



The official newsletter of
San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild

Looking for updates and missed information?

Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG

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



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GUILD EVENT: The Joshua Show is coming to Napa on May 8!

NAPA PREMIERE! Hailed as “The Ambassador of Joy” and “A Hipster Mr. Rogers,” puppeteer Joshua Holden creates heartwarming entertainment using live music, puppetry, physical comedy and tap-dancing to make the world a better, happier place. With a message of celebrating our differences, finding joy in everyday life, and respecting the feelings of others, The Joshua Show aims to spread kindness, love and warmth.

The Joshua Show received the Puppeteers of America's National Festival's “Best Performance” and “Fan Favorite.” The NY Times said “Mr. Holden has dedicated his shows to lightening the mood of all in the theater, puppets and humans alike. Accompanied by the musician Jeb Colwell, he does this through physical comedy, oddball props, wry commentary and tap-dancing.”

Join our first guild “LIVE” event in over 2 years, the *The Joshua Show* in Napa on Sunday, May 8. If you are joining the guild for the 3 pm show, please arrive no later than 2:50. The Guild will have good view, reserved seating. Lee Armstrong, the Guild Librarian will be near the ticket counter to facilitate receiving your tickets. Problems? Her cell is 707 738-5906, but please don’t call or text after 3 pm. Joshua Holden has graciously offered the Guild a short “backstage” tour after 3pm show, that you can learn further about this lovely production. You have access to membership discount when you purchase through the guild! This Mother’s Day, why not celebrating this year with this “for all ages” show with your family!

THE JOSHUA SHOW guild ticket

Ticket purchase at our guild website no later than noon, Sat. May 7th

<https://sfbapg.org/2022/guild-event-the-joshua-show/>

Sunday, May 8, 2022 – 1pm & 3pm

@Napa Valley College Performing Arts Center

2277 Napa Vallejo Highway Napa, CA 94558

\$13: Guild Discounted Adult Admission for the 3:00pm Show

Guild Kids tickets – Buy One, the 2nd Kids ticket is free for the 3:00pm Show

Non-Guild Prices from Eventbrite:

\$15: Adult Admission (+ \$2.55 ticket fee)

\$12: Ages 12 and under (+ \$2.36 ticket fee)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-joshua-show-tickets-231936176347>

Masks Required

Check the video!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG_8xhPNix0

Marionette Master, Kevin Menegus Shares His Talents at May 28th Guild Meeting

Don’t miss this 1st “Live” Guild Meeting in Over 2 Years. Spread the word & invite your friends. This will also be a hybrid Live/Zoom Meeting, if



possible. If so, info will be provided in a MailChimp email.

Sat., May 28th, 2 – 4:30, John F. Kennedy Library, Joseph Room, 505 Santa Clara St, Vallejo
<https://solanolibrary.com/hours-and-locations/vallejo-john-f-kennedy-library/>

Loose agenda, times may vary

1:45 Doors open. Meet & Greet. Check out Guild Library. Find Guild Librarian at guild Library table if you'd like tickets for the Giant Book Giveaway Bonanza

2 pm Welcome & Fratello Marionettes' Presentation

3:20 Short Break/Social for any library audience to leave if they aren't attending the Guild meeting

3:30 Guild meeting led by President John Arnold. Welcome to members. Introduction of the 3 new board members. Brief introductions by members. Reports and Announcements. Two of our talented Guild members will also share their experiences with marionettes and puppet restoration.



Marisol Himmel attended the Scott Land School's Marionette-building Weekend Workshop with Dave Herzog. She was sponsored by the Marc Dunworth Foundation for the Performing Arts and will update us on this workshop.

Ilene Kennedy is restoring puppets for our Guild and will share a bit of her work and the challenges of dealing with older puppets in need of repair.

4 pm Social. Guild Library. Giant Book Giveaway Bonanza

Presentation: Kevin Menegus will be showing marionettes from Fratello Marionettes' newest



production of "Jack & the Beanstalk." The discussion will examine the year-long process of creating a new production, from story and script, character design, costume fabrication, and crafting the marionettes and stage. Kevin has a wealth of information to share on developing a show, which will be valuable to **all** puppeteers. The "Jack and the Beanstalk" puppets, in their "in progress" state, will be available for Guild members to try and explore for themselves!

