

Volume 3
issue one 2018



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Key Date

February 28th Purim

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter including items for submission (stories and/or photos) please contact Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org.



Bernice Edelstein
Program Manager

Shalom,

As many of you know, the Fraternity was one of 43 signatories that proudly executed the New York Jewish Community's Appeal http://www.ao.org/documents/634/NY_Jewish_Community_Statement_on_Polish_Holocaust_Bill_FINAL.pdf regarding the controversial bill that bans any Holocaust accusations against Poles as well as descriptions of Nazi death camps as Polish. Over 3 million Jews lived in Poland

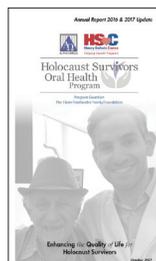
and were slaughtered by the Nazis. The bill imposes criminal proceedings for allegedly defaming Poland by assigning complicity to the country for Holocaust crimes committed on Polish soil.

The focus of the newsletter this month is on Boston. Be certain to read the article that Sylvia Ruth Gutmann submitted. It is her story of survival and resilience in the face of tragedy.

Now more than ever, support for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program is critical. We must never forget the victims who perished, and we must honor those who survived. As a Jewish community, we must take necessary measures to ensure that an event of this magnitude never happens again.

I am so proud to share with you the Annual Report 2016 & 2017 Update of the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. In a very short period of time, nearly 700 Holocaust Survivors in 21 North American metropolitan cities have been treated with kind, compassionate, expert comprehensive oral health care.

There are still many survivors to treat and time is of the essence. If you would like to participate in the program, please contact me.



[Download Here](#)

Wishing you a meaningful and fun-filled Purim celebration!

With sincere thanks and gratitude,

Bernice Edelstein
Program Manager

By the Numbers (Jan. 2017- December 2017)

City	Ambassador	In Treatment	Completed
Atlanta	Michael Friedman	3	3
Boston	David Dano & Murray Miller	0	16
Chicago	Laurie Gordon-Shaw	5	44
Columbus	Shaun Rotenberg	0	9
Cincinnati	Dr. Glen Meyer	4	12
Dallas	Gary Solomon	0	1
Detroit	Jamie Feldman, Marv Sonne, Mark Luria	2	14
Los Angeles	Paul Selski	3	7
Milwaukee	Stan Teplin	0	4
New York	Rada Sumareva	5	15
Phila./South Jersey	Bruce Silver	0	15
Phoenix	Irwin Feinberg	0	5
ASDOH	Irwin Feinberg	0	1
San Francisco	Jay Cohen	0	3
Seattle	Kal Klass	2	13
Washington, DC	Ben Williamowsky, Alan Singer	3	60
West Hartford		1	3
Calgary	Brian Sacks	0	4
Montreal	Jeff Tenser	3	26
Toronto	Gerald Pearson	1	13
Winnipeg	Gary Hyman	5	10
Temple/KleinLife		6	67
TOTALS		43	345

FROM AO PROGRAM HQ

NOTE TO ALL AMBASSADORS AND DENTAL PANEL MEMBERS

This is a friendly reminder that if you have any Encounter Forms for 2017 that have not been submitted, please do so now. Record the appointment dates, the dental codes and patient initials and send to bedelstein@ao.org. THANK YOU!!

By the Numbers (January 2018)

City	Ambassador	In Treatment	Completed
Atlanta	Michael Friedman	1	0
Boston	David Dano & Murray Miller	-	1
Chicago	Laurie Gordon-Shaw	10	3
Columbus	Shaun Rotenberg	1	1
Cincinnati	Dr. Glen Meyer	0	0
Dallas	Gary Solomon	0	0
Detroit	Jamie Feldman, Marv Sonne, Mark Luria	-	-
Los Angeles	Paul Selski	1	-
Milwaukee	Stan Teplin	0	-
New York	Rada Sumareva	8	-
Phila./South Jersey	Bruce Silver	7	2
Phoenix	Irwin Feinberg	-	-
ASDOH	Irwin Feinberg	0	0
San Francisco	Jay Cohen	0	-
Seattle	Kal Klass	2	0
Washington, DC	Ben Williamowsky, Alan Singer	0	3
West Hartford		0	-
Calgary	Brian Sacks	0	-
Montreal	Jeff Tenser	-	-
Toronto	Gerald Pearson	-	-
Winnipeg	Gary Hyman	3	-
Temple/KleinLife		-	-
TOTALS		33	10

Spotlight on Boston



The following dentists from the Boston area are participating in the program:

David Dano and S. Murray Miller, Co-Ambassadors; Heidi Aaronson, Nathan Birnbaum, Herbert Birnbaum, Joshua Bratt, Jeffrey Dornbush, Adelina Duka, Arvi Duka, Garry Feldman, Russell Forman, David Gale, Elliott Goldberg, (recently retired); David Lustbader, Emrey Moskowitz Porath, S. Faheem Rasool, Yuri Shamritsky, Steven Shapiro, Richard Short, Steven Spitz, and Matthew Zizmor.

If you are a practicing dentist in the Boston area and would like to participate in the program, please contact Bernice Edelstein bedelstein@ao.org or David Dano danodavid@gmail.com.

