

California Foundation for Occupational Therapy

www.cfot.org

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Electronic Newsletter

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) celebrated its 35th anniversary this year! The celebration occurred on October 28th at the 35th Annual Awards Ceremony Luncheon held in conjunction with the 40th Annual Conference of the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC). The CFOT had record attendance at the luncheon - over 170! We were thrilled to have so many joining in the celebrations of both organizations.

The CFOT presented scholarships and traineeships to occupational therapy students, a research grant, and monies for seed projects to occupational therapists. The CFOT celebrated the life of Chuck Strauch, the former executive director of OTAC and champion of occupational therapists. Awards were given including Certificates of Appreciation, Meritorious Service Award, and a Humanitarian Award. Lela Llorens, PhD, OTR/ret., FAOTA was the CFOT 2016 Honored Lecturer.

The CFOT engaged in fundraising for future scholarships and grants through a silent auction and matching challenge.



CFOT FOUNDING MOTHERS

The term “founding fathers” refers to individuals who are originators of a movement, organization, or an institution. These are individuals who help craft and establish the workings of the new entity. The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy has “founding mothers” based on the gender of the originators, a term coined by Betty Yerxa. The Founding Mothers are Lois Barber, OTR, FAOTA; Julie Shaperman, MSPH, OTR/L, FAOTA; Evelyn Jaffe, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA; and Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR, FAOTA.

(Pictured below as listed above from left to right)



They are all highly esteemed occupational therapists who were committed to establishing a foundation to support education and research in California.

Elizabeth Yerxa was a director at large and Betty and Julie conducted meetings of the newly formed board in the Southern California area. Betty was Chair and Professor of the Occupational Therapy Department at USC.

Julie Shaperman was the first treasurer of OTAC and spearheaded the legal aspects of forming a foundation. She wrote the By-Laws which were approved by the OTAC board. CFOT received the approval from the California Secretary of State in 1981. Julie then became the secretary and treasurer of CFOT. Julie worked at the UCLA Child Amputee Project.

Evelyn Jaffe was the first president of CFOT and served as president for 19 years. Under her leadership, Evie assembled a group of dedicated individuals to fundraise and to organize the giving of scholarships, research grants and awards. Evie worked at the UCSF Health Policy Group and was involved in a research project focused on helping individuals navigate health care.

Lois Barber was a director at large and instrumental in designing the first brochure for CFOT. Lois was formerly the Chief of OT at the Downy Hand Center and the President of LMB Hand Rehabilitation Products.

Other individuals were appointed to develop key functions of the foundation. The CFOT is proud to honor the shapers of these functions.

CFOT AWARDS

The 2016 CFOT Awards included Certificates of Appreciation, Meritorious Service Award, Humanitarian Awards and the Honored Lectureship.

Certificates of Appreciation

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual, agency, business or other institution for consistent significant service or other contributions to CFOT. The CFOT awarded two certificates of appreciation in 2016.

Frank Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA

Frank Gainer is the Director of Conferences for AOTA. Several years ago, Frank attended the OTAC conference and stopped by the CFOT booth. He asked how we got

donations for the silent auction. He said he might have something to donate - time at his time share in Las Vegas - would we be interested? Indeed we were!! The silent auction is one way in which we raise money towards scholarships, traineeships, research grants and seed money grants. Frank has been doing this since 2011 and this silent auction item is in high demand. It has helped us raise money for our foundation efforts. *(Pictured below)*



Bob Knox

Bob Knox has provided wonderful hospitality to CFOT board members several times a year for many years. The board of directors has been meeting at the home of Sue and Bob Knox. Bob has done transport service to and from Burbank airport for our members from the North, has made coffee and tea and keeps an eye on our cups for seconds or thirds, and helps with kitchen set up and clean up at our potluck lunches. He also shares any financial tips with his wife, Sue, our treasurer. He does this with good cheer and always a welcoming smile. *(Pictured below)*



CFOT Meritorious Service Award

The purpose of this award is to honor an individual who has demonstrated exceptional effort on behalf of the CFOT for over five or more years and who has made a major impact on the mission, goals, and objectives of CFOT in the present and for the future.

Sarah Kelly, OT/L

Sarah Kelly has served the CFOT in many positions over a number of years. It is difficult to remember a time when Sarah was not a contributing voice to CFOT policies and future directions. She has been a member of and chair of the CFOT Steering Committee, a past Chair of the Recognitions and Awards Committee and the immediate past Secretary of CFOT. She helped organize the nomination and award process for CFOT. As Secretary, she made sense of several people talking at once and captured the core ideas and deliberations in the minutes. Her minutes made all of us seem thoughtful and organized!

