



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

April, 2019



Don't be an April Fool! The April 6 Guild meeting and workshop features a make-a-foam workshop (like the one above), a wool felted puppet demonstration and a guild meeting! This is not to be missed. Details below in newsletter! Make or observe, but be there!

Inside this issue:

Next guild meeting April 6 details, call for board nominations, review of Forbidden Puppet, April fools, why join the guild, June meeting, 4-H puppeteers win gold, calendar and much more!

Guild Board and Officers

President

Glynn (Tree) Bartlett
glynntree@hotmail.com
831-239-9281

Vice President

Lynnette Pinto
lynnette.pinto@gmail.com
707-363-4573

Membership Officer

John Arnold
arnoldjw@gmail.com

Secretary

Barbara Grillo
bgrillo@contracosta.edu

Lee Armstrong

images@vom.com

707-996-9474

Judy Roberto

be_artsy@hotmail.com

Michael Nelson

newsletter@sfbapg.org

Gabriel Galdamez

gabriel@cmtministries.org

Nicole Graveley

nicolegat@yahoo.com

Additional Positions

Librarian

Lee Armstrong
707-996-9474

Newsletter

Michael Nelson
newsletter@sfbapg.org

Calendar

John Arnold
events@sfbapg.org

Treasurer

Valerie Nelson
magicalmoonshine@gmail.com
707-363-4573

Make A Foam Puppet Workshop & Felting Demo at April 06 Guild meeting

Date: Sat., April 06 Time: 1-4:30 pm Workshop & Demo 5-7ish (Guild meeting & Social)

Location: [The Veterans Memorial Hall of Benicia](#), 1150 1st. Street, Benicia, CA 94510.

Use the front, main entrance to enter the Hall. The workshop and meeting will be in the Meeting Room to the left side of the large party/banquet room. Follow signs that say “SFBAPG Meeting.”

Parking!!! Please allow extra time to park. There are 2 other events happening this day on the lower level and in the large upstairs party room, so parking will be challenging. **We can't park in back of the building like we usually do.** There will be a drop-off zone at the front entrance. **Look for street parking.** Don't park at Safeway, as they tow. If we find a parking lot close by, we'll send out that info in a yahoo group email.

This Puppet Guild meeting will feature an excellent **Make a Foam Puppet** workshop with Guild Board member Lynnette Pinto. Usually, a foam puppet takes days to make. This one can be done in an afternoon! It's an outstanding way for beginners to learn some of the techniques involved with working in foam, and some interesting tips that the experienced builder will find useful. The head and hands are foam, not covered by fabric. It's somewhat similar to Ralph Chesse's "Spongees: Puppets from Polyfoam." This puppet moves well and is very expressive.

The photo on page 1 of a baby humanoid puppet, will give you an idea of the completed puppet, but you can adapt this pattern for person, animal, alien or anything that strikes your fancy.

Cost: The workshop instruction is free to observers, but if you are building the puppet, we ask that you help cover the material expenses with \$10 donation. However you can also do “pay what you can.” All foam, glue and materials necessary to build the structure, are included in the materials fee. (Doesn't include costuming). This puppet wears baby-sized clothing which can be found at second hand stores or take your puppet home and fashion your own. (The coloring on the foam is airbrushed, which may not happen in this workshop)

There are only 20 kits for this workshop, so this will fill up quickly. However, observers are welcome and can sign up under observer. Also, a couple of people can build 1 puppet kit together. If so, one person should sign up as a participant and the other person as an observer.

How do I sign up for the Great Workshop? Go to Sign Up Genius, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44ACAE2AA7F49-make> or contact Lee Armstrong, images@vom.com or call 707 996-9474.

If you're not a Guild member or haven't renewed, and would like to build a puppet we ask that you join the Guild (Non Guild Observers are free). Guild membership isn't expensive. A single adult is \$25. Then give a \$10 donation for materials at the workshop. For \$35, you get to build a great puppet to perform with and will have a year of Guild benefits, including a TV puppet workshop in June, a newsletter of puppet events and much more! Join today, <http://www.sfbapg.org/membership/join/>. Then you can sign up for this workshop.

