



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*

## October 2020



**New Guild Puppet Challenge: "October Puppet Experiment" on Ghosts! Info below.**



**Guild Pop-up stage workshop with Monica Leo coming up. See info, below.**

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## Pop-up Stage Workshop sponsored by the Nick Barone Workshop Fund

Zoom Presentation: Sun. October 11 2020 at 4-5:30 pm PST

SFBAPG invites you to join us for the 4th Annual Nick Barone Workshop in celebration of the life and work of Nick Barone. Nick was a Bay Area puppeteer, puppet builder, mentor, teacher and beloved member of the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild, <http://www.sfbapg.org>. This workshop will be presented free of charge and is open to all guild members and guests.

Pop-up books can make wonderful stages for puppets. When the puppeteer turns each page of their book to tell the story, the puppets move from one act to another, as new scenery pops up to set the stage and delight the audience. Some of the advantages of a pop up book stage are that they do not take up a lot of space. They are also lightweight and are easily stored and shipped. They can also be set up and taken down quickly.

Monica Leo of Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre is a master of pop-up book stages. In this workshop you will learn the art of paper engineering. She will share tips on materials and ways to make surprising pop-ups with the larger pop-up pages. Also included are demonstrations of her stages, discussion of how the stages can be used and the techniques that she has found most useful in creating them. If you wish to make a pop-up stage during the workshop, be prepared with cardstock, pencil, ruler, scissors and a glue stick or rubber cement. You can also listen and take notes during the workshop and work on your pop up book later. The link to the workshop will remain available for a week so that you can refer back to it as you work.

Monica Leo is a first generation American, born to German refugees in the waning days of World War II. After the war, her parents ordered a set of Kasperle hand puppets from a German craftswoman, and Monica was hooked. A graduate of the University of Iowa, Monica studied for two years at the State Art Academy in Dusseldorf, Germany. Since 1975 she has been creating and performing as founder and principal puppeteer of Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre, West Liberty, Iowa. Eulenspiegel has performed at numerous regional, national and international festivals and has toured in 31 states and four other countries. Monica writes the "Scene Between" column for the Puppetry Journal. She lives in a log cabin in the woods built by her late husband.



If you'd like to attend, please register asap, but **before Friday 10/09 at noon** at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a44acae2aa7f49-popup>. Signup Genius participants will receive a Zoom invitation on Friday 10/09. This is also open to non-Guild members. However, if you'd like to become a Guild member (which gives you great benefits, including a monthly newsletter) join at <http://www.sfbapg.org/membership>.

If you have never used Zoom before, please go to [zoom.us/test](https://zoom.us/test), to test your device.

## October Puppet Experiment

### What is a Puppet Experiment?

In these days of no in-person meetings, let's expand into new ways of connecting with puppetry. This is not a traditional contest, but a platform to share your inspirations with public through SNS (social networking service), where we can exchange conversations online!

### Ghostly Guild Experience

**The theme is Ghosts.** Whether it's in the air, under the bed, spooking your neighbor's house or -. Give us your story, with a simple sketch. It doesn't need to be a finished piece, but more about sharing your creative ideas to inspire others.

Submit any one (or more) experiments that **explore the ghostly theme**, revisit the online page to see comments and view other people's projects.

- 🕒 Design a sketch
- 🕒 Puppet script
- 🕒 Music or song
- 🕒 Set design/scenery
- 🕒 Any other puppet/ghost theme idea, illustration, artwork

**This can be an individual project, or collaboration.**



### Submission & Deadline

**Please submit with...**

- **Your Name**
- **Title of your Puppet Experiment**
- **Description**

**Submission is on SNS:**

1) Submit and see all other works on the Main Submission page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1581241285386642>

2) Instagram is also available with hashtag #SFPuppetGuildChallenge, #PuppetExperiment

**Submission Period: From Oct. 1 to midnight, Sat., October 24.**

**Rewards**

1. You will have a creative puppet experience!

2. Delight Guild members and friends as they see your submissions on our Guild Instagram and FB event page!

3. Participant's names and a compilation of as many of the ideas as possible will be featured in a newsletter!

4. One lucky participant (random drawing from all participants' names) will receive a puppet gift! The gift with a Halloween theme is a choice between a Folkmanis raven puppet so you can recite Poe's "Nevermore" or an original, handcrafted felt witch from Camilla Henneman's "Crybabies" series. This witch is 6" tall and has an armature, so the witch can be posed. Camilla Henneman is making and donating these creations to the Direct Relief Fund for Puppeteers through P of A, <https://www.puppeteers.org/relief/>.



