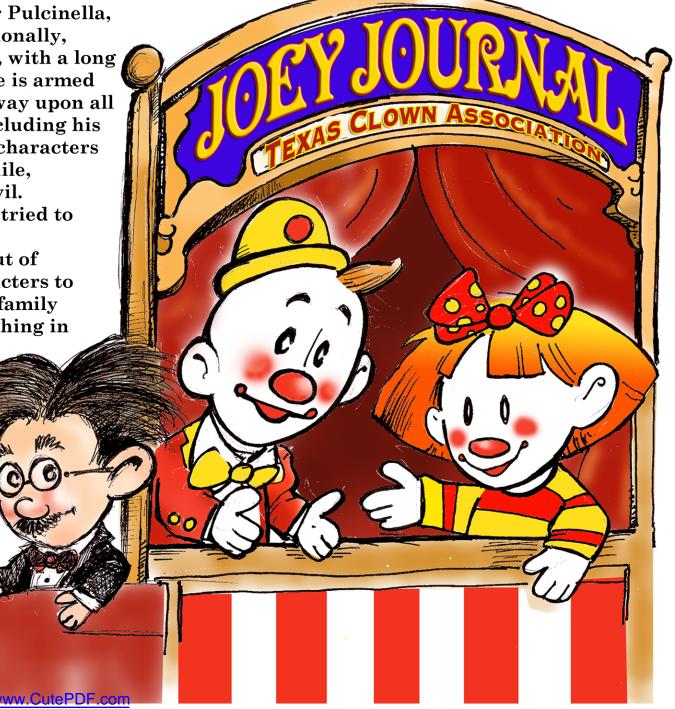
Punch and Judy shows are a traditional part of the Christmas celebration in Great Britain. The character of Punch is a direct descendant of the Commedia Del' Arte character Pulcinella, who is a trickster and clown. Traditionally, Punch wears the costume of a jester, with a long hooked nose and a hunched back. He is armed with a stick which he uses to wail away upon all the other characters in the show, including his puppet wife Judy. Among the other characters are the Baby, the Doctor, the Crocodile, the Ghost, the Hangman and the Devil. As you can see in my version, I have tried to find a way to take some of the more frighteneing and violent elements out of the show and Americanize the characters to make it more suitable for American family entertainment. I think it loses something in he translation, but that's probably a good thing.

Mr. Pitts

The Texas Clown Association • November - December 2009



THE JOEY JOURNAL

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Central membership mailing location: Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P. O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053

Purpose of the Texas Clown Association

- 1. To promote, preserve, and improve the profession of clowning.
- 2. To provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning.
- 3. To educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning.
- To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

FALL ISSUE AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

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A Word from the Prez.....

Where in the world has this year gone? I remember my parents telling me the older we get the faster the years go by. Soon the holidays will be here and then the new year.

Speaking of next year, we will be holding our TCA election of officers at our convention. We our looking for a few good clowns to step up and put your name on the ballot. The Board meets four times a year and one of those is at the convention. Jeanette "Dusty" Sanders is Chairman of the Nominating Committee. If you have any questions or would like to run for an office contact Jeanette or any of the Board Members. The Board Members contact information is in the Joey Journal.

Have a great Holiday Season and I hope to see each and every one of you next year at the TCA Convention in Granbury.

Bump A Nose Andy A.

**Website password: clowntown

Thanks for the time and hard work

I would like to take a little time to thank some dedicated members of TCA. First I would like to thank Lisa Ezell for the hard work on the TCA Board. She was our President for four years and was serving as Past President when for personal reasons she had to step down. She will be greatly missed on the Board.

Second I would like to thank Ed Fitzgerald for all his time and hard work as TCA Competition Director for the last few years. He has kept things moving in the right direction even while working short handed at times. Ed's department at his company was sold, he lost his job and he is making the best of a bad situation by going back to school and making a career change. Even so he will be missed and I would like to commend Ed for his fortitude and vision to move on.

