



# Newsletter



## President's Message



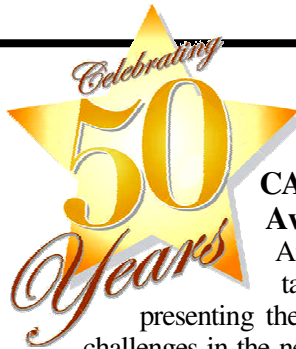
★ Dear *Friends of CARES*,

No celebration of all that CARES has accomplished would be complete without celebrating “the vigor, commitment, kindness and caring” of *Weta Mathies*. *Dr. Alexandra Levine* described her perfectly as she presented the first and only CARES Lifetime Achievement Award to a surprised *Weta* for her 50 years of invaluable service to CARES and to the patients of LAC+USC Medical Center.

*Weta* has donated countless volunteer hours, including serving twice as CARES President, traveling in 1969 to Sacramento to get permission to have gift shops in all County Hospitals, flying to Washington, DC, to accept a national award for CARES, helping to plan and run movie premieres, fashion shows, golf tournaments, dinner dances, horse shows, rummage sales...and the list goes on. She spearheaded the establishment of CARES Childcare Centers for the safety of the patients' children. We thank her for her continuous efforts on behalf of our patients and for bringing true meaning to her award for “Lifetime Achievement.”

Congratulations, *Weta!*

*Mindy Halls*, President



**CARES 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon** began fittingly with the CARES Annual Report listing current projects which CARES is tackling (including the remodel of the Peds ER) and presenting the CARES Board members willing to take on those challenges in the next fiscal year. One of CARES very special partners,

*Maria Tomé*, Certified Child Life Specialist, spoke compassionately about the many ways she helps pediatric patients, including the terminally ill, to cope with the anxiety of being in the hospital or the devastating death of loved ones. Using some props provided by CARES (medical play table, etc.), she uses play to alleviate the fears of the children and to get them familiar with medical procedures, making them less scary. CARES was happy to showcase the work that is done in the hospital on a day to day basis that makes such a difference in the lives of the patients.



Keynote Speaker *Maria Tomé* & LAC+USC Volunteer of the Year, *Billy Peng*



*Dr. Levine, Weta Mathies & Weta's Son Bill Mathies*

To help celebrate CARES 50th, a “CARES Timeline of Services from 1969 to 2019” was printed in the Annual Meeting program (let us know if you would like a copy) and a slide show of photos titled a “History of CARING” was shown continuously during lunch. Many were happy to see photos of CARES events and activities from long ago through the present. Reminiscing was fun! Highlights had much to do with making sure patients had a safe place to leave their children while attending to medical needs, making the hospital environment comforting and friendly, and caring for the many needs of the patients that the hospital can't provide—An amazing run!



*Dr. Shukla & Dr. Spellberg*



*Jagruiti Shukla, M.D., MPH*, Director of Primary Care at LAC+USC Medical Center, was presented the award for CARES 2019 Woman of the Year in Medicine by *Dr. Brad Spellberg*, Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Spellberg attributes the turn around in General Medicine and Primary Care at LAC+USC to Dr. Shukla's amazing ability to oversee 10 clinics which serve over 50,000 patients. Dr. Shukla is also the Chair of the L. A. County Dept. of Health Services Primary Care Work Group. Highly committed to working with underserved populations, she is particularly interested in innovation in primary care and has won numerous honors and awards. She has been involved in healthcare improvement initiatives both in the U.S. and internationally in Mexico, South Africa, Cuba and Honduras. Her community service includes Vice Chair of the San Francisco Mental Health Board and volunteering at the Sojourn Shelter for battered women and St. Joseph Center for Homeless. She is a graduate of the Harvard School of Public Health and the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) Health Care Leadership Program. Thank you, Dr. Shukla!





