



Greetings!

I can finally introduce myself. My name is (drum roll, please)...

CeePeeGee! (with the accent on the 'Pee' part of the name)

I want to thank everyone who submitted a name for me, and I also want to thank Mr. Putz for the winning name. It's so nice not having to be called, "That Logo Guy" anymore. Don't get me wrong, I didn't mind, but the people at the bank would look at me funny when I went to cash a check. Again, thank you to the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild and all the members. I look forward to working with all of you for years to come.

Sincerely Your Logo,

CeePeeGee



Here is the list of names that were submitted for the Name the Logo Contest. They are listed as received via email. There are 34 names. Some of the entries contained more than one name. Some entries were accompanied with a pronunciation, or a reason for tie-in to the Chicagoland name suggested.

- Cheeko
- ChiP – (Chi for Chicagoland - P for Puppetry)
- “Handy Stringfellow”
- “Magnificent Miles”
- Murry Annette Shikaakwa
- Wiggley P. Fields
- “CePeeGee - (pronounced with an Italian accent on the Pee)
- Orville – He looks like an Orville
- Peppy the Puppeteer
- Bean-zo - Resemblance to the Bean Sculpture down town
- Chi-guy
- CHI-P
- CHIKAPUP!
- CHICAPU= CHI-KAH-POO

- Punch
- Chico Chicago
- Pupperoni
- Pupperazzi
- Puppincello
- Puppín' Chgo
- Puppet in Fun
- Puppet Posin
- Giggles
- Plume
- Patches

- Buddy
- Stitches
- Buddy Puppet
- Chuckles
- Twinkle
- Gambol
- Jiggles
- Peanut
- The Four Freddie's

Here is how the final name was selected:

The list of names was submitted to the Board Officers and Directors for consideration. The tenth member of the Board is the Patter Editor, who had knowledge of the name of the sender, and was not involved in the final decision. When the votes were cast by email, the majority chose the winning name, “CeePeeGee”.

The 2018 World Day of Puppetry Celebration

A message from the Director, Susan Fulcher

Hello CPG Friends!

It's that time of the year to get ready to celebrate World Day of Puppetry and I am proud to announce our guild is partnering with the Roselle Public Library for an afternoon of puppet fun!

The Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018

Time: 1 -3 pm

The library is located at 40 Park Street in Roselle, Illinois

Our guest performer is Anne Newman with her Puppetfolk Productions presentations of "Jack and The Beanstalk". Anne's performance will be from 1 to 2 pm. Following the show there will



Anne Newman of Puppetfolk Productions.

be a Puppet Maker Fair in the Children's department. Connor Asher will demonstrate television puppetry. Jill Frederickson will show the kids how to make a butterfly puppet, and me, Susan Fulcher, I will show the kids how to make shadow puppets. The librarians will also have several craft stations so the kids will get to make and take home, paper puppets. The Puppet Maker Fair will run from 2-3 pm.

While everything scheduled is ready to celebrate this awesome day, I do need a little help. We need puppets to display. The library has many short bookshelves that would be perfect to display puppets. If you've made a puppet that you're proud of and don't mind kids touching it, then bring it along with a stand to display. Since we're celebrating on St Patrick's Day, I thought it might be fun if everyone brought a "green" puppet, either to display or to use to interact with the kids. Just a thought.

To end this fun day of puppetry, I was thinking the guild

members could go out and have a late lunch together at a pizza joint in walking distance of the library. If you are able to join me please let me know so I can save you a seat.

I think that's it. If you can join us for PUPPET FUN at the Roselle Public Library, please let me know. Looking forward to a FABULOUS DAY!

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 CPG "Outreach Program"

Branch One

CPG member Susan Fulcher, a Librarian at the Matteson Area Public Library District in Matteson, Illinois, has developed a Junior Puppeteers program. The program involves elementary and middle school students who learn to create various styles of puppets. They are also learning how to plan and perform puppet shows. Since its inception just over a year ago, members of the Junior Puppeteers have participated with performances for the public at the library, and have been invited to perform at local schools.



Dave Herzog (Who is known to outstare a marionette)

Last November, 2017, one of the Junior Puppeteers qualified, and was awarded a scholarship to attend Potlatch with his family (quite a learning experience!)

With the talents and guidance of Dave Herzog, along with Susan, participants have developed both artistic and planning skills as well as increased confidence via the Junior Puppeteers program.



Photos by Susan Fulcher.



