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# clowning around

MAGAZINE

**CLIFF  
HARTMIER**

**WCA President  
2025-2027**



# World Clown Convention Boston

GREATEST CLOWN CONFAB ON EARTH



WorldClown.com

March 2 - 6, 2026

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*Featured on our Cover:  
Welcome to our new president,  
Cliff Hartmier 2025-2027*

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# A Beautiful World

**Jackie Newton | Past President, Past Editor**

*Passing through colors and magical lights  
Balls in patterns and batons that fly  
Smiles and laughter filling the air  
These are the clowns who spread joy with their care.*

*The world is a better place as these characters play  
With their silly hats and big noses, each day  
The instruments make music and kazoos do abound  
There is nothing quite like these glorious sounds.*

*For these are the hearts and the souls and the minds  
Of this beautiful world filled with people so kind  
Send in the clowns with their amazing smiles  
So humankind can heal for a while.*

*Then for one moment, the people can choose  
To wash away worries and sadness, to lose  
The things that affect them as they wander each day  
to disappear into this world of lovely clown play.*

*Yes, it's a beautiful world that you give to them  
keep doing what you do and make sure that you send  
That joy, and that laughter, that fun and that bliss  
Please give them a hug and blow them a kiss!*

**Dedicated to the World Clown Association  
Members with love and a big thank  
you for two wonderful years as your  
President. I appreciate you very much!**

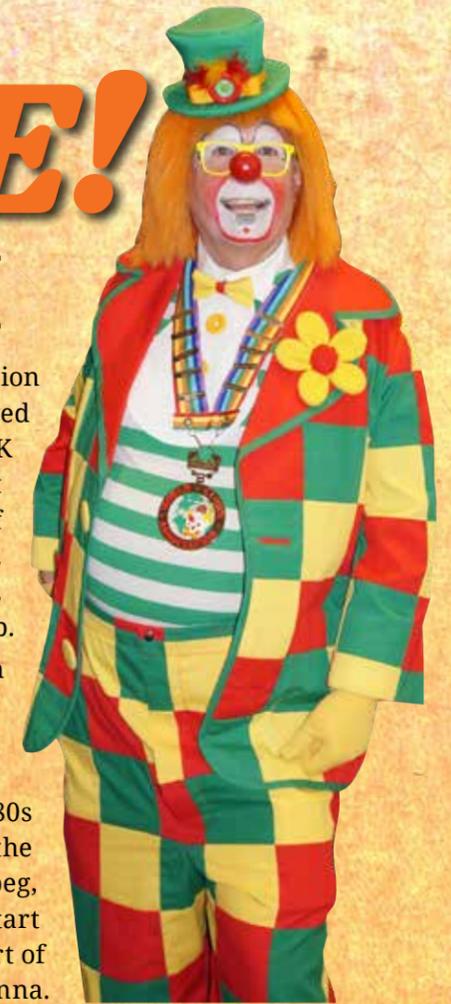


# PINCH ME!

**Clifford C. Hartmier, WCA President 2025-2027**



PINCH ME! If you attended the Convention in Dallas, then you would have received my President's gift of the OFFICIAL BACK SCRATCHER!. I'll have more for next year in Boston. It has been a journey of tasks and work, but is not complete yet. Like anything, change, improvements, trials and error all are all part of the trip. I tend to remember that during high school, I was coined a "class clown" which I took to heart!. I tend to be a very community involved citizen and was a member of a group back in the 1980s that were invited to participate in the annual Shrine Circus parade in Winnipeg, Canada as a clown unit. This was my start in the art of clowning and has been part of my life that I share with my wife Deanna.



I had a military career which ended just last July 2024. Different postings provided the opportunity to meet more clowns in Canada and attend some other conventions where a drive was more convenient. However, a posting close to home in Manitoba was the best because I was able to be involved with the Winnipeg "BUMP A NOSE" Clown Alley again and that's where I met Deanna aka "DEE DEE" the clown.

With a look to the future, the 2026 convention will be in Boston with the theme "Clowning in Bedrock" This is taken from the Flintstones and will have the "Water Buffalo" degree offered to those who like a lot of fun. Leading up to 2016, I had written my version of the "Water Buffalo" degree along with collecting articles to reenact it. During the month of February 2016, the firm reenactment of the degree occurred in Sioux City Iowa at the mid-winter convention of the International Shrine Clown Association. I had wanted to do something special as this was the gathering that I was being installed as the President for the ISCA for a year. The degree was loved by all and after COVID hit, the talk on FaceBook was active. The script was being circulated and started growing in 2021 to the present day where it has been seen in England, Germany, South America and Australia. For the 2026 attendees, the degree will be reenacted which loves participation of the attendees.

For the entertainment side, I have done lots of parades, been to a few circuses, have performed at birthday parties, telethons and fundraisers. Deanna and I collect clown ornaments and our biggest treasure is the six foot Ronald McDonald that I won in the auction at the 2009 WCA Denver convention. Deanna and I enjoy traveling and to date, we have been to six continents with plans for the seventh probably after my presidency has concluded. Back in early 1995, I purchased a Santa Claus outfit which has been worn annually. Deanna, is of course, my Mrs. Claus.

Did I mention that Deanna and I were married as clowns back in 2000? Her Clown (maid) of honor was Val Meiners who is another WCA member here in WINNipeg.

