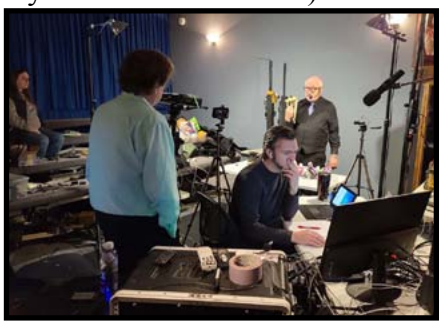
Puppet Patter
The Official Publication of the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild
A Quarterly Publication
December 2022

The 2022 Great Lakes Regional LIVE & IN-PERSON Potlatch! FINALLY!

by Silence Dogood

By March of 2020 a little germ had traveled across the globe and proceeded to shut down everything. While people stayed indoors cleaning their house, baking bread, and putting together puzzles, plans were still underway for Potlatch in November. Little did we know that this was just the beginning of the pandemic. As the date of Potlatch drew closer it was clear that the Great Lakes Region would not meet at Pokagan State Park as they have for decades. Quickly, plans were put in place for a make shift, quasi gathering. The abbreviated version of Potlatch came and went, and we all invoked the Chicago Cubs mantra - "Wait 'til next year." (apologies to any Cubs fans out there.)

But the worldwide crisis was not subsiding and there would be no way this group of puppeteers would be able to meet in November. FaceTime, Skype, and other video conferencing apps gave way to Zoom. Wow! What a perfect way for everyone to get together - or at least see each other - and carry on the tradition of sharing knowledge and connecting. So, in November of 2021, when we should have been huddled together watch performances live, most of the Great Lakes Region was huddled around their computer screens watching Dave Herzog demonstrate stringing marionettes, Guy Thompson's Mousetrap Puppets perform Punch & Judy, and other activities and shows. We also got to see the homes, workshops, and sometimes the ceilings of many of the the on-line participants. Many thanks to Joe & Jennifer Emory for the use of The MyAir Productions Puppet Barn and the techno-wizardry of all involved.



From the 2021 Potlatch "Marionette Stringing" Workshop with Dave Herzog

Great Lakes puppeteers "zooming in" to Potlatch 2021

2022 brought hope that things would return to normal. Plans were made to once again gather IN PERSON to connect and reconnect with friends and colleagues in this beautiful setting. On November 4th, they came! Puppeteers from across the Great Lakes Region. We were finally able to share a laugh, shed a tear, and remember why we were there…PUNCH BRUCH! Welcome back to Potlatch.

Who's happy to be back to a live Potlatch? Raise your hand!

And Now A Review of Potlatch 2022

Actually, several reviews and snap shots of performances, workshops, Tradin' Post, Potpourri, and Punch Brunch

Performances

Friday, November 4th

The Frog Prince

My Air Productions - Joe Emory

Review by Jill Frederickson

Joe Emory's remount of The Frog Prince for The Great Lakes Puppetry Potlatch 2022 premiered Friday night, November 4th, to much acclaim. My Air Productions overcame multiple challenges in getting this show on the road. Jen, Joe's wife and performance partner, suffered a health issue and had to step away from the production after many hours rehearsing, devising, and perfecting this performance. Luckily, Joe was able to call on Conner Asher to come in and perform with a short and busy week of rehearsal to learn the show.

Originally designed and built by Bob Brown, this was an exciting production to see. Of course, as a My Air Production, the lights and staging were impressive. The background set was comprised of a large book and scene changes happened by turning the pages to reveal new settings. The prerecorded and very well produced audio for the show was a new version. Joe provided, with a few script changes to update the show, and did all the voices himself with an impressive range of vocal delivery. The delightful story included fun call backs to jokes accented with sound effects. The Prince assured us that he has a "magnetic personality" and the puppet cast took a beat to throw focus to emphasize the "ding" sound effect. This was such a fun moment that it was referenced both off stage by puppeteers and on stage by subsequent shows throughout the weekend.

