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• Meet The Dentists
• Jewish Family and Children’s Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
• Events Around The Nation
• News Notes

Key Dates

July 4 - U.S. Independence Day
July 21 - eve through July 22 - Tisha B’Av commemorates the destruction of both the first & second temples in Jerusalem

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter including items for submission (stories and/or photos) please contact Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org.

Shalom,

As summer is upon us and we look forward to family vacations and spending time with friends, I can’t help but wonder what will happen to the immigrant families separated at the U.S. borders. I am reminded of the survivors I have met/spoken with through our program and their stories of survival, of families breaking up and of the horrors that they endured. Elie Wiesel said, in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1986, “There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

An article recently appeared in the Long Island Herald, Bellmore edition, that focuses on the survival story of Holocaust survivors, Tibor and Livia Horovitz, who were treated and continue to receive oral health care through the dental program by AO dentist, Dr. Andrew Rutman. It’s an inspiring story of perseverance.


Enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter. The focus is on San Francisco.

Have a wonderful summer!

Bernice Edelstein
Program Manager

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 4th — Sunday, October 7th
AO Boston Regional Meeting | Join us for an outstanding weekend honoring Dr. Robert Langer, the 2018 Achievement Medal Award recipient, continuing education, and sightseeing in Boston. There will be a presentation of the AO-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Program. Visit http://www.ao.org/events/2018-ao-boston-regional-meeting/ for additional information.
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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Spotlight on San Francisco

The following dentists from the San Francisco area are participating in the program: Jay Cohen, Michael Dab, Lowell Davis, Nathan Roth and Dale Rubinchik.

If you are a practicing dentist in the San Francisco area and would like to participate in the program, please contact Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org or Ambassador Jay Cohen at jcdds@yahoo.com. If you are not able to volunteer, 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
Meet the Dentists

Dr. Jay Cohen  
*Ambassador, San Francisco*

Dr. Cohen is the ambassador of the AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program in San Francisco. The San Francisco chapter first became involved in the program in 2016, and four survivors have been treated. Here is what he had to say about his involvement with the program.

*How does it feel to be a part of the Holocaust Program?*

It really feels great. The program is a rewarding service for the doctor as well as the patient. Sadly, the number of survivors is diminishing rapidly. That makes these encounters even more special. Hopefully we can help these survivors smile a little.

*What impact do you think the program has had on the survivors who have been treated? Have you heard any firsthand feedback?*

These are special patients and I have found them to be very grateful for the service.

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

We have seen two in my office and I wish to thank the SF Alumni Chapter for taking care of the lab work. Michael Dab, Dale Rubinchik, Lowell Davis and myself are all thankful to provide services on behalf of Alpha Omega.

Dr. Michael Dab

Dr. Dab is a native San Franciscan. He graduated with a biophysics degree from the University of California, Berkley, and attended Northwestern Dental School. There are four key requirements that make a dentist successful, according to Dr. Dab: “You must enjoy helping patients. It’s also necessary to have good clinical skills. You have to be able to manage the ‘business’ of operating a practice. And finally, you need to have good ‘people skills’”

*What made you want to become a dentist?*

I always enjoyed working with my hands, tinkering with radios, appliances, etc. I’ve also always wanted to help people. Dentistry is an occupation where I could blend those two passions together.

*How does it feel to be a part of the Holocaust Program?*

It feels good to give back to others. My parents and friend’s parents were Holocaust survivors, so I know what they went through. They deserve to have needed dental care if they cannot afford it.

*What impact do you think the program has had on the survivors who have been treated? Have you heard any firsthand feedback?*

The patients I have treated have been very appreciative.
What is your connection to the Holocaust? Do you have any family members who were affected?
My father and grandfather survived concentration camps and lost the rest of their family. My mother’s family left Germany just in time.

What would you be doing if you didn’t go into dentistry?
Either medicine, because I enjoy helping people, or computer science, as computer technology was just beginning when I was in college.

What is your favorite quote?
“No! Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try.”-Yoda, Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back

Is there anything else you would like to add?
I thank Alpha Omega and Henry Schein for putting this program together to help Holocaust survivors with their dental needs.

