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Puppet Shows

Personal Spaces

Fri 10am

Carnival

of the Animals

Fri 4pm

Los Animalitos

Fri 7pm

Tommy's Space Adventure

Sat 10am

Green Bird

Sat 4pm



**Puppet
Slam!
Sat 7pm**

SONOMA COMMUNITY CENTER

276 E Napa Street
Sonoma, CA

AUGUST 2 & 3 2024



SONOMACOMMUNITYCENTER.ORG/EVENTS

PARADE SATURDAY 9:30AM IN THE SQUARE!

Hi Guild Friends

Merry July! The Northern California Festival is 33 Days away! This wonderful event on Aug 2-3 celebrates our 70th Anniversary, at the Sonoma Community Center. If you haven't seen the lineup yet, check out the info in this newsletter and please go to www.sfbapg.org/festival.

Volunteers: I would like to thank all the hardworking volunteers on the Festival Committee. If you'd like to help, please look for the Signup Genius in this newsletter. If you are coming to the Festival, donating a bit of time to help the Festival run smoothly will be greatly appreciated.

Publicity: The Publicity Committee, John, Marisol and Uel are working hard to get the word out, and this is where you come in. They are going to feature a workshop presenter or performer every few days on FB page, groups and Instagram. I am going to share this on my personal & Business FB. **I challenge you to share these posts on whatever social media you use.** The first one will be July 1st (today) which will spotlight the Festival followed by features on Wed., and Fri. If you are a workshop presenter or performer, please tell the world that they can see you at this Puppet Festival! Special thanks to John Arnold, who produced our great Festival website and both Marisol Himmel and Lauren Brenner, who gave us fun Festival posters.

You may not do social media, or you would rather not post Festival updates so frequently, or you prefer email, phone, or conversation. If so, please reach out to friends in these ways to people you know.

Do you know teachers, your local children's librarian, youth group leaders? Please let them know that Fri., Aug 2 we have a whole workshop track plus a show designed especially for them. Guild member Barbra Schora talked to a librarian in Mendocino and that day, a librarian from Mendocino registered for Educators Day. Coincidence... I think not! If you want a Festival flyer, please email me at larmstrong@sfbapg.org.

With your help, this can be the best attended Event we have ever had.

Thank you, Lee Armstrong, SFBAPG President

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Northern California Puppet Festival: Celebrating 70 Years of Bay Area Puppetry!

Aug 2-3 at the Sonoma Community Center

Northern California Puppet Festival

August 2-3 Day/Evening

Sonoma Community Center, 276 E Napa St, Sonoma

Sponsored by the S. F. Bay Area Puppeteers Guild, <https://sfbapg.org/festival/>

- 5 Family Friendly Puppet Shows
- 1 Puppet Slam for teens/adults
- 6 Workshops for Educators/ Librarian/Youth Leaders
- 14 Workshops by pro puppeteers

Friday shows:

- 10 AM "Personal Space" by Stinky Tales (SEL Learning)
- 4 PM "Carnival of Animals" by Fratello Marionettes (to the music of Saint-Saens)
- 7 PM "Los Animalitos" by Magical Moonshine Theatre (winner of Golden Apple of Kazakhstan)

Sat shows:

- 10 AM "Tommy's 10 AM "Tommy's Space Adventure" by Puppet Art Theater (features puppets with digital effects)
- 4 pm "The Green Parrot" by Oregon Shadow Theatre (winner of 3 UNIMA awards)

- 7 pm "Forbidden Puppet Cabaret's Summer of Love" Puppet Slam (sponsored in part by the Puppet Slam Network <https://www.puppetslam.com/>).

There are great workshops from Puppet Building and Performance to TV Puppets, Social Media for Puppeteers, Puppet Improv., Tabletop Puppetry, Shadows and more. There's even free puppet building for children after the 10 am Fri. show of "Personal Space," courtesy of Ilene Kennedy, Heather Gobbée and other volunteers.

With a blend of local and out-of-town talent, this festival aims to cater to both enthusiasts and professionals, offering valuable insights and practical skills.

Puppet Exhibit: "Celebrating 70 Years of Bay Area Puppetry" See more info on the puppet Exhibit below.

