



The official newsletter of  
**San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild**  
*Looking for updates and missed information?  
Check for it at [SFBAPG.ORG](http://SFBAPG.ORG)*

*SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization*

**May 2015**



**Guild Election Ballot at End of Newsletter**

**Guild Board and Officers**

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*Inside this issue:*

Elections for guild board, next guild meeting at Happy Hollow on May 17, puppets and video workshop, classes, review of Puppet Ruckus, Ballot, dues going up?, opening of Canterbury: The Miller's Tale and more

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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It feels like spring.. here in Sacramento it's already hitting 90 degrees, not quite spring anymore! After the treat of seeing Art Gruenberger's "Avenue Q" and having a chance to connect with some Guild members, it's time to look forward to our next big puppetry event, our day at Happy Hollow. You can read about both of these events further on in this newsletter.

Our next membership meeting will be at Happy Hollow May 17, and it will be an important one. We will be seeking your input on the proposed increase in membership dues and electing 3 new Board members (well actually only two NEW members, as Mary Nagler is wanting to serve another term after serving for three years).

Now is the time to profusely thank our outgoing Board member, Elisheva Hart. She has served the club faithfully for more years than I can count, and most recently as a Board member extraordinaire. She has been active on the Program Committee and single-handedly handled hospitality for awhile. She will continue to serve the club in the hospitality area and continue to welcome new and old members to our meetings in her usual, outgoing, supportive manner. Thank you, Elisheva!

Mary Nagler has agreed to continue on the Board and is up for re-election. Mary is the spearhead for the energy behind the new, expanded activities and events that are being offered our members. These past few years she has served as our Treasurer, helping to keep us aware of all our income and expenses. She is relinquishing her position as Treasurer and will be continuing on the Program Committee. Thank you, Mary, for all your treasurer reports and your energy that you have brought to the Board and our guild!

The third Board spot has been vacant since Gregory Hayes relocated to the LA area.

Come to the meeting and vote in person! If you can't come to Happy Hollow you can vote via mail or email (see the voting instructions elsewhere in the newsletter).

In the meantime, put a puppet on your hand and give a face to all the voices in your head!

## NEXT GUILD MEETING

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**HAPPY HOLLOW PARK & ZOO DAY OF PUPPETRY  
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015 10 AM to 5PM  
FOLLOWED BY  
SFBAPG GUILD MEETING 5PM TO 9PM  
AT THE LEARNING LODGE IN HAPPY HOLLOW  
1300 SENTER RD, SAN JOSE 95112**

SFBAPG MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE FREE PARKING AND ENTRANCE FOR THE DAY. ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMEBERS RECEIVE A GROUP RATE OF \$8 PER PERSON. DO COME EARLY WITH A PUPPET SO WE CAN MAKE MORE PUPPET FUN FOR EVERYONE!

**SFBAPG MEMBER FREE ENTRANCE** – GO TO **WILL CALL** WINDOW TO BE VERIFIED FROM THE ROSTER OF SFBAPG MEMBERS.

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THAT TIME FOR \$8.00 EACH.

**PARK IN THE 1300 SENTER ROAD LOT**, AS THE MAIN LOT WILL CLOSE AT SUNSET, AND YOUR CAR WILL BE LOCKED IN WHILE YOU ARE ATTENDING THE MEETING. (WE'LL REMIND YOU!)



**FOR PARKING FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:** -Go to parking paystation, -Press any key to start, -Press "D" on the keypad next to the display. -Enter this code in the keypad below the display: 4015989. -Retrieve the ticket below and place on dashboard

**WE'D LOVE YOUR HELP - NEED YOUR HELP!** – IN MAKING THIS DAY OF PUPPETRY SPECIAL FOR ALL OF OUR GUESTS. PLEASE BRING A FAVORITE CHILD FRIENDLY PUPPET TO STROLL ABOUT WITH, OFFERING OUR GUESTS A "PUPPET DELIGHT". CHECK IN AT THE LEARNING LODGE. VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED FOR:  
**PUPPET MAKING – CHICKENS! & PUPPET PLAY AREA & NICK BARONE PUPPETS DISPLAY**

**!!!SPECIAL DRAWING!!! FOR VOLUNTEERS ONLY** – MARY NAGLER – AMAZING PUPPET CREATOR – HAS OFFERED TO AWARD 1 RAFFLE TICKET TO VOLUNTEERS FOR EVERY HOUR THEY SPEND IN ONE OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES. THE DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GUILD MEETING AND THE WINNING VOLUNTEER TICKET WILL RECEIVE ONE OF MARY'S FABULOUS PUPPETS.