Susan Fulcher

Junior Puppeteers puppet creations

Branch Two

By Connor Asher

On January 24, 2018 The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild hosted it's first "Family Friendly" one hour puppet variety show held at the "Mather's More than a Café" in Chicago. The puppet variety show featured various styles of puppetry including: hand, rod, tabletop, marionette, vent and toy theater presented by various members of the CPG.

Acts were presented by: Steven Widerman and Mark Blashford presenting "Mr. Ritz". Chris Krawczyk presented "The Reunion", Alejandro Rovera presented "Socky the Sock Puppet's Joke Time", Fred Berchtold, Zeezy Posner presented "The Story of Purim", Terri Reimer presented "The incredible Circus Small" as hosted by Connor Asher with Jeremy J. Giggles.

The event was organized by Susan Witek as an outreach program allowing the CPG to involve and encourage the art of puppetry to the public. A special thanks to the management of Mather's, More Than a Café!



The Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series

By Fred Putz

The Shoemaker and the Elves and The Night Before Christmas

The Shoemaker and the Elves

The Melikin Puppets

Adapted from the original stories by Mel Biske

Wednesday, December 28, 2017

The Book Market at Hanger One, Glenview, IL

Puppets designed and built by Mel and LaVerne Biske

Puppeteers- Mel and Neal Biske (Son)

Narrator- Brad Bisk (Brother)

Elves voices- Mel, Neal and Brad

Customer- Mel Biske

Elves work song- "Merry Little Elves are we"

The information included in this article was provided by Mel Biske both in interviews and writing. "The Melikin Puppets are the original creations of Mel and LaVerne Biske, also known as Mr. and Mrs. Melikin. Along with their sons, Neil and Jeff, they

sections: The main front section contains the playboard and the prop shelf and is flanked by two tall panels. All of the panels are draped in dark blue and attached by means of Velcro. A unique aspect of the stage is an additional miniature rod puppet stage mounted at the top of the structure. There is no proscenium arch. The lighting system is designed to follow the requirements of a professional theater stage. Seven 125-watt mini spots with interchangeable gels light the main stage and two 50-watt "juice can" scoop lights cut down the shadows. A 600-watt household dimmer controls the light's intensity. Two long, thin-walled electrical pipes angled above the stage lift the light bank out of view from the audience.

The Melikin hand puppets are unique. They are much larger than the average three-fingered hand puppets and are visible from long distances. They have large, articulated mouths which require the use of the thumb and all fingers. Their large mouths visually insure which puppet is speaking. The puppet's arms are attached at the shoulder and swing freely as the puppet is moved lending a life-like appearance. Puppets designed to gesture have rods attached to the hands. All of the puppets are beautifully costumed.



The Shoemaker and the Elves

have been presenting puppet theater to thousands of children from coast to coast in schools, children's theaters and many other venues since 1967". They are the recipients of the UNIMA -USA Citation.

In order for you to envision these two productions it is necessary that I describe the unique Melikin hand puppet stage: The Melikin stage is a "versatile arena style stage, made from 1x2 inch screen stock". I asked Mel why "screen stock" and he said that it was the straightest and least likely to warp. The stage has three

The Tradition

"Starting shortly after Thanksgiving, the Melikins revive their annual Christmas two-part production. The first part is an adapted version of the Brothers Grimm tale of 'The Shoemaker and the Elves' followed by Clement C. Moore's poem, 'The Night Before Christmas'." This wonderful "double whammy" is offered only by the Melikin Puppets and is more than enough to bring a smile as well as tears to all who see the production.

"The Shoemaker and the Elves" Setting

The entire action took place in the Shoemaker's workshop and living quarters. The narrator skillfully guided the audience through the scenes, saving a lot of time and extra dialogue.

A flat that hung above the cyclorama/scrim had been cleverly designed with warped perspective to look like the beamed

ceiling of a cottage. A doorway on downstage right led to the street. The cyclorama included two snow drifted windows between which was a fireplace. Downstage center was a cobbler's bench and a bed which stood on downstage left. On the aforementioned upper staging area was a small village scene consisting of a row of eight cottages and shops each of which contained windows of various sizes and shapes. The windows were capable of simulating indoor lighting and are controlled by a dimmer. This scene was used as a "bridge of narrative description" between the scenes during which the Shoemaker, after selling the pair of shoes made by the Elves, went shopping. Small rod puppets acted the parts of the Shoemaker and the villagers walking the streets and shopping.

