THE PUPPETRY LOG

COLUMBUS PUPPETRY GUILD April 2016

President:

Janice McDonald 2948 Kerrwood Dr. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 899-6318 jtmtoad@yahoo.co **Vice President:**

Mike Siculan retrovampire@aol.com

Treasurer:

Janice McDonald

Secretary:

Julia DeRosier jderosier@insight.rr.com



Newsletter Editor: Janice McDonald

Next Events:

April 17. 2:00-4:30 pm (3rd Sunday)

Whetstone Library

Activity: Guild Elections, paper mache

heads

May 15. 2:00-4:30 pm (3rd Sunday)

Whetstone Library

Activity: Perform "Abigail and the

Dragon", finish paper mache

Future meetings determined by the new president

2015-2016 Year in Review

Last September through November, we created heads using a technique called needle-felting (see picture to right). In October, Janice represented the guild by helping an 11th grade theatre class at Gahanna High School create puppets, manipulate puppets, write scripts, and perform with their puppets. In November, Janice represented the guild at the Potlatch regional festival at Pokagon State Park in NE Indiana, Nov. 6-8, 2015. The guild's duty was to head the trading post. Next November, the

Columbus guild is in charge of the performances at Potlatch. Fortunately, most of the spots are filled at this point. In December, Janice represented the guild at Buckeye Middle School in south Columbus, with 6th graders who made and manipulated puppets and performed short plays. In January and February, we watched Paul Winchell's "How to Become a Ventriloquist", and listened to Liz Von Seggen's "Success with Ventriloquism". During the March and April meetings, the guild is working on making paper mache heads. During the May meeting, we will perform "Abigail and the Dragon" by Janet Senne.



New Guild Web Page

Janice created a new web page for the guild as the old site's hosting expired. The new site was completed in February 2016. All the puppets available for members to borrow are posted on the **Puppet Library** page, and past newsletters (from 2006 to present) on the **Guild Publications** page, as well as the "List of **Puppet Books, CDs, VHS, and DVDs**" owned by the guild for members to borrow. Check it out at: *columbuspuppetryguild.org*

Guild is given the puppet collection of Janet Senne, of Sandusky Ohio.

The family of Janet Senne was generous to donate her collection to the Columbus Puppetry Guild puppet library. Janet passed away in December, 2015. Janet was an avid puppeteer and a multi-decade member of Puppeteers of America. Janet performed for Sunday school, retirement centers, schools, AAUW, and local history events. Janet did a lot of research on the history of puppetry and created many of her puppets herself. Our May play, "Abigail and the Dragon" is from Janet's collection of puppets and scripts.

April Elections

As per the guild constitution, April is election month. Janice is stepping down as president after 7 ½ years. Vice President Mike is willing to serve as the next president. We will have a ballot election as per the constitution. Janice will continue to serve as guild treasurer, webmaster, and librarian. We have positions open for vice president and maybe secretary.

List of Guild Activities of the past 7 ½ years:

- Puppet-making activities:
 - Drew Allison's Foam Book Video (twice), muppet style puppets (twice), sculpting clay heads, making molds, casting heads in Alumilite (twice), scarf marionettes, marionettes from wood, marionettes from stuffed animals, spoon puppets, needlefelting, paper mache heads
- Other: Shadow puppets, movie editing, sound editing, Westerville Cops & Kids Day (pool noodle puppets) (twice), guest speaker Master Puppeteer Jim Rose, Czechoslovakian puppets at Columbus Museum of Art

- DVD Media we've watched: "Adventures of Prince Achmed" by Lotte Reiniger, "Lotte Reiniger: Homage to the Inventor of the Silhouette Film", sculpting principles, Paul Winchell, Paul Winchell's "How to Become a Ventriloquist," "Lucy's Toy Shop", "Howdy Doody," "Stories of the American Puppet," numerous shorter videos
- Guild Performances: "The Fisherman and His Wife", "Rapunzel", "Bad Wolf", Ohio State Fair (3 times), Riverside Children's Center (twice), Worthington's Orange Johnson House (3 times), O'Malley's Christmas Party, "Fractured Fairy Tales"
- Attended shows: "Long Christmas Ride Home" Bunraku at OSU, Kevin Frisch's "Peter & the Wolf", Frisch's "The Jungle Book", Frisch's "The Wizard of Oz", Frisch's variety show, "The Frog Prince", "Warhorse", "Little Shop of Horrors", "Boats" by Terrapin Puppet Theatre

Positives and Negatives of Guild:

In reflecting about stepping down as guild president, listed below are what I considered to be the positives and negatives of the guild:

Positives of the Guild

- Meet delightful people
- Meet with people of similar interests
- Enjoy "Show and tell" sharing of puppets and ideas
- Have created some neat puppets/projects
- Have learned neat things via video, demos, slides
- Have a nice puppet library and book library

Negatives

- Attendance poor, especially in winter and spring
- One person is doing all the officer and other jobs, **need sharing of responsibilities**
- All long time members have stopped coming
- Have barely done any puppetry for myself the past eight years – spent all puppetry time on guild
- Can't do a spring show without a battle: excessive negative remarks and emails
- New people email asking about the guild, but seldom actually show up to a meeting

"Guild" Definition

- 1. an association of people with similar interests or pursuits; especially: a medieval association of merchants or craftsmen (Merriam-Webster)
- 2. An association of people for mutual aid or the pursuit of a common goal. (Oxford Dictionary)
- 3. an organization of people who do the same job or have the same interests (Cambridge Dictionary

Potlatch at Pokagon, November 2015



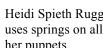


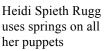
his "Stars on Strings" show.

David Herzog of Chicago performs Heidi Spieth Rugg of Barefoot Puppets, Richmond, VA does a fantastic show she created, called "Galapagos George".



Joanne Schroeder did a "Country Mouse and City Mouse" puppet making workshop









Kevin Frisch answers questions about his puppets after his delightful showing of "The Jungle Book" at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.



Jill Smethels Frederickson shows how to use Wonderflex to create puppets such as her dinosaur.



Justin Haveman of Cooperfly Creative Arts in Michigan shows his new puppet

The National Marionette Theatre does an amazing performance of Pinocchio