# CARES Annual Meeting: Special Friends Celebrate 50 Years of Service



Retired Administrative Assistants (L-R): **Sara Valdez, Ofelia Holguin, Janis Holody, Mona Ysabal, Agnes Chaney, & Mindy Halls.**



Clockwise from top: **Margarite Payne**, CARES Board Member **Maureen Flannery**, **Patti Sweet**, CARES Financial VP **Christine Rufolo**, **Shirley Eberts**, and **Elaine Marshall**



Retired RNs: **Sarah McKinney, Kathy Lohr, Mary Richardson, Emma Farmer, Marie Kelly, and Doris Wong DeHart**



**Linda Cantwell**



**Kay Fife**



**Linda Massey**



Front: Retired Nursing Dir. **Sarah McKinney, RN**, Ret. Asst. Nursing Directors: **Emma Farmer, RN & Vicki Carlson, RN, Susie Nakao, RN**  
Back: **Rose Cortez, RN, Marlene Vasquez, RN, Lois Ramer, RN, NP**



Two Former CARES Presidents: **Anita Tsuji**, Co-4th VP (Gift Shops) & **Ruth Turner** (Board Member), with **Karen Long Santos**, Co-4th VP (Thrift Shop)

Throughout its history, CARES has felt strongly about honoring special nurses for the difference that their caring makes to the patients. **Isabel Milan, RN**, Chief Nursing Officer, thanked CARES for supporting the nurses of the Medical Center with the Daisy Program which is the biggest morale booster that the hardworking and compassionate nurses of the Medical Center have. As part of the new tradition at the CARES Annual Meeting to honor the CARES Nurses of the Year named the previous May, this year we were able to honor **Violeta Perez, RN, BSN, CCRN, LAC+USC** Nurse of the Year, for her expert caring of critically burned patients. A frontline nurse in the American Burn Association and also named the Nurse of the Year for the entire County of Los Angeles, she contributed to the confirmation of LAC+USC as a Burn Center! **Esmeralda Corona, LVN** (left corner), LAC+USC LVN of the Year, could not attend, but her patient way of dealing with not only the physical, but the emotional aspects of her patients' illnesses continues to set her apart.



**Violeta Perez, RN** (center), with **Isabel Milan, RN**, and **Jorge Orozco, CEO**





Serving Patients of the LAC+USC Medical Center since 1969



**Celebrating CARES Programs and Partners:**  
Holiday Giving, Cough Bears & Hearts for Coronary Care Patients ,  
Community Involvement by Sewing Quilts & Baby Items for Palliative  
Care, Pediatric & Infant Patients, the CARES Music Program...



**Anna Nudelman, Inez Beckon-English, & Sheila Lynn**, caring Social Workers, past & present, partner with CARES to advocate for patients to be assisted through the Patient Crises Fund and Holiday Giving



Quilter **Marilyn Brisendine & Robin Clarke** (top) with (L-R bottom) **Michelle Zagorsky**, Event Co-Chair & Co-First VP **Norma Zagorsky** who makes and delivers quilts from Wandering Foot & Linus Quilt Guilds, & **Cecilia Melendres**, HSC



**Elia Riley**, Patient Visitor, gives comfort, smiles and hand-made quilts to palliative and coronary care patients



Annual Meeting guests enjoyed learning a little more about CARES Programs while getting to know some of the pianists from the CARES Music Program, (pictured left) **Richard Brock, RN**, and **Ruth Young**, whom many have already had the pleasure of hearing play in the hospital.

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*It was a star-studded day of tributes gathered for a proud 50 years!*



Arts Council: **Barbara Oliver**, Chair, & **Janis Holody**, bring the healing quality of art to patients by placing artwork throughout the LAC+USC Medical Center

**Child Life, CARES Annual Meeting Featured Partner, invites CARES Child & Family Program Children to Nickelodeon Day!**



**Paw Patrol**



**Nissim Leon**, Chief of Operations for CARES Child & Family Program, sang his well known (to the children) rendition of the Sponge Bob Square Pants song. It was a happy day for pediatric patients and childcare children!



