Restoring Smiles

Lili Gmach, an 85 year old Holocaust survivor, was born in Bulgaria. During WWII, she along with her father and mother were sent to a labor camp. As a child, she was forced to work long hours with little food. With luck and determination, all three survived. After liberation, the family returned to Bulgaria and found their home destroyed and anti-Semitism rampant. They decided to uproot themselves and emigrate to the fledgling county of Israel, where they again had to work tirelessly, but this time it was by choice.

Lili grew and thrived as the country grew. She became a ballet dancer and choreographer who became renowned internationally. She always took care of her body and was very healthy despite the lack of food, healthcare, and sanitation during her early years. She suffers with beginning dementia. She has no other medical issues and takes no medication to this day. She is a very sweet, self-effacing woman who is proud of her physical abilities and her gracefulness. As she aged and became less able to tend to her own affairs, her son moved her from her home in Israel to his city in Florida, where she bought a modest apartment with her Israeli savings. Once she moved to Florida four years ago, she found she was no longer entitled to her Israeli pension and she did not qualify for any United States Government assistance. She became dependent upon her son to support her and he was happy to help. Unfortunately, he was laid off from his job two years ago. Despite this, he is committed to caring for his mother as best he can. It was this past summer that he reached out to the Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward to try to find some help for his mother.

In addition to financial difficulties, Lili developed dental problems, including a constant dull pain, the loss of her upper front denture, and a very loose lower front denture. She was limited in her ability to eat and began to lose weight. She felt self-conscious of her appearance, as she was missing her front teeth. She isolated herself and stopped going outside her home, fearing that others might see her.

Through the collaborative efforts of Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County and the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, Lili was able to meet with Dr. Sherri Bluth. Lili expressed that Dr. Bluth and her staff are very caring and compassionate. She could not have been more thrilled with the care she received. Dr. Bluth saw to all her needs and provided her with new dentures and a new smile. This assistance changed her life. Lili is now leaving her home, taking walks, speaking with her neighbors and eating well. She and her family are thrilled that the services provided allow Holocaust survivors in Broward County, Florida to live each day with dignity and peace of mind.
An Outstanding Volunteer Opportunity: Helping the Last Holocaust Survivors

By Dr. Laurie Gordon Shaw and Dr. D. Milton Salzer, Editor

Since its founding 112 years ago, the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity has fought discrimination, promoted tolerance and, through charitable endeavors and alliances, helped to repair the world. This has been the backbone of the fraternity’s existence. Its triangle logo represents the principles of professionalism and fraternalism and, at its base, Judaic values. Following those principles has led to many years of philanthropic projects in which members have participated and of which they are very proud. Among many accomplishments are the creation of the two dental schools in Israel, a dental clinic for children with special needs in Tel Aviv, a dental clinic in Guatemala, as well as multiple dental clinics to help those in need in cities throughout the United States and Canada.

Its latest partnership initiative, the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, was launched in 2015 in partnership with Henry Schein, Inc., answering then-U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden’s call to action for the creation of public-private partnerships to serve the needs of Holocaust survivors and to help them age with dignity and respect. Nearly one-third of Holocaust survivors in the U.S. live at or below the poverty level and often have special oral health needs, as many suffered from prolonged nutritional deprivation and had little or no access to dental care as children during World War II. In Chicago, there are over 1,600 survivors living at the poverty level and unable to afford even basic dentistry. For these elderly survivors, eating comfortably and being well nourished are challenging and pressing needs, affecting their general health. The program was co-founded by Henry Schein, Inc., and partners include the Claire Friedlander Family Foundation, the Robert I. Schattner Foundation, Inc., and other philanthropic donors, as well as Town and Country Dental Studios, Golden Ceramic Dental Lab, and Orthodont in Canada. This program has enabled Alpha Omega to achieve its goal of providing dental care for this most vulnerable population.

More than 500 dentists are currently participating in the program, which originally began in nine cities, including Chicago. It has since expanded to 22 cities across North America and four U.S.-based dental schools. Dentists provide comprehensive care, which includes emergency care, and restorative, endodontic, periodontal, and prosthetic care in their own offices, all at no cost to the patients. The program’s dental lab partners cover lab costs for partials, dentures, and crowns. Since the inception of the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, more than 1,200 patients have been treated in either the volunteers’ private offices or clinics. So far, over $2 million worth of dental care has been provided.