**TO SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER SLOTS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

MAGGIE WILSON, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR [mawilson@alumnae.mills.edu](mailto:mawilson@alumnae.mills.edu) phone [510 364 6410](tel:5103646410)

**PUPPET SHOW SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY OF PUPPETRY:**

AT THE PUPPET CASTLE THEATER:

11am THE ITTY BITTY VARIETY SHOW-Caterpillar Puppets

12pm RUMPELSTILTSKIN

1pm THE ITTY BITTY VARIETY SHOW-Caterpillar Puppets

2pm OLD KING COLE

AT THE MEADOW STAGE

4pm THE MOST WONDERFUL EGG

**GUILD MEETING AT THE LEARNING LODGE** AT 5 PM SHARP FOR ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS, THE GUILD MEETING AND A DELICIOUS CATERED DINNER\* **RESERVE YOUR MEAL IN ADVANCE: CONTACT MARY NAGLER**

**AT:** [mary.nagler@gmail.com](mailto:mary.nagler@gmail.com) or phone [707-303-0093](tel:707-303-0093) PAY AT THE GUILD MEETING

- **DINNER MENU: \$13** BBQ CHICKEN, GARLIC BREAD, GREEN SALAD, CHILI BEANS, BROWNIES, LEMONADE AND WATER (Pay at the meeting)
- **MEETING AGENDA INCLUDES BOARD ELECTIONS AND PUPPET SHOW THE GIFT BY THE INDEPENDENT EYE**

## GUILD ON FIRE!

You might have noticed that our guild has gone through some exciting changes lately. In fact, you could say, "We are on fire!!" Our programming committee has been busy booking terrific talent for shows and workshops. We have increased meetings/events from quarterly to every other month.

In the past year we have had brilliant workshops including: foam carving from Mary Nagler and John Arnold, puppets for TV from Images in Motion, a shadow puppet film and talk from Larry Reed at the Roxie. We have some more exciting workshops coming up from Images in Motion and a Slam workshop.

Our guild is one of the largest and most active in the country, and we want to continue to grow. We made a change last year in our bylaws last year to offer an honorarium for performers and workshop presenters. Some of the venues we have used were donated, such as Fairyland, Happy Hollow, and our Holiday Party venue. Others, like The Roxie were paid for.



One of the tasks the board has is to assure the financial health of our organization. We are currently in good shape financially, but this year we spent more money than we took in. We cannot continue to lose money, or we will eventually run into trouble. Our dues have remained the same for over a decade. The board would like to recommend a \$5 increase to memberships for the coming year to cover increased costs. This is how it will affect members:

Category	Current dues	With increase
Junior	\$10	\$15
General	\$20	\$25
Couple/family	\$25	\$30
Senior	\$15	\$20

We wanted to share the news of the increase with the membership before it goes into effect. We welcome a discussion and input from our members. We all have been in the spot where \$5 was a lot of money. We, as the board appreciate that. If anyone could squeeze blood from a turnip, it is a puppeteer. We, as a board, have wrung out as much blood as the turnip has to offer, and then some. We welcome input from of the group on this matter. If the dues go up, it would be for the 2015-16-membership period. For newcomers who joined after March 1<sup>st</sup>, they will not be affected as they are paid up through August 2015.

### *Beginning TV Puppetry Workshop*

Can't go to the National Festival this year? We'll bring a workshop from the Festival to you! Here is "Beginning TV Puppetry."

