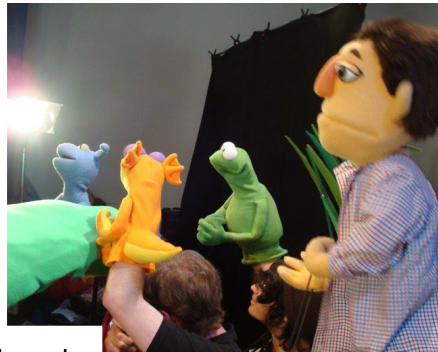




The official newsletter of  
**San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild**  
*Looking for updates and missed information?*  
*Check for it at [SFBAPG.ORG](http://SFBAPG.ORG)*

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

## June 2014



May 31 guild meeting and workshop in Sonoma a wonderful TV puppetry experience for many!



### **Guild Election Results**

**Check out the box to the right to see your  
new board and officers →**

*Mark your calendars!*

**The next guild meeting will be Saturday, August 23 at  
Fairyland in Oakland. More info coming soon.**

#### **2013-2014 Board of Directors and Guild Officers**

**Co-President**

**Olivia Huff**

[ohuff@dcn.org](mailto:ohuff@dcn.org)

916-484-0606

**Co-President**

**Lex Rudd**

[lex@alexisrudd.com](mailto:lex@alexisrudd.com)

626-224-8578

**Vice President**

**Randal Metz**

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**Treasurer**

**Mary Nagler**

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860-230-6079

**Secretary**

**Conrad Bishop**

[eye@independenteye.org](mailto:eye@independenteye.org)

707-824-4307

**Membership Officer**

**Camilla Henneman**

[camhenneman@gmail.com](mailto:camhenneman@gmail.com)

831-359-9761

**Tom Crystle**

[deenihanbeth@att.net](mailto:deenihanbeth@att.net)

707-933-1395

**Elisheva Hart**

[ishvahart@yahoo.com](mailto:ishvahart@yahoo.com)

707-978-8309

**Gregory Hayes**

[gregoryhayes@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryhayes@gmail.com)

707-874-8378

**Non-Board Positions**

**Librarian**

**Lee Armstrong**

[images@vom.com](mailto:images@vom.com)

707-996-9474



**From the Pres....**  
**June 1, 2014**  
**Your Board needs your input!**

The new board met after the membership meeting yesterday. We have some lofty goals... Planning exciting and educational membership meetings. Increasing the youth membership and involvement in puppetry. Making people feel welcomed at our meetings and making sure all the details for each meeting and potluck are handled. Better understand how we can make use of technology to make communication possible. Get more people involved!

There are several committees that are established to so these goals can be accomplished. But the Board can't do it all by ourselves. What are YOUR talents and interests? Do you have ideas about where we can have a meeting? Do you have ideas of what you want to learn at a meeting or ideas for performers? Do you want to help give out scholarship money? Do you like to meet people? Can you only do things from home? Do you want to encourage the development of future puppeteers? Whatever your interest or skill, I'm sure we can find a place for you to serve the guild.

Contact a board member to see where you might put your talents!

## Festival News

By Camilla Henneman

Festival season is upon us! Are you thinking about or attending a festival this year? If so, there are lots to choose from. Festivals are often held at the end of the summer or during the fall when puppeteers have a lull between summer shows and the holidays. If you have never been to a festival, it is a gathering of puppeteers and puppetry enthusiasts usually over a period of 2-5 days. They generally include performances, hands-on workshops, late-night short performances, sometimes film and lots of camaraderie. You will likely come away with some new skills, memories, and lifelong friendships. If you have an interest, but are short on funds, the scholarship committee would like to remind you that the guild has scholarships available.

**Puppeteers of America** sponsors a national festival every other year in odd numbered years and regional festivals (in the 8 regions of North America) in even numbered years. The national festival is longer in duration (5 days) and regional festivals are 3 days. Since this year is an

### **YES YOU CAN! (attend the puppet festival of your choice)**

Now that you read about all the puppet festivals coming up, are you drooling over the idea of attending one? Have you checked your private money stash and found it lacking? Have you shaken all your puppets for spare change and found they have already spent their tip money and have empty pockets like you?

Well, then... the Scholarship Committee has GOOD NEWS for you!

The Guild has funds set aside for scholarships for members of the Guild to attend puppet festivals and workshops... All you have to do is submit an application at least eight weeks before the start date (and meet some other criteria...including giving a presentation to the guild or writing a report for the newsletter about what you learned). You can read more about the qualifications for applying for a scholarship by emailing your request to [sfbapg@gmail.com](mailto:sfbapg@gmail.com) (or you can request a snail mail copy from the Scholarship Committee—[916-484-0606](tel:916-484-0606)). You will also need to provide two letters of recommendation from your puppeteer friends to accompany your application.

