



**we are  
family**

**tops in blue priors' newsletter**

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# 50th: Big Year Taking Shape

**WWTC, Reunion on the horizon; Priors help critical**

With a fifty-year legacy of entertainment excellence, commitment to "Family entertaining family," and contribution to the mission of the United States Air Force, the Air Force Entertainment program looks forward to 2003 and the celebration of its **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. And the support and assistance of Tops In Blue priors will be vital in making the commemoration a success.

The year will begin with the **Worldwide Talent Competition**, which is scheduled to be held **February 9-17, 2003** at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. As always, assistance is needed in a variety of areas such as administration, production, and logistics. Those who can help are asked to call Air Force Entertainment at 210-652-6566. In addition, priors are being asked to act as "talent scouts" to locate, motivate, and develop new talent locally and involve them in the program. A comprehensive package is now available from Air Force Entertainment to assist interested priors in these efforts. The deadline for contestant submissions for the 2003 contest is January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Another major part of this monumental celebration will be the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion**, the dates of which will be forthcoming. According to Tom Edwards, now is the time for the planning to begin. He says, "Our Tops In Blue family has continued to grow over the years. We need to make a concerted effort to locate and involve our priors in the planning process. We want this coming year to be a great tribute to the program."

So the call is out! AFE is looking to build a core of Tops In Blue priors to step-up and assist in all the logistical requirements needed to make the 50th Anniversary Reunion an event to remember. Most of the committee work can be done via email and phone, but some tasks may require a few trips to San Antonio. If special meetings in San Antonio are required, AFE will fund the cost of the ticket and lodging.

To make this an event to remember will take priors' dedication, motivation and, yes, legwork. If you are interested in helping contact **Jeri White** at AFE at 210-652-6566 or via e-mail at [jeri.white@agency.afsvs.af.mil](mailto:jeri.white@agency.afsvs.af.mil). As Tom says, "It's time to put the wheels in motion. So priors, in true TIB fashion, it's now...**ONYOU!**" For additional information and updates on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, check out "Newswatch" at <http://www.tibpriors.org/50th.htm>

## TAKING IT TO THE TOP!



Congrats to **Percy Lewis** who just had a big release party in San Antonio for his debut CD entitled "*All in Love is Fair*." **Amber Grimes** is now performing under the name "Keynote" and has a record deal with "N'Twine Records." She showcased her talents on the USO special, "For the Troops" and recently opened for the biggest band in Europe. Look her up at [www.ntwinerecords.com](http://www.ntwinerecords.com). **Dawn Ray** is currently performing with a German band in Herford, Germany and this past June, played at The Great American Brass Band Festival in Danville, KY. **Jeff Denton** is on tour with *Grand Parade*, a Chicago based musical and theatrical tribute to the early years of the progressive rock legends, Genesis. See him at [www.grand-parade.com](http://www.grand-parade.com). Yours truly **T.A. Burrows** has just been cast in a musical, "*Simply Sammy*," a tribute to Sammy Davis, Jr. And **Dennis Taylor** is recording on the Dome label in the UK....

# TOPS IN BLUE 2003 "THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA" ROLLING ALONG

TIB 2003, "The Spirit of America" continues to receive rave reviews on its World Tour. Here's the remainder of the tour schedule:

18 Sep Buechel AB	2 Nov Lackland AFB	7 Dec Clear AFB	18 Jan Kingsley Fld
20 Sep Ramstein AB	4 Nov Maxwell AFB	8 Dec Eielson AFB	21 Jan Beale AFB
21 Sep Spangdahlem AB	5 Nov Hurlburt Fld	9 Dec Eielson AFB	22 Jan Travis AFB*
22-30 TBA	6 Nov Eglin AFB	11 Dec Elemendorf AFB	24 Jan Vandenberg AFB
2 Oct Rhein Main AB	8 Nov Robins AFB	12 Dec Elemendorf AFB	25 Jan Edwards AFB
5 Oct Wiesbaden	10 Nov Charleston AFB	15 Dec Hickam AFB	28 Jan Nellis AFB
8 Oct Kosovo	11 Nov Shaw AFB	20 Dec Osan AB	29 Jan Luke AFB
9 Oct Skopje	12 Nov Pope AFB	21 Dec Osan AB	31 Jan D-Monthan AFB
10 Oct Tuzla	14 Nov S. Johnson AFB	25 Dec Kunsan AB	2 Feb Holloman AFB
14 Oct Shape	15 Nov Langley AFB	28 Dec Yokota AB	4 Feb Kirtland AFB
15 Oct Kalkar AB	16 Nov Andrews AFB	29 Dec Yokota AB	5 Feb Sheppard AFB
16 Oct Vokel AB	17 Nov Andrews AFB	31 Dec Misawa AB	6 Feb Randolph AFB*
18 Oct Kleine Brogel	19 Nov Bolling AFB	3 Jan Singapore	20 Feb Keesler AFB
20 Oct RAF Fairford	20 Nov Ft Meade	5 Jan Diego Garcia	23 Feb Tyndall AFB
21 Oct RAF Croughton	21 Nov Dover AFB	6 Jan Diego Garcia	25 Feb Macdill AFB
22 Oct RAF Molesworth	23 Nov Mcguire AFB*	9 Jan Kadena AB	26 Feb Patrick AFB
24 Oct RAF Lakenheath	24 Nov Hanscom AFB	10 Jan Kadena AB	27 Feb Moody AFB
25 Oct RAF Mildenhall	26 Nov Niagara Falls	12 Jan Andersen AFB	1 Mar Columbus AFB
27 Oct NAS Keflavik	30 Nov Wright Patt AFB	13 Jan Andersen AFB	3 Mar TBA
28 Oct NAS Keflavik	1 Dec Wright Patt AFB	16 Jan Mcchord AFB	4 Mar Barksdale AFB
30 Oct Thule AB	3 Dec Scott AFB	17 Jan Portland ANG*	7 Mar Lackland AFB