Puppet Store: Camilla Henneman is at the helm at our puppet store. You will see more store info in this newsletter.

Publicity: Help us publicize this exciting puppet event. Do you know...

- Teachers, Librarians and Youth Group Leaders (Youth Theater, Guides, 4 H, church, etc.)
- Puppeteers outside the Guild, friends that might be interested
- Teens: There's even a building workshop for them, taught by Guild teens (although 9 + and adults welcome too) Teens are welcome to all workshops.

Let people know! Email them a link and share info about our Festival from our Guild FB page.

Information and Community.

We have set up a Facebook Group at <http://facebook.com/groups/northerncalpuppetfest>. Join the group, share information about yourself with others attending. You can ask questions, check on ridesharing, find a roommate, and more.

Travel: See the [facebook group](#) above for the Puppet Festival. If you can offer a ride or need a ride, join the group and let others know .

Accommodations: Many people will be commuting to this Festival. However, if you'd like to stay overnight, this is prime time for hotels in Sonoma. The downside of being a delightful destination spot is that rates are high. The least expensive places are Sonoma Creek Inn, El Pueblo Inn & Best Western Sonoma. Your best bet might be to find an Air BnB to share. You can post houses or hotel rooms you'd like to share, or post that you're looking to share in the [facebook group](#) above . Some people are looking at hotels in Petaluma, a beautiful 25-minute drive over the hills to Sonoma. For those who hope to camp, contact info@sfbapg.org.

Questions? Email info@sfbapg.org

Reception for Our Puppet Exhibit "Celebrating 70 Years of Puppetry!"

Where: Sonoma Community Center, Gallery 212

Date: Saturday, July 13

Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

More info at <https://sonomacommunitycenter.org/events/sfba-puppeteer-guild-exhibit/>.

Puppets have a unique place as movable works of art on stage, TV, and film. This special exhibit celebrates seven decades of puppetry excellence. It is hosted by the Sonoma Community Center in their Gallery 212.

Meet some of the talented puppet builders and get a close look at the intricate artistry and craftsmanship that bring puppets to life. Bring the family as there is a "Make a Puppet" opportunity for all. Have a slice of cake and help the Puppet Guild celebrate their 70th birthday.

This exhibition, running throughout the month, will culminate with the Northern California Puppetry Festival, which takes place on August 2nd and 3rd at the Community Center.

Exhibit Highlights:

- Rare puppets from “The Brother Buzz” show, which had a seventeen-year run on Bay Area TV in the 50s-60s.
- A puppet made by Frank Oz before he became the famous partner of Jim Henson and the Muppets.
- Superb marionettes by Tony Urbano, known for his work on "Men in Black" and "Team America."
- A John Cusack marionette from the cult classic "Being John Malkovich," available for photo opportunities.

And don't miss Lisa Zagone's “Anubis” carved from basswood and jelutong, painted with inks, enhanced by gold leaf.



The exhibit is curated by Kevin Menegus and Randal Metz, co-authors of the book “Century of California Puppetry: How the West was Strung.” Randal, as Director of the Storytime Theater at Fairyland in Oakland, has pulled historic examples from over 70 years of the puppet theater's existence. Explore selected pieces from Kevin's personal collection.

This is a unique opportunity to view a rare and diverse exhibit of puppets. We look forward to seeing you at this special event!

Call for Volunteers!

We are excited to announce the upcoming Northern California Puppet Festival and are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help make this event a success! This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a vibrant community event and support the puppetry arts.

Volunteering at the festival is a great way to meet new people, gain experience, and enjoy the magic of puppetry.

If you are interested in volunteering please register at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4BAEAB2AA7FC1-50204036-ncpf>

We look forward to working with you to make this festival a memorable experience for all!

Thank you for your support.

Marisol Himmel and Lee Armstrong
Northern California Puppet Festival Coordinators

Did we mention there are TWO Puppet Festivals in the Bay Area this summer?

Napa Valley Puppetry Festival

July 26-28 2024

At The White Barn in St.Helena

2727 Sulphur Springs Ave.



Napa Valley
Puppetry Festival
July 26-28 2024 At The White Barn
Saint Helena, Ca.
Kid Shows & Adult Shows!
* Marionettes * Hand Puppets * Giant Puppets
* Puppet-Making Workshops * Weird Puppets
* Free Outdoor Shows

From the tiniest finger puppets to giant parade puppets,
our festival has something for everyone!

