



## January 2014

### HOLIDAY PARTY AND GUILD MEETING: JANUARY 26



Marisa Infante

*Celebrate the (end of the) season and cast your vote on important by-law amendment proposals! See page 3.*

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# NEWS

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## Co-Prez Corner

### Olivia Huff, Guild Co-President

As Co-President and new to the Board, I have been getting my feet wet and trying to find the dry ground, as I learn the procedures and precedents that we follow. We've had some major challenges as Board members took on new roles and needed to learn their duties.

The Board has been hard at work sorting through proposed by-law changes. Some changes the Board is proposing reflect actual current Board practice--remember, these by-laws were written long before our current technology--and one proposal will enable the Board the option to offer compensation for people who perform for our Guild or give workshops. Again, reflecting the changing nature of our membership and of the times we are in, several members have called for compensation to performers and workshop providers in order to broaden the range of enriching experiences for our meetings.



Gregory Hayes

<  
Olivia Huff performs  
Three Billy Goats Gruff  
at the SFBAPG 50th  
Anniversary Gala in  
2011.

>  
Lex Rudd works on a  
creature commission in  
her workshop, c.2009.

The procedure for amending the by-laws involves letting the general membership know the proposals via the newsletter, and then voting on it at a Membership meeting. The Board has identified the Holiday Party, our most-attended membership meeting, as the logical place to vote upon these proposals.

Please find and read the proposed amendments with comments from Board Secretary Conrad Bishop on page 3 of this newsletter. You can either vote using the attached ballot, or arrive at the holiday meeting prepared to cast your ballot then.

In the meantime, I hope your holiday season was full of good cheer, laughter and many audiences that will continue into the new year!

## Co-Prez Corner

### *(Note from the Editor)*

Congratulations to our other Co-President, Lex Rudd, on beating the odds to become a contestant on the Jim Henson Creature Shop Challenge.

Lex was whisked away to LA and held incommunicado for nearly two months, and so has been unavailable for comment. She's still not allowed to talk about the show yet, but the new series will premiere March 25th on the SyFy Channel. Learn more about the show at [syfy.com/creatureshop](http://syfy.com/creatureshop) and find Lex's website at [alexisrudd.com](http://alexisrudd.com).



Gregory Hayes

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# NEWS

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## **Guild Holiday Party** January 26, 2014 - San Rafael, CA

### **It's a party!**

**Elisheva Hart**

Bring your best smile, pot luck contributions, a wrapped puppetry-oriented present (\$15 max) for the mystery present exchange (if you wish to participate), cash for raffle tickets, your copy of the amended Guild bylaws, puppets for displaying (please remember stands and labels), table decorations from ANY holiday (arrive by 3:30ish to dress your table), and any Guild library books to return.

#### **Schedule:**

3:00 - Set up, decorate tables, prepare puppet show. Volunteers needed - please help however you can.

4:00 - Let the party begin!

4:30 - Audience gathers for show

6:00 - Potluck

7:00 - Short Guild meeting - voting on proposed amendments to bylaws. After Guild business completes, stick around for the raffle, prizes for table decoration, gift exchange, display browsing, and above all a good schmooze!

9:00 - Party ends. Volunteers, please help us clean up and vacate by 10:00.

**Show info:** Former Guild member ELIZABETH LUCE, now of Los Angeles, will perform her family show "THE SPLASHY SEA SAGA OF SAILOR



SAM" with glove puppets and mouth puppets, then field questions during show and tell.

**Location:** Christ Presbyterian Church, 620 del Ganado Road, San Rafael, 94903 (where it has been several times). Plenty of parking on corner of del Ganado and Freitas Parkway. Freitas is the link between highway 101 and del Ganado.

**Lost?** Call Elisheva's cell: (707) 978-8309

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# GUILD BUSINESS

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## Proposed By-Law Amendments

Conrad Bishop, Board Secretary

At the meeting of 11/26/13, the SFBAPG Board voted to present a number of by-laws changes to the Guild Membership for approval at the upcoming January meeting. They'll also be published in the January newsletter. They require final approval at a Membership meeting.