Bob had refurbished the large marionettes and they looked beautiful. The fun design choice of having a flexible rope neck allowed for expressive performances and very funny moments like the Princess' head dropping with shock and dismay as she saw her ball disappear into the well. Joe restrung the puppets to best suit his stage and performance style. The witch puppet for this show had been gifted to Ronnie Burkett, so Bob constructed a fresh witch for this show. She was lovely, green, graceful, and just menacing enough to act as a foil to the bumbling and earnest Prince. Joe added one new puppet to the cast and invited the audience to guess the new addition. No one who has guessed so far has identified the right cast member.

Bob Brown was able to preview the show, though he was unable to make it to Potlatch. He enjoyed the new version and was impressed with the work, especially the voice overs. My Air Productions is in the midst of preparing for the Christmas show season where they are remounting another Bob Brown show, The Fantasy of the Nutcracker.

Saturday, November 5th

Tribute to The Beatles

David Quesal's Puppets - David Quesal

Review by Dave Herzog

The Saturday afternoon performances got off to a rousing start with The Quesal Puppet Troupe of Macomb, Illinois. Earlier this summer David Quesal was commissioned by a Beatles fan to create a Beatles Tribute show, so David brought the troupe along to Potlatch to share this heartfelt tribute.

In a rollicking 25 minute performance, the Quesal Puppet Troupe performed nine different tunes, including *A Hard Day's Night*, *I Want To Hold Your Hand*, *Blackbird*, *Love, Love Me Do*, *Let it Be*, *Yellow, Submarine*, *Octopuses Garden*, *I love You Yeah, Yeah, Yeah*, and *Altogether Now*, which had he audience signing along with their favorites. In the case of my Great Nephew, *Yellow Submarine* was the hands down winner.

Now I have to admit if a client asked me to do a Beatles tribute show, I would have used actual soundtracks and called it good, but David Quesal with his extensive knowledge of all things electronic, and his ability to make any smart phone stand up and do tricks was able to re-record Karaoke tracks and insert his own character voices singing the Beatles favorites. This gave a nice life-like feel to the show, coupled with David's great lip sync techniques accompanied by his well manipulated Folkmanis brand puppets.

New to David's performance was a nifty new puppet stage that had actually been gifted to David by the client who commissioned the Beatles show. Thank you, Quesal Puppet Troupe for your tuneful contribution to this year's lineup of Potlatch performers.

Halloween Hijinx

Dave Herzog Marionettes - Dave Herzog

Review by Peggy Melchior Pearson

As families begin the Halloween celebrations mothers and fathers ponder on how to bring their youngsters into the festivities without frightening them. Herzog's trick marionette show, *Halloween Hi-Jinx*, is the perfect entertainment for young and old. Adults will marvel at the craftsmanship and engineering of the stringed characters. Children will enjoy the crazy and zany characters and both will love the classical and traditional Halloween music.

The show is very well rehearsed and the connection between the puppeteer and marionette puts any fears the children might have to rest. Well presented and thought out and the perfect show for most any event.

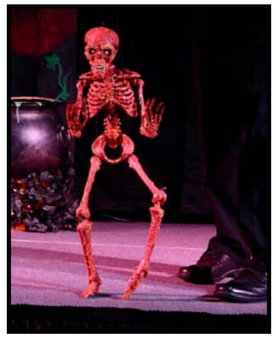
Halloween Variety Show

Rotford Puppetry - Nevi Shakleford and Parker Rottman

Review by Dave Herzog

I was very excited when I saw last Summer on Facebook, that Rotford Puppetry was performing professionally. Now mind you, I had never heard of Rotford Puppetry at that point, but I had heard of the young company founders Nevi Shakleford and Parker Rottman, since both had been attending the Great Lakes Puppeteers Potlatch and performing on Potpourrie from a young age.

Nevi Shackleford, is the Great-Granddaughter of legendary marionette variety artist Erica Melchior. She is, along with her sister, Stella, the fourth generation of the Melchior Marionettes. Nevi and Parker were teamed up at age nine at Peewinkle's Puppet Studio Summer camp, and are still performing together, but now as extremely poised and polished young professionals, so it seemed a no brainer to ask them to perform one of their shows at Potlatch, but this time as main stage performers on Saturday evening and boy did they ever deliver the goods.



