

CLOWNS all belong to a **FAMILY**. We all know what clowning means to us and to our brothers and sisters in our **CLOWN FAMILY**. When we get to see each other at convention, it is like a big, big family reunion. Seeing those that we only get to see once a year, catching up on what has been happening in our lives with our families and with our clowning, sharing joys and sorrows, and seeing how we have all grown in clowning and life are many of the feelings that are shared at the convention. You can not imagine what you will miss out on by not attending the convention.

History: Organizing was done during the 1980-1981 Clown Days at Traders Village. Chartered in the STATE of TEXAS as TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. on August 18, 1983. Chartering of alleys was provided for in 1985.

Annual Convention: The annual convention is held every year in the **HOST ALLEY'S CITY** in the STATE of TEXAS. The annual convention primarily serves as an educational opportunity to study the art/profession of clowning and to further the members knowledge in the art/profession of clowning. A business meeting is conducted at the annual convention. Possibly the most important aspect of the annual convention is the renewing of old friendships and the making of new friendships. The educational aspect is accomplished through the various competitions including makeup, skit and ballooning. New areas of competition, such as paradeability, are tried to see if there is and interest by the members in making these new competitions an organization sponsored event. A variety of educational workshops and lectures are held covering any area of clowning. The sharing of ideas among fellow clowns when we get together after the day's scheduled events are finished is another opportunity to learn and grow. Administrative duties of the organization are performed at the annual business meeting held at the convention. Election of officers, by-law changes and competition changes are just a few of the matters brought before the membership for action. Makeup, costuming, magic, puppets, props, walkaround items, clown ministry supplies, buttons and nametags are all available from a variety of well stocked dealers.



**CONVENTION 2008
WICHITA FALLS, TX**

THE JOEY JOURNAL

Published Bi-monthly for Members of

The Texas Clown Association, Inc.

Kay "Nannie Belle" Quittner, Editor

David Pitts, Cover Artist

Read it online via your TCA website: www.texasclownassociation.com

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items may be mailed to *The Joey Journal*, 116 Nichols Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 or by sent by email to joeyjournal@yahoo.com. Only letters addressed to the Editor which are signed will be considered for publication. Submissions accompanied by a stamped envelope with return address will be returned after publication. Submitted photographs may be black and white or color prints; please, no slides, copies, or Polaroids.

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Multiple placement discounts on full, half, and quarter page ads are 10% for 2-5 editions and 20% for six editions. Payment must be received in advance.

Clownified ads: Free to members if you have clown-related items for sale or donation. Vendor businesses not included.

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Membership and Dues	Regular Membership:	\$ 25.00
Family (each add'l):	15.00	
Associate Membership:	20.00	Junior Membership: 12.50

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.
4. To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

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Also included in this issue are:

TCA Convention Registration Info & Schedule

Ad Order Form

Shirt Order Form

A LAST WORD FROM THIS PRES



This is my last message as your president. It has been both a joy and my privilege to serve you these last 4 years, but it is time for me to move out of the oval office. I will continue to serve on the board as past president and be available to assist you.

As the old moves out and the new moves in, it affirms for me that all things change. I think we can safely say that there is no constant except for change. In my hometown of Houston, we are consistently tearing down old (and sometimes historic) buildings in the name of progress. We want new stuff. Change.

One synonym for change is TRANSFORM. I like that word better. Few people I know like change, but to transform something is amazing! Consider the success of all the home and garden programs or makeover styling shows on television. While change is often seen as bad, transforming is considered a good thing.

So how can we transform our clown-selves? We have an excellent opportunity to learn from some of the greatest clowns of all times this year at our 25th Anniversary Celebration in Wichita Falls. Two International Clown Hall of Fame inductees, Jim Howle (1994) and Earl Chaney (2004), will be there to teach and perform. Are you pre-registered?

The Clown Arounds have great things in store for those of us who make the trek to the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel. Wichita Falls is just a short 2-hour drive northwest of Ft. Worth. Those traveling from Houston will want to make a chocolate stop in Corsicana at the Russell Stover Factory Outlet. Yum yum!

The schedule is online at www.theclownarounds.com/TCA2008 and included in this issue. Don't miss out on seeing one of the best line-ups of teachers and classes we've had in a long while. Cheri "Cherri Oats" Venturi, Linda "Greenie" Greene, Voncille "Dimple" Sims, Mary "Starlight" Morris, Missy "Snazzi" Dunbar, Kim "Tutti Frutti" Grice, Sharon "Hodge Podge" Hodges, Aurora "BeBop" Krause, and last year's Best All-Around-Clown Tricia "Hanky" Gregory will all be there. And there's much, much more! (See class descriptions in this issue.)

