

	<p>The official newsletter of San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild <i>Looking for updates and missed information? Check for it at SFBAPG.ORG</i></p> <p><i>SFBAPG is a charter guild of the Puppeteers of America, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt organization</i></p>
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November 2016



Nick Barone would be so proud of all the little monsters that came forth from our workshop in his memory, including Talib and Olivia Huff's, above! Though the materials were a bit repetitive and the patterns the same, the array and variety of monsters expressed was a fitting tribute to his creative mind. Look for monster photos throughout this newsletter.

- Inside this Issue
- Lots of Monster photos from the Nick Barone Workshop
 - T-Shirt sales report
 - SFBAPG internet and the new website
 - Interview with puppet filmmaker Sam Koji Hale
 - Lettie Schubert remembered
 - New Remy Charlip puppet work opens this month, SF
 - Ask Mrs. Bandersnoot
 - Calendar

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From your Newsletter Editor (who also happens to be your President)

I had thought to put this newsletter out before the Halloween weekend to include your fun Halloween and Day of the Dead puppet photos. Alas possibly spooks don't photograph well as no one sent any pictures, but we have a lot of wonderful photos of monsters (kind of Halloweeny) from the Nick Barone Puppet Workshop; thanks to Mary Nagler for collecting and sending those.

One of our members has recently lamented the lack of a puppetry calendar in the newsletter. We have, of late, switched to the online calendar as it provides a very convenient way to look at the calendar, see what shows you might be interested in, and then click on the link to see more information about them, something we just can't do in the newsletter. However, I know that does not work for our members without internet. The use of the online calendar also allows more space for articles in the newsletter, and when I need to fill some space I will post a few of the calendar items from the web calendar, but to post all of them each month could be a newsletter' worth of pages in itself. What might be useful for our non-web members would be a calendar digest, with a selection of some of the more interesting calendar listings put into a text format. Since our newsletter editor (me) and our web calendar person (John Arnold) both have so many guild tasks in addition to our calendar and newsletter related jobs, I thought I would give some other guild member the opportunity to volunteer, so...



Anne Heron's monster from the Nick Barone workshop.

WANTED: Volunteer to create an events digest each month of 1 page or less. This job would require looking at the guild calendar, selecting some of the listings, and formatting them into a print friendly version with the kind of information that someone with no internet connection could use (like phone numbers, addresses, times, etc.) This should be created and sent to the newsletter editor around the 25th of each month for inclusion in the newsletter. Compensation would be the immense gratitude of our non-internet guild members, plus you'd have a really good idea of what was showing around the Bay Area (and what you want to go see!) To apply for this job, contact Michael at newsletter@sfbapg.org.

The Nick Barone T-shirt Campaign

There was overwhelming support and generosity of spirit from those that participated in the Nick Barone Remembered T-Shirt campaign. Supporters ordered over 60 shirts and many were worn at the Nick Barone Workshop and Celebration on Oct 1st.

Proceeds from the sales go entirely to support the Nick Barone workshops. Over \$900 was raised, half of this from generous donations by friends and family.





Cam Henneman and Mary Nagler's monsters.

If you would like a Nick Barone Remembered T-shirt, there are a few available in black or blue, limited sizes for \$15. Please contact Lee Armstrong, images@vom.com.

Words from a Computer Chair

Hello from your webmaster, as you may have seen, we're trying some new things for our guild, and use more of the internet to reach out to our existing members, and to new members. There's so many exciting things being done on the internet with puppetry, and we want to help the guild be there too.



Sharon Clay and new friend.

As you know we have our [Facebook group](#) to share things we each hear about, from progress on projects and questions we have about things we've seen or we're each working on, to fond memories and experiences. It's a great place to chat, ask for help and share. If you're on facebook join the group at (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/140942569278006>)

Last month we started both a twitter account (twitter.com/sfbapg) and Instagram ([instagram.com/sfbapg](https://www.instagram.com/sfbapg)) where you can follow if you have a twitter or instagram account, or just check out without a computer. With these we can promote all of our shows, activities, and events, share pictures and promote puppetry in the greater bay area. Check them out and follow.



Tree Bartlett takes his monster to nature.

For our members who are computer challenged, we created a voicemail you can call to listen to the latest events, workshops, and activities going on with the guild. (707-394-8453)

And lastly we're upgrading the website. As you may have seen we're using more online forms for processing membership, taking donations, signing up for events and workshops.



If you have time, check out the **new look** and **feel**. It will resize to fit on your computer, phone, or tablet, and let us easily update and add features. It has links to all our current resources. With the new look, we're in the process of updating our content, highlighting our members and their services. Adding new features like the ability to search and reserve from our library, and maybe a guild members only area.