Last but not least is Aurora Krause the Education Director of TCA the last few years. Aurora has put together the Buddy program for the clowns going to their first TCA Convention. She would contact each one before the convention to set them up with Buddies to let them have an experienced clown to be there for them. She and Kim Grice have enlisted helpers and taught novice classes for our new clowns. Most of this work was behind the scenes and she did the job without fanfare.

These three are going to missed and hard to replace. Christie McNeill has stepped up to take Lisa's place on the Board and fill in for Ed as Competition Director for now. This helps us out short term but we need some people to take the ball and run with it so to speak. As of now we have someone considering taking on the job of Competition Director. Like Uncle Sam we need you. We need some of the great clowns of TCA to take the bull by the horns. If you or someone you know can help then get in touch with a Board person. Our names and contact information are in this publication. We the Board and TCA thank you.

Andy Anderson

Are Clowns Stress Reducers?

submitted by Lisa "Twinkles" Ezell

In the August 9, 2009 issue of PARADE magazine, an article titled "Soothing a Child Before Surgery" addressed that question. According to this article, researchers conducted 17 studies involving 1700 children aged 10 months to 17 years in different countries. Since pharmaceutical-based sedatives can have side effects that last for hours, even after the procedure, these studies were done to try to find different ways to de-stress kids.

Three alternatives to standard medications to soothe kids as they prepared for surgery or some other procedure were tested: hypnosis, video games, and clowns. It was determined that all three of these alternatives were "likely to help reduce children's anxiety during the onset of anesthetic."

One study found that hypnosis worked better than a sedative. Another found that kids who played with video games were significantly less anxious than those who did not. They also did better than those who were medicated. And one study found that visits by clowns reduced anxiety.

Interestingly, they also determined that music did not have a strong calming effect on the children. Neither did having Mom or Dad nearby - except when Mom or Dad were given acupuncture to reduce their own stress levels. The moral of this story (if there is one) is that Mom and Dad need to take a chill pill and send in the clowns.

THE FACTS AND ONLY THE FACTS

I have been around Texas Clown Association (TCA) for quite a long time. I remember lots of things and have forgotten even more and then again some of the things I remember might not be true at all.....but here is what I recall.....

In the early years the TCA Conventions were awarded by the TCA board of directors based on bids submitted to the board by various alleys around the state (not TCA alleys, in those days TCA didn't have alleys). And typically the board decisions on the bids were made TWO years out - meaning if the bid was submitted in 1985 it was for the 1987 convention. That allowed the winning bidder 2 years of planning time for a successful convention. As many of you who have been involved in hosting a convention already know - there is a lot of planning to be done. Over the years TCA alleys were formed but not all alleys have survived (TCA or COAI) and several alleys, after hosting a convention (either TCA or COAI) and learning of the work involved, have chosen not to bid again for many years. So over the years it became harder and harder to find a convention host.

So why host? There are a couple of very good reasons – 1) it is typically a money making event and can really boost your alley's treasury and 2) it is usually an opportunity to bring a convention to your home area and give more of your members an opportunity to attend a state convention (with minimal travel and hotel expense).

TCA and many other organizations (not just clown groups) are experiencing a decline in attendance at their conventions and in the general membership numbers as well. Also, it seems that the membership overall is aging and that few members of the younger generation are joining the ranks. These facts could spell disaster for the organization.

Now the TCA conventions had always been held in the early fall (late September/early October) - why? The answer is unknown, but perhaps it was to try to separate it from the springtime COAI convention? Regardless, the policy was set for the fall timeframe and the membership never voted on the convention dates, the board awarded the bids and the hosts were expected to set the dates within the policy and guidelines as established from the early days and carried on year after year.

I have not missed a TCA convention since 1984 and I know that as far back as the 2000 TCA convention the issue of moving the convention dates from the fall to the summer was brought before the general membership. In fact a vote was taken at the 2000 convention general membership meeting and the membership soundly defeated the idea of moving the convention to the summer. (It might be worth noting that this vote was taken among members attending a FALL convention perhaps they just liked that date? Those who could not attend in the fall were not there to vote the other way.) Still this idea has been mentioned nearly every year since then.