One thing we're bringing back this year is a make-up demo. It will be followed by a hands-on lab for anyone who needs assistance in finding his/her perfect face. Are you a Whiteface who wants to experiment with being an Auguste? How 'bout a Hobo who wants to try Auguste lite? Perhaps you're an Auguste who wants to become a Character clown. Don't let the Firsts of May have all the fun. This class is for beginners and seasoned clowns as well. Maybe its time for a *change*. Bring your makeup and be transformed.

I'm anxious to see each of you in Wichita Falls
October 1-5. I'll be the one with the red nose (and
chocolate on my lips =O)

Lisa "Twinkles" Ezell

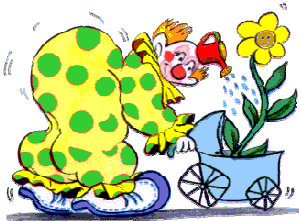
The Editor's Piece *(of Birthday Cake)*

Hi! This convention issue should answer all of your questions if you have been contemplating coming to convention this year. It is going to be soooo much FUN! I have been in a special position to know your names since I mail your Joey Journals to you...I am looking forward to putting a face with that name by meeting you in person for this very special celebration. My first convention was also a TCA birthday celebration back in 2003. It made a believer of me to never miss another one after that. I thought it would be fun to have a series of TCA alleys histories so I have requested alley presidents to send in theirs. In this issue you will find two who responded. Please encourage your alley to send me their history for future reading. The next deadline will be November 1.

Joyfully yours,

Kay Nannie Belle Quittner

P. S. I have heard there will be possibly be a place to donate unused clown related items which have been around your house and you no longer use. TCA has plans for them. If you bring them to convention, you may just help a new clown get started or provide someone just what they were looking for.



Bring all your stuff for the
Door Decorating Contest too!!!!!!

TCA Minutes, Roster, and past Joey
Journals may be found on our website at www.texasclownassociation.org

The new password is "webclowns."

**Join Us in the Falls
for the
Texas Clown Association's
25th Birthday Celebration!!!**

We hope you are planning on celebrating with us in Wichita Falls. We pledge to make this a memorable convention. Much preparation has taken place to assure you will learn something and have a blast doing it. Many superior presenters are in place to teach First of May's and experienced clowns something they can go home and put to use. Outstanding vendors will peddle their wares to help make your clown a better clown. Competitions will help you see areas where you excel and areas that need spiffin' up. Take advantage of all we have to offer.

The Clown Arounds with much, much help from your TCA Board are working to make this a wonderful, fabulous, marvelous, stupendous, etc, etc, etc Convention . See you in the Falls!!!



Greg Stanford
&
Kathie Jamiso
Co-Chairs TCA
2008



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Prairie Moon to Entertain a at the Awards Banquet!

This group of brothers, cousins, and friends have entertained at many events including the Gene Autry Music Festival in Oklahoma, events in Colorado, and all over Texas including Austin, San Antonio, the Ranch Round Up in Wichita Falls, and many, many more. Go to www.prairiemoon.net/music to read more about this fun group of Cowboy Singers. We know you will enjoy their performance.

The banquet will be a classy affair! You are invited to dress formally to celebrate our 25th year of the Texas Clown Association.

CONVENTION NEWS FLASH

Our hosts - The Clown Arounds - have arranged to transport the convention registrants (if they choose to go) to "restaurant row" by Trolley on Thursday evening. Once there you can hop off the trolley at the restaurant of your choice (Texas Road House, Golden Corral, Logan's Road House, and several others) for dinner and then take the trolley back to the convention hotel. What a fun time!

Check out the link on the TCA website (www.TexasClownAssociation.org) to the host alley's convention information. A convention schedule is posted there. If you don't have web access or can't get to the site for some reason, there is a Ice Cream Social in the Hospitality Room on Wednesday night, the Anniversary Party is Friday Night and plans are underway for a really fun party. And Saturday night is the traditional awards banquet, complete with entertainment. The banquet attire is dressy and western, so break out those fancy cowboy and cowgirl duds.

