

# Garden State Puppetry Guild

April 2011

Newsletter

Issue 4

Dear Fellow Puppeteers,

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, The Garden State Puppetry Guild partnered with the Somerset County 4-H to celebrate National Date of Puppetry at the Ted Blum 4-H Center at Bridgewater, New Jersey. Members Penny Rapicano and Betty Sommerville, co-chaired and organized the event. The day started at 9:00am with workshops run by guild members, then after lunch children and parents were delighted with performances. The day ended with an Earth Day Pageant complete with parade puppets and children with their workshop puppet creations.



Steven Hollow, and His Royal Highness Emperor of Austria were the Emcees for the day.

# National Day of Puppetry

## April 16<sup>th</sup>

### Workshops



The Guild ran three workshops. The first workshop by Lois Corwin, had children making fish. In the second workshop by San D Hasselman, children made fluttering butterfly puppets, and the third workshop by Betty Sommerville and the Pretty Cool 4-H Puppet Club showed the children how to manipulate all kinds of puppets.

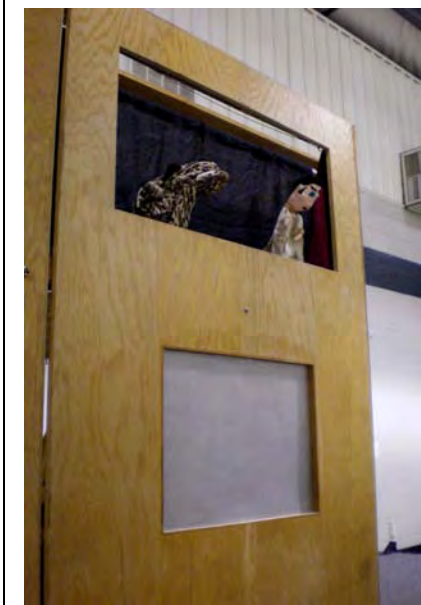
# National Day of Puppetry

April 16th

Performances



# National Day of Puppetry Performances and Participants



Performances by

Steven Hollow

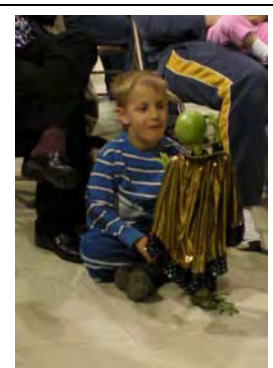
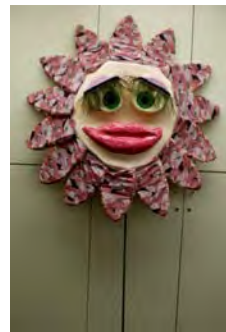
Raritan Valley Chinese School/4-H Chinese Culture Club

Marshall Katzman-Fantasy Puppet Theater

Pretty Cool 4-H Puppetry Club

Penny Rapicano-Fun on a String

Lois Corwin



# Reflections

## By Lois Corwin

Dear Members,

I was privileged to attend a ceremony and concert in honor of our own dear Joyce Reilly at Drew University today. I wanted to write you all some of my reflections on the event and extol Joyce's many undertakings. I had not realized her importance, her drive, her selfless and tireless work as a "humanist, peace worker, community builder and anti-genocide activist."

To recount a few of the organizations and people who honored her: Gheel House, a residence for Mentally handicapped that she established when she was quite young and a recent graduate from Drew. She is a member of the Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Board of Associates and works with the NJ Coalition to give aid and assistance to Darfur, the Oure Cassoni refugee camp and International Rescue Committee. The highlighted lecture of the afternoon was given by Dr. Joseph Sebarenzi, survivor of the Rwandan genocide and author of "God Sleeps in Rwanda: A Journey of Transformation". Dr. Sebarenzi is a former Speaker of the Rwandan Parliament. In his moving speech he outlined his support of a restorative justice rather than a retributive justice for the Hutus in power during the genocide. He stressed that for his people to move forward so that another atrocity would not follow, justice should embody "truth and reconciliation". When the legal system became overloaded with criminals against humanity, he pushed for community courts where the perpetrators were put on trial and the judges and jury were the citizens of the community who had been victims. The perpetrators were given diminished sentences (by half) and allowed to do community service while living in their own homes, provided they would apologize sincerely to the community.