I read an article recently and it referred to the word "CALLING". This is my time to be President of this great Association and I would like to cross paths with each member over the next two years! ●

# MEMORIES FROM TEXAS 2025

Eduardo Barquera Hernandez receiving the All Around Clown Award 2025 surrounded by family, President Jackie Newton and Randy. Our newest WCA Master Clown



# Competition Winners

## ALL ROUND CLOWN 2025



Eduardo Hernandez



## CLOWN OF THE YEAR



Louise "Lu Lu" Carnesale

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Dianna "Lil Smidgen" Hale

### CLASSIC WHITEFACE



**Luis Casiano**



**Mike Spudic**

### HUMANITAIAN OF THE YEAR



**Kosuke "K" Omune**

### COMEDY WHITEFACE



**Randall Munson**



### CHARACTER MAKEUP



**Donny Ngu**

### BALLOON COMPETITION



**Elinor Blankenship**

## SINGLE SKITS

## GROUP SKITS



1

**Eduardo Hernandez**



2

**Alan Barquera**



3

**Donny Ngu**



1

**The Great Escape**



2

**The Scam**



3

**At The Movies**

## AUGUSTE

## VARIETY ARTS



1

**Eduardo Hernandez**



2

**Joel Barquera Rios**



3

**Irene Spudic**



1

**Randall Munson**



2

**Elinor Blankenship**



3

**Kathy Keaton**

## CLOWN LITE MAKEUP

## PARADEBILITY



1

**Jacqueline Reynolds**



2

**Kathy Keaton**



3

**Miyo Morita**



1

**Eduardo Hernandez**



2

**Irene Spudic**



3

**Jacqueline Reynolds**

# MAKE YOUR (CLOWN) LIFE EASIER!

## Edmund Khong, WCA Master Clown



I had the wonderful honor to offer a Special Class at the WCA Dallas Convention this year. In this article, I will share with you a couple of things that I taught, as well as, share some NEW knowledge that I did not have time to share.

I spent an intensive 8 days with Avner the Eccentric, [avnertheeccentric.com](http://avnertheeccentric.com), in January and learned a lot from him. His "performance" principles can be found on his site at:

[avnertheeccentric.com/eccentric\\_principles.php](http://avnertheeccentric.com/eccentric_principles.php)

In my opinion, he is one of the best clown performance teachers actively teaching in our current day and age. I highly recommend his workshops and coaching; that is the only way to really learn his principles. His free videos are on his site [avnertheeccentric.com/video.php](http://avnertheeccentric.com/video.php) and I also recommend purchasing and watching his show "Exceptions to Gravity".

One of the key things he teaches is establishing rapport with the spectators from the beginning until the end. All professional performers know this: "The spectators do not really remember what skit or routine you performed, but they always remember how you made them feel".

You will want to have rapport with your spectators, so why not acquire the rapport right from the start and maintain it throughout the performance? By the way, I really do not like the word 'spectator' or 'audience'. As clowns, we should gravitate towards the word 'participant' or 'fellow player', but that will be a topic for another day.

I had the pleasure and honor of judging a couple of skit and performance competitions at the Dallas convention. The acts that usually received the highest scores from me were those that created a pleasant connection and rapport from the beginning until the end. When I mention 'beginning', I literally mean beginning. That includes the contestants first arriving on stage, even before their act or skit. I loved the acts that acknowledged and thanked the spectators after the acts were completed. That is a wonderful closure.

This is useful even when we are performing for nursery homes, activity clubs, libraries or schools. The moment you arrive and meet your first spectator or group of spectators, the "show" has begun. How you conduct your preparation and equipment set-up regardless of how large or small they are, does matter and can create early positive or negative impressions. Make sure to create positive ones and your (clown) life will be much easier!

### Making clown magic easier

If you are not fumbling, and you know what you are doing during your act, you will naturally be more confident and relaxed. You will also have more time to maintain connection and rapport with your

spectators. I am very happy to share a couple of tips on magic change bags.

**Tip 1:** There are many silk handkerchiefs magic effects with messages or pictures that need to be shown with the right side up or with the messages facing the spectators.



Add a piece of Velcro to a corner you prefer (top right or top left). You can use the sew-on version or those with sticky tape already adhered to the Velcro. Now you will have tactile feel to the silk handkerchief and can orientate it easily the moment you take it out of the change bag.

**Tip 2:** Make use of the Velcro. You can now add the 'hooks' part of the other half of the Velcro into a change bag, allowing you to find the 'special' corner of the silk even more easily. Please refer to photo as below.



**Tip 3:** By employing the same Velcro idea, you can use the same change bag to do TWO changes instead of one. The photos below show how you can change a blank silk into the one with the red and yellow splatters, and do one more 'magic' change from that into the final silk with the red and yellow swirls. The blue circle denotes where I added the white Velcro.

**Bonus Tip:** I banded both the Ketchup and Mustard bottles together so that I can just use one hand to retrieve and use both of them! Make your life easier!



The photos below show how the red and yellow splatters silk is attached to the side of the change bag. This way, you will not grab the wrong silk; the final silk with the red and yellow swirls will always be at the BOTTOM of the change bag.

**Bonus Tips:** If you have a DOUBLE change bag, you can do even more changes if your routine calls for many "magical" changes to a single silk. Simply add more Velcro patches to the other secret compartment of the DOUBLE change bag. I buy a lot of my magical silks from Tim Sonefelt's online shop: [wonderimagery.com](http://wonderimagery.com)



**Tip 4:** Uncle Button - Sam Tee's change bag. I am a fan of his flat change bag. To me, it's more innocent-looking. One problem many clowns may have when using it is that they cannot remember which side contains the "concealed" item and which side contains the original item that needs to be switched. Make your life easier: simply add a button on the side of the bag that contains the concealed or hidden item; you will never open the wrong side again during your show.



### Easier Plate Spinning

There is no fourth wall in clowning. I always try to share experiences and joy with my participants and I love using spinning plates. No, you do not actually have to know how to spin the plate using difficult techniques.

**Tip 1:** You can just balance the plate on a blunt stick (see the black and yellow stick as below, place your fingers on top of the plate and do a gentle spin. Thereafter you can transfer the plate to your participant's index finger or they can hold the stick with one or both hands with the plate spinning on top.



**Tip 2:** You can decorate your sticks to LOOK like everyday objects, like coloring pencils. Your props can become conversation topics that can create communication, connection and rapport

▶▶ with your participants. Some of my sticks are double-ended, as indicated by the white circle in the photo. These sticks will allow me to toss the spinning plate into the air and catch it using the other end of the stick. This used to be a very difficult juggling move and can only be done with old metal heavy spinning plates but technology has advanced a lot and I will discuss how you can perform this fairly easily today.

