

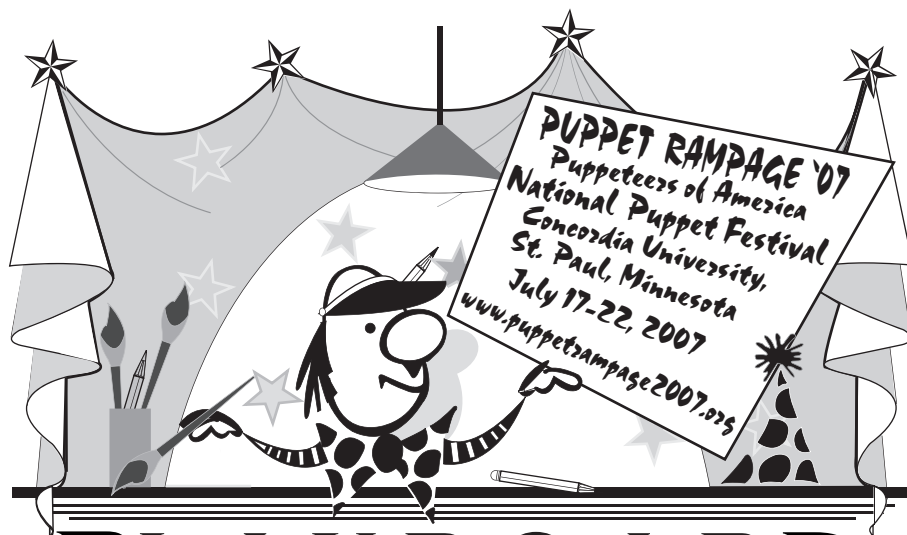
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is slowly insinuating itself into the Upper Midwest, teasing with sunshine and threatening with cold rain and winds. A reminder that the seasons can bring upheaval, but are also comforting in their regularity.

The Puppeteers of America, as an organization, has had some upheaval over the past few years. Some of those changes have been exciting (the new website, online Playboard, to name just a few); some have produced discomfort and confusion. For a variety of reasons, the membership office has experienced disruptions that have caused a number of problems for membership, old and new. At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, by teleconference, action was taken that will help restore some order and regularity to this "core" component of our organization.

Fred Thompson, whom many of you know as the editor of the "Playboard", was appointed as the "Membership Officer" to fill the vacancy left by Jean Newkirk's departure. We thank Jean for her hard work in pulling the various strands of membership data together, and wish her well for the future. Fred, as the new Membership Officer, already is experienced with the membership database, handling the Playboard and Membership Directory, and "catching up" on the membership renewals and applications that were still in need of attention.

Working with Fred is Board of Trustee member Anna Vargas. Together they will ensure that the office returns to smooth operation and accessibility to member communication.



P.L.A.Y.B.O.A.R.D

The NEWSLETTER OF THE PUPPETEERS OF AMERICA, Inc.

• September - October, 2006 •

Editor: Fred Thompson • 26 Howard Avenue • New Haven, CT • 06519-2809

Membership is the heart of the Puppeteers of America. We all are the force that gives energy to our mission of promoting the Art of the Puppet. Not only on the continent of North America, which is our base, but around the world through our network of communications and international membership.

And speaking of energy and promoting the Art, next summer's National Festival—Puppet Rampage 2007—looks to be one of the most exciting and energizing festivals of the Puppeteers of America has held. This will be a festival you do not want to miss. Mark your calendar now.

Puppet Rampage 2007

July 17-22, 2007

St Paul, Minnesota

www.puppetrampage2007.org

Tell your friends, loved ones, fellow puppeteers, strangers on the street, "Puppet Rampage Rocks!"

In the meantime, since you are a member of this community, please consider volunteering some of your time to helping the Puppeteers of America grow and advance our mission furthering this Art. Big jobs and little jobs, you can commit as much as you feel able, but everyone's help is needed. Don't know what you can do, or where to start? Contact one of the Trustees, or drop me a line, wayne@otisrabbit.com with the subject line, "I Want to Help".

Thanks. See you in a couple months.

Wayne Krefting, **President.**

THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE HAS MOVED.
If you have questions regarding your membership, publications or other concerns, please contact us.

Email: Membership@puppeteers.org
Phone: 1-888-568-6235
Write: Membership Office
26 Howard Avenue
New Haven, CT 06519-2809

PUPPETEERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL FESTIVAL.

