



## Occupational Health & Safety Section

## Acknowledgments

### **Cover image:**

*Grape Harvest 3* by Jay Mercado, 2005.

For more labor art, visit:

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### **Program book design and production:**

Chrissy Morgan

### **Awards Committee :**

Peter Dooley and Chrissy Morgan



**Annual Awards Luncheon**

**October 28, 2008**

**San Diego, California**

# Schedule of Events

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Introduction, Welcoming Remarks

Presentation of the Alice Hamilton Award to:

*David Kotelchuck, PhD, MPH, CIH*

Presentation of the Lorin Kerr Award to:

*Diane Bush, MPH*

*Tony Oppgaard, JD*

Presentation of the Toni Mazzocchi Award to:

*Carmen Hacht*

Presentation of the International Award to:

*Jaime Cota*

OHS Thespian Collective Street Theater



## **Lorin Kerr Award**

1996: Linda Rosenstock, Peter Dooley

1995: Pam Tau Lee

1994: Nancy Lessin

1993: Peg Seminario, Debbie Berkowitz

## **Tony Mazzocchi Award**

2007: Tammy Miser, United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities, Jonathan Rosen

2006: Tony Carr, USW Local Union 998

## **International Award**

2007: Jagdish Patel, India

2006: Metoda Dodi Fikfak, Slovenia

2005: Fiona Murie, Ireland

2004: Rashida Bee Champa Devi Shukla Bhopal, India

2003: Juliana So, China

2002: Le Van Trung, Vietnam

2001: Orapun Metadilogkul, Thailand

2000: Jim Brophy and Margie Keith, Canada

1999: Fernanda Giannasi, Brazil

1998: Mohamed Jeebhay, South Africa, and Rory O'Neil, England

1997: Ricardo Santos, Puerto Rico

1996: Cathy Walker, Canada

1995: CAFOR (Comite de Apoyo Fronterizo Obrero Regional), Mexico

1994: Rajen Naido South Africa

1993: Antonio Granda, Cuba

## Previous OHS Section Awardees

### **Alice Hamilton Award**

2007: Rosemary Sokas, University of University of Illinois at Chicago SPH  
2006: Darryl Alexander, American Federation of Teachers  
2005: Frank Mirer, UAW  
2004: Chuck Levenstein David Wegman, UMass/Lowell  
2003: Dolores Huerta, United Farm Workers of America  
2002: Thomas Mancuso  
2001: Earl Dotter  
2000: Mary E. Miller  
1999: Jim Keogh  
1998: Denny Dobbin  
1997: Meta Snyder  
1996: Jim Moran  
1995: Michael Silverstein, Barbara Silverstein  
1994: Linda Murray  
1993: Jamie Cohen



### **Lorin Kerr Award**

2007: Celeste Monforton, George Washington University SPH  
2006: Richard Miller, Government Accountability Project  
2005: Marcy Goldstein-Gelb, MassCOSH  
2004: Jordan Barab, Chemical Safety Board and Confined Space Blog  
2003: Work Safe Coalition  
2002: New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)  
2001: Jim Ellenberger and Bill Borwegen  
2000: Susan Moir  
1999: June Fisher  
1998: Garrett Brown  
1997: Joel Shufro

## Award Descriptions

### **Alice Hamilton Award**

Alice Hamilton (1869 -1970), considered the founder of occupational health in the United States, was a tireless activist and physician who dedicated her life to improving the health and safety of workers. She was committed to science, service, and compassion. This award recognizes the life-long contributions of individuals who have distinguished themselves through a career of hard work and dedication to improve the lives of workers

### **Lorin Kerr Award**

Lorin Kerr (1909 -1991) was a life-long activist and served for over 40 years as a physician for the United Mine Workers. He was dedicated to improving access to health care for coal miners and other workers and to obtaining compensation for and preventing black lung disease. This award recognizes a younger activist for their sustained and outstanding efforts and dedication to improve the lives of workers.

