



The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild in Action!

As we reach the halfway mark in the year 2015 and review our accomplishments and look ahead to what is in store, we realize the strides we have made in promoting the interests of puppetry in the Chicagoland area. Our membership has increased due to reaching out with activities involving and attracting more puppet enthusiasts.

Starting with the creation of the Glen Town Center Puppet

THE GLEN PUPPET THEATER SERIES

The Three Little Pigs
With
The Roz Puppets

Saturday, March 14 † 11-11:45 AM
The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd.

Online Registration opens February 27
www.theglentowncenter.com

FAMILY SHOW SPACE IS LIMITED!

hosted by the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild

Theater Series in Glenview, Illinois. We launched a series of performances beginning in January which have continued each month and will continue until the end of the year. Every production has provided quality

performances with increasing attendance. In March we partnered with the Glenview Public Library, the Glen Town Center, Community Business Partners and a commitment by CPG professional puppeteers to present what once was “The National Day of Puppetry” and expanded it to become “The World Puppetry Day Celebration!”

We attended a performance and met with a touring Chinese puppet company at the Botanical Gardens in Chicago. The Outreach Program continued with visits to the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and the Salvation Army Evangeline Booth Lodge for temporary homeless families. We have actively supported puppeteers who are expanding their interests in producing puppet shows by visiting with them as a guild to encourage their endeavors.



We were saddened by the death of Norma McLennan, our Recording Secretary and good friend. Fellow board members volunteered to fill in doing double duty until a replacement can be made. Two members have stepped up to fill a board vacancy and replace a director who has served multiple terms in office. Other board members and directors have also extended their term limits to maintain our charter,

We have created an updated version of our guild logo and a new banner to be displayed at various puppet functions. Our web site has been updated and is maintained on a regular basis. Our quarterly publication, the Puppet Patter, continues to inform and document for posterity, the life of the guild and its members. A strong part of the guild is continuing it’s traditions with the annual picnic, a family affair, and the annual banquet. These traditions tie the past with the future.



Our organization, like any other, requires participation. Made up of four officers and five directors each doing their part equals one ninth of the work load and each ninth with the assistance of volunteers makes every task a team effort and a rewarding experience.

We look forward with great anticipation to the next six months and beyond. We ask you to take note of our activities and come join us!

*Fred Berchtold
President*

The Puppet Patter — Sowing and Reaping

It is rewarding to know that the Puppet Patter in it's quest to reach out to the membership, both present and past, and in return receiving updates from members that they are still leading active lives with connections in the world of puppetry. Only goes to prove, "Once a puppeteer, always a puppeteer!"

Former CPG President, Susan Bass Marcus, still a Chicago resident, reports although she is not actively performing these days, but she still sculpts puppets. She recently presented a "talk" regarding the various types of hand puppets she has created and offered in performance. Her latest venture is authoring a fantasy adventure novel titled, "Malevir – Dragons Return", soon to be in print.

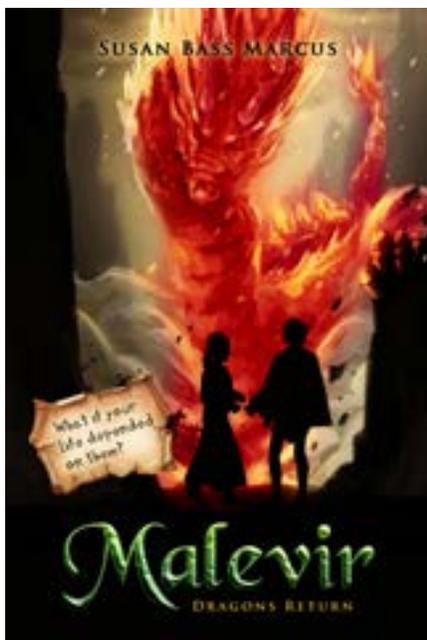


Susan leaning into puppetry.

We wish you well, Susan, and look forward to seeing you at one of our monthly gatherings.



