



Register Now!

Annual Conference 2016

AATH 29th Annual Humor Conference & Humor Academy, April 7-10, 2016 at the Hilton Phoenix | Mesa.



SCHEDULE 2016

REGISTRATION RATES

REGISTER NOW!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Share your knowledge, your information, your products with fellow conference attendees by participating in the exhibitor showcase. Member rate is only \$50 for 1st table and \$30 for a 2nd table. NonMember rates are \$100/\$75. For more information

This complimentary Humor Connection newsletter is one of the many ways that AATH fulfills our mission to study, practice and promote healthy humor. You can join our efforts by joining AATH at www.aath.org

Letter From the President

Your AATH Board of Directors is committed to improving and upgrading your membership benefits. I want you to be aware of our commitment to the AATH mission to serve as a community of professionals who study, practice and promote healthy humor. Here are a few of our recently added benefits:

- **Membership Directory:** Our [AATH membership directory](#) is now searchable by name and location. Check out your name and make sure your information is correct. If you cannot find your name, it is possible that your membership lapsed during our recent management transition. Call Michele at our management office to update your status. 815-708-6587.
- **Resource Pages:** We have almost 50 member authors who have their books listed on our resource pages. We are quite proud of our [AATH authors](#) who continue to share the research and resources in the field of humor studies. There are also over gazillion bibliographies and power points (YES, you can use these in your work), from Don and Alleen Nilsen, authors of the *Encyclopedia of 20th Century American Humor* and professors Emeritus at Arizona State University. Kathy Laenhue and Laurie Young have organized these resource pages, which are available at no charge to the general public.
- **The AATH Humor Voice:** This is a member only benefit written by members for members. Editor Laurie Young has done an incredible job of launching this pioneering publication. Download the [first issue here](#).
- **Regional Chapter:** Heidi Hanna has initiated the first official AATH Regional Chapter in Southern California. Interested members can start a chapter. Contact Kathy at our management office to receive the application and guidelines. Contact Heidi Hanna for further information about their meetings. Heidi is listed in our AATH membership directory!
- **Humor Academy Certification:** Our acclaimed Humor Academy program offers CEU, Graduate credit and now a CHP (Certified Humor Professional) designation. For more information on signing up for classes at the Conference on Phoenix contact Nila Nielsen ninielsen@me.com and check out our [Humor Academy page](#) on our web site.

AATH is a non-profit international organization, and all of our event chairs, instructors and advisors are volunteers. We invite you to join us!

We are looking forward to seeing you in Phoenix April 7-10th for our 29th annual conference. Check out the knock your socks off schedule here.

on Exhibitor Opportunities, click [here](#).



Winning the fight against cancer, every day.*

CTCA is the home of integrative and compassionate cancer care. They never stop searching for and providing powerful and innovative therapies to heal the whole person, improve quality of life and restore hope.

1-877-219-7471

[Visit CTCA](#)



With humergy,
Mary Kay Morrison
AATH President

Member News

Humor Academy Testimonial From Colleen Cooke

I attended Level 1 of the Humor Academy this past May and fell in love! I fell in love with the organization, with its members, and with the science of humor. I have already begun introducing humor into my courses, and the results have been very positive. I look forward to my Level 2 project, and hope to work toward improved Quality of Life among men with schizophrenia following recreational therapy interventions that use humor activities and humor as a facilitation technique. I have even been able to recruit a student to work with me, should my project be approved!

News From Fif Fernandez , CHP

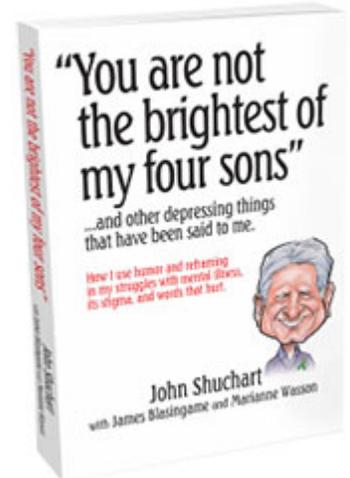
We have had horrific flooding here in Tamil Nadu, that lasted over a month. All our extra resources and then some have gone into flood relief. I dont know the total death count, but we are over 500 people dead. Millions have lost everything. Disease is now rampant as there were so many dead animals, tons of garbage and sewerage floating in floods that reached over 6 feet. There were really beautiful stories as well as people and communities coming together.

