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## Don't be an April fool!

Read this newsletter and mark your calendars for all sorts of great puppet events in the near future.

**And if you haven't renewed yet for 2024, do so ASAP so you won't miss any of the great events coming your way.**

To renew, go to the website, and click Join (<https://sfbapg.org/join>)

### Guild Board and Officers

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## Hi Fellow Puppeteers & Enthusiasts

Congratulations to Fred C. Reilly III and Risa Lenore, both SF Guild members, who have received this year's prestigious Jim Henson Foundation Grants.

Fred C. Reilly III (Oakland, CA) received a production grant for Production Grant for The Ground. The Ground is a sonic/visual poem exploring the intersection of nature and technology through the journey of a lone tabula rasa.

Web: Odd Savvy Photo on Left: Fred C. Riley III



Risa Lenore (Berkeley, CA) received a Family Grant for Agents of Change: Lizards, Carrots, Monsters, Oh My!

This show is a rollicking adventure exploring the nature of change, told through multiple interconnecting story-worlds, with lizards who travel by clouds, humanoid carrot puppets and benevolent monsters.

[Web: Possibly Puppets / Risa Lenore](#) Photo on Right: Risa Dye

I'm sure you'll be hearing more about these shows in future newsletters.

And a thank you to Randal Metz, our Guild historian, who has been updating our Guild history and sharing this in serial format in our newsletters. This is especially fitting as our Northern California Puppet Festival this summer is also an Anniversary celebration. Seventy years ago, our founding members decided to hold regular meetings to promote the art of puppetry in the Bay Area.

Putting our Northern California Puppet Festival together is an amazing team of people. The team will continue to grow as we develop the program, but currently, I'd like to thank (in alphabetical order) Tree Bartlett, Beth Choy, Heather Gobbee, Camilla Hennemen, Marisol Himmel, Ilene Kennedy, Uel McGinnis, Michael & Valerie Nelson, Lisa Zagone and a special shoutout to John Arnold, our very capable membership and webmaster. He kindly worked with all the teams on the Surveys, Application forms, updates on our website and more, all while being in LA this past week.

There will be a Zoom Program Planning Meeting this Tuesday, 04/02 from 6:30-7:30. This is open to all Guild members. If you're interested in how programs are selected for our meetings and/or want to help out, please contact our Programming Chair, Marisol Himmel, [moddypuppets@gmail.com](mailto:moddypuppets@gmail.com), for the Zoom link.

Stay tuned for more info on our Puppet Festival in this, and subsequent newsletters. Wishing you all a great month of puppetry, especially with Earth Day and Toy Theater at the McLune coming up!

Lee Armstrong, SFBAPG President

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## SAVE THE DATE - MAY 18th GUILD MEETING

Ralph Chessé Exhibition, Puppetry Demo by Fred Reilly III, Talk by Bruce Chesse & Reception

San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, SF

Sat. May 18, 1- 4:30

1 pm SFBAPG meeting

1:30 Tour of the Ralph Chesse exhibit

2 pm Puppet Demo by Fred Reilly III

2:30 Break

2:45 Bruce Chesse sharing highlights of Ralph's work.

Reception to follow, ending at 4:30.

## Ralph Chessé, 1900-1991, Painter, Sculptor, Puppeteer, Actor



Photo L: Ralph Chesse at work



Photo R: Emperor Jones by Ralph Chesse



## Northern California Puppet Festival & Celebration!

The Northern California Puppet Festival promises two days filled with performances, workshops, exhibits, and more on August 2nd and 3rd at the Sonoma Community Center. This event is set to showcase the exceptional talent of puppeteers in the Bay Area and beyond.

The Bay Area has exceptional talent both in puppeteers who give excellent workshops and puppeteers with high quality shows. To make it fair for all who would like to give a workshop or show, we ask that you fill out an application form.

If you'd like to apply to be a performer, please complete our [Performer Application](#).

If you'd like to apply to present a workshop, please complete our [Workshop Presenter Application](#).

The deadline for both Applications is April 20th (Earth Day) Please don't wait. We want to hear from you!

