

**PUPPETEERS OF AMERICA**  
**ROSE ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS**  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2009**

The Rufus Rose Endowment for New Works, makes financial grants to active puppeteers for projects that will further the growth and development of the art of puppetry. Contributions to the fund are invested, and every two years awards are made from the interest that has accumulated. Awards range from \$100 to \$1000.

The first priority of the Endowment Fund Committee is the allocation of funds to support the development and creation of new professional puppet productions, which can include the production of new shows, the creation of experimental puppets or techniques, and the production of puppet-related films or videotapes.

After production grants have been awarded, and if funds are available, the committee will consider funding puppetry projects in the field of education.

Projects must promote creativity and teach theater or construction techniques of puppetry.

Any North American company or puppeteer may apply for a grant from the Endowment Fund. If the proposed project is accepted by the committee, at least one member of the company must be a member of The Puppeteers of America. The grant will be given after membership has been confirmed by the Membership Officer.

*(Continued on Page 4.)*

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## **HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY** **SHIRLEY ROMAN**

**Shirley Roman**, a long time member of the Puppeteers of America, and well-known among puppeteers for her work with shadow puppets will celebrate her 90th. birthday on February 25, 2009.

If you would like to send greetings, you may address them to:

**Shirley Roman**  
5019 Sheboygan, Apt. 203  
Madison, WI 53705-2813

Lauri Roman will host an open house on Saturday, February 21, 2009 for Shirley.

If you would like to send an email greeting or card for this event, email to

**mamalau@aol.com**

OR mail a card to:

**Lauri Roman**  
233 Carillon Drive  
Madison, WI 53705

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

The NEWSLETTER OF THE PUPPETEERS OF AMERICA, Inc.

• **January - February 2009** •

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

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This year everyone is experiencing Winter's icy blast, except perhaps for the sunny climes of southern California. As much I love snow and winter, the below zero temperatures have got me thinking ahead to summer and this year's National Festival in Atlanta Georgia.

A word to wise: spaces are already filling up, so don't delay! With the economy weighing heavily on everyone's mind, maybe the coming festival has slipped down the list of your priorities. But based on the huge turnouts for the 2005 and 2007 festivals, the stellar acts at those festivals, and the lineup of national and international performers for Atlanta, I would not wait to get your registration in. The past influx of new and younger participants continues for this festival's registration.

Members should have already gotten a registration mailing. Online notices have gone out, too. For those online members, registration is quite simple and straightforward at the festival website ([www.nationalpuppetryfestival.org](http://www.nationalpuppetryfestival.org)).

Not online, or prefer to register by mail? You can do so using your festival registration packet. Or, if you're like many of us and misplaced those pieces of processed wood product, you can call registrars Tom and Marianne Tucker (215 885 7073) or drop them a note: 2026 Susquehanna Rd, Abington PA 19001-4406.

Consider this a personal invitation: I hope to see you there!

As a warm up for this year's festival, and really as a wonderful work of documentary video, get yourself a copy of the 2007 National Festival DVD: Puppet Rampage 2007. This is a marvelous piece that showcases performers and performances, and also examines the nature of our art through interviews with a variety of performers from our puppetry community. Check out the Puppetry Store for your copy.

Coming into this new year, the various officers of the Puppeteers of America (Trustees, Appointed Officers, Regional Officers, and so on) are taking a closer look at how we are structured as an organization.

Particularly, we are examining how the regional structure of PofA is working, whether it is working, could it work better, and whether it is a structure that needs revision, or has outlived its usefulness.

The Regions were originally established to facilitate communication among the members of the PofA community and also from the organization to its members. Travel and communication, to say the least, were quite different in the 1930s and 40s than they are in the 21st century. However changes in the speed and cost of travel and communication haven't changed the heterogeneous nature of our membership. Not all PofA members are members of a local guild or find themselves in an area conducive to guild functions. Nor are all PofA members online or if they are, have a fast connection. Many are not able to afford the costs involved in attending national or even regional festivals.

With all these factors in mind, we are trying to find how we can best structure the Puppeteers of America, its component parts, to meet the needs of a changing world and a changing membership without excluding anyone who wants to participate in our community.

I've mentioned this before, but I'll say it again: this is YOUR organization. Your ideas, thoughts, gripes, kudos, and other comments are essential. Your Board of Trustees, and other officers, truly want to hear from you on this, and any other concern you might have.

