

See Her For Yourself: Lorraine E. Fox, Esteemed Colleague

When you're getting on, it's fun to remember some of the wonderful times you had with a colleague over the years, as you kept up with her work, had chances to work together and had opportunities to interact in non-work situations. So today I am warmed to recall some of my times with Dr. Lorraine Fox over the past decades.

Pan back to Chicago, I don't remember the year, but probably some time in the early 1980s. A child care conference at a hotel. I had heard of Lorraine for several years, but hadn't yet met her. Then, there was some kind of meeting and I soon discerned from the conversation that the vibrant dynamic person you couldn't miss was Lorraine.. I made a point of meeting her and a connection was formed.

Periodically Lorraine would come to Pittsburgh to train and she would spend the night at our house. I learned that Lorraine liked Cointreau, the orange flavored liqueur. So I'd always be sure to have some on hand. One time I attended her training session and was totally amazed. With her knowledge, warmth, and humor she was such an effective presenter that she held the large group mesmerized and attentive for hours on end.

I actually had the temerity to suggest at one point that maybe the two of us could do a presentation at a child care conference on humor in the workplace. Happily she agreed and we gave it at one of the old InterAssociation Child Care conferences accompanied by joking and laughter. Only in child and youth care !

Whenever I was in California, I would visit her and her partner Lois in their Pacific coast home. What fun ! They had a delightful pair of dogs they referred to as "the boys". The dogs knew an animal lover when they saw one and allowed me to pet them all I wanted.



I remember a walk on the Pacific beach with Lorraine, Lois, and the boys. We would chat endlessly about the field and also commiserate about the corrosive effects of point and level systems and other poor practices. Like many of our fellow child and youth care workers, we enjoyed good eats and shared quite a few delicious meals.

In 2009 I was in San Diego at the same time Andy Schneider-Munoz was (we all know him, too). So one day we took a train up the Pacific coast to visit Lorraine and Lois and spent a delightful and very memorable afternoon full of good food and more laughter.

There is no better way to design one's own trajectory in the field than to read about how others got into the field and how they developed their career. So [go to her biography](#) on CYC-Net People Her initial statement about entering the field in 1964: "I walked into my first residential treatment center, was immediately told to go F*&%# myself - and knew I had found a career that would interest me for the rest of my life. And it has been true". We can all resonate with this!

One of my favorites of her numerous articles is "The Catastrophe of Compliance" which gives a crucial perspective on another reason point and level systems are so deleterious. They teach youngsters that in order to get their needs met, they need to comply with everything adults ask. And that can be dangerous, not to speak of stifling important developmental strivings.

[Lorraine has her own website](#) (she's not one to be behind the times) and why not pay it a visit ? Here you will see a lovely photograph and among other things a link to some of her other publications and a compendium of many of the services she has provided the field over the years as a leader, direct service worker, clinician, trainer, educator, and author.

"You will never find better people that you will in child and youth work" said Lorraine in her biography. Indeed. There aren't many better than you, Lorraine!