Please read them carefully. Mail-in ballots will be accepted if you're unable to attend the meeting.

You can read the entire by-laws as they now stand by downloading them at <http://www.sfbapg.org/about-2/board-by-laws/>. Article XIII specifies how they are to be amended. They require 2/3rds approval of all votes cast.

### Proposed changes:

#### A. Article V, Section 2

Currently reads:

Eligibility. A Board Member shall be eligible to be a Board Officer if the Board Member has been an SFBAPG member at least for the following number of years: President, 3 years; Vice President (V.P.), 1 year; Secretary, 1 year; Membership Officer, 1 year; Treasurer, 3 years.

Proposal to add:

**The Board may make an exception to these eligibility requirements in the event that no available Board Member qualifies on the basis of length of membership.**

*Comment: Three years' membership is desirable for a President & Treasurer, but this just provides an option if none of the Board meets that requirement.*

#### B. Article VIII

Currently reads:

BOARD MEETINGS

Section 1. Notification. Notification of the date, time and place of any in-person or teleconference Board meeting shall be given to each Board Member and Appointed Officer at least two weeks, but preferably at least four weeks, in advance.

Section 2. Quorum. Six Board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Proposal to add:

**Section 3. Scheduling. Meetings may be called by the President as he/she determines the need; or by request of at least three Board members requesting that such a meeting be called.**

**Section 4. Annual Meeting. There shall be one annual Membership Meeting in May or June of each year for conducting organizational business (cf. Article X), which shall include electing members of the Board, making changes in the by-laws, and any other items that at least three members of the Guild request the President to place on the agenda.**

*Comment: It's pretty standard in by-laws to specify who's able to call a board meeting. And while the By-laws mention a May meeting for election of the Board, it's a bit vague. This just defines it more clearly.*

Proposal to add:

**Section 5. Other Meetings. Other meetings of the regular Membership during the year as part of Guild meetings may be held to discuss relevant issues and offer feedback to the Board, but these meetings have no decision-making status; only regularly-**

constituted Board Meetings and the annual Membership Meeting are the authorized occasions for official resolutions.

**Section 6. Special.** An exception to Sec. 5 may be made by Board resolution if there is business to contract that the Board deems necessary to involve the full membership, in which case the same provisions of advance notification and balloting shall pertain as for an Annual Meeting.

*Comment: It's presently unclear what the status of regular membership meetings is: Do we want them capable of conducting official business even if there are only a few members present and no advance agenda? This proposal is that these are only "discussion" meetings unless there's advance notice of potential votes on a specific agenda item, as there would be for an Annual Meeting.*

Proposal to add:

**Section 7. On-line Board Resolutions.** The Board is authorized to engage in email discussions and take binding votes online or by conference call on occasions when the President determines a resolution requires prompt action. Such decisions will be included by the Secretary in the official Board Minutes. The same provisions for quorum and notification shall apply as for regularly scheduled meetings.

*Comment: This is simply to update our options for meeting. With nine members, face-to-face meetings can be very difficult to arrange.*

### C. Article IX, Section 4.4 COMMITTEES

Currently reads:

4.4 Nominating Committee. (a) Eligibility and number. The Nominating Committee shall be a standing Selection Committee comprised of three members. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be an incumbent Board Member.

Proposal to change:

**4.4 Nominating Committee. (a) Eligibility and number.** The Nominating Committee shall be a committee comprised of three members. One member shall be a current Board Member; the other two shall be Guild members in good standing but not currently Board Members.

*Comment: This retains the principle of the Board not self-selecting itself, but the process would be better coordinated if one is a Board member, since it's a very important task whose progress should be reported to the Board. If the Board member is rotating off, the new member would be recruited from the Board.*

Currently reads:

4.4. (b) Selection and announcement. In even-numbered years, the current Nominating Committee shall select one new Nominating Committee member, and in odd-numbered years, the current Nominating Committee shall select two new Nominating Committee members, to be part of the next Nominating Committee. Outgoing Board Members shall be eligible to be on the Nominating Committee.

