

	<p>The official newsletter of</p> <h2>San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild</h2> <p>Looking for updates and missed information? Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG</p> <p><i>SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization</i></p>
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January 2017



Guild Holiday Party, Saturday, January 21, in Benicia with special performance by Up A Tree Puppets. Celebrate the New Year in fine puppet style.

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Greetings Guilders! What better way to bRING in the New Year than our very own



HOLIDAY PARTY and Meeting!

***Sign –ups for set up, pot luck, and Runway available at:**

<http://www.sfbapg.org/2016/holiday-party-and-meeting/>

Where? This year we will be meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Benicia! This is more central to many members and a really nice space!

Address is: 1150 1st street, Benicia, CA 94510

When: Event will officially run from **4:00pm – 8:00pm**

What will we do?

3:00 Set up! Come pitch in! Bring a few decorations!

Table decorating competition will ensue, as per tradition!

4:00 meet and greet and socialize whilst setting up:

Raffle: Do you have puppet related items to donate to the Founders scholarship Raffle? Bring them, bring some dollars too! Some great prizes to be run. Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00!

Gift exchange: Bring a puppet related gift valued at ~ \$10.00 or less to participate in the Gift exchange. Must bring a gift to get a gift!

4:30 "Puppet Debut Runway" Did you make a new puppet this year that you'd like to show off to the guild? Come be a part of the Puppet Debut Runway- a chance for you to walk down the red carpet with your new creation, show us a little of what it does and sashay back. Please bring a 20-50 word written description, which will be read by the MC as you proceed down the runway. Contact Elizabeth Leonard (eo@elizabethandesign.com) for more information

5:00 Pot luck dinner and SFBAPG Meeting Please bring a dish to share. See sign ups at:

<http://www.sfbapg.org/2016/holiday-party-and-meeting/>

.6:00 Performance: Up a tree Puppetry, featuring Ilan Vitemberg, Peter Olson, with Ben Wanger assisting, freshly returned from an adventure in Greece: performing their new show "Room for Rent" and doing puppet workshops among the refugee camps. Q and A to follow!

7:00 Raffle and Gift Exchange, and table decoration awards

8:00 Clean up, hug friends - looking forward to a great SFBAPG year!

And! Mrs. Bandersnoot will be on hand to give advice, so bring your questions! She knows everything, or at least thinks she does! Program Planning committee will announce the coming year of Guild activities!! See you there!!

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!

Chinese New Year, a Lunar holiday, is celebrated earlier in 2017 than we usually expect. This 10 day celebration of the Year of the Rooster begins on Friday, January 27-the beginning of the next new moon-OR on Saturday, January 28th.(Different sources give different opinions. Imagine! Shall we ask for a recount?)



The San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade is Saturday, February 11th, 2017. Besides the magnificent, 268-foot-long golden dragon, there are often other parade puppets. Go EARLY to get a parking space, enjoy a great feast of food, and another feast to the eye and ear with the fabulous ambiance, and CELEBRATE!

What a great time January is to create a ROOSTER SHADOW PUPPET, continuing a Chinese theater tradition which goes back hundreds of years, yet is very much alive today. The 4 Chinese papercuts of roosters are from "Yan'an Papercuts" edited by Jiang Feng and show the diversity and individuality of folk art produced within one district in northwest China. They are mostly made by peasant women in their "spare time." Amazon carries the book.



These roosters could easily be cut from paper thicker than tissue, and mounted with tape or sewing, onto a bamboo skewer which, held from below, runs up the leg, and body to the top of the head. Or from the head downward through the body and leg to manipulate from above, depending on your staging and performance needs. Trim off the pointed tip of the skewer first, especially if using this technique with kids.

It is a simple technique and does not use the traditional Chinese rodding. This simple puppet does not need movable parts as he can easily hop from place to place, and turn around [keep his nose towards the screen as you turn him so that the image of the puppet is better preserved for the audience.-Tip from Javanese Shadow Puppet Masters.] A whole play could be created using this simple technique with other animals, moveable scenery, etc.

