



Speakers



Ron Berk, Ph.D.

"Real Laughter vs Fake Laughter: Will the Real Laugh Please Stand Up?"

Ron Berk, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus, Biostatistics and Measurement, and former Assistant Dean for Teaching at The Johns Hopkins University, and a

Fellow in the Oxford Society of Scholars. He retired 15.708 years ago to enter the Federal Witness Protection Program. He served 30 years of a life term, where he mentored numerous students, many of whom are in prison or on probation with ankle bracelets. He has presented 400+ keynotes in 42 states, 15 countries, and 3 planets. He destroyed scores of trees and shrubbery by publishing 14 books (three on humor), 180 journal articles, and 300 blogs. His professional motto is: "Go for the Bronze!" (See <http://www.ronberk.com>; <http://www.linkedin.com/in/ronberk/>)



Karyn Buxman, CHP

HA Level 2 – "What's so Funny about Leadership?"

Karyn Buxman is an international speaker, author, and neurohumorist. She is an AATH Past President and Lifetime Achievement Recipient. Karyn is a pioneer in the field of

applied humor, now working in partnership with neuroscientists. More than 500 organizations – including NASA, Mayo Clinic and the Million Dollar Round Table have hired Karyn to entertain, educate, and inspire others to achieve peak performance and optimum health through the art and science of applied humor.



Margie Cherry

"The Comedy Cure: The Creative Way to De-stress Your Distress!"

Margie Cherry's multiple professional identities include Associate Director of Alumni Career Services at Lafayette College, career coach, speaker, former long-running

cartoonist and short-lived stand-up comic. Margie is a highly-rated speaker at national and regional conferences, presenting workshops on career strategy and reinvention, humor, and creativity. She is the author and illustrator of *Mom's Comedy Coloring Book*, published by Humor Outcasts Press. Her work has appeared in numerous books and publications including *The Best of the Best American Humor*, and *The Best Contemporary Women's Humor*.



Prof. Frank Chindamo

"How to Use Laughter as Medicine at Your Facility, Using Comedy Videos"

Prof. Frank Chindamo created LaughMD when he asked, "If laughter is the best medicine, why not use it as medicine?" LaughMD is an app that plays comedy videos to

patients. A video expert, he has taught video and New Media at universities including USC, UCLA, Chapman, LMU and Pepperdine. Frank began his media career at SNL and on *Ghostbusters*. He has won 30+ awards for producing comedy videos for HBO, Showtime, CBS, and more. So you see why he founded the LaughMD video and data collection app! It's now in use at USC's Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, cCare (California Cancer Associates for Research & Excellence) and is up for deployment at UCLA Hospital. Frank hopes to help millions of patients use laughter as medicine.



Kermit Cole

"The Tickle of Meaning: A Serious Look at the 'Sense' of Humor"

During his career in film, Kermit wrote and directed a short film, "Before Comedy," about the discovery of comedy by prehistoric clowns.

His documentary about people living with HIV and AIDS, however (Living Proof: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness), resulted in Kermit's interest in deep work with people in crisis. Throughout his work he has noticed the significant role of humor in trauma, healing, and, ultimately, being human. He wrote the libretto of "For Life", an opera about people trapped in psychiatric treatment, and is working on "Simply Human," an opera about Harry Stack Sullivan, whose work with psychotic gay men added the term "significant other" to our culture.



Michael Cundall, Jr.

"Hack Your Mind with Humor"

Dr. Mike is an associate professor of philosophy who researches humor. He has recently coauthored a text on humor in medical care, "Cases on Applied and Therapeutic Humor."

