

## Volume 2 issue SEVEN 2017



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



**Bernice Edelstein**  
Program Manager

*Shalom!*

The focus of the newsletter this month is on the Greater Los Angeles area and the dedicated efforts of our community to serve Holocaust survivors. KTLA aired a segment that featured the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program on Monday, June 26th. The link is below. Kol Hakavod to Dr. Mitch Levitt (interviewed on page 4) and Dr. Steven Kupferman for providing the expert care to these deserving survivors.

Special thanks go to Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory and Burbank Dental Laboratory Inc. for their generosity in providing the necessary dental appliances for the survivors living in this area, and to all the volunteer dentists who are committed to helping this population age with dignity. The dental volunteers have made a huge positive impact on the Survivors. We look forward to continued collaboration with all of these participants.

Click [here](#) to view the segment.

The newsletter will be on hiatus next month and will be back in September – Happy Summer!

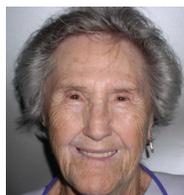
With sincere gratitude,

Bernice Edelstein, HSP Program Manager



Patients and Dr. Mitch Levitt interviewed by KTLA

### BEAUTIFUL SMILES



Patient of Dr. Jeffrey Kleiman (AO Phoenix)



Patient of Dr. Len Brenner (AO New York)

### THRILLED TO WELCOME

Milwaukee:

Dr. Stan Teplin, Ambassador

New York:

New York University  
College of Dentistry



# Los Angeles

## Meet the Dentists

### Paul Selski

*Ambassador, Los Angeles*

In 1978, I graduated from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, now known as the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. For 30 years, I have maintained a private general practice in the San Fernando Valley. I am a life member of the American Dental



Association, California Dental Association, and the San Fernando Valley Dental Society. As an undergraduate dental student, I joined the Kappa chapter of Alpha Omega at UOP. After moving back to Southern California, I joined the San Fernando Valley Chapter where I have been on the Board of Directors, Executive Board, and honored to be president on more than one occasion. My beautiful and supportive wife Eva and I live in Porter Ranch, California and soon will celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary. Our son, Benjamin, works in cybersecurity and lives in Northern California.

#### ***Why did you decide to choose dentistry as a career?***

As far back as I can remember, my interest has always peaked in the health field and being able to care for others. My family dentist, whom I admired and respected, and one college professor in particular had a huge influence on my decision to apply to dental school and consequently a career in dentistry.

#### ***What prompted you to become the Ambassador of the Los Angeles dental cohort?***

I was born and grew up in the Los Angeles area to immigrant parents who were Holocaust survivors from Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania. When the Nazis invaded Lithuania in 1941, my parents and their families were rounded up and forced into the Kovno Ghetto. Later they were sent to the concentration camps of Stutthof and Dachau. Not all survived. Fortunately, my parents did.

When I heard about the oral care program that Alpha Omega and Henry Schein Cares were partnering together to provide much needed dental treatment for Holocaust survivors, I felt compelled to participate. Every person who is helped by this program is given a little more comfort, a little less pain, and a lot more dignity.

#### ***What has been your experience leading the Program and the AO dentists in the LA region?***

Every time I am able to make a connection of a survivor to an AO member for treatment, I feel that we, as an organization, show what the real importance of belonging to AO is all about. Yes, we chose to practice dentistry as a career, but to offer to help people who lived through the horrendous experience of the Shoah and who otherwise might not be able to receive the dental treatment they need because of financial difficulties, is a real mitzvah.

#### ***The Los Angeles panel has 37 participating dentists. You have done a great job recruiting for the Program. What is the key to your success?***

Any success I have had is due to those who have helped in every step of the process. I owe a big thanks to Heather Angel, Director of the Holocaust Program

at the Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles, and to all the Social Workers who work so closely with the survivors, making sure that their needs are met. But I especially credit our AO volunteers for stepping up and so generously giving of their time and expertise.

***What do you do to relax and unwind? What is your favorite activity outside of work?***

Since I am retired from practice, I have had much more time now to spend with my family and friends. We love to travel, plan and work on various projects around the house, and attend theater and concerts of our favorite artists. Life is good.

***Anything else you would like to share?***

I cannot forget to thank everyone else who have contributed their time and resources to this project. Without their guidance and coordination, we could not make this partnership work. I want to say special thanks to Bernice Edelstein for fielding all my questions and providing all the answers, and to Max Cutler who is always my sounding board and support.

