

Born in New York City, I lived with my mother and her parents two blocks east of Yankee Stadium in the Bronx while my father, who enlisted, served as a dental officer in Europe during WW II. When he was released after the conclusion of the war and returned stateside, we moved to Rockland County where he opened a practice and where I grew up. Graduating from Spring Valley High School, I went on to undergraduate studies at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, receiving my AB degree in Biology in 1963. While there, I participated for four years in intercollegiate swimming, and was an active member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

After leaving F&M and Lancaster, I relocated to New York where I entered Columbia University Dental School. Along with the core classes, I also assisted dental professors with research studies in dental materials, and physiology professors from the medical school in their endocrine studies. Selected to join the honorary William Jarvie Society, I graduated in June 1967, having successfully passed the NYS Dental Board Exams. Political and national events during the Viet Nam era and after years of educational deferments, however, made starting a private practice a very risky venture. Like most of my dental school classmate, I chose to volunteer for government service and received my commission in the United States Public Health Service. I was attached to the Indian Health Service and received orders to report to the Pacific Northwest in early July, 1967.

With only about a month between graduation and my reporting date in Oregon, Rita and I were married in Teaneck, NJ immediately after my Columbia graduation. We set out driving the northern route cross the country to begin serving my two year obligation. Assigned as the Chief Dental Officer in a mobile dental clinic the first year on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, we watched many astounding sunsets as well as experiencing 160 inches of rain. Re-assigned the second year as the Chief of Dental Services at a Native American High School in Oregon, we lived just north of Salem, Oregon. Not only did we have the opportunity to visit and learn a great deal about other areas of our country, but also we experienced the complexities of many various Native American cultures. In addition, I realized I could actually provide the full

range of dental care without feeling that repeated tugging at the back of my dental coat by one of my clinical instructors. It was an enlightening and empowering experience in many ways.

After being placed on reserve status, we returned east driving a southern route across the country. Wanting to avoid the congestion of Rockland County where I had grown up, I located in Dutchess County New York in 1969 where I built an office with my dental school classmate, Joel Miller, and as partners, we began a private practice in general dentistry which lasted 33 years until Joel's unplanned and premature retirement from dentistry. Today, I currently continue to work full time as a solo practitioner.

In 1969, I also joined tripartite dentistry through the Ninth District and became a member of the Dutchess County Dental Society. Currently I am an Active-Life Member of the American Dental Association, the New York State Dental Association, the Ninth District Dental Association and locally, the Dutchess County Dental Society. In 1982 Dr. Catalano, the DCDS president, asked me to serve as Bulletin Editor. In 1988, I assumed the position of DCDS Treasurer and eventually held that office for 23 years while presently continuing as a member-at-large on its Executive Board. I am also currently classified as an Emeritus Member of the Academy of General Dentistry. I have served on our Ninth District's Peer Review Committee with Dr. Engel, and have been called upon from time to time as a consultant for the NYS Education Department's Office of Professional Discipline. As an attending in the Dental Department at the former Vassar Brothers Hospital, I provided dental services to children from the Poughkeepsie City School District in the Vassar Brothers Hospital dental clinic under the federal Model Cities program. Representing the Dental Department, I served on the hospital's Credentials Committee. I succeeded Michael Schwartz as director of the Dental Department and have served on several other hospital committees since that time. As a member of my synagogue's board of directors, I currently hold the position of Treasurer. When our children were younger, I coached and was active in the town soccer league.

Rita, a retired English and ESL teacher and an independent calligrapher, and I have been married 46 years. In our spare time we enjoy bicycling, canoeing, and have traveled several times to western and eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North and Central America. We have a married son who is a vice-president with a division of E-Bay dealing with internet commerce. He and his wife reside with their three daughters in Bryn Mawr, Pa. Our daughter works for the NYC Department of Education as a Senior Director of Strategic Planning for the Office of Programs and Partnerships. She lives and works in Manhattan. In addition, we have two grand-dogs.

I thank the Dutchess County Dental Society for bestowing the Walter W. Stevens Award on me this year. Having served on the selection committee since its inception, I diligently sought to see that this unique honor went to members who have made important contributions to our local community and our profession through their years of service, thus fulfilling the criteria set forth in the award description. This year, my suggestions seemed to have been put aside as the committee had other ideas about what direction it wanted to go. I thank them for their confidence in me and for honoring me for simply being collegial.