HOW TO DONATE

AO US FOUNDATION:

www.aofus.org

ellen.taranto@aofus.org

301-738-6400

AO CANADIAN FOUNDATION:

Marlene Tenenbaum Memorial Tribute Fund

www.aofoundation.ca or info@aofoundation.ca

416-250-7417

Meet the Dentists

Dr. David Meir Dano *Ambassador, Boston*

Dr. David Dano received his DMD from The Hebrew University Hadassah School of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem, Israel in 2008. After working as an associate dentist in Tel Aviv, Dr. Dano continued his post-graduate studies and received a CAGS in Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) from Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine ("BUGSDM") in 2011 and a certificate of internship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from the University of Connecticut in 2012. After completing his advanced dental education, he accepted positions at both the BU Dental Health Center and the BUGSDM. He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor and a Group Practice Leader at BUGSDM. He specializes in General Dentistry at the BU Dental Health Center. Dr. Dano recently received the Massachusetts Dental Society Ten under 10 award, and he is a member of the American Dental Association, the Massachusetts Dental Society, the American Dental Education Association, and the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity.



Why did you decide to choose dentistry as a career?
Dentistry is a wonderfully rewarding profession; and for me, each day is a new adventure. I have the privilege and joy of transforming a patient's life by restoring his/her oral health and improving his/her quality of life.

What prompted you to volunteer to become co-ambassador of the Boston dental cohort? Are any family members Holocaust Survivors?

I grew up in Israel. Members of my immediate family are Holocaust survivors. Helping survivors has always been something that I have kept close to my heart. We all have the moral obligation to never forget and to do everything in our power to improve the quality of life of these survivors. By being part of Alpha Omega, each of us has the ability to make a real difference in our everyday practice, our community, and our profession.

What is your favorite activity outside of work?

In my spare time I enjoy cooking, exploring new cooking techniques, and creating new recipes. I also enjoy traveling the world with my family and visiting new exciting places.

In addition, one of our favorite activities as a family is to participate in activities such as Special Olympics Special Smiles, a great way to give back to our community.

Anything else you would like to add?

The Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program is such a worthy cause; we are hoping that more dentists in the greater Boston area and nationwide will join us in improving the function and quality of life of those impacted by the Holocaust and who are in need.

Dr. Heidi Aaronson

Dr. Heidi Aaronson earned her DMD, General Dentistry from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. She founded “Tooth Day at Fenway Park”, an annual event that brings oral cancer awareness to fans at Red Sox games.



In April 2008, Dr. Aaronson organized a dental mission trip to the Dominican Republic to offer free dental care to children in a Red Sox-sponsored orphanage and other impoverished areas. To honor Dr. Aaronson for her charitable work in the community, the Massachusetts Dental Society presented her with their “Ten Under Ten” award in 2010, which recognizes the top 10 new dentists who have made contributions to their community and profession. She is an authorized provider of Under Armour Performance Mouthwear and served as the Dental Director of Professional Athlete Relations for Bite Tech, Inc. She has fit over 500 athletes on several professional and collegiate teams, including the Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics, and Revolution, as well as several Olympic athletes.

Did you always know that you wanted to be a dentist? Did your father and uncle influence your decisions about practicing dentistry?

When I was little, my favorite place to go was the office. I remember watching my grandfather working in his lab, amazed at what he could make with his bare hands. I remember watching my dad and Herbie working on their patients, and I would constantly lean over their shoulders to watch them at work.

Depending on the patient, sometimes I got to observe or even “help” (as much as a 5-year-old can) until the time my dad asked his assistant for the composite in shade “DY” and I loudly asked, “DOES THAT MEAN DARK YELLOW?” I was told not to ask as many questions in the future. Perhaps one of my favorite memories was when I was in first grade, my dad came to speak at my school about being a dentist. That was when I decided I wanted to be a dentist, too! From that point on, there was no stopping me. When I was in 5th grade, my Purim costume was a tube of “Haman-fighting Crest toothpaste”, and in high school we had to take a self-portrait of what we expect to look like in 20 years. Naturally, I donned my dad’s loupes and mask and snapped a photo of myself as a dentist. There was never a doubt in my mind that I would be a dentist, and I’m grateful for being able to join the family tradition.

What prompted you to volunteer to participate in this program? Did any members of your family survive the Holocaust?

Growing up, my parents would always get me involved with various dental charitable causes. I remember handing out toothbrushes to Russian children as part of the Dental Aid for Russian Emigres (“D.A.R.E.”) program in 1989, at the age of seven. In dental school, I volunteered for the Special Olympics Special Smiles program, and shortly after graduation I organized a dental mission trip to help orphans in the Dominican Republic. When I heard about the number of Holocaust survivors living below the poverty line with little or no access to dental care, I knew I had to get involved. Not only do I feel the need to help underserved communities, but since my grandparents were Holocaust survivors themselves, this was extra important to me. After all these survivors have been through, they

should never lack any kind of medical or dental care due to financial circumstances. I am sure my grandparents would be proud of me today knowing how much my dad, uncle and I have helped give back to Holocaust survivors.