# 12th Annual Trauma Survivor Reunion: Celebrating Survivors & Medical Staff—Superheroes All!



Survivor Raul



Patients connected with Doctors: **Daniel & Dr. Demetrios Demetriades**, Chief of Trauma



Nurses connected with Patients: **Martha Navarro, RN, & Christine Mercado, RN**, greet **Bryan Stow** who suffered severe brain damage in a March 2011 assault at Dodger Stadium, and is starting to feel 'whole' again by sharing his anti-bullying message with kids



Patients connected with Nurses: **Mauricio & Lily Wong De Guzman, RN**



Medical Center Staff showed their support: **Inez Beckon-English**, Soc. Worker, **Lynda Rivas, RN**, **Philip Moore**, Clinical Affairs & Prog. Development



Survivor **Gilbert** had three "Heroes": **Christian, Jacob and Aliyah**



Survivor Nicholas



Survivor José



Survivor **Marina** (also showing her personal poster) thanks her "Heroes" **Adolfo Garcia & Margarita Aguilar**



Survivor **Daniel's** "Hero" was his wife **Judy**

This year, **Returning Survivors** were asked to name someone who was their "Hero" during their recovery, which really fit into the Superhero theme of the event. With great emotion and celebration, each Hero was presented with a certificate. **Daryl Evans**, LA Kings radio commentator and former Olympian **David Brinton** (4X World Champion Cyclist) were on hand to help with the presentations.



**Daryl Evans & David Brinton** helped Survivor **Anne** thank the whole **Srithongkham, Bayan, & Dam Families** for being her heroes!



Survivor Rodolfo



Survivors were given red totes filled with gifts



Survivor Ed

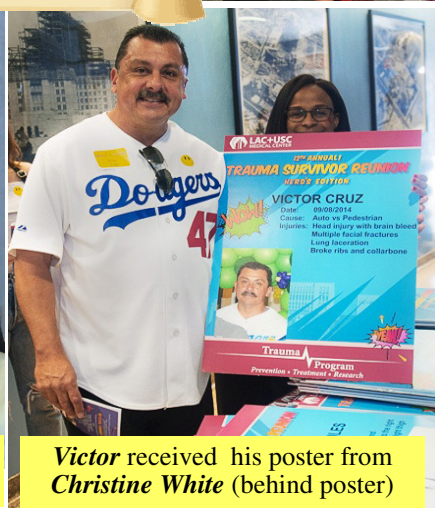
Each returning Survivor's poster explaining their injuries was displayed. Their recoveries are a testament to their caregivers & their own spirit to live!



CARES Board assisted with all aspects of event: **Vivian Saldivar**, Volunteer Coordinator, **Christine Rufolo**, CARES Financial VP (also on the right)



**Maureen Flannery & Kathy Lohr, RN**, registered Survivors & families as they arrived



**Victor** received his poster from **Christine White** (behind poster)



A hug for Survivor **Angel** whose story moved listeners



Survivor Woody



Survivor Zoe



Survivor Anthony



**It was a day full of gratitude for hope and life!**

All photos by LAC+USC Medical Photography



Congratulations go to **Dr. Lydia Lam**, organizer of this touching tribute to patients and staff, shown standing with Trauma Doctors



Survivor **Israel** spoke bravely about painful memories



Survivor Samantha



Survivor Andrea





**Lauri A. Parson, RN, LAC+USC Nurse of the Year, with her proud family**

**On behalf of CARES, Emma Farmer, RN, presented three LAC+USC Nurse of the Year Awards: RN, APN and LVN**

After graduating from Northwestern, **Lauri A. Parson** began her first career working as a chemical engineer to troubleshoot and design processes for developing petroleum products. This career was stimulating scientifically, but she missed the camaraderie and interaction of working with others. When her children entered middle and high school, she decided to return to school herself to pursue an occupation that could combine her science background with her passion for working with people. In 2014, she became a registered nurse in the surgical field. The OR is where she feels she has found her calling because she is able to work with a team, her second family, to bring safe compassionate care to each patient, one at a time. And she loves it!



**Lauri A. Parson, RN**



**Charlotte Garcia, RN, CRNA**

**Charlotte Garcia, RN, CRNA**, is the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year. After graduating from the Los Angeles County School of Nursing, she was awarded a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Cal State LA. After working for many years as a staff nurse, supervising staff nurse, then critical care nurse at both LAC+USC and Harbor UCLA, she was admitted to the USC Program of Nurse Anesthesia and received her Master's Degree in Nursing in 2001.



