

NEWSLETTER

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Significant Dates

July 1st: Canada Day – a holiday celebrating Canada’s 1867 Confederation and establishment of dominion status

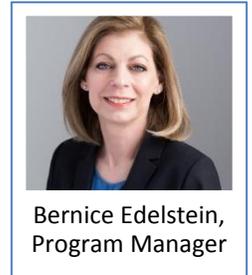
July 4th: Independence Day – USA

July 24th: Feast of Tammuz – Commemorates the destruction of Jerusalem and the two Holy Temples as well as the destruction of the twin tablets of the Ten Commandments by Moses upon seeing the golden calf

Shalom!

Thank you for the enthusiastic support of the monthly newsletter! I am so excited to announce that the AO DC Chapter will soon join the program. AO HQ is looking forward to them joining in this effort!

Last month, I attended the Association of Jewish Family and Children’s Agencies conference. It gave me the opportunity to meet with representatives from the social service agencies to strengthen existing relationships and meet new representatives to identify possible new locations to further expand the program. Possible expansion areas include: Cincinnati, Denver, Louisville and South Florida. Additionally, Temple University Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry and A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health will soon join the program. There is a great need for the dental program across the United States and Canada. Stay tuned!



While at the conference, I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Shelley Rood, Director, Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care. Please see article on Page 6.

On a sad note, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel passed away Saturday, July 2nd, at the age of 87. Philosopher, professor and author, he spoke out against anti-Semitism, bigotry, hatred and intolerance. The Program was honored at The Blue Card Benefit Dinner, November 2015, with the Max L. Heine Humanitarian Award. Elie Wiesel was presented with the Richard C. Holbrooke Award for Social Justice. It was quite an emotional moment. He was a forceful advocate in the creating the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter including items for submission (stories/photos), contact me at bedelstein@ao.org.

By the Numbers, as of January 2016 – June 2016

City	Ambassador	In Treatment	Completed
Atlanta	Cary Goldstein	2	-
Boston	David Dano & Murray Miller	2	1
Chicago	Laurie Gordon-Shaw	12	7
Columbus	Shaun Rotenberg	3	1
Dallas	Gary Solomon	-	1
Detroit	Jamie Feldman, Marv Sonne, Mark Luria	18	2
Los Angeles	Paul Selski	9	3
New York	Rada Sumareva	4	-
Phila./South Jersey	Bruce Silver	4	2
Seattle	Kal Klass	2	6
Calgary	Brian Sacks	-	-
Montreal	Jeff Tenser	10	2
Toronto	Gerald Pearson	4	4
Winnipeg	Gary Hyman	17	-
TOTALS		87	29

Spotlight on Philadelphia / South Jersey



The Philadelphia/South Jersey group is comprised of the following AO dentists: Cheryl Alper, Yuval Azulay, Thomas Bachstein, Ben Calem, Ernest Dellheim, Bernie Dishler, Joseph Greenberg, Amid Ismail, Dana Kogan, Howard Lassin, Barry Levin, Robert Levine, Scott Levy, Harry Randel, Jeffrey Rosen, Marc Rothman, Robert Sattler and Bruce Silver.

If you are a practicing dentist in the Philadelphia/South Jersey area and would like to participate in the program, please contact Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org or the Philadelphia/South Jersey Ambassador Bruce Silver at: drblsilver@gmail.com.

If you are not able to volunteer, please consider making a donation to the Program. Please go to www.ao.org to make a donation online for the Holocaust Program.

Thank you Makefield Dental Laboratory for providing local lab work for patients in the Philadelphia/South Jersey area.

A special thank you to Barry, David and Steven Lampert and their team at Town & Country Dental Studios, the Laboratory Program Partner for the USA (see article on page 4).

MEET THE DENTISTS

DR. BRUCE SILVER

Bruce Silver, DMD is a 1987 graduate of the Temple University School of Dentistry in Philadelphia, PA. He serves as an attending instructor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Philadelphia.

Dr. Silver and his wife, Julie, have two children, Jennifer and Zachary. He began his dental career as a volunteer dentist in Israel, and has been practicing in Burlington County, New Jersey since January 1988.



What prompted you to decide to volunteer to be the Ambassador for the Holocaust Oral Health Program for the Philadelphia-South New Jersey area? I saw an article about dentists treating Holocaust survivors in Florida and thought it would be worthwhile to do something like that in my area. I called some dental friends to determine their interest and found out that a program already existed through AO. I then called Bernice, who said they happened to be looking for an ambassador in the Philadelphia area. I happily volunteered and accepted the position!

