



### **Guild Board and Officers**

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### **Dear Fellow Puppeteers and Guild Members,**

This month I wanted to take a moment to reach out to all of you about opportunities to get more involved with our beloved puppetry guild.

### **We Need You!**

Our guild is only as strong as its members, and right now, we're looking for some enthusiastic volunteers to help keep our puppet strings untangled and our shows running smoothly. Whether you have a few hours to spare or are

looking for a more regular commitment, we have a spot for you!

### **Hospitality Hero Wanted**

Are you the type who loves to make sure everyone feels welcome and well-fed? We're on the hunt for a Hospitality Coordinator to bring a touch of warmth to our meetings. This role involves:

- Bringing a couple of tubs filled with paper plates, cups, napkins, and plastic cutlery to events and meetings
- Coordinating the occasional potluck (because who doesn't love a good puppet-themed potluck?)

It's a great way to meet everyone in the guild and ensure our gatherings are always stocked with the essentials.

### **Storage Savior Needed**

Calling all organizers and space-finding wizards! We're in dire need of a storage solution for our guild's treasures. We've got hospitality boxes, raffle items, banners, and various puppet paraphernalia that need a home. If you've got ideas or connections for storage options, we'd love to hear from you.

### **Become a Star Reporter**

Do you have a way with words and a passion for puppetry? We're looking for a reporter to join our newsletter team. This is your chance to spotlight our amazing members, cover guild events, and keep everyone in the loop about the wonderful world of puppetry.

### **Something for Everyone**

These are just a few of the roles we're looking to fill, but there are plenty more opportunities available. Whether you can spare a few hours a month or are ready to dive into weekly duties, we have a volunteer position that's perfect for you.

### **Why Volunteer?**

Volunteering with the guild isn't just about helping out—it's about being part of something magical. It's a chance to:

- Make new puppet-loving friends
- Learn new skills (ever wanted to master the art of puppet storage tetris?)
- Have a say in how our guild runs
- Feel the warm fuzzies of giving back to our puppetry community

Plus, let's be honest, it's a great excuse to talk about puppets even more than you already do!

### **Let's Puppet Together!**

Remember, our guild is like a giant puppet show—it takes many hands working together to make the magic happen. Whether you're a seasoned puppeteer or just starting out, your skills and enthusiasm are valuable to us.

If you're interested in any of these positions or have ideas for other ways you'd like to contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can catch me after our next meeting, send me an email at [president@sfbapg.org](mailto:president@sfbapg.org), or even send a carrier pigeon (just kidding about the pigeon—unless you actually have one, in which case, that's awesome and we definitely need to talk).

Thank you for being part of our puppetry family. Together, we can make our guild even more fantastic than it already is!

Puppetly yours,

Talib Huff

Guild President

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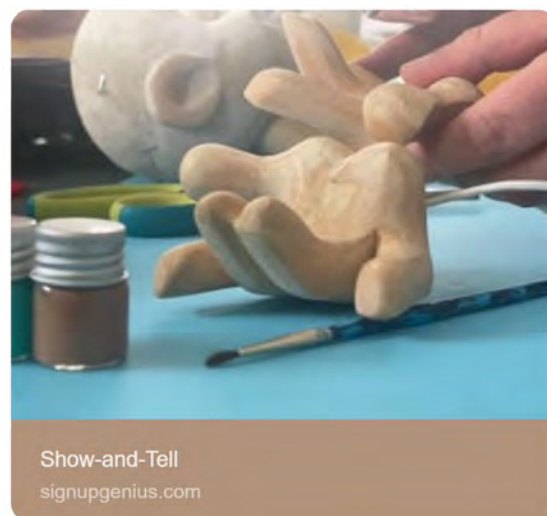
## Next Guild Event-Show and Tell

Join us Friday, February 28th via zoom at 6pm pacific for another Guild Show-and-Tell! There are 15 slots available for presenters. Each gets 3 minutes to share their project at any stage of completion. No project to share? No problem!

Sign up to support your fellow guild members, ask questions and cheer as an audience member.

There will be 10 minutes after all presenters for Q&A as well as a live chat available throughout.

Looking forward to seeing what you're working on!



[Sign up for the Feb. 28 Show and Tell!](#)

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## The Guild Holiday Party

Talib Huff

The San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild (SFBAPG) recently held its annual holiday party, bringing together puppet enthusiasts for a day of festive cheer and creative performances. Hosted at the Naval Museum in Vallejo for the second consecutive year, the event showcased the guild's vibrant community spirit and the diverse talents of its members.