He writes on a variety of topics relative to humor, and is currently working on a book length project on humor as a common good. www.mirthmanagement.co



Ed Dunkelblau

"Ed Talks: Relevant Issues in Therapeutic Humor, Insights from the Experts"

Dr. Ed Dunkelblau is the Director of the Institute for Emotionally Intelligent Learning. A licensed Psychologist, he is an internationally known speaker consultant, and

writer on topics of Emotional Intelligence and the Applications of Humor, Laughter and play. He is the International Coordinator for the Academy for Social Emotional Learning in Schools and a speaker in the U.S. Dept. of Defense's Yellow Ribbon reintegration program. Ed received numerous awards including Alumnus of the year (Columbia Univ. Teachers College), Distinguished Alumni (Univ. of Kansas) and the AATH Lifetime Achievement Award. <http://www.teacheq.com>



Brenda Elsagher, CHP

HA Attendees - "Humor: The Tie That Binds"

Brenda Elsagher has been a national speaker, comedian and author for the last 25 years. She has been a first level advisor for the Humor Academy and a past conference chair.

Brenda has been educating people using humor for her entire speaking career and has been awarded the Advocacy to Action Award by Get Your Rear in Gear organization. Brenda is the past president of the National Speaker's Assn, MN Chapter, and is a national patient advocate for a variety of organizations.



Margot Escott, LCSW

"Improv for People with Parkinson's Disease"

Margot Escott LCSW is a psychotherapist in Naples, FL and has been speaking on the therapeutic value of laughter & play for over 30 years. Over the last decade she has been studying improvisational

theatre games and exercises. She's transferred these exciting skills to her therapeutic work and several years ago began teaching Improv for Parkinson's Disease & Care Partners. She has been holding classes virtually since April 2020. She attended one of the first AATH conferences in the early '90s, and it is a cherished memory. Her mission in life to help others improve their laugh lives and learn to play.





Speakers



Louis Franzini Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist

“Senior Humor: Issues and Solutions”

Louis R. Franzini received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in behavior modification

at (now) Stony Brook University. He joined the Department of Psychology at San Diego State University, where he is now Emeritus Professor of Psychology. He is licensed as a psychologist in the states of California and Florida. He is a Life Member of the American Psychological Association. He has consulted to publishers, schools, and businesses. In addition to a part-time private practice in Jacksonville Beach, FL, he writes online courses for companies offering CE units for health care professionals.



Roberta Gold, CHP Panelist

“Ed Talks: Relevant Issues in Therapeutic Humor”

Roberta Gold created Laughter for the Health of it with a mission to empower everyone to have a more positive outlook. Roberta is an inspirational keynote

and breakout speaker, author, and Attitude Adjustment Coach. She is an advisor for the Humor Academy. Her weekly e-newsletter, Laughter Rocks! tips and tools to help you keep your cool no matter what, is read all over the world.

Roberta’s book, *The Family That Laughs Together ... A Quick Guide to Sanity When You Feel Like Screaming*, and her chapter – “Life is an Attitude” in the book – *The Power of Transformation: Reinventing Yourself*, are geared to help you have a more positive mindset.

Roberta has also developed a program called Laughter Rocks! which she brings into schools to provide strategies that foster an environment promoting positive feelings, self-worth, and fun.



Tom Guetzke

“Live Happy: The 5 Happy Habits to Live Your Best Life”

Traveling to over 65 countries, Tom discovered the self-care habits each one of us can use to boost the happiness in our lives! Tom identified The 5 Happy Habits

from research in the fields of positive psychology, neurology, and sociology. Tom holds a Masters and completed advanced Positive Psychology & Happiness studies at Penn University, UC Berkley and Yale. He is also a featured author in *Think Positive, Live Happy*, a best-selling book in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. As The Happologist, Tom is on a mission to help people discover the positive effects of happiness and live a life filled with laughter and joy!

Debra Joy Hart, CHP

“Spirit, Silliness and Science: Intersection of Play-filled Oneness & Neurotheology”

Debra Joy Hart has traveled around the world inspiring, consoling and laughing as she presents programs on health, humor, grief, and grace. She is the author of an



award-winning book: *Grandma D’s Bubbles: A Lesson in Life and Loss*. Debra created the 1000 REDNOSES project as she was getting her certification as a Certified Humor Professional. She is also the recipient of AATH’s 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award. It doesn’t matter if Deb is speaking and laughing with 1 or 1000 people, she aims for this: to inspire, empower, and to leave people with a smile, hope, healing and peace.