In January of 2006 (right after the RITA disaster caused the 2005 convention to be cancelled, leaving TCA with an uncertain financial year ahead), the board minutes indicate that there was still no bid to host the 2007 convention. The 2006 convention was to be held in Irving. So much for the host having 2 years to plan, time was running very short indeed for the 2007 hosts to get started. If a host did not step forward soon the board might be forced to "host" the 2007 convention. The board minutes also discussed putting a survey in the Joey Journal asking members to comment on reasons why they did not attend conventions and what the conventions could offer that would make them attend. Then the minutes from the April board meeting state that Cheerful Clown Alley submitted a bid to host the 2007 convention (sort of a doover for the ill-fated 2005 convention) - the shortened planning period not too serious since much of the planning had already been done. The board was "saved". There was an article in the Nov/Dec 2006 Joey Journal called LET ME HAVE IT written by the then TCA president Lisa Ezell. She recounted that during the 2006 general membership meeting there was a discussion about 1) changing the dates of the annual convention to the mid-July/mid-August timeframe and 2) eliminating or reducing the make-up/wardrobe competitions. These topics were presented with the idea that these things could increase attendance at the annual conventions and encourage more junior members to attend (being outside of the school year). The idea of moving the convention to the summer would allow school age members to attend and was purported to be a "slower" time for working clowns (the fall being full of festivals etc) and who wanted to work in the Texas summer HEAT anyway!

Lisa's <u>Joey Journal</u> article went on to say: "If it is the TCA goal to provide quality education at a time when we can appeal to the most audiences, both beginners and the more seasoned clowns, then TCA needs to become flexible enough to consider changing the timeframe in which we hold the annual convention". Perhaps one solution would be to change the time of year for the annual convention. If we keep the convention the same 3 weekends every year, then the members who cannot attend during those weekends can NEVER attend a TCA convention. And TCA should institute a Junior Joey program during the conventions. And she promised that more research would be done to determine if hotel rates would be more or less favorable in the summer timeframe. The board was conscious that they should not eliminate one problem by creating a new problem. She encouraged members to LET HER HAVE IT by emailing their thoughts on these ideas. She also mentioned that the board hoped to put the issues to a mail-in vote by a prepared ballot in the Jul/Aug Joey Journal and the results of the vote could apply as early as the 2008 convention but most certainly could be in place by the 2009 convention.

Lisa continued to call for member comments in the next few issues of the <u>Joey Journal</u> and she got many. Then based on those comments, the board voted at the May 2007 board meeting to NOT eliminate the make-up/ wardrobe competitions but instead to review and revamp the competitions and those changes could be in place by the 2007 convention.

However, the board felt that moving the convention dates needed to be addressed by a membership vote rather than a "survey". So as promised the ballot containing the question about moving the convention dates from Sep/Oct to the mid-Jul/mid-August timeframe was included in the Jul/Aug 2007 issue of the <u>Joey Journal</u>. (Note that the TCA by-laws do not provide for votes to be taken at any time other than the annual general membership meeting, but the board felt that it needed to hear from the full membership and the full membership does not attend the annual conventions). It was mentioned that a number of hotels had been surveyed regarding room rates in the fall versus summer and while some were higher, others were lower and others remained unchanged year-round. Again it was mentioned that if the vote was to change the convention dates, it *could* be in place by the 2008 convention but definitely in place by the 2009 convention. The ballots were to be marked and mailed back by 9/12/2007 and would be counted at the 2007 convention in Houston and the results announced during the general membership meeting there.

Meanwhile there was still no host for the 2008 convention and in fact, the TCA board was again concerned that the board itself might have to "host" the 2008 convention. But talks had been underway and plans were being finalized for the board to "assist" the Clown Arounds in Wichita Falls (a very small alley) to host the 2008 convention, so the dates for 2008 were set (in the old timeframe and still barely a year out), so the soonest that the convention time change could take effect would be the 2009 convention.

