



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

September 2016



The Guild at Fairyland's Day of Puppetry-Shows, inspiration, fun, and puppets, of course, sponsored in part by Folkmanis.

Inside this issue:

Oakland's Fairyland Day of Puppets, upcoming meetings/events, reviews, Nick Barone Workshop details, exhibits and much more.

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From your President

September has always marked a kind of change of year for me, with (traditionally) summer over and school starting up. For the guild it means the start of a new membership year (for reasons perhaps now forgotten, our founding members chose a membership year of September 1 to August 31) so don't forget to renew your membership to stay connected with this wonderful group of puppet enthusiasts (more on that later in this issue.) For professional puppeteers the summer library, fair and camp performing season gives way to school assemblies and gearing up towards holiday shows. And we do have a flurry of fall festivals that often feature puppetry.

I am pleased to announce that your new board met last month and there are many exciting ideas and projects developing that you will no doubt hear of in the coming weeks and months. We also have new guild officers which you can see listed in the side banner on page one of this newsletter. All of those named there are folks who have committed to take time from their already busy schedules to help the guild by volunteering to do a lot of thinking, meeting and acting to see that the art of puppetry continues being supported and improved by the guild. Don't forget to thank them when you see them next. What they do for us all is often beyond the call of duty and much needed and appreciated. And remember that these folks are the guild leaders; you can join them by volunteering to help them with projects, ideas, etc. It's a great way to be connected and meet other like minded people in the guild. Join in!

Throughout this year the guild is celebrating some big, landmark numbers for puppetry. Children's Fairyland just celebrated 60 years of the puppet theater there (the oldest, continually running puppet theater in the U.S.) and the guild is celebrating 55 years, with its formation definitely connected to Fairyland's theater. We have some great activities coming up, such as the Nick Barone workshop (more info in this newsletter) so stay in touch and help keep puppetry strong in Northern California (for truly we go beyond the Bay Area now.)

SFBAPG invites you to join us for A Celebration of the life, work, and cheesecake of one of our most beloved members, Nick Barone.

Saturday October 1st SFBAPG will host 2 events to honor Nick at the Veterans Memorial Hall of Benicia 1150 1st Street, Benicia, CA 94510. You may choose to attend one or both of the events. Workshop participants must pre-register.

Workshop From 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

One of Nick's passions was teaching. He loved sharing his skills with other puppeteers. This workshop is the first of what will be ongoing workshops in Nick's honor. Mary Nagler will be leading the workshop where participants will be creating a big mouth puppet from Nick's patterns. Kits will be premade so that a puppet can be completed during the day. Puppets created at the workshop will perform a skit or song at the evening event. Materials for the workshop have been donated by Rose Sage Barone and guild members. The workshop is limited to 30 participants. The value of this workshop is \$100. Because of donations to Nick Barone's Memorial Workshop, we are able to offer this workshop to members for \$40, and non-members for \$60. (For guild members who are feeling the pinch, we offer a starving artist member price of \$20.) Proceeds from this workshop will be used to keep this workshop ongoing in the coming years. **Sign up at <http://www.sfbapg.org/2016/nick-barone-celebration>**



In the afternoon, we will be having a guild memorial/celebration of Nick's life and work. This will begin at approximately 4:30. A light dinner (finger food) will be served as well as Nick's famous cheesecake. The hall has a bar which participants are welcome to buy drinks from. We will share videos, as well as stories, songs, and memories. Lee and Kamala will present a video they created for Nick's memorial last year. If you have video of Nick, or a short song or performance

piece that you would like to share, please let us know so we can arrange that. Contact Camilla Henneman @ 831-359-9761 or camhenneman@gmail.com or Mary Nagler mary.nagler@gmail.com

Nick Barone's Cheesecake Recipe: CRUST: 4 ounces cinnamon graham crackers, ground (about 12 crackers) 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt 2 ounces unsalted butter (1/4 cup), melted CUSTARD: 2 pounds cream cheese (4 blocks), room temperature 2 teaspoons vanilla extract 1 cup sugar 4 eggs 1) CRUST: In a bowl, combine all crust ingredients and mix well. Press mixture onto the bottom of a 9-inch spring form pan. Place in refrigerator. 2) CUSTARD: In a bowl, mix cream cheese till smooth. Add vanilla and sugar, mixing until combined. Add eggs one at a time and mix until smooth and creamy. Do not over mix. Pour custard over chilled crust. Jiggle pan until custard is level. 3) BAKING: Place in preheated oven at 325° for 1 hour. Turn off heat and leave in oven for 30-45 minutes. NOTE: Allow at least 8 hours to cool before serving. Best if made 1-3 days in advance. Can be frozen for up to 1 month. Nick Barone's Amazing Creamy Cheesecake with Graham Cracker Crust (serves 8-10 "normal" people, or 1 pig)