**Tip 3:** We are discussing technology anyway so here is a very key tip: CHANGE the parameters of your props to facilitate learning if you are stuck. Let's use plate spinning learning, for example:

You get stuck learning plate spinning after watching a bunch of YouTube videos. Obviously the best solution is to learn from a good coach live but we do not always have that luxury. You can however, physically change your props.

### The stick:

- A. Can you hold the stick higher or lower?
- B. Have you tried with a longer or shorter stick?
- C. Have you tried with a thicker or thinner stick?  
A thinner stick has more flex.
- D. Material of the stick: There are plastic sticks which MAY have more flex than a wooden ones. Some people learn faster with the stiff stick while others may learn faster with a flexible one. Once you have acquired the skill, the flexibility of the stick will matter very little because your hand and arm will naturally adapt.

### The plate:

- A. Have you tried heavier or lighter plates? Generally, heavier plates are easier. It is the same with juggling balls. If they are too light, your body or hands cannot "feel" the weight and hence cannot determine easily how much strength to use.
- B. Have you tried different plates? Some plates are larger and are hence more stable. Some plates are of the same size BUT have a different inner rim size. See photo.



**Tip 4:** Increase the visibility of your plates. If you add stickers on the bottom and the top of your plates, they will create a much needed visual effect. The black sticker on the bottom of the white plate allows

me to find the center of the plate easily when the plate is in the air during the plate toss-and-catch trick (using the stick or the double-ended stick). Yes, make your life easier!

**Tip 5:** You CAN now increase the weight of your standard plates by adding car door strips. Much thanks for my Malaysian clown friend Isaac Tan for the idea. The original idea of adding rubber strips comes from Hong Kong. If you search "Hong Kong plate spinning IJA" you will find them easily. The plates are specially made, in addition to the heavy rubber strip, the plates themselves are ALSO heavier and sturdier.

The advantage of heavy plates: you will have no problem at windy venues. You can buy them from Renegade Juggling: [renegadejuggling.com](http://renegadejuggling.com)

You can also choose to ONLY add the rubber strip to the outer rim, and not the inner rim, and vice versa. The photos below also show you what the strip looks like. You can probably purchase them online from Amazon or a car accessories dealer.



**Tip 6:** the PLAY JUGGLING Company from Italy and Mr. Babache juggling props company make softer spinning plates. If you are performing for nursing homes or at venues with young children, you can consider using these instead of the heavy or stiff plates. If a plate does fall, it will not hurt anyone.



The principle of changing the parameters of props in order to facilitate base learning can be applied to juggling, magic, puppetry and most other performance arts that involve props. I do stress that nothing beats live learning from professional teachers and coaches who will offer invaluable insights and prevent you from acquiring bad habits early in your learning process.

I hope these tips are useful and I look forward to sharing more in the near future! ●

# WCA European and Africa Report

## Neil Wilkin - Jester Jim

This last month has seen an improvement in our weather and people showing an interest in clowning in the UK. I have bookings coming up from two charities who I help on a voluntary basis. I have got to be very visual as will both groups since English is their 2nd or 3rd language.

Hazel and I are putting out feelers for next year in February to see if any people would like to join us clowning in England, UK. The event follows after the annual clown church service in London One small group of people we know have already been asking if we will be coming back next year to perform. The venue in Hemel Hempstead is quite close to our main motorway system in England, UK, an easy journey from central London by train. The only minor problem is from the hotel, you need a bus or to link up with a car driver coming to the event. The venue has a cafe on site.

If you were in the Bristol area 2nd weekend in May, you would have gotten the chance to meet the Christian clown Nello ( Neil Baldwin) who was with Fossets circus and later the kit man at Stoke City football club He knew how to get the players to relax. His story was turned into a BBC film and later a play. Nello was

at the events that weekend showing the film and also a men's breakfast on the Saturday sharing his story. He had a tough start in life but has won by getting a reward from the Royal family, the British empire medal for his work. It was a great pity I was unable to attend the event myself.

Clowns performed that weekend in London at Covent Garden, with puppets and mix and mingle. It was the annual May Faire weekend with lots of people visiting to bring and see colour in the grounds of the Actors church. Hazel and I were there with other clowns.

We also have inquiries for community fun and local events, where I am promoting WCA and Clowns International. We are also trying to get clowning promoted at a performing arts event in late October held in Rugby, which hopefully will have clowning workshops.

It would be lovely to hear what other clowns are up to from England and the UK.



## Attention all WCA Members

did you know we have a database that has hundreds and hundreds of faulty addresses and emails? We would love LOVE LOVE it if you would take the time to email Betty Craver at [wca.treasurer1982@gmail.com](mailto:wca.treasurer1982@gmail.com) with your updated address, phone number and email address. We are going to work very diligently on updating our databases.

Here's an example:

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# Junior Joey Report 2025



**Elinor Blankenship**

After quite a whirlwind of finding Junior Joeys, we had 4 for our Dallas convention! (We did have 5 others who were slated to attend at other points in the year, but were unable to make it to Texas to join us.) We were able to bump the time further into the afternoon to accommodate some youth coming to us after school. Our Junior Joey track provides a clowning 101 style overview that moves very quickly through topics.

A huge thank you goes out to Annemarie Prioriello and Kathy Shook for coming and teaching classes! We are also grateful for those who had planned classes, but were unable to join us due to illness. We would love to have more members teach next year for Boston, if you are thinking of a basic class you would want to teach, please let me know.

This year the Junior Joeys started with improv warm-ups each day, prepared for their performance, and covered balloon twisting, face painting, magic, skits, napkin roses, and puppetry in less than 7 hours of class time. Our goal for Dallas was to provide a humanitarian trip for the Junior Joeys, but that was

very tricky to plan and schedule with our group of kids. We were invited at the last minute to visit the Arlington-Mansfield Area YMCAs on Friday morning, but then none of our local Junior Joeys were actually able to attend. Thankfully, Nancy Opatich was able to join me and become an honorary Junior Joey to go visit two of their daycares to perform and tell them about coming to visit from Clown School.