Susan's creation "Arielle".



Susan's book cover illustration.

Jean Kuecher is also a puppeteer and producer of the Marionette Playhouse. She delights audiences with marionette, hand puppet and black light puppetry performances. Jean performs for schools, libraries, birthday parties, churches and corporate events

and is a performing and teaching artist with Young Audiences of Houston and East Texas Early Care and Education Career Development System.

As a teacher she used puppetry to enhance her classroom curriculum. As a school counselor she developed weekly marionette shows on self-awareness themes. Jean is a charter member of the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild, a member of the Puppeteers of America as well as a member of the CPG. Jean's



Jean with two of her puppet creations.



Jean Kuecher "on stage".

puppetry training workshops for educators are motivating and fun, while increasing literacy and science skills!

was to keep up with the various activities the guild is involved in. She now resides in Florida and in April took a trip North to Illinois and Missouri for shows. She plans to return for a series of Summer shows. Hey Sandi, if your close enough to Chicago, give us a call!

Sandi Silver contacted the Patter stating how nice it



Sandi Silver and friends.

THE GLEN
TOWN CENTER

PUPPET THEATER SERIES

Faraway Fairytales

with
Plum Crazy Puppets



Miss Silvia's puppet company invites you on a musical journey around the globe with colorful puppets, live music and an original tale starring Medio Pollito, the half-chick.

Friday, June 19 † 7-7:45 PM
The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd.

Online Registration opens June 5
www.theglentowncenter.com

FAMILY SHOW SPACE IS LIMITED!



Guess Who?



In the March 2015 Issue of the patter we challenged our readers with this picture.

Here's an upcoming puppet company probably starting up in their own basement. Looks like a father and son team.

It's Mel Sr. and Mel Jr. with their first puppet stage.
(Circa 1950)



Here's another, Guess Who?

Known as the singing nuns and their one hit repertoire, "Swinging on a Star". If you have ever been to Potlatch, a Regional or National Festival, you just have to know about this "bad habit" potpourri offering.

(Just let the editor know you witnessed this group at some point next time you see him). *Photo courtesy of Tih Penfil*

The Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series

By Staff Writer

Fairy Tale Forest

Continuing with the great puppet collaboration with the Glen Town Center and the CPG, the monthly performances are drawing ever increasing crowds. The performing area is the Book Market at Hanger One in the Glen Town Center, a children's book store with a large community area for plenty of seating.

from well known tales to create a story with a happy ending. He enlisted young members from the audience to participate and dress



Backstage preparations.



A princess, a prisoner, a dragon, and a frog.

The February 28, 2015 offering was the "Fairy Tale Forest" presented by Mr. Kipley (Wendz). His newly created puppet stage took on the aura of a forest setting. Concealed in the stage side panels were openings in a tree where a variety of animal puppets would appear with Mr. Kipley operating the puppets with him in full view participating in the story. He would also work from behind the stage in the conventional hands over head method.

up for the parts. The costuming was done by simple means with large silken scarves decorated in character outfits. A hat or crown was added to complete the costume. Of course there has to be a villain. A hand puppet witch tried her best to foil the happy ending but failed to do so. The witch was disappointed that every one was happy except her. Mr. Kipley assured the witch and the audience that in doing her part in the pretend play made everyone happy and by doing her job so well made everyone, including the witch, a happy ending for all.

Not telling any one specific fairy tale, he took snippets

Cooperfly Puppet Troupe
presents **A Variety of**
Puppet Vignettes
in G-Major



Saturday, August 1
10-10:45 AM

Kevin and Justin will have your kids singing, laughing, and playing along with their energy, music, puppets, and fun.

Family Fun

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Call: 847-729-7500 x 7900
Visit: Youth Services Desk

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GLENVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series

By Staff Writer

The Three Little Pigs

For the March 14, 2015 Puppet Theater Series program we reached out to Dave Roz and invited him to present his production of “The Three Little Pigs”. Dave is known for taking a traditional fairy



Dave and Libby — Curtain call.

tale, maintain the basic story line and make it into a new, hilarious original piece of work. He did just that! It has all the characters you might expect. There’s the three little pigs and of course the wolf. Each piggy wants to build a house to protect them from the wolf. Enter the Salesman!

