



Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

Program Guardians
The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation
Robert I. Schattner Foundation, Inc.

“Because of what they went through then, helping now isn’t a matter of choice - it’s a matter of conscience.”

AO-HSC PROGRAM NEWS

In Her Own Words

I was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1938. I was a young child during the war, and we were transferred from ghetto to ghetto in Budapest throughout the war. There was no schooling for [children] my age. My father could not get work as a teacher because he was Jewish and was forced to work in a labor camp that worked for the army. Food was always a problem and we were always hungry. My mother worked in a hospital and always tried to bring home some food from the hospital kitchen. Somehow, we survived.

On a daily basis we were told to line up in the lobby of our apartment building and had to step out of the line when our name was called. Fortunately, my family name was not called, and we remained in the ghetto until the end of the war.

I remember hearing Russian planes flying overhead and they bombed the building next to ours. Shrapnel from bombs hit my brother and me. My brother was taken to the hospital and lost an eye. Both of us still bear those physical scars on our faces.

Another incident that I remember is this one time when all the Jewish tenants of our building were forced out of their apartments and made to walk half an hour to the local horse racing stadium. We were forced to give up all our valuables and after many hours were allowed to return home. Our family was always together which kept our hopes



Patient on left with Toby Raice, Program Coordinator at Bikur Cholim, Rockland County, NY

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CHAMPION DONOR:

Jonathan & Linda Haar, Directors



Darwin Project Acts of Kindness

“...we have no choice but to try to better ourselves, touch those around us, shape and challenge our community, and ultimately, change the world — and thus leave a lasting memory.”

- Jonathan & Linda Haar

Profile: THE DARWIN PROJECT

The Darwin Project exists to improve the quality of life for people, animals and the earth, through small acts of kindness which affect the individual, family and community, particularly the disenfranchised and under-served in our communities. The Haars believe that the health and wellbeing of humans, animals and our natural environment are intricately intertwined.

The Darwin Project was founded in 2008, in Cambridge, Massachusetts by Jonathan Haar and Linda Mongelli Haar to implement community-based charitable projects. Some early projects include: a STEM initiative taking 3rd to 5th grade girls to the Franklin Park Zoo for tours by female role model zoo keepers and veterinarians; pro bono design of the conservatory building and exhibits/curriculum for the Boston Botanical Garden & Conservation Learning Center; design of a self-contained transportable surgical suite out of used cargo containers for global surgery use; annual packaging of Christmas care packages for troops still in harm's way, with the assistance of friends at Turner Construction and the support of Hanscom Air Force Base for delivery.

The Darwin Project has seven primary areas of interest on which to focus its support:

- [Global Surgery and Public Health](#)
- [Early Childhood Learning and Physical Fitness](#)
- [Support for the Disenfranchised](#)
- [Support for US Soldiers & Veterans](#)
- [Animal Rights and Wellbeing](#)
- [Wind Power Technology](#)
- [Environmental Learning and Stewardship](#)

How did the idea to create The Darwin Project come to be?

Linda: I think that the Darwin Project was the culmination of the evolving influences on us as we were growing up, and from our work and life experiences as adults. I was influenced early by the simple “kindness to others” philosophy of my parents, and by the

environmental movement of the 1960s and '70s as a student. My work as an environmental and urban planner focused on the interdependence of the kaleidoscope of people in a community and the dependence of all creatures on a healthy environment. Mid-career I took time to complete a Master of Public Health Degree at Harvard, and knew I wanted to move in that direction for work. Jonathan had the opportunity as a teenager to travel with his father, a renowned land use professor. He saw first-hand the results of poverty and neglect on communities and on



Darwin Project Founders
Jonathan and Linda M. Haar

the environment, and was drawn to helping the disenfranchised. His work in film focused on shedding light on these issues. His career in large scale construction has greatly supported some of the work we now do.

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Shalom!

Dear Friends,

I hope that you and your family are well during this challenging and frankly frightening time. While dental offices are closed, several emergencies have arisen for our survivors. A huge thank you to Drs. Paul and Sara Cohen (Washington, DC), Dr. Bruce Hochstadter and Dr. Amit Patel (Buffalo Grove, Illinois), and Dr. Albert Zickmann (Chicago, Illinois) and their office staffs for treating survivors and providing access to care during this unprecedented time.