Are you an expert in any puppet-related field? You are welcome to propose a workshop on any topic. However, the Guild did conduct a survey of workshop topics in the last newsletter. You may want to look at these results to see popular topics at [Puppet Festival Survey](#)

We are still looking for input into topics for the Educator's track. If you didn't fill this out previously and are a teacher, librarian, or would like to incorporate puppetry with youth work, we'd appreciate your input at <https://sfbapg.org/EduSurvey>. If you are participating, please fill this survey out by April 8.

Shows will be selected by a committee experienced in puppetry and performance. Workshops will be selected by a committee experienced in puppetry and teaching. They will try for a diverse and engaging program for attendees. Even if your submission isn't chosen for this festival, it may still be considered for future Guild meetings.

The Northern California Puppet Festival is a rare opportunity to experience new shows, acquire new skills, and connect with fellow puppeteers in the vibrant puppetry community. Don't miss out on this exciting event!

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## Meet Our Members



**Toni “Tone” Mikulka-Chang and husband “Cello Joe” Chang**

There’s excitement in the San Francisco puppet community and one of the people who has been making that happen is Toni Mikulka-Chang. Toni's passion for puppetry stems from her love for both athleticism and the performing arts. Whether it's the dynamic energy of her parade puppets or the intimate storytelling of hand puppets, she believes movement is key, and the puppet must always be alive.

Toni's journey into the world of theater began at the tender age of 5 in her hometown of Suffern, NY. Growing up, she displayed a natural talent not only in the performing arts but also in athletics, particularly excelling in lacrosse and other sports. After obtaining a degree in Anthropology and Art, she ventured into nonprofit development of the arts in New York City. However, it was her acceptance into the historic Bread and Puppet Theater in Vermont in 2010 that marked a pivotal career shift for Toni.

The inception of "Giant Puppets Save the World" in Seattle followed, propelled by a grant from the Fremont Art Council. Toni eventually settled in the Bay Area in 2012, where she currently resides in San Francisco with her husband Joe Chang, also known as “Cello Joe,” a talented musician who often joins as her puppet partner for their hand puppet shows. Together, they explore folktales from their diverse cultural backgrounds, blending Toni's European heritage (Czech/Slovak, Italian, and Swedish) with Joey’s Asian Jewish influences (Japanese, Taiwanese, Polish Jewish). Their collection boasts over 300 handcrafted puppets. They will be performing “Folktales from Around the World” featuring their original re-telling ancient stories from their heritage with a modern twist, at the Grass Valley Center for the Arts on April 20th for the Family Fun Day (see [link](#) for event details).

Notably, Toni employs eco-friendly construction methods in her puppetry endeavors, eschewing toxic glues in favor of safer alternatives like wood glue. Her arsenal includes zip ties, wire wrapping, and the ever-reliable needle and thread. For instance, her parade birds feature heads made from reed with hand-dyed silk wings spanning 15’, connected to a windsock beneath to create the form for the body, which is held up by three bamboo poles tied to piece of piping running the width of the bird’s wings. These lightweight and collapsible creations are easily transported, making them ideal for festivals and events.

Toni designs, builds, stilt walks and has an incredible store of parade puppets and costumes to bring to festivals. Beyond entertainment, Toni utilizes her puppets as vehicles for social commentary, raising awareness about various social issues.

“I think multi-puppeteer puppets encourage teamwork, collaboration, and communication, by encouraging us to work together to create something greater than ourselves.”

In her “spare time” Toni works as a marketing consultant for the pet health industry and is currently enrolled in an MBA program at UC Davis. In August, Toni will be teaching a workshop on how to make giant flying bird kites at a community art center in Grass Valley (stay tuned for details in our next newsletter!).

Toni and Joey will be heading out shortly with their giant puppets for the [Texas Eclipse 2024 Official](#) (Texas Eclipse 2024) Connect with Toni through...