We encourage all Guild members to check out the projects by visiting our Instagram and FB Events pages.

**Questions:** Please contact our Programming Committee member Nao Kobayashi: [naopuppet@gmail.com](mailto:naopuppet@gmail.com)

Join in to create & inspire each other's puppet dreams through this Halloween Puppet Experience!

**Guild Meeting & Halloween Zoom Social Event**

**When:** October 31, 6-7 pm PST

**Where:** On Zoom

**Agenda:** Below. Times are approximate

**6 pm Guild Meeting:** Puppet Info, News of Guild Events & Puppet Happenings in the Bay Area and Beyond

**6:15 Ghost Puppet Experiment Presentation:** Join us as we enjoy highlights of all the submissions from the Ghost Puppet Experiment. Our program committee will share your work using slides. If you'd like to share your own submission at the meeting, you can talk briefly about your work and/or take questions.

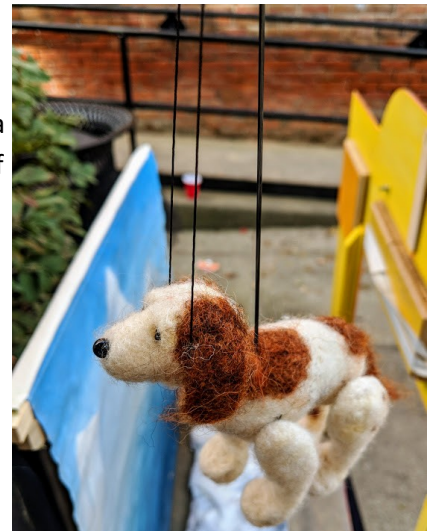
6:45 **Puppet Halloween Costume Show and Social Time:** Create a spooky costume for your favorite puppet and have your puppet model it on Zoom. Bring your favorite brew and say “hi” to other puppet enthusiasts.

## **CryBabies and other sorrows. (or what I did in the time of Covid lockdown) Camilla Henneman**

For some people this past 6 months of lock down has been a challenging time. Families have been separated and parents juggling between trying to work and homeschooling their own children. Many performing and teaching artists have lost work and income. I almost feel guilty that for me, this time has been a gift. I have been flooded with ideas and motivation to create. Since I retired from teaching a year ago, I have been working as hard as I was when I was teaching creating felted creatures and puppets.

### **The Wonder of Wool! Camilla Henneman**

I was first introduced to needle felting by Pam Corcoran at Puppetfest Midwest. Pam Corcoran is an artist/puppeteer from Wisconsin. Pam raises her own sheep as well. Puppetfest Midwest was set up to allow participants to take an intensive 5 day workshop from experts in their field. Pam taught a needle felted puppet class. I was enthralled with the versatility and beauty of the medium. I watched from afar and it was several years before I was able to take a class from her. I was hooked! I have discovered that wool is the perfect medium for me. I love that you can both build and sculpt creatures without a large workspace. You can put an armature inside and it becomes a stop motion puppet. Add a rod or strings and you have another type of puppet that can be used with a variety of stage types.



Right, photo from Pam’s show, Dog from The Musicians of Bremerton.

Lower Right, photo, Pamela Corcoran performing her show, The Musicians of Bremerton.)

One of Pam Corcoran’s lambs who will be donating their coats to her felted creations.