What has been your experience treating these patients?

I have had nothing but positive experiences with these patients. One of my absolute favorite patients has been through a very rough time these past few years, after the death of her husband, the inability to collect social security, nearly losing her house, and no local family. I have been treating her for over two years, and she is always such a joy to see. I recently got a card from her in the mail, which gave me such a sense of pride for being able to help her so much. She wrote: "Dear Dr. Heidi, You don't know how much you lift my spirits. It's not easy to do. You're compassionate, kind, a superb dentist. It is always a pleasure to be with you. Everyone in your office is so friendly, I would like to stay there!" There is so much more to the field of dentistry than making money. Helping people who otherwise would be in pain and knowing how grateful they are is worth more than gold.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am really into photography, digital editing, crafting, and cooking. I also love spending time with my husband and daughters (Abby, 7, and Charlotte, 5.)

Anything else you would like to add:

I have always aspired to be like my dad, both in terms of the quality of work I can provide but also the ability to give back to the community. I am so grateful to be a part of this program.

Dr. Herbert S. Birnbaum

Herbert S. Birnbaum received his B.A. from Brandeis University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in an accelerated three-year course of study. In 1980, he received his D.M.D. degree from the



Henry M. Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry at Boston University. While in dental school, he was chosen by the international student body of the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity to serve as International Undergraduate Representative. He then completed a residency in General Dental Practice at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and Montefiore Hospital. Subsequently, he returned to his hometown of Newton, Massachusetts, where he established his private practice of general dentistry. He is a longtime member of the faculty in the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). He served as Faculty Supervisor of the school's Licensed Practitioner Clinic and is a recipient of HSDM's Faculty Award. As Co-Chairman, he spearheaded the initiative to place a Tree of Peace at HSDM. In June 2017, he received the Dean's Award for Community Service from the Harvard Medical School and the HSDM.

Did you always know that you wanted to be a dentist?

With two parents who were dental technicians and a brother who is a dentist, I grew up surrounded by the field of dentistry with role models who loved being a part of it. Many of the hours of my youth

were spent in my father's dental laboratory, which, at a certain point, became connected to the family home. While I loved my exposure to dentistry, my decision to become a dentist was hardly automatic. My parents encouraged me to have an open mind in deciding upon the career to which I would devote my time, energies and future. While I have found ways of incorporating aspects of other fields that I had considered into my life, I am grateful to feel the passion, with each and every patient encounter, for my work as a dentist.

What prompted you to volunteer to participate in this program? Did any members of your family survive the Holocaust?

Holocaust awareness is no small ingredient of the Birnbaum family. My parents were Holocaust survivors whose love story began with a gaze across the barbed wire of a concentration camp. My father was a wise and inspirational force for Holocaust education and awareness in the Boston area and nationally. I continue to sit on the Holocaust Commemoration Committee of Greater Boston's Jewish Community Relations Council, which he served as Chairman. The Zachor Choral Ensemble, which my father, sister and I organized to add a melodic voice to the cause of Holocaust remembrance, is still going strong after 41 years. On a personal level, being the child of Holocaust survivors factors in profoundly to the way I and other children of survivors view the world. The experiences of our parents prompt us to want to give back in ways that we are able to make this world a better place. What a gift to me it is to be able to do so through my profession.

What has been your experience treating these patients?

From the moment of our first encounters, I sense a bond with the survivor patients, some of whom bring back thoughts of my parents. While we all earn our livelihoods in our chosen fields of endeavor, it is nice - even liberating - to be able to do what we do not for financial reward but for the reward of helping people who need our help, hate to ask for it, and appreciate every little thing we

do. We, the providers, are no less the beneficiaries of this special bond. Besides being self-evident to me, I find this spirit shared by every colleague, technician, and staff member who is called upon to participate in treatment. The first patient I treated, as part of this program, recently passed away. I will never forget her frequent phone calls just to check in and to say thank you and the sweet tokens of appreciation which she shared with me.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Much of my spare time is devoted to activities and projects in the various communities: Jewish, dental, musical, communal, of which I am a part. I am particularly passionate about building bridges between people of different backgrounds and perspectives. My pet project is an annual lecture, in memory of my late wife, which I organize and sponsor in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and a myriad of other organizations. It has become a signature event for Jewish Boston, each year bringing to our community well known personalities whose views and messages - religiously, politically and culturally - range across the spectrum. I am also involved with the Union of Minority Neighborhoods and a fledgling organization (founded by my son), the Regional Organization for Peace Economics and Security, which is - under the radar - making significant inroads in normalizing the relations between Israelis and Arabs from various Middle Eastern countries. I sing with two choral groups, Koleinu and Zachor, and have the privilege of serving as Co-Chairman of the Alumni of the Zamir Chorale of Boston. I am active in my synagogue and have co-chaired its Board for a very long time. I love spending time at Cape Cod, following Boston's wonderful professional sports teams, and getting my mind away from it all with the craziness of fantasy baseball. Above all, though ... hands down ... I cherish every minute spent with those I love - my significant other, three children and four delicious grandchildren. They are my pride and my joy.