From your Membership Officer

It's that time to renew your SFBAPG Membership

You can do this online at (<http://www.sfbapg.org/membership/join/>) or you can print the form attached and found on the website. Problems or questions please email membership@sfbapg.org.

Once you're done, don't forget to submit your payment. Make checks payable to SFBAPG and mail to:

John Arnold

Attn: SFBAPG Membership

2255 Center Ave

Martinez CA, 94553

Please renew today! Update your name, address, contact information, and family members. You can choose to pay using Paypal or send in a check. You can make a donation with your membership, or you can just make a donation without your membership. You can also use the website registration to update or create your public professional listing on the website.

Other great things we've added for our members this year to keep everyone connected:

- We have a **guild phone number**, for members who want to check on the next event, reachout to the Guild, and have limited access to email. Its [\(707\) 394-8453](tel:7073948453) or 707-EZ-GUILD
- We have a Twitter Account: twitter.com/sfbapg
- We have an Instagram Account: [instagram.com/sfbapg](https://www.instagram.com/sfbapg)
- We will continue to use our [Yahoo Group distribution list](#)
- We will continue to use our [Facebook Group](#)

Join us and renew to enjoy all the fun this year.

A series of articles and updates from our Roving Reporter, Elisheva

FUN KID REACTIONS TO THE CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND PUPPET FAIR!

-A toddler dressed in a satin Princess gown, and holding Mommy's hand while doing a perfect sidewise Queen wave with her other hand, was saying as she exited the Story Book Puppet Theater, "Bye-bye puppet show, bye-bye!" over and over again.

-A 5th grade boy glanced at the vent figure of "King Fuddle" moving his dummy leg blurted out in surprise, "He's real! I saw it move!"

He and his younger brother spent 5 minutes hanging out with the King, waving and shouting "Goodbye!" as they left.

-A young jeans clad-girl finding seating for "Mother Goose Land" at the Emerald Stage said, "Where are all of the Princesses, Daddy?"

INTERVIEW WITH WILL LEWIS, STORYBOOK PUPPET THEATER JUNIOR APPRENTICE! by Elisheva

Will Lewis, resident of Oakland, has been coming to Fairyland since he was 2 years old. "That's really how I got started," he says. "My Dad built me a puppet stage." [He is not the only 2 year old person associated with SFBAPG to have his own stage. Mike Nelson, many years ago, built son Benjie a wearable walk-around stage "just like Dad's!"] Will is now 12 and a very familiar person at our Fairyland meetings. His Mom is very supportive too, chauffeuring Will to and fro as well as providing food for our potlucks plus all those other known and unknown activities Moms do.

Will didn't take "structured" puppetry classes at Fairyland. He got individual tutoring by returning to the park and watching each show many times. Then, age 4, he went to a "regular" day camp there. The group visited a puppet show at the Story Book Theater and then had a back stage tour. Will attracted the attention of Jesse Vail with his incessant and intelligent puppetry questions! Jesse then introduced Will to Randal Metz, head puppeteer at Fairyland. Soon Larry Schmidt and Jesse helped Will learn how to sculpt heads, use patterns, build marionettes including stringing and working very elaborate controls. Lewis Mahlmann had Will over to his house often. "He was a wonderful, wonderful guy," says Will. (With such mentors, our Guild is undoubtedly blessed with the future director of Children's Fairyland's Puppet Theater!)

Will works hard at the yearly Puppet Fairs, helping assemble and take down the exhibits, walking about the park-this year with a Captain Hook marionette which he created (photo, Right), doing impromptu little talks with the other children and their parents, and really pouring on the charm to children who want to be a puppeteer too, especially those who parents are obviously supportive of this ambition.

