



Save the Date!

Annual Conference 2016

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



Thank You



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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

"Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground."

This is one of my favorite quotes because it exemplifies the passion of AATH members who promote laughter, play, humor, and fun even when it is difficult. Humor professionals often have to endure the challenges that come with being advocates for the field of humor studies. It seems that skeptics can pop up in both our personal and professional lives. AATH is here to support you, our friends and colleagues as we work together to advance the field of humor studies.

There are so many exciting things happening this fall in AATH, and I am glad this newsletter gives us the opportunity to share what is happening in our international non-profit organization. Thank you to Kelly Epperson who served as our newsletter editor for several years and a warm welcome to our new editor, Ann Zuccardy, for her willingness to share her talents in providing the AATH news with you.

With humergy,

Mary Kay Morrison
AATH President

Humor Academy Announces CHP Designation

We are so proud of our Humor Academy participants. The many students who have chosen to become a part of this learning experience have been truly amazing. They come from many walks of life and choose the Academy for varying reasons. When a student of the

Member News

Steve Wilson, invites you to participate in the Master Class "Healing Through Comedy" with David Granirer, founder of Stand Up for Mental Health on Nov. 6 from 9 am to Noon at the Hampton Inn in Columbus, Oh. Cost is \$59 and only 100 seats are available. The previous evening, they will be screening the award-winning

innovative therapies to heal the whole person, improve quality of life and restore hope.

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Random Fun Stuff: Offbeat Tourist Attractions

I love weird, off-the-beaten path tourist attractions. I'm already planning my offbeat tourist activities for the 2016 AATH annual conference in Phoenix. Got any tips for me?

I found a great website and app to help me find the best odd tourist attractions wherever I go in the U.S. Imagine my joy when I found this giant clothespin gravestone just a few miles from my home in Middlesex, Vermont!



According to my research the clothespin gravestone marks the grave of W. Jack Crowell, who owned the National Clothespin Company, the last wooden clothespin manufacturer in the U.S.

If you love the slightly offbeat and outrageously silly – check out the Roadside America website to find

Academy is dedicated to the learning process and continues through all three levels of the program, they acquire the research and experiences to enhance their careers and meaningfully touch the lives of others. These Humor Academy Graduates (H.A.G.) have worked to raise their level of expertise. To honor their achievement, we now offer a Certified Humor Professional (C.H.P.) designation to acknowledge their dedication and leadership begun within the Academy.

Three cheers for those completing three years!

Kathy Laenhue, Melissa Mork, Nila Nielsen, Co-directors - Humor Academy

San Diego Hosts First AATH Local Chapter Meeting

The first meeting of the San Diego chapter of AATH will meet on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Carlsbad City Library at 1775 Dove Lane in Carlsbad, CA from 11-1. It's a great opportunity for local members to gather, network and discuss the possibilities for future meetings, speakers, tours and events! Thanks to Heidi Hanna and her company Synergy for hosting this first meeting. The idea for the meeting came about as part of Heidi's Beyond Funny Level II Humor Academy project. Contact heidi@synergyprograms.com for information.

Save the Date!

Rev'ing Up Your Humor
AATH 2016 Annual Conference
April 7-10, 2016
Phoenix/Mesa Hilton

Are you starting to plan for the

documentary "Cracking Up!" and discussing the film from 7:30-9:30 pm. For more info contact Steve at Steve@worldlaughter.com or call 800-669-5233.

Barbara Grapstein of Healing Headbands recently did an interview on the Kim Pagano show. Barbara is the creator of Healing Headbands, a non-profit creating high quality headbands made of ultra-soft fabric designed to feel good against bare, sensitive skin and to protect skin that is newly exposed to the elements due to sudden hair loss from chemotherapy, radiation treatments, and other medical treatments.

www.kimpaganoshow.com/kp86h2.mp3

Ann Zuccardy, accidental neuroscientist, talks about how a brain injury made her more creative and helped her redefine her career in her interview on the [Reality Check podcast](#).

Florence Ditlow offered her first therapeutic humor instructional program in Bonaire this summer. See photos [here](#).

Beth Usher, was recently interviewed by *Newsweek* magazine for an upcoming article. According to Kathy Usher, "When the reporter asked her (Beth) about what she is doing with her life, she told her that she had just become a HAG! Of course, the reporter asked about being a HAG and Beth gave the most passionate description of the Humor Academy and of AATH! The reporter asked Beth to send information on AATH – she asked many questions and Beth told her about the Mesa Conference."

SEND YOUR MEMBER NEWS:
info@aath.org

oddlities (I mean treasures) right in your own backyard.

www.roadsideamerica.com

And please, share your weird finds with us!