Along with the ballot the board requested that in the event that TCA moves to new summertime dates and the concept does not work as anticipated, the board asked that they be given the right to change the date back to the fall schedule without another membership vote. In fact the ballots were counted and the results were announced as promised. It was a low voter turn-out (only about 83 votes out of over 300 members) and a VERY CLOSE vote (unfortunately I do not have the exact count but I think it was something like 43 votes in favor of the date change and 40 vote against the date change) but still the majority was IN FAVOR of the date change. This result was announced at the 2007 general membership meeting and it was mentioned that now all TCA needed was a HOST for the 2009 SUMMERTIME convention.

It was noted that since it is the board's preference to award convention bids 2 years in advance, it would be unlikely that the dates could be changed back to the old timeframe - even if the concept was not successful - for at least 2 convention years. However, since the bids were coming in later and later, if the 2010 convention bid was not yet awarded by the close of the 2009 summertime convention, it might not take 2 years to go back.

Then in April 2008 Cheerful Clown Alley's bid was accepted to host the COAI Convention in Houston in April 2010. And shortly after that the TCA board accepted the bid from Happi Tymes Clown Alley to host the TCA First Tyme Summer Tyme convention in August 2009.

Next, during the TCA board meeting at the 2009 convention, Cowtown Clowns presented a bid to host the 2010 TCA Convention in Granbury. However they proposed they be allowed to set the dates in the old fall timeframe (for 2010 only) to better separate it from the 2010 COAI convention in April in Houston. Having no other bids, the board considered this proposal. Based on some predetermined indicators the TCA board set to measure a convention's success, the board felt that the 2009 convention was successful (the total number of registrants was not significantly less than usual and the number of Junior Joeys was greatly increased and the host made a profit though that fact was not yet known when this decision was being made). This meant that the board had no cause to move the convention dates back to the old timeframe. And since the decision to move to the summer was a membership vote, moving it back to the fall, even just for one year, should be done by membership vote as well. There was not time for another mail ballot to the full membership, so a vote at the general membership meeting during this convention would be necessary. So the board prepared a ballot/survey to learn the desires of the attending members and their thoughts regarding moving the 2010 dates to the old timeframe. This was distributed to all of the members attending the general membership meeting and then after a complete explanation of the convention bid/proposal details and several questions/answers the survey/ballots were collected and counted. The votes were about 3 to 1 in favor of moving the dates back to the fall in 2010 for a convention in Granbury (there were about 95-100 members at the meeting and the exact vote tally was published in the last issue of the *Joey Journal*). The board accepted this membership vote and awarded the 2010 convention bid to Cowtown Clowns. (It is interesting to note that this vote was taken among members who were attending a summertime convention - so if summer is a better time for them, then this was their opportunity to say so. More likely the members understood the reasons for the change and agreed that it was a good idea - especially since it was only for one year.) So the convention timeframe is being moved FOR ONE YEAR ONLY based on the votes from the members. The previous vote to move to the summer is not being invalidated as some have indicated. This one time change was for specific purposes that do not apply after 2010.

So please mark your calendars and plan to join TCA in Granbury September 29-October 3, 2010 for Clowns Seen Investigating (CSI). Register before January 31, 2010 for just \$90. For more information contact Andy Anderson at 817-282-3339 or watch for more information in the <u>Joey Journal</u>.

And now it is exciting to announce that the 2011 convention will be hosted by Mid-Cities Alley #85 in the DFW area and it's back to the summertime - August 9-13, 2011!

Also, TCA is trying something new - a 3 year contract has been secured with the same Westin DFW/Airport hotel for conventions in August 2011, 2012 and 2013. So the BIG issue of the convention hotel is already settled and prospective hosts need only do the rest of the convention planning and reap the rewards of this pre-set venue. So talk to your groups and consider stepping up to host in 2012 or 2013 at this DFW hotel. If you are interested in hosting, please contact any TCA board members with questions about the next steps.