I hope you are planning to join us for this wonderful 25th Anniversary Party and while you are there, be sure you are planning to COMPETE. It's not required, but it's FUN and a great learning experience. Also, we have lots of great giveaways and things you can qualify to win while at convention. When you arrive at the hotel, drop by the Convention Registration area and the TCA table for more information and to ask any questions.

Get your convention registration in soon - it really helps our hosts plan for the right number of attendees.



I hope to see many of you there.

Mauri "Binki" Norris

**International Clown Hall
of Fame Inductees
Attend
25th Anniversary Celebration**

What a treat we have in store! For a taste of what's to come, here are some choice tidbits of the bios of two of our incredibly talented lecturers at this year's convention.

Earl "Mr. Clown" Chaney - 2004

A graduate of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College, Earl toured with them from 1972 through 1975. From there he went on tour with Button's Clown Alley and American Contemporary Clowns. He has been on staff at Clown Camp in Wisconsin and lectured in a variety of formats for Clowns of America International, World Clown Association, the Shrine organizations and many others coast to coast.

Clowning is just one of Earl's accomplishments. He is also an adept magician and has lectured at multiple venues on this craft. Mr. Clown calls Las Vegas home where he runs a successful business called "Mr. Clown's Suitcase Circus." Although clowning is his passion, Earl may be seen as many other characters for birthday parties, school shows, church functions, grand openings and more. He has appeared in numerous newspaper and magazine articles as well as on radio and television.

If you want someone around who really loves what he does, call on Earl Chaney, Mr. Clown!

Jim Howle - 1994

By the age of 12 Jim had decided to become a professional artist. While attending the Ringling School of Art, Jim learned of the creation of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. He applied, was accepted, and graduated from the original class in 1968. Jim toured with Ringling for 7 years

working with some of the great circus clowns - Lou Jacobs and Mark Anthony.

He was selected as The Greatest Show on Earth's official artist before leaving in 1974 to pursue his painting career. Jim was profiled on *To Tell The Truth* as "the man who paints clowns." His oil paintings of clowns Emmett Kelly, Lou Jacobs, Otto Griebling and Bobby Kay have been cataloged by the Smithsonian Institute's National Portrait Gallery. Jim was a featured artist at the 1982 World's Fair.

Jim is an expert on clown make-up and has developed his own line of grease paint, custom noses and adhesives. Today he calls Hartsville, SC home where he runs a clown supply business called Clown Antics.

Jim is semi-retired now but claims to have 20 more years of stuff to do.



25th Anniversary Class Descriptions

Here are just a few of the classes being offered in Wichita Falls October 1st thru 5th.

Beginner Level Face Painting

This class covers the basics of face painting from the care of your kits to what products you should begin with. We will touch on basic art principles like the color wheel and demonstrate basic designs and techniques that will aid you in getting started on your own road to creativity.

Beginning Balloons

Bring your balloons and pump to class. You will learn the basic twists so that when you leave you will know how to make any balloon you want. All you will have to learn afterwards is the sequence of twists needed for the sculpture you want. We will go over the ear twist, bird body, and tulip twist, among others. You will make a parrot, a dog with ear-twist ears, a horse and others if time permits. This will be a hands-on class! Additional help will be available at the balloon jams.

Care and Feeding of Clown Shoes

You've just spent your allowance on new clown shoes. Now what? How do you take care of your investment? Get tips and tricks on keeping your clown shoes in tip-top shape. You'll be shown how to dye and revitalize your shoes. Bring your shoes to class to learn how to keep them looking spiffy.

Caring Clowning

You can be a caring clown anywhere. Learn some new ways to let people know how much you care. You don't even have to be in makeup or costume to be a caring clown. Your caring can be shown anytime, anywhere - a hospital, church, hospice, on the street, standing in line, or with a friend who has a problem.

Character Development

A lifetime of effort in one little session. It's mental, physical and visual. Your character is comprised of your makeup design, costumes, props, movement and timing. It's conceptions, perceptions and deceptions. Join this class to see how to further develop your clown into the persona you want to be.

Face Designs

Learn what makeup design works best for your shape face. Bring a photo of your clown face for a critique and constructive assistance to help make you into who you want to be.

Fully Loaded

Explore the technique of double and triple loading color for your brush and sponge and how that can translate into faster speed and more intricate designs. This class also introduces the new wonder palette which is a two color container designed to be used with a chisel brush.

