

living treasure

Kittie Frantz, a world-renowned breastfeeding advocate, pediatric nurse practitioner, and educator, started out in 1963 as a breastfeeding mother who attended La Leche League meetings in Los Angeles.

In 1965, Frantz received a call from a nurse at the Watts Multipurpose Health Clinic who wanted help starting an LLL group. It wasn't long before she Frantz had received a \$5,000 grant from Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, and the first LLL peer-counseling program was born, in Watts.

Frantz received her nursing degree in 1973. Her first job was with the prominent pediatrician Dr. Paul Fleiss, who saw her talent for medicine and encouraged her to enroll in the new pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) program at UCLA. Frantz received her degree in 1974 and worked as a PNP for the next 33 years.

By 1978, Frantz had become the director of the University of Southern California (USC) Breastfeeding Infant Clinic. In 1980 she was honored as Fellow of the Year of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP). That same year, she received a Ford Foundation Grant to study the breastfeeding patterns of Hispanic women in L.A. She then presented a paper in Israel on the effects of infant positioning on sore nipples, which led to invitations to lecture internationally on the topic. Shortly thereafter she founded Geddes Productions (www.geddesproduction.com), which sells her teaching materials and videos.

In 1996, she became one of the first people to sit on the United States Breastfeeding Committee on which she served until 2006. Formerly the National Breastfeeding Leadership Roundtable, the committee is made up of governmental and nongovernmental organizations and was formed in response to the 1990 Innocenti Declaration, an international breastfeeding initiative sponsored by UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Swedish International Development Corporation.

Currently, Kittie Frantz is the Coordinator of Lactation Education at USC, and is also a Clinical Instructor in Pediatrics at USC's Keck School of Medicine. In her spare time, she teaches her course, "The Baby's Perspective" (www.babysperspective.com), to doulas and infant-care providers.

Frantz is mother to three adult children and seven grandchildren, all of whom have been breastfed.



Left: Kittie Frantz and Katie Guerra

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