



**Henry Schein Cares**  
FOUNDATION

## Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

Program Guardians

The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation  
Robert I. Schattner Foundation, Inc.

“Because of what they went through then,  
helping now isn’t a matter of choice -  
it’s a matter of conscience.”

# AO-HSC PROGRAM NEWS

## L.L.’s Holocaust Survivor Story

Thank you to Liza Uchitel, Care Manager JSSA, for assisting in obtaining the interview.

Born in Leningrad, Russia, USSR, 1937.

She survived the Siege of Leningrad (September 1941). In May 1942, “we were taken by train in the last group leaving the city to escape from famine and a disease-stricken city.”

Although she was very young at the time, she remembers suffering from hunger and disease, biting cold, and experiencing the terror of air raids and artillery shelling. She recalls visiting her aunt’s apartment building when a bomb went off. Her family was miraculously saved by sheer chance, being in the other part of the house. The city’s water supply was damaged. She remembers her mom crying bitterly as her hands froze again and again, while she tried to get water from the Fontanka River in the dead of winter.

In May 1942, she along with her mother and brother were evacuated to Kazakhstan. She stayed there until 1945. She reunited with her maternal grandmother and her aunt in Leningrad when she returned.

Her father first participated in the Winter War with Finland as a Red Army soldier. After the Winter War, when the war began in Russia, he signed a contract to work in Kalyma, Siberia, where conditions were harsh. Since he mined rare elements and gold, he was spared being drafted during World War II and was very lucky to survive the war.

Her mother was starving while taking care of her children, L.L. and her younger brother.

After the war, L.L. worked as a railroad engineer, developing new transportation projects before immigrating to Israel. At age 75, she moved to the United States to join her only son and did not work.

Today she lives alone in Rockville. Her son, a materials scientist lives nearby, and a grandson, a businessman resides in Boston, Massachusetts.



She came to the US late in life and was not able to work. L.L. attends a Russian language adult day care center. Recently she developed a new hobby – painting. She proudly displays her colorful work on the living room walls in her apartment.

“I have been a patient of Dr. Jay Samuels for more than 10 years. Both the doctor and his staff are exceptionally attentive and professional.”



**Dr. Jay Samuels with patient L.L.**

She feels very lucky that, thanks to Dr. Samuels’ professionalism, she can retain most of her teeth and smile with confidence. I am very, very grateful to the dentist and his office, as well as to JSSA, and my Care Manager, who support and help me navigate all the complexities of my life in this country. She appreciates the Alpha-Omega Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, which connects people like her with skilled dentists. The survivor is proud of her Jewish identity, and she now feels comfortable, loved, and supported and a part of the community.



## Stanley M. Bergman to Retire as Henry Schein CEO March 1, 2026

Mr. Bergman to continue to serve as Chairman of the Board

**Stanley M. Bergman will retire as Chief Executive Officer of Henry Schein, Inc. effective March 1, 2026, after 45 years at the Company, including more than 35 years as CEO, and will remain as Chairman thereafter. Frederick M. Lowery will succeed Mr. Bergman as Henry Schein’s new CEO. Under Mr. Bergman’s guidance, Henry Schein has achieved significant growth and embraced a corporate citizenship model that serves as the blueprint for a business philosophy of “helping health happen.”**

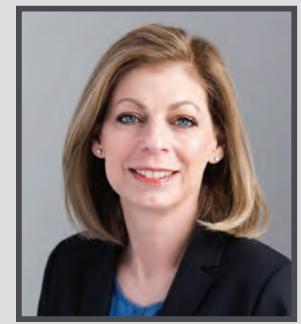
Key to Henry Schein’s approach is catalyzing health care access through public private partnerships, and the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program is a prime example of how working together we can drive positive change.

“Thank you to Alpha Omega, its members, and each of our industry partners for giving so generously to support this program’s success,” Mr. Bergman said. “One need only look at the smiles on the faces of the Holocaust survivors who have received treatment to understand what this program means to the patients and their families. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary dedication of the Alpha Omega members, who contribute their time, skill, and compassion to deliver this vital care to Holocaust survivors — a population that continues to be profoundly in need of such support. We look forward to continuing to help survivors live their lives in comfort and with dignity.”