What has been your experience leading the Program and AO dentists in the South Jersey-Philadelphia area? I created a Google map of all the dentists who signed up for the program so that, whenever possible, I can match survivors with nearby dentists. It has worked out great so far!

What has been your experience working with your Holocaust survivor patients? I have yet to treat a survivor because there aren't many who live near my office, but I have only heard great things from my peers.

DR. BRUCE SILVER (con't)

What is your favorite story about your efforts to educate your patients about oral health? When a new pediatric patient came to my practice some years ago, she had 11 cavities! The bewildered mother asked, "How could this have happened?" During a discussion about the child's diet, I learned that she ate "fruit snacks" (fruit roll-ups) daily. The mother thought that since the snacks were made with fruit, they were a good choice. I suggested some better options and explained why they were preferable to a candy-like snack; since sticky gummy fruit snacks take at least 8 hours to dissolve in the mouth, they add a constant sugar source to the bacteria that causes tooth decay.

What do you do to relax and unwind? What is your favorite activity outside of work? I play tennis, meditate, and read, and I especially love spending time with my family!

Anything else you would like to share? Back in 1988 and again in 2010, I served as a volunteer dentist with Dental Volunteers for Israel. I found that the opportunity to treat, at no cost, both Israeli and Arab underprivileged children was an extremely rewarding experience, and I'm looking forward to volunteering with the organization again in the future.

MEET DR. BERNARD DISHLER



Dr. Dishler is one of the founders of the Yorktowne Dental Group in 1975. He is a graduate of Temple University School of Dentistry and has taught at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He has maintained a family practice with emphasis on esthetic and restorative dentistry.

Dr. Dishler is Board President of HealthLink Dental Clinic, a free clinic for the working poor in Southampton, PA, which is operated with volunteer dentists. And, in 2016, under a collaboration agreement with the Kornberg School of Dentistry of Temple University, students with faculty will be providing specialized dentistry at the clinic.

Dr. Dishler has seen a number of Holocaust survivor patients in the Philadelphia area since the program began in 2015.

What has been your experience working with your Holocaust survivor patients? The patients have been very appreciative. One of the patients was very talkative and told me some of his war-time experiences in the camps. I sometimes feel badly that we just started this program.

What do you do to relax and unwind? What is your favorite activity outside of work? Ten years ago I partially retired so that I could spend more time "giving back" to the community. With several other dentists we organized MOM-n- PA, which is a group that organizes a free dental clinic in different communities in PA. In two days we see 2000 patients with volunteer dentists and hygienists. Each year we have set up the clinic in a different city.

I am also involved with the Jewish Federation and its programs for Israel.

MEET DR. MARC ROTHMAN



Dr. Rothman is a native of Philadelphia and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Rothman teaches at the Max Fogel Department of Dental Medicine of the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia where he serves as

Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is Board Certified in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and certified by the National Board of Dental Anesthesia.

Dr. Rothman has been active in dental and medical philanthropy. He has served as Chairman of the US Alpha Omega Foundation and as a co-developer of the Alpha Omega Global Oral Health Initiative. Other international commitments have included serving as a member of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University and a member of the advisory committee for the Tel Aviv University School of Dental Medicine. Locally he serves as Chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Jewish Federation's Health Care Affinity Group and as a member of the Board of Temple University's Hillel.

What has been your experience working with your Holocaust survivor patients? The experience of getting to know the survivors for whom I have provided surgical care has been a blessing. It is an honor to provide them with comfort and dignity in their final years of life. We all find meaning through shared love and compassion, and a confirming voice in faith in humanity, something that was missing during their time during the Shoah.

What do you do to relax and unwind? What is your favorite activity outside of work? I am an avid tennis and fitness buff. I spend my time now studying languages and reading history.

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

TOWN & COUNTRY DENTAL STUDIOS

Town & Country Dental Studios of Freeport, New York, is the Program Lab Partner serving the dentists and their Holocaust survivor patients across the United States. Town & Country will provide services in the event that the dentist's lab is unable to provide the pro bono fabrication of necessary appliances for the patients. Barry Lampert owns the company and works with his sons, Steven and David. Steve Lampert, Town & Country General Manager, was interviewed for this article.