Throughout her years with CFOT, Sarah has demonstrated skill, poise, and grace. She is a thoughtful presence who contributes excellent ideas to any discussion. The CFOT looks forward to having her continue her involvement with CFOT as a member at large. *(Pictured below)*



2016 CFOT Humanitarian Award

The purpose of this award is to honor individuals or groups who, through their humanitarian activities, have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the philosophical principles of occupational therapy. The CFOT is honored to present the 2016 CFOT Humanitarian Award to John Hwang for his work with individuals on Skid Row.

John Hwang is an occupational therapist who received his degree from the University of Southern California. His work with individuals on skid row began following a chance encounter with a homeless person on a bridge in downtown L.A. The individual who was homeless began talking to John and John says that they were just talking about nothing in particular - just talking. He then told John that he was on the bridge because he was going to jump off and kill himself but their conversation made him feel better and gave him hope in life. *(Pictured below)*



Following that encounter, John was profoundly moved and he wanted to learn more about the nature of the homeless population and what their stories were. He began visiting Skid Row almost every day. John headed out to Skid Row without any agenda, plan or idea of what he was doing. He simply wanted to build relationships with the people there and make himself available to care for them in any way he could. John never thought of himself as a savior or problem fixer - he went as a learner, servant, an equal, and friend. He talked with people, listened to any stories they wanted to tell and photographed those who gave him permission. He began posting the stories and photos on his personal Facebook page. He received so many responses and had so many people following his Facebook page that he created a separate page dedicated to these stories and photos which he named Skid Row Stories. In Skid Row Stories John documents and tells the struggles of those he encounters on Skid Row and the streets of L.A. He brings compassion, respect, and dignity to each person's unique circumstance. The CFOT urges you to view this website and become familiar with the individuals John has

When John is not connecting with people living on skid row, he visits L.A. area animal shelters and engages his keen photographic eye to record the emotion of dogs awaiting homes. His photos have facilitated adoption. His story and photo of Oliver whom he named the praying Chihuahua was featured on Channel 7's Good Morning America.

Throughout this personal journey, John has simplified and focused his life. He moved out of his apartment and into a small converted garage with his dogs. He sold or gave away many of his possessions. He has maintained his license to practice occupational therapy but has chosen to leave full time employment and devote himself to understanding the lives of those he encounters on the streets of L.A. and to visiting and photographing animals in shelters in hopes of facilitating adoption.

John's work has gained the attention of people throughout the area including local media. He has been interviewed on KPCC on two different segments: Off Ramp and Take Two. In 2016, he was featured in the California Community Foundation's Portraits of Compassion, as one of 30 Unsung Heroes of Los Angeles County. The Portraits of Compassion celebrate everyday people doing extraordinary things.

John is drawn to this work and is doing it for his own spiritual growth and journey. He says "One thing I want to make clear is that this isn't about me. It's about all of us. So many people have reached out to me wanting to help out in some way - whether by giving donations, purchasing needed items, sending encouragement and prayers or just simply having an open heart and being moved by the stories. Everyone using their own unique gifts and talents for the greater good." John's work with people and animals embodies the humanitarian ideals the Humanitarian Award celebrates.



2016 Honored Lectureship

The CFOT Honored Lectureship was established to recognize occupational therapists in the state of California who have demonstrated leadership, promoted ideas and vision in occupational therapy for the profession, and to provide the occupational therapy community an opportunity to hear them speak at a public gathering.

Dr. Llorens received her Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from Western Michigan University, Master of Arts degree in Vocational Rehabilitation from Wayne State University, her PhD from Walden University and a Certificate in Gerontology from San Jose State University. Dr. Llorens' professional career has covered over fifty years. *(Pictured below)*



Her positions have included clinician, researcher, writer, editor, consultant, teacher and administrator. Academic positions held include Professor, Chair and Graduate Coordinator in the Departments of Occupational Therapy at San Jose State University and the University of Florida and Adjunct Faculty of the University of Southern California.