Boasting a delightfully creepy set of a cemetery, and mausoleum, the show's narrator, a disembodied skull rod puppet welcomes us all with appropriately eerie verses, and then introduces a cavalcade of macabre marionette performers, which included set of gorgeous dancing pumpkins, which interacted with the audience, acrobatic fuzzy monsters, a first rate and really scary break away skeleton piece, a fantastic scarecrow dancers who could remove his head, two more skull rod puppets who did a wacky duet of the famous "Sisters" number from *White Christmas* which was first rate, and very funny. A huge black light bat created some very dramatic and chilling movement, and a delightfully diminutive invader from outer space charmed the audience and danced in the palms of people's hands. A pair of geometric marionettes inspired by Bil Baird and Buckminster Fuller were real audience pleasers. A striking dramatic piece featured a tormented soul trying to escape it's deathly prison, and several flowing ethereal ghosts performing an intricate ariel ballet. If course it would not have been a Halloween Show without wonderfully wacky wicked witch casting spells galore. Most of the show is performed in black light so you really don't notice the puppeteers, but when they did appear in full light both Nevi and Parker were extremely poised and had excellent, and above all confident stage personas.

They say in show business always leave the best for last and leave the audience wanting more, and boy was that the case with this show! The finale was an intricate and absolutely dazzling ghost waltz featuring Nevi and Parker each operating a set of three tandem ghost waltzing marionettes. I can honestly say the audience was treated to some of the finest marionette movement I have ever seen. Not only did the individual sets of puppets perform but they seemed to intwine into one ectoplasmic dancer whose movements sent absolute chills up my spine. The piece was beautifully choreographed and expertly performed, and, very, very impressive.

Nevi and Parker have had great training over the years from Peggy Pearson, Debbie White and Heidi Shackleford, to name a few. I expect there were a few dance instructors and other coaches along the way, but our young PIPS (puppeteers in progress) have more than proved they are ready to take their own place on stage as professional puppeteers. I look forward to seeing much more from Rotman Puppetry.

The Magic Fish

Roz Puppets - Dave Rozmarynowski

Review by Jeff Biske

The Roz Puppets are at it again with their performance of *The Magic Fish* Saturday night. In this retelling of the classic *The Three Wishes*, Roz Puppets replaces the woodcutter and his wife with two Sniffle Rats, who live in Squashbelly Bog. As the husband is fishing for dinner he catches a magic fish who will grant him three wishes if he will do him a favor: Show him the way way to the ocean. Of course the Sniffle Rat agrees but, in true Roz fashion, it's not that simple. There is a "bad guy" who owns a fish circus and wants the magic fish for his act. The Sniffle Rat uses his wishes to save the magic fish as well as the others in the fish circus, and leads them to the ocean as promised.

Although it sounds simple, only Dave can take an old story and, not only make it new and fresh, but have his audience in stitches as he throws in several puns and one-liners. And a Roz Puppets puppet show would not be complete without his perennial cast of insane characters. Rufus the Dog serves as the narrator, Pete the Rat makes an appearance as he changes the set between acts, and naturally there's Charlie the Chipmunk. I do have to say doing a show live (as opposed to prerecorded) is risky but it does afford the performer leeway for some ad libs and Dave did not disappoint as he threw in a line from Joe Emory's show, *The Frog Prince*; "My magnetic personality." And during the "warm-up," Charlie the Chipmunk (a favorite of Christine Thompson) called out for her, tilted his head, and in a flirty voice said, "Hi, Christine." Beautifully crafted puppets and that Rozmarynowski wit always makes for a great, must-see performance.

Tradin'Post

Time to buy that "stuff" you've been searching for! Everything 1/2 off at the Rozmarynowski table. The other half will cost you plenty. Meanwhile, Linda teaches Phillip how to use a mairionette. Good luck with that one.