Gospel Clowning

This fun class will cover the basics. What is gospel clowning? How can clowning be used in the church and on mission trips? You will be given ideas for skits, props and silly stuff to use in this type of clowning. Essentials to be a gospel clown are, a love for the Lord Jesus, a servant's heart and your God given talent as a clown. Comfortable shoes and a red nose are also helpful.

How To Be Funny Without Being Stupid

Have you ever seen or known someone who thought they had to be stupid to be funny? Well this is a sure fired way to lose an audience, especially kids. This lecture is designed to distinguish between the funny and the stupid. It might sound simple, but this can often be quite complex when dealing with clown characters.

Inexpensive - not cheap - Props and Simple Magic

Everyone is on a budget, some tighter than others. With the right props and magic, even on a budget you can have a professional looking show. This lecture will demonstrate some inexpensive approaches to achieving that professional look you want.

Intermediate Level Face painting

Learn shading and line work that will give you a 3-D effect and show designs for the more advanced painters. How to place your designs for the best effect in your painting will be covered.

Juggling 101

WOW your friends and amaze your Mom. Be the life of the party; add to your clowning skills. This is a hands-on course in juggling. Come play with scarves, balls, clubs, rings, chain saws, and fire. Well, probably not fire and chainsaws, but we will have fun and maybe you will come away with a new skill.

No-PROP CLOWNING

This class will be a presentation in the ability to entertain by using imagination and available resources at any given time. We will cover the importance of building confidence and creating energy without the use of props.

Nuts and Bolts of Magic

Come learn the why and how of doing a magic routine. Why you should do something and how it will help the routine. Demonstrations followed by explanations will be the format of this class.

Picnic and Party Games

This participatory class is guaranteed to have you laughing before the hour is up. A sense of childlike playfulness is required. Wear comfy clothes and be willing to join in the mayhem as we learn fun games to use indoors or out.

Pies & Water

From spitting water to throwing pies, everyone can get in on this act. Learn techniques to do these things with energy and enthusiasm without getting hurt.

Skits for the Scaredy-Cat Clown

Do you want to perform skits, but just don't know how to get started? Do you watch the skit competitions every year and wish you could be up there doing one? Are you just plain chicken to try? Then this class is for you! It will cover the basics such as the anatomy of a clown skit, performance do's and don'ts and THEN, you will actually get to practice skits in a fun, non-threatening environment with other scaredy-cats! No experience needed or anything required!

Thumb-Tip Magic

A main stay of any magic routine is the thumb tip. This prop can be used in stage shows, birthday party shows, for restaurant magic or simply be kept in the pocket for impromptu entertaining. This lecture is hands-on where the students will practice and attempt the routines as they are demonstrated and explained.

Walkaround Clowning

Parades, company functions, dinner events, etc. are areas where the clown can use the art of walkarounds. This class discusses what, where and how this technique can be used. How to design your own multiple-hour walkaround program will be discussed as well.

And there's so much more! Puppets, birthday parties, cheap tricks, storytelling, music, wig care, stage presence, intermediate balloons and more face painting classes.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to transform your clown.

CARPOOL to CONVENTION

We are all aware that the current fuel costs are making traveling very expensive. But we do not want to miss seeing you this year. Increased costs make it more important than ever to carpool and to share your hotel room. If you need a ride or have room for others in your car or need a roommate, please let me know and I will work with others to match up as many requests as possible (but please understand that I cannot promise to find you a match). Call me at 713-664-7733 or email Mnorris@kanaly.com

DATES to NOTE

OCTOBER 1-5 register now!!!!

for our own *TCA Convention in Wichita Falls 25th Anniversary Celebration

www.theclownarounds.com

For more learning opportunities check out www.clownevents.com or

And for Next Year.....

Summer Fun in the DFW Area!

August 5-9, 2009

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You will see a full presentation in Wichita Falls!!!

Two Educational Programs for TCA Members

Aurora "BeBop" Krause, Chairman, Education Committee

Hello to all TCA members, this is BeBop representing your Education Committee.

Just a reminder that you all don't forget that your Texas Clown Association has a "TCA Clown Buddy Program" and the "1st of May Novice Track" available to all TCA members. The objective of having a "Clown Buddy" is to provide a mentor type program for all TCA members requesting assistance in understanding all the benefits and learning opportunities offered at our annual TCA conventions. In the "Novice Track" we will provide our new clown buddies the opportunity to be introduced to the "Art of Clowning" by offering several Clowning 101 classes. Both programs are tailored to help our new 1st of May clowns and 1st time convention attendees but are absolutely available to all TCA members. With the commitment and support from our TCA Board, Education Committee, Host Alley and TCA members, these programs were a success last year and I feel certain they will be again this year.