Change to:

**(b) Selection and term.** Member terms shall be three years, with one member rotating off and the Nominating Committee selecting a new member each year. Outgoing Board Members shall be eligible to be on the Nominating Committee.

*Comment: This replaces the odd-even year selection, whose purpose (I think) is to have a regular rotation; but it's a very peculiar process, not specifying who's to rotate off or the length of terms. (Depending on the status of the current Nominating Committee, they might have to make some arbitrary choices about term length to get the rotation working properly.)*

Proposal to add:

**(c) The duties of the Committee shall be to solicit potential candidates for the Members in time for the annual election; to receive other nominations (with the nominee's approval) from the general membership; to ascertain the eligibility of anyone nominated or self-nominated; and to organize biographical data or statements for the newsletter prior to balloting. They must include all eligible nominees on the slate presented to the membership.**

*Comment: This just defines what the Committee is to do, as nothing in the current by-laws does so. It also requires them to include all eligible nominees on the ballot: they determine eligibility but don't make choices.*

#### **D. ARTICLE XI, Section 4. DUES AND FINANCES**

Currently reads:

Section 4. Compensation to members.

No payment of money shall ever be made to any member or officer, except as reasonable reimbursement for actual expenses.

Proposal to change:

**Section 4. Compensation. Payment of money may be made to members for reimbursement for actual expenses accrued for purchases for the Guild or as reasonable compensation for services significantly beyond the normal level of volunteer hours contributed by other members or officers. Compensation for such special services must be approved by 2/3rds of the full Board.**

**The Board shall maintain and publish to the membership a consistent policy of payment for presentations offered to the Guild, whether by members or non-members.**

*Comment: This allows payments for special services by members but sets a general standard for such payments. It also allows the Board to adopt a policy for compensation to presenters, but leaves open the issue of what*

*that policy should be. The general policy for payment to members or non-members is to be determined by board resolution, and it can change as experience dictates. This simply removes the prohibition against payments to members.*

*This has been a long-standing, much-debated prohibition, and for this reason I asked for comments on the Yahoogroups list. Of 17 members responding, 15 favored some form of payment to presenters, 2 were negative, 1 expressed no opinion. The question posted to other guilds about their practices had varied response, most of them offering some sort of honorarium.*

*The resolution doesn't directly address the question of what our policy should be; that would be left for the Board to specify and make known to the membership. Future Boards could change the policy.*

## **Voting Information**

There are two ways to vote: send in your ballot (must be received no later than January 25) or come to the Guild meeting at the Holiday Party to cast your ballot in person. Remember, you must be a current Guild member in good standing in order to cast a vote.

The ballot presents a yes/no option for each of the four proposals (sections A - D above). There will be a period for brief public comment at the Guild meeting. Relevant comments submitted with ballots will be read aloud during that period; you must include your name with the comment for the record, but your vote will not be made public.

Please read the text of the proposed amendments and the helpful comments thoroughly. You can find the simple ballot and comment form on the next page. If submitting by mail, please send promptly for arrival by January 25. If planning to vote at the Guild Meeting & Holiday Party, please bring your copy of the proposal. See you there!

# BALLOT

for proposed amendments to the SFBAPG by-laws

ELECTION DATE JANUARY 26, 2014

\*\* mail-in votes due by JANUARY 25, 2014 \*\*

Please see SFBAPG Newsletter pp 3 - 6 for proposals.

YES NO

Approve Proposal A  
(Addition to By-Laws Article V:  
Eligibility for Board Positions)

YES NO

Approve Proposal C  
(Changes to By-Laws Article IX:  
Nominating Committee Selection)

Approve Proposal B  
(Additions to By-Laws Article VII:  
Board Meeting Procedures)

Approve Proposal D  
(Changes to By-Laws Article XI:  
Compensation to Members)

MAIL TO:

Camilla Henneman  
234 S. Branciforte Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

OR EMAIL:

camhenneman@gmail.com

# COMMENTS

for proposed amendments to the SFBAPG by-laws

ELECTION DATE JANUARY 26, 2014

\*\* mail-in votes due by JANUARY 25, 2014 \*\*

Please see SFBAPG Newsletter pp 3 - 6 for proposals.