Kevin will also be performing several acts from his variety show “The Vaudeville Follies” and show how large-scale marionettes are used in performances. There will also be a discussion about the puppet restoration work Kevin does for museums and private clients all over the globe.

The Fratello Marionettes has been entertaining audiences through the art of marionettes since 1989. The company continues the tradition of classic marionette performances. All the puppets you see in The Fratello Marionettes’ repertoire are conceptualized and built by the puppeteers themselves, with painstaking attention to detail. Each marionette takes two to three months to create.

The company also collaborates with local symphony orchestras to produce unforgettable performances blending live classical music with the storytelling art of puppetry.



Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, The Fratello Marionettes has performed in locations around the world.

Kevin Menegus: Founder, Builder, Performer

Fratello Marionettes founder Kevin Menegus became intrigued by puppetry after receiving a puppet as a gift, at age six. Kevin went on to apprentice with some of the leading puppeteers in the country, including Tony Urbano, Bob Baker, Randal Metz and Lewis Mahlmann, learning from them while developing unique building and performing styles of his own.

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from the University of The Pacific Conservatory of Music. This comes in handy for selecting and orchestrating the right music for each marionette performance.

Kevin has performed for audiences around the world, including several major cruise lines.



Guild Library at May Meeting

For the first time in 2 years, the Guild library will have books for checkout at the May 28th meeting! The library contains many books that are devoted to puppet construction, puppetry in education, puppet performance, directing for the puppet theater, puppetry around the world, and more. If you have been a Guild member in good standing for 6 months, you may borrow from the library.

The Guild librarian will bring a selection of books, but if there's a particular book or topic that you'd like to check out, please contact Lee Armstrong, Guild librarian at library@sfbapg.org.

Giant Book Bonanza Giveaway

Times have changed and there is so much material available online and at local libraries. Therefore, the Guild Library is in the process of curating its collection to ensure that books and materials give information specifically useful to puppeteers instead of a broad range of theater and craft books. Then, the library will move to an online system, so Guild members can easily see the collection. Thank you to Michael and Valerie Nelson who have helped with this process.

Through this selection process, the library has pulled many books that are interesting but are "people" theater, non-puppet plays, general craft books, storybooks, old Puppet Journals, etc. Therefore, there'll be a **Giant Book Bonanza Giveaway** at the May meeting. To make sure that all attending members get equal opportunity to take home some of the choicer books, tickets will be given for 1st picks, at the Guild Library table. After 1st picks, people are free to take home a reasonable number of books with them.

Imagine, Learn, Create – The Stan Winston School is Now Available through the Guild Library!



Our Guild has purchased a one-year subscription to the Stan Winston School of Character Arts. If you aren't familiar with this site, it's the world's premier online destination for learning the art and technology of character creation from Hollywood's leading artists and technical wizards. It has a puppet

section with notable builders and performers. To get familiar with the puppet tutorials available, go to <https://www.stanwinstonschool.com/>. Then click on the search feature (magnifying glass on the upper right) and type in "puppets."



You'll see two 3 part series on building foam puppets by [BJ Guyer](#) who has served as a puppet builder/puppeteer for The Muppets, "Crank Yankers," "Team America: World Police," "Between The Lions" and "The Book of Pooh." The beginning series covers the basics of working in foam with approx. 9 hours of instruction. The 2nd is an intermediate course that takes you through the process of building a professional hand and mouth puppet. However you don't need to do the 1st course to understand the material in the 2nd series. Another useful Guyer video is on how to build puppet mechanisms.

Then, there's marionettist Scott Land with credits of Team America: World Police, Disney's The Princess Diaries 2, Pee Wee's Playhouse, The Ben Stiller Show, Still Breathing, Shakes the Clown and Rodney Dangerfield's Birthday Bash. He'll demo basic marionette construction. Or Bill Diamond (Sesame Street, The Dark Crystal, Monster TV Network) with "On-Camera Hand Puppet Performance." There are more puppet tutorials, stop motion animation and a wealth of special effect creature creation, all from pros in the business.