Send them to Ann Zuccardy at zuccardy@gmail.com to be included in upcoming issues of Humor Connection.



Annual AATH Conference in 2016 yet? Well, plans are just about complete and we'll be announcing speakers and participants soon! What's new? How about breakfast with a Humor Hero? Our version of breakfast with a Disney princess! How about an AATH Variety Show hosted by Andrew Tarvin and Beth Slazak? And speakers on Healing Your Heart, Are you in your Right Mind?, Using Improv to Engage your Audience...and so much more!

You can actually register now if you like. In fact, we'd like to encourage it! We'll be designing and selling a special workshop tee-shirt for the conference and if you register prior to October 31st, you can get your tee-shirt free. What a deal! You know where to go: www.aath.org/annual-conference

Not sure, just check out the happy faces from 2015:



Humor Academy: Co-Directors go WILD!

The Humor Academy has three new directors this year to replace former director, Mary Kay Morrison and her Assistant Director, Karyn Buxman. The Humor Academy is a phenomenal program and we thank Mary Kay and Karyn for giving us this opportunity. They left us in charge with their best wishes, hoping that we would somehow be able to get along and carry on. Little did they know that we not only get along, but we truly love working together.

Book Review

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

Mom's the Word - The Wit, Wisdom and Wonder of Motherhood

by Allen Klein

Allen's book is a celebration of mothers of different ages and stages of life, full of wisdom and mirth. Allen shares that his mother told him a long time ago that "everything always works out for the best" and he says in his introduction, "it is thanks to her influence that I am in the profession I am today." Allen's words spans generations and the world. He offers some funny quotes from Jan King:

Gandhi's mom: "Eat something. You're skin and bones!"

David Copperfield's mom: "You're getting on my nerves. Why don't you just disappear for a while?"

Napoleon Bonaparte's mom: "For the last time – get your hands out of your pockets!"

Some quotes shared in the chapter on mother's love include:

Eric Fromm – "Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved."

Edgar Allen Poe – "The angels, whispering to one another, Can find, among their burning terms of love, None so devotional as that of "Mother."

James Joyce – "Whatever else is unsure in this stinking dunghill of a world, a mother's love is not."

Comedian Jerry Lewis says "Allen

We have so many great participants in the program this year, along with true-blue volunteers, and the support of the AATH Board of Directors, that there is no way we could fail! As a matter of fact, that's the goal of our first year together - have fun, get it done, and do it right! Oh, and of course, to have fun along the way.

The Humor Academy is such an inspiring program and we are so proud to be a part. If two heads are better than one, then three co-directors must be even better! We're already in the midst of planning for the 2016 Academy, April 7-10th in Mesa, Arizona. So, if you're looking for a unique learning experience, check out the Humor Academy and come learn and play with us!

Join us in the Academy and be part of the fun as we go wild with excitement!

*Kathy Laenhue, Melissa Mork,
Nila Nielsen,
Co-directors - Humor Academy*

Dear Acad and Me: Advice Column for a Humorous Life

*Dear Acad & Me,
I need someone to teach me how to become funny! My husband said I have no sense of humor, although I laugh all the time on the inside. I've heard AATH has a Humor Academy where you can learn about humor. Do you think it would help me?*

*Fondly,
Smiling on the Inside*

Klein is a noble and vital force watching over the human condition." I thank our world's only Jollytologist for this inspirational collection of quotes celebrating mothers everywhere!

In the chapter "Mothers and Sons", Rose Kennedy is quoted: "I would much rather be known as the mother of a great son than the author of a great book or the painter of a great masterpiece."

I'm sure Allen's mother would agree.

Members who would like their book to be considered for an upcoming Humor Connection book review, 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 2015 CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP:** There are many ways that you can be a sponsor for our AATH conference for as little as \$50.
2. **AMAZON SMILE:** Did you know that every time you order from Amazon a percentage of your order can be allocated to AATH? The reminder will come up automatically once you sign up! So easy!
3. **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*

Dear Smiling on the Inside,
While the Humor Academy can't teach you how to be funny, it can definitely help you understand humor and the therapeutic benefits it can bring. From what you've told me, you experience mirth in your life. Mirth is one of aspect of humor you can learn about when enrolled in the Humor Academy.

If you're already 'smiling on the inside' you're on your way! Please go to www.aath.org/humor-academy to read more about the program. It may be the best thing that you could do for yourself, and maybe what you learn will even rub off on your husband.

Keep smiling and try laughing on the outside, too!
Acad & Me :)

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.