



LaVonne Saltee salutes as she delivers the Ken's that she costumed for the deck of the sub. LaVonne operates Ooak Barbies Gallery in Vallejo. Her website is well worth a visit, as is her gallery. <http://www.ooakbarbies.com/>

Janet Bradley, founder of Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre February 24, 1943 - April 26, 2011

by Mary Decker

The puppet community has suffered a tremendous loss with the sudden passing of Janet Bradley, co-founder of Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre in Portland, Oregon. On her last day at Tears of Joy, Janet shared a hearty laugh with co-workers, then sat at her desk to continue the mission she had started forty years before. There was no warning that soon her life would be cut short by a ruptured aorta. Her boisterous laugh, vibrant energy, and passion for puppetry will be missed by so many people.

In 1971, Janet Bradley and her then-husband, Reg Bradley, co-founded Tears of Joy in Honolulu, Hawaii; but soon it became clear that the company needed to tour, and Hawaii was not a practical home base. So, two years later, Tears of Joy moved to Vancouver, WA and set up shop on Janet's family farm. Around 1980, the company gained non-profit status, and then about a decade later, it became a resident company at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Tears of Joy's remarkable evolution from a mom-and-pop traveling show to a mid-size resident company in a big-city performing arts center, is especially notable and rare in the world of puppetry arts.

Much of the credit for Tears of Joy's longevity and success goes to Janet Bradley. Janet started out as a puppet designer and performer, and then during the last twenty years, worked tirelessly as an administrator. As a former social studies high school teacher, Janet understood what it took to engage, entertain and educate children. She also saw that there were many areas of the Pacific Northwest, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Alaska where children were never exposed to live theater; and she knew that Tears of Joy could fill this niche and serve the disadvantaged. It is a tribute to Janet that in the last forty years, hundreds of thousands of children - actually, one million just in the past ten years -- have been touched by the award-winning shows that Tears of Joy brought to their schools. Janet was a model of determination as she picked up the phone to raise more money and secure more bookings.

Besides being the Managing Director for Tears of Joy, Janet also was very active in her local guild -- the Columbia Association of Puppeteers -- and she served as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee for Puppeteers of America. Her dedication to the puppetry arts was profound.

Janet's Celebration of Life was held on Monday, May 16, 2011 at the Newmark Theatre in Portland, Oregon. Hundreds of people turned out to say good-bye to a dear friend, sister, mother and grandmother. The tributes expressed through poetry, song, dance and puppetry were a beautiful send-off for a life that was well lived.



See the last page for information on these images.



<http://goo.gl/wHdLh>



<http://goo.gl/YlrMJ>



<http://goo.gl/qKIFW>

The Puppets & Players Little Theatre

Tuesday, July 5

6:00 pm

Puff, the Magic Dragon

In this fantasy adventure, Little Jackie Paper and Puff return to the magical land of Honalee and discover that the mystical "Magic Box" belonging to King Cobwebs has been stolen. Jackie and Puff agree to help the king and his granddaughter find the missing box and return it to the palace. This 30-minute show features marionettes and hand puppets, delightful songs, and an energetic live performance by Gil Olin, who doubles as a storyteller and a pirate.

Throckmorton Theatre, 142 Throckmorton Ave.. Mill Valley. CA

Suggested Donation \$10 Adults, \$8 Students

Buy tickets or call 415.383.9600

Magical Moonshine Theatre

www.magicalmoonshine.org

Monday, July 4

12:00 pm

Giant Puppets in the Vallejo July 4 parade

12 - 2 pm

Downtown Vallejo, CA

The giant puppet tradition continues with a new giant puppet added to this year's parade: The USS Mariano Vallejo, a nuclear submarine, will be joining General Vallejo, his wife Benicia, his horse Blanca and the Lady Liberty.

Tuesday, July 5

6:30 - 7:00 pm

The Puppet Man

Galt Library, 1000 Caroline Avenue, Galt, California

For hundreds of years puppet entertainers have roamed the streets in countries all over the world. They have sought to delight, amuse, reform their audiences, as well as earn their keep in society. Traditional puppet characters such as England's Punch and Judy, Germany's Kasperl, and France's Guignol all evolved from humble folk origins, nurtured by these street performers. In The Puppet Man, MMT's Michael Nelson creates his own version of traditional European street theatre. The performances are colorful, lively, spontaneous and ever-changing. In this unique theatrical experience, the puppeteer, puppets and audience respond to each other to create the play together!

Wednesday, July 6

3:30 - 4:30 pm

The Puppet Man

Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center, 1020 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville

Thursday, July 7

3:30 - 4:00 pm

The Puppet Man

Sylvan Oaks Library, 6700 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights, CA

Storybook Puppet Theater

Children's Fairyland - Oakland

July 2-3

11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm

The Reluctant Dragon.

Kenneth Graham's fanciful tale of dragons and old England come to life in the grand Fairyland style.

Everyone except a little boy, believes that a terrible fire-breathing dragon lives "up" on the "downs". They are so scared they send for St. George, the famous dragon killer, who really couldn't hurt a fly, while our terrible dragon writes poetry and sings opera! What's a village to do? Puppets by Patricia Platt, with scenery by Lewis Mahlmann.

July 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31

11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm

Young King Arthur

T.H. White's magnificent tale of the "Once and Future King" jumps out of the pages of the storybook Puppet Theater. Also known as "The Sword in the Stone", this puppet play tells the story of King Arthur when he was just known as "Wart" , and how he came to be one of the greatest kings in history, with the help of Merlin, of course. Puppets and script by Randal Metz. Design and scenery by Lewis Mahlmann

Nick Barrone Puppets

July 19 - 7:00 pm

"Puss In Boots"

San Carlos Library

610 Elm Street, San Carlos, CA

July 23 - 11:00 am

"T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West Revue"

Larkspur Public Library

400 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA

July 26 - 11:00 am

"T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West Revue"

North Beach Branch Library

2000 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA

July 27 - 10:30 am & 3:00 pm

"Puss In Boots"

Los Altos Library

13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos , CA

July 2011

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
The Reluctant Dragon 26	27	28	29	30	1	The Reluctant Dragon 2
The Reluctant Dragon 3	Giant Puppets Vallejo 4	The Puppet Man Puff, the Magic Dragon 5	The Puppet Man 6	The Puppet Man 7		Young King Arthur 8
Young King Arthur 10	11	12	13	14		Young King Arthur 15
Young King Arthur 17	18	Puss in Boots 19	20	21		T-Rex's Thunderlizard 22
						Young King Arthur 23
Young King Arthur 24	25	T-Rex's Thunderlizard 26	Puss in Boots 27	28		Young King Arthur 29
Young King Arthur 31	1	2	3	4	5	6

San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild
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Carmichael, CA 95608



The puppet images on the bottom of pages 2 and 4 were gathered from the web using Google's "image search" function. After entering a search term (I used 'shadow puppets' and 'ancient puppets') you can refine the search further by specifying size, color, and type. This is a great way to get inspiration when stuck (or to waste time when you're avoiding work!) The web addresses below the images were shortened using a web service and can be used to see the image in its original context. Here are a couple more:



<http://goo.gl/kJQLj>



<http://goo.gl/vswZ2>