Now, it just so happens he was selling straw. Perfect. The first

little piggy buys the straw and builds his house. Along comes the wolf and blows

the house down. Not a good idea. Later the salesman happens by, selling sticks. Just the thing the second little piggy needs to build his house. He buys the sticks, builds his house and wouldn’t you know it along comes the wolf and blows his house down. Not a good idea.



Dave and Libby.

The salesman happens by once again. The third piggy asks what he has to offer to build a house. The salesman suggests “pancakes”, to

which the piggy replies, “A house of pancakes? That would never work.” Well, the bricks won out and the wolf was done in and everyone lived happily ever after.

Working with Dave was his daughter, Libby. She’s been a presence back stage while growing up and now, as a young lady, she is taking part as an up and coming puppeteer. We later learned from Dave that she also contributes with ideas and writing new material. Quite the team.



Taking Meet and Greet to the next level.

Have You Visited 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. Posted you will find the current and upcoming performances at the Glen Town Center monthly Puppet Series co-sponsored by the CPG.

Our address is www.chicagopuppetguild.org

Included is a page listing the performing companies within our guild and a link to their web sites.

The Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series

By Staff Writer

The Tale of Peter Rabbit

April 25, 2015 called for a spring time show and Mark Nichols production of “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” fit the bill. With the youngsters assembled on the carpet in front of the stage, Mark



Farmer (Mark) McGregor.

spent a little time getting acquainted with his audience. He explained that he would be taking a part in the play as Farmer McGregor. He brought out a pair of coveralls and while explaining why farmers wore this type of clothing dressed them over his own clothes assuming his roll of the Farmer.

Mark returned backstage while explaining the plot mentioning that Peter Rabbit is a naughty bunny who does not always listen to his mother. His narration is replaced by live action with Mama Bunny and Peter’s sisters, Flopsy, Mopsy and brother, Cottontail. Mark manages to manipulate four puppets on stage at once. Mama Bunny is on his right hand and a tandem device is used to support and activate three bunnies. The comedy relief takes place with Flopsy bunny. She cannot control her ears from flopping. This bit, repeated throughout the show and brings howls of laughter from everyone in the audience. Peter, hides in a sprinkling can to avoid being caught by Mr. McGregor. This gives “Farmer McGregor” an opportunity to return



Take a bow Mark, well done!

outside the stage, now dressed with a straw hat and a long gray beard. He does a routine standing next to the stage using his right hand in the scene on stage involving a frog in a well. Peter escapes and returns home looking disheveled, much to the dismay of Mama Bunny, who brings the story to an end with a proper scolding.

The May 8, 2015 presentation of the Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series, “Tara’s Story”, by the Von Orthal Puppets, is reviewed by Fred Putz and is located on the next page in this issue of the Patter.

mark Nichols makes final touches.



mark Nichols makes final touches.

A next generation audience member.



A next generation audience member.

The Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series

By Fred Putz

Tara's Story

TARA'S STORY

Von Orthal Puppets

Book Market at Hanger One 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, IL

May 8, 2015

Written by Cynthia Von Orthal

Puppets By Cynthia VonOrthal

Musical score composed by Paul Von Meterns

Music: Paul Von Meterna and Cynthia VonOrthal

Puppeteers:

Jill Frederickson - Tara

Craig Dingle - Light, Tree, Brother Air & Bird

Susan Cane - Earth, Tree, Beach, Cloud & Butterfly

Sean Ewert - Mountain, Daughter Water & Buffalo

Gerry Shean - Sand, Mountain & Monkey

During his existence on this planet Mankind has tried to explain how the earth and it's inhabitants came into being. According to historian Nitin Kukmar, in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition the White Goddess, Tara is depicted as being "the one who enables living creatures to cross the Ocean of Existence and suffering". She is also the goddess who represents "virtuous and enlightened activity". Tara's virtues and compassion for living beings were the inspiration for Cynthia's creation play, "Tara's Story".



