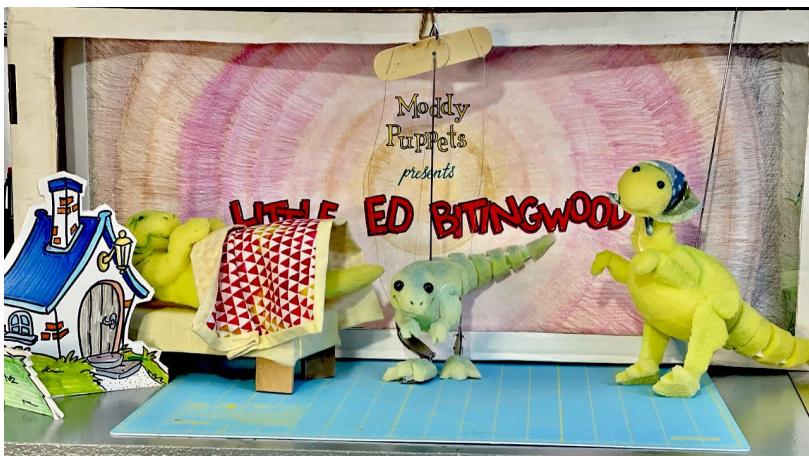




The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild
 Looking for updates and missed information?
Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG

SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit tax exempt organization

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



Guild Board and Officers

President

John Arnold,
 president@sfbapg.org

Vice President

Camilla Henneman
 camhenneman@gmail.com

Secretary

Barbara Grillo
 bgrillo@contracosta.edu

Treasurer

Valerie Nelson
 mail@magicalmoonshine.org

Membership

Gabrielle Greenfield
 membership@sfbapg.org

Webmaster

Marisol Himmel
 webmaster@sfbapg.org

Programming

Nao Kobayashi,
 programming@sfbapg.org

Judy Roberto
 be_artsy@hotmail.com

Ilene Kennedy
 hope922000@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Michael Nelson
 newsletter@sfbapg.org

Librarian

Lee Armstrong
 library@sfbapg.org

Mark your calendars for our April Fool's guild meeting (no fooling!) More info below.

SF Guild April Fool's Showcase, April 1st, 7-8:30

NEXT GUILD MEETING: April Fool's Puppet Showcase!

When: Friday April 1, 7pm-8:30 (PST)

Where: Zoom -sign up here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4BAEAB2AA7FC1-member>

It's spring time, join our next guild meeting and celebrate April Fool's Day! This zoom event features a showcase of short videos by our local SFBAPG puppeteers, update from the guild board, and a Meet & Greet where you can share more feedback to the videos or say hi to friends!

7:00-7:15 guild update

7:15-8:15 showcase

8:15- Meet&Greet

(schedule is subject to change)

Showcase artists

Chase Woolner will be presenting Just Another Glove Story, a film about reaching out to loved ones and being present in the moment. He created this Valentine short with his classmate from CalArts, Thanh Dang who is a background designer for animation. Friend Trevor Jones (also in animation) performed and composed the



music. The puppets were made from hollowed paper mache eggs, and puppeteers wore black gloves to be the arms and legs. The set was shot in

Chase's living room. It was filmed, edited, and animated in a single Saturday, then sent to friends and family as an ecard for Valentine's Day 2017. The power of collaboration and putting love out into the world is amazing.

Chase holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre/Puppetry from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). As a member of SAG-AFTRA, Chase has worked for companies such as; the Muppets, Walt Disney Imagineering and Puppet Heap. In 2020 Chase co-founded Busy Hands Studio with Sophie Meuch for their creative endeavors.

Benny Buettner & Bebe Conrad of Magic Circus,
<https://www.MagicCircus.com> will present an excerpt from their The

Incredible Magic Hat Show - an award winning virtual and in-person program. A comical traveler who, daydreaming at a train station, launches an imaginary journey around the world and through history.

From a variety of cultures and professions, 25 quick-change characters are brought to life. Vignettes with visual jests and situations are presented using comedy, magic, mime and

"chapeaugraphy". Chapeaugraphy is an art form using a donut shaped hat brim that transforms into objects and hats, "chapeaux".



