



# San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!**

March 2013

## The "Goodbye to the Flu and Cold Season" Issue!

(We hope!)



PuppetMaster: Stopping The Flu With Puppet Power  
from [http://junkyardarts.com/weird-wild-wonderful/  
puppetmaster-stopping-the-flu-with-puppets/](http://junkyardarts.com/weird-wild-wonderful/puppetmaster-stopping-the-flu-with-puppets/)

### *In this issue:*

- Save the Dates (Upcoming Meetings)
- More Memories of Howie Leifer
- Hello From Herbert Lange
- A Message From the President of the P of A
- Scholarship News
- There's An App For That
- Calendar
- And a a little tidbit at the end...

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**WebMaster**  
Position Open

# Save the Date(s)

The Programs committee has agreed on the following dates and locations for 2013:

- Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 6 at Happy Hollow Park and Zoo in San Jose
- Summer Meeting/Puppet Faire on Saturday, August 24 at Fairyland
- A Mini-Meeting with Lee Armstrong for TV Puppetry and Movie Night is penciled in for September -North Bay
- Mini-Meeting to attend open dress rehearsal for "Driveway Follies" on Wednesday, October 30 - Oakland
- Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 9 -San Francisco
- Holiday Party 2014 on Sunday, January 26 -North Bay

If anyone has a suggested meeting place for the November meeting in San Francisco, please contact Jesse Vail.

Dear Friends, we wanted to remind you of this Celebration of Life coming up on March 11, 2013. We hope many of you can make it.

From Leslie Adams:  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are deeply saddened to announce that on Saturday, January 5th our beloved former art teacher, Howie Leifer, passed away. Howie died peacefully in the company of his brother. We will be hosting a celebration of Howie's life in our Arts Pavilion (66 Page Street, San Francisco, CA 94117) on Monday, March 11th at 5pm. Please join us as we share memorable stories and honor Howie's many contributions to French American and International. Please RSVP to: [crystal@frenchamericansf.org](mailto:crystal@frenchamericansf.org)

If you would like to share your memories or favorite stories of Howie please feel free to send a video or a written piece to [crystal@frenchamericansf.org](mailto:crystal@frenchamericansf.org)

Please pass this message on to others who knew Howie.

Regards,  
Leslie



## HOWIE LEIFER *A Celebration of Life*



**MARCH 11, 2013 | 5PM- 8PM**

FRENCH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
DENNIS GALLAGHER ARTS PAVILION  
66 PAGE STREET

RSVP to [crystal@frenchamericansf.org](mailto:crystal@frenchamericansf.org)

# Reviews and News

## HOWIE

by Elisheva Hart

Howie used to live and liven up San Francisco. Everyone knew Howie. Howie knew everyone. Everywhere my friend David and I went, Howie was there. Everyone else agreed this happened to them. After meeting him unexpectedly in the middle of the night at a wedge-shaped postcard and tee shirt shop on the edge of the Italian section I said to David, "Let's make our million selling "Friend of Howie's" tee shirts!"

Quickly thinking of how much work that would be I amended my idea, "No, it'll be a lot easier to sell, "Who is Howie?" tees.

Speaking of tee shirts, Howie LOVED Haight Street (naming his puppet theatre after it) and the SF MIME TROUPE. He had a beloved, much washed black mime troupe tee and just beamed at people who assumed he was a member, not bothering to correct them.

Howie was a gentle soul and not at all a-political. You can tell from some of the photos of his puppets in the Feb. issue of the guild newsletter. In the 80's we had a puppet parade in SF, complete with band, giant puppets, a golden gate bridge with puppets waving from the suspension part, etc. Lettie took a beautifully composed photo of Howie holding a giant political puppet-one of our presidents I think-in front of the SF County and City civic center dome. This was quite a treasure to him.

Howie actually got permission to create a puppet show out of one of Daniel Pinkwater's wonderful, wacky children's books. This was called "Tooth-Gnasher Superflash." Daniel used to have a show on National Public Radio (NPR) and Howie was thrilled to hear Daniel say something like, "Some guy out West did a puppet show of it."

Only Howie would get on a ferry to a Guild meeting on Angel Island and have the ferry turn back to SF ferry building when they were just a few hundred yards from their goal. There was smoke in the nether mechanical parts of the ferry. They had to disembark, get onto a new one and, of course, arrive late to the party!

Speaking of parties, once the Guild had an outdoor picnic-I think at Angel Island, I was impressed at his determination-and his contribution was several boxes of not yet dripping bonbons! (Ice cream balls covered in chocolate). I was so amazed he did this and asked why. "Because they're my favorite dessert," answered Howie. With his generous nature, he brought enough for us all to share too.

Once Howie and I were on a panel at the guild meeting sharing tips, etc. re performing for birthday parties and at other children's gatherings. He said every time he did one, a toddler would root itself in front of the stage and shout, "PUPPY SHOW" at the stage, many times over. I was amazed. I have done many shows, and this never happened to me!