Workshops

Tetrahedron Marionettes
Steven Widerman and Dave Herzog

More about the Tetrahedron Marrionettes will be seen in the Spring 2023 Patter

Paper Puppets
Peggy Melchior Pearson

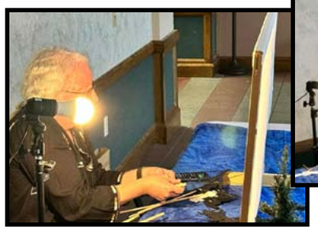
Green Screen in Miniature
Conni Burke Mulligan

Shoebox Theatre
Sandye Voight

Marionette Design
Phillip Huber

Scriptwriting
Nancy Sander

Shadow Puppets in Education
Linda Sigismondi



The Somatic Puppeteer
Mark Saltzman

Punch Brunch

What better way to conclude the weekend's festivities than with a hearty brunch and the tradional *Punch & Judy* show? After the bacon and eggs were gobbled up, the conversations concluded, and (of course) the "family" pictures were taken, it was time to adjourn to the performace area and enjoy the final performance of the weekend.

And the award(s) for Outstanding Service to The Great Lakes Region go to...

Joe Emory
Fern Zwickey Award

Peggy Melchior Pearson
Martin Stevens Award

Debbie Latozas Courtney
Paul McPharlin Award

Punch & Judy
Puppets With Pizazz - Nancy Sander
Review by Ann Onymous

You may recognize the name, Ann Onymous, if you read the Puppet Patter to the last page. I'm the one with the "By the Way" column. When I was assigned by your Editor to write the review of Nancy's Punch and Judy show, I figured it should be right up there with the other "notable" reviewers. So here we go.

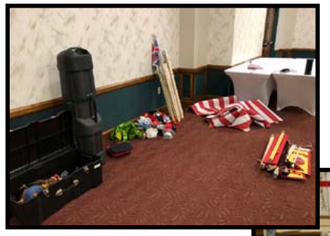
In my opinion the Nancy Sander review, in total, really begins in the late afternoon of Friday, November 4th. After check-in and moving to my room and supper, I entered the "great hall" and was welcomed by Nancy with open arms. First order of business was Nancy directing me and others to her newly exclusively designed frame work of her stage, for her *Punch and Judy* show. Also on display was the single box that would store her entire stage on wheels, weight 10 pounds as she noted.

Saturday, November 5th, 10:30 am to 11:45 am; *Script Writing* workshop by Nancy Sander. I thought, "What the 'heck?'" (Keep in mind this word will come up again later in the review) She was seated behind the table, with a lap top open with her lecture notes, ready for action and two hand puppets on either side. There were about twelve or so "students" ready for action. Soon after some lighthearted comments of welcome she dove into her well prepared notes on her style of writing a script. She made mention that all stories should have a beginning, middle and end. I don't believe anyone was taking notes at that point. She expanded on that thought, adding that once she has selected the story to be written she creates a general outline and sets up three coffee cans to collect ideas, written down on slips of paper to be saved for the beginning, middle and end. After about a month she returns to the collection of notes in the coffee cans and one by one, starts to write the script starting with, yep you got it! The beginning. At this point the session became a little more definitive with instructions. Nancy referred to her props, the two puppets, dressed them on her hands and made good use of the propped open lap top as a stage. She continued her workshop offering instructions and suggestions, with the two puppets contributing and Nancy, now acting as the moderator! Shortly thereafter she set the puppets aside and regained charge for the balance of her workshop and provided very helpful information on the subject of script writing that were well worth note taking.