Hope to see many of you in Granbury for CSI-TCA in September 2010.

Mauri Binkie Norris



Premio al Embajador del Payaso

Casi desde el comienzo de la Association Payaso de Texas (hace mas de 25 años) la membresia establecio un premio annual para reconocer y honorar al miembro que mejor ejemplifico el arte de ser payaso mediante su apoyo y promocion a la APT. Éste es el PREMIO AL EMBAJADOR DE PAYASO. El premio es un "reconocimiento de vida". Podria uno decir, "ya siendo Embajador, siempre sera Embajador" y ojala los continuen promoviendo y apoyando la APT; payaseando mucho tiempo despues de haber sido nombrados. Mas sin embargo, porque solo es presentado una vez en la vida, se require mas que un poco de payaseo y apoyo a la APT para ganarse el premio. El premio es presentado anualmente durante la convencion APT. Los nomindaos deberian de haber cumplido los siguientes requisitos y/o cualidades:

Membrecia actual y active de APT.

• Debe ser conocido por su dedicacion y promocion del payaso sin interes personal.

• Debe ser un payaso bien involucrado; por ejemplo, alguien que da a la comunidad, es voluntario activo, y alguien que es considerado o es un payaso profesional.

Promueve APT en todas las facetas del payaso, y siempre estriva por ser positivo, optimista, congruente y siempre de buena actitud.

Las cartas de nominacion deberia explicar porque tu candidato deberia ser considerado para recibir el premio, junto con ejemplos de los puntos mencionados arriba. No es suficiente el solo nominar una persona. Las nominaciones seran evaluadas por el comite consistiendo de ganadores de años anteriores. Recuerda, aunque la mayoria de miembros del comite son miembroas activos del APT, esto no significa que conozcan a todos los miembros. Asegurate de incluir hechos asi como:

- Cuanto tiempo el nominado ha sido promotor de la APT?
- Han mantenido posiciones en el area, en el consejo de APT, o como miembro del comite?
- Como apoyan y promueven la APT?

• Como han demostrado y exhibido sus talento extraordinarios de payaso?

• Como ha demostrado el nominado su buena actitud, optimismo, comunitario, etc? son compasivos al ayudar a otros, carinosos y mas importante; estan ahi justo cuando mas se les necesita sin siquiera pensar en reembolso o compensacion personal por su tiempo y esfuerzo?

• Como ha demostrado ser un payaso activo; alguien que aporta a la comunidad como voluntario?. Demuestra profesionalismo en el arte de ser payaso?

Como el nominado/a ha demostrado su dedicacion y promocion al arte de ser payaso al asistir al projimo?

Las nominaciones seran solo aceptadas de miembros ACTIVOS de la APT (asi que asegurese que la membresia este al corriente, la proxima factura sale el 1ero de Abril.) Los nominados tambien deben estar al corriente con APT (si quieres cersiorarte del estado de membresia, contacte a Andy Quitnner). Asegurese de incluir su nombre y numero de miembro APT en tu carta de nominacion. Al igual, incluya el nombre REAL y profesional del nominado. (incluya su informacion personal en caso que el comite desee hacerle algunas preguntas sobbre su nominacion). El comite juntara todas las nominaciones y examinara en grupo para poder llegar a una decision final. Los siguientes miembros son ganadores previos del premio de Embajador del Payaso: Rags, Wynky, Whispers, Flopsey, Superstar, Klynky, Sugar Plum, Poppins, Honey, Boppo, Grits, Mr. Sunshine, Pookie, Flower, Citronella, Tutti Frutti, Dubble Bubble, ChaCha, RolyPoly, Smiley, Greenie, Buckle, BeBop, Twinkles, JohnJohn and Binkie.

Empieza a pensar que miembro de la APT tu crees que se merezaca mas el Premio como Embajador de Payaso en el 2010. ya que sepas, somete tu pominacion entre el Abril y 15 de Septiembre del 2010. recuerda que los miembros mencionados arriba ya son embajadores, asi que no lo postulen a ninguno de ellos. Puedes someter tus nominaciones ya sea por correo electronico o correo regular. Deben estar fechados a no mas tardar que el 15 Septiembre 2010.