What is Will's favorite puppet show of all the ones he has seen performed? "It will always be 'Beauty and the Beast', here at Fairyland." He is working on his first whole show, "The Frog Prince" and the puppets are based on Marian Derby's patterns. [These are available in Randal's book, "Making Puppets the 'Fairyland Way'".] The favorite puppet Will



has made to date is his "Captain Hook" marionette, who Kevin Menegus helped with the stringing and controls. Will and the Captain were very prominent indeed at last month's 55th anniversary of the founding of SFBAPG and the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Storybook Puppet Theater at Children's Fairyland, Oakland, California, the longest continuously running puppet theater in America.

THIS YEAR'S INNOVATIONS AT THE ANNUAL FAIRYLAND PUPPET FAIR

SATURDAY ONLY: -The Guild Make-it-and-take-it booth included an aquatic-themed simple [could be easily made at home from a cardboard box] puppet stage where budding puppeteers could try out their newly created, brightly colored paper rod puppet fishes. It was set on the ground for easy access to the children-the fish rods were from above-which also served to attract other kids to the booth. Delightfully the fish and underwater theme beautifully tied into the in-house puppet show of "Urashima", a Japanese tale of a fisherman who spends a LOT of time underwater.



-An evening, adults only, audience attending "The Forbidden [puppet] Cabaret" and preshow puppet creating workshop, produced by and starring Mike and Valerie Nelson of Magical Moonshine Theater, and sponsored by Folkmanis Puppets.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

-Folkmanis' "Kiss a Puppet" booth. The traditional Puppet Petting Zoo, with Barbara and Ron Johnson, was unable to attend.

-The annual Puppet Exhibit, "Through the Pages of the Storybook Puppet Theater," shared the meadow with a display, "The Artistry of Judy Folkmanis."



GUILDNESS. Lunch time at the Sat. Puppet Fair. The craft team for Make-it-and-take-it tables included Mary Nagler, Tia Smirnoff, Betsy Claassen (who arrived at 9am to help setup puppet displays as well as help schlep puppets back inside the Green Room overnight!), Jenn Kruss, and Barbara Grillo. Betsy won the beautiful scarf marionette in the volunteers' drawing. The puppet was created by Mary Nagler. We all urged her to offer a Guild workshop on creating and using the scarf marionette.

Alas, there was not enough Guild attendance at the park to have an official Guild meeting. So we informally discussed- at the prompting of Tia- the urgent need to have something in hard copy with Guild info, to pass out at events. [also see my article, "WEAR THE SHIRT! CARRY THE COPY!" in this issue.] Barbara Grillo will expedite an interim flyer in time for September 17 and 18th's "Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival" where Tia and her Girl Scouts run make-it-and-take-it crafts. Elisheva will write a brief insert, just for this event, explaining the significance of the children's grove being named "The Lettie C. Schubert Memorial Grove." Basically Lettie and her husband were among the founders of the Fall Arts Festival, 60 events ago! The same year Children's Fairyland's Storybook Theater was built! Five years later, Lettie was one of the original founders of SFBAPG. Lettie put much effort into arts for children, and everybody else, in Mill Valley and everywhere she went.

"Mike Oznowitz will be here at Fairyland's Puppet Fair this afternoon!", announced Randal Metz on Saturday. We answered, "What? He's been dead several years!" Randal replied, "It's his grandson, also named Mike Oznowitz, principal of Oakland School for the Arts-a charter middle and high school-with 4 sites, one being the old Fox Theater!"

Mike was accompanied with his wife, Anna, and their 6 year old daughter, Isadora. THE Mike's Belgian name was Isador and his great-granddaughter is named after him. [Plus being an old SF

name too, as in Duncan.] The Oznowitz family were part of the original founders of our Guild. This current Mike and his lovely family live in his grandfather's old home on Harbord Drive in Oakland where our Guild held many meetings in the '60's and '70's. Upon moving in, the current Mike found many puppets in the attic. Those of us "Guild Geezers" at the Puppet Fair told Mike stories about his Grandparents, which is why he came to the Fair to meet us. We are excited to keep up this contact, on all sides.



Guild members share stories about Mike Oznowitz with his grandson and family at Fairyland.

The Piedmont Post of August 24, 2016, published an article "Once Upon a Time at Fairyland", by C.J. Hirschfield, Executive Director of Fairyland, which details "young Mike's" search for his puppetry roots at Fairyland. To me, the extremely exciting part of this article is this: "Mike Oz sees his grandmother's attention to detail in his daughter Isadora, who loved her backstage access to our puppet theater.