Puppet Rampage 2007

Matt Adler and Alice Rhodes-Adler - Registrars

3637 VICTORIA DRIVE

STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30083

Phone: 404-296-7288

Email: registrar@puppetrampage2007.org

THE GUILD CONNECTION

KURT HUNTER

As the guild newsletters arrive in the mail, they are placed in a large manila envelope. The various guild emails, Yahoo group email messages, and electronic newsletters are all printed off and added to the envelope. That's my filing system. I like paper and I like having everything together. Reading through the contents of the envelope in my spare time is a great pleasure.

The contents of the envelope for this column, however, were unusually thin. In search of additional news, I headed to the Internet.

- The Puppeteers of America website, www.puppeteers.org, includes links to all of the guild websites organized by region, which made it very easy to jump into each site and browse for tidbits of guild news. It was very interesting seeing the range of guild websites in one sitting. All are quite good and some are very impressive. The website of the Atlanta Guild of Puppetry even has a password protected "Members Only" section thanks to their webmaster, Kevin Pittman.

- Technology is being used to good advantage by guilds across the country. Christopher Hudert, newsletter editor for the National Capital Puppetry Guild's "D.C. Puppet Times" now has live links in the PDF version of the newsletter. If a website or email address is listed in the newsletter, you can just click on the link to get to the site or start sending an email.

- To promote their Puppet Slam coming up in October at the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild now has a MySpace page. Set up by Terry Burke, you can check it out at www.myspace.com/cincinnati/puppetslam.

- The Cincinnati folks also make great use of their Yahoo group for email communications. Other guilds that use Yahoo groups (to greater and lesser degrees) include the Puppet Guild of South Florida, the Phoenix Guild of Puppetry, the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild, and the Puppeteers of Puget Sound.

- Of course, paper is still a very effective, if costlier, way to communicate. The flier arrived recently announcing the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild's Annual Houston Puppetry Festival. The beautiful, full-color flier is a definite attention getter. Once again this looks like an exciting, well put together event. In addition to catching performances and workshops, educators can earn six education certification clock hours by attending the festival. They even offer group discounts and lunch is included.

- Technology may be moving us forward, but it is always well worth looking back. There seem to be lots of milestones being reached this year. As you probably read in the last issue of the Puppetry Journal, the Detroit Puppeteers Guild is celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. The celebration will culminate with a gala celebration the end of September. The event will include a fairytale costume contest and a performance of "The Pied Piper" by Nancy Sander.

- My own guild, the Twin Cities Puppeteers reached our own 65th anniversary last year, but we were too busy pulling together a national festival to celebrate. Maybe we'll have to have a belated celebration this year.

- The Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry also has a grand celebration planned. They'll be celebrating their 50th anniversary at the legendary magician's club, the Magic Castle, in October. The program will feature performances by Rene and His Artists, Lois Harmeyer, Thom Fountain, Tony Urbano, Alan Cook, and Bob Baker.

- Up the coast, the members of the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild were busy in August helping Children's Fairyland in Oakland celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fairyland Puppet Theater. In addition to performances throughout the day, guild members were invited to an after hours bar-b-que.

- The Great Lakes Region's annual Potlatch is in its 20th year now. Plans for this year's event, coming up in November, are especially grand to mark the occasion.

- Most guilds take the summer off and get rolling again in the fall. If the September meeting plans are an indication, it looks to be a good year coming up. The Puppetry Guild of Northeastern Ohio has puppets for the stories "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" and "The Ants and the Grasshopper", but no scripts. To remedy this situation, they planned some improv for their September meeting.

- Similarly, the members of the Mile High Puppet Guild gathered wolf and pig puppets for an improv session of "The Three Little Pigs" at their September meeting.

- The Boston Area Guild of Puppetry had a great September meeting planned. Gathering at the Puppet Showplace Theater, they were to see the documentary "The Puppeteer" and meet the filmmaker, Gary Henoch.

- Video was also the drawing card for the Chicagoland Puppetry Guild. They were checking out the appearances by Topo Gigio on the Ed Sullivan show.

- The Connecticut Guild of Puppetry had a complete showcase of puppet video planned for September at The Puppet House Theater of Stony Creek, Connecticut. The plans included videos by Ray and Betty Mount of The Mount Puppets, Marilyn O'Connor Miller, Tim Lagasse and Jim "Nappy" Napolitano, and Jon Bristol.

- The Puppet Guild of Greater St. Louis had a double header planned for September with a shadow puppet workshop by Pat Breithaupt and a performance by Pat Vandivort.

- In honor of Grandparents Day, the Puppet Guild of South Florida arranged a performance of "Vintage Lives" by Anne Marie de Maret.

- The September meeting of the Columbia Association of Puppeteers was to be hosted by Kathy Karbo. They were to discuss Tears of Joy Puppet Theater's call for artists who are interested in making shoes for their production of "The Elves and the Shoemaker" in Feb.