Dr. Llorens has published extensively in the occupational therapy literature and in Allied Health and Gerontology. Her service to the profession includes numerous professional presentations and consultations. Dr. Llorens has received prestigious honors from many organizations that include the AOTA Award of Merit, the Eleanor Clark Slagle Lectureship, and the Roster of Fellows. She received the A. Jean Ayres Award, and the Meritorious Award from the AOTF. Dr. Llorens is a recipient of the AOTA and AOTF President's Commendation. She is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from OTAC.

Dr. Llorens' lecture was titled "Implementing Occupations for Health and Well Being: A Personal Story". Dr. Llorens distributed a handout titled Lela's New Life in which she illustrated the process of reorganization of life priorities following the death of her husband Joe. She took us through the changes she needed to make in the occupations meaningful to her at a different stage in life. It was a process very meaningful to all as everyone has had to adjust to different living patterns for a variety of reasons. The lecture was honest, powerful, and full of grace. The OT community gave her a standing ovation and we all wish her well in her new life transition.

HONORING CHUCK STRAUCH

The CFOT distributed a one page document titled Charles L Strauch, OTAC Executive Director and Lobbyist 1986-2008. It included a picture of Chuck and a narrative written by Diane Hendricks which is included on the CFOT website under Newsletters. Diane crafted his story as one of strength, commitment and perseverance leaving all of us a legacy of leadership, pride, and tradition. Diane is one of the Past Association Presidents (PAPs) with whom Chuck had special admiration and devotion and they of him.

(Pictured below)



Chuck worked closely with CFOT during his years as executive director. He valued the granting of scholarships, research grants, and the recognition of leaders through the Honored Lectureship and Humanitarian Award. He was admired, respected and so much fun! Chuck was a delightful and unforgettable presence. The CFOT board voted to establish a permanent scholarship in his name and the first one was given this year. We thank the PAPs for their generous contribution of \$7750 toward this.

Doris Strauch, Chuck's wife and companion of many years, was introduced. She was thanked for introducing Chuck's golf buddies to his role in occupational therapy and for engaging them in fundraising for this scholarship. Doris donated many items to the silent auction and she also donated the money she received from selling his golf cart to the scholarship fund.

ENSURING OUR FUTURE

After 35 years of successful support for OT scholarships and research in California, CFOT has embarked on a plan to ensure that it can continue to provide this support in the future. By establishing an endowment, CFOT can continue in future years to provide educational scholarships and support OT researchers in California. This is how the plan works: Those of you who wish to participate provide \$2,500 -- in installments over several years or as a lump sum. These supporters are recognized as Charter Members of the CFOT Legacy Circle and continue to receive special commendation by CFOT. By joining the CFOT Living Legacy Circle you are making a difference for a lifetime. The contributions in the endowment fund are invested so they will grow in value each year. The earnings from these investments may be used each year to support California OTs with scholarships and/or research funds, or they may be re-invested for added growth. Please join the pioneers who have started the Legacy Circle with a full contribution. You may send a full or partial contribution to:

CFOT, 3458 La Sombra Drive, Hollywood, CA 90068.

Mark your contribution for the Legacy Circle.

Charter members of the CFOT Legacy Circle:

Michele Berro

Linda Florey

Evelyn Jaffe

Susan Knox

Bonita Kraft

Shawn Phipps

Julie Shaperman

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

This year the CFOT awarded \$21,000 in scholarships, \$2500 in traineeships, \$4500 in research, and \$1240 in seed money requests! In conference fundraising we generated monies through the silent auction and through matching the fundraising we generated through the challenge board worn through the exhibit hall. Bonita Kraft, Michele Berro, and Linda Florey matched amounts up to \$500. Thank you conference attendees as we gained monies well beyond \$500! Thank you to those contributing a named scholarship, to everyone contributing auction items and contributing to our fundraising efforts. We are very, very grateful for your current support and your ongoing support for the past 35 years!