Another book of interest is "Making Chinese Papercuts" by Robert and Corinne Borja, and also carried by Amazon. This colorfully illustrated book is very comprehensive and even has instructions on designing your own papercuts and hand coloring them. It describes an alternative---making puppets out of adhesive-backed vinyl, a technique which I did back in the day, using contact paper [black when I could get it] stuck to thin sheets of plastic. This is sturdy enough to use with jointed puppets. Attach the layer of body and limb-for instance- together with knotted button and carpet thread. Put a small piece of clear transparent tape on each part of the plastic at the points where the needle will pierce it. This prevents the plastic from splitting later on. Be careful to dab any knots used on puppet joints with white glue for strength. And also to allow bulges on the body when cutting it out to attach limbs, heads, etc to.

Are you interested in creating a whole Rooster themed shadow show? "The Rooster's Horns"-a Chinese puppet play to make and perform, by Ed Young, is available on Amazon. (Dewey decimal system: J 791.53 YOUNG at the library.) This is a UNICEF book and has templates for making a many jointed Rooster and Dragon. The 3rd character, a worm, is created from the shadow of a finger wriggling along the bottom of the shadow screen. The traditional story of "The Rooster's Horns" is also included, in a style which encourages the puppeteer/s to create their own script instead of memorizing preset lines.

More templates and information re papercuts can be found on line by researching 'Chinese papercuts' and at Pinterest.

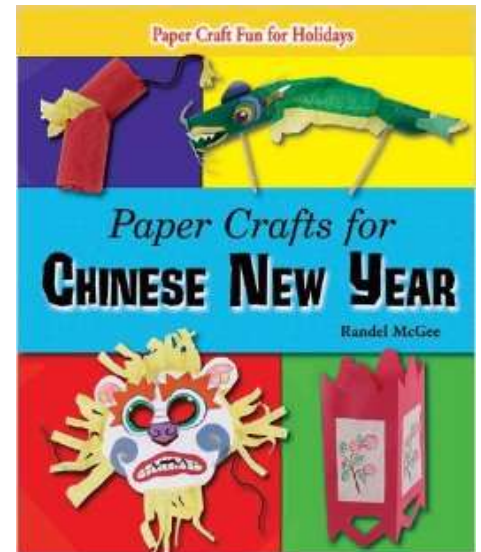
The Year of the Rooster---born in 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017. "Rooster. Sharp and neat. Extravagant in dress. Prefers working alone."

"PAPER CRAFTS FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR" by Randel McGee

(I just discovered it in the library card catalog after sending in the article GUNG HAY FAT CHOY and yes, a copy was on the shelf! Cosmic!-Elisheva)

This is one in a series of teacher/kid friendly books of paper craft fun for [various] holidays, written by a puppeteer friend of many in our Guild (and past member) and a long time Puppeteers of America member. He is fondly remembered from a long time ago as a delightful purple clad wizard/ventriloquist with his adorable friendly dragon pal, Groark.

"Randel is a storyteller, puppeteer, ventriloquist, and paper-cutting artist. He performs all over the world, sharing his paper-cutting stories with children and adults," quoth the back of the book. He has written a great many other books in this series, and includes a simple puppet or two in each.



His 2 puppet crafts in this volume are Dancing Dragon Puppet (requiring 2 toilet paper tubes and crepe paper streamers and 2 disposable chopsticks) plus Shadow Puppets (requiring light cardboard, pencils, scissors, a chop stick, etc)

There are other colorful easy crafts included. My favorite "other" is the Lion Dancer Mask. This book is available from Amazon and is J 745.594 MCGEE at the library.

Years ago I worked in a preschool "South of Market" in S.F. where eleven or twelve different cultures and families from all over the globe were represented. For Chinese New Year we would use a cardboard Pampers box and invert it, with the lift up flap now dangling as the dragon's lower jaw. (Sorry, they are packaged in plastic bags nowadays.) We would decorate the head appropriately, mount it on a pole so one of the kids could raise it up into the air. One third of the class would line up under a large beach towel behind the leader to create the dragon's body and parade around the room.

Another one third of the kids would flail away on metal pots and pans. The last third would jump up and down on bubble wrap, creating the sound of the fire crackers. Then these parts would rotate, 2 times, so each child would have a chance to participate in all of the activities. We had several children from Hong Kong and China and their parents were thrilled that we were acknowledging their culture. We had three or four volunteer Chinese foster grandmothers who would practically fall down laughing saying, "Just like Chinatown. Very noisy!" and beam at our fun.