### **My felting journey -Camilla Henneman**

I started to make my own felted puppets a few years ago. If you were at our holiday party, you would have seen some of those in my “Tales of Anansi” which also uses a pop up book stage. (a skill learned from Monica Leo who will be teaching a workshop for us this month. There is more information about the workshop elsewhere in the newsletter)



If you are interested in making some of your own needle felted creatures, here are a couple of videos for beginners. Materials can be ordered from fiber arts shops such as Sarafina or Felt Alive. This video show you the basics; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRNO8M1\\_H7U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRNO8M1_H7U) This video shows you how to make a felted pumpkin. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQ2DbMuOFzI&t=690s>



### Fundraiser for puppet artists.

Puppeteers of America offered a fundraiser to help out of work puppeteers, The Direct Relief Fund for Puppet Artists <https://www.puppeteers.org/relief/> I wanted to create a kit for a puppet project that people could do at home during the lock down. I had been playing with various ways to use wool felt to make puppets. I decided to try my hand at wet felting. Wet felting is a fiber art that uses water, soap and friction to create the felt. Wet felting can be used to create a flat piece or to finish off a 3D piece. I made a simple pattern for a cat and tiger hand puppet to honor two friends who recently passed. The puppets are named after them (Timmy Tigrr and Debi Cat). All of the proceeds from kits that were sold were donated to the Direct Relief Fundraiser in the names of Debi Null and Tim Lawrence. We were able to raise several hundred dollars to donate to the fund.

Recently we were able to add another addition to the fundraiser in the form of miniature felted dolls called CryBabies. Of course there is a story.

**The Story of CryBabies** In 1997 I was working on the movie "Fight Club." The director, David Fincher, would (tongue in cheek) refer to the crew as "crybabies" I was inspired to make a tiny "Beanie Bob" doll for Mr. Fincher. (Bob was the character with enormous breasts played by Meat Loaf) The seed for CryBabies was born. 23 years later, during the Covid lockdown, with some time on my hands. I decided to make a series of dolls and call them "CryBabies". The proceeds from their sale through the end of this October all are going to the Direct Relief Fund for Puppet Artists. If you are interested in purchasing one and donating to a good cause, you can contact me <mailto:camhenneman@gmail.com>



### This Crybaby witch could be yours!

For our October guild challenge, we are inviting members to create a puppet or story for Halloween to be presented at a Halloween Zoom gathering. One lucky participant (chosen by raffle from all participants) will receive a witch CryBaby as a participation prize.

So now I have given you a little taste of what you can do with needle felting and wet felting. When we are finally able to gather again, you will have the opportunity to create some felted puppets in a workshop led by our own Judy Roberto. In the meantime, if you want more information, you can contact me at [camillahenneman@gmail.com](mailto:camillahenneman@gmail.com)



If you try it, remember to use finger guards! Happy stabbing!

## The Quarantine Time Machine, DLUX Puppets

Announcing the debut of The Quarantine Time Machine! This program was created by DLUX Puppets. It was commissioned by Kaiser Permanente and the Diablo Regional Arts Association in order to help children reflect upon their time in quarantine. The COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine has had a tremendous impact on the mental health and wellness of our youth. Some children have experienced feelings of isolation, insecurity, fear, despair, anxiety, and helplessness. DLUX Puppets has created a free digital video series accompanied with curriculum, activities and mental health expert advice to serve this very timely need for children. Join Cory and Tina as they travel with their grandfather back in time in The Quarantine Time Machine!



Available now at- [www.quarantinetimemachine.com](http://www.quarantinetimemachine.com) Trailer- <https://youtu.be/x7HQYoCB4m>

## Uncle Sam Becomes a Star (sort of) by Talib Huff

Back in 2003 we came up with the idea of building some giant puppets for use in our local Fourth of July parade. Inspired by some stars and stripes fabric that we found at a garage sale, we decided to make a 12 foot tall Uncle Sam puppet. The results were well received, except for the fact that none of the crew that helped us carry him wanted to come back next year. Apparently, marching in 110° weather with giant puppets wasn't the most pleasant of experiences. After a couple of appearances at other (cooler) Fourth of July parades, Uncle Sam was consigned to living in storage.

