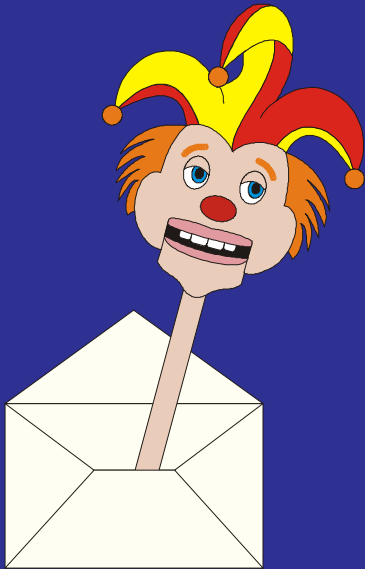


The Puppet Guild of South Florida is pleased to send you
THE PUPPET-GRAM
 Remember: One Puppet-Gram equals 03527396 Puppet-Ounces

DECEMBER 2004



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

2003-2004 Board of Directors

President Dave Goboff
 Vice Pres Nancy McLane
 Secretary Bob McLane
 Treasurer Ellen Weiner

Other Board/Staff Members

Board Bob Nathanson
 Board, Newsletter ... Rick Moss
 Historian Wayne Hampton

Annual Dues

Individual\$12
 Family or Group\$17

Membership privileges include opportunities to attend special workshops in all aspects and styles of puppetry, as well as notification of performances by talented local and national puppeteers. Join today and start networking with experts in numerous areas of puppetry eager to share their experience with you.

December - It's Not Just For Holidays Anymore

Our guild has two events this month. December 11 is the *Make It and Take It* at the Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society's event on Las Olas Blvd. A pioneer village has been created around some historical buildings on Riverwalk, and this Saturday, billions of children will attend and want to make puppets. Too bad for them since we will only be prepared to make about 200 puppets. The guild will bring the parts, but we need your labor. It starts at 10:00, although a few people will want

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Historical Society 10AM - 3PM Las Olas Riverwalk

to show up early to help set up. The guild will make money from this event, but you can too! We will be provided a space where we can sell puppet related items. If you make puppets or have books or videos that you have produced (AND you tell Dave in advance), you will be able to use this outlet to put some money in your pocket (and the guild's since the guild will take a 10% cut, which is only half — or less — of what you would pay at a puppetry festival). The event should be over by 3:00, so please try to come support the guild.

On December 18th, we will hold our annual holiday party and Yankee Auction at Dave's house. It is pot luck, which means that the recipes used were created while we were on POT, so if you feel LUCKY, eat the food. In other words, this is a guild event so as stated on our bylaws, we must eat and eat. Bring a covered dish/dessert of some sort.

For the sake of the newer members of the guild, here is the obligatory

explanation of the Yankee Auction. It is not really an auction, and there will be no baseball players from New York present either. It is a variation of a Secret Santa game, but it removes the need to figure out what a specific person will want. You buy or make a gift that anyone might like. It should not be anything terribly expensive, and while the gifts are often puppetry related, there is no guideline saying they should be. Wrap the gift and bring it to the event. We draw numbers from a hat, and one by one in the order of the numbers, we take turns choosing a gift. Once you select a gift, you open it. You can either elect to keep it OR you can force someone else who has already chosen to trade with you. It is fun in a sneaky sort of way, since you never know if you will be getting the gift you chose until everyone is done. You might think the person who chooses last has the best advantage since he or she can then forcibly trade with any gift out there.

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Pot Luck and Yankee Auction 4PM - ???? Dave's House

In fact, the person who chooses first has that advantage. After all, the person who chose the first gift never had an opportunity to trade with anyone, so after all the gifts are open, that person gets the last chance.

Should you come for the food? Probably. For the gift? Probably. Should you come to see if Rick goes a third straight year getting stuck with the gift he originally brought? Absolutely! He is the Susan Lucci of the Yankee Auction.

Need directions? Call Dave at 954-385-9414.

ELECTIONS

Elections for our fine little (maybe not so little) guild were held on October 16, 2004.

Dave Goboff once again rallied the support of his loyal followers (that would be pretty much everyone) and won the presidential election. There are, however, some changes to some of the other positions. Last year, Nancy McLane served as vice president, and Bob McLane served as secretary. Well, this year, instead of Nancy as vice president and Bob as secretary, we'll have Bob as secretary and Nancy as vice president. Do you see the difference? No? Well, perhaps rearranging the order of the words in the sentence does not really constitute much of a difference. How about this next one? Marty Werman, our long time treasurer, has stepped aside and no longer guards our money. Ellen Weiner has been elected to take on that responsibility for the 2004-2005 year. Insert slow motion video here of Marty laughing and crying while

Bob Hope sings *Thanks for the Memories* in the background.

Following the elections, we watched the promotional video for the 2005 national festival. It is a very amusing video told from the perspective of puppets. If the festival staff puts half the imagination and creativity into the festival that went into the video, it will be the best festival in a long time. Thanks to Bob and Elise for bringing that video in for us.

A show and tell session allowed us to view puppets from China and Malaysia. Thanks go out to Bob and Nancy and to Karen for sharing these creations with those of us who were not able to make it to the far east this year to see them in person.

As usual, there was food. We hate to see food go to waste so we ate and ate and ate. After that, we ate.