Members at Work and Play!

Lee Armstrong

Lee Armstrong was guest lecturer for the Fall quarter for “Jim Henson and the Art of the Muppets” at UC Santa Cruz. This was Lee’s 3rd time teaching this popular course which had 225 students enrolled. Interestingly, the majority of the students are science and computer majors. The course was created by Dr. Kathy Foley who usually teaches the course. Lee has filled in when Kathy has been engaged in activities such as a Guggenheim Fellowship and planning puppet exhibits in Asia and India.

The course covers the work of Jim Henson from the early days of “Sam & Friends” through Sesame Street, the Muppet Show, to his fantasy movies and influences on contemporary puppetry. Along the way, it delves into the relationship of comedy and storytelling theories (Bruno Bettelheim, Joseph Campbell, etc.) in relation to Henson’s work. At the end of the quarter, students do a creative project, from building puppets for a puppet



exhibit to creating puppet videos.

Over half of the students built puppets for their creative project and it was great to see the variety of puppets and resourcefulness of the students’ projects. Here are some photos of puppets built by our future doctors, chemists, programmers and teachers.

Gabriel Galdamez

California Creative Ministry Festival February 24-25

This Friday night and all day Saturday event will be filled with workshops, performances, competition, demonstrations and excitement! Festivals provide a place for youth and adults alike to learn more about creative arts ministry, to have a chance to hone their skills, and to network with other ministries and leaders in their region.

A variety of workshops will be offered for topics such as puppet ministry, children's ministry, leadership and different performance disciplines. Our workshop leaders are experts who teach from their own experience in leading successful ministries.

Anyone interested in ministry will be taught, challenged and equipped to effectively use creative tools to advance the gospel. Plan now to attend! Learn more at www.creativemin.com/product/ca1/spring **February 24-25, 2017** Central Assembly Church, 570 Appian Way, El Sobrante, CA 94803



Chase Woolner

I'd like to share what I currently do with puppetry. I'm a drama and puppetry teacher at a private school in LA. The school is K - 6th grade and we produce about 8 shows a year, in addition to weekly assemblies. For the annual holiday performance - which is like a mini weeklong fringe festival, each grade has their own 40 minute show - there were quite a few puppetry elements.

In grades 2, 3 & 4 there were drama pieces adapted and directed by my boss, Whitney Stange - the Director of the Performing Arts team. The stories were adapted from children's books. With each story and grade, I designed the style of puppetry.

2nd Grade - "Memoirs of a Parrot," by Devin Schillian

- Each student designed and built their own parrot hand puppet. With 2nd grade, I have a 30 minute dedicated puppetry class once a week. In total we had 60 parrots to construct and 10 weeks to do so, (5 classroom hours). With this time constraint in mind and my builders being 7 - 8 years old, I designed a no-sew, papier-mache design that each student could customize. Here is a link to a process gallery.

<https://goo.gl/photos/wSv1DLG7JpGTWBni8>

3rd Grade - "The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles," by Michell Cuevas



- To match the tone of the illustrations, I decided to use marionettes and miniature sets to bring the characters and town to life. To minimize tangling with 3rd graders, I chose rod-marionettes. Each of the heads were sculpted in Premier stone clay, their bodies in paper mache and costumes are modified American Girl Doll clothes. <https://goo.gl/photos/q5rCEVuvyYlX7veh7>



4th Grade - "What Do You Do With an Idea?" by Kobi Yamada and "I Am Albert Einstein," by Brad Meltzer

- With two very different drama productions in this grade, I chose to focus on larger puppets.

For Einstein, I wanted a presentational, nearly life-sized puppet. The head was sculpted over a styrofoam mannequin head with Premier stone clay and then oil painted. The body was a clothing display rack from Ikea.

<https://goo.gl/photos/FNow9eUFeNbA3Ui37>

- What To Do With An Idea, was mainly table-top puppets. In the book, the egg (the idea) grows as

the main character cares and tends to it. I created multiples in each of the egg sizes, adding a flair of character to them with the crown, yarn legs and Chuck Taylor-like shoes. The two largest sizes, only one each was built using foam core and when the Idea Hatches, it becomes a giant parade sized bird made of a variety of found materials while still tying it together with a yarn beak and crown.