[GiantPuppetMaven@Gmail.com](mailto:GiantPuppetMaven@Gmail.com) | 510-385-2155

[GiantPuppetsSavetheWorld.com](http://GiantPuppetsSavetheWorld.com)

[Facebook.com/GiantPuppetsSavetheWorld](https://Facebook.com/GiantPuppetsSavetheWorld)

[Instagram.com/GiantPuppetsSavetheWorld](https://Instagram.com/GiantPuppetsSavetheWorld)

[Twitter.com/GiantPuppetMave](https://Twitter.com/GiantPuppetMave)

If you'd like to be featured in Meet Our Members, please contact Lee Armstrong, [larmstrong@sfbapg.org](mailto:larmstrong@sfbapg.org)



## 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: Beth Choy at [cchoy@sfbapg.org](mailto:cchoy@sfbapg.org), 707-365-5663, 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

Beth Choy

Camilla Henneman

Michael Kennedy

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### **Our Guild Library**

The Guild Library is a treasure trove of hundreds of books on puppetry. History of puppets, construction, stages, puppets in education, etc. It's now easy to see what books are available by going to <https://sfbapg.org/library-online/>. Or if at [www.sfbapg.org](http://www.sfbapg.org) select Resources, then Library. Popular new books include Puppetry 101 creating Film + TV style puppetry by Adam Kreutinger and a very helpful book with plenty of hand and rod puppet patterns is "Making Puppets the Fairyland Way" by Randal Metz.

Library borrowers need to have been members for at least 6 months or leave a check for the amount of the book. When you return the book, you get the check back. You can peruse the catalog then request books by emailing [library@sfbapg.org](mailto:library@sfbapg.org). They will be brought to the next "in person" event. If you have a library book to return, please return it at the next "in person" meeting which will probably be at the Toy Theater program, McClune Library, Vallejo on April 21st, 2 pm or mail it back to Lee at 720 Ladera Dr., Sonoma, CA 95476.

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## **PUPPET EVENTS**



10-2: @ THE DEPOT  
**SUPER PET FEST**

*tiens*

11-6: THE STAGE @ SUITE E1  
• 11:00 AM - 'EARTH DAY PUPPET RUCKUS' (\$10 - OPENS AT 10:30)

## EARTH DAY EVENT - Puppet Ruckus

Shared by Guild member Elizabeth Leonard

The Stage at Burke Junction, April 20th 11am -12pm

After an almost 10 year hiatus, the Puppet Ruckus is back by popular demand! Come see the all-new, all-ages, Earth Day-themed puppet variety show April 20 at the Stage at Burke Junction in Cameron Park, CA. Please help spread the word! Thanks!

Come celebrate Earth Day with a family-friendly puppet festival. We'll have puppets big and small, telling stories all ages will enjoy in the historic Stage theater at Burke Junction in Cameron Park. Stick around after the show to build your very own puppet to take home!

Tickets are \$10 per person- available at the box office or online at the bottom of this page:

<https://thestage.ticketspice.com/community-arts-festival>

This event is part of the all-day "2024 Springtime at The Junction" festivities. Please help spread the word!

<https://www.stageatburke.com/>

## Upcoming Guild Event, Sunday, April 21 at 2-4pm Toy Theatre at the McCune Rare Books in Vallejo

Free event with wine and refreshments

The McCune Collection of Art and Rare Books is located in the basement of the JFK Library, 505 Santa Clara St, Vallejo, CA 94590. They have a superb collection of rare books and are also fond of hosting puppet events! The next one will be on the afternoon of April 21 and will focus on toy theatre. Toy theatre or paper theatre is the perfect intersection of printing (the McCune's focus) and puppetry (the guild's focus.) Guild members Michael and Valerie Nelson will host the event and share some of their toy theatre collection and performances. The Nelsons have toured their award winning toy theatre productions across the US and at various festivals throughout Europe and Latin America. They also use toy theatre as a teaching tool for elementary aged children. Come and learn more about this Victorian era paper puppet form, explore some rare books, drink wine and enjoy snacks provided by the McCune. The event is free. If you have a short toy theatre performance to share, send info to the Nelsons. They'd love to see if it fits the schedule.

Below, The Nelsons will be performing their version of Mutiny on the Bounty, complete with live ukelele music and dancing hula girls.



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Online Workshop from Pam Severns (who has presented for the guild in the past and is highly recommended!)

## **Principles of Puppetry Online with Pam Severns**

**Saturdays, April 6-27, 1- 3 PM EDT**

This four-week workshop gives performers the foundational skills and techniques that you will need to create your own material with the puppet of your choice.