One of the highlights of the gathering was the much-anticipated raffle, featuring an array of puppets generously donated by Folkmanis, a renowned puppet manufacturer, as well as contributions from guild members. This exciting opportunity allowed attendees to potentially take home unique, handcrafted puppets, adding an element of surprise and delight to the festivities.





The centerpiece of the event was undoubtedly Art Grueneberger's puppet show, "Tommy's Space Adventure." Attendees were treated to a spectacular performance that seamlessly blended traditional puppetry with cutting-edge digital effects. The show's innovative use of technology captivated the audience, demonstrating the evolving nature of the puppetry art form and its ability to incorporate modern elements while maintaining its timeless charm.



Perhaps the most entertaining segment of the party was the "Puppetathlon," a creative competition that put puppeteers' skills to the test. Three teams of volunteer puppeteers maneuvered Bunraku-style puppets through an obstacle course inspired by the popular TV show "American Ninja Warrior." This whimsical challenge not only showcased the puppeteers' dexterity and teamwork but also provided plenty of laughs for spectators. True to the guild's inclusive spirit, all participants were celebrated as winners, emphasizing the joy of participation over competition.



Wendy Morton received the President's award for her contributions to the art of puppetry. Wendy, a noted shadow puppeteer with many film credits, has retired as marketing manager from Folkmanis. She plans to continue as liaison, connecting puppeteers with the Folkmanis company. She is also interested in exploring different methods of shadow puppetry, including making videos and stop-motion puppetry. In addition, she hopes to do video versions of shows she has performed live. Wendy plans to have a very busy retirement!



The Naval Museum in Vallejo proved to be an excellent venue for the SFBAPG's holiday gathering. Its spacious layout accommodated the various activities, while the theater upstairs offered an additional space for members to explore and potentially inspire future performances.

This annual event serves as a testament to the SFBAPG's commitment to fostering a sense of community among puppeteers, as well as promoting the art of puppetry in all its forms. From traditional techniques to modern innovations, the holiday party demonstrated the guild's embrace of diverse puppetry styles and its dedication to keeping this ancient art form alive and thriving in the Bay Area.



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## Non-Profit Status for the Guild

Big news for the guild! The board has voted to pursue nonprofit (NPO) and tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3). This could open exciting new opportunities, and we want you to be part of the decision-making process.

Join us for a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 PM** to discuss the pros and cons. We'll explain the benefits, responsibilities, and what this means for the guild's future. Bring your questions and thoughts!

**Link:** <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84974402168?pwd=YUTSXVDtp6lmZ9hTIFkGK1Xd60sLib.1>

**Meeting ID:** 849 7440 2168

**Passcode:** NPO

After the meeting, a ballot will be emailed to all members on **Wednesday, February 14th**. Cast your vote, and we'll share the results in the **March newsletter**.

### Why Go Nonprofit?

- **More Funding:** Access to grants, discounts, and tax-deductible donations
- **Credibility:** Signals we're a mission-driven organization.
- **Collaboration:** Easier to partner with others and expand outreach.

### What's the Catch?

- **Paperwork:** Annual reports, financial records, and compliance.
- **Accountability:** Transparency with members, donors, and the public.
- **Planning:** Long-term growth strategies.

This is a big step, and your input is crucial. Mark your calendar for February 6th and look out for the ballot on the 14th. Thanks for your support and dedication—we can't wait to shape the future together!

**Editor's Note:** This change would require changes to the guild bylaws. You can find the proposed changes at the end of this newsletter. Members will be required to vote on the new bylaws before this change in the guild can proceed.

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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 at [www.sfbapg.org](http://www.sfbapg.org) then select Resources, then Library.

**To Request a Book:** Peruse the online 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 mail it back to Guild Librarian Lee Armstrong at 720 Ladera Dr., Sonoma, CA 95476.

**Note:** The Library is a free service, but borrowers need to have been members for 6 months. If not, and you'd like to borrow, you can leave a check with the librarian for the amount of the book. When you return the book, you get the check back.