Jennifer Keith, CHP

Panelist
“Ed Talks: Relevant Issues in Therapeutic Humor”

Jennifer Keith, CHP, is a retired high school English teacher/technology coordinator/forensics coach/theatre director and current doctoral student in Educational



Leadership. She is married to her incredibly lucky husband and is the hilarious mother of two amazing daughters. Jennifer plans to jump start the next season of her career to promote humor, creativity and play in education, bringing the FUN back to schools and a CHILDHOOD back to the CHILDREN. Meanwhile, Jennifer’s company, KeithTec provides expertise to make everyone look good online!



Greg Kettner

“Change Our World with Laughter”

Greg Kettner is a TEDx Speaker and Happiness Consultant who helps organizations increase profit, reduce turnover and create a culture of mental health mindfulness with the

WorkHappy GamePlan.

Over his 27-year sales career, he has sold over \$12 million in products and services in the NHL, MLS, WHL and Nike.

Greg empowers and inspires audiences around the world to be the very best they can be. His passionate stories will engage you, make you laugh and touch a tender part of your heart too.

Greg is also a world-class connector who’s spent time with hockey icon Wayne Gretzky, shared the stage with comedian Robin Williams and almost knocked over Queen Elizabeth II.

Greg King

“A Onesie, A Tutu, and 3 Things I learned as a Grieving Single Dad”

Greg King is an Emmy-nominated broadcast journalist, author and recovering stand-up comic. He proudly bombed at the Comedy Store in Hollywood in front of



Sylvester Stallone’s mother! It was so quiet you could hear people stirring their drinks. Greg is also the creator and producer of a YouTube channel for kids called “Bizzee Beaver’s Workshop!” The widowed father of a 12-year old girl, Greg will soon launch a podcast called “Wise Old Dads.”

It will feature interviews with men who became fathers late in life, their personal stories ... sometimes hilarious, sometimes a little sad ... and what they learned.





Speakers



Mary Laskin, CHP

HA CHPs - "Humor Professionals; Serving the World One CHP at a Time"

Mary Laskin has been practicing nursing for more than 30 years. She has worn many "hats" in her nursing career, including a Nursing Instructor, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, a Patient Educator, and currently works as a Case Manager for a Chronic Pain Management Program at Kaiser Permanente. No matter where she practiced nursing, she observed a powerful connection between people who used laughter and humor being able to bounce back easier when met with health care challenges. This inspired her to become a Certified Laughter Leader and active in AATH to learn more, so she could assist her patients to learn these skills. She has been especially grateful to be able to practice therapeutic laughter with her chronic pain patients.



Linda MacNeal, CHP

"How to Run an On-Going Humor Support Group"

For over 20 years, Linda has been giving keynote speeches and doing workshops about the health benefits of laughter and using one's sense of humor. She believes that each of us is responsible for providing ourselves with our daily requirements of fun, humor and laughter. Linda has run many continuing Humor Groups over the years and is delighted to share the formats, content and what works with you.



Mary Kay Morrison, CHP

HA Level I - "Foundation of Humor: Theory Course"

Mary Kay Morrison has dedicated her life to exploring the health benefits of humor and play. Her passion is to share laughter with anyone who is aging.

She has facilitated keynote presentations and workshop sessions on the neuroscience of humor for the past 40 years. She is founder and director of the AATH Humor Academy and Certified Humor Professional program. Mary Kay is the recipient of the 2016 AATH Lifetime Achievement award. Her book, *Using Humor to Maximize Living* is the text for numerous college courses. Her latest book, *Legacy of Laughter: A Grandparent Guide and Playbook* was published in 2021. <https://www.questforhumor.com/>



Nila Nielsen, CHP

HA Level 2 - "Humor Projects; Making Humor Come Alive"

Dr. Nila Nielsen served as an educator and school principal prior to her retirement. Her work provided opportunities to turn frowns upside-down and to demonstrate that using humor creates a caring and fun learning environment. Nila is a Past-President of AATH and continues to volunteer for AATH as a Humor Academy Director and Instructor. She is a grateful recipient of the AATH 'Heart and Soul' award.