Dr. Sebarenzi cited his belief in the Christian value of forgiveness as primary in his work to restore Rwanda to a country where Hutu and Tutsi can live together. The afternoon was capped with a reverential and uplifting song by the Drew University Ubuntu Pan-African Choir and charging the audience to "widen the circle."

I want to thank Joyce for her lovely remarks in her speech about the Garden State Puppetry Guild and describing us as people who "delight children" with our puppetry. I would also like to thank her for widening our circle and broadening our horizons at our meetings by bringing in some of the wonderful puppets from other lands where she traveled to carry out her humanitarian work.

On a personal note, I remember that the first puppet show I ever created is the one I consider my best and the one that came from the depths of my soul. The show begins with two competitive ducks (brothers), each trying to win over the other, and ends with two ducks who work together, keep each other from danger, and celebrate each others special talents. I believe each of us has a story from the depths of our souls, that we can make sing and dance and delight children from all walks of life.

Thank you Joyce for being a special teacher in humanity for our Guild. Your generosity in that area knows no bounds.

Lois

# Garden State Puppetry Guild

## Meeting of 3/28/2011

Dear GSPG members:

The last meeting we had was March 28 at the Chatham library. We had a brief business meeting with Steven Hollow, Betty Sommerville and me. The line-up for the afternoon performances was given by Betty: The Lion Dance (Chinese Culture Club), 10 minutes; Marshall Katzman, 10 minutes; "Little Chicken" performed by Betty's puppet club, 5 minutes; Penny Rapicano's marionettes, 10 minutes; then a short break and the Earth Day Pageant will begin and last for 15 minutes.

"Thanks and Farewell" will occur after the pageant. This part of the program will last from 1:PM until 3:PM and after a short clean up we will continue with the GSPG meeting for our members and possibly some guests or people interested in joining. The morning workshops will last from 9:45am until 12:15pm and then lunch will be from 12:15pm until 1:00pm. There will be 3 periods in the morning for workshops: Lois will be making a fish, San D will be making a butterfly and Betty and Penny will be instructing the kids in manipulation of marionettes. Betty has 7 helpers signed up and the possibility of 5 more from 4-H. Adults (our members) will probably carry the large puppets in the pageant and the children will carry the puppets they made.

Lois requested that members please save bottle caps of all types for her workshop project (fish eyes). Betty has a number of plastic bottles saved and asked for you to please contact her if you need them for a workshop or any other reason. Each workshop will be 45 minutes. Registration is not yet complete and the number of children who will attend the workshops is therefore uncertain. We can certainly use members to be "wranglers" for the pageant and helpers in the morning for the workshops. Plan to be at the 4-H Center by 8:30am if you need to set up a workshop. During the lunch period or afternoon break, all involved in the Earth Day Pageant will be given instructions and Penny will give out a sheet to explain the movements to everyone.

Steven gave the treasury report which was approved by the membership.

That's all for now folks. See you at NDOP.  
Lois Corwin, President and also secretary

# Review of “War Horse”



Vivian Beaumont Theater (at Lincoln Center)

150 W 65<sup>th</sup> Street at Broadway

1-212-239-6200

[warhorseonbroadway.com](http://warhorseonbroadway.com)

Tue 7pm, Wed 2,8pm, Thu,Fri, 8 pm Sat  
2,8pm,Sun 3pm.

2 hours 45 mins. One intermission

Based on a young adult’s anti war novel by Michael Morpurgo, *War Horse* tells the story of a boy and his horse. This heart wrenching, breaking and warming story was created by South Africa’s Handspring Puppet Company. Designers Adrian Kohler and Basil Jones have given life to Joey and Topthorn, the two larger than life sized puppet horses in *War Horse*, through their philosophy of “puppeteers must surrender to the object” to help the puppet realize and develop life. In addition the designers articulated that the audience helps to “author” the play particularly since the horses have no voice.

Through the use of the puppets, video animations a la Muybridge, artistic use of light, sound and smoke, Albert and his horse Joey are drawn into the hellish world of World War I, when man, animal and killing machines collide. We see Joey go from foal to stallion as he passes through unthinkable challenges to survive.