Please bring: scissors for cutting foam, a fine tipped felt marker, a tote bag for your puppet

But wait, there's more! From 4:30-5, Guild Board member Judy Roberto will be giving a "Felting for Puppets" demo.

So the schedule is...

1-4:30	Foam Building Workshop with Lynnette Pinto
4:30-5	Felting for Puppets Demo with Judy Roberto
5-5:30	Guild meeting
5:30-7ish	Guild Potluck & Social

POTLUCK PICNIC

Please bring a favorite dish and a non-alcoholic beverage* to share with others. We will not have access to the kitchen, so this will be more like a picnic. Please bring things that don't need to be reheated, or could be heated on a warming tray. You can also plug in a crock pot. If food needs to be refrigerated, please bring it in a cooler. Dinnerware, tea and coffee will be provided. *There is a bar in the building with very reasonable alcoholic beverages you may purchase.

GUILD LIBRARY

The Guild library has hundreds of books covering a variety of topics. Books & DVD's will be available for checkout at the meeting, to people that have been members for at least 6 months. **If you borrowed items from the library at the last meeting, they are due at this meeting.** Please bring them back at this meeting, so that others may use them. Are you looking for books or DVD on a particular topic? Contact the Guild Librarian, Lee Armstrong, images@vom.com. She can email you a list and she can bring related books to next meeting.

Note to SFBAPG MEMBERS: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the April 06 Crankie Workshop could not take place this day and in its place is the Guild meeting with Foam Workshop. We sincerely apologize to those who have arranged or rearranged their schedules for this event. We will be rescheduling it for a date in the Fall of this year.

Why Join The Guild?

When I moved from Toronto to the Bay Area, the 1st thing I did was join the Puppet Guild. We are so fortunate to have a thriving Guild. Some places do not. It's a great place to meet people who have a common interest in puppetry. It's a place to learn new techniques and/or share your skills. It also has a great newsletter, resources like the Guild Library, [Click here to download a PDF of the Guild's Library list](#), and networking opportunities like our yahoo email group and the Performer-Resources page, <http://www.sfbapg.org/resources/>. This leads me to the fun time last week shooting some vignettes for Enuma in our studio.

Enuma, of Berkeley, creates engaging learning solutions that empower all the world's children, including those with special needs or without access to resources. Their team creates exceptional learning apps that allow children to gain confidence and independence while building foundational skills. <http://enuma.com/>

Last week, we shot short video clips for a new app that Enuma is working on. Images In Motion provided the studio, lighting, camera and leads for talent. Enuma selected the effervescent Meggie Cansler from Transcendence Theater as their human and also provided a large purple bird puppet for this green screen shoot. Kamela Portuges puppeteered the bird and I helped her with some very fine bird wing gestures. Enuma decided on green screen instead of a traditional physical set because they wanted to be able to change the background look for each clip, for example a rainy sky, a meadow, etc. Later, Kamela prepped the green screen footage for these backgrounds.



You may wonder why I titled this “Why Join The Guild?” How did Enuma’s Project Manager, Mike Jaffe hear about us? He sent a yahoo email announcement out through our Puppet Guild looking for puppeteers with TV experience. I replied and now we have a new client. The Guild not only provides experiences to learn and friends that are supportive, it has also provided us with work opportunities, so we can continue puppeteering. I’m grateful of our Guild’s support in so many ways. Why are you a Guild member? Send your thoughts to Michael, our amazing Newsletter Editor for the next newsletter at newsletter@sfbapg.org.



Do join us for the June meeting, which will feature a “hands-on” workshop on TV Puppetry and green screen shoots.

All the best--Lee Armstrong, Images In Motion, Inc, Guild Librarian

SAVE THE DATE: Sat., June 8th Afternoon to Early evening

“TV Puppetry Workshop Using Greenscreen” at the Images In Motion Studio, Sonoma.

This is a great opportunity to practice your TV puppet skills in front of the camera. Then see how easy it is to do a greenscreen shoot, where you can place your puppets in any environment you want.

Call for Nominations for Guild Board of Directors

Do you share our common goal of promoting the art of puppetry in the Bay Area? If so, you might be interested in serving on the SFBAPG Board. If so, please contact the Nominating Committee before April 15th for more information.