Together we can build on the strong organization we have, make it better, and find more effect ways to promote the art we all love. See you in Atlanta!

\_\_\_\_\_ Wayne Krefting - **President**

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**MEMBERSHIP OFFICE**  
**Puppeteers of America**  
26 Howard Avenue,  
New Haven, CT. 06519-2809  
**Membership@puppeteers.com**  
(888) 568-6235

# The GUILD CONNECTION

KURT HUNTER

Yesterday I spent the afternoon performing on a lake. This being Minnesota in January, the lake was frozen. The venue was a black box theater the size of an ice fishing shanty. I did 10 or 12 short marionette variety shows to audiences of a dozen or so. The theater is actually part of an entire village of "art shanties" on the lake ([www.artshantyprojects.org](http://www.artshantyprojects.org)). Minnesotans have a very "when life gives you snow, make snowmen" approach to the weather.

- The weather in the form of an unexpected ice storm almost put a kink in the **Twin Cities Puppeteers** holiday party in early January, but our members are a hearty lot. The party went on as planned, hosted by fifty plus year guild member Mary Ellen Kruger.

- Of course when the weather makes up its mind to change your plans, there's really no way around it. Just ask the members of the **Greater Houston Puppetry Guild**, who had to postpone their annual puppetry festival due to the persuasion of Hurricane Ike. The date shift affected attendance a bit, but the evaluations of the event were excellent as always.

- They may not have faced a hurricane, but the weather was bad enough to force the **Cincinnati Guild of Puppetry** to cancel their mid-December holiday party.

- Threatening weather dampened the turn out for the **Puppetry Guild of New York's** holiday party, which was a shame for those who didn't make it. Penny Jones presented a performance of a work in progress "The Circus and Sebastian" and Richard Concepcion showed a video of the latest Rapid T. Rabbit Christmas show.

- One way to avoid both snow and hurricanes is to schedule your holiday party for early November. That's what the newly forming **New Mexico Guild** did, unless it was a misprint, although that does seem overly cautious for New Mexico.

- The **San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers' Guild** had a fun-filled holiday party including a scholarship fundraiser auction of rare Pixar production team and film logo items as well as performances by Kevin Menegus ("The Frog Prince") and ventriloquist Ron Coulter and his partner Sid.

- Maggie Whalen and Sparky Davis explained all the ins and outs of "Puppet Voices" at the January meeting of the **Boston Area Guild of Puppetry**.

- The newly forming **Williamette Valley Puppeteers** met in November and December to work on their Winter Tales program. The January event included performances followed by a workshop for adults and children to make a Cardboarder, a puppet snowboarder designed by Jim Piercey.

- The **Connecticut Guild of Puppetry** tried a new twist for their annual January fundraiser for the Margo Rose Scholarship fund. The event featured a reality TV inspired contest "So You Want to be a Puppeteer!" with guest judges Marty Robinson with Telly Monster, Pam Arciero with Grundgetta and Leslie Carrara Rudolph with Lolly.

- The annual Puppetfest at City Museum in November presented by **The Puppet Guild of Greater St. Louis** was a great success thanks to puppeteers Patricia and Daniel Breithaupt, Michelle O'Donnell, Stan Gulick, Daniel Romano and Yasmine Ruiz-Smith and also Ginnie Weiss who prepared the workshop materials.

- The members of the **Columbia Association of Puppeteers** were treated to free tickets to Tears of Joy Theatre's production of "The Reluctant Dragon" in December. It's a wonderful membership perk, thanks to the generosity of TOJ.

- The **Florida Suncoast Puppet Guild** met in January for a mini puppet film festival to view "The American Puppet" complete with popcorn and soft drinks.

- The November meeting of the **Orange County Puppetry Guild** featured a program on papier-mâché puppet making presented by Charles Taylor. He demonstrated techniques, showed beautiful completed puppets, and gave everyone a chance for some hands on experience. The December meeting was a sock puppet workshop led by Lois Harmeyer. The January meeting had a real treat scheduled with a performance of "The Night BEARfore Christmas" performed by the one and only Jim Gamble.

- "Meet the Marionettes" was the January program for the **Detroit Puppeteers Guild**. Sue Ostrowski and Rick Morse ran through design, construction, and manipulation of marionettes.

- The December holiday party of **The Puppet Guild of Long Island** must have been a bitter sweet affair, since it was the last guild event at Carol Fijan's studio. Artie Poore was scheduled to perform and was looking for other performers.

