

Cynthia Oti

Cynthia Oti was an investment broker who knew how to save and how to spend, how to work and how to play. "She enjoyed life," said Greg Raab, public relations and marketing manager for KSFO, where Oti was the host of a nightly radio show on investing. "She told people to save and have a plan for the future, but not to deny oneself. She said it on the air and she lived it."

Colleagues said Oti's career as a broadcaster was just heating up. For four years, she did a three-hour Sunday show. But last spring, KSFO asked her to take on a prime-time, Monday-through-Friday slot. She indulged herself by buying a Jaguar.

She had treated herself to a weekend getaway in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, where Flight 261 originated. She loved the music of Eric Clapton and collected expensive champagne.

Oti was supposed to go on the air two hours after the flight was scheduled to land in San Francisco; KSFO ran a rerun instead.

"It's terrible news for us," talk show host Gene Burns told listeners. "Many of us have lost a friend, a colleague and an absolutely, thoroughly delightful human being."

"She was always willing to lend her professional advice," Burns said. "If someone was having a financial difficulty, she did her level best to guide them through the shoals of that experience."