Do you have new images or content we can add to our site? What do you want to see? Do you want to learn more about what is a tweet, snap chat, video streaming, online promotion, virtual meetings, or would you like to read about other great tools and resources on the internet? Let me know at webmaster@sfbapg.org

INTERVIEW WITH SAM KOJI HALE. Former SFBAPG Member Makes Good!

By Elisheva Hart

Note: the last couple of Guild Newsletters had articles and photos relating to the recent Doll Show at Petaluma Arts Center. This coverage came about because their promotional post card listed the names of the exhibitors. And lo! Sam Koji Hale's name leaped out of the list. He was a member of SFBAPG several years ago, and now lives in Los Angeles with his wife and 2 preteen sons. So for those of us who knew him and those of us who never had the pleasure, here he is!

Sam grew up in Western Kansas. His only memory of puppets (unlike many puppeteers who found this path as a young child) was a stick puppet show he did with his brother and sister for 4-H called "The Marriage of the Mouse", a Japanese folktale. Of course he loved watching "Muppet Show" reruns and snuck over to his friend's house to watch "Fraggle Rock" because his family didn't have HBO.



Padmini Sokkappa's creation.



Lynnette Pinto's new family member.



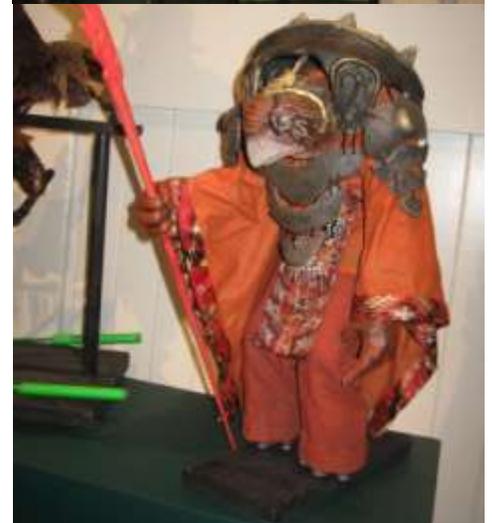
Betsy Claasen's Matilda.



A lot of time passes-Sam moved to Japan, then the Bay Area after living abroad. He didn't get into puppets until he was in art school at the Academy of Art College, San Francisco, (now Academy of Art University). He was working on his graduate thesis, a book illustration project. He didn't feel like his illustrations were real enough to tell the story and one of his mentors suggested he do a puppet show as part of his graduate thesis. ["Way to go, mentor!" E.] Sam built some puppets out of craft felt and shot footage all around S.F. Nathan McGee (Randall's eldest son) helped him puppeteer. "It was a lot of fun!" He hadn't thought of shooting puppets on video until then-but as he started planning, a lot of the behind-the-scenes videos he'd seen growing up came flooding back.

Sam's SFBAPG time: "I went to my first guild meeting when Dave Goelz spoke and brought along Gonzo. What a first experience! Incidentally, I saw Dave a couple weeks ago and thanked him for inspiring me - I don't think he was even aware, but I think it touched him. He did say, 'Wow that was a while back! Was it the talk I did at Fort Mason? That must have been early 2000s.' Yes, it was 2000. I was a member [of SFBAPG] in 2000-2001 (may have continued membership a few years after moving to LA).

"Met so many supportive people in the SFBAPG! Went to my first festival at Asilomar that year (or was that 2001?), took a writing workshop with Jerry Juhl, puppetry workshop with Karen Prell and Mike Quinn, and ever thankful to Randall McGee and Michael Nelson when I got a P of A Endowment Grant, which supported the original



'Yamasong' short film. I served as newsletter editor under Patrick Johnson, who also helped me get my start in L.A. puppetry. It was also as a guild member I met Heather Henson, who was traveling through town with her show "Echo Trace"-who I reconnected with years later to make 'Yamasong' and produce short films for her Handmade Puppet Dreams series. A lot happened those couple years (my puppet 'formative years!')

'Yamasong: March of the Hollows' [Sam's current project} is almost finished. We are doing final sound design, color correction and musical score. I think we'll be finished soon! [November?] When it comes out, it will be the first all-puppet feature film in North America and Europe since 'Team America' and 'Strings' (both 2004) - which is exciting!

When asked about his two preteen sons, Sam answered, "My younger son just started [the cello]. He is enthusiastic so far. They both just had their art debut at Hive Gallery in L.A. - part of a special kids' show called 'The Art of the Kids of Animators'. They showed some drawings and pipe cleaner tableau of knights jousting and kids fishing - people LOVED the pipe cleaner art! The youngest one loves drawing - that's his creative avenue. He's even designed characters for a future 'Yamasong' project. The older one really loves singing! And he also likes to direct. They both love being on set when we are shooting. I'm so happy to see them being creative, even if it doesn't lead to a career in the arts, it gives them special childhood experiences and quality of life, you know?"