<https://goo.gl/photos/8QhbHdPiNAK3qAuH9>



All of these puppetry elements were created exclusively for this annual holiday show and each were really well received by parents and school administration. This is my second year teaching and working at this school and administration has embraced puppetry as a large part of the performing arts curriculum along with drama, dance and music.

-Chase Woolner, <http://www.ChaseWoolner.com>

Mary Nagler

Sonoma State University Spring Opera production of *The Magic Flute*, by Mary Nagler

I have been hired to work with the Theater Arts students of Sonoma State to make a number of life sized animal puppets for their production of *The Magic Flute*, by Mozart. The Director, Amanda McTigue directed the production some ten years ago, renting puppets that were basically body costumes. Her vision, this time, was to express a possible harmony among people and with the creatures of this planet. The costumes therefore depict different cultures and blends of peoples, and the animals were chosen, one from each continent. They are all sadly on the endangered species list. They include: North America: Timber wolf, South

America: giant tortoise China: crane, Australia: tree kangaroo, Antarctica: King Penguins, Africa: Lion, and Elephant, Europe: The Chamois antelope (From the high hills of Italy). I also tried to represent the overall animal kingdom by choosing a reptile, grazer, feline, canine etc... Add 12 little fluttering birds, a Giant snake depicting the Snake goddess of the Aztecs, a "King" elephant – African variety (Tusks and all) that Prospero (The king) will ride in on, and you have a very BIG JOB! I have been very, very busy!

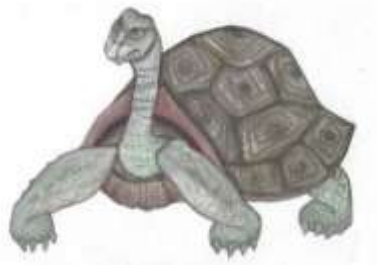
The animals were originally designed with "cultural markers," to tie them into the human cultures that live in or near their environment. The designs were eventually rejected, fearing the imagery might be too strong and distracting, so they became more like their actual appearance in nature. Here are a couple of samples:



became



Became



...and so forth.

My quest was to introduce the students to materials and processes they might not have a chance to explore, so we have been sculpting, molding casting and fabricating the creatures. *The Magic Flute* opens February 23rd and runs through Mar 2, 2017. <https://tickets.sonoma.edu/Online/default.asp> Watch your February newsletter for more information. I am hoping to get us a group discount for one of the performances. And I will be bringing a few of the finished puppets for the Holiday Party Puppet Debut Runway! So see you there!

Judy Roberto

PUPPET MASTERS: Michelle and Bob Bandel, volunteers at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo's puppet theater, were honored with the **Robert Brownlee** Award from the Happy Hollow Foundation on Thursday night. The foundation's board of directors — along with **Jim** and **Michelle Murphy** of the Brownlee Foundation — cheered the couple in front of the Danny the Dragon Sleigh-er display at History Park. The award, given to outstanding Happy Hollow volunteers, includes a \$1,000 gift.

Judy Roberto, who oversees the puppet theater, nominated the Bandels, who have volunteered more than 1,000 hours a year for the past four years on keeping the park's puppet shows an entertaining experience. "They share their impressive design, construction and problem solving with the entire staff," Roberto said. "Their dedication and contributions make our productions so much better than they would be without their work."



Ask Mrs. Bandersnoot! Self acclaimed expert on everything Puppet!

Dear Mrs. Bandersnoot,

I am a new puppeteer and feel like I don't know anything. I have found some old books on making puppets but some of my-self made puppets look so amateur I am embarrassed to show them, let alone perform with them. I have some other puppets I have picked up along the road of my exploration but they are dirty and stained and honestly, a couple don't smell that good, but I really want to get out there and tell my story. HELP!

