Shalom,

The upcoming observances of Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom HaAtzmaut remind us of the importance of Jewish fraternalism. As the late Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel said in reference to the Holocaust, “Never again becomes more than a slogan: It’s a prayer, a promise, a vow...” As we come together as one community, we must remember and honor the six million whose lives were lost to genocide; we must remember to question authority; and most importantly, we must lend a helping hand to those in need. As Israel’s 70th birthday will soon be celebrated, we come together and in unison must remember, the “Prayer for Our Country” (in Conservative prayer books) “May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry,” in order to create a just and free society. Now, more than ever your participation in the AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program is essential – whether you donate your time, resources, or skills, these contributions are greatly appreciated by Holocaust survivors. This month we have many events for you to partake in order to show your support. See the list below.

Beginning with this edition, the Newsletter will be issued bi-monthly. The focus this month is on the dental schools that have joined the program. Be certain to read the Holocaust Survivor NYU Outreach on page 7!

With sincere thanks and gratitude,
Bernice Edelstein
Program Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 12th
AO Boston – Memory in the Living Room Discussion

FRIDAY, APRIL 13th
AO New York - Building Bridges Conference

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18th
AO Phoenix – Holocaust survivor speaking about his experiences.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19th
AO San Fernando Valley Chapter presents: “Not Your Father’s Antisemitism: How 21st Century Antisemitism is Different”

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd
AO Illinois Chapter – Brunch Reception

TUESDAY, MAY 8th
AO Detroit Chapter- The Detroit Chapter is being honored by JFS of Metro Detroit

MONDAY, MAY 14th
AO Toronto - Baycrest Centennial Celebration 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Ribbon cutting – The Alpha Omega Dental Centre for Geriatric Care Grand Opening

* Please see pages 14 and 15 for more details
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!!

Information about the program is online. Visit www.ao.org and click on the Holocaust Survivors Program tab. There, you will find all the program forms including the lab protocols and the Standard Dental Encounter Form. You will also find the program videos.

By the Numbers (Jan. 2017- December 2017)

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The Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program received a 2018 William J. Gies Award for Achievement - Public or Private Partner at the 11th annual awards ceremony that was held on March 19th at the Gaylord Palms, Orlando, Florida. Dean R. Bruce Donoff of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine nominated the program for the award and presented the award to Program Co-Chair and AO Past International President, Avi Wurman and to Allison Neale, Director, Public Policy, Henry Schein, Inc.

The Gies Awards honor individuals and organizations that exemplify the highest standards in oral health and dental education, research and leadership.

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) created a video for each award recipient and our video highlighted the many partnership facets that have made the program successful.

The 9 other recipients of the award were:

**Canise Y. Bean, D.M.D., M.P.H., The Ohio State University College of Dentistry**
Gies Award for Vision – Dental Educator

**Amy E. Coplen, RDH, M.S., Pacific University School of Dental Hygiene Studies**
Gies Award for Vision – Dental Educator

**David W. Chambers, Ed.M., M.B.A., Ph.D., University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry**
Gies Award for Achievement – Dental Educator

Gies Award for Innovation – Dental Educator

**Lorne Golub, D.M.D., M.Sc., Honorary M.D., Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine**
Gies Award for Innovation – Dental Educator

**Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry**
Gies Award for Vision – Academic Dental Institution

**University of Florida College of Dentistry Comprehensive Training Program in Oral Biology**
Gies Award for Achievement – Academic Dental Institution

**University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, Center for Patients with Special Needs**
Gies Award for Innovation – Academic Dental Institution

**Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry/Virginia Dental Association Foundation**
Gies Award for Vision – Public or Private Partner
“It’s a win-win for everyone involved. I’ve heard nothing but positivity from everyone involved,” said Dr. Irwin Feinberg, Alpha Omega Ambassador for the Phoenix group and a member of the faculty at the AT Still University Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (ASDOH), describing the experiences of both Holocaust survivors and the dentists treating them as part of the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. The patients have been very appreciative, while dentists feel proud to help a vulnerable community.

Since the program launched in the greater Phoenix area in November 2016, 7 survivors have been treated including one at ASDOH. Phoenix was the 18th city to participate in the program. Patients are assigned based on geographic location and need and the University looks forward to treating additional patients.

Former Dean, Jack Dillenberg, was instrumental in bringing the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program to the University. Wayne Cottam, Vice Dean at ASDOH, stated that the University is excited to be able to participate in the program and appreciates the opportunity to serve.

“The only regret I have is that we didn’t come on board earlier, because unfortunately, this is a community that is rapidly dwindling.” However, as long as there is even one survivor in need of care, Dr. Feinberg and the other dentists in the Arizona program will be there to help. “I feel very honored to be called upon by the people in charge,” Feinberg said.