Each Guild member can request use of this subscription for up to 2 weeks. This access time may change, depending on usage. Contact the Guild librarian, Lee Armstrong at library@sfbapg.org, and she will provide you with the password, on a first come, first served basis. Soon, there will be a signup available on our Guild website. A follow-up Mailchimp this month will provide this information.

If you'd like to get started right away with these amazing tutorials and the Guild subscription is already checked out, you can sign up at <https://www.stanwinstonschool.com/> for a free 7-day trial.

'NO FOOLIN'

(a continuation of April's article entitled "KNOW FOOLIN" which is on pages 8-10 in last month's newsletter), has morphed into an interview with Guild member Mary Nagler of 'Whorls of Wonder Puppet Theatre'. It is about her hand puppet show of several years ago entitled "HARLEQUIN AND THE GIFT OF MANY COLORS". Her show is inspired by the book of the same title, written by Remy Charlip..



Mary has broadened some of the original meaning of the title (....Gift of Many Colors) which referred to pieces of colored cloth. Mary used it also to include skin tones of two of Harlequin's buddies., One is Asian and another is Black. Other updates include that his Mother is a single parent and has to work hard for a living-long hours for not much money. All his pals are rich, yet value his friendship even while not quite understanding about working for a living.

Mary created her hand puppets with papier mache' heads and cloth bodies. The show is aimed at children ages 4-10. She created opportunities for the young audience to express themselves verbally by occasionally asking them questions such as "Do you think he should_____?"

(A quickie version of the story follows:)

CARNIVAL IS NIGH! It begins TONIGHT! Last year Harlequin won a prize for the costume that his Mother spent many nights sewing for him. Today he tried it on and he was Too Big to wear it! There was absolutely NO TIME to create another one! How could he ever be seen at Carnival without a fabulous costume? Get food? hang out with pals, trick people, and get into mischief?

So Harlequin is pouting in bed. He won't see his friends. He informs his friends that it takes many nights for his Mother to make a new costume. Veronica, one of his friends arrives anyhow and finds him hiding in bed. She can't talk him into getting up so she grabs him and shakes him to and fro until he falls out of bed! (The kids love this part.) Finally she goes home and returns wearing a beautiful red Velvet Carnival Gown. She cuts a piece off the sleeve of her gown and gives it to his Mother to make into a costume and doesn't believe it can't be done. His Mother grabs the red piece of velvet, and gets small pieces from the many colored costumes of the other pals,. Then sews them onto Harlequin's white pajamas! She explains this was very easy and in fact Harlequins ever since have worn this costume while performing. She goes up to bed. And to sleep.

The group of pals go into the Carnival and love it..., do everything they anticipated, PLUS watched a Puppet Show!

Mary has also done a great job with designing her backdrops. We can sometimes intentionally see past the foreground into another setting which



gives us extra space to visually explore... and marvel at. Also change time of day into night, and night into day.

TRULY THIS MARVELOUS SHOW HAS FULFILLED THE LAST SENTENCE IN APRIL'S PART OF THIS ARTICLE: (On page 10 in April's Newsletter.). " All told, the Commedia was a perfect theatrical style for both media." (Referring to Commedia del 'arte with human performers and puppets.) Thank you Mary and thank you puppets for giving us terrific insite. by Elisheva

Explore Puppet Performance Workshops

SAVE THE DATES! Week of July 18-22. More info soon.

This summer, explore the joy of Puppet Performance with Lee Armstrong at the Sonoma Community Center. Puppetry is an artform that allows for vast creativity. This series of workshops focuses on the question "What do you do once you have a puppet on your hand?" There are many books on puppet construction but studying the art of bringing a puppet to life is a bit more elusive.

In this series of hands-on workshops, adults and teens will have the opportunity to practice puppet performance for use in small group situations (i.e. in a library or classroom) and on stage or TV. Join in to create puppet characters, develop short sketches and learn some easy techniques that will make your puppetry shine.

Structure: Five 3 to 4 hour workshop sessions during the week of July 18th. Part A investigates the basics of hand puppets and "Muppet-style" puppetry. Part B will cover TV puppetry, working with a monitor and video camera, but also use of cell phones, pads and webcams. Participants can sign up for Part A, Part B or both. BYOPuppet, or puppets will be provided.