Each week, we will focus on a different movement and motivation for your puppets. In between each session, you will make a short video to share for review in-class. We will also cover the basics of storytelling with puppetry and what goes into becoming a puppeteer for television and film.

Glove puppets, hand-and-rod (aka Muppet style), live hand, and tabletop puppets are welcome! Voicing puppets is optional, as we will focus on emoting with our puppets through movement and breath.

This workshop is open to beginners and performers with experience in puppetry.

This class will take place every Saturday from 1:00–3:00 PM EDT at the following dates:

April 6th, April 13th, April 20th, April 27th

Here's the signup link: <https://celebrationbarn.com/principles-of-puppetry/>

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## **Special Memorial Puppet**

by Ilene Kennedy

This is a very special puppet I created for my sister in law, in honor of my brother-in-law who passed away. It'll be a year on March 3rd of this year that he passed away. The material was an item that was on him after he died that he was covered up with as they took him away. They gave it to my sister-in-law and when I came up to see her she gave it to me and asked me if I could please make a puppet for her of a dog (she knows I make memory Bears). So in honor of my brother-in-law who was a real character, I added his favorite colors, green and blue. I gave him a green backdrop for his photographs and a blue collar. It is my version of Rolf from The Muppets in honor of my brother-in-law whose name is s Rob Cresanta. It will be a year this March.

My sister in law shall be getting him home soon. I felt honored to have been able to create him for my extended family. I made him a Birth certificate and an authentic certification certificate to go with him. My sister has named him Robbie. Hope everyone enjoyed seeing the pictures of him. It was my pleasure to create him.



World Puppetry Day Video, Hugo Shum

Hello Hello Guild People! For this year's World Puppetry Day, Dahlia and I (Hugo) created a little video clip syncing to one of our favorite Sesame Street Songs. Take a look!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C4x6qsGLZd8/>

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### **A thank you from Mary Nagler, recently honored by SFBAPG**

"I was recently informed that I have been made a life-time member of SFBAPG. I was both humbled and honored and wanted to express my deep gratitude.

Some of my best memories and closest friends are from my association with the guild. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

Mary Nagler

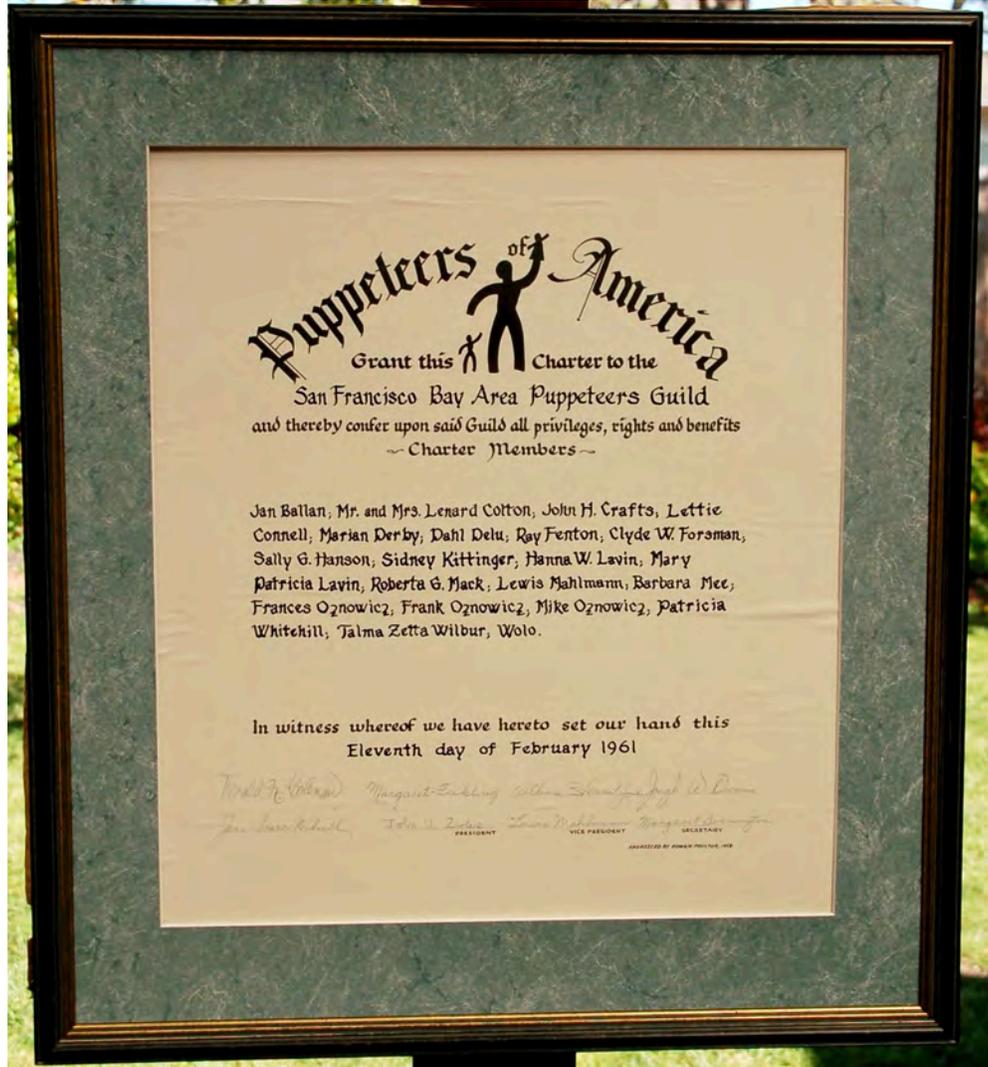
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# Tracing The Tangled Roots of Our “Puppet-Tree” and the San Francisco Bay Area Puppetry Guild (1954 - 2024)

