



## The Nomination Results Are In!

Last April 15, 2017, nomination forms were mailed to every CPG member. Nominations were needed for candidates to fill the five offices consisting of the ruling board of the guild. The following is the proposed slate of officers for the year September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

President – Fred Berchtold (Incumbent)  
 Vice-President – Connor Asher (New)  
 Treasurer – Marilyn Putz (New)  
 Recording Secretary – Jill Frederickson (New)  
 Director of Guild Member Relations – LaVerne Biske (Incumbent)



*Fred Berchtold*



*Connor Asher*

Susan Witek, currently serving as Vice-President, volunteered to relinquish her office in favor of Connor Asher who is therefore running unopposed as Vice-President.

Jill Frederickson accepted her nomination to serve as Recording Secretary. Doria Martuzzo, who currently holds the office, volunteered to relinquish her office and will retire after serving two



*Marilyn Putz; with Fred, Guild Historian.*



*LaVerne Biske*

terms. This leaves Jill running unopposed.

The office of Treasurer was vacated when Harvey Kahler had to resign due to health issues. Marilyn Putz accepted the temporary appointment by the president and was approved by the board. Marilyn was then nominated unanimously and is running unopposed.

Since five candidates nominated for five offices are each running unopposed, ballots for voting will not be mailed. Therefore the next step in the process is the Election of Officers. The Election will be held at the next official gathering at the annual CPG Picnic on July 9, 2017 at the home of the president, Fred Berchtold. (Details for the picnic to be announced in a separate communication.)



*Jill Frederickson*

On behalf of the CPG Guild membership, we would like to thank Susan Witek, Harvey Kahler and Doria Martuzzo for their loyalty and years of dedicated service.

Completing the CPG Board of Directors are:

Mel Biske – Puppet Patter and CPG web site Editor assisted by Bridget DePriest, Publisher and Jeff Biske CPG Web Master.

Dave Herzog – Liaison with other other puppet organizations.

Susan Fulcher – World Puppetry Day Celebration

Susan Witek – Outreach Program

Silvia Kraft Walker – Glen Town Center Puppet Theater Series

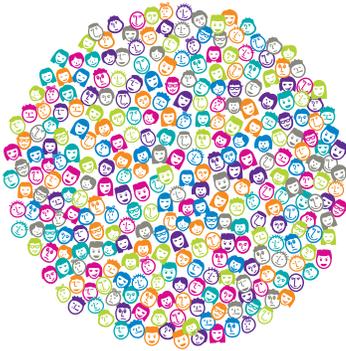
Fred Putz – Guild Historian

We are in need of a Guild Photographer

If there are no other nominations for these positions, we look forward to their elections at the Annual Meeting at the picnic on July 9, 2017.

# CHICAGOLAND CELEBRATION

## World Puppetry Day!



On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, members of the the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild in conjunction with the Schaumburg Township District Library of 130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, Illinois, joined forces to celebrate this annual event. The day's activities featured two performances, and a Maker Fair, with seven stations, each involving guild puppeteers demonstrating their

various skills and talents with being a successful puppeteer.

Schaumburg librarians were there to assist children, anxious to create their own paper puppet. Guild members became Strolling Puppeteers while greeting guests by manipulating marionettes and large hand puppets for a close up look to make them feel welcome.

Two performances were scheduled to highlight the day. At noon, the Melikin Puppets presented their production of "Dragon Feathers!" featuring their authentic Chinese Dragon Dance as a grand finale. Scheduling allowed some of the visitors to attend the Melikin performance while others visited the Puppet maker stations and the Puppet Making Craft stations. At one p.m. the Dave Herzog Marionettes presented their marionette variety show, "Dragon Days and Knight Time". Worked out well because every one got to see both performances and still had time to participate in the other events as well.



*Craft Fair Paper Dragon*

At two p.m. the Maker Fair closed to allow the puppeteers to get ready for the parade. It kicked off at 2:30pm outside the library in front of the Community Center. The Chinese Dragon, "How Long" led the parade, followed by guild puppeteers with puppets of various sizes and shapes. Library guests, both children and adults joined in marching right along with their newly created paper puppets. Needless to say, all present had

a wonderful time celebrating the 2017 World Day of Puppetry,

Our thanks go out to Children's Librarians, Nancy O'Connell and Rosanna Santana, program co-coordinator and the Kids Zone Director, Amber Creger for sponsoring the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild for their Annual World Day of Puppetry. Many thanks also for your attention to our needs for load in and set up and attention to details throughout the day. As help and assistance often times goes unnoticed, we would also like to mention the behind the scenes help and concern of Lytron, from the Maintenance Department and "Lucky" from Library Security.