This program is being developed because a teacher in New York has a grant to study small group performance and TV puppetry with Lee. There may also be an element of puppet construction. Cost TBD, but hopefully, will not be expensive. The time each day hasn't been determined. If you think you'd like to take some of these workshops and have a time preference for either mornings, afternoons or evenings, please email Lee at images@vom.com **asap this week**. Your input is welcome.

Lee Armstrong is an Emmy awarding winning TV puppeteer with credits including the classic Jim Henson "Fraggle Rock," "Being John Malkovich," "Monkeybone," PBS shows and numerous TV commercials. She has taught workshops for thousands of people, in schools,



libraries, colleges, fire safety groups, national, regional and local Puppet Festivals, and is a Lecturer in the Theater Department at UC Santa Cruz, teaching “The Art of Jim Henson and the Muppets.” She is co-owner of Sonoma-based Images in Motion Inc.

www.imagesmedia.com, which has created puppets and videos for a variety of clients, including Cartoon Network, METV, Insurmi, Leapfrog Enterprises, USDA Forest Service, University of CA, Sonoma Safety Pals, Kaiser Educational Theater Programs and more.

The Sonoma Community Center, <https://sonomacommunitycenter.org/> exists to enrich the lives of the people of Sonoma Valley – and beyond, by fostering a broad range of cultural, educational, recreational and community service activities.

Many Thanks to the April Video Showcase Contributors



The Programming Committee would like to give a heartfelt shout out to the contributors of the April Video Showcase. The creativity and variety of the selections was inspiring! **Chase Woolner**’s “Just Another Glove Story” was simple, clever and endearing. Then **Doug and Anne Zesiger** shared the lighthearted puppet music video “I’m Going Exploring” from their popular web series “Stinky Tales” plus a part of the useful “Flu Vaccination” which helps kids face their fear of getting a shot. Many Guild members starred in the

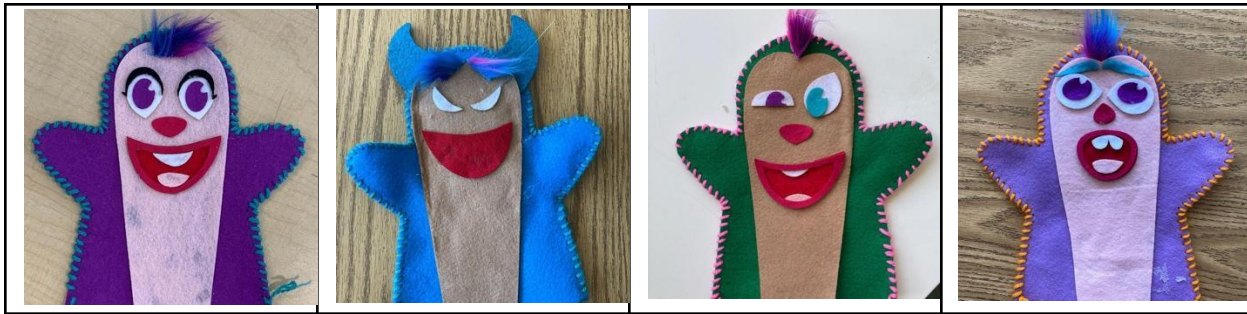
delightful “Hummingbird’s Flight” directed & edited by **Marisol Himmel**. **Benny Buettner & Bebe Conrad** of Magic Circus, presented an excerpt from their “The Incredible Magic Hat Show.” Who knew the many uses of a hat! **Camilla Hennemen** showed the memorable mashup crankie “The 3 Little Wolves” created as an example for her 3rd grade class, followed in fine “crankie” tradition by **Marisol** who rolled out a very funny “Little Ed Bitingwood.” Rock Lobster by **Art Grueneberger** ended the evening with a splash, as puppets galore sang and gyrated to this B52’s classic song.

Also a shoutout to our MC’s of the evening, **Michael Nelson**, **John Arnold** and **Lee Armstrong** and **John** and **Marisol** for making the zoom tech run so smoothly. Thank You All for a Great Night!