This description of the story is quoted from a Melikin news release: "The Shoemaker and the Elves is an adaptation of the quaint Brothers Grimm story of 'The Shoemaker and the 'Elves'. It has been transformed into a heartwarming rendition of how Santa's singing Elves, Eeeney, Meeney, Miney and Moe who, just in time for them to hurry back to the North Pole to polish Santa's boots, manage to help a poor, and ill shoemaker complete his tasks.

The play's script, with the exception of the Elves needing to hurry back to the North Pole closely followed the original story: The Shoemaker, weary and ill was unable to finish an order for new shoes. A customer entered and having compassion for the old man asleep at his bench, picked him up and put him into his bed. (At this point, the customer pulled the blankets up over the Shoemaker's body, causing the audience to respond to this bit of magical stage business.)

The lights dimmed, and a soft blue light illuminated the bed. A flickering fire in the fire place added a warm glow to the scene. The lights shifted to the small village above the main stage. The bell in the town hall announced the midnight hour and one by one the tiny houses darkened. Then, a baby's crying was heard and on the top floor of one of the houses a light turned on, the crying ceased, and the light went out signifying that the whole town had gone to sleep.

The Elves appeared and hurriedly made the shoes while singing their charming original "work song". (Their voices resembled those of the famous singing "Chipmunks".) Mel explained that in the sound studio, during the recording of the Elves' parts, the actors spoke and sang slowly at a speed of 3 & 3/4 RPM so that when played back at 7 & 1/2 RPM, the vocal distortion occurred. After two nights of mysterious shoe making the Shoemaker, (having had a square meal and some rest) decided to hide in the shadows the next night to see who or what was making the new shoes. He spied the Elves at work and, well, you know the rest of the story.

The Night Before Christmas

"Melikin Style"

"You've heard it before, but never told through the eyes of the Family Dog!"

THE VOICES:

Narrator- Brad Bisk (Brother)

Family-(Pantomimed reaction to narration)

Woofers- Mel Biske

Santa- Brad Bisk (Brother)

Puppeteers- Mel and Neal Biske (Son)

Puppets designed and created by Mel and LaVerne Biske

Set and props- Mel Biske

Could it be possible that another puppet play would follow and compete with the success of "The Shoemaker and the Elves"? Well, yes it's possible, and it did! Master Puppeteer Mel Biske stepped out from behind the stage to thank the audience for it's warm applause and introduced "The Night Before Christmas". We noticed that the scenery for the "Shoemaker was mysteriously disappearing. (An unusual aspect of a Melikin Production is that no human hands are visible when the settings are being changed.) Mel explained the reason that "The Shoemaker" show was played first was to allow the Elves to act

as stagehands, a job that they much enjoyed. However, much to the delight of the audience, and carefully directed by Mel, one of the Elves, Moe, managed to turn the scene change into a "Comedy of Errors".



The Night Before Christmas

The Designing of the Setting

Mel asked the audience for suggestions for the Christmas story setting saying, "How will Santa get into the house to deliver his gifts?" Of course, a fire place was mentioned whereupon Elf Moe installed a fireplace on down stage right. A window was needed from which to spy Santa's Sleigh. It required several attempts before the window was correctly placed on the scrim. Then, a Christmas Tree in front of the window was needed. Moe kept misplacing the tree. Mel found it necessary to direct Moe inch by inch until the tree was placed correctly. However, when Mel turned to face the audience, seeing his chance, Moe moved the tree to where he thought it should be and exited. With a shrug of his shoulders, Mel acquiesced to Moe's placement of the tree and returned to back stage. Moe returned to the stage, clapped his hands three times and the tree was lighted.

The Narrator introduced the family; Mama entered and bowed, Papa entered and bowed to Mama and the audience. The children entered all excited and jumped and ran around the stage. The whole family was excited and talking with each other. Finally, the Narrator interrupted, ending the mayhem and sent them all to bed.

Woofers, a large white, shaggy Muppet style dog with one articulated arm and hand, entered and excitedly signaled to the audience that everyone had forgotten the cookies and milk for Santa. Woofers exited and returned with the milk and cookies prop.

Something else was bothering Woofier and the Narrator said, "You should have thought of that before." Woofier exited and returned with his own special 18 inch stocking and proceeded to throw it over the playboard. Satisfied that all was ready, Woofier went to sleep on down stage center. (The narration was cleverly interwoven into the poem so that none of the original content was diminished. For example: NARRATOR; "Mama in her kerchief and Papa in his cap had just settled their brains for a long winter's nap." (On the sound track a clatter was heard.) "When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter," (Following the script, Woofier acted out the movements) "Woofier jumped up to see what was the matter. Away to the window he flew like a flash, stuck his head out the window and crashed through the glass! Woofier, next time tear open the shutters and throw up the sash!")