If you want to learn the basics of TV Puppetry, this workshop is for you! Participants should have some puppeteering experience, as we will build on this to develop skills in front of the camera. This 4 hour class will cover Use of Monitors, Eye Focus, Breath, Mouth Synchronization, Walks, Armrods, etc. We'll put it all together in front of the camera. The class will also cover some of the important technical aspects, tips and tricks that make for a professional production. Please bring a mouth puppet (armrods, nice but not essential) to use or we will provide an assortment of basic workshop puppets.

Images In Motion, Media Inc. (IIM Inc.) specializes in puppetry for TV and film. The co-directors of IIM Inc, Lee Armstrong & Kamela Portuges, come from performance and art backgrounds and each bring over twenty five years of experience to TV puppetry. Besides producing IIM videos for various clients, credits include Fraggle Rock, Being John Malkovich, Monkeybone, many PBS shows and numerous commercials. More info on IIM at [www.imagesmedia.com](http://www.imagesmedia.com).



Date: Sun June 28 10:30-12:30 and 1:30-3:30  
 Images In Motion Studio, 720 Ladera Dr.,  
 Sonoma  
 Cost: \$40 for Guild members, \$50 for non-Guild members  
 Minimum of 8 participants needed  
 Questions or to register: email Lee at [images@vom.com](mailto:images@vom.com)  
 Questions? [707 996-9474](tel:7079969474)



## *The Art, History and Politics of the American Puppeteer*

This course is being offered by the Osher Learning Center, Olli@SFSU. June 1- July 7. Tuesdays, 6 sessions from 12:30-2:30. Downtown Campus. For more info: <http://olli.sfsu.edu/content/olli-videos/current-courses/xu4p63Y4iTA>

Puppetry is central to some of the oldest forms of art and performance, as well as some of the newest. The artistry of puppetry includes aspects of the visual arts, theatre, music, and dance. Puppets have been used to relay myths, poke fun

at political figures, comment on cultural events of the period, express moral stories, as well as entertain adults and children alike. We will discuss the influences of history and culture which shaped the American puppet, beginning with the father of modern American puppetry, Tony Sarg. Delve into the experimental, social, and political value of performing objects viewing works from Bread and Puppet Theatre and more. The 60's were a pivotal time in the struggle for racial equality. Examine the influence of Jim Henson and "Sesame Street" in American neighborhoods and around the world. View clips from performances that entertain, educate or share political beliefs. Each week will also include a demonstration tailored to the class interest, showing how puppets are built and come to life. Lee Armstrong, TV puppeteer, was hired by Jim Henson in 1982 to work on his Emmy award winning "Fraggle Rock." She has met, or worked with, many of the puppeteers featured in the course material. Film credits include "Being John Malkovich" and "Monkeybone." She is the recipient of two regional Emmys. For over 25 years, she has co-owned Images in Motion, which specializes in bringing art to life, from TV puppetry to 3D printing. She is active in the Bay Area puppetry community, has lectured at UC Santa Cruz and OLLI at Berkeley.

### **HELP WANTED**

Your guild is looking for someone to help with the guild website calendar. This volunteer job would consist of logging in to the guild calendar gmail site once or twice a week and checking to see if there are any new calendar listings, then typing these listings into the guild's google calendar. The guild calendar person would also be encouraged to report puppet related events on the calendar that they know about. Requires the ability to use gmail and Google calendar (not hard to learn) and a willingness to check the mail on a regular basis. If you can help in this way, contact Michael Nelson at [sfbpag@gmail.com](mailto:sfbpag@gmail.com).



### **Outline of Topics**

- Early years: From Tony Sarg, Edgar Bergen, Bil Baird
- Early TV: Burr Tillstrom, Shari Lewis & Bay Area puppeteers
- Political Statements: Bread & Puppet, Heart of the Beast, Wise Fool
- Puppet Intervention
  - The innovations and creativity of Jim Henson
  - Contemporary puppetry: Julie Taymor, Heather Henson, and experimental works in the Bay Area and America.