- The members of the **Savannah Coastal Puppetry Guild** were given a working, hands on workshop on "How to Create a Puppet Show from your Favorite Fairy Tale" at their January meeting led by actor, director, writer and puppeteer Chris Saucy.

- The **Chicagoland Puppetry Guild** learned about the work of Fran Soeder, an internationally known puppet builder for theme parks, through a video presentation at their January meeting.

- The **Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry** is giving sock puppets the royal treatment with a February workshop led by Pat Brymer, who has spent 20 years of the 36 year career constructing puppets for Shari Lewis.

- The best program title I've seen in a long time comes from the **Phoenix Guild of Puppetry**. Their January meeting on "Mouths That Move, Eyes that Blink and Things That Fall Apart" was presented by Brittain, Bonar, Smith and Gordon.

Before I close I should mention that the **Wisconsin Guild of Puppetry** now has a blog. Check it out at: <http://wispuppetryguild.blogspot.com/>

That's all for now. If you send me news I'll be back next time. Neither rain nor sleet nor ...

KURT HUNTER  
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Well, here we are, another year, and an unusual one at that. From the looks of the economy, the job market etc., etc., it may be a tough time ahead. I am an optimist however, and I would like to think that maybe if money is tight, instead of renting a gym or beading shop for a party, perhaps parents will go back to hiring those great puppeteers that do such a good job. It is cheaper and the kids love good live entertainment. Now that sounds good to me. During the depression in the 30s puppeteers did very well. Perhaps our time has come again. Keep your fingers crossed.

I got a wonderful set of clippings from **Joe Appleton in Durham, North Carolina**. The newspapers had great coverage of a puppet company called **The Paperhand Puppets** led by **Donovan Zimmerman**. They have been performing for 10 years. The show is called "Hungry Ghost."

My good friend **Nancy Henk, of Clinton Township, Michigan**, (that's HENK) tells me **Rick Morris** is doing "Frosty's Birthday Party" in the Detroit libraries.

**In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre** in Minneapolis has a kids line-up that sounds fun: **Fifth of November Puppeteers** will be doing "Punch and Judy; **Dolly Wagers**, presenting, "The Woodchoppers Opera; **Pauline Brener** presenting "Land of 1000 Lakes" and **Julie Boada** doing "Shingibis & Winter Maker."

Read a delightful review by **Elise Handelman of Coconut Creek, Florida** about **Ronnie Burkett's (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)** new show "Billy Twinkle". Ronnie is headed out on an international tour with this show.

**Joe McCormack** in Ohio is launching a new show: "Jack and the Magic Rock," and **Guy Thompson of LeGrange, Indiana** is doing "Aladdin" in Sandusky Ohio.

**Marjorie Deane's Little Theatre of the West Side** will have **Vit Horejs' Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre** perform "The Historye of Queen Esther, of King Ahasverus & of the Haughty Haman."

**Jim Gamble**, long time PofA member of **Harbor City, California** has a new Christmas show "The Night BEARfore Christmas."

The **Great Arizona Puppet Theatre (Phoenix, Arizona)** will host **Peter Allen**, from **Jamesport, Missouri** to do "Amazing Mysto's Magic" and **Michael Nelson's Magical Moonshine Theatre of Vallejo, California** will be dropping in to do "Animaltos."

**David Herzog** with the **David Herzog Marionettes of Chicago, Illinois** is doing "Captain Cranky and His Crew In the Search for The Wild Man Of Wacko Wacko." It sounds like a hoot.

The **Pelham Puppets** are making a return. They have been in existence 60 years but haven't been available since 1980. They should show up in the US soon.

I received two great posters on my e-mail recently. One from the **Los Griegos Library in Albuquerque, New Mexico**. They have an exhibit "A Wonderful World of Puppets." **Squallis Puppeteers of Louisville, Kentucky** sent their New Year's Eve poster and it is an eye-popper.

**Nick Coppola, New York** received the Santaland Legend Award in recognition of Nick's thirty-two years producing holiday puppet shows at Macy's Herald Square.

I also got a fun picture of Santa at Christmas from **Randel McGee of Hanford, California**, taken from his book "Paper Craft Fun for the Holidays - Christmas."

Congratulations to **Judith O'Hare, Reading, Massachusetts** for being accepted as a teaching artist at the Kennedy Center.