Apply now for the puppet festival or workshop that caught your eye!

**FINE PRINT:** Scholarship committee will award scholarships in accordance with the established guidelines. Deadline for 2014 applications is September 1. Scholarship applications are due eight weeks before the event's application deadline; exceptions may be made at the sole discretion of the scholarship committee. Awards are applicable to registration fees only; exceptions are made if funding for fees has been obtained from other awards. A properly completed application does not guarantee a scholarship. (But we really do want to award these funds, so it sure can't hurt to apply!)

even year, you have your choice of 5 regional festivals.  
<http://www.puppeteers.org/festivals/regional-festivals/>

Here is a list of the regional festivals:

Northeast/ Mid-Atlantic region. **Puppet Homecoming** September 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.  
Rhinebeck, NY <http://puppethomecoming.org/>

Pacific Northwest Region. **P of EH? Canuckfest** September 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>  
Victoria, B.C. <http://canuckfest.weebly.com/>

Great Plains Region September 25<sup>th</sup>-28 **Handmade Worlds: A Festival of Puppet Theater**; Minneapolis, Minnesota [Great Plains Regional Festival](#)

Great Lakes Region July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> **Motor City Puppet Blast** Detroit  
Michigan <http://www.greatlakespoa.com/Festival.html>

Southeast Region. July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup> **Southeast Puppet Jamboree**  
Helen, Georgia <http://www.puppetjamboree.org/>

Next year will be the National Festival at The University of Connecticut.  
The national festivals are held every other year in odd years. Next year's  
festival will be held at the University of Connecticut August 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Caroll  
Spinney, the puppeteer for *Sesame Street's* Big Bird, will serve as the  
festival's honorary Grande Maestro

<http://www.puppeteers.org/festivals/national-festival/> You can follow  
the updates on Facebook at  
**Puppeteers of America 2015 National Festival at UConn**

Feel the need to get away from the states for a bit? There are puppetry  
festivals worldwide. Here are just a few of the offerings in international  
festivals.

**PuppetsUp** in Almonte, Ontario August 8-10.  
<http://www.puppetsup.ca/festival-info/>

For next spring you might check out **Titirimundi** in Segovia Spain in May.  
<http://www.titirimundi.com/>

Here is a link to festivals in Turkey and Bulgaria  
<http://www.vnpuppet.com/en/festivals>

This is just a sampling of some of the puppetry festivals going on this year.  
For more information on International Festivals, check the UNIMA website  
<http://www.unima-usa.org/>

Whichever you choose, you are bound to have the experience of a lifetime  
and make friends that will last a lifetime.





# What are our members up to?

**Jessica Yurash, Bodyart:** This month I have help found a new artist association called "The Human Art Collective." It is a gathering of Northern California Body Paint artists/models/and enthusiasts. This recently formed group believes that painting on skin is one of the most powerful and ancient of art forms, and they are dedicated to exploring the creative potential of the human canvas.

The group has a vision of creating a non-profit guild in the future, and making it an all-inclusive group for all artists who wish to join. To kick off this group, we have an art installation project that we will be doing at the SubZERO Festival in San Jose on June 6th and 7th.

<https://www.facebook.com/thehumanartcollective>

## Gabriel Anthony, How to get to Heavenly Street

The last few months have been incredibly busy with rehearsals, puppet building and prop making with my church's creative arts team, "Create, Minister, Teach!" It's all about to pay off though as we hit our final stretch before our new musical debuts at the end of June.

"Heavenly Street" focuses on Paco, a packrat that lives in the trashcans and has been trying to fill his life with the wrong things. Through the help of the a friend (and a few convenient musical numbers), he learns that there is much more to life than the material stuff we collect on Earth. The program features a variety of art forms, including puppetry, drama, blacklight, dowel rods, dance and flags.

Create, Minister, Teach! is the youth ministry of Iglesia Jesucristo Es El Senor (Jesus Christ is Lord Church) in San Bruno, CA. The team has 9 pre-teens through adults and we rehearse 2-3 hours per week. The team promotes creativity, service and commitment year-round, in rehearsal and out in the community.

I will gladly pass an invitation to the guild to join us once our date is finalized. It's a wonderful opportunity to see young people engaged in the arts.