Last fall I decided to revive Uncle Sam and pulled him out to see how he had held up. There are a few places where the rats had chewed his clothing, some fading of his clothes and of course, his foam rubber boots and hat needed revitalization. However, before I could begin work COVID-19 hit and the idea of marching in any parade, weather notwithstanding, went out the window.

Then in August Michael Nelson passed on to us a request from a musical group, Kana Mota, asking if they could use our Uncle Sam puppet in a music video. We enthusiastically agreed. After getting Sam out storage (again) and reworking him, we arranged to have been picked up. The video was shot, and as of September 14, has over 4800 views. Although Sam has more of a cameo than a starring role, we were pleased to be able to contribute to this artistic project.

If you'd like to see the video the YouTube link is here:

<https://youtu.be/Cn8oTg6eru4> (Editor's note: I think the video and song are quite worthy of watching!)

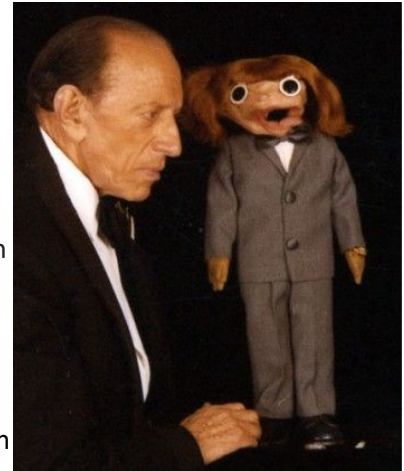


## Our Amazing Puppet World -Senor Wences

By Ilene Kennedy (Vice President)

I picked Senor Wences cause he created a different form of Puppetry. He is mainly remembered as a Ventriloquist who didn't all ways use Puppets or dummies. A term that I don't really like ,I prefer the word characters myself. He preferred his hand as a character which he created a figure from. I did this myself when I first saw a clip of him he was very clever. Wences drew eyes on the knuckle of his index finger and wiggled his thumb against his fist to produce mouth movements.

The hand was a puppet he added hair and a body and entertained the audience with his character he named Johnny. He appeared on The Ed Sullivan show 48 times. He also was on many other TV shows in the 1950s and 1960s he also had a head in a box which he would open and ask (Is all right ) and the head in the box would answer back (Is all right).



## CHECK THIS OUT! An Unusual Reaction at a Birthday Party!

Elisheva Hart

Back in the day, I used to do Birthday Parties, mostly for preschoolers. I was a preschool teacher and felt very comfortable performing for them.

One day I arrived at the birthday home, unloaded my stage and puppets, and began schlepping them inside. The Mom introduced me to "Suzie" the Birthday Girl. Mom went back to her last minute rush.

"Happy Birthday, Suzie," I said and bent down a little to be on her level. She stomped her almost 4-year-old foot and snarled loudly at me, "YOU CAN'T SAY THAT! IT'S MY BIRTHDAY, NOT YOURS. YOU CAN'T SAY 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY!' OR MY NAME, SUZIE!"

I almost toppled over in surprise. I made a couple of other attempts to explain what I meant, with the same aggressive result. So, by carefully remembering not to say YOU-KNOW-WHAT, this unique situation was defused. And she didn't even try to bite my ankle! This unique attitude was never experienced again by me, Thank Goodness.

## A Simple Halloween Shadow Puppet Skit: THE HALLOWEEN SPIDER, by Barbara Grillo

Materials: Copy of spider and web with script (provided)

Transparency paper

Scissors

Clear tape

a thin stick (bamboo skewer sticks with sharp end cut off work well)

Procedure:

1. Copy the spider and web onto transparency paper. (This is most easily done at a store like STAPES that will provide the transparency paper and do the copying. Not all printers can work with transparency paper and you only need one sheet)
2. Cut around the spider and around the web in a circular fashion so that you end up with 2 (somewhat round) pieces of transparency paper: One with the image of a spider in the center and one with the image of a web.

3. Remove a 3 inch strip of clear tape and place it on your work space with the sticky side up.

Place one end of the stick one inch up from the bottom of the tape. Fold the top end of the tape over the stick so that it's edge meets the bottom edge of the tape. Press them together. You will end up with about one inch of folded tape extending from the top of the stick.