**Peter Lewis, New York**, sent me a copy of the latest copy of *Puppetmaster* by e-mail and it was great. No chance of getting lost. Ah cyber space is special. Thanks, Peter!

Talk about super ideas - **Nancy Sander of Lakewood, Ohio**, and creator of the great EUREKA!! column that appears in

*Playboard*, has the **Puppet Guild of Northern Ohio** set up to have their pictures taken by a professional photographer. Everyone needs a great picture but how many of us have one?

2009 is going to be the year of PUPPETS in New Mexico. The **Gustaf Baumann** puppet exhibit will be opening there on March 8, and on March 9 the New Mexico Legislature is having performances and exhibits in the Rotunda.

**Mary Hildebrand Nagler** of **Storrs, Connecticut** presented her MFA theatre Production, "Little Things" at the University of Connecticut. The reports were wonderful - Congratulations!

Every now and then something crosses my desk and I say to myself - "I'd like to attend that one." **The Jarvis Conservatory in Napa, California** had a festival and workshop featuring **Peter Allen (Parasol Puppets)** and **Paul Mesner of Kansas City, Missouri**. It sounds to me like a fun filled festival I'd love to attend.

That's it folks. I hope that the world takes on a happy face and that every puppeteer in the county makes everyone smile and feel better. That can be our New Years resolution. Send me your news.

————— M'El

REUM-  
...with a view.  
M'EL REUM

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# National Puppetry Festival '09

## Atlanta, Georgia - July 14 - 19, 2009

SINCE 1937, THE PUPPETEERS OF AMERICA HAS PRESENTED FESTIVALS TO SPOTLIGHT THE BEST IN PUPPETRY IN ALL ITS FORMS.

THE NATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL IS HELD EVERY TWO YEARS AND BRINGS TOGETHER PUPPETEERS AND FRIENDS FROM ALL OVER TO STUDY, SHARE, INSPIRE, ENLIGHTEN, ENTERTAIN, AND BE ENTERTAINED.

The 2009 National Puppetry Festival will be held on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology in the heart of midtown Atlanta. The fun begins with an opening night performance and reception on Tuesday evening, July 14th and concludes Sunday morning, July 19th.

In between are morning workshops; afternoon, evening, and late night performances; exhibits; The Puppetry Store; a field trip and - if you insist - some time to eat and sleep.

### THIS YEAR, THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL GOES INTERNATIONAL!

In conjunction with the National Puppetry Festival, the Center for Puppetry Arts, UNIMA-USA, and the Puppeteers of America are presenting the International Puppetry Festival with performances taking place at venues around Atlanta in July 2009.

Want to see those performances? Come to the National Puppetry Festival!  
**All of the international artists will be performing at the National Festival.**

If you would like more information, please visit the festival website at:  
[www.nationalpuppetryfestival.org](http://www.nationalpuppetryfestival.org)

For a registration packet or other information please write:

**Marianne & Tom Tucker, Festival Registrars**  
2026 Susquehanna Road  
Abington, PA 19901 - 4406  
(215) 885 - 7073  
Email; [registrarpoa@aol.com](mailto:registrarpoa@aol.com)

## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

(continued.)

ANYONE can contribute money to Endowment Fund and participate in the creation of new puppetry projects and support the art form that we all enjoy!

Grant applications are available on the Puppeteers of America website at:

<http://www.puppeteers.org/grants.html>, or are available from Michael Nelson, (address below.)

**Applications for funding must be received by April 15th if sent electronically or postmarked by April 15, 2009.**

**Awards will be decided by June 15, 2009**

For more information about the Endowment Fund, go to:

<http://www.puppeteers.org/grants.html> or contact:

**Michael Nelson,**  
Box 1258, Vallejo, CA 94590,  
Phone: 707-363-4573,  
Email: [endowment@puppeteers.org](mailto:endowment@puppeteers.org)

## EUREKA!!!

Sorry to report that Nancy Sander has injured her ankle on the eve of performing some 22 library shows! But the shows WILL go on!!!

Nancy asks that you keep the great ideas coming so that she can include them in the next issue of Playboard.

Thanks.

**NANCY H. SANDER**  
1250 Granger Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
[puppetmaster@puppetswithpizazz.com](mailto:puppetmaster@puppetswithpizazz.com)

January / February - 2009

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## PLAYBOARD

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