"Since 1962...Town & Country has been dedicated to helping doctors restore their patients' smiles. We have some of the most experienced staff and technical support specialists in the industry. Many of them have been with the company for decades. "

Q: How did Town & Country become involved with providing dental lab services for Holocaust survivors through the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health program? "We have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Henry Schein for over 30 years. Steve Kess and Allie Neal presented us with this special opportunity to give back to survivors of the Holocaust and we were on board immediately. There is a special place in our hearts for Holocaust Survivors. To date, we have donated products and services to help 12 patients and fully expect more to come. "



L-R: Steven Lampert, Barry Lampert, David Lampert

Q: What has been your experience with serving Holocaust survivors through the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health program? "My trip to the inaugural meeting in Washington DC last December was unforgettable. I was so impressed with the level of dedication demonstrated by Alpha Omega and Henry Schein. Our team at Town & Country is very excited each time we get a call for service from Bernice at AO. Fabricating those cases makes everyone involved feel really good."

Q: What is your lab most proud of? "I'm most proud of our team. I am constantly impressed by their willingness to help people in need without hesitation. We have participated in numerous charitable programs over the years ranging from Donated Dental Services, to Breast Cancer awareness, and we even helped out our neighbors here in Freeport after Hurricane Sandy. Dental Technicians are a special breed; they thrive on doing good deeds and love to show their dedication and pride through the restorations they make."

In the event program dentists need to use the services of Town & Country, please follow the protocol shown on the next page of the newsletter.



Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

A graphic logo for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, featuring a stylized purple and white figure of a person with arms raised, set against a white background with a purple outline.

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. There will be no remakes of cases as this laboratory service is a one-time benefit per submitted fabrication.
8. Town & Country will ship the case back to the dentist using AO's Federal Express account.
9. This Protocol is in effect for the year 2016.

The Jewish Federations' Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care

For the first time in history, the U.S. government is providing special services specifically for aging Holocaust Survivors.

Under a grant from the Administration on Aging, The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) launched the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care together with partners including the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies and The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The grant supports local innovations that expand person-centered, trauma-informed (PCTI) services for Holocaust Survivors throughout the country. PCTI care is a holistic approach to service provision that promotes the dignity, strength, and empowerment of trauma victims by incorporating knowledge about the role of trauma in victims' lives into service agencies' programs.



Of the more than 100,000 Holocaust Survivors living in the U.S., approximately a quarter live in poverty, and many are socially isolated, suffering from the long lasting effects of years of physical and emotional deprivation. The malnutrition, physical and mental torture, loss, and instability experienced during the Holocaust have lasting health effects as Survivors age. This is why efforts to provide care, such as the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, are so important.

Additionally, as Survivors lose loved ones and become more frail and isolated, previously suppressed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms can make it more difficult to access supportive services.

The Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care addresses these health issues by issuing local subgrants to organizations providing Holocaust Survivor care. In its inaugural year, 23 subgrantee organizations across the nation are participating in the program, engaging Survivors, caregivers, staff, and community partners. They have developed creative programming for Survivors as well as training materials on PCTI care. Through these programs, Survivors have become more engaged with each other and their communities.

Simultaneously, the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care is expanding the national capacity to provide PCTI-based services through conference calls and webinars, the establishment of a national technical assistance website, and ongoing consultation with grantees on the implementation, evaluation, dissemination, and sustainability of their local PCTI-based projects. In May, 2016, the Center coordinated a day-long training workshop in San Diego and led a session at the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies' conference, bringing in experts from the field of PCTI care and services for Holocaust Survivors. An online resource center is planned for mid-2016 and will be available to assist agencies serving Holocaust Survivors as well as other older adults who have experienced trauma.

Subgrant applications for the next competitive funding cycle will be available in the summer of 2016. Any agency that provides direct services to older adults is encouraged to apply. For more information, go to:

www.HolocaustSurvivorCare.org

Thank you Dr. Dov Almog for bringing this article to our attention. Dr. Almog is a prosthodontist with over 37 years of diversified professional experience in the clinical, academic & research environments. Currently, Dr. Almog is the Chief of the Dental Service, US Department of Veterans Affairs, VA New Jersey Health Care System.