Judith Oliverio

"Curing Crazy with Humor, Hounds, and Holistic Medicine"

Judith Oliverio (Judy), RN, BSN, CRRN, CCM, USAF Veteran. Judy is a mental health registered nurse who served in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps. She has a bachelor's in both nursing and journalism, has won awards for her involvement in veteran care and teaching nurses the power of using humor in treating patients. She recently received the National Daisy Nurse Award for preventing a Veteran from suicide. She gives a real, unique perspective of being both nurse and mental health patient. Judy has been a public speaker at the National AATH conference, stand up comedienne, guest columnist for the *Gainesville Sun*, and continues to work with homeless Veterans. Her new book *Curing Crazy with Wellbutrin, Wine, and Wieners*, will make you want to laugh, cry, think and assess your own mental health journey.



Dr. Amy Riederich

"Humor Resources for Human Resources: Connecting the Modern HR Professional with Practical Tools"

Dr. Amy Riederich lives in the Pacific Northwest, where sightings of her are rare, and photographs of her always seem to come out blurry. She holds a range of human resource certifications from the mainstream to the obscure. She teaches HR Analytics at Walden University. She has been a past presenter at the AATH and the ISHS conferences. Her past studies include The Relationship between supervisors' humor styles and subordinate job satisfaction and Comic nomads: Instances of humor among teleworkers.



Lance S. Rintamaki

"The Forms, Functions, and Foibles of Humor in Hospitalist Medicine"

Dr. Lance Rintamaki is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Communication at the Univ. at Buffalo. His research focuses on the intersection of communication theory and health behavior outcomes. Dr. Rintamaki has a background in (a) communication and risky behaviors, with an emphasis on stigma management as antecedent to health behavior outcomes, and (b) stress and coping, with an emphasis on the forms, functions, provision, and effects of social support and stress-reduction strategies among patients and healthcare providers. His current work examines the critical and often overlooked role of humor in work-related stress management for Hospitalist providers.



Joyce Saltman, CHP

"Sex vs Chocolate – and the winner is?"

Dr. Joyce Saltman is a Professor Emeritus of Special Education at Southern Connecticut State Univ., where she taught since 1975. She has shared her insights into 'Laughter' with hospitals, corporations, school systems, and other organizations throughout the world. In addition, she has had two books published: *Sing A Celebration and I'm Changing the Locks and Cementing the Windows – What To Do When Your Kid Leaves Home*. She has contributed chapters for several anthologies, including *Chocolates for a Mother's Heart*, edited by Kay Allenbaugh, and most recently, *Fast Funny Women*, (2021) edited by Gina Barreca.



Mark A. Shatz

"Taking the "Remote" Out of Remote Learning with Humor"

Mark Shatz has divergent professional interests. As Professor of Psychology at Ohio University-Zanesville, he teaches a wide range of psychology courses. Dr. Shatz's primary specialty is instructional humor, and he wrote a top-selling humor writing book, *Comedy Writing Secrets* (3rd ed). Professor Shatz is also a death educator and helps others navigate death, dying, and grief. He is a popular public speaker who explains how psychology, humor, and death help provide the perspective needed to maximize everyday living. Mark's favorite pastime is watching his son outsmart "proven" parenting techniques and writing about the experience for *Fatherly*, *Your Teen*, *Grown and Flown*, and *BLUNTmoms*. comedywritingsecrets.com.