Randal Metz - Guild Historian

Note: Dates listed by names of puppeteers represent their careers in puppetry.

## Part 3 - 1960 - 1969:



Welcome back history buffs! Last time we left you with Mike Oznowicz in the restroom, and the fledgling guild in turmoil. Join the Puppeteers of America or not? Seizing the moment, after months of long debate, the group acted quickly and voted unanimously to become a chartered guild of the P. Of A. When Mike returned, he laughed heartedly, and added his vote of “Yes, finally!” to the tally. And the process began...

The Vietnam War, which started in 1956, was creating furor in the streets. And so it was only natural that “Punch and Judy” performers added their political puppet voices to the era. Puppets were everywhere! Lewis Mahlmann, who was on the P of A board, took our member’s request to the national organization. Our members wanted to host a National Festival in 1961, as well as becoming an official guild. To practice for the National, our brave members decided to host the first West Coast Regional Fest in 1960, in San Francisco. Here’s a “tricky history” part. The P. Of. A. approved our guild in late 1960, according to their history, but the actual charter signed by them and presented to the guild, is dated 1961. And so on February 11, 1961, our local community of puppet enthusiasts was recognized as The San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild by The Puppeteers of America. Patricia Lavin became our 1st provisional president. William Stewart Jones, Lewis Mahlmann, and Tony Urbano who were all members of the board for P. of A. paved the way for us to become recognized guild charter #7. Charter members of the guild included: Jan Ballan, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Colton, John H. Crafts, Lettie

Connell (Schubert), Marian Derby, Dahl Delu, Ray Fenton, Clyde Forsman, Sally G. Hanson, Sydney Kittinger, Hanna W. Lavin, Mary Patricia Lavin, Roberta G. Mack, Lewis Mahlmann, Barbara Mee, Frances Oznowicz, Frank Oznowicz, Mike Oznowicz Patricia Whitehill, Talma-Zetta Wilbur, and Wolo Von Trutzchler. Acting for the Puppeteers of America were: John U. Zweers - President, Lewis Mahlmann - Vice President, Margaret Bennington - Secretary, and board members signing were Donald Coleman, Margaret Fickling, William Stewart Jones, Joseph Owens and Jean Starr Wiksell. Fun Facts: The Los Angeles Guild began meeting in 1956, and was chartered in 1957. The San Diego Guild first met in 1957, and was chartered in 1961. So we were the first guild ever meeting in the state in 1954.