Howie used to chuckle over the time when he was working in a Chinatown Preschool. One day during naps, the child he was with sat bolt upright and said in astonishment, "Howie, your hair is not black, it is RED!" He'd been there already a few weeks.

Howie moved to NYC in time to have us all worried during 9-11 because he lived near the towers. Luckily he was fine and blessed our world with at least a decade more of his presence.

"Come, let us shut up the box and the puppets, for his play is played out." (Paraphrased from the final page of "Death Notes", an Inspector Wexford Mystery, by Ruth Rendell).

Dear SFBAPG members,

On a recent puppetry tour in Northern Germany, I decided to do some promotion "the traditional Lettie Schubert way". It all worked out perfectly well! Little Rumpelstiltskin on display moving cheerfully about between all these Christmas books drew a nice crowd of smiling and curious folks into the store... Greetings from Bremen to all you fellow puppeteers in CA,  
xxx Herbert Lange



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Hello Puppetry Guilds,

If you don't know me, my name is Nick Hubbard. I'm a member of the Puppeteers of Puget Sound in Washington state, and also the President of the Board of Trustees of the Puppeteers of America.

As you may know, the Puppeteers of America was founded in 1937 by a group of artists eager to make their collective passion for our art form official. In a way, the organization they started was a guild, spread out across the country. This collective of puppeteers grew, evolved, and eventually became a non-profit that provides information, encourages performances, and builds a community of people who love puppet theatre. The Puppeteers of America offers grants, scholarships, a quarterly publication (The Puppetry Journal) and opportunities to come together.



These days, we are still committed to providing those services, and supporting the strong network of guilds that exists from Hawaii to Maine. This August, we will hold the 2013 National Puppetry Festival in Swarthmore, PA. We hope you and other members of your guild will join us at the festival, and show your pride by participating in our Saturday parade with a banner, float, or a troupe of giant puppets. Represent!

We'd also love to hear from you. What do you think will be different about puppetry in 5 years because your organization exists? What can the Puppeteers of America do to help you reach that vision for your guild? Board of Trustees Vice President & Guild Liaison Art Grueneberger can be reached here: [puppetartssacramento@gmail.com](mailto:puppetartssacramento@gmail.com).

Be on the look-out for more Puppeteers of America updates in future newsletters. We look forward to serving our puppetry community together.

Regards,  
Nick Hubbard

Nick Hubbard  
President  
Board of Trustees  
The Puppeteers of America  
[www.puppeteers.org](http://www.puppeteers.org)

## From the Scholarship Committee:

Anyone interested in attending the National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and would like to apply for a Guild scholarship should apply now. Contact either Mary Nagler or Art Gruenberger. There are great workshops and opportunities for performance. It's like summer camp for puppeteers! Some great luminaries to learn from this year. Check it out at: [www.theoneill.org](http://www.theoneill.org)



## From the site:

About the O'Neill

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center is the country's preeminent organization dedicated to the development of new works and new voices for American theater. It has been home to more than 1,000 new works for the stage and to more than 2,500 emerging artists. Scores of projects developed at the O'Neill have gone on to full production at other theaters around the world, including Broadway, Off-Broadway, and major regional theaters. Founded in 1964, the O'Neill is the recipient of two Tony Awards, in 2010 for Regional Theatre, and in 1979 for Theatrical Excellence.

O'Neill programs include the National Playwrights Conference, National Music Theater Conference, National Critics Institute, National Puppetry Conference, Cabaret & Performance Conference, and National Theater Institute which conducts semester-long intensive theater training, including includes Theatermakers, a six-week summer program. Academic credits are awarded for all NTI programs. The O'Neill owns and operates the Monte Cristo Cottage as a museum open to the public. Childhood summer home of Eugene O'Neill, the Cottage is a National Historic Landmark.

For more information, visit [www.theoneill.org](http://www.theoneill.org) or email [theaterlives@theoneill.org](mailto:theaterlives@theoneill.org).

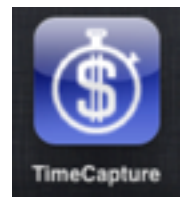
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## There's An App For That (A Semi-Regular Column Used To Fill Empty Space)

by Talib Huff

Do you ever need to keep track of your time on various projects, for various clients, doing various tasks? Then TimeCapture is an app you can put to use immediately. Available for the iPhone, iPod Touch, and the iPad, this is my go-to app for time tracking. A project has a particular client associated with it and can have any of the activities you've set up assigned to it. Activities are also set up with a particular hourly rate which is calculated for you as your time is recorded. You can pause and continue the timer function at any point, which is useful if you get a phone call in the middle of a task. After you finish a timer session you can even go back and adjust the the start or end time if you need to. Whenever you need to bill clients, you can simply send yourself the entries in cvs (spreadsheet readable) format. These can then be sorted and arranged as you like to drop into your invoice.

Do you have a favorite app that works for you? Write it up and send it in. I'll only be writing about Apple apps, since that's all I know.