Nancy Sander's Punch Bruch presentation of *Punch and Judy*, after attending her workshop on Saturday morning, brought forth every phase of her instructions she relayed to her students. Beginning with her introduction to a predominately adult audience, she mentioned the importance of active live response from puppet actors to audience members. Kids don't have to be encouraged to be a part of the show. Her newly designed and dressed Punch stage was truly a work of art! She mentioned in later conversations that each Punch aficionado is encouraged to design their stage using their interpretation and final design, after reviewing the historical works from Punch history. The opening act was true to form with the introduction of Judy and the eventual entrance of the baby with the up and down the play area repeated at least three times. Of course, the standard characters in the Punch cast made their appearance and were properly swatted off. That's the way to do it! The audience reacted with a chuckle when the Devil substituted "the word "as to what direction Punch was headed. Of course, the alligator is a must to conclude and rightly justify Mr. Punch's cruel behavior. And the statement that resolves the demise of Punch, is that he is a puppet and all's well that ends well.

continued

The Punch and Judy show ended with an arousing round of applause and the before the applause ended, much to everyone's surprise, Nancy stood up and while inside of her stage, began taking the entire stage apart, piece by piece! She then demonstrated her new sound system held snuggly in her hands including the speakers! Nancy acknowledged her accolades with audience members and later returned to the stage area and began packing her show in a ten-pound box with wheels.



The End

Publisher's Note: *Here's something fun to do on a snowy afternoon. Print out this page, cut out each of the pictures seen above, mount them to heavy pieces of paper, put them in order and create a flipbook. You will actually see Nancy take down her stage. Flip it the other way and she's "show ready!"*

The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild Files

by Dave Herzog

The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild files were meticulously kept by Fred Putz for decades. While perusing this amazing collection of Chicago, national, and international puppetry ephemera, I continue to discover files of historical significance or special note. I am fortunate to be able to share my findings as a regular feature in each quarterly issue of The Puppet Patter. Appearing in this Issue…

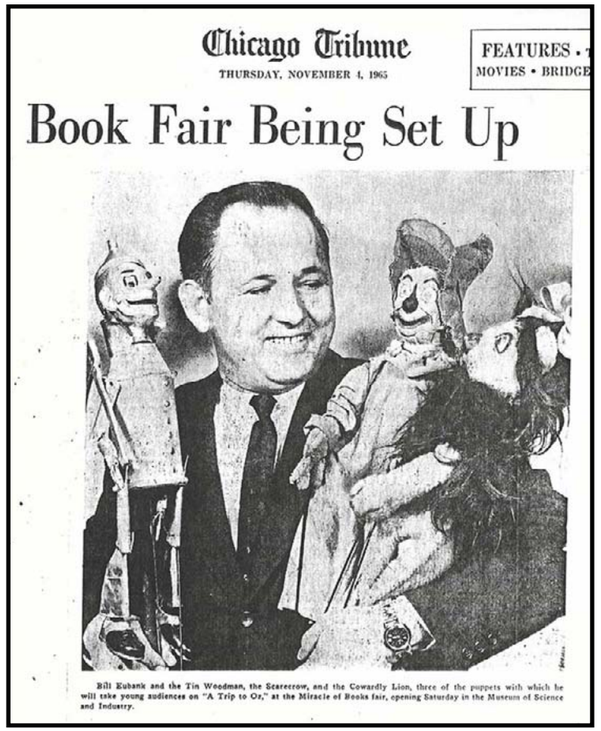
Bill Eubank

August 24, 1924 - January 13, 1993

Bill Eubank was a man of many talents, and interests. He was a commercial artist, working many years in the advertising department of Sears, an Oz enthusiast and collector, a Dr. Who enthusiast, a working clown, and of course a puppeteer.

It is perhaps in his combined interests of puppetry and all things OZ that Bill found his most creative outlet. While never really a working professional puppeteer, Bill devoted countless hours to creating lovely marionettes of OZ characters and creating OZ themed puppet shows. Bill was a fine graphic artist as well as a sculptor and these combined talents showed in his devotion to his Oz themed puppetry. Bill and his puppets both OZ and non were often featured in The Chicago Tribune, The Puppetry Journal, the Puppet Patter, and OZ publications.

I knew Bill through his many visits to the old AnimArt Puppet theater on Kedzie Avenue in Chicago, as well as his participation in Chicagoland Puppetry Guild meetings at Magic Inc. Having been an OZ enthusiast and OZ book collector for many years, Bill often brought his various OZ projects to share at Guild meetings, always making sure I got a chance to examine them closely and enjoy their special charm. One of the things I remember most is that Bill often had to work on a tight budget and often found himself "dumpster diving" for materials. He once very cleverly brought a marionette of The Scarecrow of OZ with a very clever control made from coat hangers. The most amazing thing is that the darn thing actually worked.