“Congratulations, Stan. Your visionary leadership has left an indelible impact on the dental community,” said Dr. Marc Rothman, Chair of AO U.S. Dental Foundation. “Alpha Omega has been blessed to work with Henry Schein on many projects, including the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dentistry Clinic, Al-Quds University on the Bridges to Peace program, and the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, providing access to care to a marginalized community. The program is guided by the two organizations’ shared commitment to serve those in need. Together, we have achieved more than working alone. Kol HaKavod!”



# Shalom!



**Bernice Edelstein**

Dear Friends,

As we close out 2025, a milestone 10- year anniversary for the AO-HSC Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, it is also the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

For the dental program, it is a remarkable achievement considering it was a three-year pilot. During the past decade we consistently worked to provide comprehensive oral health care to Holocaust survivors living in poverty across North America. It has been a journey of growth, progress and countless successes and I am incredibly proud of the community and partnerships that we have built together.

\$5,300,000 has been donated in oral care and nearly 2,500 patient encounters have been recorded. The value of care is priceless to the patients treated through the program. These accomplishments were made possible by the steadfast support of our volunteers and partners and the trust of the communities we serve.

A bit of exciting news: Eastman Institute of Health-University of Rochester has joined the program. Eastman will be the 6th school in partnership with the program. See page 7 for more information.

For me personally, this past April, my children and I participated in the March of the Living, a journey that deeply moved us and wove itself into the fabric of our family’s story. My parents, both survivors from Poland, carried their memories in silence, never sharing the weight of their past. Walking in their footsteps, we saw firsthand the devastating consequences that can grow from

words of hate. The Holocaust began with hateful speech and ended in the unimaginable loss of six million Jewish lives. It is up to all of us to remember, to learn, to educate, and to ensure that such darkness never returns.

From my family to yours, very best wishes for the new year. May 2026 overflow with love, laughter, kindness and peace for all!

With gratitude,  
Bernice Edelstein  
Executive Director

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter including items for submission (stories and/or photos) please contact me at [bernice.edelstein@aofus.org](mailto:bernice.edelstein@aofus.org)



Check out the program’s Facebook page. Like, follow, and stay connected for updates, stories, and inspiring moments. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of Holocaust survivors! <https://www.facebook.com/AOHSCOralHealthProgram/>

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# L'DOR V'DOR

## L'dor V'dor Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

### Dr. Len Brenner

**L'dor V'dor is a Hebrew phrase that means from generation to generation. It highlights the responsibility of one generation to pass on the wisdom and honor the stories of their ancestors to the next generation. This process allows us to learn from the past and work towards creating a better future.**

They say that all good things must come to an end, but I say, not necessarily so! As far back as I can remember, which probably takes me to the age of 3, I wanted to be a dentist. Why? Well, simply because my dad was a dentist. As I grew up, I realized that he had a pretty good life. He was his own boss. He took vacations when he wanted to. He made a very decent living. He had time for his family and for himself and was even a man who gave back to the community. He was well-respected by his community and amongst his patients. So, with his guidance, I studied to get into dental school at the University of Pittsburgh, which was also my dad's alma mater. Basically, that's where my life both personally and professionally began!

Thanks to a couple of Alpha Omega dental students at that time, namely Richie Maidman and David Shipper, they welcomed me to Pitt and gave me (a nice Jewish Boy from Long Island) a sense of purpose and belonging while in dental school! I joined the Omicron chapter of Alpha Omega and worked my way up to become president in my senior year! Being president of Alpha Omega at Pitt had many advantages. I would be called on by the dean's office to give tours to prospective dental students, and I got to spend time with the Dean just chatting about "stuff." I was invited to events hosted by other fraternities and special gatherings at the dental school. I also co-chaired the mini-ASDA Day which was like a mini dental convention that Alpha Omega organized. I got to know all 525 dental students at the school! Thanks to our advisor, Dr. Gil Robbins, we had lunch and learn programs, frequent cocktail parties and an amazing Alpha Omega graduation dinner! Well, that was it. I was an Alpha Omegan for life! My dad was also an Alpha Omegan, class of 1949 at Pitt!