**Kari Mai Cole, CRNA, Isabel Milan, RN, Emma Farmer, RN (CARES), Charlotte Garcia, RN, CRNA, Jorge Orozco, CEO, Stephen Sener, MD**

As a Nurse Anesthetist at LAC+USC, and Instructor of Clinical Anesthesiology for the Keck School of Medicine, she became the Director of Simulation Education in 2010. In 2015, she received a Doctoral Degree in Education from the USC Rossier School of Education. Currently her efforts as Simulation Director involve curriculum standardization and interprofessional education as a means of patient safety improvement. Her goal is to help LAC+USC achieve recognition as a Magnet hospital by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center.



**James Jordan, LVN, and the "Leadership Team"**

**James Jordan, LVN**, LVN of the Year, explained how he became a nurse and why it is so important for him to treat every patient like family. He spent long hours with his mother Patricia as she battled stage four lung cancer. Each day was a small victory, however, much time was spent crying, holding each other's hands and talking about the past. Over the next two years, his path to health-care and nursing was solidified.



**James Jordan, LVN**

As he accompanied his mother to treatment, he found himself watching the nurses. They were attentive and compassionate, showing Patricia the gentle kindness you would show to your own family member. It wasn't just the fact that they were giving her life saving treatments, they took the time to learn about her. They talked to her about her love of gardening, they knew about her family, they tried making everything as painless as possible. Because of those nurses, he decided to make becoming an RN his personal goal.

He first worked as a CNA while attending the LVN program. He did rotations at many different locations, but found his roots and passion in pediatrics where he could be a voice for those who are often voiceless. Just as the nurses who cared for Patricia were her advocates, he wanted to do the same for children. Since graduating from the LVN program with academic honors, he has been working toward his RN and wants eventually to complete the FNP program to work in public health. The compassion shown by the nurses who cared for Patricia has stayed with him as well as the belief that caring for patients is a privilege. They have inspired him to become a nurse that makes a difference.


CARES proudly sponsored the LAC+USC Nurse Awards by donating flowers, leis, balloons & decorations for the event, and congratulated all 24 Merit Award Winners with gifts and a CARES Shops' Gift Card.







# Heartfelt thanks to the following generous supporters who have donated between 2/1/19-5/31/19:

This heart  next to donor indicates donations made in memory of special persons. An \* indicates donations made "in honor of"

- \$20,000 *Anonymous*
- \$2,000 *Kuniko Higaki* \*Toby Horn
- \$2,000 *Laura M. Wilson & Associates*
- \$1,000 *Allen Mathies, M.D.* \*Weta Mathies
- \$1,000 *Bill Mathies (& Bank of America)*  
\*Lifetime Achievement Awardee Weta Mathies
- \$1,000 *Jorge Mestman, M.D.* Florence Mestman
- \$1,000 *Annie Ternate, RN*



## Special Tribute Messages Sent by Donors in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of CARES:

To *Richard Brock, RN*: Enriching so many lives through music! (from *Susie Nakao, RN*)

To *Nancy Castillo*: For your dedication and love of and for CARES all these years (from *Marlene Pendleton*); Strong work (from *Sheila Lynn*)

To *Margie Dolinski*: The backbone for CARES for so many years (from *Vicki Carlson*; (from *Mary Blair*)

To *Mindy Halls*: Thank you to you and Jim for all your many years of dedication to USC/LA County Hospital (from *Doris & Hervey Segall*); Great dedicated President! (from *Margaret Morales*)

To *Betty Ann Hibbard*: As the LAC+USC Volunteer Services Director, you trusted my secretarial abilities. I was honored to work with and for you, the "Professional Volunteer." (from *Ofelia Holguin*); In memory of Betty Ann Hibbard and the exceptional volunteers who continue her legacy (from *Bonnie Borchardt*)

To *Toby Horn*: Thank you for developing and implementing the wonderful musical program at LAC+USC Medical Center (from *Ann Hayman*); Music stirs soul (from *Kuniko Higaki*); Music! (from *Julie Frederick-Mairs*)