The following is a brief description of how these programs are structured:

The "Clown Buddy Program" will consist of existing TCA members who have volunteered to be Clown Buddies. These individuals are TCA members (2 yrs or more) and have attended at least two TCA conventions. If you are a 1st of May or 1st time convention attendee and are interested in having a "Clown Buddy" be prepared to let a member of the Education committee know at the time you register. A member of the Education will be available, you can't miss us you'll see our sign at registration. Also make plans to attend our one-hour orientation session on Thursday morning. This will be the perfect way to kick-off a great TCA convention!!

The second program is also keeping the new clown buddies in mind but available to all members. This is a Novice Track program offering classes specifically designed to address the basic needs and interests of someone new to clowning. These sessions will be clearly marked on the class schedule for quick reference.

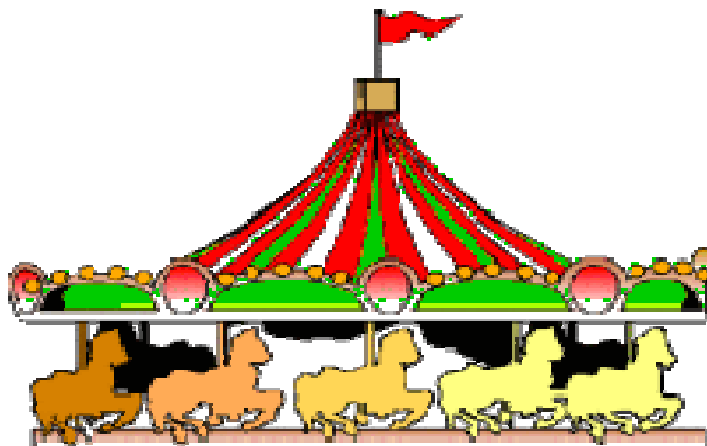
If you have questions regarding either of these programs please do not hesitate to contact me at:

< bebopclown@hotmail.com > or one of the other TCA Education Committee members. They are: Kim "Tutti Frutti" Grice & Susan "Dubble Bubble" Keys.



Silly Willy the clown had a really close call recently. The experience has completely changed his life. He was horseback riding, and everything was going just fine until the horse started bouncing out of control. He tried with all his might to really hang on, but he was thrown off the horse. His foot got caught in the stirrup and he fell head first to the ground. His head kept bouncing harder and harder and the horse never stopped or even slowed down. Just when things looked the worst and Silly Willy had given up hope there was a miracle - The manager of WalMart's unplugged the merry go round.

(Silly Willy the clown)



COMPETITION

Less than two months, that's all the time we have before this years convention in Wichita Falls. Two months to get your skit props together, get those final accessories for your award winning costume, and decide which balloon creation will garner you a first place award. The arrangements the Clownarounds have made should guarantee lots of fun for all who attend. I hope everyone considers attending.

Last year we had a resurgence in competition. The number of clowns wanting to "show their stuff" increased across the board. I am hoping it wasn't a fluke or because of where the convention was held. It's my hope people continue with this trend.

I truly believe that the clowns competing are getting more out of the convention than those that don't compete. It certainly seems like they are having more fun! Performing is a kind of therapy for a lot of clowns, it seems like the greasepaint gets in your blood and you can't go to long without clowning up. Nothing is more satisfying and gratifying than putting on a red nose, making people smile and helping them feel better about life for a little while. What better place to show your stuff than at a convention dedicated to others like you, a convention where anything goes, one created for the sole purpose of promoting the art of CLOWNING. Competing gives you another reason to clown up, mingle with the public and play with your friends.

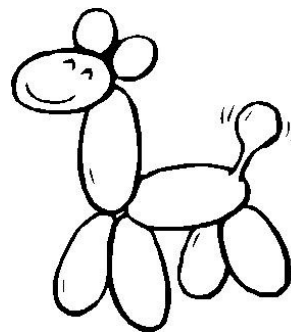
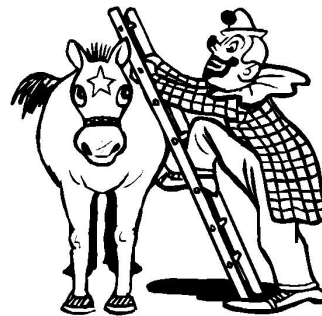
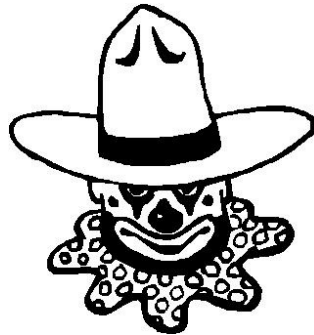
Competing can be viewed as a learning experience for both the first of may and the long time joey. Watching and interacting with other clowns is an enjoyable way to gain new ways of entertaining and amusing the public.