Some of you may be wondering what actually happens in the Junior Joey classes at convention, so I'm going to share some of our lessons and games in the magazine when I am able! I hope that these can be useful as you plan your own alley meetings and possibly start training your own Junior Joeys at home. Starting out with improv games helped our Junior Joeys warm-up each day and get to know each other a little bit better.

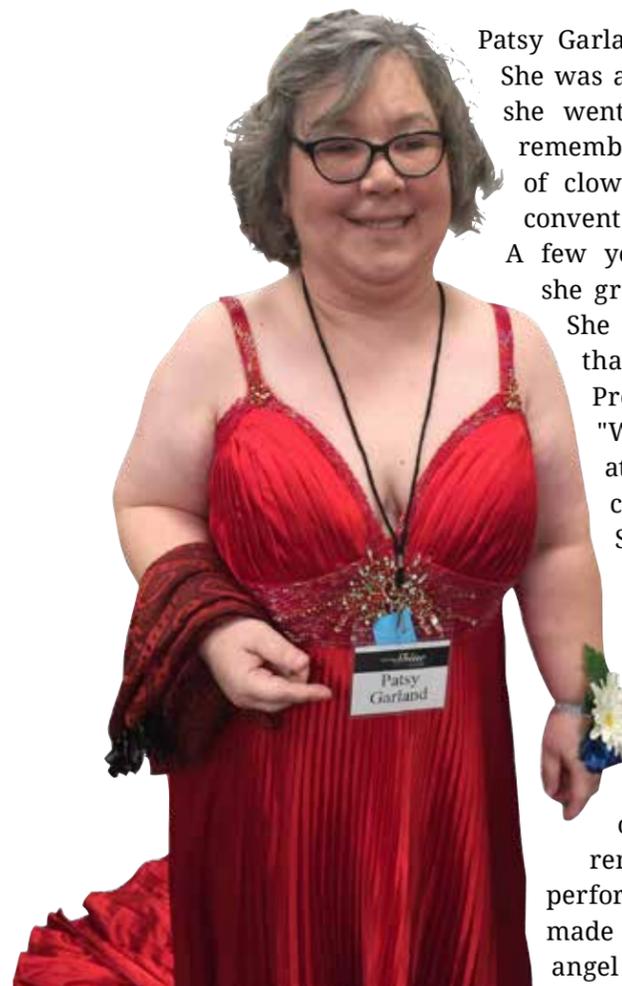
- **Try Not to Laugh** - This was a board game that I found and adapted, but you could also make your own challenge cards. The cards had silly tasks to complete that were made to make the others in the group laugh out loud, but any time you laughed, you lost a token. The first person to lose all of their tokens, lost the game. These tasks could be just about anything, but ours included interpretive dance, made up speeches, and a whole lot of physical comedy from the Junior Joeys. This game is really good practice not just at thinking like a clown, but also holding a straight face when others around you are being extra ridiculous!

- **Anything But the Right Answer** - We put an odd assortment of props on the table (a rubber chicken, a cape, a giant crayon, etc.). We each took turns picking up one object and then thinking on our feet we used it as anything but what it really was. Examples might be a rubber chicken baseball bat or a giant crayon as a qtip. This is a classic improv practice, but is great at warming your brain up for thinking creatively and getting you ready to be silly.

- **Practicing With a Prop** - For our class we used a change bag, but you could use almost anything. After we taught how to use a change bag, we pulled out an assortment of objects in the room and let the kids think through a new thing to change out. It could be small to large, a silk to a full magic cape, or even what one Junior Joey used as a walkaround later, a rubber chicken into a dragon! Mixing up what you use in your props can get your brain moving on different routines, and makes it easier to find a themed trick for shows. ●

## A Tribute to *Patsy Garland* the "Welcome Ambassador"

**Debbie Fowler and Jackie Newton**



Patsy Garland knew no stranger. She was a bright light wherever she went and could she ever remember names! She met lots of clowns at her first clown convention in Minneapolis. A few years later in Chicago, she greeted people by name! She was so good at it that Robin, past WCA President named her "Welcome Ambassador." at the following year's convention in Florida. She was so proud of this title. Patsy went to be with the Lord on July 7th, 2025. She will be missed by so many. We, here at WCA, honor her and keep her and her family in our hearts. I will always remember her brilliant performances and how she made us smile. We love this angel girl.



### Attention all WCA Members **Manager Needed!**

We have the position of Manager open at our WCA office and wish to get quality resumes mailed to **Betty Craver, 420 W. State St., Good Hope, Illinois 61438** or emailed to [wca.treasurer1982@gmail.com](mailto:wca.treasurer1982@gmail.com)

Computer and communication skills are a must!  
We hope to see you! This position is now open for all applicants.



Louise Carnesale, Convention Chair, Educational Director

# It's Time to RECHARGE!!!

What a wonderful 2025 convention! Before we move on to our next convention in Boston, Massachusetts, I have just one more act as Convention Chair and Educational Director to do.

I wish to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of this year's convention. There are many people who have gone above and beyond what was expected of them.

They put in an extra effort to make the convention shine. One

of these amazing people was Glenda Howell who was assisted by Patti Ummel and David Blau. They created all the beautiful balloon sculptures seen in hallways and tables throughout the hotel. That large chicken which was wearable by many was amazing. A big thank you also goes out to All American Balloon for the balloons donated and used in their designs.

This year we had no one doing our scholarship program and several people volunteered to do the auction.. They donated many hours of their convention time doing this. Their names are: Wendy Sudberg, Lenny Sudberg, Rebecca Zelanin, Tom Zelanin and April Malara. They handled the drop off and sorting and moving of items, setting up the silent auction, and doing the live auction. Two of our vendors Debra Miller and Fred Baisch went out of their way to help. Debra was there to handle the microphone problems for our opening ceremony and also for our Ministry Program. Fred supplied the professional draping needed for the International Show and for competition areas. They both volunteered when they heard we needed help at the last minute with these items.