To *Toby Horn & Weta Mathies*: Love you ladies! (from *Rodanthi Kitridou, MD*)

To *LAC+USC Nurse Managers Past & Current* (from *Elizabeth Mancuso*)

To *Dr. Robert Israel*: 1969-2019

To *Weta Mathies*: As a founder member your dedicated service throughout the years has been extraordinary (from *Dr. Allen Mathies*)

To *Joanne Moore*: past volunteer (from *Teresa L. Peebles*)

To *CARES Staff*, Margie, Maritza, Marisela, Vivian, Karla, Nancy: Could not accomplish all this without you (from *Cynthia Berne*); All of you are the backbone of every CARES endeavor, Thank you! (from *Toby Horn*)

To *Our Volunteer Musicians*: You heal our patients and ease the burden of our dedicated employees. You make our hearts sing! (from *Toby Horn*)

- Laurel Lee Anderson* Dr. Richard E. Anderson
- Anonymous*
- Maria B. Appleman, Ph.D.* Aida Duarte
- Dr. John Freedom Dr. Tom Berne
- Dr. Raquel D. Arias*
- Gwen & Guilford Babcock*
- Elizabeth Baca* \*Agnes Chaney
- Inez Beckon-English*
- Cynthia Berne* \*CARES Office Staff
- Yvonne Biller*
- Mary Blair* \*Margie Dolinski
- Bonnie Borchardt* Betty Ann Hibbard
- Mary & Jay John Brown, M.D.*
- Vicki Carlson, RN* \*Margie Dolinski
- Anita Freedom
- Joel & Nancy Castillo* Dr. Art Donovan
- Clara Haines Toni Dolinski
- Kenneth & Linda Chan*
- Dr. Stebbins & Mary Chandor* \*Mindy & Jim Halls
- Agnes Chaney* Clara Haines Toni Dolinski
- Dr. Shahbudhin Rahimtoola
- College Women's Club of Pasadena* \*Dr. Alexandra Levine
- Margie Dolinski* Dr. Bruce Zawacki Clara Haines
- Dr. Don & Jackie Feinstein* \*Mindy Halls
- Kay Fife* Dr. Tom Berne Dr. & Mrs. John Mohler
- Julie Frederick-Mairs* \*Toby Horn
- Bob Galligan* Carol Galligan Dr. Bruce Zawacki
- Sally C. Goldstein*
- Dr. and Mrs. Jay Gordonson*
- Mindy & Jim Halls, M.D.*
- David & Phyllis Hancock*
- Margaret Hatfield*
- Ann C. Hayman* \*Toby Horn
- Hanna & Gerald Hayman
- Cynthia Hibbard*
- Edythe Hinkston* Horace Hinkston
- Fang Fang Ho*
- Ofelia Holguin* Betty Ann Hibbard
- Yoshi & May Honkawa*
- Toby Horn & Harold Tomin* \*Martha Galaif
- \*Carol Nidorf, Doris Wong DeHart, Dr. Rodanthi Kitridou
- \*CARES Office Staff & Volunteer Musicians
- Dr. Jennifer Israel* \*Dr. Robert Israel
- Dr. Robert Israel* Dr. Charles Ballard
- Denis M. Johnson* Clara Haines
- Mireya Jones*
- Dr. Mary M. Joseph*
- Margaret V. Kaufman* \*Weta Mathies' Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dr. Rodanthi Kitridou* \*Weta Mathies & Toby Horn
- Michael Konoske* Toni Dolinski