Chicago Tribune

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1965

FEATURES • MOVIES • BRIDGE

Book Fair Being Set Up

Bill Eubank and the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion, three of the puppets with which he will take young audiences on "A Trip to Oz," at the Miracle of Books fair, opening Saturday in the Museum of Science and Industry.

Bee-Fuddle Gives 'OZ' Lecture For 'WIZARD of OZ' Club

America's Greatest Entertaining CARTOONIST CLOWN

c/o BILL EUBANK
2435 N. HAMLIN
CHICAGO 60647
CALL: 489-3328

WITCH MEETS CLOWN — Margaret Hamilton, the actress who played the Wicked Witch of the West in the Wizard of Oz, greets International Wizard of Oz Club member Bill Eubank of Chicago. Eubank, dressed as a clown, was about to give his annual entertainment at the club's convention held at Castle Park, south of Holland, each June. Miss Hamilton is this year's special guest at the convention that is playing tribute to the 40th Anniversary of the 1939 film.

"Gee, I hope I don't sprinkle water on you."

"Oh, I won't melt."

That's not a significant snatch of conversation unless you know who is speaking.

The person worried about sprinkling water was Bill Eubank, a member of the International Wizard of Oz Club and at the time dressed as a clown (BEE-FUDDLE).

The person unworried about melting was Margaret Hamilton, the actress who became famous for her portrayal of the Wicked Witch of the West in the 1939 movie the "Wizard of Oz." The Wicked Witch of the West met her demise in the movie when Dorothy threw water on her and she melted.

Miss Hamilton is the special guest this weekend at Castle Park, south of Holland, for the 19th Annual International Wizard of Oz convention that is paying tribute to the 40th Anniversary of the making of the 1939 film.

An honorary member of the about 1,500 member club of Oz enthusiasts, Miss Hamilton said this was her first opportunity to attend a convention.

COA# 7135

It's a wiz of a convention

For you Bee-Fuddle — with my thanks & appreciation for the use of your "Wizard" puppets and your fine show. — Margaret Hamilton

Veteran character actress Margaret Hamilton pens autograph for BEE-FUDDLE

Sunday, June 17, 1979

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1965

Front Views & Profiles

By KAY LORING

Ozmania

William Eubank, Chicago commercial artist, ran across a couple of Oz books in a near north side thrift shop in 1963, and immediately forked over two dimes for them. A glimpse of the books' color illustrations had convinced him he must create a Wizard of Oz puppet show—puppeteering has been his hobby for 20 years. He hadn't actually been aware before that L. Frank Baum had authored Oz books other than "The Wizard of Oz" which he read as a boy.

It took two years of treasure hunting thru junk and rummage and thrift shops for props and costumes, of painstaking research and trial and error to come up with a show that created a stir of excitement at the recent annual convention of the International Wizard of Oz club, held at the Wizard of Oz lodge on the shore of Bass lake at Knox, Ind.

Ozmanians are mighty particular about Oz interpretations, and their enthusiasm for Mr. Eubank's efforts are reflected in words of the most ardent—and discriminating — Ozmanian of our acquaintance, Russell MacFall, author of "To Please a Child":

"M-G-M spent millions on its famous movie of Oz, which has become television's top draw. . . . Eubank has a completed product which even M-G-M would be proud of.

"It is no easy art to move four and five large figures at once around a six-foot stage, coordinating their movements with a pointaking tape recording of voices and music, with dramatic cyclones and magic transformations and fluorescent lighting that make the most exciting Wizard in the story's long stage career—and with plenty of surprise action that should soon make this show popular with schools, clubs, juvenile theater and all those young at heart who will never lose their love for America's most durable fairy tale."

William D. Eubank with Oz puppets.