Dr. Arvi Duka

Dr. Arvi Duka received his DDS degree in 2001 from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Carol Davila”, Bucharest. Moving to Boston from his native Albania, Dr. Duka attended and graduated with honors from Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine (BUGSDM), Advanced Standing Program. Upon receiving his DMD degree, Dr. Duka was immediately invited to join the faculty at the pre-doctoral program at BUGSDM, where he currently holds the position of Clinical Assistant Professor at the Emergency and Oral Diagnosis Department. In addition to his work at BUGSDM, he is a partner at a very busy and successful practice in Waltham, MA and has for many years involved himself in scientific research, publishing in well-known scientific journals. In addition to being a member of Alpha Omega, Dr. Duka is a member of the American Dental Association, Massachusetts Dental Society and Metropolitan District Dental Society. Dr. Duka and his wife, Dr. Adelina Duka have been part of multiple community projects such as the Special Olympics Special Smiles, Medical Missions for Children and the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program in addition to many more.



Dr. Adelina Duka

Dr. Adelina Duka received her DMD degree from Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine and her DDS degree from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Carol Davila”, Bucharest. She has served as Research Instructor in Medicine in Boston University’s Research Department and has authored and co-authored several scientific articles in reputable peer-reviewed medical journals, as well as presented her work in a number of scientific conferences and symposiums. Dr. Duka is a member of the American Dental Association, Massachusetts Dental Society, Metropolitan District Dental Society and Alpha Omega.



Did you know that you wanted to be a dentist from an early age?

Arvi: Not really. I was in my senior year in high school when I was completely sure about my choice. I had been contemplating a few different paths, but an emergency visit to my local dentist made me realize what a great profession dentistry is and I wanted to be part of it.

Adelina: Despite the fear and the anxiety it brought me, I became fascinated with dentistry in 7th grade, when I started to realize all the science that was behind it. What sealed the deal later, was the opportunity to be in the medical field, while working and creating with my hands all the time.

What prompted you to volunteer for this program?

Being able to help others is a great feeling but participating in this program and helping the Holocaust survivors even more so. Contributing to the well-being and caring for this precious and sometimes vulnerable part of our community, is a great way of giving back and honoring their legacy.

You and Dr. Adelina Duka are relatively new members of the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity. What would you say to others about the fraternity?

This is a nurturing and engaging community where everybody is welcomed. It provides opportunities and resources to achieve professional excellence and personal growth, as well as ways to contribute in the oral health and well-being of local and even global communities.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Arvi: Outside of the office, I enjoy traveling, soccer, biking and spending time with my family and our young children, Alex and Elise.

Adelina: While our young kids take up most of my spare time, reading, cooking and playing the guitar are my favorite activities.

Restoring Smiles in Boston



My parents, Mali and Nathan Gutmann, and my two older sisters were born in Germany. Papa was born in 1908 in Leipzig, and Mama was born in 1905 in Furth. Rita was born in 1932, and Susi was born in 1933, both in the Jewish Hospital in Prenzlauer Berg, Berlin. One week after *Kristellnacht* (The Night of the Broken Glass), my parents and their two little girls fled to Belgium. I was born in Antwerp in 1939. One year later, Hitler invaded Belgium, and we fled again, this time to the south of France. We lived in one room in the home of Madame Bouhout. In late August 1942, my father was bedridden, and suffering from asthma. My 37-year-old mother and her three young daughters were arrested by the Vichy police and shipped to camp Rivesaltes, an internment camp in France. During a roll call on a September morning in 1942, my mother's name was called, and she was told that she and the others in line would go to work in the East. She looked over to her three precious girls and shouted to my 10-year-old sister Rita, "Promise me you will take care of the 'baby.'" I was three years old at the time. Mama was shoved onto a cattle car headed to Auschwitz, with me screaming "Mama, Mama take me with you." Papa was deported to Auschwitz six months later. They never returned.

Deeply traumatized, draped in loss, and covered in dirt and lice, I arrived in New York in 1946, along with my two sisters. I have no memory of my parents, the camp, the convent where we hid, or the barn where we hid until the members of the OSE (*Oeuvre de Secours Aux Enfants* or Children's Aid Society) came on bicycles and smuggled us to the border of Switzerland. My first memory is of the ship that brought us to America.

My mother's brutal and swift departure at a most fragile development age of three forever changed the ways I responded to the world around me. The incomprehensible rupture of that moment altered the normal ways in which I should have thought about love and trust. It ripped to shreds the way I should have felt about motherhood, friendship, and responsibility to myself and to others. I lived in a state of numbness and shock. My beloved sister, Rita, my surrogate mother and the storyteller of those forgotten years died in 1993. I had a post-traumatic stress breakdown and attempted



Dr. Arvi Duka, Sylvia Ruth Gutmann, and Vladislav Abramskiy, Owner, All In One Dental Lab

to end my life. I was 54. With the help of a kind, wise therapist, I was finally allowed to grieve for my mother, my father, my home and my stolen childhood. The Holocaust has really become the ground on which I finally built an authentic, full, and happy life.