And what of our 1960 Regional Festival? Festival Director Lettie Schubert assured us it was a success, great practice for the National, and adding a whopping profit of \$25.00 to the new guild treasury!

And now we'll take a moment to catch up on our now "three" major puppet theaters in the Bay Area. The Vagabond Puppets were once again going to change directorship. Lettie Schubert was leaving the Oakland Dept. to work on the upcoming puppet festivals, and begin to raise a family. In 1961 Jerry Juhl (1956 - 2005) and Frank, or "Frankie" Oznowicz (1956 - present) as the newspapers referred to him, joined as a team for the next year. This teaming was going to change the face of puppet history. Both young men were about to embark on a great adventure. For the upcoming 1961 National Festival, Lettie asked them to perform their current Vagabond show "The Witch Who Stole Tuesday" for the puppeteers. And it so happened that Jim Henson was in the audience scouting talent for his new Muppet Company. He immediately hired both of them. Jerry, who had finished his education, moved to New York after Vagabond closed for the Summer. Jerry became the head writer for most Muppet projects, including "The Muppet Show," "Fraggle Rock," feature film and television productions, and of course the first years of "Sesame Street." Frank had to stay home for a year and finish High School. The next year, after he closed the Vagabond puppet program, he joined Jim and Jerry and the rest is history! From 1963 - 65, the name of the Vagabond director is lost to time. But Ruth Sicular, who was a puppeteer and prominent mime with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, ran the program from 1966 - 67. And from 1968 - 69, there is no mention of who directed the puppet program in Oakland. Also of note working for the Vagabond program is Sally Hanson-Ferreira and future Oakland district attorney Don Ingraham, who both wrote puppet plays, puppeteered and taught youth puppet classes for the Oakland Rec. Dept. and Children's Fairyland. All of these youthful puppeteers, plus John Gilkerson, were the next generation of Bay Area puppet professionals.



**Photos, above: Jerry Juhl (with Rolf the dog) and a 17 year old Frank Oz with Georgia Tays from a 1962 newspaper clipping.**



**Above, Tony Urbano and Dorothy Hayward with Rapunzal, 1960**

And over at Fairyland, near Lake Merritt, Tony Urbano was the 2nd Storybook Puppet Theater director from 1959 - 1962. And then after five successful years at the Park, Tony moved to Los Angeles and began his own career where he would work with The Yale Puppeteers, Bill Baird in New York, and design for Sid and Marty Krofft productions. He also ran successful seasonal marionette shows at Universal Studios and the Laguna Beach Festival of Art. Oh...and he also helped co-create the SAG Puppeteers Union for the film industry. I should also mention one other thing about Tony. Before Frank Oz joined Vagabond, Tony was Frank's mentor in puppetry, where he was learning the trade at Fairyland. Now I mentioned that there was a third puppet theater forming in our area. In 1961, based on the success of Fairyland's theater, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo opened The Castle Puppet Theater.



## Happy Hollow Park and Zoo Puppet Theatre, above

The first director was going to be Jerry Juhl, who had a popular puppet program “Sylvie and Pup” on television in San Jose. But when he heard they only wanted marionettes performed at the theater, he decided to run Vagabond. Wise career choice. And so, although not the director, Happy Hollow hired 18 year old Luman Coad to help manage the park’s puppet program under Theater Director Ron Skolman.



**Above: Luman Coad and his puppets, 1963**

Dissatisfied with the treatment at Happy Hollow, Luman moved to Oakland and became the 3rd and youngest puppet theater director at age 20. Luman Coad (1961- present) was the Storybook Theater director from 1963 - 1966. One of his Fairyland productions was even presented at an International Puppet Festival in Romania, and “A Dog’s Tale” won first prize. The park payed for him to be able to represent Oakland at this event. When it became apparent that the United States draft board was not going to grant him a conscientious objector classification for the Vietnam War, Luman decided that he would move to Canada where he married his partner Arlyn Coad and the two formed the internationally known company of Coad Canada Puppets. Luman and Arlyn are Pioneer Members of the British Columbia Entertainment Hall of Fame and created Charlemagne Press, a book company that publishes and sells high quality books on the art of puppetry. ([www.charlemagnepress.com](http://www.charlemagnepress.com)) In 1967, Lewis Mahlmann will become the 4th Storybook Puppet Director and for the next 39 years, he and his life partner David C. Jones, a writer and school teacher will present shows based on fairy tales, world tales and theatrical ballets and literature.