Each of the treating dentists has received incredible expressions of gratitude from the patients. Many volunteers have stated that giving these patients an opportunity to tell their stories is what makes this experience so unique and heartwarming, and that providing care to this population is one of the most rewarding engagements of their career. When the survivors are able to share what they have witnessed, it helps in their healing, knowing that by keeping their memories alive, they can help educate future generations. Other dentists have said that they received more from meeting these special patients than the patients received in dental care.

Giving back to society has always been a part of the Alpha Omega culture, and hopefully this will continue as long as there are people in need. As dentists, we are able to give to those less fortunate by providing a service with our hands and our hearts. This program allows us to give back a measure of kindness in our own offices to people who have endured such unimaginable cruelty and hardship. We invite you to join us in this most special endeavor to restore smiles to this most deserving population. In an attempt to treat more patients in need of care, we are opening this up to all dentists, both Alpha Omega members and non-members, and members of other dental organizations.

If you are interested in participating in this program and sharing your clinical skills with these most appreciative recipients, please contact Chicago Ambassador Dr. Laurie Gordon Shaw at lsgdds1@aol.com, Program Manager Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org, or visit www.ao.org.

Stan and Marion Bergman Honored at The Blue Card Gala

On Monday, April 8, 2019, television personality Andy Cohen hosted The Blue Card benefit gala. Awards were presented to those supporting the needs of Holocaust survivors and furthering human rights. The honorees included: Joseph Biden, 47th Vice President of the United States; Stanley Bergman, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Henry Schein, Inc. and Dr. Marion Bergman; David Miliband, President & CEO of the International Rescue Committee and former UK Foreign Secretary; New York Foundation for Eldercare; and past participants in The Blue Card’s Bnei Mitzvah Project, a program for Bar and Bat Mitzvah students to serve Holocaust survivors.

Below are Mr. Bergman’s remarks:

On behalf of my wife, Marion, and more than 18,000 Team Schein Members around the world, we are pleased to accept the Blue Card’s Compassion in Action Award. It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by The Blue Card, an organization whose work we admire so deeply, and alongside so many others who demonstrate not only compassion but a willingness to stand up and act on behalf of those who need it most. We wish to thank the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity for their extraordinary partnership and dedication, the social service agencies with which we’ve worked across North America, our dental laboratory partners, Town & Country Dental Studios and Orthodent, and our philanthropic partners, including the Claire Friedlander Family Foundation and the Robert I. Schattner Foundation. With their support, we have been able to make a lasting impact on oral health, and overall health, of this most deserving population.

L’dor V’dor

Young Leadership Awards were presented at The Blue Card Banquet. Alpha Omega member Murray Miller’s great niece, Sophie Clancy, was one of the recipients. Ms. Clancy became interested in the Holocaust listening to her mother, Jennifer, talk about her trip to Poland visiting concentration camps. Sophie had also heard about the Alpha Omega- Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program from her grandmother, Robyn, who had heard about it from her brother, Murray Miller. Sophie decided she wanted to help Holocaust survivors as part of her Bat Mitzvah project. She did research and contacted The Blue Card Organization, which provides direct financial assistance to Holocaust survivors and makes referrals to programs that run by Alpha Omega and Henry Schein Cares. She has been working to raise money for Holocaust survivors and The Blue Card, with funds totaling $3,000. Congratulations to Sophie Clancy!
Shalom!

I am pleased to share with you this Summer edition of the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program Newsletter. The focus is on the volunteerism in Broward County, South Florida. The program recently commenced in the region, and we have a wonderful cohort of dentists providing pro bono care to the survivors in the area.

Be certain to read "An Outstanding Volunteer Opportunity: Helping the Last Holocaust Survivors" that appeared in the Illinois Dental News co-written by Drs. Laurie Gordon Shaw and D. Milton Salzer (page 2).

While survivors grow older and frailer, the need for services increases. The dental program is helping to restore dignity & quality of life to this population and is filling a crucial healthcare need.

In 2018, there were 435 survivors seen through the program and the value of the dental care was $820,188! The two cities with the largest value in donated dental care were New York led by Dr. Rada Sumareva with 55 patients and a donated dental care value of $193,910. The second region was the Washington, D.C. metro area led by Dr. Ben Williamowsky, z"l and Dr. Alan Singer with 126 patients and a donated dental care value of $224,263. The fee rates are consistent throughout the program and are calculated at approximately 70% of customary fees for dental services in the United States. Kol Hakavod to all the providers participating in this lifesaving and life-altering program. If you are a dental provider and would like to participate in the program, please contact me at 301-738-6400 or at bedelstein@ao.org.