The stage was a simple patterned drop about 15 feet

wide. There were no special stage lighting or set pieces, the stage was bare. On the floor in front of the stage area was a large rug upon which the children sat and the adults were seated in chairs behind the children. The puppeteers were costumed in black shirts, black pants and wore black veils attached to black baseball caps. One of the puppeteers appeared and explained that the use of the black clothing allowed the audience to concentrate on the puppets and not the puppeteers. Following the tradition of the Indonesian rod puppets, the VonOrthal rod puppets had no legs or feet. The



long costumes swayed back and forth giving the illusion of legs. Each of the puppets was operated by one puppeteer in the Bunrku style.

A crack of thunder announced the beginning of the play and a back stage voice said that "at a time when there was only darkness there lived the Goddess, Tara". Tara with a metallic silver face, wearing a white silk long sleeved flowing-gown with red and blue decorations entered and danced, accompanied by the lyrical music. She beckoned for Her children, who were the elements of the earth to come forth and the music became more and more agitated as her Children entered. Each of the fifteen Children was either a rod puppet



or a walk-around costume and moved in a manner befitting its character. Set pieces in the form of trees and mountains entered and soon the stage was filled with the creatures and elements of the earth dancing in harmony with each other, thus ending the play.

(Would that the world we know today could be so beautifully and harmonically joined.)

It must be mentioned at this point that the rhythmical musical score was so powerful that every member of the audience was tapping a foot and swaying with the puppets. There was one little girl, not more than 3 years old who became so entranced with the music and the puppets that she danced during the entire play mimicking the movements of the puppets.

*Clockwise from above right:
The little girl in the purple shirt
danced through the entire show.*

*Fred Putz during the Meet and
Greet.*

*Tara with some elements of the
earth.*

*Some of the puppeteers of Tara's
Story.*



The Open Invitation Pays Off

In the March 2015 edition of the Patter, Susan Fulcher, CPG member and Outreach Coordinator at the Matteson, Illinois Public Library, invited CPG members to attend their Wizard of Oz festival on Saturday, April 18, 2015. Not only did 10 guild members accept the invitation and show up, but 188 library patrons signed in as well!

Guild members Dave Herzog, David Quesal, Fred Berchtold, Fred Putz and Silvia Kraft-Walker, with puppets in hand, greeted and entertained the arriving audience. Susan and her puppeteer partner, Joseph Friedman, known as “The Strawberry Jam Puppeteers”, took center stage at 1:00 pm and premiered a cleverly written production of “The Wizard of Oz”.

In taking on the staging of this well known story with multiple characters and sets is quite a challenge for a first time effort. But, with the assistance of a cleverly guided stage-hand puppet, Joseph kept the audience entertained while making the scene changes as part of the story.

The simple but effective hand puppets managed to keep the young audience in touch with the story by responding to situations that required their participation. Parents and friends in the audience were entertained as well by the children’s response and with lines in the script to hold the attention of the adults.

Special effects came into play when the audience assisted in the witches demise with a dose of water (confetti) thrown about to make her disappear. The kicker to this delightful show was revealing the true identity of the... “Lizard” of Oz.

Following the performance the children were invited to participate in puppet craft projects supervised by the library staff and parents. Susan and Joseph, what can you do to top this?



The Strawberry Jam Puppeteers



Fred Berchtold.



The craft table.



Clockwise, from right: David and Susan.

Fred Putz.

Dave Herzog (in the pink).

Silvia (as the witch) with her spider puppet.



