

OT Leaders & Legacies Society (OTLLS) Mental Health History Resources  
for May 2026 Mental Health Awareness Month  
compiled by Rita Fleming-Castaldy

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month and as the Chairperson of the Occupational Therapy Leaders and Legacies Society (OTLLS) History Preservation Project, I am pleased to share OTLLS resources that can advance the recognition of our profession's rich heritage in psychosocial practice and foster understanding of the vital role occupational therapy (OT) practitioners play in ensuring mental health and wellness *for all during and after* this month.

These resources include numerous oral histories and several collective recollections that honor and preserve the contributions of our profession's leaders in psychosocial practice, links to historical videos, and an extensive list of publications about the history of occupational therapy mental health practice in the United States and other countries and significant historical events that impacted our profession and those with whom we have the privilege to work (e.g., the Olmstead Decision, Covid-19 pandemic).

I invite you to review the below resources, explore the OTLLS History Preservation Project webpages at <https://history.otleaders.org/> and think about how you can help preserve this history by contributing to our projects. Specific project guidelines are provided on each project's page in their Get Involved section.

If you have any questions about the OTLLS History Preservation Project and how you can contribute, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### OTLLS History Preservation Project Resources Related to OT's Mental Health History

**Oral Histories:** the interviews of the below leaders in mental health practice, education, and scholarship can be directly accessed by clicking on the provided links. Additional oral histories can be accessed at <https://www.otleaders.org/history-preservation-project/oral-history-project>

- [Bailey, Diana Oral History \(Video\).mp4 - Google Drive](#)
- [Tina Barth](#)
- [Marie-Louise-Blount-interview - Maryland Occupational Therapy Association](#)
- [Bonder, Bette Interview.m4a - Google Drive](#)
- [Brent Braveman](#)
- [Estelle Breines](#)
- [Burke, Janice.m4a - Google Drive](#)
- Roxanne Castaneda [Castaneda-Interview.2018-edited-1 - Maryland Occupational Therapy Association](#)
- [Marion Conneen](#)
- [Crist, Patricia Interview \(7-28-20\).m4a - Google Drive](#)
- ["Interview with Donna Costa" by Donna Costa \(und.edu\)](#)
- [Donohue, Mary Interview - edited.mp3 - Google Drive](#)
- [Griffiths, Yolanda Interview \(12-28-20\).m4a - Google Drive](#)
- [Falk-Kessler, Janet Interview - edited.mp3 - Google Drive](#)
- [Sue Fine](#)

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- [Susan Haiman](#)
- [Helfrich, Christine interview.m4a - Google Drive](#)
  
- [Margo Holm](#)
- Margo Holm [Interview with Margo Holm](#),
- Moses N. Ikiugu: [Understanding meaningful occupation and its healing qualities](#)
- Michael Iwama [Interview with Michael Iwama](#)
- [Kathryn-Kaufman-Interview-2018-edited-1.docx](#)
- [Robin-Klein-Interview.2018-edited-.docx](#)
- [LaVesser, Patti Interview recording - edited.mp3 - Google Drive](#)
- Anne MacRae [Interview with Anne MacRae](#)
- [Lisa Mahaffey](#)
- [Kristen Maisano](#)
- [Kathleen Matuska.m4a - Google Drive](#)
- [Merlo, David Interview \(11-12-20\).m4a - Google Drive](#)
- Jaime Munoz [Interview with Jaime Munoz Celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month - Lauro Munoz Interview \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Lila-Nappi-Interview.2018.edited.docx](#)
- [Olson, Laurie Interview.mp3 - Google Drive](#)
- [Suzanne Peloquin](#)
- Suzanne Peloquin [Interview with Suzanne Peloquin](#)
- [Michael Pizzi](#)
- [Emily Raphael-Greenfield](#)
- [Robertson, Susan Interview \(10-11-19\).mp3 - Google Drive](#)
- [Anne Hiller Scott](#)
- ["Interview with Patricia Scott" by Patricia Scott \(und.edu\)](#)
- [Franklin Stein](#)
- Allison Sullivan: ["How did I get here? One occupational therapist's search for meaning"](#)
- [Jenna-Yeager-Interview.2018-edited-1.docx](#)

**Collective Recollections:** the below collective recollections can be accessed directly by clicking on the provided link. Additional collective recollections can be accessed at [OT Leaders & Legacies Society - Oral History Project](#)

- [Robert K. Bing](#) as recalled by Charles Christiansen, Penny Kyler, Suzanne Peloquin, and Gary Wade.
- [Fidler Reminiscence Group Interview - edited.mp3 - Google Drive](#) as recalled by Dagny Fidler, Eric Fidler, Rita Fleming-Castaldy, Janice Hengel, Penny Kyler, and Suzanne Peloquin.
- [The Founding, Evolution, and Impact of the Mental Health Task Force of the NYSOTA](#) as recalled by Mary Donohue, Joan Feder, Anne Hiller Scott, Diane Tewfik, Suzanne White, and Sheri Wadler.

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- [The Lived Experiences of Occupational Therapists working with Persons with HIV/AIDS in the 1980s/1990s](#) as recalled by Brent Bravemen, Frank Gainer, and Michael Pizzi.

## Historical Videos

- [Celebrating AOTA's Centennial: A Historical Look at 100 Years of Occupational Therapy](#)
- [Introduction to Occupational Therapy: 1954 Department of Defense Video](#)

**Historical Publications:** the following works related to the history of psychosocial occupational therapy in the United States and other countries can be directly accessed by clicking on the provided links. Additional historical publications can be accessed at <https://www.otleaders.org/history-preservation-project/historical-works>.

- American Red Cross (1917): [How the Red Cross will Restore War's Battered Victims to Usefulness](#)
- Andersen, L.T. (2022): [Eleanor Clarke Slagle: Mother of Occupational Therapy](#) (link to purchase).
- Awaad, T. (2003). Culture, cultural competency and psychosocial occupational therapy: A Middle Eastern perspective. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 66(9), 409-413. <https://doi.org/10.1177/030802260306600804>
- Barton, I.G. (1968). [Consolation House, fifty years ago](#). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 23, 340-345.
- Beers, C. W. (2004, updated in 2024). [A mind that found itself: An autobiography](#)
- Bing, R. K. (1981). Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture: Occupational therapy revisited: A paraphrastic journey. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 35, 499-518. [doi:10.5014/ajot.35.8.499](https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.35.8.499)
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- Breines, E. B. (1995). Understanding 'occupation' as the Founders did. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 58, 458-460. [doi: 10.1177/030802269505801102](https://doi.org/10.1177/030802269505801102)
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