I encourage everyone to compete in some way at the convention. I don't know of anyone who has ever regretted competing, most found it to be a pleasant experience. Plus they got better acquainted with the clowns who contribute to the excitement of the convention. These clowns already know it's a lot of fun and there's lots of joy in performing or creating a balloon sculpture for the benefit of others.

See you at convention (in clown I hope.)

Buckle

Why did Bubbles the clown put his cake in the freezer? He wanted icing on it!!!!!!



JOLLY JOEY CLOWN ALLEY HISTORY

Kim TUTTI FRUTTI Oxford Grice had been a member of the Cheerful Clown Alley in Houston from 1991 until she relocated to San Antonio in the Summer of 1995. At the 1994 TCA Convention, TUTTI-FRUTTI was thrilled to meet two clowns from San Antonio, Rosie Hernandez and her cousin, Anita, but was disappointed to learn that no alley existed here.

When TUTTI FRUTTI arrived in San Antonio, she met Dorthy SUNSHINE Endicott and Marylou GIGGLES Ricks through Rosie. In 1995 TUTTI FRUTTI, Rosie, SUNSHINE, GIGGLES, and Anita held a planning meeting. They chose the name "JOLLY JOEYS", set dues, and wrote the original Alley Charter which is largely unchanged. Initially they set up only three officer positions: President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Soon, some of the Lady Shrine Clowns joined.

The first officers were: President-TUTTI FRUTTI, Vice-President-Donna HOPEO Oatman, and Secretary/Treasurer-SUNSHINE. In April 1997 Aurora BEBOP Krause became Treasurer and SUNSHINE served as Secretary. The original officers continued until 1999. In 2001 the position of "Immediate Past President" was added to provide continuity and support.

One of the first Official Alley Gigs was the 1995 Elf Louise Gift Drive at Christmas. The alley continues to participate in this event each year, providing teams of "clown elves."

TUTTI FRUTTI started a quarterly newsletter in 1997, went to bimonthly, then monthly in 2000. Faye MERRY POCKETS Fegley became the second editor of "Jolly Jots and Jabber" in January 2002 and continued until June 2007, when William WILLOBIE Dobbs took over.

In 1997, SUNSHINE contacted her church, University United Methodist Church (UUMC), for permission to meet in the church. UUMC agreed to allow the alley to meet here in exchange for supplying Clowns at certain church events. The alley has continued to meet there ever since.

We applied to be a chartered alley of the Texas Clown Association (TCA) in 1997, and were approved as TCA Alley #19. This meant that all officers of Jolly Joeys must be members of TCA and we encourage our members to join TCA as well.

The first parade was in the 1997 Fiesta Flambeau with ten alley clowns and a friend from Houston, Pam SONSHINE Perkins. The alley participates in at least one parade every year.

The alley has the POPS Oxford educational scholarship fund. This was set up to honor TUTTI FRUTTI's father, Bud POPS Oxford, a true clown at heart. He provided support for his daughter and the alley, including being Santa for the Elf Louise gigs, and he put on the motley and participated in our parades (98-99). He became ill and spent 2000 in the hospital, where he died. His short clown career was immensely rewarding for him and those he touched.

BEBOP, TUTTI FRUTTI, and SONSHINE entered skit competition at the International Appl;e Festival in Medina Texas in 1998. They won a cash prize of \$300 for Second place, donated it to the alley, and doubled the alley's treasury at the time!

In January 1998 TUTTI FRUTTI started a six week clown school at UUMC, with much help from BEBOP and SUNSHINE. Twelve clowns graduated. In 1998 the alley started educational workshops, bringing in professionals to improve our skills and knowledge. Starting in June 2000 we scheduled skills nights between alley meetings using local talent as leaders. In the Fall 1999, TUTTI FRUTTI started teaching "Clowning 101" through Northside ISD with twelve students. In the Fall of 2004 BEBOP began teaching an abbreviated "Clowning 101" through NorthEast ISD for several years. The Northside ISD class continues today.