The human story of Albert and his family is one of love, betrayal, drink, jealousy, and heartache, and serves as a parallel narrative to those of the human soldiers and their steeds we meet in the war. Death and sorrow surrounds everyone, as survival at all costs becomes a strong theme.

To quote David Cote from *Time Out Magazine*: “War Horse will make you believe that puppets live and breathe, and perhaps even have souls”.

# Why go to the National Puppetry Festival?

OK I bit the bullet and sent in my registration for this year's National Festival. Some may say--"But the economy is bad now--why did you do it?" Well it is bad---and because of that I can arrange the summer jobs to take a different date if they want that week. I have some money saved because I haven't been to a festival in 3 years. So I took the chance and just did it!

I don't think the economy will not be bad forever!!!! Now is the time for me to learn new skills and get inspired for the future. Maybe I'm being overly optimistic, but I think puppetry and art have a bright future in this changing economy. I want to be ready for whatever happens.

But most of all Festivals are great fun and I just NEED to go. I need to be inspired by the best puppetry in the country, to learn from the masters of our craft, and to be in a community of people who understand my passion. I want to sit at a cafeteria table and brainstorm ideas for a show or piece -- my show or some other puppeteer's. I want to be awed by the skill of other puppeteers and learn more about the rich history of puppetry. I want to get to know the elders in the puppetry world. Many of the great pioneers of puppetry are up in age, and I don't want to regret missing an opportunity to meet and get to know them.

I want to live a life of great experiences and for me a puppetry festival is a great and memorable experience every time.

Penny Rapicano

# Donate to the “Traffle” For the National Puppetry Festival

On behalf of the National Puppetry Festival, I am requesting that each guild of the Puppeteers of America organization donate a prize for the festival traffle. I am also requesting that you encourage your individual guild members to also donate traffle prizes.

A traffle is a fund raising raffle. Donated prizes consisting of various puppet related “treasures” will be on display at the festival. Festival participants will be encouraged to buy chances to win the traffle prizes. All monies raised by the festival traffle will go directly towards helping with travel expenses for the board of directors of Puppeteers of America, who attend mandatory Puppeteers of America board meetings.

As well as sponsoring Puppeteers of America, donating traffle prizes is an excellent way to promote the individual or group who is making the donation. All donors will be acknowledged with their name displayed beside each item they donate. The donors will also be acknowledged at the closing ceremonies of the festival.

If an individual or group is selling items at the puppetry store, donating a sample of their merchandize can be great promotion for their sales in the store.

Donations can be mailed in advance of the festival, or can be delivered when you arrive at the festival. Meanwhile, please provide a brief description of your item being donated.

I hope to hear from you soon with a commitment of your generous donation.

Many Thanks,

Greg Ruhe

Volunteer and Traffle Coordinator

National Puppetry Festival 2011

713 862 1108

[greg@puppetpizzazz.com](mailto:greg@puppetpizzazz.com)

## Last two Meetings

### May and June

We are coming to the end of our official puppetry Guild “season” with two meetings left.

In May, we elect officers for the Guild. If you would like to serve, or nominate someone, for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer of Membership Chairman, please contact [Lois@raff170@aol.com](mailto:Lois@raff170@aol.com)

# Join, Renew, and Visit

## Garden State Puppetry Guild

### Meetings in 2011

May 22

June 26

Meetings are held 2:00-4:00 at the Library of the Chathams, Main St., Chatham, New Jersey.

Meetings are subject to change.

## Membership Information

Individual: \$15.00 yr

Troupe: \$25.00 yr

Junior (18 and under): \$10.00 yr

Send checks to:

Penny Rapicano, Membership Chair

12 Brookview Road

Denville, New Jersey 07834

**Guild Website:** <http://www.gardenstatepuppetryguild.com/>

## **Puppeteers of America**

**<http://www.puppeteers.org/>**

## [National Puppetry Festival](#)

**July 12-17, 2011** Atlanta, GA  
site is open for registration

## [National Day of Puppetry](#)

**April 23, 2011**

## We're on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Garden-State-Puppetry-Guild/164602900253077>