Nearly two years ago, I received a call from Jewish Family and Children's Service (the Holocaust Survivor program) in Waltham, MA. The social worker told me about the oral health program. That many dentists throughout the country were volunteering their time and expertise to provide free dental care for Holocaust survivors. I am ashamed to admit that I was somewhat cynical replying, "No one does work for free" Because I live on a fixed income, I had to go down to Boston to the Tufts School of Dentistry. I could only afford to have my dentures, my oral surgery and my cleanings, done by a student.

Adelina and Arvi Duka, are not only my dentists; they are really my human angels. When I enter the office, the staff welcomes me like family, and it feels like home. The work they do on my mouth is superb. They are both kind, patient, and extremely professional. It is such a comfort to know that I am in good hands. I feel so blessed to have this program, to have my dentists, and to have their welcoming staff. I am deeply grateful. I am such a lucky woman!! Thank You, Thank You.

There are many ways to save a life. Making a denture that gives me the confidence to give a broad open smile and providing the care that I would never be able to afford without this program is in fact "To save but one life you save the world entire."

A huge hug for all of you that make it happen.

In appreciation,

Sylvia Ruth Gutmann

Dr. Steven Shapiro

Dr. Shapiro is the Director of Gentle Dental's Braintree office, just south of Boston, MA. Originally from Montreal, Canada, he graduated dental school from McGill University where he was the recipient of the Canadian Dental Association President's Award.



He moved to Boston 10 years ago to complete a one-year post-graduate residency in Advanced Education in General Dentistry at Boston University. An active member of Boston's Alpha Omega chapter, Dr. Shapiro is also affiliated with the American Dental Association and Massachusetts Dental Society. He lives in Needham, MA with his wife and two young children.

Did you know from a young age that you wanted to be a dentist?

I did. I always had an interest in health care and always considered myself a "people person." Dentistry seemed to be the perfect profession for me as it allowed me to spend time helping people while offering a great work/life balance.

What prompted you to volunteer for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program? Did any members of your family survive the Holocaust?

Both of my grandparents on my mother's side are Holocaust survivors. While my grandfather has since passed away, my grandmother is still alive in Montreal. They moved to Canada shortly after World War II and, from nothing, created a wonderful life that allowed me to have the opportunity to pursue my future career. Both were such powerful influences on me that when I learned about this program, I could not sign up

fast enough. I know that my participation in this program would mean a lot to both of them. Having heard first-hand the horrors that these Survivors have suffered, donating my time and skills was something I believe I am compelled to do.

What has been your experience treating the patients?

My patients have been incredibly polite and grateful. Even though I think I am not doing a lot to help, everyone has been so appreciative. Helping people who have lived through such tragedy has been incredibly rewarding.

What do you like to do in your spare time, outside of work?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, taking my dog for long walks, golfing, skiing, and just about every other team sport.

Dr. Steven Spitz

Steven Spitz is a graduate of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. His post-doctoral studies include a two-year, program at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine/Boston VA Medical Center, and a General Practice Residency through Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida. He



has been a member of Alpha Omega since 1990, on a local and international level, presently International President-Elect for 2018 and International President, 2019. He has served as Clinical Professor of Prosthodontics in the Department of post-graduate Prosthodontics at Harvard University School of Dental Medicine, volunteered his dental services at the Boston Shelter for Homeless Veterans, and the Jordan Boys and Girls Club in Chelsea, MA,

He is currently clinical instructor for the Apex program for Boston University dental students, Vice President and charter member of Bright Spirit Children's Foundation, dentist on record with the Academy of Sports Dentistry for the Boston Red Sox, dentist on call and Advisory Board member for Zoo New England (yes, for the animals), an active volunteer and Advisory Board member for the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation, and Treasurer for the Metropolitan District Dental Society.

Did you always know that you wanted to be a dentist? Once you knew that you were interested in healthcare, why did you choose dental and not medical or veterinary medicine?

I began my training at UMass, Amherst in the Animal Science program. I planned to enter veterinary medicine, and ultimately decided that, after working with my uncle in his dental practice, that I wanted the one-on-one connection with humans. Through the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation, I have been lucky to have the opportunity to work with lions, tigers, camels, primates, etc., caring for animals in zoos and sanctuaries throughout the world and am the dentist on call for Boston's Stone and Franklin Park zoos.

What prompted you to volunteer for this dental program: to provide pro bono dental care to Holocaust survivors? Are any members of your family survivors?

The Holocaust survivors program envelops every reason I became a dentist: to work with and care for individuals who need help. My wife's grandparents were both survivors, however most of their family were not. The ability to give back to those who fought for our Jewish freedoms, our heritage and ultimately our families, and those who are currently living in our communities, deserve everything we can give them.

What has been your experience working with Holocaust survivor patients?

It has been my honor to work with my patients who are survivors. They are funny, astute, driven, and so appreciative, and have been through more than we could ever understand. Following their visit, when they leave more comfortably, with more confidence and hopefully with a smile, that, to me, is everything.

You have been a member of Alpha Omega for 27 years! What would you say to others about the benefits of joining the Fraternity?