- Consuelo Ledbetter*
- Dr. Eric Leibovitch*
- Alexandra Levine, M.D.*
- Kathleen S. Lohr* Aaron Lohr
- Sheila Ann Lynn* \*Nancy Castillo
- Elizabeth Mancuso, RN*
- Consuelo Martinez* Francisco Martinez
- Linda Massey*
- Cindy McCrummen* Toni Dolinski
- Shawn McGowan*
- Sarah McKinney*
- Dr. Nancy Miller*
- Margaret Morales* \*Mindy Halls
- Gerald & Ruth Munoz, RN*
- Susie Nakao, RN* \*Richard Brock
- Mary Nelson*
- Carol Salva Nidorf* Clara Haines
- Camille Ortiz-Marroquin*
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Patzakis*
- Teresa L. Peebles* Joanne Moore
- Marlene & Ted Pendleton* \*Nancy Castillo
- Roslyn Portnoy* Dr. Bernara Portnoy
- Anait Postoian*
- Lois Ramer, RN, NP*
- Anne P. Randolph*
- Christine Rufolo* Helea Rufolo
- David S. Runke*
- San Marino Rotary Charities*
- Karen Long Santos* Toni Dolinski
- Mark Thomas Scott* \*Isabel Milan, RN
- Dr. Hervey & Doris Segall* \*Mindy Halls
- Dr. Ellis Seligman* Darlene Seligman
- Dr. Howard Silberman* Dr. Tom Berne
- Dr. George B. Stoneman*
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert Tranquada*
- Anita Tsuji* Toni Dolinski
- Dr. Arvid Underman* Aida Duarte
- Dr. John Freedom
- Theresa Velasco*
- Dr. Samuel Wirtschafter*
- Patty B. Wong, Pharm.D.*
- Elizabeth Woodard*
- Chiuying & Dr. Paul Wu*
- Dr. Dennis Duke Yamashita*
- Mona Ysabal*
- Norma Zagorsky*

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience if you would like to donate to CARES.  
**♥ Thank You!**



(sample of proposed design)

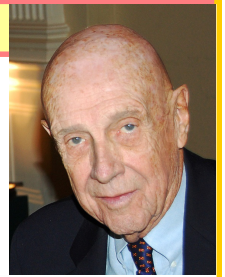


**CARES has just been granted partial funding by the *Ralph M. Parsons Foundation* for the remodel of the Pediatric Emergency Department. Additional funds are still needed in order to complete the project to make the area function as needed for the safety and well-being of the children that come to the LAC+USC Med. Ctr.**

## In Memoriam: Arthur J. Donovan, M.D.

*Dr. Arthur J. Donovan* was a very special friend of CARES because he was always available to answer questions about what happened in the Medical Center years ago because he never forgot anything! His late wife, *Jane Wooddell Donovan*, was the CARES Treasurer and Gift Shop volunteer for years and he always remembered her with donations to CARES.

He dedicated a distinguished professional career to the dignity and care of patients, the advancement of academic surgery, and the training of residents in the “art and science” of surgical practice. In these roles he joined the faculty of the USC School of Medicine (1961) and then served as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery until retirement (1990) as Distinguished Emeritus Professor. He served as President of the Pacific Coast and Western Surgical Associations, on the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons, and as Chairman of the American Board of Surgery. A voracious reader and a student of history, he enjoyed traveling with family and friends, the ocean, skiing and Trojan football.

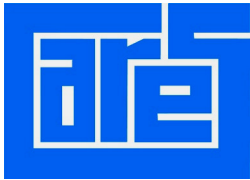


## In Memoriam: Bruce E. Zawacki, M.D.



*Dr. Bruce Zawacki* became a member of the CARES Advisory Committee after a large donation was made to the Burn Service, thus creating a fund for education and upgrading its environment to improve medical care for patients with burns. CARES was asked to create the Burn Family Room, a treatment-free refuge for pediatric burn patients. Chief of the LAC+USC Burn Unit from 1973 to 1998, Dr. Zawacki was a recognized authority on the surgical treatment of burns and a devoted patient advocate. An associate professor emeritus at USC’s Schools of Education, Medicine, and Religion, his research on the ethical dimensions of burn care helped elevate the patient’s autonomy to a vital goal of treatment. He is survived by his beloved wife Carleen. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CARES through [lacusccares.org](http://lacusccares.org) or to the CARES Office, (323) 409-6941.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY/USC  
MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY



1200 N. State St., Room 1900  
Los Angeles, California 90033

CARES Website: [lacusccares.org](http://lacusccares.org)