Guild member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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TAPE ALONG EDGE

FOLD HERE

PLACE  
STAMP  
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Camilla Henneman  
234 S. Branciforte Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



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# NEWS

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## Basil Twist's Dogugaeshi

### Review by Rani Cochran

I was delighted, amazed, and thoroughly enchanted with Basil Twist's Dogugaeshi. It opened with a back-projected film of the classic sliding screens (dogugaeshi) from Awaji Island. Then Twist's own screens began to slide. They're painted with traditional Japanese designs. Shadow puppets of fishing boats moved against screens depicting ocean. Rooms opened and opened and opened, the lines of the painted tatami and shoji creating much more perspective depth than could have been physically possible given the actual depth of the stage. All this to the accompaniment of a woman playing shamisen -- and she is a living National Treasure of Japan who also plays koto and tiny bells and sings. At several points a hand puppet of a shaggy fox danced among the screens, appearing in the appropriate size for the depth of screen behind it. And there was one long dance of the fox, now a large puppet manipulated by a person (Basil himself?) in true bunraku style. There are 5 fox puppets, each of a different size.



There were scenes, usually a back-projection, indicating the culture clash of modern Japan with the old traditions. Some were quite funny. Some were quite poignant for me, as I have been thinking a great deal recently about change in this world: How are traditions evolving? What has the computer wrought? What will climate change bring? Many changes in art (or should I say "art") totally mystify me: I don't understand Lady Gaga, but I can happily attend concerts by the Kronos Quartet; I don't like anything Damien Hirst has done, but thoroughly enjoy David Hockney. etc etc etc.

After the performance Basil Twist invited the audience back stage to see the magic, including a stand holding the shadow puppets; about 8 towers on each side of the stage, each tower holding 8 to 10 screens; some screens sliding by means of ropes on pulleys; other screens moved by puppeteers using sticks and poles. The screens are hand-painted on butcher paper! Many have to be replaced after each performance because they tear, either on purpose or by accident. The musician sits on a little rotating stage at the side of the stage, turned into and out of the scene as required.

Knowing how Dogugaeshi was done hasn't taken away the magic. I have long been interested in traditional Japanese arts, so my life well-prepared me for the experience. I wonder if people less familiar with Japanese woodblock prints, music, puppetry, and architecture would have been quite so entranced.

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# NEWS

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## Forbidden Puppet Cabaret



Photos by Andy Pischnikoff

playarazzi.com

### Moments I'll Remember Elisheva Hart

\* The magic of many Guild members arriving at 3pm to manipulate, marvel and begin to master Mary Nagler's 2 hour workshop, including rehearsing an opening number for the Forbidden Puppet Cabaret! And the magical, overwhelming, constant generosity of Mike and Valerie Nelson.



\* Looking upwards into Fetterly Playhouse's rows of seats where our Guild "workshoppers" sat, clad in basic performing blacks, friendly white name tags beaming on their chests during our Puppet Guild's members meeting which was successfully led by co-president Olivia Huff for her first time! (Oops, did we keep the nametags on during our performance debut?)

\* The benefits of said nametags to our socialization time; the potluck yummys eaten at café tables; how, once we had filled our bellies, many leftovers migrated onto the lobby food tables for the audience. Our SF-BAPG is indeed a sharing machine.

\* Valerie Nelson's terrific singing voice and her duets with Mike, without his ukulele, but modeling a fab garage sale wardrobe (only surpassed by Ken, Barbie's sweetie, in Toy Story 3) which he modeled with humor and sauciness, hubba hubba! Val's elegant gowns. Their duet of the Cabaret Theme song, which guided our puppet chorus line performance, whilst wearing old

fashioned vaudeville-style "Bib Puppets" which they call "Body Puppets." The puppeteer's face becomes the puppet's face, thus allowing facial expressions and clear live sound for singing and/or dialogue, while a clothed puppet body (think Raggedy Ann) dangles from the puppeteer's neck. The puppeteer's hands become the puppet hands projecting from the puppet's sleeves and the feet rest on a table top.