## **Mitch Levitt**

Dr. Levitt attended college at McGill University and received his dental degree from the University of Montreal School of Dental Medicine. He was awarded the Whitehall-Robins award for student involvement and the Sherman Prize for academic excellence and leadership. He completed a one-year post-graduate residency program in Advanced Education in General Dentistry at the University of Southern California. Following his advanced training in the Los Angeles community,



Dr. Levitt moved to Upstate New York to provide dentistry to an underserved community. He has been practicing dentistry for over ten years in the Los Angeles area: from Santa Monica to Beverly Hills to now owning his practice in the Miracle Mile. Over these years, Dr. Levitt has had the opportunity to train with some of the world's authoritative leaders in aesthetic and reconstructive dentistry.



**Patient with Dr. Mitch Levitt**

***When you chose a career path, how did you choose dentistry?***

I was fortunate to know at a young age that I wanted to become a dentist. I remember being at the orthodontist as a kid and thinking that I could see myself doing this as an adult. It stuck with me, and I decided to go with it. Almost 25 years later (and on most days), I am pretty sure that I made the right choice.

***What prompted you to decide to participate in the Program; to provide pro bono dental care to Holocaust survivors?***

It was a no brainer. Two of my grandparents were Holocaust survivors, and my mother was born in a liberation camp. Being a Jewish dentist, I knew that I had to be involved with this program. I have always felt that it is important to get involved with your community. As a result, I can easily make a significant impact on the lives of these Holocaust survivors while improving their quality of life. It is just the right thing to do.

***What has been your experience working with your Holocaust survivor patients? Any favorite stories?***

It has been such a rewarding and humbling experience, like having your *Bubbie* or *Zaida* showing up to your

office with a bowl of chicken soup. It just gives you that warm feeling inside.

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

I love modern design and architecture and most foods that are bad for you. I appreciate a good cup of coffee. My wife and I enjoy traveling and exploring different cultures. As a fan of professional football, I look forward to Sundays every fall. I try to get to the beach as much as possible, and I adore spending time with my dog, Gimmel. Also, I may or may not have an addiction to YouTube. Please do not judge me!

## **Lawrence Zabner**

Dr. Lawrence Zabner provides comprehensive dental care. In addition to offering restorative and cosmetic dentistry, Dr. Zabner specializes in treating TMJ/TMD disorders, migraines, and sleep apnea. He was born and raised in California and received his DMD degree from Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



***What drew you to dentistry? Did you know that you always wanted to be a dentist?***

According to my parents, I always looked at people's teeth and commented on nice smiles.

***Why did you become a specialist?***

According to the ADA, there is no Specialty in treatment of TMD or Sleep Apnea. I chose to go into this area of dentistry because when

one can take a patient who has suffered many years in chronic pain and can finally relieve most or all of their symptoms, you have made life changes to their lives. They are most appreciative of anything you can do.

***What prompted you to decide to participate in the Program; to provide pro bono dental care to Holocaust survivors?***

I have always done some pro bono work for the community. This was an easy answer when asked to participate.

***What has been your experience working with your Holocaust survivor patients? Any favorite stories?***

These patients have been most appreciative of all we do for them. Most have been very patient with any time the lab takes. One current patient is having continued problems with a lower denture, yet keeps apologizing for being so difficult. It seems more difficult to convince them they are not a problem patient. I have some of the most interesting conversations with some of them; you know they are appreciative of our respect and support for them.

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

Currently, we are working on project in northern California which is taking up much our time. After that, I hope to get back into cycling and kayaking. I have found flying drones – safely and non-intrusive – to be very relaxing.

# Jewish Family Service Los Angeles



Here are Bonnie Myerson ( social worker), Oksana Brodskiy ( social worker), Heather Angel ( program director), Helen Moreno ( office coordinator), Joanne Levine ( social worker)

*Heather Angel, Director of Holocaust Program and Valley Storefront Senior Center at Jewish Family Service was interviewed for this article.*

## ***How long has the agency been working with Holocaust survivors?***

We have been working with Survivors for about 24 years. We started with the Café Europa Social Groups and then received funding from the Claims Conference to provide services and Case Management.

## ***Approximately how many survivors are located in the Los Angeles area?***

We hear there are about 10,000 survivors in Los Angeles County.

## ***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?***

We serve about 800 survivors in Los Angeles. We provide Case Management, Home Care services,

Financial Assistance, Café Europa Social Groups, Men's and Women's Support Groups and Support to adult children of survivors.

The greatest need our survivors have is for Home Care, which includes help in the home, escort to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, cooking, assistance with bathing and companionship.

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

We have had only positive experiences with the Alpha Omega Program. Dr. Paul Selski, our Ambassador is very patient, calm and thorough. He has made good matches with our survivors and the dentists who volunteer their time and effort for this population. Our survivors have

***“We find their resilience more than humbling and their lust for life amazing especially after going through what they had to go through-perhaps this is precisely why they are so resilient and full of life.”***

only reported having good experiences with caring dentists. Our program is growing and we hope to have more survivors who receive dental care so they can enjoy their last years pain free and comfort while they eat.