## Board Member Library Recommendation from Samuel McGinnis



*"At the Holiday party I returned a library DVD that I had checked, performed by one of my favorite puppeteers, Burr Tillstrom. This was Volume 1 of "Kukla Fran and Ollie". The Guild library has volume two as well. I am a long time fan of this show from VHS tapes my grandfather showed me as a kid. Now as a puppet content creator myself I find a lot of value in watching this show. Some of the technical and physical aspects of the program may not live up to our expectations but the movement and sensibilities of the show I believe are timeless.*

*I highly recommend that you check out the DVDs and I am also donating this yearbook which was a mail away promotional book released in the 1950s. Featuring very rare photos from the show I've had it in my own personal puppet library and would like to share it with the guild.*

*I also would like to highlight one of my favorite works from Burr Tillstrom's "Berlin Wall". I believe this clip is a good representation of some of the more non-physical aspects of the show that I really enjoy."*

[https://youtu.be/RCRvarruS9g?si=1qF9ZE\\_SyJTlgjNv](https://youtu.be/RCRvarruS9g?si=1qF9ZE_SyJTlgjNv)



Burr Tillstrom created this simple yet evocative hand ballet about the human toll of the Berlin Wall for the satirical TV show, "That Was the Week That Was" in 1964. The intro is spoken by Elliott Reid and there's a tape crease at the beginning, but, hey, it's a 46 year old TV show -- yet it's every bit as moving today in a world where we still build walls (and other things) to divide and demoralize people.

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## Master Workshop and Puppeteer Job Listing

from Mathew Purdon

1) We are hosting Donovan Zimmerman of Paperhand Puppets for an amazing master workshop at the O'Hanlon Center for the Arts in Mill Valley. You can find all the information here:

<https://woander.store/puppet-workshop>

2) I am actively hiring puppeteers for our immersive theatre experience this spring. Here is the job description:

<https://woander.store/pupeteers>

Anyone who is interested in learning more about either can email me directly at [matthew@woanderworld.com](mailto:matthew@woanderworld.com)



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**Proposed text for guild bylaw changes.** These changes will require a vote of the membership. A ballot will be shared with you at a later date, so this is a time to read and then discuss (see the article above regarding non-profit status for the guild)

## Proposed Change to the Bylaws

### ARTICLE I – NAME AND LOCATION

The official name of this Corporation shall be THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA PUPPETEERS GUILD (SFBAPG).

**The official location of this Corporation shall be determined by the Board of Directors**

**The official mailing address for the Corporation shall be determined by the Board of Directors and published on the SFBAPG website.**



## ARTICLE VI -- DUTIES OF BOARD OFFICERS

**Section 1. Subject to applicable laws, these Bylaws, and the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Directors shall manage and direct the business and affairs of the Corporation.**

**Section 2. President.** The President shall be the chief officer of the organization and shall preside over all Board and general membership meetings. In general, the President shall supervise and guide the business, activities and officers of the organization; and shall see that orders, directives and resolutions of the Board are implemented.

**Section 3. Vice President.** In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the President, and when so acting, be subject to the prescribed restrictions on the President's office. The Vice President shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization's bylaws and the Board.

**Section 4. Secretary.**

**4.1** The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept, an accurate record of the proceedings of all Board meetings, and all general membership meetings. The Secretary shall duplicate and distribute copies of meeting minutes to all Elected Board Members and Appointed Officers.

**4.2** The Secretary shall receive, preserve and file all documents and papers relating to the business of the organization; and shall regularly update and keep a register of all Board Members, Appointed Officers, and committee members.

**Section 5. Membership Officer.**

**5.1** The Membership Officer shall maintain a roster of current members; shall publish the annual Guild Membership Directory; and shall disseminate one copy of the Guild Membership Directory to each membership unit. The Membership Officer shall pass new email addresses to the Email Coordinator and shall inform the Newsletter Editor of any members who wish to receive the Newsletter via postal mail rather than email. The Membership Officer shall seek out and encourage new members.

**5.2** The Membership Officer shall maintain the hardcopy membership form and shall oversee the membership form on the Guild web site.

**5.3** The Membership Officer shall collect dues from members and shall deposit said dues into the Guild bank account. The Membership Officer shall inform the Treasurer in a timely manner of all financial transactions.

**Section 6. Treasurer.**

**6.1** The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the organization, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses.

**6.2** Within thirty days after the end of each membership year, the Treasurer shall submit to all Board Members a written Annual Financial Report on the organization's financial condition, including a detailed account of all the previous year's transactions and balances, as well as a Summary Financial Report to be published in one of the organization's official publications. Six months after the end of the membership year, the Treasurer shall submit to all Board Members a written Mid-Year Financial Report of all transactions that have taken place since the Annual Financial Report.

**6.3 Treasure will file all required Not-for-Profit paperwork and taxes to maintain corporation status.**

## ARTICLE XIV -- DISSOLUTION

**The properties and assets of this Not-for-Profit Corporation are irrevocably dedicated to public, educational or charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings, properties or assets of this Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private person or individual.**

In the event that the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild dissolves, the net assets remaining after the discharge of all obligations shall be transferred to a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization or organizations whose mission is

to further the art of puppetry. At the time of dissolution, the recipient organization(s) shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Elected Officers.



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