Dr. Nathan Roth

“To be a successful dentist, treat other people courteously, friendly, honestly and professionally. This means patients and staff. Always look out for your patient’s welfare and long term health. Continue to learn throughout your career,” says Dr. Roth, who went to Indiana University for both his undergraduate degree (biology) and dental school.

What made you want to become a dentist?
I liked healthcare and liked to see people improve their health.

What made you want to volunteer for the Holocaust Program?
How could I not? To help others who have gone through very difficult times is a good thing.

What impact do you think the program has had on the survivors who have been treated?
I feel that they are gratified knowing that they are appreciated and respected.

What is your connection to the Holocaust? Do you have any family members who were affected?
My dad fought in WWII in the Philippines.

What would you be doing if you didn’t go into dentistry?
I’m not sure. Possibly another field within the healthcare industry.

What is your favorite quote?
“The harder I work, the luckier I get.”

What do you do to relax and unwind? What is your favorite activity outside of work?
Exercise is important to me. I enjoy working out at the gym or going out on a bicycle ride. Travel is also a passion of mine.

“To be a successful dentist, treat other people courteously, friendly, honestly and professionally. This means patients and staff. Always look out for your patient’s welfare and long term health. Continue to learn throughout your career.”

-Dr. Nathan Roth
How long has Seniors At Home San Francisco been working with Holocaust survivors?

For over 50 years.

Approximately how many survivors are in the San Francisco area?

It is estimated that there are approximately 3,000 survivors in the greater Bay Area.

How many receive services from your agency and what types of services do you provide? What are the greatest needs of the Holocaust survivors in your community?

JFCS serves approximately 1,000 survivors annually through our numerous programs, several of which are exclusively focused on serving Holocaust survivors. Notably, our weekly “Café by the Bay” therapeutic social group serves as a social point of entry for many survivors, and we continue to welcome new clients. Weekly and monthly meetings include a monthly “Lunch ’N Learn” session that includes a special catered four-course kosher luncheon, holiday celebrations and educational and cultural lectures. Our restitution program ensures survivors can access all forms of aid for which they are eligible. These rigorous processes can include joint research with the JFCS Holocaust Center to locate evidence of specific survivors’ persecution.
The above services are reserved exclusively for Holocaust survivors, yet there are so many more options that JFCS provides so that the Bay Area’s fragile survivor population can realize their most ardent wish to remain living safely and with the highest possible quality of life in their own homes. This includes everything from in-home assessments, care management, home care, financial assistance, socialization opportunities, adult day health, and transportation to medical appointments, home-delivered food, and weekly volunteer visitors.

Due to the high cost of living in the Bay Area, many of our survivors struggle to pay their bills, especially when there are unexpected crises, and JFCS offers financial assistance to help pay medical bills, rent and for other critical services that will allow the survivor to remain in the community. Our care managers work with survivors to navigate the healthcare system and ensure that they are receiving the medical care that they need.

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

Our survivors who have been referred to the program have all had an exceptionally positive experience. In many of the areas in which we work, we have not been able to find dentists who accept patients with Medi-Cal (Medicaid) and thus we have had survivors who have put off dental care until it becomes a crisis. This program has created the opportunity to refer survivors when they first start having an issue instead of waiting until they need extensive treatment.

Do you have a favorite story about working with Holocaust survivors?

Rose is a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor who spent the war in hiding. She immigrated to the San Francisco Bay Area after the war with her husband, where they raised their son. Not only did she lose her husband, but her only grandchild was killed in an accident over 10 years ago. At that point, her son moved out of the country, leaving Rose alone. Although her son visits and is involved in her care, Rose often turns to JFCS for assistance with a number of issues. Her social security is very limited and she has struggled to make ends meet on a limited budget in an expensive area. Throughout the years, JFCS has been able to provide her with counseling and support, as well financial assistance. Recently our care manager noticed that Rose was not wearing her dentures and as a result was not eating properly. Upon further discussion, we learned that Rose had broken her dentures and could not get them replaced since she could not afford a new pair. The care manager made a referral to the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program where a dentist fitted her with new dentures. Rose was so appreciative – she had not expected to receive “new teeth” at her age.
On April 12th, the Alpha Omega Boston chapter held an event at Boston University to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event was planned by Hillel on BU’s main campus in collaboration with Alpha Omega. The event was also in collaboration with Marsh Chapel, The Elie Wiesel Center, Together Restoring Their Names, the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground and Facing History and Ourselves. The evening took place in seven intimate living rooms around campus, where students heard from first and second generation Holocaust survivors to discuss the Holocaust and their memories of it.

