

Atlanta-Southeastern Puppetry Guild



The Newsletter With A Punch

Vol XXII Issue 2

Chartered by Puppeteers of America, Inc. Since 1974

Spring 1996

1996 Officers

Gregg Wallace - President (404-377-3018)
Walter Stark - Vice President
Betsy Berns Stark - Secretary
Gail McKay - Treasurer
April Fields - Newsletter Editor
770-967-2100
770-967-0170 fax
Yostie Ashley - S.E. Regional Director

WELL What
do YOU KNOW?

| Next Meeting: | Place: | Time: | Program: |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| May 5, 1996 | Fernbank Foundation | 4:30 p.m. | Suzy Ferriss' Show |

The Lascaux Chronicles

By Suzy Ferriss

A puppetry/planetarium performance for adults at the DeKalb School System's Fernbank Planetarium

May 2-19, 1996
Thursday - Friday -9:30 pm
Saturday - 4:30 pm & 8:00 pm
Sunday -4:30 pm

All tickets \$6 cash at door
(no checks, charges, or reservations accepted)

Wednesday, May 1st, 9:30 pm
Open Dress Rehearsal - \$3

The Fernbank Planetarium is located at the Fernbank Science Center at 156 Heaton Park Drive in Atlanta

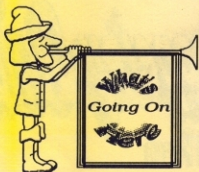
Although this performance is aimed at adult audiences, children 8 and older may attend.

This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.



This is the space devoted to Up & Coming News, Juicy Gossip and Guild Member Achievements.

Let's hear from you!



Mail info to:

April Fields

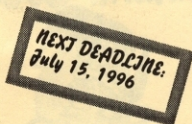
6735 Crestwood Peninsula
Flowerly Branch, GA 30542

or

Call: 770-967-2100

or

Fax: 770-967-0170



• On Saturday, April 6, 1996, Walter and Betsy Stark hosted a potluck social for the Guild with George Latshaw as guest of honor. Mr. Latshaw was at the Puppetry Center for the first two weeks in April performing his show "Wilbur and the Giant". Mr. Latshaw edits the Puppetry Journal. Some 20-25 people attended the party on a chilly evening. Everyone contributed a wide variety of food, as usual, and within minutes everyone was full. However, everyone had a chance to visit and catch up with local puppeteers. We'll have to see how we can top this event in 1997!!!

• Pamela Shook of the Blue Moon Puppet Company will be performing "Folk Tales from Global Village", featuring stories from Africa, Japan and Mexico at the Decatur Arts Festival on Memorial Day weekend. Showtime is 1:15 p.m. Saturday. You may want to call to make sure there were no schedule changes.

• Jungle book opens at the Center for Puppetry Arts on April 18 through May 29th, 1996. Walter Stark, Guild Vice President, is in the cast for this show.

• Mabou Mines Theatre Company is performing "Peter and Wendy" at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. The six lost boys are carved by Walter Stark and are hand carved poseable 24 to 28 inch tall marionettes especially designed for this show. The Spoleto Arts Festival runs from mid-May to early June. We do not know show times or dates right now. (call Walter later and we might! 404-378-9429)

• April Fields would like to proudly announce she has been hired (real American money will exchange hands) by the Chestatee Library (part of The Gainesville Library System) to perform hour long presentations weekly during July for their summer reading program. April will be writing one long show and one short show to accommodate the size of the libraries she will travel to.

• Betsy Stark recommends we go see the movie "Babe" - besides the special effects and puppets, she says it is a very funny and uplifting movie, though not appropriate for very young children.

Just Like Puppets



April Fields ©1996

What can I do? I'm just a shadow of my former self.

1996 Meeting Calendar

Please mark your calendars. But note, these dates are still tentative. Please refer to newsletter for confirmed date and place.

March 3 - 6:00 p.m. Rosemary Glenn's
3637 Vanet Road (where Teal Rd
deadends) 770-457-3482

May 5 - 4:30 p.m. Fembank Foundation
Program - Suzy Ferriss' Show

August - to be announced
November - to be announced

Fall seven times, stand up eight.

- Japanese Proverb



**ASEPG Spotlight on
New Member
Jeanne Jenkins**

- Puppeteer, Storyteller, Actress
- Active in theatre work, particularly community theatre and children's theatre most of her life. Most recently active in Seasoned Performers of Birmingham, Alabama and currently storytelling at Rainbow Hollow in Roswell.

A big ASEPG welcome to Jeanne!!