Signed Newbie puppeteer

Dear Newbie,

Thank you for your question. You have come to the right place. I CAN help you. First off, welcome to our tribe. Here is a great quote:

One thing I know more than any other is that puppeteers like to share. Also, everyone starts at the beginning. That you are on a road of exploration makes you an "Explorer!" Exploration is curiosity mixed with courage on a mission. And "Amateur," by definition, means doing it for the love of it! (Unpaid) As you get better you will be compensated. You will need a bit of business sense for that, (but that is for another article). Work with what you have now, continue to passionately learn, try things and tap into YOUR tribe. There is a lot of love, experience and generosity there. We also have a great library with some newer books, tapes etc to aid your exploration. Come to the holiday party! I will be there and would be happy to introduce you around!



As for stains, I go with Oxyclean and a warm wet rag. The smelly ones will need to be immersed in the Oxyclean and warm water, perhaps multiple times, with a little hard scrubbing too. They might not survive, but they probably will. We, like our makers, are made of some pretty tough stuff!

Yours, Mrs. Bandersnoot - Self proclaimed expert on everything puppet

To submit a question to Mrs. Bandersnoot, please email Mary Nagler mary.nagler@gmail.com. (Mrs. Bandersnoot lives with Mary and she will relay the message!) Or, give Mary a call (707) 303 0093

CALENDAR(from our guild website- send your listings to events@sfbapg.org)

Children's Fairyland: Beauty and the Beast

When Nov 4, 2016 – Jan 5, 2017

Where Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, United States

DescriptionBeauty and the Beast, November 4 - 2017 To end the year, we bring back one of Lewis Mahlmann's most requested puppet productions, based on the original Charles Perrault classic French fairy tale. This is the story of a prince turned into a wild beast, who learns love and humility through the gentle teachings of a kind girl. Adaptation, puppets and scenery by Lewis Mahlmann. Puppets designed by Golden Book illustrator Sheillah Beckett. Shows are at 11:00, 2:00 and 4:00.

Happy Hollow: The Piped Piper & The Three Wishes

WhenJan 1 – 29, 2017

WhereHappy Hollow Park & Zoo, 1300 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112, United States

DescriptionShows are 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm. See Happy Hollow web site for times and date specifics <http://www.hhpz.org/index.cfm/id/5/> The Piped Piper of Cheddarswiss Have you heard the story of The Pied Piper of Hamelin, and how he solved their rat problem? Well... our tale is about the Pied Piper's adventures in the town of Cheddarswiss, the town he visited just before Hamlin. It's a fun and cheesy little tale of rats of all sorts, and a reminder that, one way or another, we must always "pay the piper". The Three Wishes, a traditional fairy tale The simple lives of a woodcutter and his wife change suddenly, when he begins to cut down a tree that is home to a tree fairy. In exchange for sparing her home, the fairy grants him three wishes. Will having three wishes bring wealth and happiness to the woodcutter and his wife?

Children's Fairyland: A Surprise Birthday Party

WhenJan 6 – Feb 10, 2017

WhereChildren's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, United States ([map](#))

DescriptionA Surprise Birthday Party - January 6 - February 10 Based on the stories of Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne, puppets tell the story of Eeyore's birthday surprise. Join Pooh, Piglet, Rabbit and of course Christopher Robin as they try to cheer up their gloomy friend. The show features songs written by Milne himself. Adapted by Lewis Mahlmann. Scenic design and Puppets by Lewis Mahlmann. Puppet shows are presented year-round, three times a day (11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.) at the Storybook Puppet Theater. During Fairy Winterland they are presented at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Thursday, January 12 **6:00pm**

Solano County: Magical Moonshine: Puppet Man in Rio Vista

WhenThu, January 12, 2017, 6pm – 7pm

WhereSolano County Library - Rio Vista Library, 44 S 2nd St, Rio Vista, CA 94571, USA ([map](#))

DescriptionA traditional hand puppet show for the whole family. Free.

Starting January 14 **8:00pm**

San Francisco: AVENUE Q

WhenSat, January 14, 2017, 8pm – Tue, January 31, 2017, 10pm

WhereNew Conservatory Theatre Center, 22 Van Ness Ave San Francisco, CA, United States ([map](#))

DescriptionAVENUE Q DEC 2, 2016 - JAN 15, 2017 Because the naughty list is so much more fun! "It's like having drinks with Sesame Street characters and hearing what they really think about life" - SF Weekly