Shalom,

It is wonderful to see the development of the program in New York. Beyond Manhattan, we have treated Holocaust survivors in Brooklyn, Northern Jersey and Long Island and have strengthened our relationships with the social service agencies in the area. Special thanks goes to Rada Sumareva, the NY Dental Ambassador, for her tireless efforts and to the RADA (Russian American Dental Association) dentists participating in the program. Thank you to all the Alpha Omega dentists for providing kind, compassionate expert care. Your efforts are the key to the success of this program. Click on the video link below. Rada Sumareva along with Laurie Gordon Shaw (Illinois) and Avi Wurman (Toronto) discuss the impact of the program.


With sincere gratitude,

Bernice Edelstein, HSP Program Manager

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Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity is honored to be a recipient of the 2017 Shils Award. The award is presented annually and recognizes up to four individuals, organizations or programs that have made a significant impact on the dental community.

The Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program was cited for its effort in advocacy for Holocaust Survivors. Special thanks to the Board of Directors of the Shils Entrepreneurial Fund for recognizing the work of the Program.

The winners of the Shils Award will be formally recognized at a reception to be held at The Robert Schattner Center University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in Philadelphia on Tuesday, October 10, 2017.
Spotlight on New York

The New York dental group is comprised of the following dentists: Rada Sumareva, Dental Ambassador; Charlene Berkman; Oleg Borshch; Len Brenner; Ariel Cross; Jeffrey Dorfman; Ari Druz; Jacqueline Fulop; Marsha Goldenberg; Batya Goldwaser; Fraya Karsh; Zev Kaufman; Margarita Kaus; Andrew Koenigsberg; Diana Krinker; Michelle Mirsky; Saul Pressner; Mariya Rozenblum; Andrew Rutman; David Shipper; Joel Sokol; Dmitry Stillman; Steve Taranov; and David Weiss.

If you are a practicing dentist in the New York area and would like to participate in the program, please contact Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ ao.org or Ambassador Rada Sumareva at: rsddsperio@gmail.com. If you are not able to volunteer, please consider making a donation to the Program.

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
Dr. Rada Sumareva graduated with honors from New York University College of Dentistry and received her certificate in Periodontics three years later. She is a member of the OKU National Dental Honor Society and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists. She is the Founder and the President of the Russian American Dental Association (RADA), and chairs the Oral Cancer/Smoking Cessation and Special Care for Special Needs campaigns. Dr. Rada Sumareva is a member of the Board of Directors of the New York University College of Dentistry Alumni Association, Alpha Omega Foundation, AKIM USA and American Friends of Tel Aviv University.

Did you always want to be a dentist? How did you come to choose dentistry as a profession?

Both of my maternal grandparents were dentists and I visited them at work from the time I was a little girl.

What prompted you to volunteer to be the Ambassador for the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program in the New York area?

The circumstances of the Holocaust are very close to my heart. I was very close with my great-grandmother, Rose. Almost her entire side of the family was lost during World War II. My maternal grandfather was a soldier during the war. He was drafted when he was only 18, was seriously wounded and almost lost his leg. For me to serve as an ambassador was the least I could do in their memory.

What has been your experience leading the Program and the dentists in the New York area? Is there anything that you would like to improve upon for the Program?

It has been a very rewarding experience helping build this program. All the providers are true Alpha Omegans, high caliber professionals with great Jewish souls, generously donating their time and expertise to help the needy. I feel very honored to be a part of this circle of absolutely amazing people, my colleagues. Just like any new initiative, it has a learning curve and requires careful review of the steps as well as special attention to the feedback from participants, providers and agencies involved. I hope with time
Saul Pressner

Dr. Saul Pressner has been in practice since 1981 and is highly trained in all phases of dentistry. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and has a certificate in Family Dentistry from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He is a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry. He is skilled in treating patients who are either very anxious, fearful and/or nervous about receiving dental care. The staff includes several dental hygienists, one of whom has a Masters in Psychology. The receptionists and dental assistants are very concerned with helping patients who are fearful of dental treatment. The office offers music and relaxation techniques to make patients feel more comfortable.

What has been your experience working with Holocaust survivor patients?

It is an honor and pleasure to serve this community. Seeing these patients smile and hearing how much our work has impacted their lives is the greatest gift to me as a professional.

Are Holocaust survivors/the elderly at increased risk for periodontal disease? What are the medical consequences if treatment is delayed?

A lot of these patients immigrated from the various parts of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe where there was no access to adequate periodontal care and preventative dental care. This significantly compromised their oral health. Given the high prevalence of systemic disease in this cohort and the correlation between oral health and certain systemic problems, this puts them at higher risk of serious, often, life threatening complications.