'I want a puppet show for my birthday,' said the young girl with the impressive puppetry pedigree.

'Then you'll have to write it and make the puppets,' her father responded. And so it begins." Indeed.

PUPPET SHOWS PERFORMING AT FAIRYLAND Saturday included the house marionette show "Urashima"; hand puppets in "A Day in the Forest" by Blake Maxam, who has to educate the audience first as to who the Marx Brothers were!; "The Boy who Cried Wolf". by Art Gruenberger of "Art Puppet Theater" (replacing a talk by former Puppet Director of Fairyland, who was ill); and "Mother Goose Land" presented by The Fratello Marionettes (Kevin Menegus and Jesse Vail.) This last show had an amazing minimalist stage setting of stacks of Nursery Rhyme books who were choreographed to gracefully rearrange themselves into set pieces!

Sunday the puppet shows were: "Urashima"; "A Demonstration of Puppetry" by the Alameda County 4H Puppeteers and directed by Sharon Clay; "Fantasy on Strings!" by "The Puppet Company" of Randal Metz; and "Magic Mayhem & Marionettes" presented by The Puppet Lady, Rhonda Godwin.

Forrest Patten visited Fairyland with the vintage early 1950's vent figure "King Fuddle" and was seated in a grand arm chair by the "Make-it-and-Take-it puppet making booth. Louise Young, Forrest's wife, brought a young female dummy in training, "Sassy", to accompany the King. Bruce Sedley and "The King" appeared at Fairyland every weekend in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Bruce is also famous for inventing the key which unlocks the Fairyland speakers. The King's beautiful white outfit was designed and sewed by Frances Oznowicz, once he upgraded his job from early TV



weatherman into monarch! And she refurbished the King once he returned from years living in Hong Kong, where the humidity was wreaking disaster on his clothes and face flocking! Presently, in King Fuddle's twilight years, he visits Fairyland each August for the annual Puppet Fair.

FORBIDDEN CABARET AT CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND, A FIRST! by Elisheva

Folkmanis Puppets sponsored it! Magical Moonshine Theater produced-and "skit-ed" it! dozens of adults-over 200-loved it! This was Saturday night during the annual Puppet Fair.

Early/eager arrivals got to decorate Humpty Dumpty shaped wooden limber jack dancing puppets of early American origin. These plus markers were offered to the first 150 audience members. Instructions and supplies were provided by Jim and Jan Bartz. Encouraging the audience to create a puppet before the program-which is used in the finale-is a welcome tradition at the Forbidden Cabarets.

The program opened with a wonderful surprise! C.J.



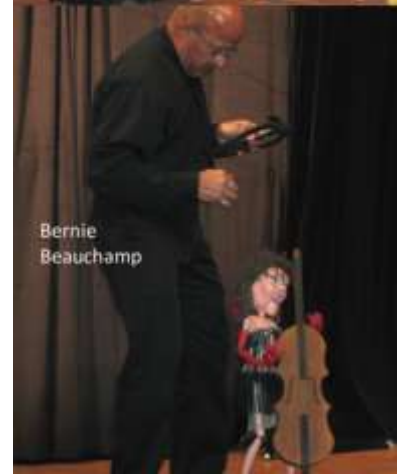
Hirschfield of Fairyland presented Randal Metz with a certificate from Mayor Libby Schaaf of Oakland, officially declaring August 27, 2016 "Randal Metz Day" for his 47 years at Fairyland's Puppet Theater! Thunderous applause ensued.

Mike and Val performed their "I get a kick out of you" (and champagne' and...) in glam-glitter-garb bib puppets. Mary Nagler then gracefully danced a huge silver scarf marionette. She was followed by Jim and Jan of the LimberJim Bartz Band, showing us how our newly decorated Humpties could excel, if only we had kept going to those tap dance and violin lessons our parents insisted upon!

Bernie Beauchamp of Burning Man fame got right to the first "forbidden" (read sex) act many of us had come to see. His female marionette strutted to music and finished up stripping and getting close up with her upright bass. Lots of hooting from the observers. Later in the program he had a musical enactment of a teenage couple on a date; she wanting commitment, he wanting action. Her bright red convertible got its share of his hormonal excitement too as the audience rolled with 'been there, done that' laughter.