Be sure to read the information that Bikur Cholim of Rockland County, NY submitted (Page 9) regarding the effects that the novel coronavirus is having on this population.

On a bright note, during 2019, 338 Holocaust survivors were seen through the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, and the value of the donated dental care was nearly \$876,000! My sincere thanks and gratitude go to Steve Kess and Team Schein members for their expertise and assistance; Dr. Avi Wurman and Dr. Allen Finkelstein for their guidance; the AO dental ambassadors and the AO dentists. The dentists participating in the program are the unsung heroes!



Bernice Edelstein

D.C. \$171,570, led by Drs. Paul Cohen, Steven Kahan, & Alan Singer; and Temple Dental at the KleinLife Center, \$67,535, Dean Amid Ismail.

The dental program is helping to restore dignity & quality of life to this vulnerable population and is filling a crucial healthcare need. AO's commitment to restoring smiles to Holocaust survivors

During 2019, the value of the donated dental care was nearly \$876,000!

Additional appreciation goes to our program partner labs - Town & Country Dental Studios, GCDL and Orthodont - and to all the dental labs participating in the Program for donating the necessary prosthetic devices to the patients. I am also grateful to the social service agency participants for screening the patients and to our philanthropic partners for their generosity in financing this Program. Kudos to my AO HQ colleagues: Heidi Weber, ED and Ellen Taranto of the AO Foundation.

New York is a hot spot of activity for treating the oral needs of survivors. 55 were seen this past year, and the value of the donated dental care was nearly \$250,000! We could not achieve these results without the dedication and commitment of our wonderful dentists, dental staffs and dental schools. New York is led by Dr. Rada Sumareva, and we say, "Спасибо!" (Thank you in Russian).

Other large areas: Chicago, \$71,875, led by Dr. Laurie Gordon-Shaw; South Jersey/Philadelphia, \$95,130, led by Dr. Bruce Silver; Washington,

is a top priority. Things will get back to a "new normal" and when they do, we look forward to the resumption of treatment for all of the patients. The passion that all stakeholders exhibit is motivating, and although the year ahead will bring its own challenges, working together, we will treat as many Holocaust survivors as we can.

*Stay healthy,
stay safe,*

Bernice Edelstein
Program Manager

Wishing all a Chag Sameach for the upcoming Shavuot holiday.

CHICAGO BRUNCH RECEPTION

On Sunday, January 26th at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, a brunch reception was held celebrating the 6th year of the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. Dr. Alan Moltz presented Dr. Terri Tiersky, Chicago Dental Society President and AO member, with a Presidential Citation. Dr. Tiersky is only the fourth female president to hold the position in the organization's 155-year history! See her remarks (page 5) published in the March/April 2020 issue of the CDS Review.

David Goldenberg, ADL Midwest Regional Director gave a presentation on The State of Anti-Semitism. It was very informative and timely!



Thank you Dr. Laurie Gordon-Shaw, for your tireless efforts in making the Chicago dental program such a success! Thanks also to Maya Gumirov and Yonit Hoffman & the entire team at CJE Senior Life. To all the participating dental providers and office staff, we could not run this program with you. Kol Hakavod to all!

CHICAGO DENTAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Terri Tiersky, DDS, JD

Through the Kaleidoscope

"Making a Difference by Giving Back."

I have been asked countless times over the years why I became involved in organized dentistry, and my response has remained essentially the same: I wanted to have the opportunity to make a difference in our profession and the members we serve. It is as simple as that. Likewise, I have also tried to do what I could to make a difference for patients who would otherwise not have access to dental care.

The Alpha Omega International Dental Society recognized me at a brunch recently for my service to the Chicago Dental Society. Many in attendance that day were there because of their participation in the Alpha Omega – Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. I also treat patients through this program.

After thanking the group for the award that I was very honored to receive, the balance of my remarks focused on the fact that making a difference was clearly very important to everyone in that room. They were there because they have given their time selflessly to help those less fortunate, in this case survivors of the Holocaust. I felt compelled to thank them because I think that giving back is something that we should make a priority. A quote by Winston Churchill exemplifies my thoughts:

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

There are a myriad of ways that we can give:

- Volunteer for the upcoming Mission of Mercy;
- See a patient through the Donated Dental Service (DDS) program in Illinois;
- Volunteer at the CDS Foundation Clinic in Wheaton;
- Treat a Holocaust survivor through the program I mentioned previously.