\* Absolutely stunning cabaret acts: Opening with the stationary giant Vallejo husband and wife parade puppets, aided by some stalwart Guild members, playing ball with the Moon to the theme song of 2001; Jim and Jan Bartz with their carved wooden Limber Jacks of many species and much fiddling around; Warren Peace, a poetry writing dog and his handler, Brian



Narelle; San Francisco street performer Nick Jones with Wolfie T. Wolf, emcee; Bernie Beauchamp who is an extremely sensual marionette performer; Mary Nagler's adorable monster toddler who has sleep issues; and the dozens of "Garbie Dolls" created that night from recycled materials (thanks to Jim and Jan's free pre-performance workshop) in an after-show review with their makers.



\* And if this wasn't all, at intermission outside the theater, a super fantastic art car and created by Vallejo steampunkers. Plus there were marionette dancers literally on fire! I was so fascinated by the flaming puppets I can't remember the manipulator, but suspect it was Bernie Beauchamp. [ed. note: It was.]

The next day after church (where our Guild Holiday party will be held) I had amazing cachet with the five

"young" people (ages 23-60ish) who came at my suggestion to the Cabaret. One, Steve, had told me "Being John Malkovich" is his favorite film and, *did I know where quality puppetry was in the Bay Area?* Already by early Sunday morning he and his wife had heard from other friends from another town about the wonderful puppetry event the night before. Their brother-in-law, who wasn't able to come THIS time but will next, heard from a different couple altogether about the wondrous Puppet Cabaret. And thusly does audience build, my friends.



OK, SFBAPG, we've got instructions from Mary on Slams and Cabarets, and we've gotten our feet wet on stage! (Our Moms are proud, you betcha.) And Mike has been hoping for more Guild participation in the Cabarets—both individually and collectively. We've got the bug now, no need to disappoint him!

## Calendar

Ahhh ... the holidays are behind us and suddenly there's not a whole lot going on. But that leaves us with a very empty calendar! It could be less empty if you'll send in your events and other calendar suggestions for publication here and on the Guild website. We want the world to find you!

Email us your upcoming calendar items by the 25th of each month to be included in these resources. Include as much information as possible, including name of show, name of troupe, contact info for troupe, name and address of venue, show times and dates, and a photo if you're feeling adventurous.

Email calendar items to:  
**[sfbapgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:sfbapgnewsletter@gmail.com)**

### SFBAPG Holiday Party and Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 4:00 - 9:00 pm  
 Christ Presbyterian Church, San Rafael  
 See page 3 in this newsletter for more info!

### Storybook Puppet Theatre

Daily through February 9  
 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm  
 "The Dragon of Krakow"

*A lovely tale from the city of Krakow, Poland, where the countryside is in a terrible uproar. Princess Lilliana doesn't want to be kidnapped by the local dragon, but she does want to let the town shoemaker know she has a crush on him. What's a girl to do? Why, ask for help from a statue of a magical mermaid, of course. Come see how a foolish dragon is taught a lesson. Adapted by David C. Jones. Scenery and puppets by Lewis Mahlmann.*

Children's Fairyland, Oakland

San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 976  
Occidental, CA 95465



## SAVE THE DATE:

January 26 – Holiday Party and Guild Meeting in San Rafael  
See page 3 of the Newsletter for full details!

February 21 - 23 – “A Soldier’s Tale” - Three Free Performances  
Randal Metz and Fred C. Riley III team up with the SF Chamber Orchestra in Stravinsky’s classic.  
Watch for full article in the February edition of the Newsletter.



### *Puppeteers of America*

Puppeteers of America, a national non-profit organization founded in 1937, provides information, encourages performances, and builds a community of people who love puppet theatre.

Share the enchantment of puppetry with professional puppeteers, puppet builders, teachers, librarians, therapists, youth leaders, hobbyists and audience members who are enthusiastic about puppetry. To learn how to join, visit:

[www.puppeteers.org](http://www.puppeteers.org)