# ED’s Conference Memories

When I think back about past conferences two things standout, the people and the places. It would not be a Roundtable conference without Doris and Paula ever present, welcoming the participants, introducing the speakers, sending us on our way home with pleasant thoughts and memories.

When I think about our conferences I always think too of Geri Henchy and Child Nutrition Reauthorization talking points, or Ed Cooney and his Washington Update and/or his famous butter story. It wouldn’t be a Roundtable Conference without Drs. Laurel Brannen, Janice Fletcher or Susan Johnson. Or Patty Kimbrell, Kelley Knapp and her informative infant feeding, or Angela Russ. Who doesn’t remember Jerry Bowers and the raffle, or Terry Talavera and/or Joan LaRocque at registration? So many speakers to remember over the years including, Ellyn Satter, Connie Evers, Linda Locke, Barbara Storper, Helen Blank, Dr. Nancy Moore, Rhonda Britten, Dr. Carl Winter – the Sinatra of Samonella, Harold Goldstein, Dayle Hayes, Dr. Antronette Yancey, Dr. Christine Wood, Joel Be Izzy, Jim Pelley, Sandra Tsing Loh, Dr. Lorrene Ritchie, Dr. Wendy Bazilian, Kevin Bracy, and of course last years’ Joan Frances “handstand” Moran. I remember our partners at USDA including Shirley Watkins, Julie Paradis, Eric Bost, Roberto Salazar, and Kevin Concannon, and at CDE, Marilyn Briggs, Phyllis Bramson, and Sandip Kauer. I remember too all of the great workshop presenters and especially those that have for years consistently offered a workshop or two including Paula’s terrific staff at Contra Costa Child Care Council and of course Doris’ at Choices for Children, but also Donna Pommerson, Staci Larsen & Sherrie Gomez from Learning Care Group, and Carolyn Morrison at CCDS, Jodi Kuhn at Knowledge Universe, Samantha Marshall, Child Care Info and the gang at Minute Menu, Bob Gray, Gloria Sanyika, Kristine Smith, Stephanie Clarke, Brenda Metzger, Ken Hecht and the staff at CFPA, and too many others to name.

When I remember locations my favorite, as a planner, was the Sheraton Anaheim, and as an attendee it is a tossup between the Catamaran/Bahia in San Diego and Rancho Las Palmas in Rancho Mirage.

When I remember fun moments there are of course too many but they had to include memorable dinners with Paula and Roundtable/Forum leadership. Don’t let me even talk about the White House dinner with Eric Bost (no not the one in DC, the one in Anaheim).

And finally I remember all of the terrific help I received in planning and running the conference from the Roundtable Advisory Committee. Without them the conferences would not even be a memory.