2016 SCHOLARSHIP AND TRAINEESHIP RECIPIENTS

Janice Matsutsuyu Scholarships

Shari Poindexter - West Coast University

Kristine Carandang Malixi - University of Southern California

Jaffe Graduate Scholarship

Tina Sehremelis - University of Southern California

Knox-Hirsch Scholarship

Michelle Kanda - University of Southern California

Ardith Breton Scholarship

Sandy Kuoeh - Samuel Merritt University

Fred Sammons Scholarships

Erwin Borja - University of Southern California

Yekaterina (Cathy) Shutaya - University of Southern California

North Coast Medical Scholarship

Abbie Gregory - University of Southern California

Wilma West Scholarship

Aishani Patel - Loma Linda University

Dr. Martin Shaperman Scholarship

Whitney Boetel - Stanbridge College

Bonita Kraft Scholarship

Paulina Ho - University of Southern California

Michele Berro Scholarship in memory of

Mary Ann Epstein

Calvin Cheng - Cal State University Dominguez Hills

Every Child Achieves, Inc. Scholarship

Elizabeth Giancola - Cal State University Dominguez Hills

Frank J. Biehl Opportunity Scholarship

Megan Dominguez - Cal State University Dominguez Hills

CFOT Scholarship - Marie Thomas

Laura Trimbel - Samuel Merritt University

OTAC 40th Anniversary Scholarship

Lorelei Bigamon - University of Southern California

Chuck Strauch Scholarship

Melissa Joy Yeung - University of Southern California



Back Row- Sandy Kuoeh, Melissa Yeung, Cathy Shutaya, Lorelei Binghamton, Erwin Borja

Front Row- Aishani Patel, Megan Dominguez, Tina Sehremelis, Kristine Carandang, Elizabeth Giancola, Shari Poindexter

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT TRAINEESHIPS

Janice Matsutsuyu Traineeship

Aristoteles Galindo - Santa Ana College

Los Angeles Consultants Group Traineeships

Lisa Marie Voyles - Sacramento City College

Shaun Goose - Grossmont College

Melissa Anderson - American Career College



Shaun Goose, Dominique Pinto, Aristoles Galindo, Melissa Anderson

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RESEARCH AWARDS

Carol Haywood, MOT, OTR/L - University of Southern California

"Understanding Daily Living and Participation for Adolescents and Young Adults with a Spinal Cord Injury and Their Caregivers"

SEED MONEY AWARDS

Kayla Comer, Kelly Findlay, Tiffany Huang, Mathew Tong - Dominican University

"Effects of the Lifestyle-Integrated Functional Exercise (LIFE) Program on Fall Risk in Older Adults"

Alison Chandler, Katherine Blank, Malcom Isley, Serena Soria, Yasmin Zaw - Dominican University

"Validation of the Medication Box Task Assessment"

Penny Stack - Loma Linda University

"Dyslexia and Its Impact on Occupation: The Lived Experience"

Kristen Henderson, Michelle Chan, Kelsie Colombini, Courtney Malachowski - Dominican University

"Occupational Therapy for Cardiac Surgery Patients in the Intensive Care Unit"

Tiffany Young, Jazmin Arellano, Trudy Dong, Amanda Huang, Tiffany Que-Smith - San Jose State University

"Personal Response (PERS) Workshop for Older Adults"

Please visit the CFOT website –

www.cfot.org/research for more information on Research Grant Applications and Seed Money Request (both Research Projects and Program Development) opportunities.

ATTENTION STUDENTS AND FACULTY

CFOT Scholarships are available for 2017

Students enrolled in Entry-Level degree and Post-Professional Graduate degree programs are eligible for a scholarship. The deadline for applications for both the Entry-Level and Post-Professional CFOT scholarships is **March 31st.**

For more information, students should feel free to access the CFOT website at www.cfot.org or feel free to call or write:

Laura Weiss, MS, OTR/L

CFOT scholarship co-chair

818-700-5648

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Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

CFOT scholarship co-chair

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SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks to OTAC for the continuing support to CFOT philosophically and financially. OTAC provides the CFOT with 1% of dues money to use for overhead when financially feasible. This year was a great year for OTAC and for CFOT as well!



Linda Florey and Heather J. Kitching

A very special thanks to Katie Gundersen, MS, OTR/L and Bonita Kraft, OTR/L for organizing and reorganizing the CFOT luncheon! Reorganization was necessary as we had over 170 attend! Thank you to Diana Su-Erickson, OTR/L and Danielle Meglio, COTA/L for orchestrating the booth and silent auction!



CFOT BOARD MEMBERS

President: Linda Florey, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Vice President: Julie Shaperman, MSPH, OTR/L, FAOTA

Secretary: Michele Berro, MA, OTR/L

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Bylaws & Policies: Julie Shaperman, MSPH, OTR/L, FAOTA

Conference: Katie Gundersen, MS, OTR/L

Bonita Kraft, OTR/L

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Mary Johnston, MA, OTR/L

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Danielle Meglio, COTA/L, MLD/COT

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Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR, FAOTA

Pat Nagaishi, PhD, MA, OTR/L

Please visit us at:

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