

---

# THE PUPPETRY LOG

COLUMBUS PUPPETRY GUILD April 2016

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

**Vice President:**  
Mike Siculan  
[retrovampire@aol.com](mailto:retrovampire@aol.com)

**Treasurer:**  
Janice McDonald

**Secretary:**  
Julia DeRosier  
[jderosier@insight.rr.com](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**



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



David Herzog of Chicago performs his “Stars on Strings” show.



Heidi Spieth Rugg of Barefoot Puppets, Richmond, VA does a fantastic show she created, called “Galapagos George” .



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



Joanne Schroeder did a “Country Mouse and City Mouse” puppet making workshop

Heidi Spieth Rugg uses springs on all her puppets



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



The National Marionette Theatre does an amazing performance of Pinocchio