That is the short list.

There are numerous ways in which we can have a positive impact on someone's life simply by virtue of the profession that we are so fortunate to be a part of – a profession that heals.



In his book *The Power of Intention*, Dr. Wayne Dyer cites research that has shown a simple act of kindness directed toward another improves the functioning of the immune system and stimulates the production of serotonin in both the recipient of the kindness and the person extending the kindness. It's a win-win!

So many of us are drawn to the practice of dentistry because of our desire to help and to make a difference. As a result, I suspect that most, if not all, of you reading this article are already giving back. Whatever way you have chosen to make that difference in someone else's life, keep on doing it. These acts of giving not only make a difference to those we serve but serve to improve our lives as well.

A kaleidoscope shines more brightly, and its beauty is magnified, when held up to the light. We can all be the light in someone's life . . . the light that will let them shine.

Published in the March/April 2020 issue of the CDS Review.

SPOTLIGHT CHICAGO

Special Message from Dr. Laurie Gordon-Shaw, Ambassador of the Chicago Program

I believe that people of my generation have been blessed and privileged to have lived during a time when we did not have to experience the kinds of hardships that these survivors endured. I feel it is our responsibility to help these survivors as much as we can to make their lives easier. As dentists, we have the ability to provide a basic service that most of these survivors cannot afford on their own. I am proud and inspired that Alpha Omega dentists are rising to the occasion to help these people get the care they need with dignity and empathy. Along with providing this necessary dental care, it is just as important to give the survivors the opportunity to share their unique stories from the Holocaust. I have found that by sharing their experiences with me, my patients feel that they are helping to keep their family's memories alive for future generations. This is the true mitzvah of our program.

This global pandemic has hit the Holocaust survivors especially hard because of their advanced age and prior health challenges. Because so many have been unable to see a dentist on a regular basis, their dental condition is poor. I realize that during this challenging time, it is difficult to meet the needs of our long standing patients. Yet, I hope that more dentists will find it in their hearts to open their offices for these special patients.



There are over 1,600 survivors living in poverty, not able to afford basic dentistry. Many are waiting for dental treatment. JOIN US! If you are interested in participating in the program, contact Dr. Laurie Gordon-Shaw, lsgdds1@aol.com; or Bernice Edelstein, bedelstein@ao.org.

HOW TO DONATE

AO US FOUNDATION: www.aofus.org // ellen.taranto@aofus.org // 301-738-6400 or 877-368-6326

AO CANADIAN FOUNDATION: Marlene Tenenbaum Memorial Tribute Fund
www.aofoundation.ca // info@aofoundation.ca // 416-250-7417



MEET THE DENTISTS



BRUCE E. HOCHSTADTER

Received his Bachelor's Degree in Dentistry from the University of Illinois. He then received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Illinois. His internship and residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery were completed at the Brooklyn-Cumberland Medical Center and Brooklyn's Veteran's Administration Hospital. He was a major in the U.S. Army Dental Corps before entering private practice.

Why did you choose dentistry as a career?

I always had an aptitude for science. I was inspired by my childhood dentist and encouraged by my mother to enter dentistry.

As I moved through dental school, I found myself drawn to the Oral Surgery clinic whenever I had a few spare minutes. I had found what I wanted to do with my life.

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DR. ALAN MOLTZ

Received his Bachelor of Science in Dentistry from the University of Illinois, Chicago and then received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Illinois, Chicago. He is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry. In addition to being an Alpha Omegan member for 34 years, he is also a member

of Chicago Dental Society, Illinois State Dental Society, American Dental Society.

Why did you choose dentistry as a career?

I chose dentistry as a career to help people. As a practitioner and entrepreneur, you have both the freedom to choose your lifestyle and have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping patients obtain optimal health.

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DR. ARIELLE WULFSOHN

Received her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a major in psychology and a minor in chemistry. Dr. Wulfsohn then attended Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine, where she earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree.

Why did you choose dentistry as a profession?

I chose dentistry as a profession because it is one of the few fields that encompasses many of the traits that I wanted in my future career. I am able to help people, have a great work/life balance, tap into my artistic side, be independent, and work in an environment that compliments my personality and interests.