Woofier and Santa

Through his barking and pantomime, Woofier told the audience that Santa was arriving. While Santa was off stage calling to his reindeer, Woofier was busy tidying up the house. He tilted his head and one ear perked up when he heard Santa on the roof. Santa arrived with a bound. But not being sure that the intruder was Santa, Woofier growled at him. As the Narrator recited Santa's description, i.e. "And his clothes were all covered with ashes and soot." Woofier inspected each detail and was finally, convinced that it was indeed, Santa. Showing his affection, Woofier jumped up, licked and pawed Santa with great enthusiasm.

Not forgetting an important detail, Woofier showed Santa his huge stocking and received permission to fill it to the brim. As Santa removed the toys from his pack, Woofier played with each one: the doll he rocked in his paws which caused it to dance. He swung the airplane around and threw it up and over the scrim.

(Mel mentioned that if the show was being given in a gymnasium, he would place the stage under the basketball net and try to make a basket with the plane, which he had done a few times.) Woofier played with each toy, tooting the horn to the accompaniment "Christmas Chopsticks" and rocking the doll to sleep. The toy segment ended with his playing the toy drum.

Woofier offered Santa the cookies and milk, but time was short and Santa had to continue his journey. Woofier took the milk and cookies off stage and returned with a paper bag – a "doggy bag"! Santa left the scene only to return with a large box tied with a red ribbon and bow. A tag said, "Do not open until Christmas!" Anxiously, Woofier polled the audience and rationalized that it was after midnight. It was Christmas morning! The Narrator encouraged

Woofier to open the box, but before he could open it, the box lid flew off and out popped a hand puppet, a miniature version of Woofier. Woofier lifted the puppet out of the box, cuddled it, gave it a kiss and waved goodbye to the audience. Off stage Santa was heard wishing, "A Merry Christmas to all, and to all, goodnight!"

In Review

The Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series

By Dave Herzog

Hansel and Gretel

Hansel and Gretel

By The Puppet Place

Despite snowmageden 2018 occurring two days before, a good audience of over 50 people attended the Saturday February 10th performance of Hansel and Gretel by The Puppet Place.

Mark Nichols performed a lively, fast paced, interactive version of the oft told story featuring large boldly colored hand puppets. Yes you can have a blue witch in Hansel and Gretel.

Notable in Mark's performance is his complete ease with a production he has performed thousands of times over the years. His live voices are varied and each puppets character is carefully refined. Mark is a master at ad libs and keeps the story going at a fast clip engaging the children with interactive dialogue throughout the show. A particular favorite of the children attending was Susie the Goose who speaks in a combination of honks and words.

Also notable in this production is the use of orchestral music from the score of the original Opera, by Humperdinck which is always a highlight when used in any production of this timeless tale.

Many thanks to Mark Nichols the Puppet Place for starting out the 2018 Glen Series with such a fine show.



THE GLEN
TOWN CENTER
PUPPET THEATER SERIES

Mark Nichols's Puppet Place PRESENTS
HANSEL and GRETEL

Saturday,
Feb. 10 at 11:00AM
The Book Market at Hangar One
2651 Navy Blvd.

Registration begins
January 25 at
www.TheGlenTownCenter.com





Mark Nichols

· -2222· · 4444· ·
In Memoriam
· -2222· · 4444· ·



Marc Dunworth

November 20, 1982 - March 7, 2018

· -2222· · 4444· ·

It is with heavy heart and sadness we report the sudden death of fellow CPG member, Marc Dunworth, at the age of thirty-five. Marc had a lifelong interest and dedication to the art of puppetry. He will be revered and remembered by countless friends in the puppet community as a talented, creative and loving individual.



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

CPG Web Master: Jeff Biske

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 2017-2018

President: Fred Berchtold
Recording Secretary: Jill Frederickson
Director of Guild Member Relations: LaVerne Biske
Guild Historian: Fred Putz
Director of Outreach: Susan Witek

Vice President: Connor Asher
Treasurer: Marilyn Putz
Director of Guild Publication and CPG Web Site: Mel Biske
Director of World Puppetry Day 2018: Susan Fulcher
Liaison with Other Puppet Organizations: Dave Herzog
Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series: Dave Herzog

By the Way.....