Manda tus nominaciones a:

Mauri Norris

maurinorris@yahoo.com

6504 Kenyon Lane Belllaire, TX 77401

Next JJ Deadline is February 1, 2010 TCA Minutes and past Joey Journals***
may be found on our website at
www.texasclownassociation.org

AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING AWARD

Almost from the beginning of the Texas Clown Association (over 25 years ago) the membership established an annual award to recognize and honor the member who most exemplified the art of clowning and supported and promoted TCA. This is the AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING AWARD. The award is a "lifetime achievement award" meaning that a member is only honored once (in a lifetime) with this prestigious award. You might say "once an Ambassador always an Ambassador" and hopefully the recipients do continue to promote and support TCA and clowning long after being so named. But also, because it is only presented once in a lifetime, it takes more than a little bit of clowning and TCA support to earn this award. The award is presented annually during the TCA convention. Nominees should have the following qualifications and/or traits:

- Must be current and active member of TCA

- Must be known for his/her dedication and promotion of clowning without personal gain

- Should be well-rounded clown, i.e. someone who gives to the community, is an active

volunteer, and who is exposed or is a professional in the art of clowning.

- Should promote TCA in all facets of clowning, and always strive to be positive, upbeat,

agreeable and have a fair attitude. Be willing to share ideas and be available to assist

with a smile.

Nomination letters should explain why your nominee should be considered for the award and provide examples of the points listed above – it is not enough to just say you want to nominate the person. The nominations are reviewed by a committee made up of past recipients of the award. Remember, that while most of the committee members are active in TCA, it is possible that they do not know every qualified member. So be sure to include such facts as:

- How long this the nominee been an active supporting TCA member?

- Have they held any positions in their alley or on the TCA board or TCA committees?

- How do they support and promote TCA in their clowning?

- How have they exhibited extra-ordinary clownmanship?

- How has the nominee been shown to be positive, upbeat, agreeable and sharing? Are they unselfish in assisting others, caring and most of all, just there when needed with no thought of being reimbursed for their time or effort?

- How have they displayed being a well-rounded clown; someone who gives to the community as an active volunteer, and who also demonstrates professionalism in the art of clowning?

- How has this nominee shown his/her dedication and promotion of the art of clowning in assisting others?

Nominations will be accepted from CURRENT TCA members only (so be sure your dues are paid and remember they come due again on April 1st.) And nominees must also be CURRENT TCA members (if you want to check their membership status, just contact Andy Quittner). Be sure to include your name and TCA number on your nomination letter as well as the REAL name and CLOWN name of your nominee. (Include your contact information too in case the committee has any questions about your nomination). The review committee will collect all nominations and review them as a group to make a final selection.

The following members have previously received the Ambassador Award: Rags, Wynky, Whispers, Flopsey, Superstar, Klynky, Sugar Plum, Poppins, Honey, Boppo, Grits, Mr Sunshine, Pookie, Flower, Citronella, Tutti Frutti, Dubble Bubble, ChaCha, RolyPoly, Smiley, Greenie, Buckle, BeBop, Twinkles, JohnJohn and Binkie.

Start thinking about the TCA member that you believe most deserves this award in 2010. Then submit your nomination letter between 4/1/2010 and 9/15/2010. Remember the members above are already Ambassadors, so do not nominate any of these folks. You can submit nominations either by regular mail or e-mail. They must be dated or post-marked no later than September 15, 2010. Send your nominations to:

Mauri Binkie Norris <u>maurinorris@yahoo.com</u> 6504 Kenyon Lane Bellaire, TX 77401

History of balloons

Balloon sculpting dates back at least as far as the Aztecs. whale entrail and animal bladders were used as balloons before the use of rubber came into play.

Today we don't have to resort to animal bladder.