### FROM ROVING PUPPETEER, MARY NAGLER

Last weekend, April 25th I trekked to Eureka to teach a workshop sponsored by Quack and Wabbit, or guild members to the north! We had a lot of fun and my intrepid students all developed a wonderful creation soon to be seen in puppet stages all around the county. They are a really great bunch of puppeteers and I hope to draw them into our ranks and to some of our events so you can have the pleasure of meeting them too! Here is a picture of our group!

On April 4th, Elisheva Hart, Lex Rudd, Artie Poore, and I attended and participated in the Occidental Silly Parade Day. Here is a picture of our silly selves. Lex and Artie interacted with many of the canines in the parade with Lex's dog puppets, much to the amusement of the crouds!

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### PUPPET RUCKUS, A BRIDGE

#### ELISHEVA HART

Guild member, Elizabeth Leonard, organized and hosted her third "Puppet Ruckus!" on April 11, 2015 to a crowded audience in Vallejo. This family program provides a venue for puppeteers at many stages-from novice, and solo debuter to professionals doing classic literature pieces. With an unjuried-first-come-signup (filled weeks before the event) there is no lack of eager performers.

And a lovely ukulele performer entertains between each puppet presentation while the next act sets up.

Someone viewing the "Puppet Ruckus!" for the first time commented, "A bit rough around the edges." I gleefully agree and frankly like the roughness because this is an opportunity for newbies to start making their chops. If puppeteers of all levels, skills, and talents (developed or not) don't have opportunities to perform in public in appropriate venues, how can they receive that priceless learning which comes from direct audience response? (Indeed the Guild frequently urges the members to arrange to bring bits of a play or act to a meeting for feedback and suggestions. In my many decades of membership I think maybe 2 or 3 ever have. Silly as it is, most of us really want to excel in front of our peers and it is hard to ask for help.)

Elizabeth has developed a 1 page audience critique, handed out at the ticket booth, which really seems effective. We are politely invited to "rate the following on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being 'try again' and 5 being



*Roving puppeteers and dogs*

"excellent"....The sheet of paper has 8 blocks to fill out (4 blocks going up and 2 blocks across), one for each of the 7 puppet performances and 1 for our musician. Each block contains:

The Title and Performer/Group

Loud and clearly spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Amusing story/script \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to see this again \_\_\_\_\_

Puppets well manipulated \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (3 lines to use)

The musician had similar questions pertaining to her music, lyrics, etc.

The "Puppet Rumpus!" is sort of an open mike with advanced reservations, sort of like a talent show, and amateur hour! I suggest Elizabeth come up with a way to state this on her advertising so the ticket buyers will have a clearer idea of what to expect.

Feedback and critique can be scary. One Puppeteers of America National Festival had a critique panel held in a large auditorium, where puppeteers could sign up and do a short piece. Margo Rose, very professional puppeteer of the 1930's and 40's, chaired the panel. The panel members were very skilled at positive feed back about what needed improvement, offering suggestions, and praising what was successful. The brave woman sitting next to me was one of the critiqued. (Of course everyone in the audience also learned by being witnesses.)

As the panel began critiquing her piece, she got glassy eyed like the deer-in-the-headlights and fearfully sucked her breath in-unable to release it. I began taking notes for her, giving them to her after the critique. She later gratefully told me all she had heard the panel members speak was the "bad parts"-her words not the panelists' words. The "good parts" of her feed back never penetrated her terror!

The next "Puppet Rumpus!" is scheduled on Saturday, October 24th. You are invited!

[www.facebook.com/puppetruckus](http://www.facebook.com/puppetruckus)

## **MAGICAL MOONSHINE THEATRE OPENS CANTERBURY: THE MILLER'S TALE**

Chaucer's Miller's Tale is the first of a series of Canterbury Tales created by Magical Moonshine Theatre in collaboration with McCune Collection of Art and Rare Books. The show draws inspiration from William Morris's Arts and Crafts masterpiece, the Kelmscott Chaucer and is done with hand puppets, printed paper theatre (toy theatre), actors and musicians. The Miller's Tale is a rowdy, bawdy tale of sex, cuckolding and late night shenanigans. The play will open at the San Diego Puppet Festival on May 22, and then play the next 2 weekends at the McCune Collection in Vallejo. Tickets and info can be found at

<http://magicalmoonshine.org/canterbury.htm> and more info (and video) about the project can be found at <http://magicalmoonshine.org/kelmscott.htm>.



