

Hospital Clown Newsletter

A Publication for Clowns in Community and World Service

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Meet Charlie Lubin. At 10 years old his mother took him to clown class. Charlie walked into Arina Isaacson's clown class in San Francisco. Charlie is 27 years old now and still clowning around, sharing his very special smile and cheer.

Charlie is a young man with Down's Syndrome. That first day when his mother called Arina, she said "Well he's a little different, but your sign said 'Clown Class, Everyone Welcome!'" Arina didn't realize how special Charlie is and the mother certainly didn't know how special Arina is. Mrs. Lubin waited that first day outside the "Circus A La Mode" clown school with trepidation. Charlie has been sent out of other schools because of his "special needs." Not so with Arina. "Everyone is a little different. That's what makes the world such an interesting place."

I hope Charlie knows how special his heart is. Non-judging, fully in the present, and when his heart opens, that unconditional love is so very penetrating. When Charlie smiles, you must smile. When Charlie laughs, you cannot help yourself, you laugh. What we clowns work so hard at doing, Charlie does because he is special. He does not grasp the concept of reflective thinking, Reactive thoughts do not block his way. Motives do not hinder his path. He is just Charlie -- "Uncle Baby" to all of us.

Charlie has five nieces, so he is the Uncle. He also did a performance piece at the clown school with a baby (doll). He was sitting on a park bench with a crying baby. (Someone off stage was doing the crying). When he picked the baby up, she would start to cry and when he put it down the baby would stop. In the frustration of trying to quiet the baby another clown came out and sat on the bench next to him and started to sing a lullaby. Uncle Charlie put his head on the clown's shoulder and went to sleep. So that's how he became Uncle Baby.

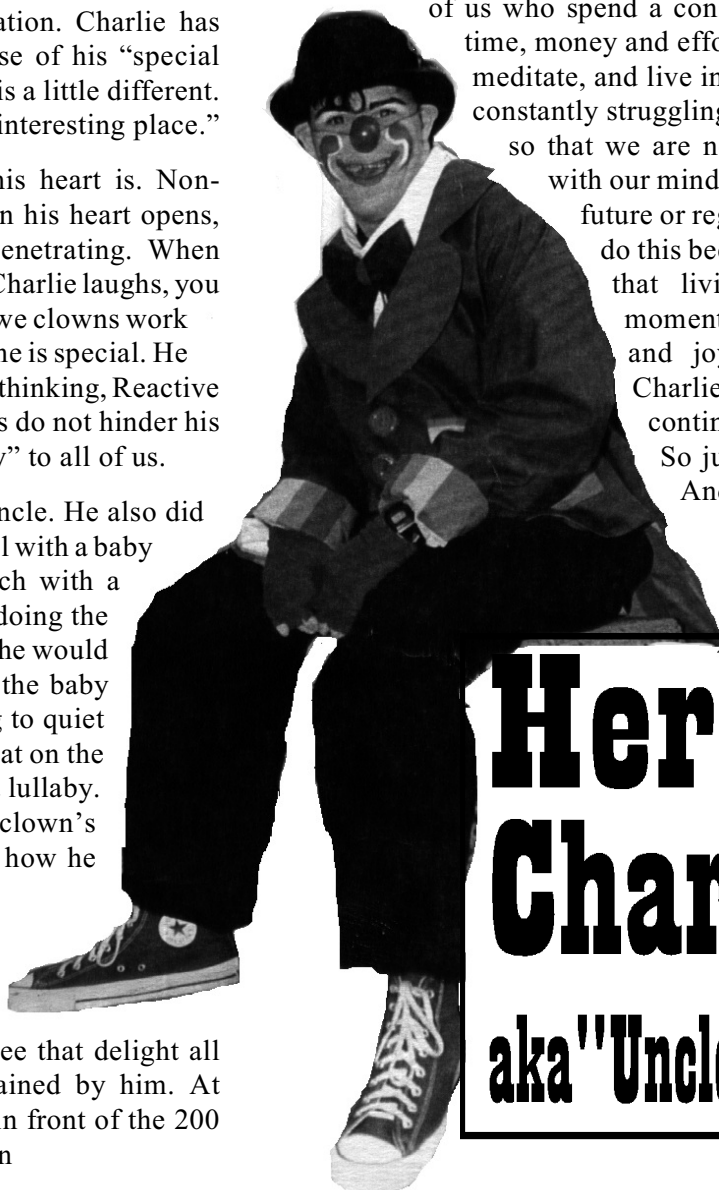
His signature act is his apple juggling -- and when he drops an apple, he exclaims "Apples Sauce" to the delight of all. It is his courage and glee that delight all who have the privilege to be entertained by him. At Clown Camp Uncle Baby performed in front of the 200 clowns and received a standing ovation

In the beginning when Charlie was "on stage" he had to learn that people were laughing because they appreciated him. They were not laughing at him.

Charlie likes to visits children in the hospital as a clown because they make him laugh. Of course Charlie makes the children laugh and the circle goes on and on. Charlie does not go on his own to hospitals nor does he perform alone. Arina and other performers are always there for support.

A thought keeps coming up in my mind. There are many of us who spend a considerable amount of time, money and effort to still our minds, meditate, and live in the present. We are constantly struggling with our schedules so that we are not wasting our days with our minds worrying about the future or regretting the past. We do this because we have found that living in the present moment is where creativity and joy abound. Here is Charlie. Living and loving continually in the present. So just who is different? And who is disabled!

--Shobi Dobi



**Here's
Charlie!
aka "Uncle Baby"**