



Formerly known as The Puppet Guild of Greater Miami, The Puppet Guild of South Florida was founded in 1965 for the purpose of promoting the various aspects of puppetry. Membership is open to anyone interested in puppetry arts.

2002-2003 Board of Directors

President Dave Goboff
 Vice President Nancy McLane
 Secretary Bob McLane
 Treasurer Marty Werman

Additional Board Members

..... Judy Werman
 Marlon Migala

Additional Appointees

Newsletter Rick Moss
 Historian Wayne Hampton

Annual dues are only \$10 for an individual membership, \$15 for a family membership, and \$25 for an organization membership. Privileges extended toward members include opportunities to attend special workshops in all aspects of puppetry, as well as notification of performances by talented local and national puppeteers. Join today and start networking with experts in various aspects of puppetry eager to share their experience with you.

The Puppet Guild of South Florida is pleased to send you

THE PUPPET-GRAM

Sorry, this is not a singing puppet-gram; it is just a regular one.

DECEMBER 2002

Rumors of Our Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

Someone has been spreading rumors about how the guild has one foot in the grave. Well, if you think about it, some puppets have no feet at all, so if we have one still left, we're pretty well off. The truth, however, is that we have both feet on solid ground right now. Thanks to some devoted long time members and a splash of new members, this guild is here to stay.

Due to inadequate attendance at the October meeting, the scheduled elections were put off until November, at which time people

came from far and wide to cast votes for a new set of officers. Secretary of State Katherine Harris has certified the election, and here are the victims great leaders who will be giving us direction over the next year.

President - Dave Goboff
 Vice President - Nancy McLane
 Secretary - Bob McLane
 Treasurer - Marty Werman

Additionally, both Judy Werman and Marlon Migala have volunteered to serve on the board of directors.

Our Guild's Upcoming Events and Activities

Those of you looking for something to do will soon have a great deal of opportunities since the guild is planning several events to be held during the next few months.

With so many activities coming up, there should be at least one that corresponds with a day you have free. We would love to see you, even if you can show up for only one or two.

January 18th

Paddle Puppets Workshop - Nancy McLane will be showing us how to make lollipop paddle puppets, then we'll have something to eat. Materials cost will be about \$7. Participants should bring large eyes, plastic noses, yarn & fur (for hair), one bright colored table cloth (from dollar store) or 2 yds light-weight fabric, & 2 wire coat hangers. Also, bring some drinks, chips, or dessert. RSVP to Nancy before January 15th.

February 8th

Light Up Puppet Props - Karen

Whiting has developed a show with light up puppet props, and now she is ready to show us the magic. Make a light up Glockenspiel or other prop of your design. With the touch of a nail in the back, the prop twinkles with light. A musical instrument, like the Glockenspiel, can light up to a tune. Using lights from Christmas tree light strands, wire, and solder, you can add this lighting effect to a foamcore prop. Materials costs are to be announced but should not exceed 32 billion dollars.

March and April

We will have some sort of activity (or activities) to recognize the National Day of Puppetry. Marty is looking into getting us hooked up with a mall, and Dave is speaking to the Museum of Art in Ft. Lauderdale.

June 29th - July 5th

The Puppeteers of America National Festival will take place in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. See additional information about the festival elsewhere in this newsletter.

Guild Members Give Two Big "Paws Up" for Lion King

In November, many of our guild members went to see a matinee of *The Lion King* at the Broward Center of Performing Arts. For some, it was their first time seeing it, while for others who had seen it in other cities like New York and Toronto, it was a repeat performance. Everyone gave it a rating of "two paws up." It was even said that the actor playing Scar put forth a greater performance than the actor playing that character on Broadway. From the moment the show started with a parade of animals through the audience until the final curtain, the show was enjoyed by all.

The real treat, however, was the

show after the show, when some of the live animals escaped, trampled a few of the spectators, and caused over \$250,000 of damage to the theatre building itself. Okay, that didn't really happen.

What did happen after the show was darn exciting, though. We were treated to a backstage (and onstage) tour. First, one of the stage managers took us out on stage and backstage, where we were able to see all the elaborate equipment used in the show and the great organizational structure needed to keep everything handy. He shared the secrets behind some of the magic and gave us up close personal looks (no touching please)

at masks, and costumes. That alone would have been special, but we then got to go to a backstage area where the caretaker of the puppets showed us the complex mechanisms involved in the Zazu bird puppet and the moving masks used by characters like Scar. She also took Timon out of his box so we could see him up close.

The show and post performance activities were a big hit. If you were unable to attend, you might still have a chance. We understand Disney is considering distributing a video tape of the story as told by cartoon (yes, cartoon) characters. Can you imagine them doing something like that?

Marty Says Dues Are Due

Hello everyone. I'm back again, looking for dues to the Guild. You thought you got rid of me. But, I'm persistent. Let's make it easy, and those of you that have not paid your dues for the coming year should send them to me now.

\$10.00 for individual membership

\$15.00 for family membership

\$25.00 for organization membership

Please make your checks payable to: The Puppet Guild of Greater Miami, Inc. and mail them to me.

Thanks,

Martin Werman, Treas.

The Puppet Guild of Greater Miami, Inc.

9202 Vineland Ct Apt F

Boca Raton, FL 33496

A Rose By Any Other Name...

A survey performed by the prestigious accounting firm of Goff and Board found that while there is a desire to maintain the long standing traditional name of the guild, if we are to survive, the name should reflect a less geographically limited scope (not to mention the increasing numbers of guild members moving up into Broward and beyond). The board of directors approved the change to The Puppet Guild of South Florida, but until it is completely official on paper, Marty Werman asks that you continue to make dues checks out to The Puppet Guild of Greater Miami.



Dave Goboff has set up a central repository for news, messages, and other guild related and puppetry related information at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PGSF/>

You'll find notices of upcoming events on the message board, photos of recent events, links to interesting websites, and copies of meeting minutes and newsletters.

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PGSF/join> to sign up (free, of course), then check it out for yourself.

Speaking of the site... Marty and Judy have uploaded photos of puppets they have for sale. These puppets are not available in stores or through a special television promotion, so grab them while they last.

Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PGSF/> and look in the "Photos" section at the left. Call Marty and Judy Werman at 561-470-9411 if you are interested.

Do You Have Any News To Share?

Karen Whiting wrote and recently performed *A Christmas Gift For You* for 200-300 homeless and needy children in North Miami. If you have something noteworthy, send the news to guildnews@puppetlove.com. Photos are also welcome as long as they are not of that green fuzzy stuff in the back of your refrigerator.