Best wishes for a fun-filled, safe summer!

Bernice Edelstein
Program Manager
The following dental providers are participating in the program: Michael Eggnatz, Mark Berger, Sherri Bluth, Michael Gertsen, Bertram Moldauer, Barry Rosenthal and Jennifer Schaumberg.

If you are a practicing dentist in the Broward County, Florida area and would like to participate in the program, please contact Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org or Dr. Michael Eggnatz mdeggnatz@aol.com.

HOW TO DONATE

AO US FOUNDATION:
www.aofus.org
ellen.taranto@aofus.org
301-738-6400

AO CANADIAN FOUNDATION:
Marlene Tenenbaum Memorial Tribute Fund
www.aofoundation.ca or info@aofoundation.ca
416-250-7417
Meet the Dentists

Dr. Michael Eggnatz
Ambassador, Broward County, Florida

Dr. Michael Eggnatz has been in Aesthetic, Implant and Restorative Dentistry for over twenty-five years in South Florida. He is a graduate of Florida State University and has a Dental Surgery Degree from the University of Maryland. In private practice since 1988, Dr. Eggnatz opened his Weston practice in 2001.

Why did you decide to choose dentistry as a career?
I decided to choose dentistry as a career because I have been around the profession all of my life. I watched my father Lee (the first Pediatric Dentist in Broward County, Florida) and my Grandfather Meyer (one of the early Orthodontists in Miami Beach) improve many lives in our community as leaders in our profession. The ability to help heal patients was a powerful motivation as I watched my mentors live meaningful lives while helping others.

What prompted you to volunteer with the program?
I volunteered for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program to give back to those in need that have suffered so much and persevered through the worst atrocity in our history.

Are any family members Holocaust survivors?
I have no direct family members who are Holocaust survivors, but I have many friends who do have family members who are. I am in awe of people who have suffered such trauma and persevered with their hope intact!

What has been your experience treating Holocaust survivors?
My experience treating survivors has been rewarding, educational and fascinating. I am able to listen to history, first hand, while helping very appreciative patients on a regular basis. Many cook and bake food from their native countries to thank my staff and me after treatment.

What is your favorite activity outside of work?
When I am not working, I enjoy my family, the South Florida outdoor lifestyle and playing sports. I enjoy the beach and boating on the beautiful Atlantic Ocean.

You are a long time Alpha Omegan. Why would you tell others to join the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity?
I would tell others to join Alpha Omega because it allows them to bring all the significant parts of their lives together in one organization. The values that make up the triangle of Alpha Omega, professionalism, fraternalism and Judaism all can be practiced at the same time with your family, your profession and your faith, while serving others with your training. It’s a great way to give back to your community, and those less fortunate, using your education. Everyone wins!

Is there anything else you would like to add?
I am one of six children born and raised in South Florida. I am a third generation graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. I was hooded with my doctorate degree by my father and grandfather on the their 30th and 60th reunions respectively. My grandfather was vice chair of the Orthodontic Department at UMSOD, and International President of Alpha Omega in 1942-1943, during WW II. As a leader in dentistry, he was responsible, with many other dental leaders, for recommending what capacity dentists from Baltimore would serve in the war. His own nephew was amongst the first to see the photos of the horrors of the camps. He never spoke about it, but I know it defined his loyalty to Alpha Omega and Israel. He would become one of the founding members of the Alpha Omega School of Dentistry in Israel. I am honored to contribute in any way to help those survivors who live in our community!
Meet the Dentists

Dr. Mark Berger

Dr. Mark Berger is a Florida native, born and raised in Coral Springs. He went to the University of Florida for both his undergraduate and master’s degrees; he attended Boston University for dental school where he graduated with honors. Dr. Berger went on to further his training with a General Practice Residency at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, NY where he focused in the areas of dental implants, oral surgery and endodontics.

Why did you decide to choose dentistry as a career?
I definitely chose dentistry as a career because my father is a dentist. I was able to come into his office and see first-hand how to help people with their oral healthcare needs. Helping people and being able to relate to someone on a one-to-one basis is what I do best.

What prompted you to volunteer for the program?
The thing that prompted me to volunteer for this program was that I was involved with AO in dental school and I saw that they were trying to bring this program to South Florida, and I thought it would be a rewarding experience to give back to my community. Everyone in the program has been very helpful and each patient has been extremely appreciative of the care we have given.