Eligibility: Candidates must have been members of the SFBAPG for at least one year prior to the elections.
Term limits: Each Board member shall serve for three years. Each Board member shall be allowed to serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Candidates need to provide a short bio and photo to the Nominating Committee, prior to April 25th, to be published in the May newsletter. Elections will be at the June 8th Guild meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Your Nominating Committee

Judy Roberto, Judy Roberto be_artsy@hotmail.com, 408 981-7898

Lee Armstrong, images@vom.com, 707 996-9474

Elishava Hart, ishvahart@yahoo.com, 707 978-8309

Programs Needed!

If anyone would like to perform a short piece or full length show, give a workshop, share a short video, "show & tell" or have an idea for a workshop or show they would like to see as a Guild program, please contact the program committee. We'd love to hear from you! Thank you,
Judy Roberto, Program Planning --be_artsy@hotmail.com

Big Win for 4-H Puppeteers - Again

By Sharon Clay

The Alameda County 4-H Puppeteers won another Gold Award at the Bay Area Sectional Presentation Day on April 23rd in Antioch. After winning Gold at the Alameda County Presentation Day in February, they were able to progress to Sectionals (Does anyone remember the T.V. Show -



"Glee"?). This year's team of 7 performed a pre-recorded skit called "Say Something Good About America" - which included flag waving, tap dancing puppet, music, flute playing puppet, and lots of props and "feel good" patriotic singing. The 4-H Presentation Day includes prepared speeches, illustrated talks, demonstrations, cultural arts, interpretive reading, educational displays, interview contest, and "share the fun" entries. It was after lunch before the 4-H'ers, led by Guild Member, Sharon Clay, had a chance to perform. By this time, due to a conflict in schedules, their lead character performer, guild member Kruthi Kumar, had to leave for a dance competition in Fremont, and she was unable to perform with the team. However, they had had a few days forewarning that this might happen, and actually had had a chance to practice - with members changing roles, and filling in for her a few days before the competition.

Now, minus Kruthi, who cannot go on to State competition, they can go on to State Field Day, in Davis, on June 2nd. Last year's team competed at State Field Day doing an "Updated Little Red Riding Hood" skit and they came away with a Platinum Award.... the highest award possible. Only 5 Platinum Awards were given at the whole field day competition. The team also performed at our Puppet Day at Fairyland in August last year.

This link is to about the last 2 minutes of the show <https://youtu.be/jx2t0rdfxns>.

Review: FORBIDDEN PUPPET CABARET: PART TWO -continued from March, 2019 SFBAPG newsletter, pages 3 and 4.

By Elisheva Hart.

(INTERMISSION IS OVER.)

Act 6. "Steamy, the 100 year old Robot" was presented with inner guidance by Shannon O'Hare.

In your reviewer's eyes Steamy resembles a huge metal version of one of the Emerald City's soldiers on the top half, and a Javanese rod puppet made of metal on the bottom half. He has been around so long his head was replaced 3 times and body twice.

Back in the day, he was tight with "Laughing Sal" (the internationally famous mechanical gypsy fortune teller) at SF's Playland (on the beach near the Cliff House). Alas those days are long gone.

To reassure any nervous audience members, Steamy said, "Don't worry about robots taking over. We DON'T want your job." A woman in the audience immediately shouted back, "NEITHER DO I!"

Steamy confessed to the audience that he is not too proud of his battery addiction. Big laugh from the audience.



Act 7. The Independent Eye performed again with a very short piece called "Mice", once again using their unique style of full body puppets. The puppet couple, which could have lived at any time in history, was questioning whether to stay together---or not--- and resolved this weighty problem in favor of continuing as a couple, "For the sake of the [pet] mice." Very tenderly played.



Act 8. "Swami Dog" was performed by Brian Narelle. Swami Dog, all decked out in a



righteous feathered and bejeweled turban, asked for questions from the audience. First one was the eternal "What is the MEAN-ing of life?" Swami Dog's memorable answer was: "That Is the the standard Late Night Question of a young person. The Right Question is.....What is the KIND-ing of Life? There is lots of MEAN-ing going on...it just gets MEAN-er!" Thunderous applause and nods of agreement.