OK, SFBAPG, let's all be proud of the role we play in encouraging and developing our members. By participating in small and large acts we all benefit. Sam, please keep in touch, let us know when your film premieres, and especially, drop by the Bay Area again and come to another meeting!

Sam Koji Hale, Director, Directing the feature film "Yamasong: March of the Hollows"

LIKE our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/YamasongOfficial>

Watch the official sizzle trailer HERE: <https://vimeo.com/126826275>

Who IS Lettie Connell Schubert, Mama? Daddy? By Elisheva Hart

Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival once again happened last month over the mid-September weekend.

The children's activities-puppet shows, performances, make-it-and-take-it crafts - traditionally are held in the Grove by the playground. This Grove has a name, "The Lettie Connell Schubert Memorial Grove."

There is a plaque saying so, which is exhibited at the Arts Festival and then tucked away for safety from "collectors" in between times. Large posters hung from the trees featuring photos of Lettie's signature puppets such as Dog George, and Twinkles the Clown.



This year Tia, who oversees the crafts with her Girl Scout troop both days, urged that there be SFBAPG flyers (which are in an updated prototype stage) be available to hand out to interested families and that a half page insert be included to inform the public-especially the children-who Lettie is. So at August's Children's Fairyland Puppet Fair lunch time, some of us discussed this insert. I soon realized it really is intended for the children and needed to clearly be written by the Guild, not the Arts Festival!

The Blue Fairy (Jacqueline Lynaugh), as Master of Ceremonies read to the audience each day (as she opened the activities) this tribute to Lettie. Tia reports that about half a dozen families took Guild flyers, complete with inserts. This may seem a modest number but if they all bear "fruit"! I'm sure many people in the audiences knew Lettie and therefore had wonderful reminders of her. (Note, our Guild logo and 4 little pictures of different types of puppets were at the top of insert, in full color!)

INSERT: DEAR CHILDREN AND OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE!

Today we are celebrating children, and the arts, and performers right here in this grove of trees, JUST FOR KIDS! Today this grove of trees is called the "LETTIE CONNELL SCHUBERT MEMORIAL GROVE" in honor and memory of a very special woman.

Lettie was a world famous puppeteer who lived in Mill Valley. She also made dolls, and pottery, and a huge number of friends. A long time ago, Lettie and her husband and some neighbors began this Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival, 60 years ago! She created the children's programs which you are enjoying today.

Then 5 years later, Lettie and a group of other puppeteers-old and young- started the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild.* Many of these Puppeteers have performed here for children over the past 55 years.

Lettie passed away 10 years ago and her Spirit lives in this Grove every time you children laugh, create, or applaud a performance here.

*For further information of the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild, check out our website:

www.SFBAPG.org

New Puppet Show on Remy Charlip Premiering in SF, November 2016

(Photos from eyezen.org)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 15, 2016 – On the cusp of its 10-year anniversary, Eye Zen Presents is proud to announce the world premiere of Rainbow Logic: Arm in Arm with Remy Charlip, celebrating the life and legacy of dancer, choreographer, children's book author and illustrator Remy Charlip (1929-2012). Conceived and created by Eye Zen Founder and Artistic Director Seth Eisen, Rainbow Logic draws inspiration from first-person interviews





with Charlip's friends, family and collaborators, fusing dance, live-drawing, toy and bunraku puppetry, video projection and original text and music. Rainbow Logic runs November 4 - 20, Fridays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7 p.m., at CounterPulse, which co-commissioned the new work. Tickets are \$20 to \$35, and will become available on September 5 for purchase at counterpulse.org.

Rainbow Logic pays tribute to Remy Charlip, best remembered for his contributions to the fields of dance and children's literature. He was a founding member of Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and later of the Obie-winning Paper Bag Players, a children's theater group. He designed costumes and choreographed scores for numerous dances, including most famously a collection of "Air Mail Dances," each one a series of figure drawings in various poses which he offered as inspiration to friends and colleagues around the world. Charlip also wrote and illustrated 38 books for children, for which the Library of Congress named him a "national

treasure."

Eisen came to know Charlip first as his student and friend, and later became one of his caregivers after the late artist suffered a stroke in 2005. "Of all the projects I've worked on to date, this is certainly the most personal," said Eisen. "It's the first time I've collapsed the distance between myself and my subject."

Over the last decade Eisen has immersed himself in Charlip's archive, a massive collection of original drawings, paintings, writing and other effects, comparing notes with more than 25 of Charlip's friends, family and lovers. "Rainbow Logic is part of a larger project to preserve and disseminate the stories and traditions of our queer ancestors," continued Eisen. "And Remy's example serves as a touchstone for all the work I do. I am inspired by the way he transcended disciplinary boundaries. 'Theater into books, and books into theater' was something of an unofficial motto for Remy, where all forms of art are conceived as a kind of 'internal dance.'"