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

I grew up in a very musical family (aside from dental 😃). Listening to classical music and jazz, playing music with my younger son and working on engaging the young generation in philanthropy through sharing their talents, volunteering their time, and other ways inspires and recharges me.

Anything else you would like to add?

I want to thank Alpha Omega for trusting me in offering this wonderful opportunity of doing Tzedakah using my professional skills. I am also very grateful to my colleagues/members of the Russian-American Dental Association and Alpha Omegans for their strong support of this important initiative, unconditional dedication and help in making it a success.

Saul Pressner

Dr. Saul Pressner has been in practice since 1981 and is highly trained in all phases of dentistry. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and has a certificate in Family Dentistry from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He is a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry. He is skilled in treating patients who are either very anxious, fearful and/or nervous about receiving dental care. The staff includes several dental hygienists, one of whom has a Masters in Psychology. The receptionists and dental assistants are very concerned with helping patients who are fearful of dental treatment. The office offers music and relaxation techniques to make patients feel more comfortable.

When you chose to pursue a healthcare profession, how did you choose dentistry?

I always wanted to be in the helping professions and sought a career which would involve manual dexterity, helping to heal people and making a positive difference in their lives.

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

I felt that I wanted to give back to these people in any way I could given what they had experienced.
**What has been your experience working with your Holocaust survivor patients?**

They have been very kind, appreciative patients.

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

I love to workout, meditate, do volunteer work in Israel for DVI and travel to new places.

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**David Shipper**

Dr. David Shipper received his Doctorate of Dental Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He is a native of New York City, and he moved to the Upper West Side to join his father, Dr. Philip Shipper, in practice. He and his father practiced together until his retirement at the end of 1999. That same year, they were joined by his nephew, Dr. Howard Vogel. He has lived and practiced in the same neighborhood since the summer of 1976. He continues to enjoy practicing dentistry because he loves being in the company of his patients. He takes great pride in treating everyone with compassion, and with a passion for the services they provide. His main goal is to improve our patients’ dental health, and thereby contribute to their overall health.

**When you chose to pursue a healthcare profession, how did you choose dentistry? Did you always know that you wanted to be a dentist?**

I would have to say that dentistry was always in my blood. My father loved dentistry, and he always seemed to be extremely happy throughout all the years he practiced. That left a tremendous impression upon me.

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

I have been providing pro bono care for many years including participating in Donated Dental Services and Mission of Mercy events. The fact that AO sponsors this program (with the help of Schein) made my decision to participate very easy.

**Did any of the members of your family survive the Holocaust?**

I had no family members who were directly involved in the Holocaust.

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

It has been a very rewarding experience. One patient in particular was about five years old when he and his family were liberated. He told me his life story over several appointments. It was hard to complete treatment because the patient kept telling us his stories, and we were all fascinated by them. We always ran late as a result. In addition, he is extremely appreciative of all that we have done for him.

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

It is important to participate in programs such as this because all health professionals must give back to their profession and to society in general. Personally, dentistry has provided me with tremendous joy and pleasure and, of course, it has been financially rewarding. I cannot think of anything better than giving of yourself to those in need.

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

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife, our two sons, Josh and Mike, and our dog, Sydney. My interests include running, keeping fit, scuba diving, golf, traveling, and reading.
How long has Selfhelp been working with Holocaust survivors?

Selfhelp was founded in 1936 – 81 years ago – with the purpose of serving those fleeing Nazi persecution. Today, we are the largest provider of comprehensive services to this population.

How many survivors are located in the NY area (do you have the numbers for NYC, Bronx, Queens and LI) and how many receive services from your agency?

There are approximately 50,000 survivors living in New York, and Selfhelp serves approximately 4,500 clients each year. A few years ago, Selfhelp released a report which has some demographic data by borough and projections for the future. You can see that here.

What are the greatest needs of the survivors in the areas that you service?

• Financial assistance
• Homecare, especially as a result of their declining physical and mental health
• Dental needs, arising from malnutrition and harsh conditions in their youth. Clients often come to us for assistance regarding dentures, crowns, and implants.

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

Clients have been appreciative and happy about the results that they have received. The dentists have been professional, courteous and understanding about not only the dental needs, but approach individuals with sensitivity and respect for their past experiences.

Do you have a favorite story about your work with Holocaust survivors?