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DR. ALBERT ZICKMANN

Dr. Zickmann is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon in private practice and also the Co-founder of Blue Sky Bio, a company specializing in dental implants and digital solutions for the dental field. He received his postdoctoral training at the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Dentistry. He completed his D.D.S. degree at Loyola University of Chicago, School of Dentistry in 1991 and his preclinical work at J. W. Goethe University of Frankfurt, Dental and Medical School.

Why did you choose dentistry as a career?

I was inspired by my maternal grandfather who was a physician and had the first x-ray unit in his town. He lived through both World Wars and through communism. He eventually moved to Israel at the age of 65 and continued working as a physician for another 20 years. He was the happiest man on earth living a very humble life as a proud Jew and at last free of persecution, in our Homeland Israel. I saw how happy he was when he helped people in his own

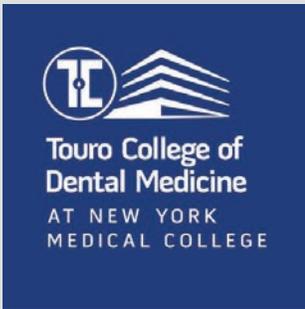
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WELCOME TO THE PROGRAM

Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College, under the leadership of Dr. Ronnie Myers, Dean, and Dr. Edward Farkas, Vice Dean, is now participating in the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. Dr. Gary Scharoff (AO Westchester) is the ambassador.

The school is located in Hawthorne, New York and will be a tremendous asset for those survivors living in the lower Hudson Valley. To date the school has grown to over 430 students and will be celebrating the graduation of its inaugural class through a virtual commencement ceremony.



The four other dental schools participating in the program are: AT Still University *Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health*, New York University *College of Dentistry*, University of Pennsylvania *Penn Dental Medicine* and Temple University *Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry Clinic at KleinLife*.



Mazel Tov



Dr. Paul Selski (AO San Fernando Valley Chapter) received a Presidential Citation, at the AO Los Angeles Convention, in recognition of his dedicated service to the chapter, as ambassador to the AO-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program and his lifelong commitment to promoting the tenets of AO.

MEET PROGRAM INTERN

ALLEN BORSHCH

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York and am attending Brooklyn College's Macaulay Honors Program. I am a freshman and am planning to major in biology. As hobbies, I enjoy playing basketball, I play quite a bit of chess, and I also like playing the piano. I became interested in dentistry by assisting my parents at their office. It is through them that I learned of AO and the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. They provide pro bono dental care to survivors referred to the program. I asked them how I could be of assistance and by doing so I learned more about the program. I am thrilled to be volunteering for such a wonderful cause!



BY THE NUMBERS

JANUARY 2020 - APRIL 2020

		COMPLETED	IN TREATMENT
ATLANTA	DR. MICHAEL FRIEDMAN		5
BOSTON	DR. GARRY FELDMAN DR. S. MURRAY MILLER DR. STEVEN SPITZ	1	2
CHICAGO	DR. LAURIE GORDON	2	8
CINCINNATI	DR. GLEN MEYER		3
COLUMBUS	DR. SHAUN ROTENBERG		
DALLAS	DR. GARY SOLOMON		
DENVER	DR. LEE WEISBARD		
DETROIT	DR. JAMES FELDMAN DR. MARK LURIA DR. MARV SONNE	1	1
FLORIDA	DR. MICHAEL EGGNATZ	2	2
LOS ANGELES	DR. PAUL SELSKI		1
MILWAUKEE	DR. STAN TEPLIN		
NEW YORK	DR. RADA SUMAREVA	9	9
NYU COLLEGE DENTISTRY	IRA BERESNOY		
TOURO DENTAL	DR. GARY SCHAROFF		
PHOENIX	DR. I. FEINBERG		
ASDOH	DR. I. FEINBERG		
SAN FRANCISCO	DR. JAY COHEN		
SEATTLE	DR. KAL KLASS		
SO. JERSEY/PHILLY	DR. BRUCE SILVER	1	7
UPENN			
WASHINGTON, DC	DR. ALAN SINGER DR. PAUL COHEN DR. STEVE KAHAN	15	10
WEST HARTFORD			
CALGARY	DR. BRIAN SACKS		
MONTREAL	DR. JEFF TENSER DR. MILÈNE ABADI		
TORONTO	DR. BONNIE CHANDLER	3	3
WINNIPEG	DR. GARY HYMAN		1
TEMPLE/KLEINLIFE		6	
TOTAL		40	52



The dental program partnered with the Holocaust Education And Relief Team (H.E.A.R.T.) at Bikur Cholim. Their mission is to support and assist Holocaust survivors. The agency was founded in 1981 and meets the needs of the Rockland community and beyond.

