

About Our 2021 CFCCN Forum Presenters



Keynote Presenter: Junlei Li

Junlei Li is the Saul Zaentz Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education and Co-Chair of the Human Development and Education Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. His research and practice focus on understanding and supporting the work of helpers – those who serve children and families on the frontlines of education and social services. He believes they are the ones who link developmental science to practice in order to make a real difference. Li studied and learned from children’s “helpers” across a wide range of developmental settings with low resources but high-quality practices, including orphanages, child care programs, classrooms and community youth programs. From that work, he and his colleagues developed the “Simple Interactions” approach (www.simpleinteractions.org) to help identify what ordinary people do extraordinarily well with children in everyday moments and made that the basis for promoting positive system change.



Presenter: La Krisha S Dillard, M.S.

La Krisha Dillard, M.S. is a Certified Trauma Trainer and Lead Mental Health Consultant. She specializes in training practitioners and educators in Racial Trauma, Historical/Transgenerational Trauma, Understanding Adverse Child Experiences Related to Racial Trauma, Social Emotional Development Related to Early Childhood Education/ Inclusion Facilitation, and Trauma & Parenting. La Krisha has 29 years of experience in roles such as an Early Intervention Clinician, Trauma Trainer, Adjunct Psychology Professor and 20 years as a Lead Mental Health Consultant at the *Lynn Center Children and Family Services* where she provides training services, educational coaching to the preschool community, staff professional development/leadership.



Presenter: Jessica Zaragoza

Jessica Zaragoza is the Executive Director of *GH Community* 501(c)(3), and Founder of *Bee Mindfully Moved*. She is on a mission to build communities enriched with positive connections, true happiness, and endless possibilities. When she isn't trying to save the world, she enjoys hiking, yoga, practicing her newfound love of the Spanish language, and spending time with her husband, 2 sons and 3 fur babies!



Presenter: Benu Chhabra

- President of the family child care association in the Contra Costa area.
- Opened her FCC in 2000 after teaching preschool for 9 years.
- A *California Early Childhood Mentor Teacher*.
- Speaks English, Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi.
- Advocated for SB234 to end discrimination of FCC.
- First to be "Provider of the Month" by the Child Care Law Center.
- Board Member for *CocoKids*, the Resource and Referral for Contra Costa County.



Presenter: Alicia D. Nieves

Alicia has been a child care provider for over 21 years and she has always been committed to her personal preparation for the development of the child. She is certified as a Family Child Care Provider by Southwestern College and has an Associate Teacher Credential. During the last 15 years, she has developed the community task of serving as a counselor in emotional healing in different cities of Mexico and the United States, putting into practice her specialty in the psychology of "Containment Embrace" from the *Prekop Institute* in Mexico. She is currently studying for a specialty as an integral therapist in Hygienic Biomedicine and Neuroenergetics. She has been a lecturer and instructor in different face-to-face and virtual forums. In her presentations, her audience will always find a way to find themselves walking inside her, identifying safe ways to resolve internal conflicts that will lead them to live a full present with a promising future in the easiest and simplest way. She currently lives in Southern California with her husband and her two children. Her passion is to continue being that link of growth and help between the parents and children whom she serves with love and the best of care.



Presenter: Laura Buenrostro

Laura is a professional financial advisor and educator with over six years of experience offering workshops in both English and Spanish. She has dedicated her time and effort to teach at events for Congress, colleges, churches, community organizations, forums, and conferences. In the past three years, she has specialized in the needs of Family Child Care providers throughout California with the *Childcare Business Institute (CBI)*. Before coming to the United States, Laura studied business administration at *Universidad Del Valle de Mexico*. After coming to this country, she completed 6 units in early childhood education at *Saddleback College* and obtained a quality career technical education while taking courses at a Regional Occupational Program (ROP) in San Juan Capistrano. Laura has obtained a life and health license from the California Department of Insurance. She has also developed a relationship with the Santa Ana Mexican Consulate, which has allowed her to help the most vulnerable citizen in our community.



Welcome Address: Kathleen Tostado Kenshur, CFCCN President

Katy is the current president of *CFCCN* and for over twenty years, she has been a board member of the *San Diego County Family Child Care Association*. Her passion is teaching and working with young children and she has been a licensed family childcare provider for 39 years serving the special need community of Encinitas and Carlsbad. She is a member of the *National Family Child Care Association* and was awarded the first *NAFCC National Leadership Award*. She is an instructor of the *Family Child Care at It's Best* program with *WestEd* and has a BA in Early Childhood Education, Masters in Early Childhood Education & Organizational Leadership, and is completing her doctoral dissertation through *Brandman University-UMass Global*. When she is not spending time with her family, she loves volunteering for *Fresh Start Surgical Gifts*, attending educational conferences, training for marathons or working on her instrument rating for my pilot's license.



Discussion Moderator: Toni Robertson

Toni has been a Community Advocate at the *Child Care Law Center* since 2019 and is supporting the implementation of Senate Bill 234, the *Keeping Kids Close to Home Act*. Before joining the *Child Care Law Center*, she spent 6 years as a quality improvement facilitator at *CocoKids*, the Resource and Referral agency in Contra Costa County. She was a Child Development Specialist at a Contra Costa First 5 Center after closing her large family child care home that she operated for 18 years. Toni holds a degree in Child Development and is a trainer, consultant, mentor, and has served on many FCC association boards since 1991. She was the first president of *CFCCN*, and is currently the *CFCCN* treasurer and the co-chair of the *CFCCN Leadership Café*.



