

Born in the Bronx and having lived there the first 25 years of my life, I was totally unaware of civilization outside the few blocks surrounding my apartment house. Manhattan was the big city accessible by a ten cent subway ride. Brooklyn, Queens and God forbid Staten Island were geographically undesirable. I attended Yeshiva High School in Washington Heights venturing forth on the crosstown bus. I became fascinated with science, history philosophy and music. During those years my oldest brother introduced me to the world of grand opera at the Metropolitan Opera House and I have been hooked ever since. Maintaining subscriptions to both the Met and Carnegie Hall for over 40 years now has been my sincere joy.

Upon graduating Yeshiva High School, I attended Yeshiva College with a pre med/dent major and philosophy minor. During my sophomore year my professor Quantitative Chemical Analysis my meticulous at determining the value of the “ unknown compound” and felt I was good with my hands. He advised me to enter dentistry. Heeding his advice I entered N.Y. University School of Dentistry in 1960. In the summer of 1963 I married my childhood sweetheart whom I had met at age 12 thirteen years prior. We have now been married 51 years an counting.

Upon graduating N.Y.U. in 1964 we spent the next three and a half years as a Dental Officer in the U.S. Army Europe. Those years were action packed as we took maximum advantage of travel and from where we were stationed we could encompass a major percentage of Western Europe which we did. Having been there that

long precluded the typical jaded feeling of becoming cathedral-out, palace-out and museum-out.

During those three and a half years we were blessed with the birth two of our three daughters- Elissa and Adina.

Upon completion of active duty in 1968 we returned to New Rochelle and with my classmate, Barry Abrahamson soon after started our own practice. In 1970 our youngest daughter, Shari, was born.

Today Elissa has a masters degree in Early Childhood Education and with her husband Joel are the parents of three children and a grand dog.

Adina has a masters degree in Business Administration and with her husband Michael are the parents of three children.

Shari has doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology and with her husband Damian are the parents of four children.

In 1983 I transitioned to solo practice practicing for nearly thirty more years until I sold it to East Fishkill Dental Group and have continued to see patients twice a week.

From 1969 and on I have been a member of organized dentistry and my synagogue, Congregation Schomre Israel in Poughkeepsie. I have been very active in both organizations

I have been very active in both organizations having risen to the office of president in both. My tenure at Schomre Israel is now longer than 35 years and counting.

I was president of the Dutchess County Dental Society during the tumultuous year of 1995. During that year Dutchess overwhelmingly voted to secede from the Ninth District forming our own component -NOT branch. Armen Manassar and I hired a private plane and flew out to

Montauk Point to place our petition at the annual meeting of The N.Y.State Dental Association. Our petition to secede was voted down. The then president of the Ninth- Elliot Feinberg- approached Armen and me afterward and promised that our intense feelings of alienation would be addressed and that he will see to it. The Ninth had become a Westchester-Old-Boys-Club. He kept his word. Since then Bill Kurtland, myself ,Armen Manassar and now Frank Vigliotti have and will serve as president. On the surface our relationship is collegial, but there is still the undercurrent of suppressed hostility. In 2005 I assumed the office as president at the Ninth and if I may boast by saying that for the first time in many years that the Ninth was not buffeted with rancor- the most collegial year in a very long time. After my tenure concluded I continued to be active on the Audit, Budget and Finance Committee, arguably the most critical committee of the Ninth even having served as vice chair. I have served on the building committee and the centenary committee. I have been a delegate and alternate delegate to the annual sessions of NYSDA and ADA.

I have been inducted into the prestigious dental societies, namely The American College of Dentists The Pierre Fouchard Academy and as Fellow of the Academy of General Dentists.

Back at Dutchess I've been a member at large and now play the role of Dr.Feelgood/Dr.Feelwell for the DCDS Players as well as a staff member at Vassar Brothers Hospital.

My hobbies as mentioned earlier is opera and classical music, biblical archaeology-especially “dig for a day” and most productive- woodworking. I have built cribs for all ten of my grandchildren,beds, chests of drawers,computer and tv cabinets, armoires, bookcases,corner curio cabinets,kitchen sets,etc. I am also the resident woodworker of my synagogue having built the holy ark, bookcases, divider screens,tables,etc.

Finally, I would like to say I am honored at being chosen as this year’s recipient of the Walter Wallace Stevens Award for Meritorious and Distinguished Service and be elected into the Dutchess County Dental Society Hall Of Fame. My association with my wife, Hinda, colleagues,family, patients, friends, parishioners has enabled me to have a rich and rewarding life and if I had an opportunity to do it again I would do so “in a heartbeat”.