## **GUILD ELECTIONS AND BALLOT**

### ***Candidate Biographies***

#### **BIO: MARY NAGLER**

Mary Nagler has been a member of the guild since 1993. She joined after attending her first national festival where she met Kamela Portuges and Lee Armstrong. Her professional building career started with them. Since then, she received her MFA in Puppetry at the University of Connecticut and went on to work for numerous east coast shops, including: (Highlights) The Puppet Heap, where she made the current Muppets: Beaker and the Swedish Chef, Rick Lyon Studio making AVENUE Q, the Puppet Kitchen, making dog heads for the off



Broadway production of Clifford the Big Red Dog. Her company Whorls of Wonder Puppet Theater received the 2011 Henson Family Grant for her new show, Terran’s Aquarium, which she hopes to put on stage soon. She has served the guild in a number of capacities over the years, most recently on the board as Treasurer. Her current goal is to bring viable and exciting offerings to the guild as member of the Program Planning committee.

**BIO: VALERIE NELSON**

Valerie Nelson is co-founder of Magical Moonshine Theatre, Little Blue Moon Theatre, Forbidden Puppet Cabaret, and the Vallejo Giant Puppet Project. Her performing career has taken her to over 18 countries around the world. She has served on the staff of the Puppeteers of American National Festival as workshop coordinator. Voice of the candidate: I’ve been active in this guild for over 30 years. I want to serve the guild because it has done wonderful things for me and I value its accessibility to everyone from absolute beginners to those with more experience.

**BIO: FRED C RILEY III**

20 years in professional puppetry have left Fred ready for any challenge. Skilled in many forms of puppetry from Czech black to marionettes, intimate to spectacle, every role is approached with passion. He has honed his skills working for Imago, Tear of Joy Theatre, Atlanta’s Center for Puppetry Arts, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Shadowlight Productions, Ping Chong and Company, The Mahlman Lilliputian Players, and The Fratello Marionettes. Fred has performed, written, directed, choreographed, and done sound design for many companies as well as producing his own works as part of Atlanta’s Xpermental Puppet Theater. Most recently he built and performed a lifesize inspector for the Mondavi Center’s production of “The Composer is Dead”. He is proud to have worked under great directors such as Janie Geiser, Jon Ludwig, Joseph Krofta, and Larry Reed. Here’s to the next 20 years.

-----Cut or copy for mail in ballot -----

**GUILD ELECTIONS FOR SFBAPG BOARD OFFICIAL BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS**

Election of 2015 board members for the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild. Camilla Henneman is the election teller. You may send Valerie EITHER a hardcopy ballot or an email ballot. Please email your ballot by May 16 or mail your ballot by May 9<sup>th</sup>. Email to [camhenneman@gmail.com](mailto:camhenneman@gmail.com), or send to Camilla Henneman at 234 S. Branciforte , Santa Cruz, CA. 95062.. How to vote via hardcopy: (1) Each single adult or youth member is entitled to vote for up to three candidates. Mark the ballot below. (2) Each family or couple membership is entitled to six votes. Copy the ballot below and mark TWO ballots. (3) Put the ballot(s) in an envelope addressed to to Camilla Henneman at 234 S. Branciforte , Santa Cruz, CA. 95062. (4) Put YOUR NAME on the envelope -- in the return address. (5) Postmark the envelope on or before May 9. How to vote via email: (1) In the subject line, type YOUR NAME and "SFBAPG Ballot" (i.e. "Kermit the Frog -- SFBAPG Ballot"). (2) In the body of your email, type the names of the candidates you want to vote for. (3) Send your email [camhenneman@gmail.com](mailto:camhenneman@gmail.com) on or before May 16. „

- [ ] Mary Nagler
- [ ] Valerie Nelson
- [ ] Fred C. Riley III
- [ ] (write in candidate)\_\_\_\_\_

For write-in candidate, make sure you have their permission before volunteering them for this position.