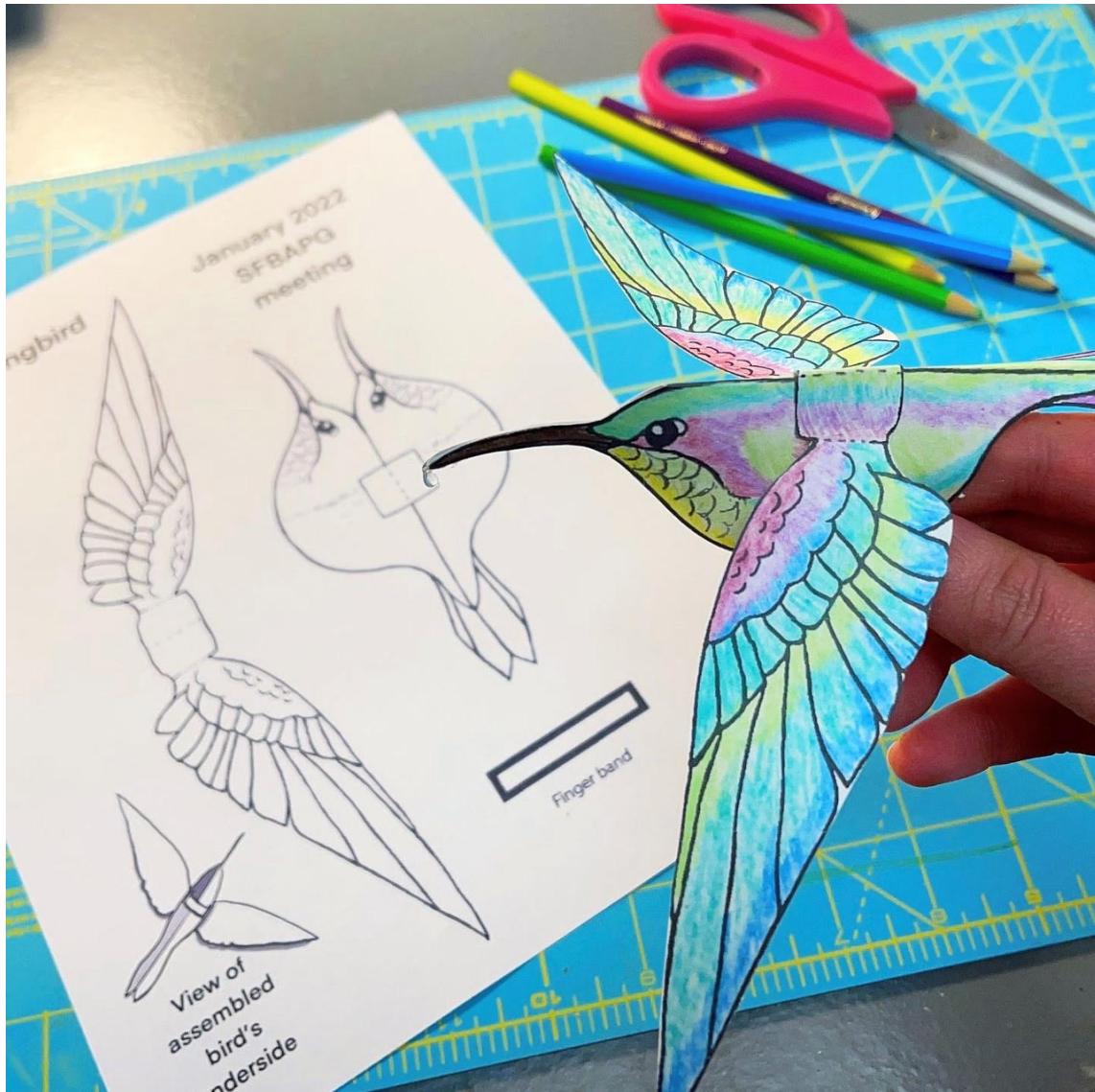
Benny and Bebe are co-founders of Magic Circus productions, with over 20 years professional experience in Europe and America. They perform in Bay Area schools with Young Audiences. Credits include Dr. Dolittle, Nash Bridges, The Princess Diaries & BiCentennial Man.

Moddy Himmel will be presenting Little Ed Bitingwood (image on page 1) and The Hummingbird's Flight. She runs a homeschool enrichment program where she uses puppets to teach foreign language classes as well as art and science.

Little Ed Bitingwood is the story of Little Red Ridinghood told with Dinosaurs. Moddy's Puppet, Alexa, is the president of a dinosaur club that

meets virtually once a month. Little Ed Bitingwood was created as a special reward for her Patreon Patrons and Dinosaur Club members.

The Hummingbird's Flight is the short story about a hummingbird's



contribution in the midst of disaster is based on legend that has been told through the ages and across cultures. Performed by our guild members via Zoom, this story highlights the importance of each doing our part.

Camilla Hennemen will be presenting The 3 Little Wolves (image on page 1), made as a crankie example for her 3rd grade class. The story for this video was a collaboration between Camilla and her students. The activity involved taking a well-known fairy tale(s) and rewriting it as a play with dialog. She took The 3 Little Pigs and the Magic Fish, tweaked the characters and a few other elements to create the story. The crankie was

made from a tissue box and decorated with photocopies of the Victoria and Albert "Toy Theater" facade which is available on the Victoria & Albert website,

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/m/make-your-own-toy-theatre/>

Camilla Henneman is a (mostly) retired teacher and special effects artist whose work can be seen in Ghostbusters 2, Fight Club, Gorillas In The Mist, Harry & The Hendersons and other films.