By Ann Onymous

We hear that Connor Asher is working on building a new stage. Seems like when Conner saw Kevin Frisch perform at Potlatch last November, using his stage to provide performing areas for various puppet presentations, it gave him an inspiration to work on his own stage design. Dave Herzog is pitching in and assisting when needed. We hope he has it completed so we may see it pictured in the next edition of the Patter.

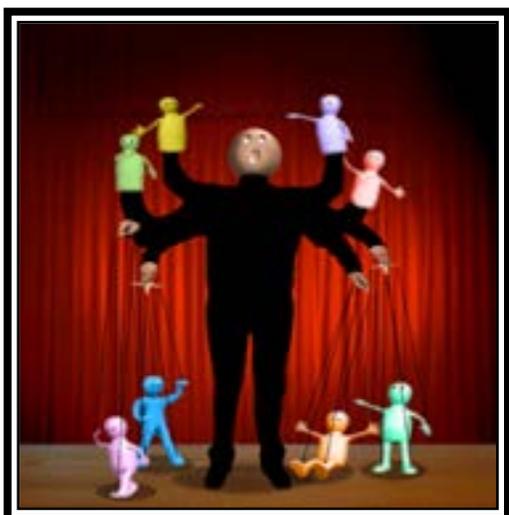
With Dave Herzog's projected plans for monthly performances for the Glen Town Puppet Theater Series, we may hope to see Guy Thompson's Family Friendly presentation of "Punch and Judy" soon.



Guy Thompson

Now that our CPG logo has a name, It was decided that a large parade puppet be created for showing at special events. The team of Connor Asher, Jill Frederickson, Chris Krawczyk, Fred Berchtold and Dave (There he is again) Herzog, would tackle the job. One problem was to find a space large enough to work in. Susan Witek had connections with the principal at Sacred Heart of Mary School in Chicago. In return for the kind offer, the guild offer to help in designing and creating two school team mascots, a "Funky Falcon" and a Wildcat. Sally Sharp is in charge of the art room and provided 12 students: three teams, to assist. Can hardly wait to see the results!

Wildcat mascot



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Mission Statement

The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild is a non-profit organization and is part of a national organization of performers promoting the art of puppetry. Our role is to honor, promote, encourage, and inspire all forms of puppetry arts' and puppeteers in their endeavours and to provide a fellowship of cooperation and inspiration to puppeteers everywhere.

Chicagoland Puppetry Guild Membership Application for September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018

Send this application with check payable to: **Chicagoland Puppetry Guild** to: LaVerne Biske • 169 Woodlet Lane • Bolingbrook, Illinois 60490

Please Print All Information Neatly

Membership Yearly Votes

- Couple/Family.....\$30.....2
- Adult\$20.....1
- Company\$30.....2
- Senior (62+)\$15.....1
- Student\$15.....1
- Junior (15-).....\$15.....1
- Associate\$15.....0

Application Date _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name _____ Birth date _____
mo/day/year

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) Cell (_____)

Email _____ Preferred contact Home phone Cell phone Email

Additional names associated with this membership:

Name _____ Birth date _____
mo/day/year

A membership directory is published and distributed among the membership in November. Would you and/or your company like to be listed in this directory? (please check all that apply)

- YES** - Please list me in this directory
- YES** - Please list my company in this directory
- NO** - I do not wish to be listed in this directory

Please list any additional information you would like to add. CPG will make every effort to include this additional information in the directory.

The Chicagoland Puppetry Guild is interested in you. Please tell us about your interest in puppetry: what you are doing and your status as a puppeteer. (please check all that apply)

| I perform | I am interested in | | I perform | I am interested in | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marionettes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Puppet Builder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hand Puppets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Librarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shadow Puppets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ventriloquist | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Puppet Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rod Puppets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Puppet Enthusiast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Film/Video | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Semi-Professional (part time puppeteer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Costume Maker | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Professional (make my living in puppetry) |

Other: _____

Occasionally the Guild is asked for sources for puppet shows, workshops, and more. If you are interested in our referral, please indicate what services you or your company can provide and what your limitations are. Please include your website if applicable.

Are you a member of any other puppetry related organizations? (please check all that apply)

- Puppeteers of America UNIMA USA Storytelling Guild or network Other (please specify)

For more information about the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild contact CPG President - Fred Berchtold at 847-529-1725

..... **FOLD HERE**

Please print your name and return address in the space below

Please make sure address appears in window

LaVerne Biske
 Chicagoland Puppetry Guild
 169 Woodlet Lane
 Bolingbrook, IL 60490

**Check must be made payable to:
 Chicagoland Puppetry Guild**



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Recorded by _____