Napa Valley
Puppetry
Festival

Tickets & info:
nvpuppfest.com

Sponsored through generous grants from NV Presents & City of St.Helena
The White Barn: 2727 Sulphur Springs Ave. St.Helena, CA

Enjoy a weekend of puppetry at the Napa Valley Puppetry Festival in St.Helena!

Lots of performances for the whole family. Marionettes, rod puppets, giant puppets, puppet-making workshops, ventriloquism, demos and more. There will be free outdoor shows for kids ,performances for teens, and special shows for adults. Kids will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience in our Puppet Playground. Award winning puppeteer Lee Armstrong will be presenting a workshop for newish puppeteers, actors, teachers, librarians, youth group leaders and teens interested in the art of puppet performance.

Don't miss this fun-filled community event!

"As children, we all live in a world of imagination, of fantasy, and for some of us that world of make-believe continues into adulthood."- Jim Henson

For tickets and more info:

nvpuppfest.com

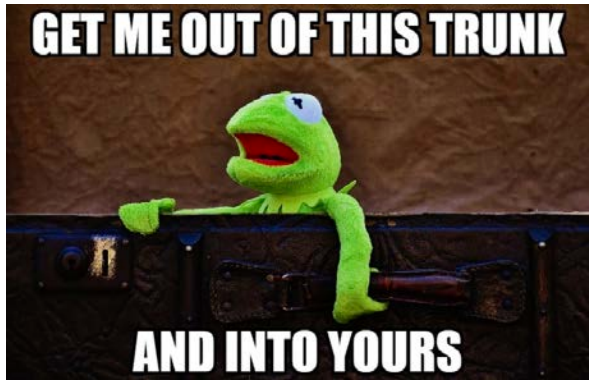
Next Guild Event, Giant Puppets in the Vallejo July 4 Parade



You didn't see it here (since it is a secret until the 4th!) but guild members Lisa Zagone and Michael Nelson, assisted by Valerie Nelson, have created a new giant puppet for the Vallejo 4th of July Parade as part of the Vallejo Giant Puppet Project. It is a whimsical submarine (that will be surrounded by swirling fish puppets), piloted by a pelican with various animated elements and characters. The parade takes off at 10 am <https://vallejojuly4.com/> (three of the giant puppets are featured on the webpage) and will include the new submarine puppet and a variety of other giants, operated by guild members and community members.

We want your puppets!

Call to Vendors! Got some nice puppets you would like to rehome? Need to clear out your book shelves to make space for more books?



The 70th Anniversary Bay Area Puppet festival is going to host a pop-up store. We are looking for vendors. There are two options available. If you would like a vendor table of your own, which you would be responsible for staffing, there are a limited number of spaces available. The Sonoma Community Center has graciously allowed us to use a small space for a pop-up store in their music room. We will accept new or good condition used puppet related items that you would like to sell. This is a great opportunity to destash (Clear out your puppet shelves to make room for more puppets that you can buy at the store.) We can accept new or good quality used: puppets, books, masks, toy theaters and other puppet related items. Folkmanis Puppets is donating a selection of puppets to the store. 20% of sales would be donated back to the guild. Vendors are responsible for delivering items before the store opens (Cam will coordinate that with individual vendors) and are responsible for picking up their items at the end of the festival. The store will be open between workshops and shows. If you are interested in offering items for the store, or volunteering some time to help staff the store, please contact Camilla Henneman camhenneman@gmail.com. or 831-359-9761. (Its easiest to contact me by email or text)

July Programming Meeting

Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 on Zoom

This Programming Meeting will focus on plans for the Puppet Festival. It is hoped that most members of the Festival Planning Committee can attend this meeting. All are welcome. For a zoom link, please email Marisol Himmel, moddypuppets@gmail.com.

Guild Election News!

Well, the results are in and we have our winners!

Congratulations and welcome to Doug Zesiger, Elizabeth Leonard, and Talib Huff. Welcome and we look forward to working with you!