Speakers



Craig Shoemaker

"How to Use Laughter as Medicine at Your Facility, Using Comedy Videos"

What comedian do you know has two Emmys, appeared on Broadway and was voted Best Male Standup at the American Comedy Awards? That's right, it's The Lovemaster,

Craig Shoemaker! Best known for his engaging, relatable standup and iconic baritone-voiced character, The Lovemaster, Craig also has a twice-recurring role on *Parks & Recreation* and has been seen on every major television network. Craig's latest 90-minute standup special, *Daditude*, aired prime-time for three months on SHOWTIME Network and then streamed on Netflix and now Amazon Prime. He currently has two reality tv series on Amazon Prime, "Wolf PAC" and "Comedy Kitchen," which he also co-hosts, produced, and created. In 2003, based on his passion for comedy he founded the Laughter Heals Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to using laughter as a healing modality.



Stephanie Knox Steiner

"Building a Legacy of Peace through Humor"

Stephanie Knox Steiner is a peace educator and doctoral candidate in the Community, Liberation, Indigenous and Ecopsychologies specialization at Pacifica

Graduate Institute. She has taught college-level courses on peace and conflict studies and developed peace and nonviolence education programs for organizations such as Teachers Without Borders and the Metta Center for Nonviolence. Stephanie's mother, Jill Knox, is the past president of AATH and Stephanie is proud to continue her mom's legacy through supporting the Jill Knox Peace through Humor Fellowship program, which brings peace studies professionals into the humor academy to foster the connections between humor and peace. She is also a member of the Earth Holder Community caretaking council, an earth and racial justice initiative in the Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism.



Steve M. Sultanoff, Ph.D., CHP

HA Level I - "Hee Hee Healing: Foundation of Therapeutic Humor," "Relational Fusion; The 5th Dimension of Therapeutic Humor," and "Ed Talks: Relevant Issues in Therapeutic Humor"

Steve M Sultanoff, PhD is a psychologist, professor (Pepperdine University), professional speaker, and internationally recognized expert on therapeutic humor. With over 35 years in the therapeutic humor field, he has authored many innovative articles. His article on humor in psychotherapy published in *The Humanistic Psychologist* outlines the qualities of an effective therapeutic humor professional. He also authored a pioneering chapter on Humor in Psychotherapy. Dr. Sultanoff has appeared on *The Morning Show*, STARZ, Lifetime, and PBS and is frequently quoted in publications. He provides live and online therapeutic humor continuing education, and his website (humormatters.com) offers a wealth of information on therapeutic humor.



Scott Tokar

"Side-Fx, Clinically Relevant Magic Tricks and Effects EXPOSED!"

Scott Tokar is unique among magicians, having focused solely on corporate entertainment (Infotainment) and visual communication, he is known today as a

"specialist" in tradeshow magic and sales meeting motivation. However for many, Scott is best known for his innovative Side-Fx magic lecture, providing health-care professionals with the "secrets: specifically designed to divert a child's mind from the many fears associated with a visit to the doctor. By creating a surprise-filled atmosphere for patients, their habitual nervousness and concern are overcome by magic and wonder. 2020 may have been a "bummer" year for most, but for Scott his inclusion in the Guinness World Records book was a childhood dream come true ... working with Pioneer/Corteva Agriscience Scott used his Corporate Magic experience at the Farm Progress Tradeshow to achieve the "Farthest Teleportation Illusion" in Boone, Iowa.



Dr. Heather Walker

Ed Talks: Relevant Issues in Therapeutic Humor," insights from the experts

With almost 10 years in management, training, and organizational development, Dr. Heather Walker understands that getting adults to work well together over the

long term is no easy task. She became fascinated by the idea that having fun at work could lead to a levity effect, where businesses could actually reap benefits from their employees lightening up. Her mission is clear: To support leaders who care about the environment they create with tools they can use to improve levity at work. Dr. Walker founded Lead with Levity to promote healthy workplaces through survey insights, workshops, and a healthy dose of wisdom. Her goal is to help people have fun, and get more done. <https://leadwithlevity.com>

