



# Laugh Lines



Clowns on Rounds, Inc.

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Fall, 2007

The purpose of Clowns on Rounds, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, is to encourage in hospitalized patients, a positive attitude toward their illness and through humor, to help alleviate the fears, anxieties and stress experienced by patients, their families, friends and caregivers.

## 2007 FUN RAISER – NOVEMBER 15, 2007 A Politician, A Lawyer and An Accountant....

Dr. Ted Zeltner will be our Honorary Chairman for the 2007 Clowns on Rounds Fun Raiser, an evening filled with smiles, laughter and fun!.. The hilarious Dr. Mark Fruiterman has graciously agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies again this year. Last year, he had us rolling in the aisles. Friends, supporters and staff will tell their favorite jokes and share in our friendly competition for the coveted title of "Best Joke Teller". Our panel to judge each attempt at humor will be...who else?...A Politician, A Lawyer and An Accountant: James Tedisco, New York State Assemblyman, Richard Weiner, Managing Partner at Nolan & Heller and Steven Fischer, Executive Chairman of Mechanical Technology, Inc. and former President and Chairman of Urbach Kahn & Werlin.

The evening includes a cocktail hour at 6pm, dinner, laughter and a lot of clowning around. We have been promised a wonderful dinner at the Colonie Country Club in Voorheesville, NY. This laugh-filled evening will raise one-half of Clowns on Rounds annual operating budget. This year it will also help fund the Clowns on Rounds visits to the Pediatric Oncology/Hematology Unit at Albany Med. If you would like to join us, contact Elaine Person at 861-6262.

### Did You Know.... Laughing Matters!!



- A good belly laugh enables you to burn the same amount of calories as you would jogging for 10 minutes.
- On average, children laugh about 400 times per day, adults only 15 times. Scientists who study humor are researching why 385 laughs a day disappear as we get older.
- Results of studies in the workplace concluded the presence of light humor increase productivity and employee harmony.

## APPLE FESTIVAL TO FEATURE 3-D HAUNTED FUN HOUSE

Every fall, for the past 12 years, volunteers have built and operated a Haunted House at the Capital Region Apple Festival at the Altamont Fairgrounds. Peggy Were, CoR board member and her partner, Boz Collen supervised the construction and operation of the attraction with all proceeds going



to Clowns on Rounds. This year, we have the good fortune to be able to use Ultimate Terror's 3-D Chaos, a larger than life 3-D maze set in a stadium-length, twisting, turning, tunnel of fun. For the Apple Festival, it will be operated as a "Fun House" for kids. The following week, it becomes one of Ultimate Terrors three very scary haunts. Peggy aka Madame Lobotomy is the General Director of Mayhem and Murder for Ultimate Terrors and arranged with the owner for Clowns on Rounds to use the haunt for the weekend.



Clowns on Rounds uses over 100 volunteers at the two-day Apple Festival for the Haunted House, Clowns, Face Painting, Helium Balloons and the Children's Pumpkin Painting Booth. If you would like to volunteer, contact Elaine Person at 861-6262.

Q: What did the man with the broken leg say to his nurse?  
A: "I've got a crutch on you!"



# SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



## Dr. FUNNYBONES

Marie Beck as Dr. Funnybones is in Ellis and Sunnyview Hospitals in Schenectady and also visits children at Albany Med. She has been clowning as Mischief the Clown for over 25 years. She also runs a Christian clown organization called The Joyful Joeys. Marie was COAI 1999 Clown of the Year.



My nephew, Mike Reagan (Dr. Yikes) saw me visiting his wife's elderly grandmother when she was a patient in the hospital. He was so impressed with the outcome of the visit and how much it helped her that he decided that was what he wanted to do.

Snappy (Bill Hart) and I taught Mike the art of clowning and his only goal as a clown was to clown in the hospital. He then saw Michael Christian (from The Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit) do a presentation on the hospital program. He did all the initial leg work and promotion to start the Clowns on Rounds program and asked me if I was interested. I was interested, but at the time had a full time job with New York State. When the program got off the ground, I was the back-up clown to cover for some of the others if they were sick or needed a day off. After I retired from my State job, I started to work as Dr. Funnybones for the Clowns on Rounds program on a regular basis. I have been doing that for eleven years, although, I have been involved longer than that.

I can't tell you how many times I have stepped into a patient's room and introduced myself only to have them say "Oh, I know who you are. I met you when my husband was in the hospital. He just loved you." Then they proceed to tell me that the husband has since passed away, but how much it meant to have me stop by. They also say, "I still have the picture that you signed for him."

Also, I can't count how many times I have stopped into the Lab when they are ready to draw blood from a child and they say how I got there just in time. Usually I blow bubbles and have my bubble eating bird eat them. Sometimes I show the child that I have stickers or tattoos to give to them after the procedure. I also give them a picture of me and a bottle of bubbles to take home with them.

One routine that I like because it packs small and I can get a lot of mileage out of it is as follows:

I like to use is a magnet that I found that looks like lips and it smacks like a kiss when you touch it. We give out pictures of our clown character and I usually say "This picture will save you a thousand words and it will also prove that I was here. I don't want people to think that I was just a figment of your imagination. I sometimes take the magnet and say I will leave them with a kiss. I press the lips, make the kissing sound and stick a "Kiss Sticker" on my picture of if they want on their cheek or hand. It works for me.



## EXCELLENCE IN CLOWNING

Loretta DeAngelus aka Dr. Gigglebritches and Marie Beck aka Dr. Funnybones have been nominated for the Clowns of America International (COAI) "Excellence in Clowning" award. In order to receive this award, excellence must be demonstrated in several areas: Service to Clowning, Service to the Community, Acquired Educational Background in Clowning, Evidence of Exceptional Makeup and Costume and Clown Performance Awards. Only eight clowns have ever qualified for this unique and prestigious award.



We are confident that Loretta and Marie will both be awarded this special honor as they have both far exceeded the qualifications. Marie was named the COAI International Clown of the Year in 1999 and Loretta was named Clown of the Year for 2000. Good luck guys!

## WE SAY "GOOD-BYE" TO DR. KARA LOT



Tanya Lawrence aka Dr. Kara Lot aka Blueberry the Clown is moving to Maine where her husband has taken a new position as minister of a church where he had preached many years ago. Tanya will become a teaching assistant at a local elementary school. Dr. Kara Lot brought smiles and laughter to the children at Albany Medical Center's Pediatric Oncology/Hematology Clinic and Ped's Unit for over two years. We wish her and her family the best of luck. We'll miss you!



Claire discovers that The Clapper operates on the same frequency as Don's pacemaker.