4. Bend the folded tape so that it is at a right angle to the stick. Place the folded tape on the spider cut-out. Place another strip of clear tape on top of the folded tape so that the stick is attached to the spider cut-out. You now have a spider shadow puppet!

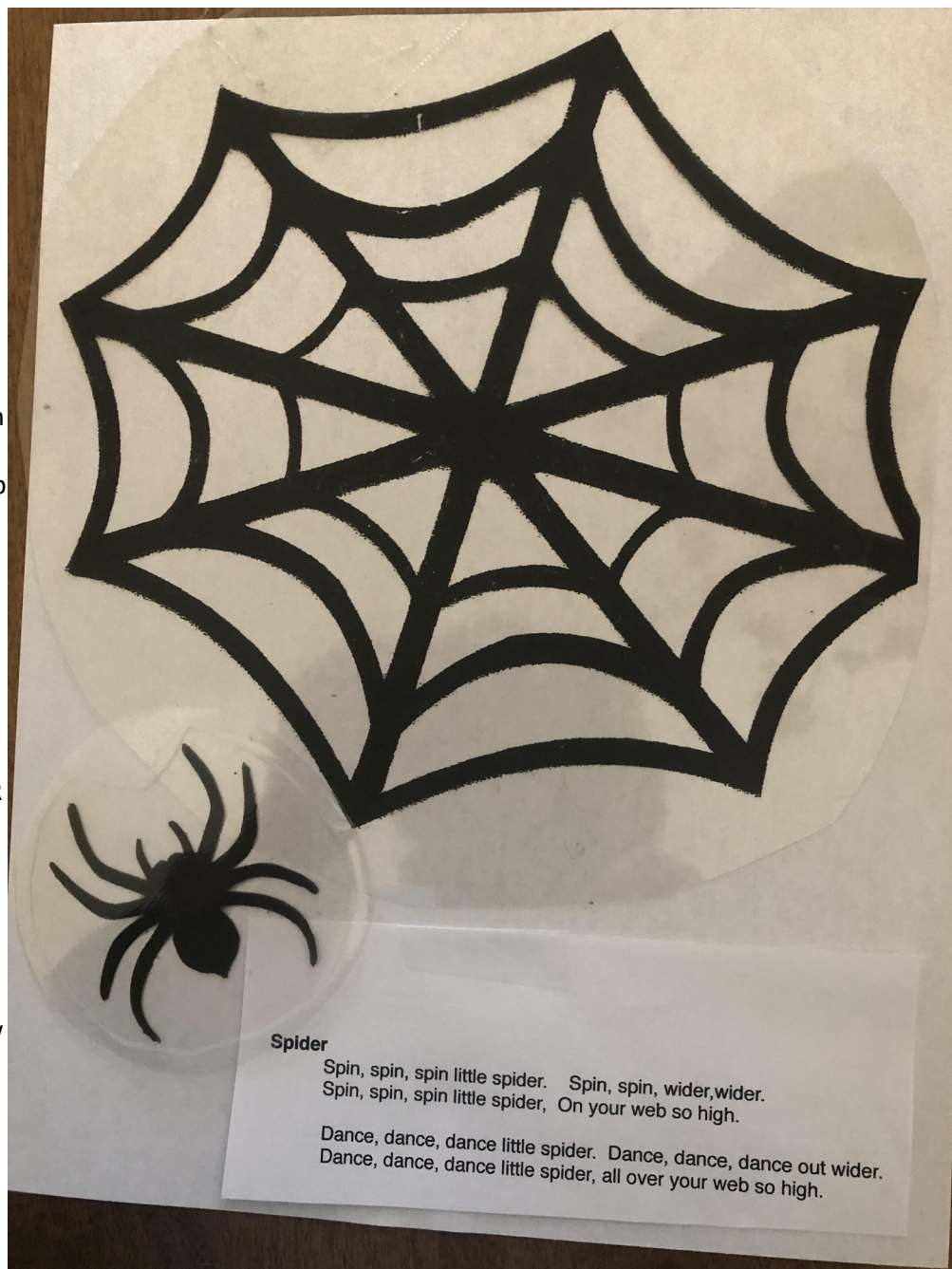
5. Attach the web cut-out to your shadow puppet screen using the clear tape.