Art Grueneberger will be sharing Rock Lobster. Based around The B52's first hit single Rock Lobster, this piece was first performed by 5



puppeteers at a Great Arizona Puppet Theater Slam in 2017. In May of 2020, Art remounted it virtually for Boston's Puppet Showplace's first online Slam in May of 2020. He needed a proof of concept to live-stream with green screening and this was the project that he chose to test the tech. The ability to layer allowed him to go from 5 puppeteers to one.

Art is a director, puppet builder, puppeteer and founder of Puppet Arts Theater, <https://puppetarts.com/>. Puppet Art Theater Co. has eighteen productions that tour across California and beyond. Until 2020, they gave more than 600 live performances for family audiences every year. Due to

the pandemic, Puppet Art Theater pivoted from live performances to very successful live-streaming shows. They also develop and tour fantastic educational programs for government agencies, corporations and other organizations that deliver important educational messages to targeted audiences.

Anne and Doug Zesiger of [Stinky Tales®](#) will be sharing a video created in association with The Benioff Children's Hospital. With help from hospital staff, Dillard, our rascally dragon, learns how to get over his fears of



getting his flu vaccination. Dillard and his puppet friends are regular mistake makers at Bay Area schools and through their [YouTube channel](#). With the sound advice of real children guiding them, the cast of characters usually finds their way to successful resolutions of common childhood problems. We'll also be sharing one of our music videos created by our in-house musician Anne Zesiger. These original songs carry the same messages as our episodes and become important reminders of our resolutions. It's all a lot of fun and educational too. Who said you can't have fun while learning social emotional skills?

Support Stinky Tales® by subscribing to our channel [here](#).

Images in Motion Update

Images in Motion worked on two puppet projects in February. We cast up mochi balls for Swazzle, who are continuing to provide the Waffles and Mochi puppets for Michelle's Obama's popular "Waffles + Mochi" cooking show. Mochi balls are cast in a soft foam, and there are lots of rejects along the way to the perfectly shaped and flocked "hero."

"Toon in with Me" on METV, out of Chicago, is cohosted by a bright red fish, who helps intro (naturally) classic cartoons. Our friends visiting from Sacramento were delighted to walk into our studio last week and meet Toony, who they had seen on TV a couple of days before. Nao Kobayashi is adding two more red fish to METV's cast of characters. Stay tuned for a completed puppet in April's newsletter.

We are again working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Education Dept., building sea creature models for their school program. Many of the skills that we use to build puppets are also interchangeable with model building. Kieron Robbins is heading up this project, assisted by Adie Valavanis. The Aquarium has provided 3D files these are printed in our new Peopoly 3D printer. For creatures where files don't exist, the creatures are sculpted. Then comes the mold, cast and paint processes, all techniques we use in our puppet building.

The first part of the Aquarium project is to fabricate plastic sea creatures where their body parts can be attached and detached by students. We're into the process of testing materials that are flexible, yet very durable to



withstand the rigors of a child at play. More photos in April's newsletter as the project moves ahead.

If you're interested in learning molding and casting, there are lots of tutorials on Youtube under "How to make a mold (plaster, silicon, etc.)" "How to cast a sculpture." Stan Winston School of Character Arts has professional courses in puppet making, sculpture, molding, casting, etc.

Check out their free 7-day trial to begin learning the art & technology of character creation from award-winning industry professionals at <https://www.stanwinstonschool.com/>.

Douglas & Sturgess (SF and Richmond) sell molding and casting supplies. They offered small group classes for low cost or free. These stopped due to the pandemic but are starting up again. To get on the mailing list, contact sales@douglasandsturgess.com. Tap Plastics also offers supplies and there are lots of places online to purchase molding and casting materials.



GREAT TECHNIQUES NEVER DIE..... THEY UPDATE

by Elisheva Hart

Joe, an old friend of mine, worked in vaudeville during the 1920's and 1930's. Knowing my interest in puppetry and theater, he taught me two clever phrases, "The Hook" and "The Snapper".

The Hook opens the show. This has to be so exciting and interesting that all the audience members are thrilled at their choice of activities and eagerly anticipate the other acts, having wisely spent their money on their tickets.

The Snapper is the final act on the program. It is aimed at bringing the audience to its feet, expressing their delight in the show, and ready to spread their joy to friends (and yah, attracting more audience members.) Many techniques were used. For instance their Cracker-Jack best comedian delivers the most hilarious jokes of the event.