Mark Your Calendar
On April 18th, in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the greater Phoenix chapter of Alpha Omega is having as their guest and speaker a survivor who received treatment through the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares dental program. Attendees at the meeting will include alumni, spouses and students from the two local dental schools. If you are in the local Phoenix area and would like to attend, please RSVP to Dr. Shawn Bader at 480-661-1818.
The NYU College of Dentistry joined with the AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program about a year ago. The NYU program is just getting underway, and their first patient is currently under treatment. “He is receiving implant care as well as very basic dental care needed to make him comfortable and eating and smiling,” said Dr. Mark S. Wolff, NYU College of Dentistry’s Senior Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Relations.

“We believe that helping any patient is an important portion of the responsibilities of being a healthcare provider. But helping people that have been treated cruelly by humanity is an even greater calling for us. I want students to feel a sense of accomplishment and pride of being able to help those who have been denied fundamental rights in the past,” Wolff said.

This is nothing new for the University. Since 2008, the dental school has treated hundreds of victims of torture. Dental students also provide care for the underserved, those with physical or intellectual disabilities and the homeless.

Through its involvement in the AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program and The Program for Survivors of Torture, it is clear that helping the community is a large part of what the NYU College of Dentistry instills in its students.

Dr. Wolff stated, “There is no more gratifying experience for the faculty or students than helping those who cannot do for themselves or those that cannot afford to do for themselves. In a small way, this care helps us pay back the debt society owes to these people. Each and every healthcare provider went into dentistry because they like helping people. Dentists get to help make people smile!”
On February 15th, the New York University College of Dentistry Alpha Omega Chapter held a community outreach, in conjunction with the Selfhelp Community Services, to host a Purim social gathering and meal for Holocaust survivors in Brooklyn. NYU Alpha Omega students volunteered the school day to serve a meal as well as talk and dance with over 30 Holocaust survivors. The chapter applied for a $200 grant from the Department of Pediatrics at NYU, in order to sponsor the event, and plan to take advantage of the grant every year in the future to continue its relationship with Selfhelp as well as host and serve the survivors annually. The outreach was organized by second-year dental student Deborah Sedaghat, who initially applied for the grant, as well as co-led by Yitzchok Abed. Many of the survivors in attendance have been seen and helped by Alpha Omega dentists through the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program.
Manya P. was tortured and starved by the Nazis. She spent time in eight different concentration camps over a period of six years. She lost both parents and most of her family to the Holocaust. Due to the unsanitary conditions and lack of food in the concentration camps, she lost all of her teeth. The Temple Dental Clinic at KleinLife, a Jewish Community Center in Northeast Philadelphia, treated her and provided her with a complete set of dentures.

Since opening in October 2015, The Temple Dental Clinic at KleinLife has treated many Holocaust survivors in the Philadelphia area, providing those without private insurance or other coverage, with free comprehensive dental care. Faculty members from Temple’s Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry make up the clinic’s staff. The school’s website points out that while the target demographic is senior citizens, the clinic is, “open and accessible to all.”

“Everyone on our team here at Temple’s Dental Clinic at KleinLife feels that it is very rewarding to help Holocaust survivors improve their dental health,” Sheryl Neckritz, a hygienist at the clinic said. “It is apparent that the majority of these patients’ dental problems began when they were child victims of the Holocaust. These days, a large number of these patients have low incomes and would be unable to pay for dental procedures if not for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program.”

There is no doubt about the impact that the Temple Dental Clinic has on the survivors who have been treated. Neckritz remembers a survivor who came to the clinic with only five teeth and a need for a new set of dentures. The dentist at the clinic, Dr. Howard Wimmer, told her that because she had extreme xerostomia (dry mouth) and bone loss, she might have problems with comfort and fit. However, after trying out her new upper full and lower partial dentures, made by Town and Country Dental Studios, she was thrilled, telling Dr. Wimmer, “It feels good to have teeth!”

“It feels good to have teeth!”
On Sunday, March 11, 2018, nearly 100 attendees were present at a brunch reception hosted by Mrs. Irma Poretsky at the Woodmont Country Club, in Rockville, Maryland. The event was held as a thank you to all those participating in the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, providing comprehensive pro-bono dental care to local Holocaust survivors, in need. Local area dentists, spouses, Holocaust survivors, translators, social workers and administrative staff from JSSA, as well as Alpha Omega staff: Heidi Weber, Bernice Edelstein and Ellen Taranto were in attendance. Retired dentists who are supporters of the program also joined the event.

Dr. Ben Williamowsky, one of the programs two Ambassadors was the Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Alan Singer, the other Ambassador also attended. Presentations were given by Todd Schenk, CEO of JSSA and Ellen Blalock, Holocaust Survivor Program and Volunteer Coordinator, Senior Services. Ellen stated, “...Every time you open your office to one of our survivors, every time you look at them and smile with respect and dignity and kindness, every time your skilled and generous treatment relieves their pain and restores dental function, you also restore their hope that they have value.”