For Eisen, the project is also personal because of his identification with Charlip's Jewish background. "We both carried the complications of being an outsider — Jewish, queer artists — but Remy showed how art can be used to rewrite the storyline of one's life, and embrace the marks of difference and struggle."



WHEN: November 4 – 20, 2016, Fridays - Saturdays @ 8 p.m., Sundays @ 7 p.m.

WHERE: CounterPulse, 80 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

TICKETS: \$20 - \$35, After September 5, tickets may be purchased at counterpulse.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: eyezen.org



Dear Mrs. Bandersnoot,

What can be done about the puppetry students-tots to geezers-who leap their puppets into battle as soon as they come onto the stage, regardless of the script or my frantic instructions? They're having the time of their lives, puppets are being mutilated, even the placid ones. And because the stage resembles a riot with no storyline, worse of all---the audience is bored! Please HELP! Thanks so much, signed Excedrin Headache #1001

Dear Excedrin Headache # 1001,

It IS a mystery why humans, when given the power of puppetry, begin immediately to bop heads together and do "Battle," forgoing any script or direction to the contrary. After much research on the subject I have come to see that our words "puppet" and "puppeteer" have been co-opted to refer to characters in warring video games with references to "weak points at the joints!" Shocking! Animated "puppets" have been weaponized!

(See <http://naruto.wikia.com/wiki/Puppet>).

This is an alarming development that attests to the popularity of puppets and thus leads to their "marketability." "Puppet" and "puppeteer" have also been taken and used to refer to computer programs and business models. The concept Puppet is truly not just for children anymore. It is my personal belief that people have a lot of pent up aggression and angst that when handed an inanimate object character (That can't fight back) they play out their inner feelings through that character. Thus, making public performance/expression of their feelings, but safe; the puppet traditionally and historically being a vehicle for controversial expression.

This can lead, as you allude, to some "puppet bashing," which should NOT be encouraged. That is what pillows have been for, for ages. I suggest you find some theater games that let people work out those aggressive and pent up feelings before you hand them the puppets in rehearsal. I also suggest a

short, but pointed lecture on the Puppet as "art form" depicting the years of study and use of materials to make a proper puppet. This may lead to some healthy guilt if they demolish one. You can take pillows, but I find letting them know if anyone is caught abusing the puppet in this hurtful way, then everyone has to put the puppets down. Fun over, and peer pressure begins! Keep the peace and good luck! (Perhaps you should carry a stick, works for me!)

CALENDAR (from the website at <http://www.sfbapg.org/events/>)

Children's Fairyland: Tricks & Treats, A Halloween Spooktacular

When: Nov 4, 2016 – Jan 1, 2017

Where: Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, United States

Description: Beauty and the Beast, November 4 - 2017 To end the year, we bring back one of Lewis Mahlmann's most requested puppet productions, based on the original Charles Perrault classic French fairy tale. This is the story of a prince turned into a wild beast, who learns love and humility through the gentle

teachings of a kind girl. Adaptation, puppets and scenery by Lewis Mahlmann. Puppets designed by Golden Book illustrator Sheillah Beckett. Shows are at 11:00, 2:00 and 4:00.

Rainbow Logic: Arm in Arm with Remy Charlip (see article above)

WHEN: November 4 – 20, 2016, Fridays - Saturdays @ 8 p.m., Sundays @ 7 p.m.

WHERE: CounterPulse, 80 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

TICKETS: \$20 - \$35, tickets may be purchased at counterpulse.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: eyezen.org

Tuesday, November 29

7:00pm

Magical Moonshine Milpitas/Puppylocks and the Three Bears

When: Tue, November 29, 7pm – 8pm

Where: Milpitas Library, 160 N Main St, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA

Description: Three bears go to the circus while their porridge cools but a little golden dog comes into their house with hilarious results.

Friday, December 2- JAN 15, 2017

8:00pm

When: DEC 2, 2016 - JAN 15, 2017

San Francisco: AVENUE Q

Where: New Conservatory Theatre Center, 22 Van Ness Ave San Francisco, CA, United States

Description: AVENUE Q DEC 2, 2016 - JAN 15, 2017 Because the naughty list is so much more fun! "It's like having drinks with Sesame Street characters and hearing what they really think about life" - SF Weekly

Want to see more listings on our calendar? Well, you are the eyes and ears of the guild. Send listings (yours or ones you know about) to events@sfbapg.org.



Parting shot (to left). Guild members and monsters grimace and grin at the camera at the Nick Barone Puppet Workshop. Big thanks to Mary Nagler and her big crew of volunteers who created puppet kits, and to Mary for teaching the workshop, and to Camilla Henneman for taking this idea and running with it until it happened, and to all the members of the N.B. Workshop Committee who searched for venues, found dates, raised money and made this wonderful tribute to Nick happen. Congratulations!