That Puppet Guy Performs at SW Regional Library's Storybook Festival

It is around this time of year that the children begin to sing:

*You better watch out,
You better not cry,
You better not pout,
I'm telling you why.*

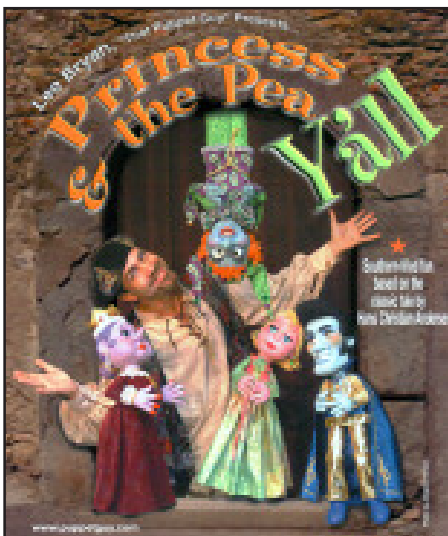
That Puppet Guy is coming to town.

Lee Bryan, a.k.a. That Puppet Guy, came to town on November 13 to perform at the SW Regional Library's Storybook festival. He performed two shows, *Aesop's Fantastic Fables* and *The Princess and the Pea Y'all*.

His performances (particularly the first one) allowed him to be inaugurated into Bob Nathanson's elite "Oh my gosh, what a horrible venue" club. Just as Bob had problems in that venue last year, Lee was faced with a lot of noise and even lighting changes mid show. Despite the obstacles, he came through and entertained a few hundred people with those two shows. Both were masterfully performed, and he followed each with a revealing look behind the scenes.

While in Florida, Lee also performed up at The Puppetry Center of the Palm Beaches and over in Tampa.

There has been a bit of talk about keeping our eye out for performers who are coming through Florida and getting them to make a stop in our neck of the woods. Part of accomplishing that goal is to have the money to pay them. Our guild did just get a grant to help with that sort of thing, but we also have some fundraising opportunities coming up. Did you read about the next one on page one of this newsletter? If not, it is understandable. You were dying to see the highly contested election results here on page two, but please go read the (slight) details now and make an effort to help out at Las Olas.



Two More Visits to Boca Raton's Sugar Sand Park

It appears as though Sugar Sand Park in Boca Raton is definitely embracing puppetry. Last year, the park conducted a week long series of puppetry related events, and it has not stopped there. Several guild members recently returned to the park for a special performance by Ronny Aelbrecht, and we are already working on returning for the park's 2005 week of puppetry.

On the evening of October 9, 2004, several guild members had a rare opportunity to see Belgian puppeteer Ronny Aelbrecht perform the story of *Valentino*, a frog who believes himself to be a prince. As the story unfolds, so does its elaborate set. The set is a giant pop up book that unfolds into every needed scene. We follow Valentino (and his servant friend) on his quest for a princess. They travel to a distant land, and we learn there is far more to the servant than just being a small, yet growing, bird. The characters are charming, and while Valentino never really finds what he set out to find, he gets something far greater in the end.

It is difficult to say if the star of the show was Ronny Aelbrecht, Valentino, or that amazing set design. To truly understand the complexity of the set, watch the video at <http://www.vlinders.be/engels/valentino/video.htm>. It is in Flemish. You do speak Flemish, right? No? Well, watch a few minutes anyway. It is amazing how many positions one set can assume. It is far more than a pop up book, so it is worth a look. Although Valentino is a children's story, all the adults were as enchanted by it as the children.

Of course, the performance would have been less impressive had Ronny Aelbrecht not been assisted by our very own award winning puppeteer Ronni Gerstel.

We are already working on a plan to return to Sugar Sand Park for next year's week of puppetry. The activities will probably include another Make it and Take it table as well as performances by Ronni Gerstel and Dave Goboff. If you have something to contribute, there is probably still time to get in on the planning.

Other Upcoming Events

Keep your eyes open for the following other activities, and please volunteer to help with planning as well as execution of these opportunities to spread the joy of puppetry.

Aventura Mall is planning to have some performers come in on April 30, 2005. Among those performers will likely be Dave Goboff, Ronni Gerstel, Ellen Weiner, and Jane Stratten.

The Museum of Art in Ft. Lauderdale is looking to do "something," perhaps in the summer of 2005.

MOCA (Pablo Cano's favorite hangout) in Miami is also looking to work with us.

Minnesota, The Vacation Mecca of Puppeteers

It's not too late to apply for a scholarship for the 2005 Puppeteers of America National Festival. Both youth and adult scholarships are available, so if you have always wanted to go to Minnesota but cannot afford it, think about applying. Do it soon, though, since the deadline is February 1, 2005.

For information and/or an application, please contact:

Aretta Baumgartner
P of A Scholarship Committee
5097 Sumter Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45238-3824
513-471-2579
hensonfan@fuse.net

Do You Have News To Share With Us?

Do you have news of upcoming or recent events? Have you performed recently or do you plan to perform anywhere? Let us know.

All articles not otherwise noted are written by Rick Moss. It could be a better newsletter if some articles had YOUR name on them, so send us some news! Email your news to guildnews@puppetlove.com or call Rick at (954) 917-5452.



For the latest scoop on events, membership lists, and all things guild related, visit us online at:

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