Alpha Omega has been a great factor in the success of my practice over the last 20 years. The connections of friends and colleagues, dental organizations, and vast dental resources has been invaluable. Taking part on the local and international levels have allowed me to benefit educationally, be involved philanthropically, and take on a leadership role that has given me more than I would have ever imagined as a student 27 years ago.

What do you do to relax and unwind? Any favorite activities outside of work?

Being on the water is my happy place. When the weather permits, you can find me on the boating fishing.

Anything else you would like to add?

I would ask any dentist who would be interested in working with a Holocaust survivor who needs help, to please contact AO.

Dr. Matthew Zizmor

Dr. Matthew Zizmor was raised in Yonkers, New York. He attended a local Hebrew day school for his elementary education and graduated Yonkers High School in 1967. He attended Yeshiva University and took his Junior Year abroad at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



In 1975, he graduated Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery and served two years active duty in the United States Army Dental Corps. He remained in the active reserve for thirty-three years, attaining the rank of a Full Colonel. In 1980, he completed a certificate of advanced graduate study in Prosthodontics from Boston University School of Graduate Dentistry. In addition to maintaining a private practice, he taught clinical dentistry at Tufts and Boston Universities.

What drew you to dentistry? Did you know from a young age that you wanted to be a dentist?

When I was ten years old, my grandmother, Hanie Weiss, sat down with me one *Shabbat* afternoon. She said to me the following, “Matthew, I know you will always keep *Shabbat* and *Yom Tov*. I want you to have your own profession where you are your own boss and do not need to ask anyone for permission to take off for the Jewish Holidays. I want you to be a Dentist. My son Harold listened to me and is very successful. Remember, Matthew, Gramma always knows best.”

What prompted you to volunteer for this program; to provide pro bono dental care to Holocaust survivors? Did any of your family member survive the Holocaust?

I was raised in a family where I had terrific “Role Models” of Volunteerism. My grandmother founded the Yonkers chapter of Hadassah. She was active in her sisterhood of her synagogue and the Jewish National Fund. My mother throughout her life was active in the above organizations as well as UJA, her own synagogue, Israel Bonds, the

Jewish Community Center, ZOA, and B’nai B’rith. My father was active in the above organizations as well as their synagogue, the Conservative Synagogue of Riverdale. He helped organize their daily minyan. This is what a Jew does; he is not an island to himself.

This program is a great opportunity to do *Gemillut Chasidim* (acts of loving kindness). I feel fortunate to give of my knowledge, expertise and time to help others in need. To me, it is a “No Brainer.” My grandparents on my father’s side came to America in 1880s from the Austro- Hungarian Empire. My grandparents on my father side came to America in 1800s from a small *shtetl* near Kovno. Yes, there was extended family that died in the Holocaust, but there were also some survivors. At an early age, I saw many people visiting my grandparents with Numbers on their arms.

You have treated several of the Boston area patients. What has been your experience working with them?

Every one of my patients have been truly wonderful. I love them. They are very receptive to the best type of dentistry I can give them. Each one of them is very appreciative. I will tell all my colleagues, this will be your ticket to *Olam Habah* (the world to come). This *Mitzvah* will allow you to enter *Gan Eden*.

I could not have accomplished my treatment of Holocaust survivors without the able assistance of my staff: Liz, my Assistant and Hygienist; Nakeeia, my Office Manager; and Phyllis, my part time Receptionist.

What do you do to relax and unwind? Any favorite activities outside of work?

I do not have time to relax, but I make it my business to learn *Torah* every day. I also visit the gym regularly. I do volunteer work for Boys Town Jerusalem. I enjoy reading. On some *Shabbatot* and *Yom Tov*, I will read the *Torah* for the Congregation and lead services on occasion. I love to travel and always visit Israel once a year. My wife Maxine and I are the proud parents of two sons: Jeremy (fiancée Elise) and David (wife Navah) and proud grandparents of Noa and Gabriel.

Thank you note from a patient who was treated by Dr. Matthew Zizmor

I am a very happy person, because I was fortunate enough to meet such wonderful people as Dr. Matthew Zizmor and his assistant, Elizabeth Kaponya!

Dear Dr. Matthew Zizmor,

You are not only a specialist of the highest-highest level, but also a person of great soul who understands people, who treats them with a great warmth and ready to help!

It is hard to tell how grateful I am to you for that wonderful job you did with my teeth (and I understand very well what a huge job it is!). And not only with those teeth with which I addressed you, but you noticed defects in other places and corrected

them! And all completely unselfishly!!

[I meet] People like you very, very rarely, and I am very grateful to fate for meeting you!!!

Thank you very much, Dr. Matthew Zizmor!

And I want to say many thanks to Elizabeth for her warm attention, for her thoroughness and qualified work.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your very professional work and for your very warm and attentive attitude!! I wish you heartily health and only joyful days!

Patient signed her name, (with poor English, but sincerely!)

Thank you to our Donors!

Thank you for supporting this vitally important program to treat the oral health needs of this most deserving population!