Many other profound Q's & A's were exchanged.

Act 9. Steve Ventrello again played his sweet accordion music. This time as a background to "Cirque du Cafe' " which was presented by Mike and Valerie Nelson-our organizers and hosts for this terrific evening.



This innovative performance evolved when Mike and Val's son, Benjie, was a small child. The family went on many tours with their Magical Moonshine Theater. Very frequently Benjie was the only child at "official" meals with the local sponsors. And needed distraction.

Like clever puppeteer parents, Mike and Val created impromptu puppet shows for him by animating condiment containers, napkins, bottles, wine glasses, etc. Undoubtedly the sponsors were also amused and very impressed with the fun.

The resulting play is totally "narrated" with Valerie's wonderful singing voice, and set in a Cafe'. Our amazing puppeteers-wearing costumes which include spiffy white starched shirts with little black bow ties-are obviously the help, or perhaps the help-less. This excerpt of the full length production delighted audience members and included a loaf of French bread being creatively carved by Mike, as well as a bottle of wine wearing a miniature black vest, complete with a white shirt front and tiny black bow tie.

Audience feedback to the Nelsons overwhelmingly requests that they present the whole smorgasbord of "Cirque du Cafe' " ASAP. We can hardly wait! [BYOB* in costume, if you dare!]

To end the evening's events the happy audience members (who had created their own paper puppets with guild member Judy Roberto while the attendees were arriving and also during intermission) paraded across the stage to brisk music. Autographs, please!



And applause and applause and yet again applause for the latest Enchanted Forbidden Evening Cabaret!

*BYOB translates as Bring Your Own Bottle.

[INSTEAD of my occasional lobby chatter notes, I am including our departing carpool chatter].

Ta ta! Introducing Mary and Marty, twin sisters and devoted attendees at our Annual January Guild Holiday Parties, which were held for several years at Christ Presbyterian Church in Terra Linda. Plus the sisters attended various other Puppet Cabarets. We are three-including me-composing a Trio of Cabaret Fans, always willing to slosh across the marshes to Vallejo.

Our return trip chatter-mostly theirs. They loved being greeted at the ticket table with a shot of an adult beverage and green-foiled chocolate mints!

They both enjoyed seeing Warren Peace again, the vent dog and Swami Dog (both puppeteered by Brian Narelle), presenting his very clever poetry, witticisms, and wisdom. Plus once again seeing puppeteers from the Holiday Parties, and meeting new people-both puppeteers and locals from Vallejo and surrounding areas. The accordion music made a big hit too.

All three of us agree overwhelmingly that Val and Mike's hard work and planning for the Cabarets (as well as for their own performances) and the "intuitive" interactions between themselves prove once again that old saying, "A whole is greater than the sum of the parts."

April Fools Fun

by Elisheva

APRIL IS A NATIONALLY KNOWN FUN MONTH, with tricks as well as tulips and chocolate bunnies. SO, why stop with just one Funday? Break new ground. Just because this SFBAPG Newsletter article might not stimulate you right away, remember, "Tomorrow is another day."

Besides these tricks and gifts are further up the sophistication tree than "Hey look! Godzilla! Ha ha, I made you look!" or tying a string to a wallet and making it disappear with one yank on the string. [A friend of mine actually this this >once< a long time ago in a packed bar, and weakly crawled out of there with 2 black eyes-sans wallet, money, and his sense of humor.

Instead check this out. "Amazon.com sells a fabulous mug for puppeteers in their "How To" series. It is white porcelain, and features drawings of classic hand-shadow puppets, which are solid black silhouettes when the mug is cold. Fill it up with boiling hot beverage to see the silhouettes morph into grey sketches showing how to position your fingers to create these shadows! These are old-timey, pre-tv, home entertainment for family gatherings and rainy days. Or power outages.