We are also working on trying to take the program "on tour" for a weekend in Central California. If anyone has contacts in that area that would be interested in hosting a Christian musical, please contact [gabriel@CMTministries.org](mailto:gabriel@CMTministries.org)



*New interest for Jessica Yurash, Bodyart, not exactly puppets...*



*Gabriel Anthony, Youth Ministry puppets, above and below.*



## Sharon Clay, 4H Puppetry

Alameda County 4-H held it's 2nd Annual Film Fest on May 10th. There were 10 film entries. One was a joint effort between the Pet Responsibility group and the Alameda County Puppeteers. The Puppeteers presentation was "Mom, Can I Have a Horse?". This skit was incorporated with the Pet Responsibility Service Learning project that was working with the Alameda County SPCA to take the message of pet responsibility to kids of the community. The idea was to let kids know that having a pet is not a short term activity, and that there is responsibility in having a dog, rabbit, chicken or cat.

They made a short video of their combined story, with the puppeteers telling the story of Roxie who went to her mother asking "Mom, Can I Have a Horse", knowing that Mom would say no. The next day she asked for a pig. Again, Mom said no.

And finally, she asked for a dog. Then Mom started asking Roxie if she knew what was involved in raising a dog. And the Pet Responsibility group were inserted talking about those responsibilities.

They entered their short video into the County 4-H Film Festival. They didn't win, but Lisa Ripplinger, who played Roxie (the puppet), won Best Actress, at the film festival. Lisa was very surprised. "I'm not an actress, I'm a puppeteer!" Miss Piggy would be very proud.



*Above, 4H puppeteers*

## Neil Aaron, Music and Puppets

Hey Everyone out there in the puppet world! My name is Neil Aaron and I'm a singer, songwriter and I'm also in the process of developing a web based children's show using puppets. I see it as the three way love child of The Muppets, Pee-wee's Playhouse and Glee. The Blu\* Gean Show stars Blu\* Gean the (puppet) dog and me, as we live together in a giant magic box. After I'm off to work, Blu\* Gean turns on the web cam and invites friends over to visit and puts on a variety show in the bay window. There are many characters...like the dog version of the Golden Girls, mice, flowers, fairies and Nora the Nosy Nextdoor Neighbor and her cats. Each episode will feature original and parody songs. So far, The Blu\* Gean Show has started small with YouTube clips of Blu\* Gean and parodies of Frozen's "Let it Go" and Adele's "Rolling in the Deep". I am looking for all the help I can get with puppet building and all other aspects of bringing this vision and the scripts to life. Check out my YouTube clips below and feel free to contact me if you can lend a hand. Thanks everyone! \*Neil\*

[Rockstarneil@mac.com](mailto:Rockstarneil@mac.com)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoAyN-TEi\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoAyN-TEi_E)

<http://youtu.be/sOrRA8Dm1Xw>

And for samples of my original children's music:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/love-is-a-family/id412697691>



*Neil Aaron and puppet friend.*

What are YOU up to? Send your update to your newsletter editor at magical [moonshine@gmail.com](mailto:moonshine@gmail.com) and





## **You are Invited: Celebrate the lives of Lewis Mahlmann and David C. Jones**

Children's Fairyland will be hosting the memorial gathering for Lewis Mahlmann and David C. Jones on Saturday evening June 14, from 6:00 to 8:30. All guild members are welcome to join us for the remembrance of these two men who added so much to the culture of puppetry in the Bay Area. Lewis Mahlmann was director of the Children's Fairyland Storybook Puppet Theater, the longest ongoing puppet theater in the United States, from 1967 - 2006. He was a charter member of our guild and two times

President of The Puppeteers of America. David C. Jones, his life partner, besides being a 2nd grade teacher in Alameda, is responsible for many of the adaptations of the puppet tales that Lewis produced over his career. Together, they published four book of puppet plays that are available to the public. Both men sadly passed in March. Below is the program for the evening:

6:00 - 7:00 Remembering their achievements. Displays and video at the Storybook Puppet Theater in Fairyland.

7:00 - 7:30 Coffee, tea & testimonials at the new Aesop's Children's Theater in Fairyland.

7:30 "The Little Prince" A Lilliputian Puppet Performance created by Lewis Mahlmann in 1983. Based on the designs and writings of Antoine De Saint-Expery. Puppets and direction by Lewis Mahlmann.

8:00 - 8:30 Words from friends and colleagues.

8:30 Candlelight procession back to the Storybook Puppet Theater. Finish.

Fairyland will be closed for the event. When you come to the front gate of Fairyland, just announce that you are there for the memorial. Staff will direct you from there. Fairyland is located at 699 Bellevue Ave in Oakland, CA. On the edge of Lake Merritt. Bellevue is a one way street parking lot in front of the park. There might be a parking fee from the city of Oakland. Street parking is available on Grand Ave. For more information to get here, please contact Fairyland at (510) 452-2259. On the night of the event, you can reach Randal Metz at [\(415\) 609-8704](tel:4156098704).