Dr. Lauren Abes

Dr. Meryl and Benjamin Brown

Dr. Kenneth Goldstein

Dr. Susan Rifkin

Dr. Jeremy Rosenberg

Ms. Kathy Schulz and Mr. Rich Smolen

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Szikman

Social Services in Boston - JF & CS



From left to right: Irina Rutman, Case Manager; Lora Eliachar Tarlin, Director; Carol Laibson, Clinical Manager; Inna Lyubimova, Case Manager; Missing - Susan Spielman, Manager Café Hakalah and Jeff Cotton, volunteer.

Carol Laibson responded to the questions.

How long has the agency been working with Holocaust survivors?

JF&CS has been providing support and services to Holocaust survivors for about 70 years after they first started arriving in the United States to re-settle. JF&CS Schechter Holocaust Services has been helping Holocaust Survivors age with dignity for more than 20 years.

Approximately how many survivors are located in the Boston area?

That is a question often asked and is difficult to answer. Although many survivors do not identify themselves and apply for reparations, we believe that there are 3,000-5,000 survivors living in Massachusetts.

How many receive services from your agency and what types of services do you provide? What are the greatest needs of the Holocaust survivors in your community?

JF&CS Schechter Holocaust Services provides services to 372 survivors. These services include case management, social cultural programs, a legacies holiday visitor program, reparations application assistance, funds for homecare and personal care, and emergency financial assistance

for needs such as hearing aids, eyeglasses, food, medication, medical supplies and acupuncture, aqua therapy, and acupressure. Our program enables survivors to age with dignity and provides relief from the negative impacts of social isolation, loneliness and medical conditions that are compounded by their trauma history.

The greatest needs of the Holocaust survivors in our community are homecare, transportation, financial assistance, dental care and social/emotional connections.

What has been the experience of your agency with the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?

The dentists have been great – compassionate, creative and generous with their time. The survivors who participate feel well cared for, respected and cared about. Many, if not all, have avoided dental care for many years because of fears of what might happen, limited access, and lack of financial resources to pay for dental care. This program has enabled survivors to feel safe and finally get desperately needed dental care. One survivor, who only drives locally, drove 45 minutes to see the dentist with whom she was matched. She said she was so glad that she had and was very relieved to be able to eat comfortably again. One of the volunteers who drove a survivor to and from her dental appointments was so impressed with the care provided that he switched from his long- time dentist to the AO dentist.

The program has been invaluable and meaningful, and we look forward to more matches between survivors and dentists during 2018.

Do you have a favorite story about working with Holocaust survivors?

A few of my favorite stories are:

- A survivor asked and was able to see a specific dentist who had done wonders to help her husband who had complicated dental needs.
- A survivor was greeted at her appointment with flowers from the dentist, who knew she had recently spoken about her Holocaust history at a local high school following anti-Semitic activity at the school.
- A survivor developed a strong connection with the dentist after learning his father had been in the same DP camp as she had been.

We learn so much from the survivors we know – their tenacity, resilience and courage. Yes, we provide help to survivors, but they provide us with inspiration in how they embrace life despite the horrors of their past.

Anything else you would like to add?

This program has made a huge difference in the lives of many survivors and their families. We see new smiles and hear words of deep appreciation. As one survivor said with pride and a big smile “look at my teeth” thanks to my dentist and another said, “now I can talk without my teeth falling out.”

NEWS NOTES



From left to right: Marc Swatez, The ARK's Executive Director; Dr. Laurie Gordon Shaw, Chicago Ambassador AO-HSC; and from the Ark: Dr. Oded Gargir, Dentist; Mimi Seleski, Clinical Director, and Larissa Voloshin, Dental Assistant.

Chicago

The program is honored to work with The Ark, a not-for-profit, community-funded health and human services agency with facilities on Chicago's North Side and in Northbrook, Illinois. Some of the participating AO dentists, whose offices may not be convenient to where Holocaust survivors live, treat patients at The Ark. 80 Survivors have been treated there. The program awarded The Ark a \$1,000 grant to assist in treating the oral health needs of survivors.



Bernice Edelstein, Allen Finkelstein, Hanan Simhon, VP Holocaust Survivor Program and the Team at Selfhelp including; Lauren Hecht, Director Financial Assistance Programs; Karen DeOssie, Administrative Director, Holocaust Survivor Program and approximately 50 additional employees, varying levels from directors to caseworkers.



Judah Zellermaier, Director, Holocaust Survivor Program and the Team at MetCouncil

New York

On January 26, 2018, Dr. Rada Sumareva, Dr. Allen Finkelstein and Bernice Edelstein attended two meetings with social service agencies: Selfhelp Community Services and MetCouncil in order to heighten awareness of the program. Discussing the parameters and protocols of the program will lead to an increase in referrals. The program looks forward to strengthening its presence in the NY metropolitan area with the assistance of these groups.



Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

Program Guardian
The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation

Protocol For Obtaining Services From Town & Country Dental Studios

1. Every dental panel member should approach his/her lab for pro bono services **prior to** asking Town & Country for services. **Town & Country is our safety net** and should only be used if the dentist's own lab is not able to provide services. We are only requesting the dentist's regular lab for pro bono services for 1-2 patients per year. In return, AO will provide the dental lab exposure through various AO marketing channels. Each lab partner will receive an annual recognition certificate from the Program for the services donated.
2. In the event that the dentist's lab is not willing to provide the service, Town & Country is our Laboratory Program Partner who will donate the fabrication of crowns, complete and partial dentures and other appliances necessary for proper care of patients.
3. Dentists requesting laboratory services from Town & Country will notify and submit a treatment plan to Bernice Edelstein. Please be sure to indicate the patient's initials only on the treatment plan. The dentist should attest to the patient being referred by the social service agency. When the treatment including laboratory procedures is approved, an authorization to proceed and laboratory prescription will be sent to the dentist. Please complete the Town & Country laboratory prescription including the patient's name, the type of restoration, as well as the customary information on the treating dentist (name, address, phone and e-mail). Cases will then be shipped by the dentist using AO's Federal Express account to Town & Country.
4. Please send the cases secured in bubble wrap and in a cardboard box. Also, please send the original impression, if it is still intact.
5. Bernice Edelstein will notify Town & Country to let them know to expect a case with a prescription. A technician from Town & Country may contact the dentist to request more information about the case.
6. Please allow extra time for fabrication of donated cases. During busier production times, donated cases will be scheduled according to volume levels in the lab. You will be given a return date when the case goes into production.
7. When requesting a Porcelain fused to metal product, please request Non- Precious metal only. High Nobel Gold and semi -precious metal is not offered in this program
8. There will be no remakes of cases as this laboratory service is a one-time benefit per submitted fabrication.
9. Town & Country will ship the case back to the dentist using AO's Federal Express account.
10. This Protocol is in effect for the year 2018.



Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

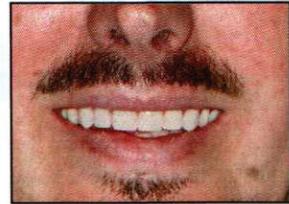
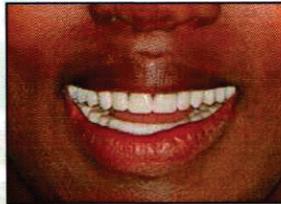
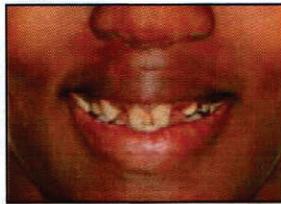
A graphic logo for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, featuring a stylized figure of a person with arms raised, set against a background of two hands cupping each other.

Program Guardian
The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation

Canadian Protocol For Obtaining Services From Orthodontic Dental Laboratory

1. Every dental panel member should approach his/her lab for pro bono services **prior to** asking Orthodontic Dental Laboratory for services. **Orthodontic Dental Laboratory is our safety net** and should only be used if the dentist's own lab is not able to provide services. We are only requesting the dentist's regular lab for pro bono services for 1-2 patients per year. In return, AO will provide the dental lab exposure through various AO marketing channels. Each lab partner will receive an annual recognition certificate from the Program for the services donated.
2. In the event that the dentist's lab is not willing to provide the service, Orthodontic Dental Laboratory is our Laboratory Program Partner who will donate the fabrication of crowns, complete and partial dentures and other appliances necessary for proper care of patients.
3. Dentists requesting laboratory services from Orthodontic Dental Laboratory will notify and submit a treatment plan to Bernice Edelstein. Please be sure to indicate the patient's initials only on the treatment plan. The dentist should attest to the patient being referred by the social service agency. When the treatment including laboratory procedures is approved, an authorization to proceed and laboratory prescription will be sent to the dentist. Please complete the Orthodontic Dental Laboratory prescription including the patient's name, the type of restoration, as well as the customary information on the treating dentist (name, address, phone and e-mail). Cases will then be shipped by the dentist to Orthodontic Dental Laboratory.
4. Please send the cases secured in bubble wrap and in a cardboard box. Also, please send the original impression, if it is still intact.
5. Bernice Edelstein will notify Orthodontic Dental Laboratory to let them know to expect a case with a prescription. A technician from Orthodontic Dental Laboratory may contact the dentist to request more information about the case.
6. Orthodontic Dental Laboratory will inspect the case to ensure that the materials sent are accurate for successful fabrication of the restoration.
7. There will be no remakes of cases as this laboratory service is a one-time benefit per submitted fabrication.
8. Orthodontic Dental Laboratory will ship the case back to the dentist.
9. This Protocol is in effect for the year 2018.

Together, we restore smiles and change lives.



Actual Town & Country Cases. Dentistry by Drs. Debbie and Steve Glassman.



We have been dedicated to the dental industry for generations.

In addition to our family, we staff an amazing team of dental technicians, many here for over 20 years, including CDT's and MDT's.

You, your staff and your patients will appreciate our friendly service and attention to detail on every case.



- A dedicated Technical Support Team with over 150 years of combined dental laboratory experience
- We pickup and deliver your cases in one day across the entire tri-state area
- Consistency and attention to detail are built into every restoration
- The newest milling technologies on premises
- Fair, competitive pricing for excellent value to you and your patients

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