



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*

**July 2015**



*Summer is a great time to get back to all those puppet projects you have put off until now!*

*Inside this issue:*

Your new board looks to the future, new guild officers announced, upcoming guild events, report on Puppetry in TV workshop, Nick Barone Scholarship, tips and bits, calendar, scholarships and more.

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## From your presidents:

Summer begins. For some of us that means a change of schedule from the rest of the year. It's the season for library puppet shows, for summer camps, for festivals, for travel that might include some puppet tourism, and maybe some time off that could be used to get around to those long delayed projects. Whatever great fun puppet activities you have planned for the summer, we hope you enjoy and are fulfilled by them (and that you share them in the newsletter!)

### *New President? Co-presidents!*

We are Presidents again! Over the course of more than 25 years, we (Lee Armstrong and Michael Nelson) have served the Guild in many different offices, including President and now we've come full circle, as Co-Presidents and long term Guild friends. We see a renaissance in the puppeteering community, with new TV puppet shows and live performances, providing career opportunities for puppeteers. We are excited about the coming year, with opportunities to support the Guild mission, to share and encourage others in this art form.



First, a big thank you to Olivia Huff, who has been our fearless leader and President for two years. Her organizational skills are exemplary, which is good, as scheduling and running Board meetings has been similar to herding feral cats. She will continue on in the Board as our very capable Secretary. Thank you so much Olivia!

### *We'd like to welcome the newly elected Board members...*

Mary Nagler is graciously stepping up to a 2nd term, continuing as head of our Programming Committee. Mary has encouraged members to join this committee and share their ideas, making this a large and very active group. It continues to seek out new workshops, shows and events. Thank you, Mary.

Valerie Nelson has volunteered to be our new Treasurer. Valerie has filled this position in the past and her experience is invaluable to our growing Guild. Thank you.

Fred Riley is our brand new Board member and has jumped in with enthusiasm. He's heading up the T-shirt committee, as we want to provide the opportunity to sport Guild T-shirts for our events, raise public awareness and look cool.

### *Returning Board members...*

Judy Roberto has been doing a great job of Secretary, keeping the minutes which has been a great reference tool for the Board. She has also been instrumental in organizing the annual Guild meeting at the remarkably family friendly "Happy Hollow Park & Zoo." Her help will continue as she serves as our Vice President. Thank you.

Camilla Henneman has been our Membership officer and will continue in this important role. She has tracked memberships, created the Guild Roster and database for mailing with a diligence that is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Lex Rudd has been busy with her puppet career in LA, but she looks forward to jumping in with gusto this year. Her creative ideas and connections to other Guilds and puppet organizations are important.

Every organization has pendulum swings and right now your guild is rocketing ahead with so many wonderful projects. Programming especially has been exceptionally strong, with regular meetings combined with skill building workshops. John Arnold has stepped in as guild webmaster and has some great new ideas for our online presence and interface. He has also agreed to take over the guild calendar which has languished a bit in recent months. Every board meeting is filled with a variety of suggestions for new, active directions for the guild. We are a community of volunteers and we invite you to take an active part! Let a guild board member know of your interest and skill areas and join in the fun!

Guild Co-Presidents, Michael Nelson & Lee Armstrong

## News from the Program Planning Committee:

### *July Events!*

Initially there were many ideas for workshops in July, but we were unable to secure a venue, in time. There are many puppet happenings in July so we are proposing a few "events!"

The 162nd Annual Vallejo July 4th Parade (featuring the giant Magical Moonshine Puppets!) is on with the theme "Stars and Stripes Forever!" Parade step off is 10:00 am. The 2015 Vallejo 4th of July Parade will travel

on its traditional route beginning at Broadway and Tennessee, then turns left on Sonoma Blvd, then right on Georgia through downtown. Enjoy the day and return to the Vallejo waterfront for the Festival on the Waterfront and FIREWORKS at approximately 9:15 pm.



Many from the guild will be manipulating the puppets! I think they have enough wranglers, so come on down and cheer them on! Speaking of GIANT Puppets....Director Mary Nagler was called in to SRT (Santa Rosa Junior College Summer Repertory Company) to remake one of the giant man eating plants for their upcoming opening of Little Shop of Horrors. There will be many opportunities to see the show over the summer, (Go to [www.SummerRep.com](http://www.SummerRep.com), or call 707 527 4307 for tickets) but I am suggesting a group attendance for the 2:00 matinee on July 12, a Sunday. I should be able to wrangle a backstage tour to see the man eating plant puppet: Audrey 11. There are 3 manual versions and one large mechanical version.