### **Tony Mazzocchi Award**

Tony Mazzocchi (1927-2003) was the most influential labor leader in the Occupational Health and Safety field in the U.S. Tony played a key role in the legislative struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, including passage of the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). A founder of the Labor Party, he continued organizing support for the party's national health care program up until his death. This award gives recognition to grassroots H&S activists in Local Unions or other local organizations fighting for the H&S rights of workers.

### **International Health and Safety Award**

This award recognizes individuals with outstanding achievement in the field of occupational health and safety outside the United States.



## 2008 Alice Hamilton Award: David Kotelchuck, PhD, MPH, CIH

Now a professor emeritus, Dr. David Kotelchuck was a professor in the Urban Public Health Program of the Hunter College School of Health Sciences, City University of NY, from 1984 – 2006. He was a founding Co-Director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at Hunter College (COEH) in 1987, and later became its director. He has written numerous books, book chapters and scientific and policy articles. His research has addressed workers' health issues including toxic exposures, public employee health and safety, and medical needlestick injuries.

Dave has a long record of labor, H&S, and environmental and public health activism. In 1972 he began his 25 years of service to Health/PAC. His ground-breaking 1973 article "Your Money or Your Life" exposed the Johns Mansville Company for its decades-long malfeasance. Dave became a leading voice of the new public/environmental/occupational health movements that emerged in the 1970s.

Dave close work with unions including the UAW and the Professional Staff Congress of the AFT. He served as the Director of Occupational Safety and Health for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) from 1980 – 1984, and then served as a H&S consultant until 2004. He has been writing a column, Health on the Job, in the union's newspaper for nearly thirty years. He has also served continuously on the NYCOSH Board since its establishment in 1980.

Dave has been a member of the APHA OHS Section since 1978, serving as Chair in 2003-2004, and a Nominations Committee member (2004-2005). He served on APHA's Governing Council from 1990-1994, its Action Board, 1997- 2000, and then its Policy Committee 2000-2002.

Now early in his retirement, Dave continues his lifetime record of service and progressive activism to build with others a just and healthy organization of human society.

## 2008 Awards

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We thank everyone who participated in the nominations and elections process to recognize the exceptional work being done in the name of workplace health and safety.

These examples of dedicated individuals are a small sample of the many professionals and workers whose efforts make a difference for worker health and safety around the globe.

Thanks to all of you and keep up the courageous work!



2008  
International H&S Award:  
Jaime Cota

Jaime Cota, a labor and political activist in Mexico for more than 30 years, is a founder and the director of Centro de Informacion para Trabajadoras y Trabajadores (CITTAC, Information Center for Working Women and Men), a labor rights non-governmental organization in Tijuana. For more than two decades, CITTAC has been the outstanding pro-worker NGO in Tijuana, which has assisted, advocated for and defended working women and men in Tijuana in legal suits, union organizing campaigns, and health and safety initiatives. Health and safety trainings, campaigns and technical assistance has been at the heart of CITTAC's work, and CITTAC has played in critical role in coordinating numerous international efforts by US unions and occupational health professionals to assist maquila workers in Tijuana. CITTAC has made gender issues – an implacable defense of women's rights – a key aspect of its work among Tijuana's maquila workers, who are overwhelmingly female.

Jaime has played an indispensable role in the development and implementation of CITTAC's work. He is a widely-recognized leader of grassroots labor activism in Tijuana, and is one of the "stars" of the outstanding documentary "Maquilapolis," which profiled worker and community struggles in Tijuana for safe and healthy neighborhoods and workplaces. Jaime Cota is a shining example of a dedicated, courageous H&S and labor rights activist playing a leadership role in a city wracked by deep-seated political corruption, terrifying narco violence, and domination by Asian and US transnational corporations.