Mr. U was receiving dental assistance through NYU Dental Clinic, but his treatment was expensive and difficult for him to afford. Mr. U was given the opportunity to go to a dentist, Dr. David Shipper, to obtain all necessary dental work, without having to worry about the cost. Another client, Ms. S shared that she was so impressed with the dental work and staff of Dr. Andrew Koenigsberg. She admired their professionalism and how they were so understanding with her needs and requests. She was able to start undergoing dental treatment and given a proper plan, something that she has not received in many years.
By the Numbers (Jan. 2016 - December 2016)

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FROM AO PROGRAM HQ

NOTE TO ALL AMBASSADORS AND DENTAL PANEL MEMBERS

We are working on close out of 2016 program records. There are still 27 patients in our records who are being treated in 18 cities in the US and Canada for whom we do NOT have Dental Encounter forms that record the appointment dates and dental codes. PLEASE get back to us at bedelstein@ao.org with your information about the patients for whom you have NOT submitted any information to us for 2016 referrals. Ambassadors: Please check the 2016 By The Numbers Chart on this page of the newsletter and work on getting any remaining information due for 2016 for patients in your City who were referred to dental panel members in 2016. THANK YOU!!
The Blue Card

Izabella Safiyeva, Program Director, The Blue Card, was interviewed for this article.

How long has the agency been working with Holocaust survivors? Are you located nationwide?
Established in 1934 Germany by prominent Jewish leaders, The Blue Card aided members of the community who lost their livelihoods as Jews were fired from their jobs and businesses were seized by the Nazis. In 1939 when founding members could no longer remain in Germany, they immigrated to the United States and re-organized the charity’s mission. Today, The Blue Card is headquartered in New York City and provides financial assistance in 32 states.

How many receive services from your agency?
Across the United States, over 2600 Holocaust survivor households receive financial aid from The Blue Card for necessities such as food, rent and critical needs such as medical, dental and homecare. Our 13 core programs are designed to keep elderly and frail survivors in their homes as many have a fear of institutionalization stemming from years spent in ghettos and concentration camps in Europe.

Approximately how many survivors are located in the NY metro area?
One third of The Blue Card’s clients live in New York City, with a large percentage in Brooklyn, followed by pockets in Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island and the Bronx. A large number of Holocaust survivors from the former Soviet Union immigrated to the United States and settled in New York City. Immigrating late in their lives without language skills, they took low paying jobs to support their families. Post-retirement Holocaust survivors from FSU were not able to accumulate savings to support themselves in old age.

What has been the experience of The Blue Card with the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?
Since the program launch in 2015, The Blue Card and Alpha Omega - Henry Schein Cares continue to work seamlessly in providing much needed dental care to eligible Holocaust survivors. Holocaust survivors who receive care from participating Alpha Omega dentists are touched to benefit from top notch dentistry on a pro bono basis.
The Jewish Federations of North America launched the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care in the fall of 2015, following the announcement of a $12 million award over five years to advance innovations in person-centered, trauma-informed supportive services for Holocaust survivors in the United States. The Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care furthers these innovations together with the expertise of partner organizations including the Association of Jewish Family & Children’s Agencies and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. In 2016, The Blue Card was selected to receive funding from a federal grant administered by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the grantor’s partner organization, the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The Blue Card is generously, in part, supported by the Claims Conference. The Blue Card is proud to be planning to work with Alpha Omega to provide a series of Person Centered, Trauma-Informed (PCTI) trainings for dentists and broadly speaking medical professionals.

What is a favorite story about working with Holocaust survivors?

In 2011, The Blue Card launched its Dental Program to fill a void in local government funding for geriatric dental care. The Blue Card’s Advisory Dental Panel is a unique model which relies on retired dentists to review dental requests that come to us from across the United States. Dr. Paul Cohen became involved with The Blue Card and remained active until his passing in early 2017. During a routine review of dental requests, Dr. Cohen noticed a growth in a survivor’s mouth. Before authorizing treatment, he urged the social worker to have the survivor’s growth examined. It turns out, Dr. Cohen saved the survivor’s life because the growth was malignant and was promptly taken out.

How did you personally get involved working with survivors?

I first learned about The Blue Card at a conference for Russian speaking college students wanting to get involved in the Jewish non-profit world. My involvement grew over the years as did my passion for the needs of Holocaust survivors. My responsibilities include managing programs that raise and distribute direct aid to survivors.

Avi Wurman, Co-chair of the dental program presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Van Evans, President of Orthodent, for participating and contributing dental laboratory services to the AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program. Thank you Orthodent for your generosity. We are grateful for your support.

Sad News:

Minna Williamowsky, beloved wife of devoted frater Ben Williamowsky, passed away Sunday, June 4th. Ben is the dental ambassador of the cohort in the DC area. If you would like to memorialize Minna by sending a tribute card, please contact Ellen Taranto at ellen.taranto@aofus.org or call the Foundation office at 301-738-6400.
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 and Country General Manager, was interviewed for this article.