*The first annual Nick Barone Memorial Workshop, slated for July, 2016.*

Recently we lost Nick Barone, who was an active and much respected member of our guild for many years. He is greatly missed and will be long remembered. His recent passing inspired Rose, his wife, to donate funds to establish a scholarship in his name. After much discussion between your Board, the Scholarship committee and Program Planning committee, it was decided to use the fund to sponsor an annual workshop in Nick's name to benefit the membership. Nick mentored and instructed many "up and coming" members in his lifetime. In this spirit the fund will be used pay the presenter, supply materials and reduce the cost for participants. The first workshop will be focused on teaching some of Nick's innovative techniques. Some of the proceeds from the workshop will be used to replenish the fund so the Nick Barone Memorial workshop can continue to be a great annual event. Anyone can donate to the fund, so please do! A portion of every Guild sponsored workshop will go into the fund. Recently, Images in Motion donated \$50.00 to the fund from the proceeds of their recent TV Puppetry workshop. Thank you Images in Motion! Future Guild workshops, raffles, and other fundraisers will also support the fund so next year, in July, we will have enough to do a great first workshop! Following the first workshop will be a reception and an opportunity for members, who personally knew Nick, to share stories and remembrances. Some of his puppets will be on display as well. This informal memorial will be replacing the memorial scheduled for after the Children's Fairyland meeting on August 29th, of this year. Instead, we will have a panel of members sharing some of the ways they bring Puppetry into the classroom - from Toddlers to the University! Teaching and sharing our art form is part of our mission and can be another stream of income for puppeteers, so don't miss it! Featured teachers will be:

Lee Armstrong will give tips on how to actively engage a whole class of children or adults in puppet performance. Also advice on organizing puppet construction so students are successful builders will be explored. As a bonus, everyone will make fast and easy "peepers" to take home. Lee Armstrong is co-owner of Images In Motion, a company that specializes in TV puppetry. She has taught countless workshops for schools, libraries, colleges and universities. She is currently teaching "The Art of the Puppet" at Olli@ SF State and will be teaching "Muppet Magic" at UC Santa Cruz in the fall. Mary Nagler will share the Finger Puppet Character Exercise (and the pattern) she developed and presented for many years at "Fine Arts Day" in the public schools. Mary Nagler is Artistic Director for Whorls of Wonder Puppet Theatre, a performer and professional builder of puppets. Judy Roberto has been the Puppet Theater Director at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, San Jose, CA for 9 years. Before coming to the Bay Area, she was a Performing Puppeteer, and a Teaching Artist in San Luis Obispo, CA working with pre-K, K-12 students, and teacher professional development. With funding from the California Arts Council, the Children's Creative Project, and the Central Coast Arts Center at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, she offered core curriculum standards-based lessons, through a focus on visual and performing arts, emphasis on puppetry, specializing in Shadow Puppetry. Michael and Valerie Nelson have been working in California schools for over 3 decades and are currently artists in residence at an arts magnet elementary school in Napa, using the Leonard Bernstein Artful Learning method to create curriculum to use puppets, masks and drama to partner with the teachers in teaching core subjects.

Also being considered for the future: An all day slam Piece development Workshop, (possibly September and a Guild Sponsored Slam(s) in October. As ever, let the Program Planning Committee if you have any ideas for programs or workshops and get any puppet related events on the Calendar!

## TV Puppet Workshop at Images In Motion

We were amazed by the turnout to the Beginning TV Puppetry Workshop last Sun., June 28th at our Images In Motion studio. Eighteen participants trekked in from all over the Bay Area to Sonoma. This course was a dry run to the class we'll be teaching at the P of A Festival at UCONN in August.

The morning session, after tea and coffee, started with "Czech hand warm-ups" then delved into the Exploration of the TV Frame: working with monitors, keeping consistent height in the puppet and correcting the tilting puppet. The basics of good manipulation were covered next: Eye Focus, Breath, Mouth Synch, Walks and Use of Armrods. Participants used puppets they had brought or from our stash of Folkmanis puppets.

Lunch was a great time to mingle, as puppeteers spread out over the studio and house decks. The afternoon covered one of the hardest aspects of TV puppeteering, sharing the TV space with others. People practiced how to make adjustments to allow another puppet into the frame, or to balance the frame when a puppet leaves. A bit of time was spent on developing a character and voice, then on to improv, where we saw an amorous camel speed dating and a zombie interviewing for an apartment rental in SF. Capping the day was a group exercise extravaganza as puppets sang the Beatles "Twist & Shout" while puppeteers below practiced mouth synch and manipulation technique as they danced underneath the TV frame.

Afterwards, the group gave suggestions, which we'll incorporate into our UCONN presentation. This was such a wonderful



group of people, that we're encouraged to do more teaching at our studio. It's a great use of our puppet space.

