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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is very newsy newsletter, so use the 'view this email in your browser link at the top or use the 'view the rest of this email' link at the bottom to see the whole newsletter! (It now says "End of Newsletter" at the end so you know you saw it all.)

**DON'T MISS "Folkmanis & More" JUNE ZOOM
Friday, June 12 at 6 pm**



The June Zoom will share video, live shorts, puppet build ideas and more. As part of the Guild's year-long celebration of Folkmanis' 50th Anniversary, this Zoom has a (loosely!) Folkmanis theme. So far we have some very fun video shorts using Folkmanis puppets and some creative puppeteers showing their adaptations of Folkmanis puppets.

At the June Zoom you're invited to share:

Guild Board and Officers

President

Talib Huff

president@sfbapg.org

CO-Vice Presidents

CE Choy

bokchoyspuppets@gmail.com

Secretary

Lee Armstrong

secretary@sfbapg.org

Treasurer

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Lisa Zagone

David Garden

Heather Gobbée

Library

Lee Armstrong

library@sfbapg.org

Newsletter

Michael Nelson

newsletter@sfbapg.org

A short live skit or video using a Folkmanis puppet
Ways you've adapted or customized a Folkmanis puppet
Your story about using Folkmanis puppets in the classroom, to entertain your cat, or...?

Everyone who presents something with a Folkmanis theme will receive their choice of one free [Folkmanis Mini Finger Puppet](#) for participating, as a thank you gift from the Folkmanis company, so sign up today! (minis can be picked up at the Fairyland event this summer or mailed to you)

Reminder: non guild members can sign up and participate (and get a puppet) too!

And of course, we also have the "More" category:

A new puppet or recent video

A work-in-progress

A material or technique you've discovered

Anything puppet-related that sparks joy!

You're welcome to present OR simply join as an audience member and applaud wildly. Presentations are up to three minutes, followed by time for questions and feedback.

👉 **Save your spot (presenter OR audience) at...**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4BAEAB2AA7FC1-64103349-june>

You'll receive the Zoom link after signing up. Hope to see you at the June Zoom!

Upcoming Events

Calling Puppeteers: Giant Puppets in the Vallejo July 4 Parade



Each July 4th guild and community members gather in Vallejo to wrangle giant puppets in the Vallejo 4th of July parade. Step off for the parade is at 10am and we

are usually done walking by 11:15am. After a quick pack up, puppeteers head a few blocks away to Michael and Valerie Nelson's house for a cookout lunch. Photos above and below show puppets being assembled and prepped for last year's parade. Vallejo generally has the best July 4 weather in the Bay Area and we always have a blast. Anyone who wants to join us can contact the Nelsons at mail@magicalmoonshine.org. **(Please let us know if you are coming as we need to know how many puppets to bring to the parade.)**



PUPPET EVENTS ON GUILD CALENDAR

Want to know where you can see great puppet shows, puppet workshops and more? Turn to the **Guild Calendar on our website <https://sfbapg.org/events/calendar/>**. Lots of puppet info, including Terry Fator's next show. Join character designer and Muppet Creature Shop Alum Michael Schupbach (Sesame Street, Bear in the Big Blue House, Avenue Q., Ms. Rachel) where you'll build your own Muppet-style puppet from scratch! Scroll to the bottom for the Calendar for info on shows at Oakland's Fairyland, Happy Hollow and Bay Area puppet companies. Do you know of an upcoming event involving puppets or want to publicize yours? **Send info to events@sfbapg.org** And a big thank you to Jason Lee and Michael Nelson for updating our Calendar.

Many libraries are offering puppet experiences as part of their summer program, such as the Menlo Park Puppet Festival. As this might not be in the calendar yet, here it is below, with many Guild members giving shows, including Pop & Go, The Puppet Company, Fratello Marionettes, Puppet Art Theater and Possibly Puppets! And Magical Moonshine Theatre is touring Sonoma Libraries this summer. Check for puppet events at your local library.

Menlo Park Summer Puppetry Festival 2026

We're presenting our 9th Annual Summer Puppetry Festival! Menlo Park celebrates puppetry in its many forms, with a series of puppet shows and related events featuring beloved performers from throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Drop in for one event or join us for the entire series.

Performances:

6/28, 11am Pop and Go Puppets: Wildspaces!	Belle Haven Libr.
7/9, 10:15a The Puppet Company: Tall Tales	Menlo Park Library
7/26, 11am Fratello Marionettes: The Art of the Puppet	Belle Haven Libr.
7/30, 10:15am Puppet Art Theater: Tommy's Space Adventure	Menlo Park Library
8/23, 11am Possibly Puppets: Save the Day for Snail	Belle Haven Libr.