*Doria Martuzzo handles registration.*



*Jill Frederickson - Paper Plate Puppets.*



*Above: Connor demonstrates TV techniques for puppets. Below: Connor with guest TV star.*



*David Quesal and Connor TV techniques.*



*Right: Craft Fair Library helpers.*



*Sound Effects demonstration, two photos below. Sylvia is in the right photo.*





## World Puppetry Day Parade

Top left: How Long, the Chinese dragon, steps out to lead the parade.

Top right: Big fish parade participant.

Left: Let the parade begin!



*Right: Fred Berchtold demonstrates how to make a puppet out of a stuffed animal.*



# Lest We Forget

By Fred Putz (FP)

Chicagoland Puppetry Guild's Historian

**IN MEMORIAM:  
THIS WAS THE ROBERT GREGG  
THAT WE KNEW,  
THE LAST OF THE KUNGSHOLM  
PUPPETEERS**

On June 28th I received an e-mail from Christine Gregg, (CG), the wife of Robert Gregg announcing that “Robert McClellan Gregg, 75, had died on June 26, 2016 at Suncoast Hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida after a nine year battle with cancer.” (CG)

With the passing of Robert Gregg another era of American puppetry has also drawn to a close because, to the best of our knowledge, Robert was the last living Kungsholm Puppeteer. (FP)

The following paragraphs were written by his wife, Christine:

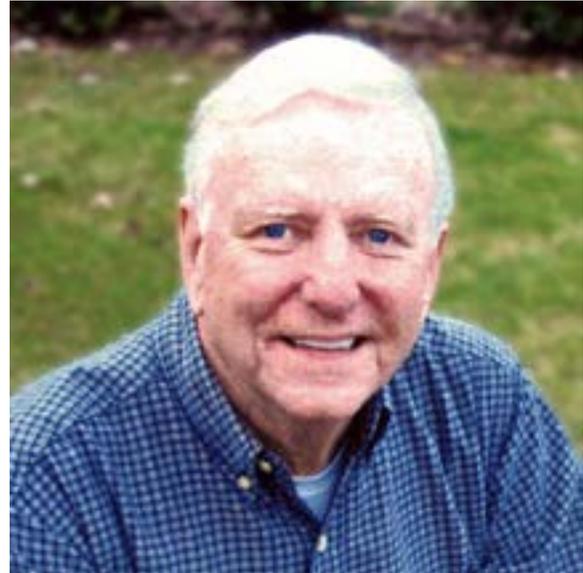
“Robert was born on May 15, 1941 in Muskegon, Michigan to Lulan and Edna (Scott) Gregg, the youngest of 3 children. In high school he played varsity basketball and baseball and excelled at both. After high school, Robert moved to Chicago where he enrolled in a course in professional photography at the Ray-Vogue School of photography (now part of the Illinois Institute of Art).

“As students often do, Robert worked at odd jobs to make ends meet. One such job was to be life changing. He was gifted with the opportunity to learn to operate the unique rod puppets that performed puppet operas at the famous Kungsholm Restaurant. These beloved puppets were world famous and their performances were part of the Chicago social scene for many years. This experience awakened in Robert a love of puppet artistry that was to persist for a lifetime.

“After graduating, Robert returned to Michigan where he worked for several years for K-Mart Corporation as a photographic buyer and also setting up new stores. During that time he also served for several years in the Michigan National Guard and his unit was activated during the 1967 Detroit riots.

“On July 25, 1970 he married the former Christine McGuire in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Soon after, they moved to central New York where Robert did wedding photography and operated a retail shop. In 1980 they moved to State College, Pennsylvania where Robert operated Gregg Wedding and Party Supplies for many years.

“In retirement, Robert discovered a real talent for sculpture. He studied with some well-known sculptors and produced several significant pieces. Robert’s interest in puppetry was also reawakened and he amassed a large collection of puppets made by famous puppeteers. It was his dream to display his collection and keep alive the memories of the performers. There were notebooks for



*Robert Gregg*

each puppeteer describing their careers and pictures of their puppet creations. Robert also worked hard trying to finish a book about the history of the famous Kungsholm Opera Puppets, but it was not to be.