On another note, we continue to spread joy. We seem to be spreading out. A documentary that we were featured in Hope Doctors about medical clowns has won some international awards - that has resulted in more media. One such was in Better India and we were listed as one of 12 organizations of foreigners who are making a difference in India. So that was pretty cool. There have been about 20

Book Review

Thank you, *DIANE ROOSTH*, for the Book Reviews every month!!

John Shuchart, with **James Blasingame** and **Marianne Wasson**, writes *You are not the brightest of my four sons and other depressing things that have been said to me*.



John Shucharts book educates us on how humor and laughter may help us cope with family trauma, and the possible underlying biological disease of mental illness. In the forward by NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill), President Sylvia Thompson asks us to: Please read John Shucharts important, funny yet poignant book that confronts .the unwarranted and devastating effects stigma has on individuals living with mental illness and those who love them.

We humorists, educators, and health care practitioners know the importance of humor for stress management in schools and health care, and for people living with acute and lifelong challenges. Johns book is a welcome addition to the literature.

Our team will warmly welcome you! *Barb Best and Michele.*



Level III, currently in the CHP program this year.



Masako, our Japanese Humor Academy student in CHP program.

media bits since we arrived here.

Other News

Humor Connection Transition

Many thanks to Diane Roosth, CHP who has reviewed our AATH member books for the past several years. He has done an amazing job of reviewing our member books. Please check out our [AATH resource page](#) for the list of our author members books on Amazon.

SEND YOUR MEMBER NEWS:

info@aath.org



VAROOOOM...VAROOOM!

We're not only rev'ing up for the 2016 Conference', we're rev'in up for the Humor Academy! It's time to take a ride!

It's not too late to register for the 2016 AATH Humor Academy. We kick-off on Thursday, April 7, for a wild ride that will let you travel the road to humor certification. Check out the program [here](#), then register. The ride starts in Mesa, Arizona, but with an Academy background, oh, the places you will go!

John shares personal stories and how he overcame the feelings of helplessness in his life with hope and humor. He was Crushed by a riding lawn mower with the blade spinner, told over fifty that he only had one kidney and didnt know why, and was T-boned by a large truck lugging cement blocks. He grew up in a home with poor communications, that many might call dysfunctional.

Our author teaches us that while events can hurt and traumatize, they can also be reframed. Thats what Ive been able to do successfully, because each time I retell these incidents, my audience laughs; their laughter feeds into my endorphins which, when released, help me reduce the trauma that these events caused me. Kudos to John Shuchart for his insights on how to use humor to reframe tragic life experiences into moments of laughter that are filled with humor, hope and healing.

Members who would like their book to be considered for an upcoming Humor Connection book review, should contact info@aath.org. Please use Book Review Submission in the subject line.

DONATIONS TO AATH ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Thank you for your continued support of AATH!

You can write a check to AATH and send to the office or you can:

1. **[AATH 2016 CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP](#)**: There are many ways that you can be a sponsor for our AATH conference for as little as \$50.

2. **SCHOLARSHIP DONATION**: You can designate your gift to the Patty Wooten or Ed Dunkelblau scholarship fund.

To make a tax-deductible gift to AATH, you may send check donations to the AATH office at:

*220 East State St., Floor G
Rockford, IL 61104*

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: If you need help with renewing your membership, or if you forget your member website log-in information, reach out to Michele St. Clair and her team at **815-708-6587**.

REMINDER: AATH is officially recognized as a 501c3 and has been vetted by UNITED WAY. If you or anyone you know makes donations through United Way, please consider designating a portion of your generous gift to AATH and please let others know of this opportunity.