2008 Lorin Kerr Award:  
Diane Bush, MPH



Diane has been a leader in the movement to advance protections for young workers in the area of health and safety. Her activism and organizational skills have helped advance the resources available to professionals, parents and youths to elevate this issue in our field. Diane's accomplishments include:

- Developing community-based interventions to prevent occupational injury among young employees. These include educational, enforcement and other policy level strategies. One of Diane's recent undertakings has been to coordinate several "Youth Leadership Institutes" where young workers participate in week long conferences to help them develop leadership skills to be involved in health and safety activism.
- Co-writing and conducting research for one of the first reports characterizing the problem of young workers' health and safety. This report helped generate NIOSH funding as well as a California task force on this issue.
- Establishing a statewide Resource Center on Young Workers' Health and Safety at LOHP

Diane's leadership in the area of young worker health and safety has made a tremendous impact on the advancement and recognition of this long neglected topic in health and safety. Her ability to reach out to target groups including professional and young workers themselves has created excitement and energy to continue to make major improvements in the years to come.



## 2008 Lorin Kerr Award: Tony Oppeward, JD

Tony Oppeward of Lexington, Kentucky is a compassionate ear, a steadfast voice, and an influential activist for workers' rights, especially their right to a safe workplace, free of discrimination for raising safety concerns. He has been seeking justice on behalf of miners' families in eastern Kentucky for nearly 30 years.

A graduate of Antioch School of Law, Tony began his legal career in the Hazard, Kentucky at the Appalachian Research & Defense Fund. He used the labor protections provided under OSHA, MSHA, NLRA, FLSA, the Civil Rights Act and State laws to insist on redress for miners, widows and other workers in the Appalachian region.

For his clients---whether the coal miner threatened for complaining about unsafe conditions, or a widow whose true love was killed at work---Tony is both legal advisor and personal advocate. His knowledge, attention to detail, and persistence have led to favorable resolutions in at least 120 safety discrimination cases.

Tony established the Mine Safety Project in 1991 to focus almost exclusively on safety discrimination cases. Later, he served as a senior advisor at MSHA (1998-2000) and then was appointed as the General Counsel of Kentucky's newly created Mine Safety Board. There, he prosecuted 117 cases against mine management. Tony's successes didn't sit well with all of Kentucky's elite; he was dismissed from his job in May 2005, with no reason given. Undeterred, Tony established a private law practice and continues to represent miners in discrimination and workers' compensation cases, and widows and children in wrongful death proceedings. He not only represents them but encourages them to organize, protest and speak-out for change. Tony is a "one-man army in representing eastern Kentuckian families affected by some of the most noted mining disasters in Appalachia. But to the Kentucky families he's represented, he's just 'Tony.'"<sup>1</sup>

1. Deanna Lee-Sherman, *Harlan Daily Enterprise*, December 30, 2006.

## 2008 Tony Mazzocchi Award: Carmen Hacht



Carmen has been the Recording Secretary at Local 222 for 8 years. She worked at Tyson Foods Inc. meatpacking plant (formerly IBP) in Dakota City, Nebraska for 20 years. She was an active steward from the very beginning of her work at the plant. In the mid-1980s, IBP workers were suffering from high rates of MSDs. The Local Union and the International's S&H department filed an OSHA complaint and IBP received one of the highest fines ever for failing to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Settlement of the citations led to the most successful ergonomic programs in meatpacking. IBP, the International Union and OSHA developed the Red Meat Guidelines based on the program. Carmen became an "ergonomic monitor," a line worker trained in ergonomics. Her duties over the years were myriad and included job analysis, audits of workers on light duty jobs, advocacy for workers who were injured and needed to get through the medical system, monitoring the lines for "manning" and "overload," monitoring workers' training and knife skills, keeping the company's feet to the fire!

Carmen's work at the Local Union includes overseeing the ergonomics program at the meatpacking plant. She teaches new monitors all that their job will entail on the shop floor. Everyone who knows Carmen knows that the company is on notice that if there's a problem, Carmen will get it addressed. The workers in the plant trust her. Carmen can be proud of the contributions she has made over the years to improving the working conditions for thousands of workers. She is the face of local union activism on health and safety and ergonomics.