Are any of your family members Holocaust survivors?
I was lucky enough that my grandparents had left Europe before things got very bad over there, so they were not direct Holocaust survivors, but many of my friend’s grandparents were Holocaust survivors and I thought it was important to volunteer for this cause.

What has been your experience treating survivors?
Treating survivors has definitely been a rewarding experience since it gives you a bond with someone who went through such horrible times while helping them in our field of dentistry. It was truly our pleasure to help in any way that we could, as well as to hear their stories and truly connect with them.

What would you be doing if you hadn’t gone into dentistry?
If I hadn’t gone into dentistry, I would probably have tried to study to become a medical doctor since treating and caring for people is what I love to do. Knowing that you can help people with your expertise is truly a blessing and I am thankful for that.

Is there anything else you would like to add?
I want to thank Bernice [Program Manager] and everyone involved with the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program since it has become a tremendous success all throughout the United States and I am definitely happy to help! Thanks again!
Meet the Dentists

Dr. Sherri Bluth

Dr. Sherri Bluth attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. After graduating in 1999, she attended a one-year program for advanced education in general dentistry. Dr. Sherri has over 12 years experience as a periodontal hygienist. She worked alongside prominent specialists in Manhattan in the areas of periodontics and prosthetics for 8 years prior to returning to dental school for her doctorate. Dr. Sherri’s dental interest is in endodontic procedures and the many new cosmetic procedures available to patients today. Dr. Sherri has trained with experts at BriteSmile in various tooth-whitening procedures.

Why did you choose dentistry as a career?
Choosing dentistry as a career was a no brainer for me. I actually grew up surrounded by dentists and hygienists and always knew it would be a profession for me to pursue. My father is a retired dentist, as well as my two uncles (his brother, and brother-in-law), one of their son’s is my first cousin and 5 of his best friends. My mom is a retired hygienist, as was her sister-in-law. My parents met at The University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, where I attended both Dental Hygiene and Dental School years later. I currently practice with my brother in Davie, Florida. My practice concentrates in general restorative dentistry, with an emphasis on cosmetics.

What prompted you to volunteer for the program?
I’ve had a deep interest and connection to Judaism since childhood. I grew up with strong Jewish roots, attended Sunday school, followed by Hebrew School, a Bat-Mitzvah and then continued learning for my Confirmation. In my Junior year of High School my parents gave me the opportunity to attend High School in Israel with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and I jumped on it. Being in Israel for an extended period of time really allowed me to grasp my cultural roots at a much more profound level. I vividly remember studying about WWII, the Holocaust and the persecution of six million Jews. Study at Yad Vashem solidified my interest in further learning and the affinity I felt to our people. I began to read about the anti-Semitism throughout Eastern Europe from the 1920’s through WWII followed by the displacement camps. The atrocities throughout Europe hit my core not only as a Jew, but, as a human being. I was fortunate to go back to Israel in 2008 and spend extra time at the Yad Vashem Museum, which was actually my only request for my extended time in Israel as I was on a President’s Society Mission with Jewish National Fund. The contributions that Steven Spielberg made to Yad Vashem were genius in allowing visitors to experience hundreds of survivor testimonials, discussing aspects as to what it was like to live and survive through the horrors of the Holocaust. I followed along from each Nazi conquered country to the next, visualizing, in disbelief, the devastation throughout Eastern Europe. How could this have ever happened? Yet, it was not so long ago.

Are any of your family members Holocaust survivors?
No one in my immediate family. My mother’s grandparents (Shapiro) were from Russia and immigrated to the USA in the 1890s before the Russian Revolution. They emigrated due to widespread anti-Semitism. My father’s parents emigrated when they were very young children from Poland and Romania. My grandfather was from a small shtetl called “Rzeszow” within Galicia, Poland, the most southeast corner of Poland, which
borders Ukraine and was wiped off the map after WWII. The family left early due to vast anti-Semitism. There had been a Pogrom against Galician Jews March 22-26, 1919, where 500-700 Jews lost their lives at the hands of the Ukraine Republic Army. My grandfather’s entire family immigrated to the U.S. in 1920 or 1921. My grandfather Manny was 12 years old and had to stay back with his 6-year-old brother, Sam, as he had a hair infection and they wouldn’t allow him to travel on the ship. The family left and sent the two boys to stay with a French family until my Uncle Sam was clear. They eventually came over, alone as small children, through Ellis Island and joined the rest of the family in Brooklyn. My immediate family settled in Brooklyn, N.Y. as did many of the Bluths from Rzeszow. Many distant Bluths also travelled to Argentina and the Bluths that remained behind in Poland, perished in the Holocaust. My parents actually met up with some of the Bluths years ago on a trip to Argentina. In 1990, my father went to his father’s hometown of Rzeszow and sadly it was no longer.