Well, I've got to get busy now putting together the program for the Twin Cities Puppeteers' meeting. I'm supposed to be presenting the opposition response to the June program on Model Magic presented by Chris Fehring and Paul Eide. So far Magic Sculp, Paperclay, and Quik Wood are on the bill. Wish me luck. While we're wishing, I wish I'd hear from you before I have another column to write.

KURT HUNTER
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I don't know why but my New Year has always started in September. I think it is because I spent so much time in school and then I spent so much time getting kids off to school. Anyway I'm ready to start fighting lions and tigers and everything, once school starts.

Thanks for all your news. A special thanks to Jean Newkirk for sending me bits and pieces. I look forward to any news you have for me. I read snail mail, E-mail and fax with great joy. If you know something about one of your local puppeteers just send it to me. I will be delighted. It looks like the puppet year is off to a good start. Tears of Joy in Oregon are opening a new "Aladdin". Norma Bigler is busy in Florida. starting up her production of "Falling in Love With Shakespeare".

I rejoice over new ideas. Tears of Joy in Oregon is having a contest for their future production of "The Elves and the Shoemaker". They have invited twenty-five artists to come up with shoes, to either be in the production or in an accompanying exhibit. What a great idea. The Phoenix puppeteers are having a Pinocchio Open. Puppet golf: now there's an idea. Last but not least the Boston Guild did a wonderful survey of their membership. Drop them a line and ask for a copy. The answers were worth checking out.

Kate Katz at the University of Connecticut will be opening her new show late October: "It Can't Happen Here", based on a novel by Sinclair Lewis .

Wayne Martin was busy at the Watertown Mall in Boston this fall with his "Back To School Show." Another new show coming to Los Angeles that sounds like a "must see" is the "Victorian Hotel." Sean Cawelti tells me it is being done by the Rogue Artists Ensemble and from the description it sounds like great adult fun. It features four human actors playing opposite a hotel full of puppet ghosts.

A note from Elani Meyers tells me she is busy settling in, in New York, and hoping to get more active in the puppet world there.

Allyn Goen, another New Yorker writes that he and his wife Annie had a busy summer and they looking forward to a little down time there.

It was fun to see my old buddy Barbara Faye Wiese with one of her giant puppets. She is moving from Boston to Wisconsin. Wisconsin is lucky to have her.

Gray Seals always has a cool brochure. It's their 30th Anniversary and they are premiering "Salsa Cinderella". Sounds like a fiesta to me. Our own Nancy Sander has a new version of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin".

Amy Weinstein, former member of the Connecticut Guild, is in Germany working with Sebastian Roser. They have produced three new shows and are now touring Europe. One of the shows is "Babui" written by Wiltrud Roser a well-known writer and illustrator. I received an interesting print out on the Rousseau Family entertainment. They are in Florida and are celebrating 60 years of shows. They do magic and puppets.

Great news for the Ballard Museum of Puppetry in Storrs, Connecticut. Marilyn Miller has donated a portion of her husband, John's shadow puppet collection and a number of Rufus and Margo Rose marionettes. The museum will also receive the entire collection of Dick Myers Puppets. Our thanks to those people who help us keep these collections together for generations to see and enjoy . The University of Maryland opened the new Henson video collection and gallery, at the Clarice Smith Performing arts center honoring the life work of alumnus Jim Henson.

The Sicilian Marionettes will be performing at the Stony Creek Puppet House theatre in Connecticut.

Poobley Greegy Puppet Theatre won an award from the Northeast Region for Service and Artistic Achievement. The Ritz-Carlton,

Amelia Island (I'm not sure where that is) won a Child Magazine award for offering Puppet Shows. Lets face it puppet shows are winners. We know that !

Congratulations to the Puppet Co. Playhouse on receiving a transition grant from the Montgomery County Council. They certainly deserve it.

I love Bob Nathanson's articles about our infant audiences, and lo and behold a flyer from THE PUPPET CO. , now featuring Tiny Tot Tuesdays. A great idea. They list it as ages 0-4. I will be interested to see how it goes. How many times have you heard a parent say "but my child is so advanced." Ya hoo !!!

The ever-busy Detroit puppeteers held their famous Potlatch as well as making sure the annual Bixby Festival was a success. Baltimore, Maryland's Black Cherry Puppet theatre is busy growing and offering lots of shows. The Denver Puppet Theatre got a wonderful write up in our newspaper here. It told the story of Annie and Dave Zook renovating their building and turning it into a great theatre and a beautiful home to live in. Lots of pictures and fun for the Denver bunch who meet at Annie's theatre.