The Puppet Patter is the Official Quarterly Publication of the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild. It is published on line and available in hard copy version to those CPG members without access to a computer. It will also be posted on the CPG web site. Publication dates are on or about the first of March, June, September and December. All items for publication by CPG members should be submitted no later than fourteen days prior to publication date to:

Mel Biske, Editor
 169 Woodlet Lane
 Bolingbrook, Il 60490
 email at: melikinpuppets@comcast.net

Publisher: Bridget DePriest

Notices of regular gatherings and/ or special events will be posted on the CPG web site: www.chicagopuppet.org by email or direct USPS mail to hard copy members. Future dates for events, performances, announcements or scheduled gatherings (meetings) will appear in the "Patter" if they apply to the time frame the publication covers.

Elected Officers and Directors for 2014-2015

President: Fred Berchtold
 Acting Recording Secretary: LaVerne Biske
 Director of Inter-guild
 Relations: LaVerne Biske
 (Corresponding Secretary)
 Director of Outreach: Fred Putz

Vice President: Susan Witek
 Treasurer: Harvey Kahler
 Director of Puppet Patter: Mel Biske
 Director of NDOP: Silvia Kraft-Walker
 Director of Relationships with
 Other Puppet Organizations: Dave Herzog

Grateful to the Chicago Puppeteers Guild

By Kyle Dine

I'm a Canadian children's musician and puppeteer who has been educating kids about food allergy awareness through school-wide assemblies for the past eight years. This fall, I raised enough money on Kickstarter to fund my dream project: an educational DVD that would reach more schools than I could ever while touring.

puppets come to life, but how we could give them a beautiful artistic backdrop that would engage young viewers.

In the weeks to follow, Bob's set design sketches came to life and I was amazed when I finally arrived in Chicago and first laid eyes on the amazing set he had designed and painted.



Tom, Kat, Kyle and Bob.

Once I settled on a Chicago based film production company, Green Room Productions, I was at loss where to go next for the finer details of the project. I emailed the Chicago Puppeteers Guild and they sent out an email to members to see if anyone was interested in helping out with the video. I received so many emails from interested puppeteers and was thrilled to hear from one man in particular who was my creative "right hand man" throughout the filming: Bob Anderson. He was very enthusiastic about the project and gave me so many ideas of how we could not only make

Kat Pleviak and Tom Holste also signed on to help as puppeteers during the filming. I was really amazed by how talented and versatile Kat was with her puppeteer skills, and incredible voices Tom was essential in bringing many puppets to life during our last day of filming surrounded by child actors.

With a total of ten puppets, Bob, Kat and Tom switched seamlessly between characters throughout the three day shoot in Huntley, IL. I was incredibly impressed with how professional they were – fully knowing how much this project meant to me. However, I really appreciated their ability to add levity when it was needed most. When I got flustered after messing up my lines, they would have me in stitches giving the puppets attitudes of their own! Puppeteers have the best sense of humor!

I will forever be thankful to Bob, Kat, Tom and the Chicago Puppeteers Guild for all of their support of my video project. Parents and children with food allergies owe a lot of thanks too as this video will be a first of its kind resource. It will be released this summer, and I am thrilled to thank CPG in the credits for supporting this grateful artist and cause.

For more information about the video, please visit www.foodallergyvideo.com



Lights, Camera, ACTION!



Set design by Bob Anderson.

The Selfish Giant

By Fred Putz

February 21, 2015 Chicago Children's Theater

Produced by Blair Thomas & Co.

Based on the story by Oscar Wilde

Created by Blair Thomas and Michael Smith

Cast: Sam Deutsch – Puppeteer

Michael Smith – Musician and Cantor

Jesse Mooney-Bullock – Puppet Designer

The stage was empty with the exception of a large open book, perhaps 20 feet wide and 12 feet high. In the bottom halves of the book were cloth draped doorways which served as entrances and exits. The upper halves of the book housed windows. In the right window was a roll upon which the changing scenery was painted. In the left window was also a roll that explained the events of the story. On downstage right was a stool, a guitar and a mandolin.

Sam Deutsch as a mime entered with a bouquet of large artificial flowers and proceeded to place them in containers in front of the shell-shaped foot lights. He invited the children in the front row to pick and keep a flower at their seats. Deutsch then placed three old steamer trunks on stage right and an old arm chair and a table with a lamp on stage left. Michael Smith entered, seated himself on the downstage stool and took up the guitar.