THE LAST WORD

"H" IS FOR HEALING

Robert Levine was drafted at 18, straight out of high school into the maelstrom of World War II. A year later, he was a US Army private in a mortar crew in Normandy, France, when he was wounded in the leg by a grenade and captured by the Germans. "I found myself looking up at a very tough looking Herman Goering 6th Division SS Paratrooper who said 'Surrender,'" relates Levine in a phone interview from his Teaneck, New Jersey, home. "The kid next to me panicked and ran and they shot and killed him. When I saw that, I threw my hands up. I was a POW!"

The next day, his Nazi captors ordered Levine and his fellow captives to follow them down a dirt road. Mistaken for enemy troops, members of their own American division began firing. "My buddy Mike was beside me helping me walk when a round landed next to him, killing him. If Mike hadn't been helping me, I wouldn't be here today." German soldiers took the injured Levine to a field hospital set up at a local farmhouse, where he and wounded German soldiers were placed on stretchers to await medical attention. A German doctor, noticing Levine's dog tags, and the letter "H" on it, asked Levine what it meant.

During World War II, soldiers could put one of three religious categories on dog tags: P for Protestant, C for Catholic, and H for Hebrew (Jewish). Knowing a truthful answer could cost him his life, Levine kept silent. "I closed my eyes and thought, 'There goes my 20th birthday.'" Then they put the anesthesia mask on me. When I woke up, the bad news was that my injured foot was amputated. But the good news was that I woke up!"

Mysteriously, Levine's dog tags disappeared during the operation. When Levine found a handwritten note in his pocket from the German surgeon explaining why the amputation was necessary, he surmised the same surgeon must have removed the dog tags so no one would find out he was Jewish. "I'm living every day because of him," Levine testifies. Despite his upbeat, grateful attitude to the German doctor, Levine always felt bitter toward the French. "I had come to liberate them and I didn't even get a thank you. I was wounded, bitter, and unhappy with them."

A tour of Italy, decades later, helped Levine overcome those sentiments. On that trip, he and his wife Edith joined a group of US World War II veterans to revisit the site of the Battle of

Monte Cassino, scene of one of the war's longest and bloodiest engagements. That trip inspired Levine to revisit France in 1981. Levine went to Périers, a town in lower Normandy that Levine's battalion had liberated, and met with local historian Henri Levaufre. "I finally found out how important we had been to them," Levine says. "I finally felt that my sacrifice was worthwhile. That was a breakthrough for me."

Then Levaufre posed the bombshell question: "Would you like to find the doctor who saved your life?" With the help of a German veteran, Heinz Bonkowski, who had also returned to Normandy to retrace history and also happened to serve in the paratroop division that captured Levine, Levine obtained the address of Dr. Edgar Woll, who had already passed away; however, the family knew all about the incident and was very excited to meet the former US soldier. Levine also said he met the doctor who assisted in the amputation. Sensing the doctor was visibly stiff and wary, Levine broke the ice, joking that he had come for a postoperative checkup.

"Many veterans have one-time reunions," says Levine, "but it's very rare to have an ongoing connection like we do. The Levines visited the German family three times and the German family came to visit the Levines in the US four times. "When Dr. Woll's granddaughter Cornelia spent a summer studying in New Jersey, she stayed with us."

Now a different doctor has taken a special interest in Levine. Dr. Dov Almog, chief of dental services in the Veteran Affairs New Jersey Health Care System, has heard his share of war stories, but Levine's tale really hit home. "Short of the story of my own father in the Israeli army, this story has touched me the most," says Dr. Almog, who hopes to produce a documentary film, starring the irrepressible 89 year-old Levine as himself.

—Sara Miriam Gross

The above article was written by Sara Miriam Gross, based on an interview with Robert Levine and Dr. Dov Almog, and has been reprinted with permission of Mishpacha Magazine (www.mishpacha.com). © Mishpacha Magazine Inc. All rights reserved.

NEWS NOTES

Dentists from the Los Angeles cohort began seeing Holocaust survivor patients in February, 2016. Pictured are Dr. Mitchell Levitt and his Survivor patient.



Mazel Tov!

Steve Kess, Vice President of Global Professional Relations at Henry Schein Inc., President of the Henry Schein Cares Foundation and co-chair of the AO-HSC Holocaust

Survivors Oral Health Program received the Lifetime Leadership Award from the NYS Dental Foundation. Read the article at http://www.dental-tribune.com/articles/news/usa/29641_kess_receives_lifetime_leadership_award_from_new_york_state_dental_foundation.html

Rada Sumareva, NY Dental Ambassador reached her 20th Anniversary in the American Academy of Periodontology!