A deep, wholehearted, expression of gratitude to our outgoing board members: Judy Roberto, Marisol (Moddy) Himmel, and Glynn (Tree) Bartlett. Thank you for your years of service to our guild.

Goodbye to: Tree Bartlett , Moddy Himmel and Judy Roberto



Say hello to our new board members: Doug Zesiger, Elizabeth Leonard, and Talib Huff



Under The Puppet

The newest episode of Under The Puppet is here and it has deep ties to the San Francisco puppetry world as my guest is Bob Mills. Bob Mills is one of, if not the original Disneyland puppeteers, performing marionette shows at the park starting in 1957. Before that he puppeteered at Children's Fairyland in Oakland, CA and before that he was the resident puppeteer and clown for the TV show Just Kids which broadcast every weekday in Hawaii. Bob would later step away from puppetry to do make-up for some of the biggest stars in film and television. I talk to Bob Mills about all of this and more on this episode of Under The Puppet.

New episode can be heard wherever you get your podcasts starting July 1st. You can also listen directly at underthepuppet.com

(Photo courtesy of Randal Metz.)

Grant Baciocco

Puppeteer. Creator.

grant@throwingtoasters.com

MrGrant.com

IG - @throwingtoasters

Editor's Note: Don't miss Grant's workshop on Podcasting at the Northern California Puppet Festival, and rumor also has it that he will be performing at the Saturday night Forbidden Puppet Cabaret at the fest!

Open Audition Notice: "MIDDLEOF" - An Interactive Puppetry Arts Installation

Are you a performing artist, puppeteer, actor, theater technician, or maker with a passion for pushing the boundaries of creativity? Join us in Santa Cruz, CA, for a groundbreaking experience!

About "MIDDLEOF": "MIDDLEOF" is a 5,000 sq ft permanent interactive puppetry arts installation set to open in fall 2024. This unique experience seamlessly fuses puppetry, theater, technology, and interactive design to transport participants into a surreal world where imagination knows no bounds. Visitors become active participants, navigating through a multisensory landscape where puppetry comes to life in unexpected and enchanting ways. The installation challenges conventional boundaries, inviting guests to engage with larger-than-life mythical beings through touch, movement, and even virtual reality, creating a dynamic and immersive spectacle that blurs the lines between reality and fantasy.

We are seeking:

- Performing Artists: Actors, dancers, and physical performers who can bring characters to life and interact with visitors in a captivating and immersive manner.
- Puppeteers: Skilled puppeteers (will train right person) who can manipulate a variety of puppets, from hand puppets to full-body suits, creating magical and lifelike performances.
- Theater Technicians: Talented individuals with expertise in lighting, sound, set design, and special effects to enhance the immersive environment.

- Makers: Creators and builders who can craft intricate puppets, props, and set pieces, contributing to the fantastical world of "MIDDLEOF".

Audition Details:

- Date: Ongoing until positions are filled
- Location: Capitola, CA
- To Apply: Please email a headshot and resume (if available) to <https://www.thepuppetryinstitute.org/>

Join us in creating a mesmerizing experience that will leave visitors spellbound. Be a part of "MIDDLEOF" and let your talent shine in a world where fantasy and reality intertwine!

For more information, visit <https://www.thepuppetryinstitute.org/middleof>

We look forward to seeing your creativity come to life!

Ricki Vincent, Artistic Director - The Puppetry Institute of Santa Cruz

making the world a cooler place... one puppet at a time!

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

<https://www.thepuppetryinstitute.org/>

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 6 - 1990 - 1999:

The World Wide Web has arrived! Puppeteers are becoming connected via the computer. Information has begun to be available at everyone’s fingertips. Unfortunately there are also some bad things that happened this decade. Jim Henson, our leader of the American puppetry scene, passed away suddenly, and the film industry began to see the death throes of stop-motion and practical puppetry in movies. CGI was coming on strong. And to balance all this turmoil, the puppetry world began to embrace all the varied forms of the Puppet. In 1990, the guild was involved in sponsoring the Southwest Regional Festival: Catch A Rising Star! Held in Berkeley, the festival was organized by Lewis Mahlmann, Lettie Schubert and Randal Metz. Embracing all forms of puppetry, from puppeteers you wouldn’t normally see, the regional was a huge success! There was something for everyone. In 1991, the guild celebrated our 30th anniversary celebration, according to our guild charter. And in 1993, the guild hosted the Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival in San Francisco. Puppetry ’93 was held at San Francisco State, and organized by Mike Oznowicz, Lettie Schubert and Ronna Leon, where they featured puppeteers from all over the world. It was a coming together of all our puppet cultures in one city, all paid for by the Puppeteers of America and grants from countries the puppet troupes came from. It was turning out to be a great decade! In 1997 our guild hosted a special evening when John Styles, a renowned Punch Man from England, came to perform in America. Membership in our guild averaged between 129 - 164 by 1999.