I want to thank all the vendors for traveling to Dallas, and the giving of their time and talents:

All American Balloon, Frederick Baisch, Cherry Hill Productions, Randy Christensen, Eduardo Hernandez, Kornpop McCullough, Mooseburger Originals, Perfect Occasion Costumes and Magic, Alberto Rotto, Sam Tee, and a special thank you to Mark Miller for the Vendor Show and introducing all the vendors.

One way to support our vendors is to order your supplies throughout the year by ordering online.

This year our instructors offered many new courses and updates to old ones. Thank you to these dedicated people who are keeping the art of clowning current.

Frederick Baisch, Kelly Ballagh, Elinor Blankenship, David Blau, Louise Carnesale, Randy Christensen, Norman Holtzman, Glenda Howell, Kathy Keaton, Auror Krause, Tim Kurtz, Tricia Manuel, Kornpop McCullough, Debra Miller, Mark Miller, Jackie Reynolds, Alberto Rotto, Julia Swanson, Patti Ummel, And a big thank you to Edmund Khong for the three-hour Special Program.

Our International Show was also a big hit. Thank you for all the hard work and for the dedication of all the clowns who took part and shared their special talents. A big thank you to all the flag bearers who took part in the opening of that show.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all the volunteers who helped with registration, the competition areas and our Junior Joey program. It has been an honor to serve WCA bringing you a great convention and the best educational programs possible. I'm looking forward to Boston and hope to see you there. ●

## A Convention Review by your Vice President

# Wonderful Time

Norm Holtzman (Tip Top)

Hello my name is Norm 'Tip Top' Holtzman. I am your WCA Vice President for a second term. What a wonderful time was had by all in attendance in Dallas. Eric 'Flip Flop' Spiegel who won the Blab- I-Gail Scholarship for 2025, and I were selected as your Clown security by Louise 'LuLu' Carnesale for the convention. Hope we were able to answer any and all questions you had.

We all enjoyed a fun vendors show hosted by Mark Miller. Jackie Newton, Doug Hasch, Deb Miller and Rotto Alberto Lira entertained us with their musical group and songs. I was happy to see a friend I haven't seen for some time, Dal Sanders. A great group was there to mingle.

The International Show was fun, beginning with the parade of flags representing all countries represented in our membership. Paradability was followed by our

group picture taken by our wonderful photographers Marilyn Barrett, and Cherry Hill.

At the theme party many of us dressed in our western wear as well as Lassoing your Inner Chicken. Jackie, Doug, Deb and Rotto performed as we danced and sang. I played maracas with the group in fun and Bob Abdou performed with his puppets and marionettes.

Our Variety and single skits were hosted by Matty McFun who shared many jokes and entertainment with us.

Our headliner for the convention was Bob Abdou, who gave us a wonderful show of his puppets and marionettes, which was part of the theme party, International show and Banquet. He also told us some funny stuff as well. Fun was had by all and we look forward to our next convention in Boston!



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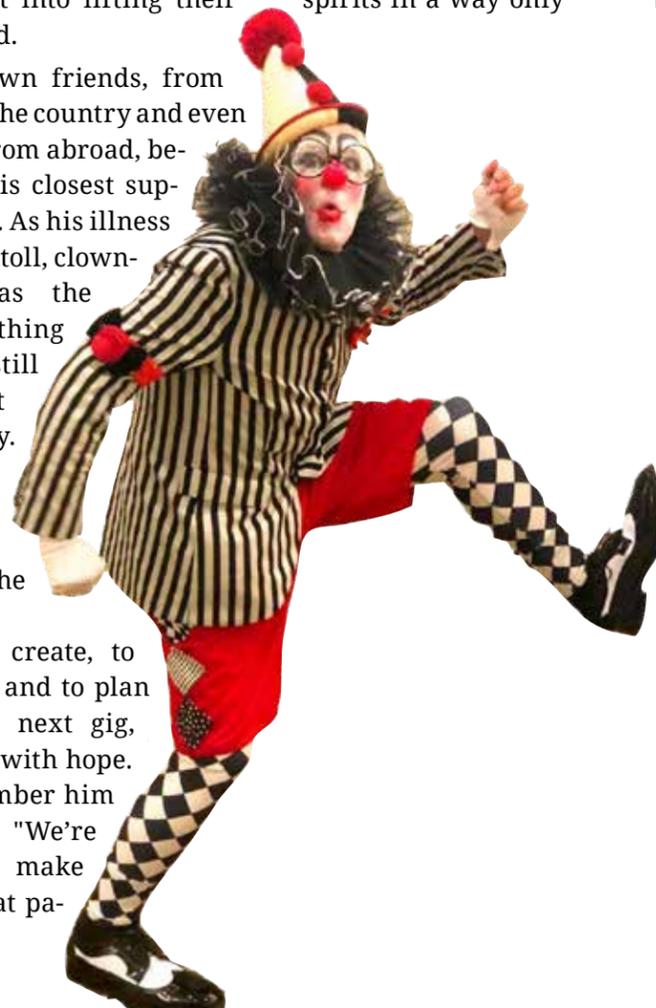


A Tribute and Memorial  
Written by Matt's Mom,  
Colleen Anne Crouch Uhl

# ***Beeber B. Mat Uhl, Clown***

He had a special love for performing in nursing homes. There, he could reach a generation that not only appreciated clowns but wasn't afraid of them. He had the incredible ability to make people laugh - even those who hadn't smiled in months. He could spark a moment of joy so pure that it would take them back to their childhood, to a time when laughter knew no age limits. Together, they sang, they played, and Matt fit right into lifting their spirits in a way only he could.