Suri Frenkel, Program Assistant, submitted this information.

We just started a new food program for our Holocaust survivors. Too many of them just can't get out to do the shopping. That is a huge undertaking but so far seems to be working and the clients are so appreciative.

Regarding our clients and how they are managing the pandemic, I can tell you it is very hard. Those who are in facilities can't see their kids at all. The kids are relying on the aides to FaceTime them and keep them updated on their parent's health. We had one situation where the aide came down with Covid-19 and the parent had to move to a child. That child also had Covid-19, so they had to move the parent to the other child.

Our clients are feeling quite isolated as most of them do not have smart phones or internet, so they have no way to communicate other than by phone. We are keeping in touch by phone on a regular basis. This has been a very stressful situation for most of our clients and we pray and hope this virus passes soon so we can all get back to normal. Some of our clients did pass away due to Covid-19. So sad.

DENTAL LABS

We are pleased that in addition to Town & Country Dental Studios in Freeport, New York and Orthodont in Oshawa, Ontario, GCDL (formerly Golden Ceramic Dental Lab) in Prospect Heights, Illinois is also participating in the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, providing the necessary appliances to restore the oral health of this vulnerable population.



CYDNEY AND BEN TOPAZ ARE THE OWNERS OF THE LAB AND PROVIDED THE RESPONSES BELOW.

Would you tell us a little bit about the history of Golden Ceramic Dental Lab?

Golden Ceramic Dental Lab now known as GCDL was founded in 2004 in Columbus, Ohio. Ben and Cydney Topaz relocated to Cydney's hometown in 2006 and moved the lab to the Chicagoland area.

How did GCDL become involved with providing dental lab services for Holocaust survivors?

Ben is the grandchild of Holocaust survivors and was looking to honor them in some way. His grandfather, Natan Fried z"l, raised him and was his mentor and inspiration to work hard and succeed. His grandmother, Miriam Fried z"l, also spent a lot of time raising him. Ben's grandparents were the most influential people in his life.

What about the lab makes you most proud?

We have grown tremendously in the last 15 years. We are proud to be a leading lab using the latest and greatest technologies to create excellent restorations and to offer our customers and patients the best in materials and restorations.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

As the grandson of Holocaust survivors, I could think of no better way to honor the memory of my grandparents than to provide complimentary dental restorations to allow our survivors to age in dignity.



IN HER OWN WORDS *continued*

alive. We were always dreaming of going to Israel to live and kept our spirits up by hearing stories of Israel and its people who fought for her independence. Unfortunately, we had no money for visas or travel.

Before the war we did have some non-Jewish acquaintances, who lived in our building. We tried to return to our old apartment after the war, but found it stuffed with furniture. The non-Jews did not want us to return but we did finally

“I remember hearing Russian planes flying overhead and they bombed the building next to ours. Shrapnel from bombs hit my brother and me.”

move back in only after civil order was restored. The Russians did try to help the Jewish survivors after the war.

We survived the war and continued living in Budapest. We went to Jewish schools and then in 1956 we escaped to Austria. Our family in the U.S. were able to sponsor us so we moved to the United States in 1957.

I am so grateful for the services that Alpha Omega provided me. The implants I received from Dr. Rada Sumareva are wonderful and I am now able to eat properly and painlessly. She did amazing work and I am so happy. Dr. Zev Kaufman finished the caps and again I was so satisfied and grateful. Both dentists and their staffs treated me with respect and dignity. Thank you so much Alpha Omega for a truly amazing program. Bless you all!

After about 30 years each of working in our respective fields, Linda had the opportunity to be a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. We both met people who were doing great work in the world, and we took coursework in biodiversity. It all clicked, and we joined forces to work together in our “second careers” to try to effect small positive changes on issues we care about.

How did you learn of the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?