**Fratello Marionettes**

March 9, 2:00 pm

"Aladdin"

Carmichael Library

Carmichael, CA

March 14, 3:30 pm

"Aladdin"

Lodi Library

Lodi, CA

March 27, 1:00 pm

"Carnival of the Animals"

San Francisco Public Library Puppet Festival

Portola Library @ 380 Bacon Street

San Francisco, CA

March 27, 4:00 pm

"Carnival of the Animals"

San Francisco Public Library Puppet Festival

Mission Bay Library @ 960 4th St. near Berry St.

San Francisco, CA

March 27, 6:30 pm

"Aladdin"

San Francisco Public Library Puppet Festival

Merced Library @ 155 Winston Drive

San Francisco, CA

March 30, 10:00 am

"Aladdin"

San Francisco Public Library Puppet Festival

North Beach Library @ 2000 Mason Street

San Francisco, CA

March 30, 2:00 pm

"Aladdin"

San Francisco Public Library Puppet Festival

Potrero Library @ 1616 20th Street

San Francisco, CA

March 30, 4:00 pm

"Carnival of the Animals"

San Francisco Public Library Puppet Festival

Ocean View Library @ 345 Randolph Street

San Francisco, CA

**Kennedy Puppets**

March 19th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Solano County Fair

**Magical Moonshine Theater**

March 9, 11:00 am

The Golden Armadillo

SF Mission library

March 9, 3:00 pm

Little Elephant Has A Ball

Ortega Branch SF Library

March 11, 3:45pm

The Puppet Man

Woodside Public Library

March 14, 2:00 pm

The Puppet Man

Anza Library SF

March 14, 6:30 pm

The Puppet Man

Marina LibrarySF

March 16, 11:30 pm

Little Elephant Has A Ball

SF Excelsior Library

March 16, 2:30 pm

Golden Armadillo

SF Main Library

**Storybook Puppet Theatre**

Saturdays and Sundays

11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm

The Enchanted Well, Feb. 15–March 31

Beware the Bogart, a mischievous Scottish imp

that likes to live in a well and echo people who

talk into it. And the water from his well is

enchanted—if you spill it on yourself, you can't

stop talking. When this happens to poor Meg

she's forced to try and out-talk the Bogart. Can

she do it? Come visit the Scottish Highlands at

Fairyland and find out. Script by David C

Jones. Puppets & scenery by John Gilkerson

# March 2013

Special tear-out calendar! See Calendar listings for details on events. Due to space limitations, not all times or show titles are listed here.

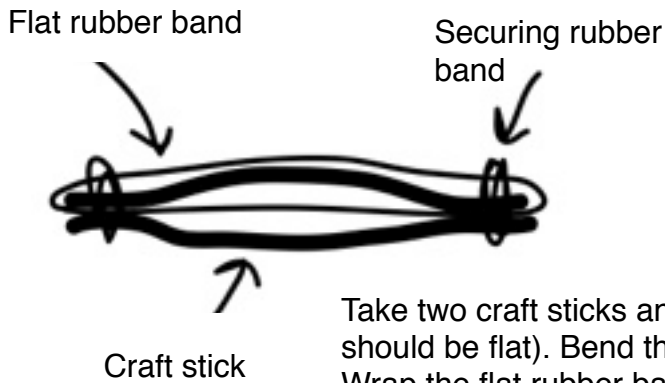
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
						<b>The Enchanted Well</b>
<b>The Enchanted Well</b> 3	4	5	6	7	8	<b>Golden Armadillo</b> <b>The Enchanted Well</b> <b>Aladdin</b> <b>Little Elep...Has a Ball</b>
						9
<b>The Enchanted Well</b> 10	<b>The Puppet Man</b> 11	12	13	<b>The Puppet Man</b> <b>Aladdin</b>	14	15
						<b>Little Elep...Has a Ball</b> <b>Golden Armadillo</b> <b>The Enchanted Well</b>
						16
<b>The Enchanted Well</b> 17	18	<b>Kennedy Puppets</b> 19	20	21	22	<b>The Enchanted Well</b> 23
<b>The Enchanted Well</b> 24	25	26	<b>Carnival of Animals</b> <b>Aladdin</b>	27	28	29
						<b>Aladdin</b> <b>Carnival of Animals</b> <b>The Enchanted Well</b>
						30
<b>The Enchanted Well</b> 31	1	2	3	4	5	6

**Need a Quick Noisemaker?**

Did your sound board just fail and you need someway to make noises for you show? Try these two music (?) makers!



Take a plastic soda straw and cut the end off as shown by the arrows. Place the cut end fully in your mouth and blow hard. You should get a loud buzzing sound (you may need to flick the tips with your tongue).



Take two craft sticks and three rubber bands (one of the bands should be flat). Bend the craft sticks so that they have a slight arch. Wrap the flat rubber band around one of the sticks lengthwise, then place the other craft stick on it and secure with the other two rubber bands. Hum or talk into the gap between the sticks for a kazoo-like sound.