Sasquatch spotting

By Marisol Himmel

On Saturday April 23rd, nearly two dozen Sasquatches were spotted in a classroom in Sacramento! Some were scary, some were sweet, but oddly enough for a Sasquatch, none had feet. 🙄



These little “Squatch” hand puppets, inspired by artist Eva Lacy of Critterosity, were all created by students and parents of the Sacramento Spark Homeschool Enrichment program run by guild member, Marisol Himmel.



Sean and Patrick Johnson of Swazzle Puppet Studio along with their puppet, Kittens, lead a hand-puppet making workshop providing all the materials and tools needed for the project. This included laser cut fabric with pre-made holes for easy sewing by little hands, as well as a variety of precision cut facial features for full customization.



High school volunteers from the Teen Spark program were on hand to assist in the placement and gluing of all the bits and bobs. The result was twenty-three one-of-a-kind puppets as unique as the child who created it.



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Hello from Talib, Judy, and Tree on the nominating committee. It's that time of year again where guild members are given the opportunity to vote for new candidates to fill spots on the board. Annually, we have board members that have either met up with term limits or have come to the end of their three-year commitment and choosing to serve our board again. We have an exciting ballot of candidates for members to choose from this year. Two board members, Valerie Nelson and Ilene Kennedy are running for a second term. C.E. Choy will be joining them as the third candidate for an open seat on the board.

This year we are planning to create a special ballot through Mail Chimp which will be emailed to our membership to make voting easier this year. More information and a ballot will be coming directly to you soon. The winning candidates will be announced and welcomed to the board at our May guild meeting.

The following bios and photos are our slate of San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild candidates for 2022. We have three openings to fill on the board. Please vote for three candidates.

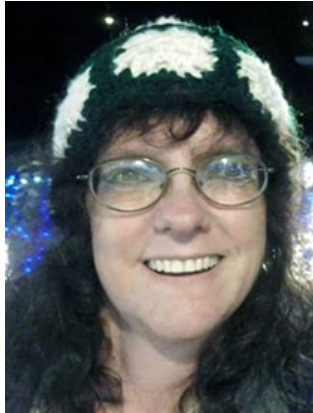
Valerie Nelson

Thank you for considering me for a position on the board of SFBAPG. For many years I have been the treasurer or acting treasurer for the guild. I am glad to see our modest funds have been growing. But we need to update our tax status so we can use



modern banking and PayPal without having to tie them to my personal information. I would like to work on this so our guild can move forward with new treasurers in the future.

I am proud of how our guild navigated the pandemic and look forward to seeing each other in person!



Ilene Kennedy

I am a puppeteer and have my own puppet group called Kennedy Puppets. I have been a puppeteer since I was 13yrs old as well as a 4H leader for 10 years. I currently have my own puppet business, doing many puppet shows as well as teaching puppet classes.

I have also donated over 1500 puppets to children overseas to war torn countries and hospitals, as well as for children at Easter and Christmas so children would be able to make a new friend.

C. E. Choy

C. E. Choy is a high school Drama Director of 20 years. Although puppets have always fascinated her, it wasn't until 9 years ago that she built her first puppets.

The plan was simply to make one for fun. But, she had an inquisitive non-verbal student, who showed so much interest in just the head, that she had no choice but to make another. She had no idea that this would provide them an amazing opportunity to communicate.

She now teaches her students to make their own puppets, and has opened a small puppet company, Bok Choy's Puppets, to supplement her school's theatre program.

<https://www.facebook.com/bokchoypuppets/>

Coming Next Month---The Puppets of Captain EO



From the years 1980-2000 I worked in the film industry making puppets and creatures for the film industry. In 1986, Michael Jackson collaborated with Disney Studios to create a 3D film, exhibit, for the Disneyland theme parks. Jackson built a miniature theme park on his property; Neverland, inspired by Disneyland. I worked on several puppets including body puppets for the project. Most of the puppets were built at Lance Anderson's shop. Fuzzball (the puppet on Michael's shoulder) was fabricated at my shop and mechanics were done at Rick Baker's shop.

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