Images In Motion, Lee Armstrong & Kamela Portuges , [www.imagesmedia.com](http://www.imagesmedia.com)

## Bits and Pieces, from Elisheva Hart

*Two Items of (possible) Interest to Puppeteers are listed in the "Wireless" summer mail order catalog.*

First: a GUMBY T-SHIRT! Honor this vintage stop motion puppet film actor and POKEY his horse! Shirt is in the unmistakable Gumby Green. 100% cotton, imported, M-XXL. On clearance at \$9.98 plus tax and shipping. Item # VR1742. Listed on page 39 (sometimes they ask).



Second: MR. ROGERS Dress-up Magnets. Looks great on file cabinets and refrigerators. Some of his accessories include his King hand puppet, fire hat, roller skates, a cardigan sweater collection, the Neighborhood Trolley and many more!

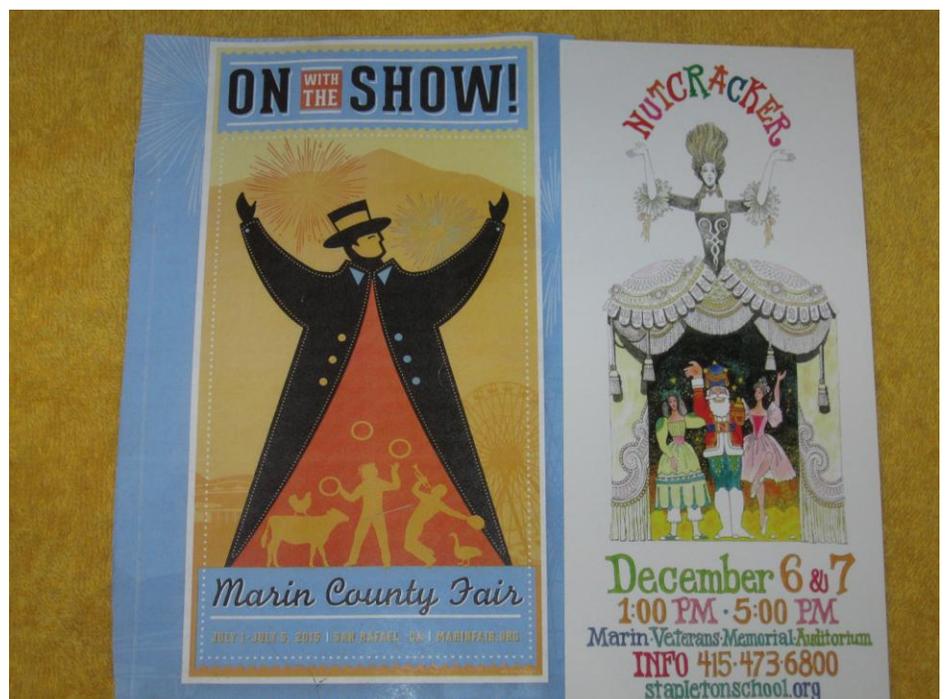
Item # VR5112 \$14.95 Call toll free [1-800-669-9999](tel:1-800-669-9999)

## *AN AMAZING EXHIBIT AT THE MARIN COUNTY FAIR, July 1-5, 2015*

The fair theme this year is "On With the Show!" Even the Professional Garden Exhibits fall into this category. Besides requiring all of the gardens to include at least 15% edible plants-it's Marin folks- there are 6 subdivisions. # 6 is "Puppet Theater!"

(Showcase Puppets and/or Marionettes). Ahh, a puppet garden.

The other 5 subdivisions are: Three ring circus. The art show! The world of dance. The world of music. And At the Movies! All gardens are in a shade tent and included in the entry price as are the other exhibits, rides, and concerts. The Marin County Fair is located at the Marin County Civic Center just off highway 101 in San Rafael.



## Calendar of Events

### Oakland Fairyland ([www.fairyland.org](http://www.fairyland.org))



Hansel & Gretel, May 27 – July 9 Join us in Fairyland as we present our adaptation of the famous children’s opera, “Hansel & Gretel.” Can these two children defeat the wicked gingerbread Witch, or will they be turned into cookies themselves? With a song in your heart, good will always triumphs over evil. Puppets designs created by Bob Brown, puppeteer on “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood”, with scenery and script by Lewis Mahlmann.



The Wizard of Oz, July 10 - August 20 Frank L. Baum’s famous American fairytale comes to life! Join Dorothy as she tries to defeat the Wicked Witch of the West, and help the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion find a brain, a heart, and courage. Will Dorothy be able to bring peace to oz, and find a way home to her beloved Kansas? With Glinda the Good’s help, we’re sure she can. Puppets and scenery designed by Elizabeth Luce. Puppets and script by Randal Metz with scenery by Lewis Mahlmann.