(More than any other guild at that time) And finally on July 31, 1997 the Puppeteers of America awarded our guild with the Outstanding Guild Citation - in recognition of our outstanding service to the art of puppetry, and to honor excellence and innovation. It's about time someone noticed!

And what's happening on the puppet scene in the Bay Area?

Well, Lewis Mahlmann decided to take on a partner at the Fairyland Storybook Puppet Theater. Lewis and Randal Metz formed M Plus M Productions, in order to share the busy schedule of puppetry that Fairyland came to be known for. In 1997 guild member Jesse Vail (1994 - present), of Fool Moon Puppetry Arts, became one of the first professional, full time Puppet Directors hired by Happy Hollow Park in San Jose to run the Castle Puppet Theater. He will do so until he moved on in 2004. Jesse was trained by Lewis Mahlmann, and is also a professional prop and scene designer for local theater and high schools.



Also of note, 11 year old puppeteer Kevin Menegus (1989 - present) began his career and joined with his high school friend Michael Burroughs to form The Fratello Marionettes. Kevin has performed with Bob Baker, traveled on cruise ships with Tony Urbano, and appeared with many orchestras and symphonies. Oh, he also collects toy marionettes and examples of puppets from historical puppeteers.



The Guild also encouraged Ron & Barbara Johnson, of the Motion Maker Puppets (c1989 - 2019) to spend more time volunteering their art form. Devotees of Renaissance Fairs and Scottish Games, the couple decided to form a family activity using puppets. From this idea came their Puppet Petting Zoo aka “Saint Felix’s Petting Zoo”, under rustic tents, where families were allowed to play with hundreds of puppets, while Ron and Barbara supervised wearing Elizabethan dress. And later came “Dr. Doolittle’s Puppet Petting Zoo”, with Ron as the good doctor, a crowd favorite for many years at Fairyland’s Puppet Fair.



Moving to join our guild from San Diego, arrived Nick Barone (1986 - 2014), who changed the face of Bay Area puppetry. Nick moved to follow his fiancé Rose Sage and to create Nick Barone Puppets. Nick’s brand of humor, and clever puppetry, made him a “must see” show. Besides being a fantastic performer, Nick was very giving with his time in helping guild members solve problems. Since his passing, the Guild has always held an annual Nick Barone Workshop Day, teaching Nick’s techniques, style and generosity.



Another “must see” performer was Roger Mara (1969 - 2007), who with partner Elizabeth Luce (1965 - present) formed Snapdragon Puppets. Roger was a genius with mechanical puppetry, with which he created intelligent, intricate puppets and gimmicks. He received an UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence, and the two of them won an Emmy in 2000 for their video production of “The Mousecracker.” Elizabeth designed most of Roger’s shows and sets, while Roger performed them solo for sadly only 15 years. When Roger passed, Elizabeth moved back to L.A. and formed Luce Puppet Company. Elizabeth designs puppets for various puppeteers, and has received many awards for design in the theatrical arts. Elizabeth was also one of the guild’s early teen members when she joined in the 70s.