## Guild Corner

### GUILD CALENDAR - Your input sought

Some of you may have noticed that the guild calendar on the guild website, [sfbapg.org](http://sfbapg.org), has been dormant for some months. We are working on reanimating the calendar, coordinating it with the newsletter, and trying to make it useful to you, our members. You can help us by telling us what you would like to see in a calendar. When the newsletter has run calendar listings in the past, have you read them/found them useful? Do you attend other guild members' shows? If so, how do you get their listings? From the newsletter? From the performers website? Word of mouth?

Do you keep an eye out for shows or special events with puppets? If so, we need your help to get these listed for our membership. Our members are our eyes and ears, especially for visiting shows or companies. In any case, if you have any ideas for how to make the calendar better, more useful, please send them along. We are looking for useful but low labor solutions to spreading the word.

Are you one of our performing members that has a calendar of public shows on your website? If so, we would like to link from the guild website event page to your calendar page on your webpage. We have posted the first listings on the calendar page now (under the calendar) and look forward to collecting more links. Please send them to [sfbapg@gmail.com](mailto:sfbapg@gmail.com) and put calendar link in the subject. Thanks!

### Guild Yahoo Group: How can it work for you?

**What is the guild Yahoo Group and what can you do with it?** When you join the guild, you are automatically signed up for the SFBAPG Yahoo Group. New Yahoo groups policy is that you now have to accept your membership in the group by responding to the email that the group sends you, and once you do, any email sent to [sfbapg@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sfbapg@yahoogroups.com) goes to you and all other members of the group. The group then becomes an instant email message system to connect with the membership. When the newsletter is ready, most guild members receive notice of it through the Yahoo group. Notices and information about guild meetings and events are disseminated through the Yahoo Group system.

Who can post emails to the Yahoo Group? Any guild member that is a member of the Yahoo Group can send an email to [sfbapg@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sfbapg@yahoogroups.com) and it will go to all the other members. This means that you can ask a question (where is the best place to buy casting plaster in the East Bay?) or car pool (is anyone driving from the Livermore area to the puppet show and wants to share gas/ride?) You can post up to the minute information (I just heard that Heather Henson will be in the Bay Area tomorrow night screening her new film...who wants to meet for dinner first?)

**Why does my post not appear immediately?** The guild Yahoo group is moderated by several members for your protection. This means that someone will look at your post and make sure it is suitable before it is OKed to go out to the membership. The intent of the group is puppet and guild related communication.

**Tip:** If you are responding to someone's Yahoo group email, decide whether you want to send your request to that particular person or to the whole membership. Personal emails accidentally targeted to the whole group are the most common emails that are denied in the moderation process. For example, if there is a posting about a puppet job (someone looking for a puppeteer) and you are interested in the job, you might want to just send your pitch to the person hiring rather than the entire guild.

**If you change your email address,** you should request that your new address be added to the Yahoo group. You can do this by requesting to join the Yahoo group again on the Yahoo group webpage or by emailing your Membership Officer, Camilla Henneman (her contact info is on page one of the newsletter.) That way you can continue to stay updated on guild happenings.

**You don't know if you are getting the Yahoo Group emails?** There are not a huge number of Yahoo Group emails that go out, but if you are not getting any (you should get at least 1-3 a month) then let Camilla know so she can get you actively receiving your messages.

**Having the ear of over 100 puppet enthusiasts at a key stroke is a great guild benefit!**



## Volunteers Invited: Vallejo Giant Puppets on July 4

Every July 4, guild members and community volunteers join Michael & Valerie Nelson to wrangle the Vallejo Giants in the Vallejo 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Volunteers are always welcome to come and help puppeteer the giants, and there are tasks for many different levels of strength and ability; we have even had older children help carry the puppets. The parade is a little over a mile long, with a slight incline at the beginning, followed by a long downhill run ending at the water and the Vallejo Ferry building. Afterwards we have a BBQ, making for a fun day all in all. Vallejo generally has the mildest weather in the Bay Area (barring San Francisco), although it can get breezy being right on the water. There are 5 giant puppets, although this year it is looking like the big horse puppet (the Mare of Mare Island) may not be in the parade due to some structural damage that puppet maker Michael does not have time to repair before the 4<sup>th</sup> (maybe you'd like to volunteer for that?) If you are interested, contact Michael and Valerie at [magicalmoonshine@gmail.com](mailto:magicalmoonshine@gmail.com), and come get LARGE with us!



San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild  
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