Linda: This is one of our favorite stories. As you can see by the discussions here, the Darwin Project is focused on supporting the disenfranchised in our communities as well as supporting the wellbeing of the non-human creatures on the planet we all share. In our work on animal welfare issues we have become friends with John Linehan, the Director of Zoo New England, and have supported Young Explorers programs at the zoo for young girls in the Roxbury area of Boston to give them more exposure to STEM learning. We also do less exciting things in our day like going to the dentist. But our dentist, Dr. Steven Spitz, is special and we enjoy going there. On one visit I saw a book of glossy pictures on his reception desk and it was full of images of him working on tooth problems of large cats and small mammals. We insisted that he meet John Linehan, and now our dentist is also dentist to the local zoo. On our subsequent visits to the dentist we learned more about what else he was doing outside of his normal practice. He told us about his work with the AO-HSC dental program and we felt a connection and wanted to lend our support.

What inspired your gift and were any of your family members affected by the Holocaust?

Jonathan: As a young man, my grandfather had many careers and he told me he was a groom for a great German officer’s horse fighting for the Kaiser until he realized that he was on the wrong side of the war. He married my Russian Jewish grandmother and their common household language was Yiddish. He became a diamond cutter in Antwerp after World War I and was able to emigrate to the U.S. where he started many import businesses and had to travel much of the year for his work. He had a shirt factory in the Philippines and just had the bad luck of being there when the Japanese invaded. He spent the war in an open compound and had to build his own “house” out of palm fronds and was not a young man by this time and got very sick. His Philippine business partner, at great personal risk, smuggled medicines to him and pop survived the war.

Meanwhile his son was a Lieutenant JG in the navy on a battleship in the exact same arena at the same time. There is some life’s irony there. My Father went on to become the Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law at Harvard and his classmates of that first class after the war really shaped

post-war America’s industries and he and his friends went on to shape The Great Society and the War on Poverty under Kennedy and Johnson.

Sadly, the branch of my father’s family that stayed in Europe did die in the concentration camps of Poland.

My mother’s family was also part of the Diaspora and ended up in Galveston, Texas, where my grandfather sold newspapers for a nickel to put himself through Law School and became the first Jewish Sheriff of Galveston, among other achievements. My mother graduated Yale and received her Master’s in Clinical Psychology.

I always look at the world through the lens of these journeys and feel the weight of my predecessors iron will to survive on my shoulders every day and work to continue to make the world a decent place, with a special place in my heart for those who survived the horrors of the camps.

What do you and Linda like to do in your spare time?

Linda: In our spare time we like to be outside hiking, especially in the winter, or bike riding. Jonathan recently has taken up ice skating to stay fit, and is becoming a very good skater. I have joined him in this pursuit at my ripe old age, and must say that I am not becoming a lovely skater. But we have fun holding hands on the ice (for my benefit) feigning ice dancing. We also have been spending time doing “odd jobs” for some of the charities we support. Most importantly, we spend much time hanging out with our amazing rescue dog, Lucy, a beautiful, loving and stubborn Scottish Terrier.

BRUCE E. HOCHSTADTER *continued***What prompted you to volunteer for the dental program?**

Although not religious, my parents imbued into me a strong sense of Jewish identity. I've always felt a strong kinship with the Jewish People I'd meet anywhere in the world. We all are mishpocha. I take great pride in their successes and feel their tragedies deep in my heart.

My grandparents came from Russia and Germany. By some accident of history, my family got out and lived in the U.S. during the Holocaust. I think I was conceived the day of the liberation of Auschwitz and in a sense, represent the survival of the Jewish People. I feel deeply for those poor Jewish souls who suffered there. If I can give back to them, it's my duty and pleasure.

Any family members Holocaust survivors?

I have found lists of many people with the same last name as mine who were murdered, but no close relatives.

What is your favorite activity outside of work?

Spending time with my family which includes thirteen

grandchildren all of whom live in the area. Way down the list, working out, biking, tennis, gardening, reading, traveling and working on antique pocket watches.

Anything else you would like to add?

I have a German last name which must be intimidating to people who suffered so much under the German Nazis. I think some of these patients are tipped off by their dentists that I'm Jewish. But some of them don't know. I can tell this because after I give these patients their post op instructions and prescriptions, I walk out of the room and say, "Zay gezunt." I often hear the husband or wife say to the other, "See, I told you so. I knew it."

"As Jews, we have always debated the meaning of words and so, I will do so now. It's not my generosity. It's my pleasure and duty. It's a mitzvah. We are the fortunate ones and we must give back and take care of the less fortunate in our family. You're the one who makes this program work. Thank you. And we all do it not for gratitude or publicity but out of a sense of duty and obligation to our People."