March 3, 1996

Rosemary Glenn and Andy Bremer cooked up a fabulous dinner with salad and vegetarian and meaty sauces and everyone's scrumptious dishes rounded out the offerings. No one left hungry. The entertainment was provided, in potpourri style, by Rosemary Glenn (storytelling), Andy Bremer, (specialty marionette) Ann Slinger (ventriloquist), Jody Kazlow (audience participation), Gail McKay (storytelling and audience participation), Carol Daniels(video), and Walter and Betsy Stark (two bears built by Walter Stark acted as the masters of ceremonies). The performances, stories, and characters demonstrated the variety and depth of talent of our members in the Guild. At the business meeting, Gregg

Wallace asked people to update their addresses for the mailing list. Members also signed a thank you note for the person who made the quilt square for the quilt to be raffled at the regional puppetry festival this June in Alabama. Gregg also asked members to nominate people for the PoFA (Puppeteers of America) awards. Ruth Gilpin, one of the original presidents sent in a \$50 contribution. Members had several ideas about what to do with the money, including helping defray cost of registration at a festival or pay for a puppet manipulation clinic at the Puppetry Center. This will be discussed at another meeting.

Next meeting May 5, 1996
Guild attendance at "The Lascaux Chronicles" by Suzy Ferris. This show will be performed at the Fernbank Planetarium Science Center on Heaton Park Drive, off Clinton Road. Call (404) 378-4314 ext. 210 for directions. The show features shadow puppets, planetarium effects and live masked performers for a trip through time. The Sunday afternoon show starts at 4:30. The Guild was able to get ten free tickets which we are using to discount member's tickets. Please arrive by 4:15 to participate in the discount and be seated as a group, otherwise ticket prices are \$6.00. The show runs May 2 through May 19 and is recommended for children age 8 and above.

Respectfully submitted by
Betsy Berns Stark

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

We have a new Treasurer!

Her name is Gail McKay. I really appreciate everyone making my job as Treasurer so easy for the past three years by sending in your dues on time. I'm sure you'll do the same for Gail.

The dues are still only \$5.00 (such a deal!) and our year runs from November til October. So, if you forget to pay until say... July or August, you will still be asked to pay again in November. Hey! you could pay for 2-3 years in advance and not have to worry about it for awhile. Anyway, thanks for the chance to serve.

Sincerely,
Susan Kinney

Please send dues to:
Gail McKay
878 E. Con federate Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30316
(404) 622-7672

For several months now, I have tried to put together a directory for the guild. Because individually we are busy and diverse beings, I have found this to be quite a challenge. So, before I abandon the project altogether I thought I would give it one last try. Below you will find a simple form to fill out. If you received this newsletter it means you are still on the books though you may or may not be a paid member (YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE). I have corrected my files to reflect the latest addresses and phone numbers that I have received. If I have omitted anyone, I apologize but I can't know this unless someone informs me. If you wish to be in the directory and wish to continue receiving this newsletter, and if you feel an updated directory of our membership would be a convenience and asset, please take a moment to fill in the form and mail it to me.

I would like to place a deadline of **June 1** to receive these forms. You may bring it to the next meeting if you wish to save a stamp. Thank you for helping me with this.

-April

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone # () _____
 Fax# _____
 Member of Puppeteers of America? ____yes ____no
 Comments: _____

Mail to: A Fields 6735 Crestwood Pn Flowery Branch, GA 30542

What is wrong with me? It seems everytime I work up a production, the circumstances demand I whip up another puppet theatre. If I continue down this road, I'll have to rent space just to store them all.

For example I have this perfectly terrific portable theatre that is hard-broken in but when I recently wrote an Easter story about the "First Easter Egg" (which was a duck egg by the way) the puppets all complained they couldn't work on that stage. Puppets are demanding sometimes. My original theatre would have worked but is too big and not meant for easy set up and break down and I have only used it when I could keep it in place for a period of time.

Okay, I said, I can

throw together a quickie. But, I told those petulant puppets they wouldn't have all the luxuries. I warned, "You won't have a curtain and you won't have lights! It will be small and compact and you will have to travel inside." They agreed. So, on the morning of the day I was to perform, I did a marathon hammer, saw and sew job. I threw it into the van and arrived at the daycare center right on time.

As primitive as it was, the sparkling fabric and charming presence of my new "EensieWeensie Theatre" seemed to impress the kids. It turned out, because it was just their size, I let the kids play with it after I had finished which was great fun for them.

I thought to myself if I took the time to refine the design, the little theatre could

be quite respectable. That, of course, means more designing and building and another thing to find room for. Oh well.


The truth be known, I think I like building and designing even more than performing. Actually, lest I forget, I got into this whole thing because I wanted to find an outlet for my writing. One thing always leads to another doesn't it? I am a bit concerned though - the theatres seem to be getting smaller. Is this a bad sign?

One thing for sure, I certainly never would have imagined back in 1992 when I built that first theatre that I'd still be at it four years later - still questing for something I can't even explain.

And still loving the journey...

Always

April



I Was Just Thinking
©1996 April S. Fields



Going To Mobile, Alabama.

With a PUPPET On My Knee!



S.E. REGIONAL PUPPETEERS OF AMERICA
JUNE 27-30, 1996

Contact: Bill Stevens @ Alabama Puppetry Guild

12889 Country Rd. 26 - Foley, Alabama 36315 - Home (334) 965-7938

12889 Country Rd. 26 - Foley, Alabama 36535 - Home (334) 965-7938