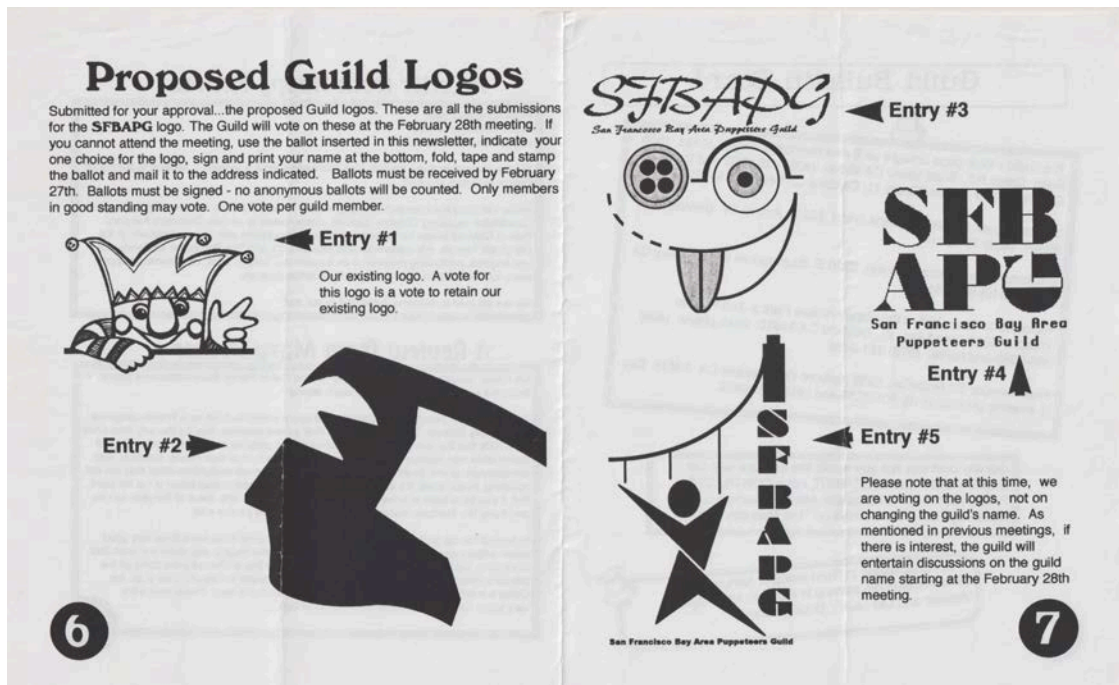


And speaking of teen members, twin brothers Patrick and Sean Johnson (1993 - present) brought their unique style of puppetry to our guild in '93 and set in motion a flurry of upgrades that helped bring our guild into the 21st century. The brothers began as Johnson Brothers Puppets, and soon became Swazzle, the company they now run, named for the reed device that produces Punch’s voice. They have designed puppets for film and television, toured their shows extensively, and worked closely with The Jim Henson Company. They are also graphic artists, muralists and stop motion puppeteers.



I mentioned that our guild was about to undergo many upgrades.

What is the future of our guild? Should we have an overhaul? These are some of the changes we discussed. First came the “Newsletter Wars”. I joke. For years we only had a typed up... pasted...run off... monthly newsletter. The younger crowd thought it was time to use computers to create a “slick” item, that can then be digitally sent, rather than the hard copy that was mailed. You can imagine the difficult birth that this idea went through. Bi-monthly Newsletters vs. 1 page bulletins? We tried both, and monthly news won out. And, we still sent out hard copies of our digitized newsletters for many years for those who wanted them. But with this idea came a new realization: not many people had the computer skills for this type of newsletter production. From June '89 through 1999, we were lucky to have members who gave of their time for this task. Over the years, they included Lettie Schubert, Kitty Adams, Kathy Dodge, Lisa Pletka, Elizabeth Luce, Rose Sage-Barone, Sean & Patrick Johnson, Sam Hale, Brian Stokes, Susan Woolner, Greg Hayes, Talib and Olivia Huff, and of course Michael Nelson. It finally evolved into what you see today. We even called the newsletter “The Puppet Stage” for awhile. The guild also voted to try to find some sort of insurance program for its members. (See insurance offered to P. Of A. Members) Should the Guild become a non-profit? (This idea was really unpopular with the Puppeteers of America.) And then came our Logo discussions. A few felt that the jester icon was “too old, vintage, out of date?” They favored trendy logos like the ones used by Apple, Nike, Target and other modern companies. A contest was suggested to come up with a new look, and perhaps a change of our guild name?