Robert leaves Christine, his wife of 45 years, a brother, a sister, 3 nephews, and a niece.” (CG)

Robert spent hundreds of hours in the process of writing his Kungsholm book and gathering his puppet collection. Here I insert a paragraph from a letter by Robert to me written on October 11th, 2011 (FP): “My goal, if I could get the Kungsholm puppets, is to restore them and teach a new generation of youngsters and young adults and sharpen their taste for culture.-----I hope to interest them in music and spark an interest in opera through the art of puppetry.” (RG)

I met Robert Gregg several years ago while we were attending a Puppeteers of America National Festival. We discovered a mutual interest in the famous Chicago based Kungsholm Puppet Opera and became good friends. Robert was gathering information about the Kungsholm Puppets and since I was the Historian for the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild, I became a source of information. I discovered that Robert was a dogged historian who never left a stone unturned and was meticulous in documenting every discovery. While doing his research, he experienced several barriers. The Chicago Tribune had printed the original story of the 1947 fire that destroyed much of the Kungsholm restaurant and the puppets, and would only release the photographs at a cost of \$1,500 each. Another setback was the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. After the closing of the Kungsholm Puppet Opera, the puppets were donated to the Museum, where three of them were included in an automated display. Unfortunately, the puppets moved like glockenspiel figures and were not even the same puppets as were described in the display notations. (Wrong puppets, wrong costumes and wrong opera!)

Learning about Robert's Kungsholm research efforts, the Museum invited him to go into the archives and document the puppets as to which opera they belonged and the characters they represented. Upon entering the storage room Robert found that the puppets had been piled one on top of another and were in wretched condition. The Museum gave Robert one hour during which to sort and identify more than 100 puppets which had been scavenged of their costumes and heads to create new characters befitting the musicals that, in the latter years had replaced the original operas! However, Robert, in spite of his setbacks and many cancer treatments, persisted and had almost finished the Kungsholm book when he died.

Another aspect of Robert's puppetry activities was his humanitarian and puppetry outreach efforts. While he and Christine were living in Pennsylvania he would often take two or three members of his puppet collection to the children's ward of a local hospital where he demonstrated and told the young patients about the puppeteer who made the puppets. Again, he was trying to interest the younger generation in the art of puppetry.

You will probably remember Fred Cowan a famous Midwest puppeteer. One of Fred's gigs was a performance at the White House at a Fourth of July celebration for the then President

Jimmy Carter's family and hundreds of guests. For some reason or another President Carter was unable to meet with Fred after the performance. Robert had studied puppet-building techniques with Fred and was aware that Fred had always wanted to obtain an autographed photograph of the President and himself. So, Robert "pulled a few strings" and arranged a private meeting for Fred with the President. Robert had also made arrangements with the senior facility in which Fred was staying to pick him up and take him, wheel chair and all to President Carter's hometown of Plains, Georgia for the meeting. On the day of the pickup Robert found that Fred's guardian, for no apparent reason, had vetoed the trip. You can imagine the level of disappointment that Fred must have experienced. However, Robert persisted in the quest by obtaining an autographed photograph of the President, and several other photographs of the Carters. Robert then made up a lovely album that he later presented to Fred.

"This Was The Robert Gregg That We Knew" -- historian artist, good friend, humanitarian, puppeteer and historian with an unequalled gift of gab. It is my sincere hope that his book, about the Kungsholm Puppet Opera will find someone who will finish and publish it not only for Robert's sake, but for the sake of the fast diminishing history of puppetry in the United States. (FP)



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# The Glen Town Puppet Theater Series — In Review

Since its inception in January, 2015, The Puppet Theater Series, sponsored by the Glen Town Center and hosted by the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild, have been presenting puppet shows on a monthly basis featuring local and nearby city professional puppet companies. The venue for performances is an established retail business called the Book Market at Hanger One located at 2651 Navy Boulevard, Glenview, Illinois. It features a large Children's book section. One portion of the facility is a neighboring connected store front used solely for the use of a variety of programs with seating for over 100 patrons.

An interesting feature, at the monthly puppet performance gatherings, is what is called a "Meet and Greet". Members of the guild attend, not only to support your local puppeteer, but to be a part of the day by bringing along their favorite puppet to welcome the audience when they arrive and to introduce your puppet and make the guests feel welcome. Over sixteen puppet companies have been invited to perform, many with a return engagement with a different program.

The CPG web site has provided monthly announcements of upcoming performances. We urge all members to visit the site regularly for postings of not only Glen Town shows, but other activities as well. Also on the site is a page dedicated to the Puppet Patter. It has the last issue as well as past issues containing reviews and photos of performances since January 2015.