### [PuppetArt \(http://puppetarts.com/#\)](http://puppetarts.com/#)

[San Anselmo Library Show](#), July 7, 2015 at 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm, Three Billy Goats Gruff, **San Anselmo Library**, 110 Tunstead Av, San Anselmo , Ca

[Fairfield Cordelia Library Puppet Show](#), July 7, 2015 at 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm, Tale of the Dragon’s Tail, **Fairfield Cordelia Library**, 5050 Business Center Dr., Fairfield, CA

[Menlo Park Library Performance](#), July 8, 2015 at 10:30 am – 11:15 am, Cinderella, Outdoor Show, bring a blanket to sit on!, **Menlo Park Library**, 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park , CA

[Mill Valley Library Show](#), July 8, 2015 at 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm, Three Billy Goats Gruff, **Mill Valley Library** 375 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley , Ca, Tommy’s Train Troubles, **Larkspur Library**, 400 Magnolia Ave Larkspur, CA

[Roseville Area Puppet Show](#), July 15, 2015 at 10:00 am – 10:45 am, Tommy’s Train Troubles, **Maidu Library** 1530 Maidu Dr , Roseville, CA

[towne Library Performance, Vallejo CA](#), July 15, 2015 at 10:30 am – 11:15 am, Tommy’s Space Adventure, **Springstowne Library**, 1003 Oakwood Avenue, Vallejo, CA

[Roseville Area Puppet Show](#), July 15, 2015 at 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm, Tommy’s Train Troubles, **Martha Riley Community Library**, 1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard, Roseville , CA

## **Magical Moonshine Theatre (for details see: <http://magicalmoonshine.org/events-calendar.htm>)**

**Tuesday, July 7**, 11:00am, Scotts Valley: Puppylocks and the Three Bears, 3:00pm La Selva Beach: Puppylocks and the Three Bears

**Wednesday, July 8**, 3:00pm, Los Altos: Puppylocks and the Three Bears

**Thursday, July 9**, 3:00pm, Santa Cruz: Puppylocks and the Three Bears

**Friday, July 10**, 11:00am, Capitola: Puppylocks and the Three Bears, 3:00pm Felton: Puppylocks and the Three Bears

**Thursday, July 16**, 3:30pm, Sausalito: The Puppet Man

**Wednesday, July 22**, 4:00pm, Berkeley Library: Golden Armadillo

**Tuesday, July 28**, 6:30pm, Galt (Sacramento): Puppylocks and the Three Bears

**Wednesday, July 29**, 1:00pm, Foster City: The Puppet Man, 4:00pm, Brentwood: Puppylocks and the Three Bears

**Thursday, July 30, 4:00pm, Rohnert Park: Three Little Pigs, When Thu, July 30, 4pm – 5pm**

## **Happy Hollow in San Jose**

Playing now till July 17 - Anansi and Rumpelstiltskin. On July 18 the schedule changes to Tiger and the Frog King and Anansi. 1300 Senter Road | San José, California 95112, [www.hhpz.org](http://www.hhpz.org)

## **Next Guild Meeting and Event, August 29**

Factoid: Did you know that SFBAPG was first organized at Fairyland – our birthplace! Oakland Children’s Fairyland Puppet Fair day! August 29th from 10:00am to 4:00pm the SFBAPG will converge in Oakland in support of Puppet Fair day! There is a great lineup of SIX puppet shows throughout the day, a puppet exhibit, puppet petting zoo, puppet building Demo table, puppet Craft table and many opportunities to strut your puppet stuff. Volunteers are needed to set up the exhibit, roam with puppets to guide people to the shows and be entertaining. People are needed to man the craft tables, exhibit and help set up for the dinner and evening meeting. As at Happy Hollow, there will be a special raffle for just the volunteers. For every hour you help out, you get a raffle ticket! Prize to TBD, but I guarantee it will be very cool! Watch Yahoo for a notice and a program to sign up to help. If you are not on the web you can call Mary Nagler and she will be giddy to sign you up! Call 707 303 0093. Watch the Aug newsletter for a complete schedule of events for Puppet Fair, sign-ups for the delicious meal and information on the “Puppetry in Education” forum; our evening program. This forum replaces the guild memorial for Nick Barone, which has been postponed until the First Annual Nick Barone workshop. Fairyland is located at 699 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610

## **The Scholarship Committee is Looking for Your Submissions**

Puppeteers, did you know that if you have been a member in good standing of SFBAPG for at least 2 years, you are eligible to apply to the Scholarship Fund for assistance in attending a festival or workshop? Speaking as a former recipient, I can say that this is a great benefit of membership that you should consider taking part in. The full guidelines for eligibility and submitting your request can be found at <http://www.sfbapg.org/membership/benefits/scholarship-guidelines/> or just go to [sfbapg.org](http://sfbapg.org), hover over the “membership” button and click on “benefits.” If you have any questions you can drop an email to Talib Huff at tinkerscoin<at>[mac.com](mailto:tinkerscoin@mac.com)<substitute @ for <at>, that’s just to fool spammer robots)