When the air cleared, our Jester icon, and our name, remained strong and true. This time period also saw the introduction of annual, overnight meetings, held on Angel Island for 6 years. These overnight puppet sessions were very popular and were hosted by guild member Ranger Dan Winkelman who was also a featured cartoon character, along with our guild, in the comic strip “Farley” by Phil Frank. We also partnered with San Francisco’s Climate Theater for the rest of the decade, in order to promote unique and unusual puppetry that up to this point did not have an outlet for performance. Climate Theater was also a co-producer of the National Puppeteers of America Festival - Puppetry '93. Over all, we were doing something right. Remember, we were awarded the Outstanding Guild Citation!

And like the diverse proposals our guild was deciding on, our guildmembers also were diverse in the talents they shared with our members. Michael Wick brought his sculpting talents to puppet projects by Images in Motion, Lucas Films and stop motion companies. He also led many workshops showing beginners some of the “secrets” of the trade.



Anita Coulter, and her soon to be husband Jeff Pidgeon, shared their organizational skills and lectures of what it's like to work at Pixar.



Karen Prell (1980 - present) and Mike Quinn (1972 - present) moved from England to the Bay Area, joined our guild, and related their experiences of working on “Fraggle Rock”, Lucas Films, various Henson projects and their current jobs at Pixar Studios.



Mary Nagler (1972 - present) pursued puppet knowledge wherever she could. She has a degree from Ringling Bros. Clown College, a B.A. in Fine Arts and an M.F.A. in puppetry from the University of Connecticut. She also teaches college level puppetry and multicultural puppet classes.



Brian Patterson (1990 - present) and Heidi Wohlwend of Piccolo Puppet Players, were always willing to share with members the art of the Renaissance and "Punch and Judy". Brian is the son of the founders of the Renaissance Pleasure Faire and the Great Dickens Christmas Fair.



For those who love Object Puppetry and Theater, Liebe Wetzel (1996 -present) founded Lunatique Fantastique in San Francisco. Liebe taught many a seminar on clowning, mime, masks, Commedia and assorted theatrical skills. She uses the puppetry of found objects to make difficult material more readily accessible to an audience.



And, of course, as usual, our Guild members were always ready to step in and make difficult tasks seem simple. Guild member Randel McGee (1976 - present) was not only a top notch storyteller and ventriloquist, he was also the Regional Director for our area and the Puppeteers of America. His job was to supervise all of the guilds in the Pacific Southwest and unite them in the P. Of A. Organization. He has received an UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence and the P. Of A. Trustee Award for Outstanding Service.



And to keep us all working, and easy to find, volunteer Rose Sage-Barone worked with guild members in 1999 to create The Resource Directory. This bound volume was given to libraries, businesses and individuals looking to hire members of our guild. It listed all interested members who did shows, workshops, designing, teaching and building of puppets & props. Listing was free with membership. Rose also ran the online Puppetry Home Page, a free resource for the puppet community and dedicated to helping people connect with the world of puppetry.



And now, before we run out of room, here's to all the unsung guild volunteers who made us look so good: Nan Baldwin, Evy Berman, Margaret Bloom, Pam Brown, Anita Coulter, Maggie Ford, Sean Grady, Sam Hale, Elisheva Hart, Ron & Barbara Johnson, Jonathan Korfhage, Martin Leon, Elizabeth Luce, Rocky Lum, Tim & Lan Miller, Valerie Nelson, Forrest Patton, Mark Sage, Patty Sempelsz, Svetlana Smelansky, Tia Smirnoff, Sandra Starr, Brian Stokes, Georgette Twain, Pam Wade, Gale Warshawsky and Rob Witt! And all ably guided by our 90s Presidents: Michael Nelson, Lee Armstrong, Kamala Portuges, Mary Decker, Sean & Patrick Johnson and Nick Barone.

As the 90s wound down we began to see that puppetry had established a circular cycle over the years. From classical puppetry, to shadows, to marionettes, to stop motion, to political expression, to Muppet style, to film and television, to found objects, masks and Avant- garde, to the theatrical stage and back to classical forms once again.

As history shows us, what goes around - comes around. And with all the new technology and connectivity available to fellow puppeteers all over the world, where could the 21st century possibly take our vibrant guild? Let's find out...shall we? Next issue.

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.