Note: Menlo Park Library performances are outside, on the library lawn.

Other events:

6/15, 6pm The Science & Psychology of Muppet Design	Menlo Park Library
7/18, 2pm Create Shadow Puppets (Ages 8-Adult)	Belle Haven Libr.
8/12, 1pm Meet Mallory Lewis (viewing)	Virtual, + MP/BH
8/26, 6pm Documentary: Shari & Lamb Chop	Menlo Park Library

For more info/show and workshop descriptions go to <https://menlopark.gov/puppetry>.

Member News

SWAZZLE at the 48hr Film Fest Short



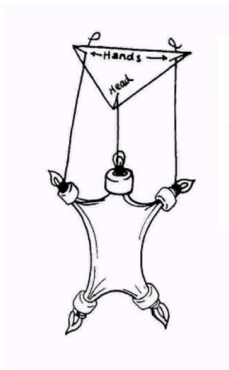
Swazzle recently made a short film for the Handmade Puppet Dreams 48 Hour Puppet Film Project 2026. The short film, titled "Flight", is about a baby bird that flies for the first time and the amazing sights it sees.

The film incorporates the theme "movement," and the action "nudge," along with the required item, wood. In the words of judge Dan Garza, "The story was honest, and it

just felt so earnest. I effortlessly cried. And that says volumes." Thank you Dan for your kind words! [Flight, a Swazzle Short Film](#)

Take the time to view all of the amazing, creative submissions below as well at [48 Hr Puppet Film Project](#) sponsored by Heather Henson's Green Feather Foundation

A Gathering of Various Puppet and Art Projects



With a slinky scarf and some string and wooden beads you can make an easy marionette with magical movement.



Above, one of a growing number of puppet projects-

Your newsletter editor has written a fantasy novel for ages 8 and up and is releasing it as a serial (both text and audio) on Substack with accompanying DIY projects. Posts will continue weekly (you can subscribe for free) and there will be a growing number of puppet (and non-puppet) projects in the [Projects section](#) of the website. Many of these current and future puppet projects evolved during 19 years of teaching puppets and drama for elementary aged kids. Feel free to use these projects with kids, adults, in the classroom, or whatever.

Spoiler Alert: There are no puppets in book one, *The Last Grizzly Bear*. However, book two, *The Pixie Rider Code*, features a pixie who joins a traveling marionette troupe, possibly loosely based on Magical Moonshine Theatre's travels.

Enjoy the projects, and help out by sharing the links with anyone you think might enjoy the fun.

More photos from the SF Folkmanis Guild Event!



Rods and Strings



Under The Puppet is back with a brand new episode and this month my guest is Nicolas Coppola. Nicolas Coppola became enchanted by puppetry at an early age. This enchantment led to a life of building, performing and running puppet companies that has lasted over 70 years. He created shows for The Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. and had a long standing job creating shows and performing at Macy*s in New York City. He also created PuppetWorks, a non-profit marionette theater in Park Slope Brooklyn, New York that has entertained families since 1980. I chat with Nicolas Coppola about his amazing career on this new episode available wherever you get your podcasts or over at underthepuppet.com Also, don't miss the latest installment of our video series, Puppeteers React where two puppeteer react to famous, and not so famous, puppetry videos. This episode we take a look at a rare Frank Oz puppet piece called The Sunday Painter. Check it out here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-P6ei9xiqs>
Grant Baciocco Puppeteer. Creator. grant@throwingtoasters.com MrGrant.com
IG - @throwingtoasters

Help Identifying Puppets?



My name is Terry and I was hoping you could help me solve a mystery. Twentyish years ago, I acquired a ballerina rabbit marionette from the Alameda Art and Wine Faire, followed by a calico cat marionette from the same event a few years later. Unfortunately, I have no idea who the maker was since I was a child then and my research into what vendors were at the Faire back in 2006/2007 has not been very fruitful. I was hoping you all might be able to help! Here's a picture of my marionettes, perhaps the style might be familiar? If you have info, contact newsletter@sfbapg.org

KidStock 2026 is looking for Puppeteers!

Event Date: Saturday, August 15, 2026 | **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Pioneer Park, Downtown Mountain View

KidStock 2026 Participation Registration Form

KidStock 2026 offers a dynamic opportunity to connect and engage with Silicon Valley families. It's also a GREAT way to showcase your small business or organization as part of a fun, community-focused event. If you would like to be considered to participate in this year's event, please let us know more about your act and/or services, any operational or technical requirements, and more by submitting expressed interest [here](#). They are looking for volunteers, but there's a place in the form to request an honorarium.

Kristina Perino, Senior Recreation Coordinator, 650-903-6088 | MountainView.gov