Warren Peace (left), Dog Poet-assisted by his manager, Brian Narelle-brought down the house with his wise 4-legged philosophy. Next, "Professor" Mike Nelson lectured on the folk hero puppet, "Orlando Furioso". When this armor clad rod puppet got out of hand, Shannon O'Hair rode to the rescue on a 28 hand high mechanical horse! Don Quixote eat your heart out!



Camille Henneman and daughter presented a jolly shadow show of a folk song, "The Cat Came Back", complete with a reference to our upcoming elections. Zeb West, a personable young man was awesome in his first ever Forbidden Puppet Cabaret presentation entitled, "He Came From Outer Space....?#&*@//"... SORRY THE REST OF THE TRANSMISSION IS GARBLED. THOSE NASTY SUN SPOTS AGAIN! Zeb successfully pulled off: being the stage; sometimes the narrator; sometimes a participant; making us laugh and really care for the fate of a little plastic astronaut named Tom; all the while sometimes also manipulating a Muppetish- type mouth puppet of Mrs. Tom who was waiting for the return of her man. Let's have him perform this at a Guild meeting, maybe at the Holiday Party! It is safe for families to view.



Fred C. Riley III performed a large screened shadow show wherein we saw a sometimes abstract elegant mood piece during which he manipulated the figures and effects, and sang to his original composition. The score was played live by 2 of his friends, on sax and electric guitar.

Then TATA! Audience members assembled on stage with their wooden Humpty puppets and/or kazoos (72 of them!) to break the Guinness record by having 150 of these novel puppets dancing at once. Yes! we shattered it! (The previous record was 4 according to the not always believable MC!) What an amazing feat, indeed. Exit Audience Stage Left.

FIN (Ed. Note: Once again, thank you, Elisheva, for all the articles and photos that chronicle Guild and Bay Area puppet activity!)

New Library Policy for New Guild Members

At the last Guild Board meeting, it was mentioned that one of the services of Guild membership isn't available immediately to new members. This perk is the Guild library, a resource that can be very helpful for someone starting out. Until this point, the rule has been that new members need to wait 6 months before checking out books. The new policy will be that if new Guild members would like to check out books during this 6 month period, they may leave a check for the amount of the replacement of the book with the librarian. When the book is returned, the check will be given back to them.

The library has some great new DVD's, including "I Am Big Bird" (Life of Carroll Spinney) & Stan Winston's "Foam Puppet Construction" Part 1. The loan period for these DVDs is 3 weeks, if there is interest from more than one member in these new items. The Guild member is responsible for return postage to Guild librarian or to next borrower, if there is a wait list. If you would like to receive a recently acquired DVD before the next Guild meeting, contact the librarian.

The Guild library has hundreds of books covering a variety of topics. Are you looking for books or DVD on a particular topic? Check out the Library List at <http://www.sfbapq.org/resources/library/> or contact the Guild Librarian, Lee Armstrong, sfbapqlibrary@gmail.com, 707 738-5906. She will bring related books to the next meeting.

WEAR THE SHIRT. CARRY THE COPY. By Elisheva

This is a Dress for Success article. I wore my new SFBAPG TEE SHIRT to one of the Petaluma Art Center Doll Show lectures last month. And brought my hard copy in color of our Guild's August Newsletter to show around because, thanks to Lex Rudd, the front page story featured photos taken at their Opening Reception. Here is what happened:

1. A cluster of doll makers asked what SFBAG stands for. One of the woman copied down our website so she could read the article on line. Another woman wanted our website so she could get membership info! She turned me on to the Giant Puppet Heads display at The Spinster Sisters which opened in 3 days. [I sent out a Guild Yahoo group Shout Out about that. There is an article in this issue describing that event.]
2. The man sitting behind me asked if I had known Lewis Mahlmann, one of our Guild's founders and long time head of Children's Fairyland Puppet Theater. Of course I said yes. The man's name is Anthony Bennett and was a caretaker for Lewis and his partner David Jones. Anthony said he had organized the memorial for Lewis and David a year ago at Fairyland and says, "Hi!" to Randal Metz, current head of Children's Fairyland.
3. Geri Olson, organizer of The Doll Show, took time to glance at our August Newsletter. She was happy about our coverage and also got info on our website so she can read the Doll Show articles. She turned out to have been a member of Puppeteers of America in the 1970's and is thrilled at having known Lettie Schubert (another wonderful Guild founder). Lettie took her to San Luis Obispo for a large "puppetry event", which I assume was the excellent National P of A Festival. Local SF puppeteer, Larry Reed performed his Balinese Shadow Show there. Quite possibly other members of our Guild did also.
4. I am playing phone tag with someone who obtained my name, number and Guild involvement there and wants to have coffee with me and chat about puppet stuff, including Guild membership, I hope.