**What has been your experience treating survivors?**

No words can express the gratification I feel in helping with the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. I am honored to be able to give back in some way to the survivors who had so much ripped apart from them. If I can make their life a little bit better via a healthy dentition and bring a smile to their face, my work is complete. This brings me as much pleasure as it does my survivor patients.

**Do you have a favorite book, play or movie?**

I actually love movies and documentaries, so it’s really hard to pick a favorite. I have seen almost all of the WWII and Holocaust movies, as well as the documentaries available. I also try to see the yearly documentaries shown through the Greater Palm Beach Federation during Kristallnacht remembrance. A few come to mind: *Schindler’s List, The Reader, Run Boy Run, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, Son of Saul, Sarah’s Key, and The Pianist*, as well as dozens of others. I have probably seen *The Ten Commandments* a dozen times! Books: I highly recommend *Voyage of the Damned* and books about Anne Frank (I’ve visited the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam), not to forget all the Broadway productions concerning the Holocaust such as those about Irena Sendler and the Kindertransport, as well as the popular more well-known ones.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

I think as Jews, we all need to come together and be cognizant of our surroundings. We must work together so that nothing like the Holocaust ever happens again. We are so few people left with only 14.5 million Jews worldwide; 5.3 million living in the USA out of a total population of 327.2 million people in the USA. There are 6 million Jews living in Israel. In 1939, there were 16.6 million Jews in the world with almost 60% living in Europe. As Jews, we have experienced a tremendous loss of our people. We need to be sure we have all the right people in place to protect us and the State of Israel. My wish would be for everyone to get involved in some way. Lend a hand to a Jewish agency in assisting the elderly, many of whom live alone, volunteer, do a mitzvah, even just once, as every little bit helps in the life of another in need. No matter how big or small your contribution, you will feel appreciated.
Meet the Dentists

Dr. Michael Gertsen

Dr. Gertsen obtained both his bachelor’s from the University of Florida in Gainesville, followed by a master’s in Biomedical Science from Florida Atlantic University. He then went on to pursue his degree in dental medicine from Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine in Fort Lauderdale.

As a former president of the Nova Southeastern chapter of Alpha Omega, he helped organize the Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Run and Walkathon. During his time in dental school, he was fortunate enough to take part in two medical mission trips to Jamaica. He continues to be active in the local community as a board member of the Broward County Dental Association.

He is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry, the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the Florida Dental Association, the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity, Spear Study Club, and the American Academy of Clear Aligners.

Why did you decide to choose dentistry as a career?
I was fortunate enough to grow up around dentistry as my father was a dentist. Although it was not always my plan to follow in his footsteps, as I got older and was able to appreciate the real opportunity of dentistry, I was drawn towards it. I love the ability to help people while at the same time combining many different skills. I am lucky to have a great mentor and am blessed to be a part of this profession and Alpha Omega.

What prompted you to volunteer for the program?
Being a member of AO, I had heard about the program as it was rolling out and was excited to be a part of it. Living in South Florida, I know we have a lot of survivors living in the area who may not have access to dental care. I was happy to be able to participate and give back to the many deserving individuals in our community.

Are any of your family members Holocaust survivors?
While none of my direct family members were Holocaust survivors, I had many second and third cousins who were affected by the Holocaust in Eastern Europe. My grandfather was in the Soviet Air Force during WWII and in charge of arming the planes used to fight the Nazis. As one of the few Jewish officers in the military he was very proud of his efforts against the Germans.

What has been your experience treating survivors?
It has definitely been a rewarding experience treating survivors as there is nothing like giving someone that has gone through so much a reason to smile.

Do you have a favorite book, play or movie?
Man’s Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl.

Is there anything else you would like to add?
We are very fortunate to be in a position to help out a population that truly needs our services. I hope more local dentists are able to get involved and support this program.
How long has the Agency been working with Holocaust survivors?
Since 1991.

Approximately how many Holocaust survivors are there in the South Florida area?
Approximately 2,200 in Broward County.

How many survivors receive services from the agency?
Approximately 900, of whom about 40% are living at or below the poverty level.

What are the greatest needs of survivors in your community?
Home care, housekeeping, housing expenses, food, financial assistance to pay for medicine, transportation, and dental work.