Q: How did Town and Country become involved with providing dental lab services for Holocaust survivors through the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?
A: “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 85 patients and fully expect more to come.”

Q: What has been your experience with serving Holocaust survivors through the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program?
A: “My trip to the inaugural meeting in Washington DC 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?
A: “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 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.”

“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.”

Note: In the event program dentists need to use the services of Town and Country, please follow the protocol shown on the next page of the newsletter.
Protocol For Obtaining Services From Town & Country Dental Studios

1. Every dental panel member should approach his/her lab for pro bono services prior to asking Town & Country for services. Town & Country is our safety net and should only be used if the dentist’s own lab is not able to provide services. We are only requesting the dentist’s regular lab for pro bono services for 1-2 patients per year. In return, AO will provide the dental lab exposure through various AO marketing channels. Each lab partner will receive an annual recognition certificate from the Program for the services donated.

2. In the event that the dentist’s lab is not willing to provide the service, Town & Country is our Laboratory Program Partner who will donate the fabrication of crowns, complete and partial dentures and other appliances necessary for proper care of patients.

3. Dentists requesting laboratory services from Town & Country will notify and submit a treatment plan to Bernice Edelstein. Please be sure to indicate the patient’s initials only on the treatment plan. The dentist should attest to the patient being referred by the social service agency. When the treatment including laboratory procedures is approved, an authorization to proceed and laboratory prescription will be sent to the dentist. Please complete the Town & Country laboratory prescription including the patient’s name, the type of restoration, as well as the customary information on the treating dentist (name, address, phone and e-mail). Cases will then be shipped by the dentist using AO’s Federal Express account to Town & Country.

4. Please send the cases secured in bubble wrap and in a cardboard box. Also, please send the original impression, if it is still intact.

5. Bernice Edelstein will notify Town & Country to let them know to expect a case with a prescription. A technician from Town & Country may contact the dentist to request more information about the case.

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

7. When requesting a Porcelain fused to metal product, please request Non- Precious metal only. High Nobel Gold and semi-precious metal is not offered in this program.

8. There will be no remakes of cases as this laboratory service is a one-time benefit per submitted fabrication.

9. Town & Country will ship the case back to the dentist using AO’s Federal Express account.

10. This Protocol is in effect for the year 2017.
Canadian Protocol For Obtaining Services From Orthodent Dental Laboratory

1. Every dental panel member should approach his/her lab for pro bono services prior to asking Orthodent Dental Laboratory for services. Orthodent Dental Laboratory is our safety net and should only be used if the dentist’s own lab is not able to provide services. We are only requesting the dentist’s regular lab for pro bono services for 1-2 patients per year. In return, AO will provide the dental lab exposure through various AO marketing channels. Each lab partner will receive an annual recognition certificate from the Program for the services donated.

2. In the event that the dentist’s lab is not willing to provide the service, Orthodent Dental Laboratory is our Laboratory Program Partner who will donate the fabrication of crowns, complete and partial dentures and other appliances necessary for proper care of patients.

3. Dentists requesting laboratory services from Orthodent Dental Laboratory will notify and submit a treatment plan to Bernice Edelstein. Please be sure to indicate the patient’s initials only on the treatment plan. The dentist should attest to the patient being referred by the social service agency. When the treatment including laboratory procedures is approved, an authorization to proceed and laboratory prescription will be sent to the dentist. Please complete the Orthodent Dental Laboratory prescription including the patient’s name, the type of restoration, as well as the customary information on the treating dentist (name, address, phone and e-mail). Cases will then be shipped by the dentist to Orthodent Dental Laboratory.

4. Please send the cases secured in bubble wrap and in a cardboard box. Also, please send the original impression, if it is still intact.

5. Bernice Edelstein will notify Orthodent Dental Laboratory to let them know to expect a case with a prescription. A technician from Orthodent Dental Laboratory may contact the dentist to request more information about the case.

6. Orthodent Dental Laboratory will inspect the case to ensure that the materials sent are accurate for successful fabrication of the restoration.

7. There will be no remakes of cases as this laboratory service is a one-time benefit per submitted fabrication.

8. Orthodent Dental Laboratory will ship the case back to the dentist.

9. This Protocol is in effect for the year 2017.
Together, we restore smiles and change lives.

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
Consistency and attention to detail are built into every restoration
The newest milling technologies on premises
Fair, competitive pricing for excellent value to you and your patients

TOWN & COUNTRY DENTAL STUDIOS
275 South Main Street, Freeport, NY 11520
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The Right Fit
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Our Lab™

Actual Town & Country Cases. Dentistry by Drs. Debbie and Steve Glassman.