His clown friends, from across the country and even a few from abroad, became his closest supporters. As his illness took its toll, clowning was the one thing that still brought him joy. Even as he struggled, he continued to create, to design, and to plan for the next gig, always with hope. I remember him saying, "We're gonna make it to that pa-



Matt was born a clown. It felt like his destiny. From a young age, he was determined to make people happy. When he was 12, he attended Clown College at the University of Utah, and that's when the magic truly began. I joined him in the Mom-and-Boy team, and we had so much fun. Little did I know, this experience would become his sanity, his love, and the source of courage that gave him strength during his long battle with a terminal illness.

From day one, Matt just got it. Making balloons wasn't just a skill - it was an art. Whether he crafted traditional shapes or purely whimsical objects no one could quite name, he always had a story to go with them, making each balloon come to life.

As a family, we marched in parades, tossing candy and sharing little jokes with the children. If it wasn't a green mustache for St. Patrick's Day, it was a tiny rubber chicken. We all laughed, shared, and embraced the joy of bringing smiles to others.

Matt didn't just create costumes for himself - he crafted them for others, too. Every costume I have was designed and sewn by him, but my favorite is the one he made for our skit, "Mom and Boy."



rade. We might not do the whole thing, but we've got to do some of it." And, true to his word, he did.

Matt attended Mooseburger Clown Camp, a place where he met like-minded souls who truly understood him. The camp's clowns spoke the same language - the language of laughter, improv, and pure joy. It was one of the best experiences of his life, even though it took courage to go. He had to juggle his time between the camp and dialysis treatments, but he did it with determination. Fellow clowns watched out for him, noticing when he needed rest, but they also gave him something he needed most: a sense of belonging. For a week, he was surrounded by people whose goal was to bring joy to the world, and that recharged his spirit.

In his final days, Matt treasured the cards, drawings, and notes from his clown friends. They were his lifeline, reminding him that the joy he shared had touched so many lives.

He was also passionate about passing on the art of clowning to the next generation. The joy he felt watching his apprentices perform and take clowning to new heights was unmatched. One of the most meaningful moments of his life came when his



friends held a benefit in his honor. Sadly, he was too ill to attend, but he was able to watch through pictures and videos, seeing the joy others shared in his name. When Matt passed, several months ago, the first thing my daughter and I felt after he was gone was laughter. It was as if he was laughing like a child - so happy, so free. And I am sure he carried the art and love of clowning with him wherever he went. He is still bringing joy, humor, and character to the world beyond.

Thank you to his fellow clowns for being such a light and friend to him. You supported him in ways only you could, and you helped him keep going through your love, humor, and honor of this beautiful art form. May we all strive to be more like Matt—full of joy, laughter, and the willingness to make the world a brighter place. ●

# CREATIVE CLOWN COMEDY TIPS

By: Norman the Clown

You can hone your clown skills at any time of the day. It is fun to take a Humor Break and do a bit of improvisation to lower stress, develop your clown skills and lighten your mood. When you find yourself involved in a difficult or stressful project and you need a creative breakthrough, take a short humor break.

## 7 Things you can do during a humor break

- 1) Write a funny poem for someone special. Children, nieces and nephews are people who appreciate a note and a simple cartoon. When is the last time you have given a hand-written a note to a sibling, spouse or significant friend. Send a drawing of a funny experience years ago and brighten their day while you exercise your creative mind. A simple start is a "Roses are red" type poem then move on to limerick or rhyming verse.
- 2) Draw a simple stick cartoon then add a comic caption. To start, your drawing needs a place, and character or two. One comments to the other about an object or thing they observe, and you have a cartoon. Take it a step further and write more than one funny captions for your art.
- 3) Clip a photo from the paper and write several silly captions to go with it. Read the Onion and take a photo from that paper and stick it at the top of a sheet of paper. Write several funny captions to go below it.
- 4) Clip a Far Side cartoon or other cartoon and stick it to the top of a sheet of paper and write comic captions for this. It will get your mind going in creative directions.
- 5) Eat a treat in a funny way. Imagine yourself in an old time movie and you are Charlie Chaplin eating a Hershey bar or ice cream sandwich. Use your fork and knife... tuck your napkin in your chin with aplomb and act like a high-class lord or lady. Just be silly and enjoy the moment. This assumes, of course, that you have a private office.

**Invite a Friend to join W.C.A.**

# CREATIVE CLOWN COMEDY TIPS - PART DEUX

6) Get up and do a silly walk. If you need lesson on this, study the British TV Comedies by the Monte Python's Troup. They have an excellent skit where they work at the Government Ministry of Silly Walks. Get up, work out your body and mind at the same time. Then see how your mind is ready to move forward on the duties at hand. This assumes you have a very private office. I do know some creative guys that do art for books, and if you visited their office, it would be likely you'll see them doing odd games, walks or shooting Nerf darts at each other when they are in a creative slump.

7) Inspire someone! Send a handmade quickie card. It can simply be a piece of cardboard cut from the side of a soda pop box. For example, take an Orange Crush box, cut a 4 x 6 inch "greeting card" and write, "When the Crush is on - I know I can count on you!" Or with Pepsi you might write, "You got more Pep than a Pepsi." It does not have to be overly clever, just do something a bit creative and humorous and you will discover yourself moving ahead.