ANNUAL "OZ" CONVENTION AT WIZARD OF OZ LODGE, JUNE 18-21

PANORAMA—CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, JUNE 26, 1965

Last spring, Joseph Haas wrote an article on the life of L. Frank Baum, the writer of the original Oz books. As a result, he was invited to attend the annual convention of the International Wizard of Oz Club last weekend at Wizard of Oz Lodge, Bass Lake, Ind. This is his report on his trip.

A Visit to Oz Lodge

The Proper Oztonians Hold a Convention

—By Joseph Haas

AN AUCTION of L… books, memorabilia, rarities and oddments on the sunny lawn of Oz Lodge when we … ding was spirited, nickels and dimes were sold for $2 … pensive, a scarce … Little Wizard Sto… $10.50.

The convention night before, spent renewing … bating the re… Oz books b… ers by his sit… the pleasures of first … of Oz many years a… ophile had receive… book, usually "The … ually at about seven, birthday or Christmas …

After dinner, Bill Eubank of Chicago staged a three-act one-man puppet production of the "Wizard" using black-light and flash-powder effects that thrilled the four children and some 40 other adults present. His tape-recorded script also included one of the best-loved parts of the book, Dorothy and her friends meeting the Wizard, Glinda the Witch, etc. Today the Wizard rules in Oz, tomorrow—Lou Lyons!

After the puppet show, we sat down for dinner by … son and daughter, pacing their be… lished in the … Bill told me those stories … then, one day … Frank, after … uld write … ld he did … it. I always … storytelling … my brother … father boys r… floor by the … ad advertising … six years ago to … income in the su… ad his wife wro… ere his father mad…

The International Wizard of Oz Club

Shortly after dinner we were privileged to see the first presentation of Bill Eubank's one-man puppet production of The Wizard of Oz. The true-to-life puppets, the beautiful scenery and marvelous lighting and sound effects, the clever tape-recorded script, and Bill's deft timing and handling of the puppets all helped make it a memorable show, a show of which a whole troupe of puppeteers would be proud.

— JAMES E. HAFF

Bill Eubank and Mr. Baum display hand puppets created by Bill to represent each character in the first two books of Oz. Bill also fashioned the Tin Man, pictured in the foreground, and other marionettes, as well as the sets used for special effects in the TV productions. All of his materials are hand made.

By The Way

by Ann Onymous

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS! Please note, the following information is a plea for your assistance in locating our missing Chicagoland Puppetry Guild…

DISPLAY BANNER

(pictured here with the additional membership badges display).

The updated version of our newly designed logo was created in October 2013 as the result of a contest held for members to suggest and design an updated version. The complete story of the contest can be found in the September, 2014 issue of the Puppet Patter. The newly created logo provided the inspiration for the creation of a new banner. It was first displayed at a combination meeting and annual CPG picnic on July 13, 2014. The complete story of the event can be found in the September, 2014 Puppet Patter. www.chicagopuppetguild.org . The banner was always proudly displayed at meetings, banquets, Day of Puppetry events at libraries, Regional and National Festivals, parades, picnics, monthly performances at the Book Market in Glenview and of course, Potlatch.

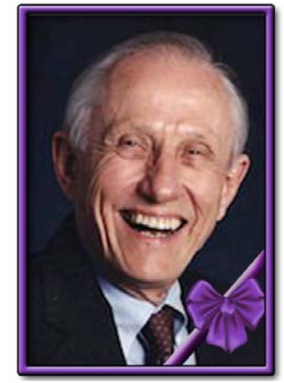
Our President, who served in office for six years, Fred Berchtold, also served as the custodian of the banner and kept the membership badge display updated. Since July, 2014, any events we had where the banner was displayed were brought and set up by Fred up until his passing in late June, 2021. At the on-set of COVID in 2020 all CPG functions were canceled and there was no need to display the banner. After two postponements, Potlatch was welcomed once again for November, 2022. We contacted John Berchtold, Fred's son, to make arrangements to have the banner picked up. John mentioned that in anticipation of all CPG properties, now in his procession, he had gathered two containers of puppet related items and the banner! CPG member Jill Frederickson, who resides in Kenosha, WI. volunteered to pick-up the items and take them to Potlatch. We met with Jill and soon discovered the banner was the outdated edition and could not be used. In checking further with John, and offering photos for ID, he regretted that was everything he could find related to the CPG property was in those containers. We are making a plea to our membership at large, or any other associate in the Great Lakes Region, who could offer any information regarding the whereabouts of our banner, please get in touch with the Puppet Patter Editor, Mel Biske, at melikinpuppets@comcast.net