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

We run a women's weekly support group for Holocaust survivors. The group members are respectively from Poland, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, and the Former Soviet Union. They are the funniest, wisest, most intelligent women that we've been fortunate to have had the pleasure to spend time with. Our meetings are full of laughter and sometimes a few tears are shed as well. They are predominately child survivors who had to flee their homes, many separated from their families and given to Catholic families or to the Catholic Church for safe keeping. We find their resilience more than humbling and their lust for life amazing especially after going through what they had to go through – perhaps this is precisely why they are so resilient and full of life. The biggest topics that the women talk about are their families, their health problems, and their favorite recipes, interspersed with their individual war experiences. We share a lot of laughs: One member explained that on her wedding day she asked her mother about the birds and the bees and her mother answered her, "You probably know more than I do." Another shared that as a teen when she told her mother "that time of the month just happened," her mother slapped her face and told her, "Now you're a woman." The women are also very proud of their cooking and share how to make the best chicken soup and what they make special for the holidays. The women in the group feel very comfortable sharing with one another because they know that they each truly understand what it was to go through the unbelievable hardships and trauma of the war, and thus able to support each other in a unique way. The women always tell me how grateful they are for this group but we are the ones that are most grateful to them.

## NEWS NOTES



The Alpha Omega – Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program is receiving two Silver awards from the American Society of Association Executive (ASAE)'s Power of A Awards. AO staff are members of ASAE and AO is a recognized organization within ASAE.

As a member, AO applied for the Power of A in two categories, The Power to Enrich Lives and The Power to Innovate, and was selected as silver winners for both. The program will be receiving sporadic recognition in ASAE publications throughout the year. This is very positive publicity for AO, our partner Henry Schein Cares and the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program.

### Announcements

Saul Pressner, a participating NYC dentist was interviewed June 9<sup>th</sup> on WBAI radio regarding Biomimetic Dentistry. Dr. Pressner is President of the Academy of Biomimetic Dentistry.

[Click here](#) to listen to the entire interview.

# United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg



*Bernice Edelstein speaking at UJO luncheon*

AO attended the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg (UJO) annual luncheon for Holocaust survivors on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a wonderful event attended by 200 survivors. The organization was founded in 1966 to assist families in need living in South Williamsburg. Today, UJO serves more than 50,000 residents and 148 not-for-profits that serve the communities of Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

The agency serves approximately 500 Holocaust survivors annually and we will soon treat some of the clients!



*UJO luncheon*

## By the Numbers ( Jan. 2016 - December 2016)

City	Ambassador	In Treatment	Completed
Atlanta	Michael Friedman	0	7
Boston	David Dano & Murray Miller	0	10
Chicago	Laurie Gordon-Shaw	2	74
Columbus	Shaun Rotenberg	0	14
Dallas	Gary Solomon	0	1
Detroit	Jamie Feldman, Marv Sonne, Mark Luria	0	27
Los Angeles	Paul Selski	0	14
New York	Rada Sumareva	0	6
Phila./South Jersey	Bruce Silver	1	12
Phoenix	Irwin Feinberg	0	1
San Francisco	Jay Cohen	0	2
Seattle	Kal Klass	0	18
Washington, DC	Ben Williamowsky	0	76
West Hartford		0	1
Calgary	Brian Sacks	0	7
Montreal	Jeff Tenser	0	17
Toronto	Gerald Pearson	0	13
Winnipeg	Gary Hyman	7	13
Temple/KleinLife		0	47
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>360</b>

## By the Numbers ( Jan. 2017- June 2017)

City	Ambassador	In Treatment	Completed
Atlanta	Michael Friedman	5	-
Boston	David Dano & Murray Miller	7	3
Chicago	Laurie Gordon-Shaw	8	14
Columbus	Shaun Rotenberg	2	2
Cincinnati	Dr. Glen Meyer	17	3
Dallas	Gary Solomon	1	-
Detroit	Jamie Feldman, Marv Sonne, Mark Luria	8	4
Los Angeles	Paul Selski	5	2
Milwaukee	Stan Teplin	2	0
New York	Rada Sumareva	9	7
Phila./South Jersey	Bruce Silver	6	1
Phoenix	Irwin Feinberg	2	3
San Francisco	Jay Cohen	0	-
Seattle	Kal Klass	5	6
Washington, DC	Ben Williamowsky	1	17
West Hartford		2	1
Calgary	Brian Sacks	0	2
Montreal	Jeff Tenser	14	9
Toronto	Gerald Pearson	4	1
Winnipeg	Gary Hyman	10	2
Temple/KleinLife		3	22
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>99</b>

### 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 2016 or 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](mailto:bedelstein@ao.org). THANK YOU!!

Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory and Burbank Dental Laboratory Inc. provide the pro bono fabrication of appliances for the survivors living in the area. Below are interviews with each of the two labs.

## Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory



Sam Alawie

*Sam Alawie, co-founder and president of Beverly Hill Dental Laboratory was interviewed for this piece.*

### ***Would you tell us a little bit about the history of Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory?***

Founded in 2003 by Sam Alawie, Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory is located in the heart of Beverly Hills. Sam Alawie is an accomplished master dental technician who was joined in 2012 by Michel Magne, the master ceramist and dentistry expert. Their combined exceptional skills and experience turned BHDL as the lab of choice for exquisite dental artistry. BHDL's cutting-edge venue includes a full service dental laboratory, a photography studio and a teaching facility where clinicians and students can connect and learn. BHDL collaborates closely with both dentists and patients to ensure the highest level of quality, convenience and satisfaction from start to finish. From our expert technicians and dental artisans to our dedicated customer service team, you can rely on BHDL for unparalleled craftsmanship and support. It's all part of our mission to advance the art of the smile.

### ***How did Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory become involved with providing dental lab services through the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?***

One of Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory's fundamental objectives is to serve the community and provide beautiful smiles to people who cannot afford to get them on their own. BHDL sought out to provide services to Holocaust survivors because of the added value, appreciation, satisfaction and discipline one gains from such amazing experiences. Impacting and changing lives are experiences that we cherish and constantly seek out. BHDL is also an active supporter of the Rebuilding America's Warriors foundation (R.A.W.).

### ***What has been your experience serving Holocaust survivors?***

Giving back to survivors who risked their lives for us is an invaluable reward to Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory and is hard to express in words. Serving Holocaust survivors makes all the difference in humbly and modestly returning our gratitude and appreciation to them.

***What is your lab's proudest moments?***

The lab's proudest moments are when we witness testimonials from satisfied survivors who for years have been wanting a beautiful smile but did not know how to go about seeking these services. Seeing them happy and in disbelief of the good results truly brings so much joy to all of us in the laboratory and makes our day-to-day job that much more meaningful. We truly feel proud to be remembered as THE place to restore beautiful smiles and improve the quality of life for so many.

***Anything else you would like to share?***

We would like to thank your organization for putting its trust in our services and allowing us to be a vital partner in changing the lives of survivors. We look forward to continuing to serve your organization and humbly thank you for the opportunity to touch many lives.

## **Burbank Dental Laboratory Inc.**

*Tony Sedler, president of Burbank Dental Laboratory Inc. was interviewed. "He encourages everyone at Burbank to maintain a 'Do whatever it takes attitude.'"*

***Tell us a little bit about the history of Burbank Dental Laboratory?***

My mother and father started the lab in 1980, then I came to help them after school and when I graduated I started to work full time.

***How did Burbank Dental Laboratory become involved with providing dental lab services through the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?***

My very good friend Dr. Richard Green told me about that program.

***What has been your experience serving Holocaust survivors?***

It is my privilege to serve Holocaust survivors.

***What is your lab's proudest moment?***

When I see those people smile.

***Anything else you would like to share?***

I am glad to be able to help.



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## Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

A graphic logo for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, showing two hands cupping a stylized figure.

Program Guardian  
The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation

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### Canadian Protocol For Obtaining Services From Orthodont Dental Laboratory

1. Every dental panel member should approach his/her lab for pro bono services **prior to** asking Orthodont Dental Laboratory for services. **Orthodont 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, Orthodont 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 Orthodont 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 Orthodont 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 Orthodont 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 Orthodont Dental Laboratory to let them know to expect a case with a prescription. A technician from Orthodont Dental Laboratory may contact the dentist to request more information about the case.
6. Orthodont 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. Orthodont Dental Laboratory will ship the case back to the dentist.
9. This Protocol is in effect for the year 2017.



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## Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

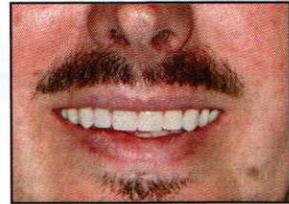
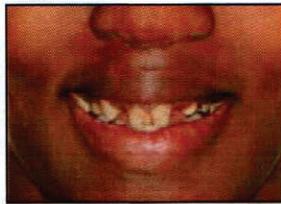
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Program Guardian  
The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation

### 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. Town & Country will inspect the case to ensure that the materials sent are accurate for successful fabrication of the restoration.
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 2017.

# 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.



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- 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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