6. You are now ready to perform THE HALLOWEEN SPIDER by manipulating the spider as you recite the script (or follow someone else as they recite the script).

Note: This can also be performed as a stick puppet show by attaching the web to a wall and manipulating the spider according to the script.

## POSTCARD

by Elisheva



Guild member Pam Wade mailed a postcard from Sacramento to my home last May. She was sending in her ballot for our SFBAPG's annual election. We replace 3 members of the Board of Directors each May. This year the uncontested slate consisted of Camilla Henneman, Nao Kobayashi, and LaVera Wilson. Pam, via her 4" x 6" postcard ballot, was declaring her gratefulness...."to see some new folks taking on an active roll in our wonderful guild." Thank you Pam for taking the time to send in your ballot with such a great endorsement.

Sorry Guilders that I have taken over 4 months to pass along Pam's message to you. The reasons? Under the current circumstances "When if it's not one thing, it's 7 more.", plus Mr and Mrs Punch losing my typewriter at a protest rally, and \_\_\_\_\_ [fill in the blank with your favorite Lock-Down excuses], equals--- to quote the White Rabbit--- "I'm LATE".

Not only is Pam's effort of contacting our Nominating Committee gratefully appreciated .....her postcard is very thought provoking! Making post cards out of photographs is a fun activity to do when the air is too thick to go outdoors hiking, shopping, etc.

This postcard is a photograph of 4 of Pam's hand puppets grouped in action poses. It had been developed- probably at a local Walgreen's or CVS.type store-on traditional photo stock:[glossy on the photo side and not glossy on the other side of the same paper]. Nothing is glued there to write upon. It's just the flip side.of the plastic photo.

With a ball point pen, she wrote the message, the return address, my address, and also put a [stamp.in](#) the proper corner. The photo-turned-postcard survived beautifully en route, not a wrinkle nor a crinkle nor scratch nor tear were thereupon.

I tried to tear a discarded photo found in my stash box of stuff which will be useful "some time". It took more strength to tear it than I expected. I used several ball point pens to practice writing on the blank side of this photo. It is wise to let the ink dry a bit before touching it. Then it is ON for good, with no chance to smear. However a pad of 4 or 5 layers of scratch paper placed between the card and the table surface helps prevent even a ghost of the pen's writing showing through onto the flip (photograph) side..

Why turn Photos into Postcards? Maybe you are cleaning out your desk and find some cool extras, but you don't need them any more and they are too great to toss! Maybe you only need 1 or 2 postcards! Maybe the kids who saw your current party show on zoom really wanted to have photo taken with the puppets but couldn't--this personal photo could satisfied them! Maybe you want to send a "thank you for having us perform at your party" message to the B'day child! Maybe the parents will enthusiastically refer you to others or maybe there are siblings needing party shows! This way you can tailor the messages (and the photos) for any use. Or just a general "Thinking of the fun we had" kind of greeting.

If you don't have a box full of puppet photos to use, I have noticed that CVS (our local substitute for a dime store) frequently has special low prices for bulk amounts of photos which are listed in their weekly online bargain announcements.

Why go to the effort of customizing each postcard message to the recipient? Wouldn't it be easier to have a glued on greeting...or a rubber stamped message? Of course these can be used. (Remember to use a newspaper pad underneath the card also when using rubber stamps.) However the novel approach of writing a simple \*personalized\* message on the back of a photo-into-postcard will set it apart from the current deluge of other advertisements.

REMEMBER: Postcards are notorious for taking a long time to get to their destination (true Snail Mail )-or is it just ones posted overseas that are slow? This is probably NOT the best mode to announce a coming event. But as an after the event communication--.terrific!

So thanks again, Pam, for your 2 wonderful messages...Your Ballot and Your Postcard!

**To send articles for future newsletters, send to [newsletter@sfbapg.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbapg.org)**