Deutsch exited and re-entered wearing a walk-around costume with a very large head with articulated eyes and mouth, becoming the Giant. The puppet's costume had large hands in the palm of which were holes from which the puppeteer's hand could pick up and manipulate objects.

Accompanied in song by Smith, the Giant explained that he had been just returned from an extended visit with his relatives and was disturbed to find that children were playing in his garden and exited.

The rolls began to move visually reaffirming the story. As Smith sang a song about the Giant's garden, Deutsch returned as the Mime and opened a trunk from which he took two Bohemian style marionettes, a boy and a girl. He then installed leafless trees on the trunks which, in turn became the puppet stage. As Deutsch placed the puppets in the trees, Smith sang a song about the unwelcome children playing in the Giant's garden. Taking set pieces out of the trunks, Deutsch continued to build the setting which included a cut-out of the town and a four foot tall miniature Giant's castle tower. To keep the children and town's people out of the garden, Deutsch proceeded to build a wall and install a sign that read, "Kids keep out". With peace and quiet restored, the Giant seated himself in his arm chair and fell into a deep sleep. By means of cleverly built, invisible trap doors built in the back of the Giant's costume and the

arm chair, Deutsch was able to exit the costume leaving the Giant sleeping on stage.

With the banishment of the children, the garden began to die. From the large trunk Deutsch brought out a white tarp and covered the town with the white cloth representing snow. Smith sang a song about winter and from a trunk Deutsch took a rod puppet, with a long gray head with a pointed chin and nose and flowing white robe, "Old Man winter" who reigned over the garden and the town. Deutsch opened another trunk which held three human masks with articulated mouths representing the town's people, that mimed to the words of the song, "Wondering why spring is so late this year". The wall of the miniature Giant's castle tower opened to reveal a marionette Giant looking out over the cold and barren landscape.



Missing the summer and their playtime in the garden the children, (three flat cutout figures of the children.) broke a hole in the wall and climbed up in to the trees. The trees leafed out by means of folded fans that opened to reveal painted leaves and blossoms as Smith sang, "Old Man Winter Bye Bye", which was a very nice effect. But, one little boy could not climb up the tree. Seeing the change that had occurred in the garden with the return of the children, the Giant's attitude softened and he lifted the boy into the tree.

Deutsch removed the snow tarp from the setting. The children in the front row put the flowers back into the footlight holders ending the play. The show ended with a question and answer period where the children were asked which part of the show they liked best. However, because it was a rather long performance, the children became restless and many began leaving the theater.

In spite of the comments that follow, "The Selfish Giant" was a delightful and well-designed play. Blair Thomas and his cast of two deserve a long round of applause.

It is the opinion of this reviewer that there were two elements that detracted from the performance: one was the use of the Bohemian style marionette which so severely restricts the puppets' manipulation, that life-like movement is impossible; the second is the use of a human sized stage with small puppets that requires the dragging of the puppets across long distances rather than allowing them to walk in a realistic manner.

Lest We Forget

By Fred Putz

Chicagoland Puppetry Guild's Historian

Who was Bobby Clark?

Had it not been for the endeavors of the showmen who came before us, the art of puppetry would not exist. Often as we go about claiming our individual and ancient collective greatness we forget that we are only copying and applying new materials to old techniques and processes. The purpose of this column is to remember and pay homage to the puppeteers who have "played on the boards" here in Chicago before us. Perhaps, some day you will be so remembered.

The birth place, birth date and early history of Bobby Clark is a mystery. We know that according to Paul McPharlin's *The Puppet Theater In America*, Clark was active in the Chicago area in 1963; "For many years Bobby Clark was known for his marionette night club shows. In 1963 he turned to the musical show and produced *Pinocchio*, a 'fresh and grandiose kind of entertainment for children.' It had more than a hundred puppets from two-and-a-half to six feet tall, which were moved around a mammoth stage with a proscenium twenty feet wide and eight feet high. There was lots of scenery, glitter and as much music as a Broadway musical.