Or, when performing in certain parts of Canada where there are many emigrants from the British Islands, their best female singer mournfully belts out "Oh Danny Boy". No eye remains dry in the theater as she ends the program.

Or another never-fail ending begins at the rear of the auditorium. Up the center aisle comes a small parade of musicians playing drums and fifes as they escort the American "Old Glory" flag Audience members leap to their feet and join in singing songs like, "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy" as the parade mounts the stage. All these Snappers, (and others) help spread publicity about the fabulous event and sweeten their ticket sales.

So imagine my surprise a couple of weeks ago when I recognized "'The Hook" and "The Snapper" techniques were boldly being used on a business/finances program being broadcast over NPR (National Public Radio). I was waiting for the next program so never heard the name of this program.

That day's topic was office workers who were forced by covid19 to work from home, not at the office.

The opening line was a man saying he had just moved to a different state and bought a much larger,

cheaper house and now has plenty of room to work on his blue puppet. Definitely The Hook for me. But who would have thought a puppet maker would be chosen to spotlight, rather than something more beneficial to office/business advancement----like golf as the attention gettering Hook

Nothing more was mentioned about the puppet until the ending of the show. The moderator asked the man who he had first interviewed if he was going to resume his zooms to the home office now. The man replied something like [watch out, Snapp coming] "Not yet! After I finish my puppet, a bluish guy who smokes too much and speaks with a husky voice."

WOW! What an interesting use by the radio program of these two vaudeville concepts! And how amazing that creating a puppet would be elevated above golf and returning to the work world I wish my friend Joe were still around to hear of this. Well, we have. Thanks, Joe.

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 Chair of the Nominating Committee, Judy Roberto
be_artsy@hotmail.com, 408 981-7898 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. Each Board member must want to be an active volunteer, taking on such positions as President, V.P., Programming, Membership, Publicity & Social Media, Hospitality, etc.

Candidates need to provide a short bio and photo to the Nominating Committee, prior to April 20th, to be published in the May newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you! Your Nominating Committee

Judy Roberto, Talib Huff, Glynn Bartlett AKA Tree Bartlett

EXHIBITION

The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited

OPENING MAR 31 at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in SF

Address: 736 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94103 **Phone:** (415) 655-7800



The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited offers a rare window into Henson's boundless imagination and ingenuity. Featuring a wide range of artifacts, including more than twenty puppets, character sketches, storyboards, scripts, photographs, film and television clips,

behind-the-scenes footage, and costumes, this exhibition highlights Henson's groundbreaking work for film and television, his indelible mark on popular culture, and the profound social impact of his work. Don't miss your chance to see Kermit the Frog, Beaker, and Scooter from The

Muppets; Bert, Ernie, Grover, and Count von Count from Sesame Street; Ludo and Fiery from *Labyrinth*; and more!

Folkmanis' New Puppets!

Hot off the press, check out the latest puppets from the **FOLKMANIS®** catalogue.

From the hairy Sasquatch, the endangered scaly Pangolin, to the gentle giant blue whale, these puppets engage children, teachers, librarians, puppeteers and more. This company has been making the most innovative and engaging specialty puppets in the world since 1976, delighting imaginations and winning nearly every industry, child development, and kid-tested award – many repeatedly. They also have been an important supporter of the puppet community, through contributions to Puppeteers of America and our local Puppet Guild.

Numerous wonderful puppets at



<https://www.folkmanis.com/146/home.htm>.

World Puppetry Day Virtual Celebration:

**Sunday, March 20, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Central)**

Join Puppeteers of America and UNIMA-USA on Sunday, March 20, for a virtual celebration of World Puppetry Day. Scheduled from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Central), this Zoom to Facebook live event will feature UNIMA-USA during the first hour and Puppeteers of America during the second hour. Both hours will share stories of inspiring puppeteers and puppetry programs, as well as the guilds and regions they call home. The event will be recorded and shared on YouTube for those who are not able to access Zoom/Facebook.



Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Click here to [Register for the World Puppetry Day virtual celebration.](#)

<https://www.puppeteers.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=jGLqV3Gf%2fIzmv0n17CYg7xnh0mbc22AJBfg2VPg9GjHap60NRCn5lveUGRoNltwvKN8HtVSAyCRSUwgKkOxhq7fsBkIYr38IJ3OgfXwhwk%3d>

NOTE: We are still accepting submissions of 2-3 minute videos or 20 images per guild and/or region to add to our online celebration! We are also accepting submissions from PofA members of a favorite moment from a guild meeting or regional festival. The deadline is March 1 – to submit complete the following form at link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchO4221McukV5b1xsEbLUF1kZP4900pU6mJQBGbTnxUsIShQ/viewform>