What a wealth of information and contacts was gained just from showing off my NEW SFBAPG TEESHIRT and carrying a COLOR PRINT HARD COPY of our most recent NEWSLETTER! If you don't have a tee shirt yet, please contact John Arnold, who is listed in the newsletter masthead, about the current availability of them.

GIGANTIC PUPPET HEADS ON DISPLAY IN SANTA ROSA by Elisheva

Following a lead about this event-given to me at Petaluma's Art Center's current Doll Show by a woman who inquired what SFBAPG stands for on my new tee shirt-I was bowled over by the hugeness of these heads! They are hanging on the rough walls of "The Spinster Sisters" [Resturant], August to October 3rd. (I emailed Guild members via Guild Yahoo Group info about their reception, August 18th.) Even with standing gawkers and seated diners indicating scale, these heads look ginormous. A photo in the exhibit album indicated that when the heads are on the parade and procession puppets, many stand 12-15 feet high.

Hillary Younglove, artist and arts educator, teaches "all



kinds of puppets" at Sonoma Academy in Santa Rosa. She enlists collaborators from her students and interested adults. The group is called Trompin' Manikins. Further info and photos can be found on Hillary's blog by googling Trompin' Manikins. She has posted photos: of the giants appearing at last month's Petaluma RiverTown Revival; of some giants created by a former student now living in France; and of the studio in Brooklyn where the puppet show "Birdheart", which performed in SF last March, was created.

All of the giant puppet heads created for Trompin' Manikins are made of paper mache. An armature is constructed, then a face is sculpted with clay. After that, six layers of paper mache are layered. The head is cut off the mold, glued together, reinforced, and then painted. Some are shellacked. At the display, only the bull dog head was made by a single person-Hillary herself. Most heads were created by lots of hands working together.

Many years ago a painter and puppet maker, Frank Gonzales, presented our Guild with a workshop about building giant puppets, possibly at Pam Brown's house in Sebastopol. Now in his 90's, Frank participated in Trampin' Manikins parades until a couple of years ago! He also helped Fairfax library goers build a giant whale puppet for their Fairfax Annual Spring Parade. I was able to help with this and wrote an article about it for our Newsletter. Just like Richard Bradshaw demonstrated at his recent Guild reception we sure are connected in the puppetry world, often a tangled web indeed. And here is a new strand to incorporate.

The Spinster Sisters is located at 401 South A Street in the SOFA district of Santa Rosa, which has many nearby small art galleries. The restaurant was a market place in the 1930's and the owner's 2 daughters never married. Hence the interesting "quaint" name.

Nick Barone-Remembered T-Shirt

The Nick Barone T-shirt design is Nick's familiar company logo. We encourage you to wear his T-shirt to honor his contributions to the art of puppetry. Any profits will help support future Nick Barone workshops, furthering the art of puppetry.

This good quality short sleeve T-shirt is the same as the ones in the successful "Evolution" T-shirt campaign. It comes in a men's and woman's style and in a few color choices. The cost for either style is \$15. These shirts will be printing by Booster.com. Booster makes it risk-free to raise funds and awareness.



You pay online and we only print what we need. However, we encourage you to order. If we don't have a minimum number to do the run, they will contact you that the order isn't happening. We need to finalize a few details with Booster, so the website link, <https://booster.com/nick-barone-remembered> won't be active until Sat Sept 3rd

All orders are placed online. If you have questions or need help with online ordering, contact Lee at 707 738-5906 or images@vom.com. Orders must be placed by **Mon Sept 12**. Then shirts will be printed. Your T-shirt will be available for pickup (and wearing) on Sat., Oct 1 at the Nick Barone workshop and celebration of life. You can also opt for home delivery for a small shipping fee.

Caption for photo: Color choice may vary from photo of T-shirt