

Growing up in Brooklyn in the forties and fifties, dentistry was not on my mind nor anywhere on the horizon. My only relationship to dentistry were the visits mandated by the NYC school system. I was always under treatment and treatment never seemed to be completed. The sciences always interested me and I attended Brooklyn Technical High School, majoring in chemistry. At The City College of New York, I graduated with a BS in biology and minor in chemistry. There was still no hint of dentistry for me in the future.

After graduation, my brief career as a substitute teacher was interrupted by a letter from my local draft board requesting my presence at Whitehall Street. I knew they meant business because only one subway token was included. After completing basic infantry at Fort Dix, NJ, I was assigned to the research and development laboratory at the Presidio of San Francisco.

While in the service, and on a leave back in New York, I met and shortly thereafter married my wife, Ann. We will be celebrating our 46th anniversary this fall. Upon discharge from the service in 1966, I took a full time position teaching HS chemistry in the Syosset School district. I also began the pursuit of a Master's Degree in Marine Biology at the CW Post campus of Long Island University.

Ann's family had many members involved in the dental field. Two uncles were dentists, her brother-in-law was a dentist and her mother was a dental hygienist. Surrounded by this array of professionals turned my life around and I began to think in earnest of a career in dentistry. In 1968, I was accepted to the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. We packed up our young daughter and moved to Boston where I completed the program and graduated in 1972. Along the way our second daughter was born.

Many of my mentors at Tufts were from the department of Endodontics. With their help and guidance, by the beginning of my senior year, I knew that this was the field for me. I was accepted to the Temple University Graduate Endodontic program chaired by Dr. Sam Seltzer, one of the mainstays of modern endodontics. In the summer of 1972, packing up again with two kids, a dog, and some furniture, we moved to Philadelphia. It was here that our son was born. The didactic and clinical aspects of the program at Temple were outstanding, both in the number of and variety of cases we treated. The knowledge and experience of our instructors left nothing to be desired. Upon completion of the residence program in the summer of 1974, we again packed up our three kids, same dog, some more furniture and moved to our present location in Poughkeepsie.

I opened my practice in the summer of 1974 and remain at the same location. In addition to the many physical changes in my office over the past 37 years, I have seen many changes in the field of Clinical Endodontics. Materials, delivery systems, computers, digital radiography, ultrasonics, microscopes, just to name a few, have made the predictability and success of endodontics something that we can rely on to help preserve our patient's dentition.

I joined the Dutchess County Dental Society the Ninth District immediately upon opening my practice. Over the years, I have held the following positions: President of the Dutchess County Dental Society, Member of the Board of Governors of the Ninth District Dental Society, Clinical Assistant at Vassar Brothers Hospital, and Visiting Clinician at Castle Point Veteran's Hospital. I have also been involved in many community organizations. I am a past president of Temple Beth-El and of the Harding Club in Poughkeepsie. I am a clinical professor of Endodontics at NYU and have been teaching there since 1993. In the early 1980's I became interested in computer technology using this technology in my pursuit of my photography interests. I am currently giving hands-on courses at the Marist College Continuing Life Studies program. In addition I lecture on aspects of digital photography and photo enhancement to various organizations throughout the community. I also am one of the editors of the Dutchess County Dental Society Bulletin and assist in getting information to the web site. In addition, I serve as editor for other local organizations in the area and aid reading their publications print.

Ann and I enjoy spending as much time as we can with our three children and six grandchildren. Our daughter Jennifer is an Endodontist, living with her family in the Boston area. Our daughter Mara is a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing children and lives with her family in the Bethesda area. Our son Matt is a scuba instructor and lives with his wife in the San Francisco Bay area.

Finally, I would like to thank the selection committee for awarding me this distinguished honor. I am very grateful for the support and friendship of this outstanding and caring dental community during these many years.