That's about the news I have, please let me know what you are up to. E-Mail makes it so easy. Also, if you have an idea or a question, I'll take that to. Hope the new season is a great one for everyone. Write if you get work.

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THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE
receives and processes almost 1800 membership forms during renewal time each year.
More than 100 forms are returned because of incorrect addresses. Many are returned with no forwarding addresses. We have no way of knowing when or where you have moved unless you tell us.
If you have not received a renewal form or are missing any of your PofA publications, PLEASE CONTACT US.
Email: Membership@puppeteers.org
Phone: 1-888-568-6235
Write: Membership Office
26 Howard Avenue
New Haven, CT 06519-2809

In a few short months many of us will pack our bags and head off to St. Paul for a full week of puppet bliss. As we begin to make plans to attend the Puppeteers of America National Festival in July, one might wonder where it all began.

It really started with Tony Sarg. Tony went to great lengths to discover even the most basic "secrets" of puppetry. Take a few minutes to read of his struggles and "antics" to gain knowledge about this art form. (See Membership Directory: Page 3.)

When Sarg came to this country in 1915 and established what became one of the most distinguished marionette companies ever, he made sure that everything he knew about puppets would be available to any and all that were interested. His performances and publications were a gift. And so it continues.....

If only one word could be used to describe any PofA festival, regional or national, that word would be "SHARING!" Sharing! What a concept! Each and every festival is a CELEBRATION of sharing. There are no barriers. "Celebrity" is checked at the door.

• **PERFORMERS** have an opportunity to present their most recent works for the enjoyment and edification of all, and it doesn't end with the performance. Professional companies featured throughout the festival often invite the audience backstage to explore, and ask questions following their shows.

• **POT POURRI** and other events, offers professional and amateur alike the opportunity to try a new work for feedback or perform just for fun. Whether it be High Art or "high jinx," we learn from them all.

• **WORKSHOPS** are another highlight of a festival. We gain insight into aspects of production, costuming, construction, playwriting, business, music, etc., etc. These intensive workshops are offered by experts in their fields, sharing years of experience with festival goers.

• **THE PUPPETRY EXHIBIT** is a regular feature at festivals and is usually open to all puppeteers to display their art and craft. Always a popular attraction, the exhibit is yet another way of sharing and learning about this multi-faceted art. Puppets made by past and present masters stand along side puppets made by future masters.

• **THE PUPPETRY STORE** is one of the busiest places at a festival. Puppets, books and related sundry items - even stages, at times - are offered up for sale. From the newest in print to collectibles, the Puppetry Store has them all.

• **MEALS** Some of the most rewarding sharing is done at mealtimes when we get to sit for a while, relax and perhaps meet new friends.

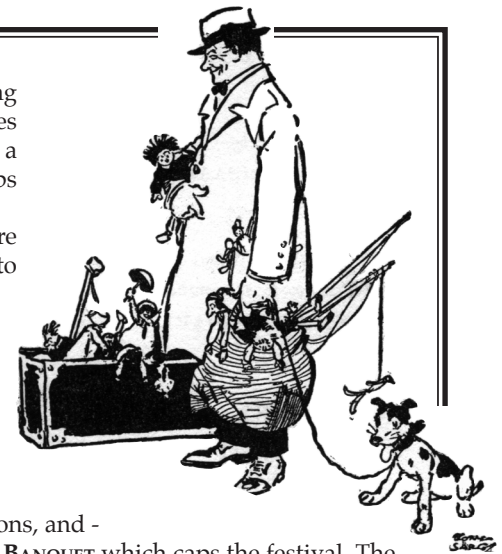
Festivals, sometimes, are the only opportunity to reconnect and swap stories with old friends.

Opportunities to socialize come in many forms at a festival, including cabarets, receptions, and -

• **THE FESTIVAL BANQUET** which caps the festival. The banquet is usually a grand affair where the festival participants sit down for good food and fun. Here, one can show his appreciation for the organizers and staff of the fest, or recognize achievements of their fellows in the art of puppetry. Performances by outstanding puppeteers usually ends the evening's festivities.

For those who have attended many festivals, these words can serve, hopefully, as a pleasant reminder of good times past. For those of you contemplating your very first festival, we hope that they help to encourage you to join in the fun. A world of fascinating people, puppets and performers awaits you at the 2007 Puppeteers of America National Festival.

I dare say that if Tony Sarg were still around, he'd pack his bags, head West, and jump in with both feet. I think he'd be very pleased..... F.T.



Eureka!! will appear next issue. Send those hints to:
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