As soon as TUTTI FRUTTI relocated to San Antonio, the TCA board started encouraging our alley to host the TCA Convention. By 2001 we had enough members, including a strong core willing to dedicate themselves to the task, allowing TUTTI FRUTTI and BEBOP to accept the responsibility to organize and oversee the 2003 TCA Convention here. Two years of hard teamwork resulted in a great Convention. The hard work of our teams resulted in a profit with some going to TCA, we contributed \$2700 to our charity of choice 'The Children's Shelter of San Antonio", and the rest stayed with the Alley. We can be proud that our teams worked hard together with a great spirit and no hard feelings.

The alley continues to thrive and be active in the community. Many are TCA members and actively take part in the conventions and competition each year.

{Extracted from three articles written for Jolly Jots and Jabber, Feb-Apr 2004 by Kim TUTTI FRUTTI (Oxford) Grice}

“Coastal Confetti Clowns”

In the fall of 1994, Brazosport Community College offered a course entitled “An Introduction to Clowning”. David “Shorty” Barnett, holding multiple years of membership in COAI and a Shriner Clown, was our gifted instructor. He trained everyone well, including how to be a white face while having a full beard!

After graduation and the Christmas holidays, eleven clowns met February 21, 1995 for the purpose of forming a clown alley in the greater Brazosport area. This group represented a variety of backgrounds: two retired school teachers, welfare worker, process control engineer, safety engineer, building contractor, retired floral shop owner, sole caregiver, retired nurse, housewife, Child Protective Service Worker, etc. and represented every aspect of clowning: Bag Lady, Hobo, Auguste, White Face, and Character.

Once forming, our priority focused on an alley name. Three were nominated: Big Foot, Rainbow and Coastal Confetti. Receiving seven votes, we became known as the Coastal Confetti Alley. The City of Lake Jackson, Texas, proclaimed August 7, 1995 as Coastal Confetti Clown Day, and asked all residents to make someone smile on that day.

Growing to 18 members we elected officers and by-laws but shied away from dues. Instead, we elected that when expenses incurred, we would ask members to donate their share or a love offering would come in from our gigs.

The types and names of clowns continued to vary in our alley. One of the most unique was “Pom Pom and the Pomeranians”. As a white face clown with trained Pomeranian dogs “Pom Pom” entertained old and young alike. Another clown, “Apple Dumplin”, “Dumplin”, and “Wiggle Waggle”, changed her name according to a gig or costume. Yes, as it is with many clowns, as some matured in their particular style of clowning, their names changed; ie. “Dots” and “Spotz” are a husband and wife team. However, as expected, some have stayed the same. “Tiny”, at one time weighing close to 300 pounds, is still “Tiny” even though he now weighs a lot less.

Our members range from professional, to ministry and caring, as well as freebee clowns. David "Sweet Potato" Raymond is a professional clown, while Ester "Sunny Honey" Biggers is a freebee clown, who limits her clowning skills to mostly non-profit events. A combination clown, doing almost any and every type of clowning is our Curt "Professor QB" Gunz.

Our age variation was probably the widest of any alley. Our claim that Maye "Pee Wee" Craig was the oldest active clown at 100 years young was never disputed. She performed with our group at several shows each year. Being a part of the trio performing her favorite skit "In the Park" "Pee Wee" was the bag lady with "Dots" as the lady and "Tiny" as the gentleman. A few months ago "Pee Wee" went on an eternal clowning gig - that of going to heaven and clowning for the Lord. Our youngest clown is Patrick "Pucky" Gunz, who at the age of 18 months, put on his first red nose.

One of the most unique, interesting and important compliments to our alley is the openness and generous help our members give one another. Each member, seasoned as well as a beginner, brings something useful to the alley. If we use something in our act, we share it with our members and in turn they share their ideas with us. It is a good resource. While one clown may have an awesome idea, it may not fit with his or her type of clowning. Open sharing gives another clown the ability to take the idea and let it work for them.

As a group we have performed in nursing homes, schools and churches, at fund raisers and libraries, for non-profit events, Boy Scout meetings, Bible Schools, business openings and community events. Numerous times we have gladly incurred out-of-pocket expenses to bring a smile. A perfect example is when three clowns went to Crocket, Texas, clowned the entire day, and spent two nights in a motel since Crocket is located some 150+ miles from Clute. But hey, the city of Crocket made a \$100 donation to the alley. Are these three clowns crazy or what - they made this trip several years in a row enjoying the company of each other but most importantly bringing 100s of smiles as

balloon animals were made and handed to children and adults alike.