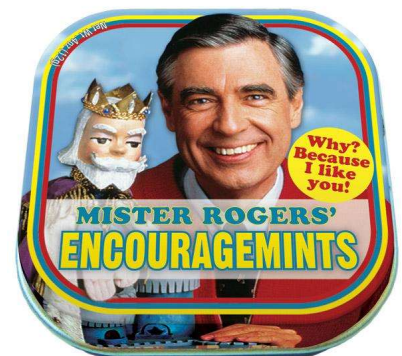


My mug was recently gifted to me by a friend who found the How To-shadow mug in pristine condition within a pristine How To-gift box at a local thrift store! Warning on the box indicates not to put it into a dishwasher, and that it is OK to nuke it in the microwave.

shoppbs/misterrogers mug images also has mugs of Mister Rogers where his suit coat changes into a cardigan sweater when hot liquids are added.

This changeable mug has a basic color of greenish-aqua, which is covered with Mister Rogers' sayings, words and song titles. Mister Rogers wears a dark suit coat. Add hot beverage and the coat turns into a yellow cardigan! Price listed on this pbs site is \$13.99.

Another interesting item is a 1 1/2 inch square metal box of Mister Rogers Encouragemints-"Why? Because I like you" -which was \$3.95 at a local Indy [Independent] bookstore. It is stuffed with many small, very strongly flavored peppermints. If you aren't near a bookstore, order this treat through <https://philosophersguild.com/products/encouragemints> This is the Perfect Gift for Puppets who already have everything and are willing to share-to gift to their puppeteers--especially ones who have Stinky Breath!



LETTER FROM JAN VAN SCHUYVER, A FOLLOW UP.

by Elisheva

Published in our Guild Newsletter (February, 2019, pages 9-10) is Jan 's very informative letter about her recent past. She was a SFBAPG member years ago. This article includes a great photo of Jan and her partner Cindy in front of their touring stage. It has been decades since we actually saw these puppeteers face to face.

Oops, I could not decide which woman was which! Logic dictates that the photo caption knows for sure. But...! So Pam Wade was consulted. She clarified the situation. Jan IS on the left, holding the Folkmanis pig. Cindy, on the right, holds the chicken and rat puppets!

Now, we will know them by their puppets when/if they visit SFBAPG once again.

And a thanks to Jan for referring a book so I could once again create newspaper trees/cornstalks. Refer back to her letter in our February Newsletter for the reference. Also, a kindly librarian-when I was looking for this book-suggested I google "How to Make Corn Stalks". Pay dirt! The internet yielded several techniques to accomplishing this amazing audience-pleasing trick. Take your pick. May the Stalks be in Abundance.

The Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers (FCP) National Conference

The Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers (FCP) National Conference is an unforgettable experience PACKED with creative classes, dynamic performances, and spirit-filled fellowship!



Classes on puppetry, creative arts, and leadership offer something for all levels of experience. Anyone who would like to invest in developing their creativity to share the Gospel is welcome! Save the date and make your plans to join us for the full conference in Maryland, (July 17-20, 2019) or Express (July 18-20).

Prices increase each month so register early to save! Learn more today by visiting christianpuppeteers.org/national

FCP is a volunteer-led non-profit organization with a mission to equip Christians with puppetry and creative tools to present the Gospel.

CALENDAR

In addition to our April 6 guild meeting, below are calendar listings from our guild puppet events calendar for Northern California through the end of June. Are you wondering why Magical Moonshine is the only puppet company listed? In order to be listed, all you have to do is send your listings to John, our events calendar person at events@sfbapg.org. I urge you to do so. It feel awkward that we (Magical Moonshine) is the only company represented when I know we have a group of wonderful, talented, creative performers in the Bay Area. And if you think no one goes to our website, check out Lee Armstrong's article about why be a member of the guild. The guild website is busy and generates a lot of inquiries for puppetry that you, as a member, can use to promote your art and your work.

Saturday, May 11

2:00pm Magical Moonshine- Pleasanton

Tuesday, June 11

6:30pm MMoonshine: Oakland, Rockridge Library

Saturday, June 15

10:30am MMoonshine: Oakland, Childrens Room Library

Wednesday, June 19

2:00pm Magical Moonshine in Castro Valley: The Gunnywolf

Thursday, June 20

10:30am Magical Moonshine: Oakland Asian Library

Tuesday, June 25

6:30pm Magical Moonshine at Burlingame: Gunnywolf