Arthur Miller wrote six songs and appropriate tunes for the entire show, including dances. *Pinocchio* opened in December 1964 at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee, and was booked into more than seventy major theaters the first season by an enterprising publicity man. The show was advertised as a "Broadway Musical for Children," with due emphasis upon its size and cost. Another show, *The Lad...Aladdin*, was built in 1966 with more puppets, a bigger stage, more exotic settings, more songs — and of course, at a greater cost. It was indeed a super spectacle". More information on Clark comes from a 2011 Facebook article written by CPG Board Member, David Herzog:

"Puppeteer Bobby Clark?"

Posted by [David C. Herzog](#) on September 30, 2011 at 10:20am in: [The Business of Puppets](#)

"There was a puppeteer named Bobby Clark who was based

in Chicago in the 1960's. He created two large scale productions: *Pinocchio*, and *Aladdin*. The *Pinocchio* production toured well into the 80's. These were both very large productions with around 100 marionettes ranging in size from 2 to six feet and requiring around 6 or more puppeteers per production. Even after Clark's death the producer Rubin Budrow took over claiming it was his production. He even switched his name with Clark's in the program bio. The original read,"Bobby Clark gathered his artists together to create the 101 life sized marionettes...." It was then changed to; "Rubin Budrow gathered his artists together....". Budrow also had large scale productions of *Sleeping Beauty*, *Aladdin*, and *Babes in Toyland* with puppets created by Bob Kramer. Little is known about those productions except that they did not seem to be commercially successful. The puppets by Kramer however were very beautiful. It seems Clark passed away sometime in the late 70's under mysterious circumstances. Late Chicago puppeteer Ray Nelson seemed to think drugs were somehow involved, but this is just rumor. I saw *Pinocchio* at the Civic theater in Chicago at age 8 and then at the Studebaker Theater when I was 21 or 22. There are a few pictures in old puppetry journals but very little is known by any of the Chicagoland puppeteers about this man. If anyone has information to add to this chapter in Chicago's puppet history we would love to know more."

An April 26, 1972 Lerner Newspaper featured the article, "Parading Puppets open at Athenaeum Theater". The article's photo shows a long-haired Randy Bohn, who must have been one of the puppeteers adjusting a large clown marionette. A quote from the article: "MASTER PUPPETEER Bobby Clark is introducing 109 of his fantasy characters, some old and some new, some borrowed and one truly blue 10-foot-tall rabbit in his new review, 'Puppets on Parade at the Athenaeum Theater...'. "The trip of fantasy begins the moment youngsters enter the theater and are greeted by clown ushers. Birthday celebrants will be surprised to find themselves called on stage to receive a free gift and to have the audience sing 'Happy Birth Day in their honor'."

As was previously requested, if any of you, our readers has more information on Bobby Clark we would appreciate you submitting the information for safe keeping in our archives.



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By the Way.....

By Ann Onymous

It's always fun, no matter where it is — the Annual CPG Picnic will be celebrated on Sunday, July 12, 2015. Once again members and their families are invited to the home and studio of the Melikin Puppets. Mel, LaVerne and family members will be hosting the event. It's scheduled to begin a 2:00 pm. Be sure to save the date! Watch for details to be announced in a special email to follow shortly.

Silvia reports that she has booked the Cooperfly Puppet Troupe to appear at the Glenview Library on Saturday, August 1, 2015, 10 – 10:45 am. They will present “A Variety of Puppet Vignettes in G-Major”.

CPG members and Puppet Fans are invited to stick around after the 10 am show while performers Kevin and Justin share how they entertain with puppets and props. Just drop in. It is suggested you register for the show separately at the Glenview Library. (See the ad on page 4 of this issue of the Patter, or visit the CPG web site for information).