DR. ALAN MOLTZ *continued***What has been your experience treating Holocaust survivor patients? Any favorite stories?**

My favorite part of treating Holocaust survivor patients is the unfettered gratitude you feel from them once you have helped them with their oral health. Most of these patients have never had the means to have their mouths healthy, pain-free and functional.

Patients have given me so many presents over the years, but the only "present" I need is to see them smile. The stories I have heard as to what these patients have been through, and what their families have been through, is enough to motivate anyone to help as many survivors as possible.

You are now the President of Alpha Omega. Why would you tell others to join this organization and what advice would you give to recent graduates?

Joining and being active in Alpha Omega has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. I had no idea, in 1986, that someday I would be honored to help lead this organization as International President. The more active I became, the more I wanted to help this wonderful organization move forward. I am a member of many worthwhile organizations, but I've always considered Alpha Omega to be unique in its ability to give back and its commitment to tikkun olam (repairing the world). The people of Alpha Omega have become my worldwide family.

My advice for new graduates would be to become proficient with as many aspects of dentistry as you are comfortable. Keep learning as your career evolves and keep active in Alpha Omega. Alpha Omega can help you in ways you do not yet realize. People make time for what is important to them, and even though life throws us curve balls, especially now with COVID-19, we all need the ties which Alpha Omega can provide.

DR. ARIELLE WULFSOHN *continued***What has been your experience treating survivors through the dental program?**

Thus far, being a part of the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program has been such a rewarding and humbling experience. Dentistry is a unique way for us dental providers to give back to the Jewish community. It is astonishing how impactful a couple hours of our time can be for an elderly survivor in need. The kindness and appreciativeness of my patients motivates me to see more patients in the program.

You are the chapter president of the AO Illinois Chapter. Why would you tell others to join AO?

AO is a great resource that has enriched my professional career. I have met so many great people and built relationships with fantastic mentors. AO has given me a sense of community within the dental community. And if that isn't reason enough, being a member gives me access to great CE opportunity!

Do you have a favorite quote?

Patience is a virtue.

DR. ALBERT ZICKMANN *continued*

home without getting paid. I decided to pursue a career in the medical field. I was accepted to both dental and medical school in Frankfurt, Germany. Implant dentistry was still in its infancy and the more I learned about it, the more I knew that this is something in which I wanted to be involved. In the midst of my studies, I was offered the opportunity to transfer to Loyola University dental school. After graduating from Loyola, I continued with my oral surgery training at the University of Illinois and then went into private practice. I always had an entrepreneurial desire and after a few years in practice, I met Dr. Sheldon Lerner, a periodontist from New York and together we founded our company Blue Sky Bio. I am glad that I can do clinical work and at the same time be involved in some of the most advanced aspects of digital dentistry.

Are any of your family members Holocaust survivors?

The families of both my parents lived during the war in Romania. They were subjected to forced labor and many other hardships. They lived in constant fear, but they were fortunate to live in an area of Romania where the majority of the Jews were not deported to camps and my entire immediate family survived the war. My parents stayed in Romania and continued suffering antisemitism under the communist regime until we were allowed to leave in 1974. At that time, I was 8 years old.

What has been your experience treating survivors?

I have been fortunate to have the privilege of treating a large number of Holocaust survivors from the former Soviet Union. I look in their eyes and it feels like I have known them forever. They feel like my own family because we have so much in common. There are times when I consider giving up practicing because my company has been growing and I have reduced my clinical hours, but then I remember that the Almighty has given me the opportunity to learn a skill for a reason. I think that I have an obligation to use what was given to me to help others in need. I also hope that my own children will be inspired to fulfill their obligations towards others when the opportunity arises.

Anything else you would like to add?

I am fortunate to be surrounded by people who are very giving. My wife Ellen has been involved in charities since I met her. She founded a school excursions program for underprivileged children and now she spends a lot of time as a volunteer running the operation of an Israeli school program. She took after her mother who is volunteering as a docent at the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Dr. Sheldon Lerner, my business partner who became like a brother to me, fully supports our charitable activities which include a charitable fund and this program giving dentists supplies at no charge to treat Holocaust survivors and also for various other programs such as clinics on Indian reservations and dental volunteer missions.

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