**"MOM" LOVES TOPS IN BLUE AND ALL OF HER "KIDS"**

When Linda Bowman's son Jay was selected to tour with Tops In Blue in 1998, she was so captivated by the program and the performers that after seeing the first show, she virtually adopted most of the cast members as her new "kids." Now four years later her family of "kids" has grown tremendously. Priors from around the world know her as "Mom B." It all began when she traveled to several shows during her son's tour. As she says, "I loved wandering around the countryside seeing 'my' kids perform. Then she met Tom Edwards for the first time and was touched by his dedication to the program. "So I got serious about TIB," she says, "and I tried to learn as much as I could about the whole program. What I learned was so interesting that I kept seeing the shows after '98 and learning more about TIB each year." When Jay was selected again in 2001, she saw the show eight times and adopted even more 'kids' along the way. "None of them ever called me Mrs. Bowman or Linda...it was always Mom or Mom B, and I started feeling like they were *all* "my kids!" This past year, she had the opportunity to

attend Worldwide at Lackland and she hopes to do it again next year. Why does she take the time to be so actively involved? It's because she loves the program; not only for what it does for those who see they show, but also for those who participate. "This program and the Chief bring out what's honest and real about these young folks and allows them the opportunity to grow as performers and as people. It teaches them how to work together and learn to love what they're doing and who they are! There's so much negativity in this world...but TIB is the most positive program I've EVER seen in my life! I love everything about TIB!" And it's been that love of the program that has endeared her to so many priors. She's become a permanent fixture on the TIB Priors bulletin board, staying in touch with her "kids." She also makes sure they're taken care of, going so far as to send "care packages" of her special homemade brownies to any priors who request them. Says Linda, "There are some of "my kids" that I've never even met! But, they're still "my kids"! As far as I'm concerned, every last person who is TIB is now "my kid" And unquestionably to each of us priors, she'll be forever know as "Mom B."

**Where Are They Now?****LUTHER REDDICK – Tops In Blue 1978, 1979, 1981 – Keyboards, Tour Director**

Uncle Lou retired from the AF in 1985. He went back to school and got his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He worked at TRW in Redondo Beach, CA for 10 years before transferring to the Regional Operations Audit Team and the Western Region Headquarters in La Mirada. Currently, he works at Parsons Engineering in Pasadena, CA as an internal auditor performing operational audits of Parsons' remote offices all over the USA. He also tunes pianos in his spare time, which is limited these days because he's currently working on his MBA and was recently inducted into the Delta Mu Delta Fraternity and Honor Society. And as if he wasn't busy enough, he is still active with his music as the Minister of Music for the Household of God in Lynwood, CA.

**FRANCINE NORROD – Tops In Blue 1988, 1989 - Vocalist**

Cenie says, "Yes, I'm still in the AF! I love the Air Force!" She is currently stationed at RAF Fairford in the U.K. with her husband Chris and their H.S. Senior, Ryley. Cenie continues to be a positive influence in the lives of others. "We've been taught to look for the potential in others," she says, "help change what needs changing, mature and encourage each other to be all that we can be... If we fail at that, we've missed the bus! Represent, is what the Chief always says, and I'm doing my best to do just that." As for music, she's still singing. She leads the Praise & Worship portion of the service at the base chapel, EPWOC events & local programs. She says, "My goal in church is not to 'perform' but to lead others into a worship experience with Him." She sends love to all of the TIB family.

**JERRY F. KEALLER - Tops in Blue 1984 – Technical Director and Performance Coordinator**

After retiring from the Air Force, Jerry returned to Florida to take care of his ailing parents. He also married his beautiful wife, Angel, who he met while serving his last tour of duty in Korea. He is currently a manager at Cracker Barrel Restaurant. His new family; Angel, Chris, and Tony keeps him busy, however he still finds time to do technical work for Edison Community College and the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Center. Song and laughter still fills his heart and he looks forward to what he calls the "biggest reunion of family to ever hit San Antonio TX". Says Jerry, "The 50th Anniversary is only months away and we must all do our part now to ensure we have each given something back to our program in return. Tops in Blue has made each of us who we are today."

**JIM & ALYSON QUINN – Tops In Blue 1987 – Guitarist & Vocalist**

Jim Quinn & Ally (Giese) Quinn met on the 1987 stateside TIB tour. He was a guitar player and she was a vocalist. She always teased him that she just stayed with him to have someone to carry her "House on wheels" TIB issued suitcase! After 15 years, he is still in charge of the luggage as well as hauling their music equipment up and down 3 flights of stairs. They perform together in a duo "Q2" (Q-squared). They perform a "Retro Request" format show with a big variety of song styles. They don't have any kids; just two very spoiled cats. They are currently living in Germany and enjoy traveling and performing around Europe. Their favorite hobby is volunteering with their community theater company.

**TIB "Blue Notes"**

Congrats to Jason & Bobbi Hosmon and ChiQuita & Larahn Frazier on their new babies, Quentin Larahn Frazier and Carly Mae Hosmon, born on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> respectively. Want a Roger mouse cursor? Bob's got one for ya at: <http://www.tibpriors.org/password/computers.htm> (username: TIB password: Clem)

In Memoriam  
Ron Gammon  
TIB 1953