By definition, a balloon is a small inflatable rubber bag, used as a toy. It made its first appearance in the Paris expo of 1889. Balloons made their appearance in America in the early 1900's.

In 1931, balloon technology leaped ahead when, according to an industry catalog, "Neil Tillotson dipped the first latex balloon made from the sap of a rubber tree. Today Rubber trees are the main source in manufacturing balloons. India-rubber, or gum elastic; the milky resinous juice of certain trees in south America, the E. Indies, and elsewhere, which coagulates on exposure to the air, and becomes highly elastic. The manufacturers place the rubber on a "form" or mold, the rubber is send through an oven, dipped in cool water, then is dipped in a liquid dye for color.

I don't have room to list every source used in making balloons. You can find out more by going to your library or on line references. I HAVE LISTED A FEW TO GET YOU STARTED ON YOUR WAY TO THE AMAZING HISTORY OF BALLOONS.

* The quarterly journal of science.

*THE HOUSE OF GOODYEAR; FIFTY YEARS OF MEN AND INDUSTRY. BY ALLEN, HUGH 1882- PUBL.(CLEVELAND, CORDAY & GROSS)

*THE ANDERSON RUBBER COMPANY OF AKRON, OHIO

* ENGLAND PIONEER RUBBER MANUFACTURER, THOMAS HANCOCK.

* PROFESSINAL PORTFOLIO FOR BALLOON ARTISTS, BY BRUCE KALVER.

* BALLOON HQ PRESENTS: THE HISTORY OF BALLOONS

"Feelin' Froggy"

Come join the rest of the frogs in our pond at

JOEY TO THE WORLD GOSPEL CLOWN CONVENTION

February 5-6, 2010



The theme for this year's convention is

"Feelin' Froggy"

Fully Rely on God

We are jumping for joy to present to you, Dizzy the Clown, aka Desirae (Desi) Payne. She has been working with tadpoles for over 30 years in Children's Ministry. She can be seen daily on the Trinity Broadcasting Networks "Smile of a Child" and has been a guest performer for none other than, Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. Check her out at, www.timewithdizzy.com.

Dizzy isn't our only guest. We have some big frogs for you like David Ginn, Chagy, Bombin, Steve Kissell, Coco Desilets, Brenda Marshall, Sue Kleinwachter, Sam T, Kim Grice, Aurora Krause, Suzy Wall, Dean Cotton, Ralph Dewey, Benny & Friends, Tony Jones, David and Teesha Laflin and Bo Brown.

At the shallow end of the pond, we have our Jr. Joey program. Limited to 20 students preregistration is required.

So come and splash in our pond !

JOEY TO THE WORLD GOSPEL CLOWN CONVENTION



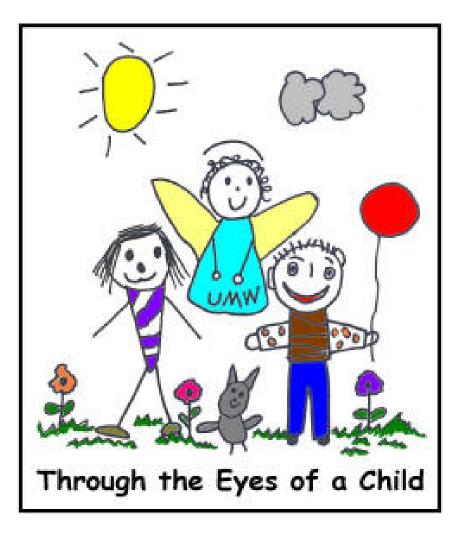
www.joeytotheworld.org Sagemont Church February 5-6, 2010 Houston, Texas

Phyllis Sheffield daisylcb@aol.com 281-381-4801 Kay Reed toodlestc@yahoo.com 832-265-8519

We are so excited we could almost croak!

2009 DATES to NOTE

Joey to the World: February 5 and 6, 2010



TCA Website Password: CLOWNTOWN



The Texas Clown Association—Board of Directors

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