One of the survivors who spoke at the event was Sylvia Ruth Gutmann, who was born in Antwerp, Belgium in 1939, after her family fled from Germany. After Hitler invaded Belgium in 1940, they fled again, this time to France. The family was eventually captured and sent to Rivesaltes, an internment camp in France. Both of Gutmann’s parents were sent to Auschwitz, never to return. Sylvia moved to New York when she was seven years old.

In the February, 2018 AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program Newsletter, Gutmann wrote, “Adelina and Arvi Duka, are not only my dentists; they are really my human angels. When I enter the office, the staff welcomes me like family, and it feels like home.”
On Sunday, April 22nd the AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program honored the Chicago participants: dentists, social service agency cohorts, and Holocaust survivors at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. U.S. Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Brad Schneider issued letters of greeting. A couple of the survivors spoke about their experiences and expressed their gratitude at the kind, compassionate expert care they received from the dentists. Kol Hakavod to Laurie Gordon-Shaw, the local ambassador, to Yonit Hoffman and Maya Gumirov at CJE and everyone involved in restoring smiles to this population.
Detroit Recognition Night

On Tuesday evening, May 8th, the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program was recognized as Outstanding Community Partner by Jewish Family Service of Metro Detroit at its Annual Recognition Night. U.S. Representative Brenda Lawrence issued a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to the program and the Detroit Alumni Chapter received a special tribute from the State of Michigan.

Thank you to JFS and the nominating committee for this special honor. In addition, a huge thank you to the three ambassadors of this cohort: Dr. Jamie Feldman, Dr. Mark Luria, and Dr. Marv Sonne. Most important thank you to all the dentists and their office staffs for providing the dental care to this very special population.

From left to right: Mark Luria, Bernice Edelstein, Ester Sleutelberg, Marv Sonne, Steve Miller and Jamie Feldman
In observance of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, The San Fernando Valley Chapter was privileged to present Dr. Michael Berenbaum as our speaker at our April dinner meeting. Dr. Berenbaum presented on a subject titled "Not Your Father’s Antisemitism: How 21st Century Antisemitism is Different". He is the director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust at the American Jewish University, where he is a Professor of Jewish Studies. He also was the Executive Editor of the Second Edition of the Encyclopaedia Judaica.

Dr. Berenbaum's most prominent work in the museum world was directing the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where he oversaw and was responsible for the exhibition and for the films as well as for the development of the Library, Archives and Educational Center. He is the author and editor of twenty books, scores of scholarly articles and hundreds of journalistic pieces.

In addition to Dr. Berenbaum, we had two special guests. Heather Angel-Collin, who is Holocaust Program Director from the Los Angeles Jewish Family Services, and integral to our AO/Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, facilitating the referrals of survivors into our program. And Sherry Bard, a consultant with the Echoes and Reflections Program, a vital program that is dedicated to reshaping the way that teachers and students understand, process and navigate the world through the events of the Holocaust.
If you would like to assist in launching the program in Cleveland, contact Bernice Edelstein at bedelstein@ao.org. A local coordinator is needed to help in implementing the program.

HSP In Cleveland

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 rsddsperio@gmail.com.

New York Area Dental Volunteers Needed!

The program has taken off in the New York area! Additional general practitioners as well as specialists including endodontists, oral surgeons, periodontists and prosthodontists in NYC, Brooklyn, and Queens are necessary to make this program successful. Holocaust survivors have suffered some of the worst atrocities. You will be fulfilling a mitzvah by treating a patient.

Thank you to our Donors!

Thank you for supporting this vitally important program to treat the oral health needs of this most deserving population!

Mr. Johnny Sloans

Mr. Steven Baral
Town & Country Dental Studios, has built strong lasting relationships with dentists across the country for over 50 years. As we say, we are “The Right Fit” for you and your practice. With Town & Country you get more than just a dental laboratory, you get a dedicated and experienced partner who will work with you to exceed patient expectations.

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