What has been the experience of your agency working with the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?
Since we have been working with AO, the experience has been amazing. On behalf of the financially needy Holocaust survivors from Broward County, we thank Bernice Edelstein for all her efforts, the dentists, and the entire AO organization for making a big difference in the Holocaust survivors’ lives.

Do you have a favorite story about working with Holocaust survivors?
Mr. B. suffered for 7 years with pain. In his words:
One time I was hospitalized for 2 days with antibiotics for 48 hours because of an infection in my teeth and my entire face was like a balloon to the point that I could not open my eyes. After 2 days in a hospital they could not do much, so they transferred me by ambulance to a hospital in Miami where they helped me. During 7 years of on and off pain, I have seen 4 or 5 dentists and every time they were talking about money and insurance. My care manager at Goodman JFS referred me to the AO program, and Dr. Berger’s secretary, Jennifer called me for an appointment. Two days later I was there. Dr. Berger removed 3 teeth and made 2 root canals on the same day. That shows how bad he felt for me because he did not want me to wait any longer. Dr. Berger is not only a dentist, he’s a good human being and it looks not only like he is working to earn his living, he is willing to help and be a friendly doctor. He has a wonderful nurse named Carmen who works with him. The way I was taken care of made me feel like I was in the hands of family.
Would you tell us a little bit about the history of Golden Ceramic Dental Lab?
Golden Ceramic Dental Lab 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 Golden Ceramic Dental Lab 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 and peace.

Welcome to the Program!
We are so pleased to announce that in addition to Town & Country Dental Studios in Freeport, New York and Orthodent in Oshawa, Ontario, 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.

Denver, Colorado is the newest region to join the program, partnering with Jewish Family Service of Colorado. Dr. Lee Weisbard is the Ambassador. Drs. Clifford Litvak and Ian Topelson are also participating. The three have already made generous contributions.
The magnolias were in bloom on a lovely spring morning at Woodmont Country Club, as Irma Poretsky hosted a brunch on April 7th for participants and providers in the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. The event was also a celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Ben Williamowsky, whose passing in February was still fresh in the minds and hearts of those who knew him and those who have been impacted by his tireless devotion to the needs of Holocaust survivors.

Almost 100 attended the event including dentists, family members, Holocaust survivors, translators, social workers, JSSA staff, Alpha Omega staff, Dr. Ben’s son, Sam Williamowsky with his wife, Barbara and Janet Benjamin, Dr. Ben’s long-time caretaker. The presentations began with remarks from Dr. Alan Singer, Program Ambassador for the D.C. area and Ms. Bernice Edelstein, Program Manager. Other speakers included Mrs. Irma Poretsky, who spoke movingly and humorously of her friendship with Ben, Dr. Steven Kahan, Mr. Steven Kess, Dr. Allen Finkelstein, and Mr. Todd Schenk, CEO of JSSA. Ms. Deborah Adler introduced the Holocaust survivors, many of whom spoke to tell their harrowing and poignant stories of hardship and endurance. The survivors also expressed their thanks to the dentists and their office staffs who have treated them with such care and respect, often like “family.” The program received citations from Joan Kleinman, State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen and Kathleen Connor, District Director, Office of Congressman Jamie Raskin. Ms. Kleinman also presented a citation to Sam and Barbara Willamowsky on behalf of Dr. Ben’s lifetime work and achievement. Thank you to Dr. Alan Singer for emceeing the event, to Irma Poretsky for generously sponsoring the event, to Richard Greenhouse for taking the beautiful photographs, and to Suzanne Lasky for helping at the reception table.

The Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program helps clients bloom with the confidence of a restored smile and treatment in oral health. If you are a practicing dentist and would like to volunteer for the program, please contact Alan Singer at docextract@aol.com or Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org.
Thank you to our Donors!
Thank you for supporting this vitally important program to treat the oral health needs of this most deserving population!

Marcy Borofsky  
Daniel Bottner  
Jonathan Haar  
S. Burton Ross

Editor’s Note: Donor Khosrow Azizi was misidentified in the last newsletter. We regret the error.

News Notes
Washington, D.C. area: Drs. Paul Cohen and Steven Kahan will assist Dr. Alan Singer in the role of Ambassador.

HOW TO DONATE

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www.aofus.org  
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301-738-6400

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Marlene Tenenbaum Memorial Tribute Fund  
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By the Numbers (Jan. 2019 - June 2019)

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