We have elected to do special projects at times. One in particular came about when a lady who delivered Meals On Wheels told us of a lady who had no running water or bathroom facilities in her home. When visiting the home we quickly learned the home stood almost in ruins. Living outside the city limits, her daily water usage came from catching rain water and we soon found she had house guests - a hive of honey bees. Having no known living relatives, this 88 year young lady was on her own with only a few hundred dollars coming in each month from Social Security. As stated, she lived just outside the city limits and while the city could not provide her with water, they were picking up her trash each week.

This opened the door for the Coastal Confetti Clowns to show their first really big "clowning hearts". The clowns went to work. In a brief six months time frame and through the generosity of a number of local businesses, the alley had collected enough money to have a water well dug, repaired the structure to her home to once again make it stable, replaced all her windows, installed a new bathroom, hot water heater and finished it with vinyl siding on the outside. Giving her a new back porch, one she would no longer fall through, this lady could once again pamper her few treasured pot plants. While the alley members did most of the work, when it came to the bees, a professional was called. Finishing the house just prior to the holiday season, the alley also filled her newly remodeled home with the Spirit of Christmas. Non-perishable foods, personal hygiene products, clothing and shoes as well as some "pretties" for her home were spread under her new twinkling Christmas tree.

As an alley, we make a balloon pump available to all members at no cost. It is used in particular by several of the men who do the major balloon sculpturing. This pump can fill a 260 balloon in one stoke. Made from (3 - 4 inch) PVC pipe and costing around \$40 for parts, it takes about four hours to make. Oh well, so you have to add paint drying time. One can enjoy learning to

make several new balloon animals during that time!

Balloons are furnished at all alley events. The Boss Clown is responsible for acquiring the balloons and then is reimbursed by the alley.

Where have we clowned? We can truly say we have clowned ALMOST around the world. Of course our closest gigs have been in our own back yards of Clute, Lake Jackson, Freeport, Surfside, Brazoria and Angleton, Texas. However, Brno, Czech Republic is a far piece away considering you have to cross that really big pond!

The size of the facilities for our clowning gigs vary as well. Our smallest was the Sweeny Nursing Home and the largest has been the Astrodome. WOW was that ever a big place to wear a red nose!

We have held several clown classes at the local college and recently a young lady from France moved to the area, missing the class by two weeks. Her husband had been transferred to one of the local chemical plants for a one year time frame. She had always wanted to be a clown and had tried on her own prior to moving to our area. She knew nothing about make-up, costumes, magic or balloon sculpturing; but she had a "I wanna be a clown attitude". Having two young children and no baby sitter because her children could only speak French, clowns would take turns entertaining the children while other clowns gave her quick lessons. As it came time to leave, her most memorable time in Texas was that of learning to be a clown. When she arrived back home in France, it was a thrill to open an email one day and find a "how grateful I am for knowing you" email. We GAVE and quickly we RECEIVED from a truly thankful heart. She is now our member, who lives the longest distance away.

The Coastal Clown Alley meets every third Monday of the month, except for December, in the Clute Public Library in beautiful downtown Clute, Texas at 7 PM. The holiday season comes and we have our Christmas party at a local restaurant

where we usually put on a good four hour show impromptu. The "under five dollar gift" exchange usually is the highlight of the evening. Lynn "Dots" Schiller usually handles the rules and this part of the evening has been an entertaining event since the beginning. OK, so we also do a best clown hat show as well; and my goodness you should see what some clowns wear on their heads! Maybe it is the sound of laughter which fills our room or perhaps the big clown hearts sitting at the tables enjoying each other; but no matter what it is, we ALWAYS look up to see the restaurant employees enjoying us as well.

Does it not sound like we have fun? We do!!! Our meetings are open to the public and we are waiting for you to join us. Come and see us, Y'all hear!



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2530 Pomeran Dr., Houston, Texas 77080-3825;
twinkles@52sunflowers.com

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7913 Standley, North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5019
e-mail: jjclown@sbcglobal.net

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e-mail: kudosra@yahoo.com

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e-mail: merrymakers1@juno.com

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e-mail: klynky1@juno.com

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e-mail: dkmanna@satx.rr.com

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e-mail: d.lynn22@yahoo.com

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