Other presentations were given by Dr. Allen Finkelstein, Bernice Edelstein, with a citation for the program from Governor Larry Hogan; and Joan Kleinman, State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, with a citation from the Senator. Several Holocaust survivors treated through the program spoke about their experiences as young children surviving the horrors of World War II and then expressed their gratitude for the dental care that they have received through the program. Dr. Ben presented a gift to Sophia Rozas, volunteer interpreter.

Special thanks go to Dr. Ben Williamowsky, Dr. Alan Singer, Dr. Sam and Phyllis Blum, Dr. Fred Simon and Ellen Blalock for planning such a wonderful event. In addition, a shout out goes to Mr. Richard Greenhouse, photographer for the event, for providing the fabulous pictures! Last, but not least, to Irma Poretsky, for generously sponsoring the brunch.

If you are a practicing dentist and would like to volunteer for the program, please contact Dr. Ben Williamowsky at bawilly@verizon.net, Alan Singer at docextract@aol.com, or Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org.
DC Thank You Brunch Pictures

Ben Williamowsky

Alan Singer is with Steve Friedlander

Barry Fayne, Bernice Edelstein, Jennifer Young, Barbara Fayne, Allen Finkelstein

Roy Eskow with Howard Benson

Citation
Great meeting held at Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County on Thursday evening March 22nd. Thank you to Eric Troy, Patti Sinkoe & the team for hosting us. In addition, thank you to Dr. Michael Gertsen for his assistance. Other dentists attending: Mark Berger, Sherri Bluth, Michael Eggnatz, Mel Kessler, Howard Klausner, Barry Rosenthal, & Jennifer Schaumberg. Gabrielle Carrera, Schein representative was also there. Two additional agencies joined us - Sandy Bird, Jewish Community Services of South Florida and Sara Zenlea, Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service. Also, in attendance was Mel’s wife, Sharon Kessler. Looking forward to treating Holocaust survivors in South Florida!

Dental providers are needed for the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. The program has been very successful and has taken off in the New York area! More dentists, general practitioners and specialists in NYC, Brooklyn, and Queens are needed. Holocaust survivors have suffered some of the worst atrocities. You will be fulfilling a mitzvah by treating a patient.

If you would like to participate and help restore a smile, please contact Bernice Edelstein, Program Manager at 301-738-6400 or bedelstein@ao.org. You may also contact Dr. Rada Sumareva, the local coordinator at 646-207-9517 or rsddsperio@gmail.com.
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. Marcy Borofsky
Dr. Glenn Maron
Dr. Lawrence Saltzman
Dr. Harvey Silverman

Jewish Family Service Calgary presented a certificate and basket to Brian Sacks and some of the other Calgary dental providers to express their appreciation.
Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 12th
AO Boston

MEMORY IN THE LIVING ROOM
an intimate space for memory and discussion

APRIL 12 . 7:00 PM

Join one of 7 intimate living rooms around campus, where students can hear from first and second generation Holocaust survivors to discuss Holocaust and memory in 2018.

For more information contact bhersch@bu.edu

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED VIA THIS LINK: Bit.Ly/Memory-4-12-18

In partnership with Marsh Chapel, The Elie Wiesel Center, Alpha Omega Beta Epsilon at Boston, together restoring their names, and The Howard Thurman Center.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED VIA THIS LINK: Bit.Ly/Memory-4-12-18

BU Hillel, Come as you are, make it your own. Partly funded by your undergraduate student fee.

Registration is required via this link - https://goo.gl/forms/Pna4Xjo3er3yuH1L2

FRIDAY, APRIL 13th
AO New York - Building Bridges Conference
Organized by the Russian American Dental Association in partnership with the Alpha Omega Foundation.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18th**
AO Phoenix – Holocaust survivor speaking about his experiences. Contact Shawn Bader 480-661-1818 for additional information (See page 5 of this newsletter).

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19th**
AO San Fernando Valley Chapter - presents: “Not Your Father’s Antisemitism: How 21st Century Antisemitism is Different” Dr. Michael Berenbaum, a foremost expert in the study of the Holocaust will be speaking about Anti-Semitism today. He is the Director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust and a Professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University. Contact Max Cutler 818-788-6000 for additional information.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd**
AO Illinois Chapter – Brunch Reception. A few tickets are still available. RSVP Bernice Edelstein 301-738-6400 or bedelstein@ao.org

**TUESDAY, MAY 8th**
AO Detroit Chapter - The Detroit Chapter is being honored by JFS of Metro Detroit as Jewish Family Service Community Partner of the Year for 2018. Tuesday May 8th from 6-7:30 PM at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, MI. Contact Jamie Feldman dbafeldman@me.com, Mark Luria mluria@aol.com or Marv Sonne sonnedoc@hotmail.com for additional information.

**MONDAY, MAY 14th**
AO Toronto - Baycrest Centennial Celebration  6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Ribbon cutting – The Alpha Omega Dental Centre for Geriatric Care Grand Opening
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
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- The newest milling technologies on premises
- Fair, competitive pricing for excellent value to you and your patients

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