### **Lewis Mahlmann and the Frog Prince**

During his tenure, Lewis will mentor his first apprentice John Gilkerson (1964—1989). Although taken from us too early, John would have an impressive career in the Bay Area. Not only an active member in the beginning of the guild, John designed costumes and sets for several prominent ballet companies, worked with Frank Zappa on a Puppet-musical event, built miniature mechanical puppet windows for stores in downtown San Francisco, designed Fairyland events and shows, and built the puppets and starred in “Buster and Me” with guild member Robin Goodrow. A high school best friend of Tom Hanks, Hanks would honor John at the 1994 Academy Awards when he credited John for inspiring his performance of a gay man in a positive way in the film “Philadelphia.”



**John Gilkerson performs the Tongue Cut Sparrow**

As you can see, our young guild had many amazing talents supporting puppetry. And before I close I'd like to share a few more of our amazing talented members.



**Benjamin Blake and Sir Louis Puff**

Benjamin Blake (1950 - early 70s), a talented painter, sculptor and teacher, moved his company from Boston and took the puppet community by storm with his beautiful puppets. His 1962 television special of Benjamin Britton's "The Little Sweep", narrated by Ray Bolger, used guild talents Marian Derby, Lewis Mahlmann and Luman Coad.



**Above, Richard Bay, 2017**

Richard Bay (1966 - present), who taught the puppet arts at Cal State Sacramento for 29 years, was performing at Fairytale Town in Sacramento and bringing puppet operas to elementary schools. Elisheva “Betty” Hart (1950 - present) appeared on the Bay Area scene using puppetry to entertain with storytelling and her speciality: shadow puppetry.



**Above, Elisheva Hart (AKA Betty Polus) with shadows**

The Berkeley Puppeteers (1957 - 2015), Bill Cassady and Helga Williamson, were presenting world cultural tales and in 1965 on KQED Channel 9 spellbound us with an allegorical puppet tale about a web of illusion titled “The Net.” In San Francisco a trio of talented couples, John & Lorraine Crafts, John & Barbara Mee and Peter & Charlotte Black, guild charter

members, were producing high quality theatrical marionette productions in their basement under the heading of The High-Strung Theater (1950 - 1970).



**Above, the High Strung Puppeteers**

Jack & Elva Aiken or the Aiken Puppets (Mid-50s to present) were traveling long distances to attend meetings while Jack was using his cinematography skills to document our expanding puppet community. Keeping us laughing was Steve Hansen (1968 - 2011), who just graduated from San Francisco State and was performing on the streets at Fisherman's Wharf with his political "Punch & Judy."



**Above, Steve Hansen, photo from Puppetry Journal**

And of course our Los Angeles member Alan Cook (1940 - 2019), was very busy connecting the puppeteers while chronicling their varied puppet talents. Alan is responsible for the creation of the International Puppetry Museum which showcases the puppets of many of our guild members.

In conclusion, the 1961 National puppet convention was a rousing success, and well worth the effort of becoming a unified guild of the Puppeteers of America. Our guild shined a bright light on the quality puppetry that we were doing on the West Coast. I have been lucky enough to have been a youth member and talked with most of these early practitioners of the art over the years. Our written history is very rare since early newsletters haven't always survived. Our guild letters were saved in earnest roughly around 1971. These first 20 years have survived mostly through personal interviews, Children's Fairyland archives and the rare newspaper clippings. In the next months, I'll begin to highlight more members and activities as they were written about in our newsletters. So... keep looking for your names! **See you in the 70s.**

***Bi-line:***

***For 33 years Randal Metz has been the Director of the Children's Fairyland Storybook Puppet Theater, the oldest, continuously running puppet theater in the United States. He is also creator of The Puppet Company which tours California. He has written two histories on Children's Fairyland, and four histories and puppet making books on the art of puppetry.***