In the March 2015 issue of the Patter we printed a few items we called “A Slice of Life”. These are events that happen in the line of duty of performing puppeteers. They may seem trivial at the time but as time goes by we look back at those little “slices” in retrospect and cherish the memories. We asked if you would like to share those slices with us and we received the following:

“One Mom, a high school French teacher, who is a regular attendee of the Glen Town Puppet Theater Series, was so inspired by Dave Roz’s show, The Three Little Pigs, that she has decided to modify her annual student assignment to “write a fractured fairy tale in French and perform it with puppets!” She said her students are so excited! THIS IS WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT, PEEPS!”

Silvia Kraft-Walker

“Many years ago when I was just getting started doing traditional marionettes, I produced an old fashioned melodrama that took place in a Rocky Mountain mining town. (I was living in Denver at the time.) At one point when the villain, Mr. Hardrock, was being really nasty to Little Nell and rather than the usual “boo”,

one man said, “Cut off his strings!” That got the best laugh in the entire show. I could not think of another response other than, “Quiet or I’ll put your ___ in the ore crusher”, which I kept to myself.”

Fred Putz

In case you’re wondering why there isn’t any coverage of the World Puppetry Day Celebration in this issue of the Patter, the reason is the coverage was so large and complete we created a special publication with photos and descriptions and emailed it on March 21st to the Membership. If you missed it, it can be found on the web site at www.chicagopuppetguild.org. Click on World Puppetry Day Celebration.

The Melikin Puppets recently performed our poetry show, “Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax” at the elementary school in Paw Paw, Illinois. The second grade class sent thank you letters. Each one is a treasure mentioning what part of the show they liked best. This one in particular caught our attention. When she signed off she wanted to be sure I knew who she was so she provided her “exact” location.



One student sent a letter, years ago, with a picture she drew from our “Dragon Feathers!” show. I managed to contact her parents through the school and received permission to use her drawing on our school posters and study guides.

We have boxes of thank you letters from students that we have collected over the years. They are very difficult to throw away. We may have enough letters to write a book!



Chicagoland Puppetry Guild Membership Application for Sept 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015

chicagopuppetguild.org chicagolandpuppetryguild@yahoo.com facebook.com/cpguild

For further info contact CPG President Fred Berchtold at 847-529-1725

Send this application with check payable to “Chicagoland Puppetry Guild”, to Marilyn Putz, 2580 Oak Street, Highland Park, Illinois 60035

- | Membership | Yearly | Votes | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Couple/family | \$30 | 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Adult | \$20 | 1 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Company | \$30 | 2 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Senior 62+ | \$15 | 1 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$15 | 1 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Junior 15- | \$15 | 1 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Associate | \$15 | 0 | Enclosed \$ _____ |

Names _____

Birth Dates _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Email address _____ preferred contact _____

A membership directory is published and distributed among the membership during November. If you want to be listed, indicate here: Yes _____ No _____ We also include the name of your puppetry company name. If you want to limit or add to information:

_____.....

Chicagoland Puppetry Guild is interested in you. Tell us about your interests in puppetry, what you're doing and your status as a puppeteer.

- Marionettes
- Hand Puppets
- Shadow Puppets
- Ventriloquist
- Rod Puppets
- Film/Video
- Costume Maker
- Puppet Builder
- Puppetry Enthusiast
- Librarian
- Teacher
- Puppet Ministry
- Semi professional - part-time puppeteer
- Professional - make my living with puppets

Other _____

Occasionally the guild is asked for sources of puppet shows, workshops and more. If you are interested in our referral, include what you can do, and your limitations. Please include your web site.

Are you a member of other puppetry related organizations?

- Puppeteers of America
- UNIMA USA
- Storytelling Guild or network

Other _____

For additional information, call CPG President, Fred Berchtold at 847-516-1440

Make your check payable to Chicagoland Puppetry Guild. Mail it with this application to:

Marilyn Putz
Chicagoland Puppetry Guild
2580 Oak Street
Highland Park, IL 60035

Applicant, date today _____ Treasurer, Date Received _____