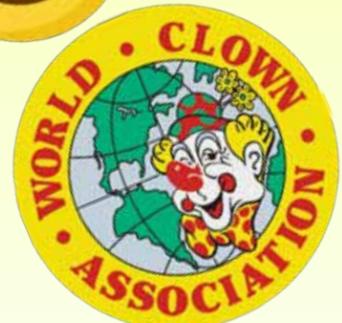
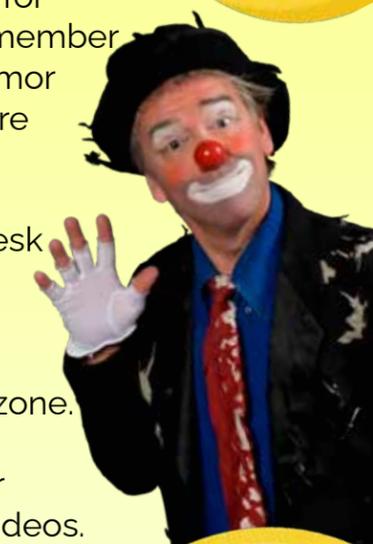
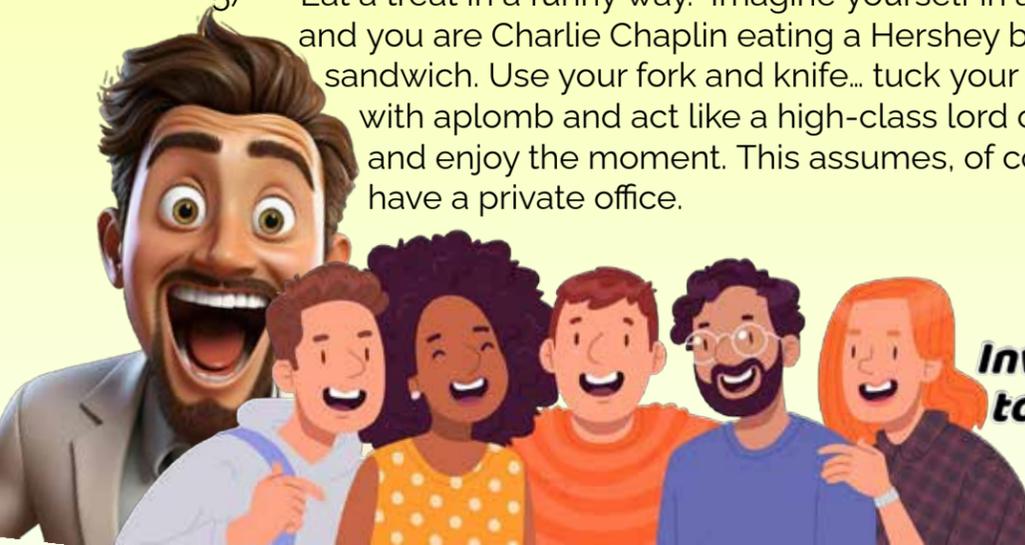
8) Write a note of encouragement to a co-worker or friend. Write about a humorous moment that you shared with them. Or tell them something funny that happened to you recently. Keep a copy for yourself to have in your file. When you need a pick me up, remember the funny situation and in this way, you can give yourself a humor break. Doing something positive for someone makes you more positive. (OK there are 8 but, 7 ways just sounded cooler!)

What is your alternative? You could stay chained to your desk steeping in stress with your shoulders slumped and strained from a heavy burden, as if Mr. Universe were sitting on your shoulders. You don't need that. You can solve this task and adding a bit of humor will lift you back into your creative zone.

To learn more, please google: "WCA Norman the clown" or check out MagicNorm.com for a couple "how to" do magic videos.

Norman has clowned around since he started at age 16 doing balloon animals and magic in 1976 at a family restaurant. He is a best-selling author with 18 books in libraries around the world.

**Invite 2 Friends to join W.C.A.**



# Top 9 Reasons to Enjoy the Boston W.C.A. Convention 2026

9 – You will meet so many new friends and see some good 'old ones too!

8 - Lots of laughs – So many, if you weighed them... Probably a Ton!

7 - Amazing Entertainment from our super star line up.

6 - You might get a lecture that your mother never gave to you.

5 – There will be Tea! And Parties!!

4 - Boston Cream Pie!!!! And you will discover if the oh so, decadent Boston cream pie is possibly a classic American Cake and not pie!!

3 - The Mayor is cute.

2 - There will be hilarious clowns there - having fun!!!

And #1 – The Beans!!!!



## AN IMPROMPTU CALL TO CLOWNING

Robin Bryan



I was sitting at home scrolling through social media when I saw a call to help. A WW2 veteran was celebrating his 100th birthday. His party organizer wanted people to join at a local restaurant. GROOVY, being a Desert Shield War veteran, said we needed to join the party. (Greg served 10 years) I quickly messaged asking if we could come and clown around.

It started in less than an hour!!! We ran through the house finding patriotic color clothes, threw on quick makeup, grabbed some props, and away we went. We entertained, sang and had the best time. I tell people that being a clown is a HUGE RESPONSIBILITY. WE ARE MEMORIES! Clown friends, I encourage you to get out there and make some happy memories.

## Blab-i-Gail

Recipient **Eric Spiegel**

Eric Spiegel (Flip Flop the Clown)



I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Jackie Newton, Convention Chair Louse Carnesale, and the rest of the Board the World Clown Association for awarding me the Blab-I-Gail Scholarship Certificate of Achievement at the 2025 Convention held at the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

As this Scholarship winner I was appointed as being one of the Clown Cops directing the attendees into one of the two classrooms where various classes took place. Even though most of my time was spent being

the Clown Cop, I did attend and assist in one class on How to Incorporate Games into Your Program that was hosted by Vice President Norman 'N. Jay' Holtzman (also known as Jaybo the Magical Clown). The rest of my time was spent assisting Lulu as she requested. I did attend the Welcome Meeting, the Paradeability Competition (where I enjoyed Lulu's jokes that she presented in between the various competitors), the Theme Party (where I was part of a Conga Line, as well as, the Chicken Dance), The International Show (which took place in the Hotel's Texas Learning Center), The Single Skit and Variety Arts Competition, The Final Walk Around at the Ministry Service (that was held Friday morning), and finally The Awards Banquet (where I received my Certificate of Achievement as one of this year's Blab-I-Gail Scholarship winners). ●

# Clown Of The Year 2025



## Spare Parts

The World Clown Association's Clown Of The Year award is a very prestigious award given to one of our very own to honor outstanding work done in the art of clowning for the World Clown Association in their communities and throughout the world. This year 2025's winner is Louise Carnesale aka LuLU.