Due to the unavoidable hiatus of not publishing copies of the Patter for December 2016 and March 2017, we are updating information for the programs presented starting with October, 2016 through May, 2017. We are also including upcoming performances for July and August, 2017.

If you have not attended a Glen Town Puppet Theater Series performance in the past, we urge you to attend one in the future. Support your local puppeteer.

We would like to thank the CPG Director of the Glen Town Puppet Theater Series, Silvia Kraft-Walker, for organizing this project and seeking performers as well as the follow-up promotional work including the Glen Town Series posters. Thank you for being there to direct performers and provide introductions. A job well done!

## Upcoming Performances



# The Glen Puppet Theater Series — Photos



*Ann Newman greets her audience*



*Ann Newman with characters from the Three Pigs.*



*Jan's Stage is a show in itself!*



*Right: Kat, Jill and Mary Kay from the Sea Beast Puppets*



*Connor, Mel, Neal and Jill*





*Fred Putz meets and greets*



*Dave Roz and Libby*



*The Von Orthal Puppeteers post show fun with their audience*



*Fred Berchtold makes a new friend.*



*Joan Wittenberg visits backstage with Mike Schwabe of the Village Puppeteers.*

*Fred and Dave with pre-show fun*



*The DePriest Puppeteers, Bridget and Ollie*



The Book Market set up a display of Beatrix Potter books as a tie in with the performance.



Dave Herzog's trapeze artist



Hail! Hail!, The gangs all here. Fred, Neal, Jeff, Dave, Mel, LaVerne & Silvia



Young puppet fans love to pose with the "stars"



Jabberwocky puppeteers with an after show demonstration

# By the Way.....

By Ann Onymous (I'm baaack)

Be sure to hold the date of Sunday, July 9, 2017 for the Annual CPG Picnic. It will be held at the homestead of our president, Fred Berchtold and wife, Dee. They reside in Oakwood Hills, Illinois at 16 Hickory Road. Highlighting the day will be the election of officers. Watch for a special announcement with all the details coming soon.

We would like to welcome a new member to the guild, Kipley Wentz. He is no stranger to those who have seen him perform for the Glen Town Puppet Theater Series as Mister Kipley, Magic and Puppets. Get acquainted with Kipley by visiting the CPG web site at [www.chicagopuppetguild.org](http://www.chicagopuppetguild.org) and click on "CPG Performers" Great to have you aboard Kip!

Another date to keeping mind is for the Annual CPG Banquet. The date is Sunday, September 10, 2017. The day will begin with a performance at the Glen Town Book Market at Hanger One, 2651 Navy Boulevard in Glenview, program to be announced. Showtime is 2:00 p.m. followed by dinner at Pizano's Pizza and Pasta located at 1808 North Waukegan Road, Glenview, Illinois at 3:30 pm. The new board will be sworn in and a deserving member will be presented with the Annual Presidents Award. Watch for the formal announcement by email on how to make reservations for dinner at a very reasonable price.

Now, out of the ordinary.....I (Ann Onymous) usually like to promote CPG members and their interests but I recently became aware of a new puppeteer on the scene who made a national splash with a stellar performance. Her name is Darci Lynne Farmer from Oklahoma City Oklahoma. She is twelve years old, a ventriloquist who was introduced to her first puppet at the age of ten. She auditioned for the NBC show "America's Got Talent" and got the "Gold Button", which means she leaves the competition and goes directly to the live show in Vegas. She has it all, a voice, manipulation down perfect, material, a variety of characters, stage presence and a personality that opens a future to be watched and



admired. If you missed the program just Google her name and you will witness a true professional at work.

On a personal note: As Ann Onymous, I have truly missed not being in touch for the last two issues of the Patter. I missed you. To help me keep my job, I (Ann Onymous) would appreciate it if you could email me at the Patter address to let me know what you are doing in your world of puppetry, your opinions and ideas, your experiences in puppetry and any photos you would like to share with guild members or a review of a performance you attended.

Unlike facebook, with random happenings worth passing along but soon forgotten, the Puppet Patter is more of a news magazine, reporting in depth the history of the present CPG guild for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Ann Onymous

Address your email to Ann Onymous  
c/o [melikinpuppets@comcast.net](mailto:melikinpuppets@comcast.net)

## 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](http://www.chicagopuppetguild.org)

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



# chicagoland puppetry guild

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

### 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 endeavors 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.

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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)

<b>I perform</b>	<b>I am interested in</b>		<b>I perform</b>	<b>I am interested in</b>	
<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 .....

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



*Please make sure address appears in window*

LaVerne Biske  
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Recorded by	_____