Discussion Moderator: Nancy Wyatt

Nancy has been a family child care provider in the San Fernando Valley for 35 years. She is a board member and Public Policy Chair for *CFCCN*. She became interested in public policy when she was president of her local association. She has served on several boards, advisory committees and her local planning council and she was the chair of the *Family Child Care Models Subcommittee* for LAUP, the universal preschool system for Los Angeles County. In 1994, she became a consultant, presenting workshops, doing ratings, and publishing documents to support quality child care.



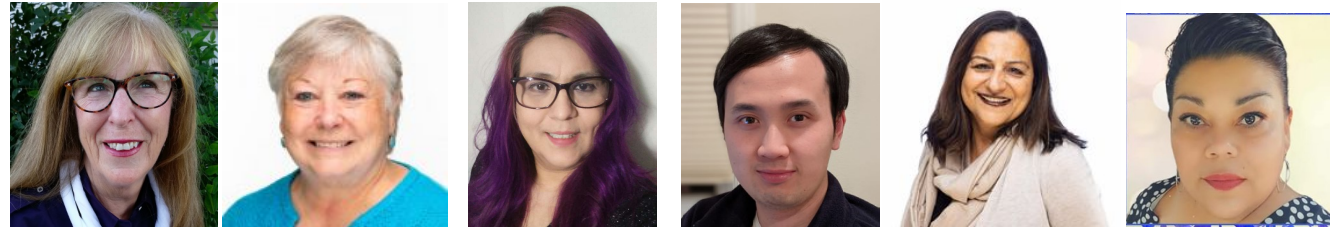
Presenters: Rosie Kennedy Awards Committee:

Jeri Taylor, Alycia Villasana, Sandra Siharath, Benu Chhabra



Presenters: Leadership Café Committee: (left to right)

Jeri Taylor, Toni Robertson, Alycia Villasana, Oscar Tang, Benu Chhabra, Yessika Magdaleno



Presenter Home Tour: Sandra Cumplido



Sandra Sandra Cumplido has been a child care business owner for 30 years. She is the South Bay Regional Director for the *San Diego County Family Child Care Association (SDCFCCA)*. She is also a winner of the 2018 “Breast-feeding Friendly Child Care Award” and has made a breast-feeding video in the early care and education setting for the *Breast-feeding Friendly Coalition*. She was accredited by the *National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)* and a “Forever Friend.” She was CDA certified by the *Council for Professional Recognition*. She has been working with *Children’s Home Society (CHS)* for 24 years, the *YMCA* for 24 years, the *Chicano Federation* for 24 years and CDA 24 years. She is CPR and first aid certified for infants, children and adults and she took an active shooter training at the *YMCA*.

Presenter: Andrew Brick Johnson (Music Composer for Lunch Break)



Andrew started playing piano when he was thirteen and a few years later, he won the Iowa State Fair Piano Competition with his own arrangement of Chopsticks. He studied music composition at Yale University, where he also took film classes and played piano for an “improv” comedy troupe (sparking his interest in film scoring). When he moved to Los Angeles, he took a job at *Remote Control*, Hans Zimmer's composing studio. There, he worked for Emmy nominee James S. Levine, writing music for shows like *Glee*, *American Horror Story*, *Royal Pains*, *Major Crimes*, and many more. Today, he scores films, TV shows, and commercials freelance. He also writes library tracks for Zimmer's company *Bleeding Fingers* and for *Extreme Music*, for which he has had music licensed on over ten thousand television episodes worldwide. In 2018, he chose licensed family child care for his 8 month old son.



Forum Conductor & “Wheel of Fortune” Host: Oscar Tang

Oscar started his early childhood education field by helping his mother with her family child care business in 2011 and then, he helped his aunts and wife (Pyrena Hui) to start their family child care businesses. He has a background in computer science and believes that it is his honor and pleasure to contribute his knowledge and skills in information technology to help family child care educators. He has worked in the nonprofit and public sector for over 9 years and is a family child care advocate interested in child development and public policy. He was on the board of CFCCN for several years and he still supports CFCCN and manages CFCCN’s Facebook Page. Oscar is currently a director for the *FCC association in San Francisco* and *The CA Resource & Referral Network*. A lot of the time, he still considers himself to still be a young child, enjoying playing and exploring in life.



Dance Party Host: Sandra Siharath

Sandra is an associate director of CFCCN who cares deeply about the purpose and objectives of *California Family Child Care Network*. She supports the family child care work done by her parents, Angela and Phillip Siharath, and she attends and volunteers at family child care events. She has received awards for her dedication to solving social problems and is the Chief Administrator, Founder and Executive Director of SEACHAMPA. More recently, she has also become interested in creating high-quality horticultural products using natural processes gained from years of organic farming practices, producing nutrients that help build strong plants and high-yielding, sustainable crops.