Louise has a very big love for her family and for clowning. She is mother of 13 children, a grandmother of 25 and a great grandma of 7. Her family all know her love and share her stories and experiences with others. When they introduce her at events, they always say this is my mom the clown. Her family has shared in her journey with at least four of them becoming clowns. Plus, her husband (me) became a clown, and you all know me as Spare Parts. Louise has had many careers that include nursing, social work, Special Task Forces for the State of New York serving two governors and retiring to real Estate and Full Time Clowning.

She started clowning when her children were in 4H. There she developed a program where she clowned with children and served local hospitals and children's centers with aids or cancer patients. As her career progressed and advanced, she attended a local community college which offered a non-credit course on clowning and entertainment. After attending this she joined her first clown alley. She was still working full-time, but clowning weekends and nights bring smiles and doing service for others, which has always

been important to her.

Louise belongs to many clown organizations, COAI, SECA, Toby's Alley, Colony Clowns, and Red Nose Reader.

However, the one that means the most to her is the World Clown Association. She has attended conventions, entered competitions, hosted several Hospitality Parties for WCA, acted as Secretary in Chicago

when Andy Moler wasn't available. You can always count on her to step up and help where needed. Louise has held WCA offices throughout the years as: U.S. Southeast Director, Convention Future Site Director, Convention Director 2022-2026 and Educational Director 2023-2025 and now for 2025-2027. While serving WCA she has continued her love of clowning by starting Colony Clowns in Melbourne Florida. In 2015, she worked along with me to make the alley into a 501c3 Corporation and served as the alley's President and CEO until moving to Alabama in 2024. That alley under her leadership did 50 to 60 performances a year for community groups, nursing homes, day cares, churches and senior centers. This alley also did two to three large productions for over 150 to 200 people. These productions were called Under the Big Top or were one of the many Mystery plays written by Jackie Newton. The money raised by these shows funded the 501c3 allowing them to do their community work. Education has always been important, so Louise started the Art of Clowning. This was an advanced school for clowns. For two years she



held the school in Cocoa Beach Florida where over 70 were attending and she moved it to Orlando. These schools were called Thinking Outside the Box, and Over the Rainbow. For the last three years she hasn't had the school because she feels it conflicts with her duties as WCA Convention Chair but does plan on 2027 for the next one and already has clowns on a waiting list. Louise has also submitted articles to the Clowning Around magazine. Some of these articles have been News from Your Educational Director, The Young and Reckless, Convention News 2023,2024, 2025 and Exploring Central Florida to name a few.

Since moving to Alabama Louise has developed relationships with Enterprise Seniors bring them programs on clowning. She has lectures on Laughter is the Best Medicine for the Lions Club where over 75 were in attendance. Since that event she has been asked to work at the Lyons Club Youth Camp. She is also involved with helping raise money through a theater group to help feed the homeless.



Her activities don't stop with clowning. She is a big supporter of veterans and is a life member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion. She makes a blanket every two weeks which she donates to veterans in the new VA Veterans Home in Enterprise. She is also a lover of muscle cars and is a member and volunteer of the American Muscle Car Museum in Florida, the home for over 400 muscle cars. She also goes to at least four NASCAR races per year. LuLU also has an open door so if you are ever in Alabama call and stop in. She loves to break bread. Cooking is one thing she loves. You can ask anyone who's been to one

of her schools. They'll tell you that you will go home with a few extra pounds. Over the years she has had clowns from as far as Singapore stop by.

In closing, LuLU says if you really love clowning, share it with someone and invite them to come to an alley meeting or a convention. Share your smiles, and love. It's like magic. ●

# The International Clown Festival of India



## Randy Christensen

In November of 2024, I was honored to be a part of the International Clown Festival in India. Over 25 clowns performed throughout India from mid-October to Christmas time in theaters, malls, hospitals and events. I was part of a 17 member troupe performing in a large comedy theater show in four different cities. I performed in eighteen of the one hundred shows across India plus visited a children's hospital in Chennai and conducted a clown ministry program for a Catholic school in Mumbai.

Martin D'Souza, the producer, director and host of the International Clown Festival (ICF) began this endeavor ten years ago. Martin is also the former Vice President for the World Clown Association and WCA Clown of the Year recipient (2016). He shared with me that it was life-changing and vision impacting as he spent time at the UW-LaCrosse Clown Camp with Richard Snowberg and also during his interactions with various WCA members over the last 20 years.

He began to dream bigger and bigger of what a clown festival could look like here in his home country of India. Through the years, a number of notable WCA clowns have joined his team from Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA. The festival has grown each year and now brings laughter to thousands of cheering people on a weekly basis.

The theater show experience was a "once in a lifetime" experience for me. The laughter was unending. Children of all ages, from infants to grandparents, giggled, cheered, clapped and roared throughout the show. Working with these talented clowns from other countries reaffirmed that laughter is world-wide and the principles of clown comedy may work in every culture. Juggling, unicycling, comedy slapstick, new and also classic clown routines, plate spinning and various hi-jinx fill the two hour show.

A team of over thirty people - besides performers - brought in our own professional light rigging into



world class theaters. Local marketing, social media and promotional efforts were current and top quality. Fun quality merchandise was available before and after the shows. Roshni D'Souza (former WCA Marketing Director) guides many of the logistics for the team and provides practical behind the scenes arrangements.

Before and after each show, we would personally interact with attendees, also posing for photographs. A professional photographer was onsite, later posting photos for all attendees to upload from a private

website free of charge. The attention to detail to create an incredible memory-making experience for each audience member and cast member was clear.

It was my joy and privilege to perform with clowns from around the world. Each brought their own unique skills and characters into this incredible circus-styled collage. Congratulations to Martin & Roshni D'Souza and best wishes for continued success as you share the joy of clowning! This truly lives up to the title, "The International Clown Festival!" Bravo! ●





CLOWNS  
CAUGHT  
IN THE  
ACT!



CLOWNS  
CAUGHT  
IN THE  
ACT!



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