Here is Nancy Sander appearing, with a performance of Punch and Judy, at the New York Coney Island Museum, accomplishing still another milestone in her "Bucket List"!

Lest We Forget

Frederick William Sauers

February 9, 1929 - November 22, 2017



It is with much sadness that we announce that Frederick William Sanders, 88 has died peacefully in the company of his family at King Bruwaert House in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

Fred was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Lyons Township High School in Lagrange, Illinois, and earned an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. After serving two years in the U.S. Army at Fort Lawton in Seattle, Washington, he settled in Chicagoland. He began his career in data processing at ITT - Kellogg and was a pioneer of electric data interchange during his many years at Sears, Roebuck. He also worked For IBM and retired from IBM in 1998.

Fred was a gifted entertainer throughout his life, and enjoyed a variety of artistic pursuits, particularly acting. He was a member of the Penn players in college and later became an active member of the Theatre of Western Springs for nearly 50 years, performing in a total of 47 roles. While performing the title role in "Scapino" he met his future wife, Linda Roberts, a marionette artist. They eventually founded Roberts Marionettes in 1982. Fred served as Technical Director for the company and created over 90 hand-carved marionettes and bunraku puppets. He also designed and built several puppet stages. Together they produced eight touring productions.

Although Fred was not active as a puppeteer, he was dedicated to the art of puppetry. He was a long-time member of the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild and many guild members can recall that Fred was the volunteer Co-Ordinator of the Puppeteers of America Insurance Program, for which he was given the P of A Trustee's Award for 2011. He also maintained the Treasurer's office of The Great Lakes Region of the P of A for more than a decade, and along with Linda Roberts served as Registrar for many regional and national puppet festivals.

"A kind gentleman of the first order and a friend to all" is an inadequate description of Fred Sauers. He will be sorely missed.

The Marc Dunworth Foundation for the Performing Arts

The Marc Dunworth Foundation for the Performing Arts, is a non-profit organization founded to promote and encourage the performing arts, especially the puppet arts, through grants, scholarships, performances and education.

Any help you can provide to this cause, whether monetarily and/or spreading the word would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Please visit our web site for more information
https://www.dunworthfoundation.org

2022 Potlatch In Pictures

Relive the fun of this years Potlatch with these beautiful pictures courtesy of Tih Penfil. And for even *more* pictures (more than 1500) visit the Great Lakes Puppet Potlatch Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/media

All Together Again

Goodies at the Opening Night Reception hosted by Indiana Puppetry Guild

I missed you, dude!

Sharing pictures, memories, and laughs

Neal, Mel and Jeff Biske. The Melikin Puppets Two generations of puppeteers

What?! I can't hear you. I have a pumpkin in my ear.

Peggy Melchior Pearson, Heidi Shackleford and Nevaeh Shackleford. Three generations of puppeteers

Jill Fredrickson demonstraes how puppeteers keep in shape

Just a Few Potpourri Pictures

2022 CPG Class Picture

Have You Checked Out the CPG Website Lately?

Be sure to visit our guild's web site on a regular basis for the latest postings on what's happening in the Chicago area, the latest on the Great Lakes Regional Festival and a roster of active and newly added puppeteers. Events and Shows page has the latest posting of local performing companies, their current production and a link to their web sites, current and past issues of the Puppet Pater, and more!

Our address is:
www.chicagopuppetguild.org

The CPG is on Facebook, too! Be sure to check us out!

Leave 'em Laughin'!

BIZARRO by Dan Piraro