After my residency at Brookdale Hospital, where my dad was an attending, coincidentally, I joined his practice. We were practicing together for over 25 years! We loved sharing ideas and new techniques with each other, and also spending lunch together, either with other local dentists and specialists in the area or just with each other, talking about life! One cannot take those moments together for granted! My dad would then take about six months off and go to Arizona with my mom. When he returned, he would see a patient or two but always make it a point to come and have lunch with me until he retired at the age of 85! My love for dentistry and Alpha Omega continued to grow and soon I would become the Regent of Regency 3 in New York! Over the years I have achieved several Fellows, including the ICD, ACD, AGD, IADFA, and the ASDA, as well as a Fellow in the Pierre Fauchard Academy! In addition to that I was on the organization



**Dr. Melvin Brenner with his son  
Dr. Len Brenner**

committee of the GNYDM for 12 years!!

I have been married to my beautiful and talented wife Mallory (Managing Director at Bank of America) for almost 39 years, and together we have three grown children, three grandsons, and a puppy! Over the years, I have made some miraculous friends, so many through dentistry and Alpha Omega! Through the years, my wife and I devoted our time and efforts to always try to be philanthropic. Mallory has helped raise money for the Long Island MS Society, where she has served on the board for several years. She also mentors young people and friends who are searching for their path in life. We taught our children the importance of giving back. Our son, Harrison, runs marathons and participates in other sports events to raise money and inspire young students from underprivileged backgrounds through poetry and sports in his Scores program.

Dentistry has greatly enriched my life, especially through participating in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# L'DOR V'DOR

## L'dor V'dor Brenner *cont. from page 4*

Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program sponsored by Alpha Omega and Henry Schein. In this role, I assess and provide complimentary dental care to Holocaust survivors. Hearing their stories of strife and anxiety taught me to deeply appreciate my current life and family. Listening to their harrowing experiences highlighted the difficulties they endured seeking safety. This involvement has strengthened me personally, making my own challenges seem much less severe by comparison.



**Son Harrison, his wife Brooke, Dr. Len Brenner, Mallory Brenner and his mom, Gloria Brenner, 95 years young.**



**The three grandchildren Arden 4 yrs. old, Blaine 2 1/2 years old and Mason 9 months old.**

Looking forward, I would like to see the legacy of the Brenner Family continue the principles that my mom and dad tried so intently to instill amongst their three children! My brother Larry is a world-renowned hand surgeon in Florida, and my sister Robin is a highly recognized dental hygienist who has worked with some highly profiled dentists in our profession, both in California and in New York! For our family, the most important values are honesty, integrity, putting family first, and paying it forward to help others, hoping these values will inspire those around us. We want our legacy to be about being genuine and caring, passing down life's important lessons from one generation to the next—and sharing a few good jokes along the way!

Being an Alpha Omegan, and being a Jew, we can only identify with the hardships that the Jewish people endured and are once again realizing in this “warped mentality” world that we now live in! Many years ago,



**Len and his wife Mallory**

the Suffolk YJCC honored my wife Mallory, and we were invited to the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame induction! It made us feel so proud of what our Jewish athletes have played such a vital part in making the field of sports so prominent in the world today! It gives us such a warm and beautiful connection to our contribution to the world not to mention our contributions to medicine, entertainment, business, finance, etc.!

Let us all reflect on who we are—not only as individuals working to make the world better, but as a united group of Jewish people. Let us remember the lessons passed down by our ancestors. We can carry on their loving legacy and keep alive the dream of all people to be united as one!

So maybe all good things don't have to come to an end—maybe they just have to be remembered and promoted forward by what we have been

taught by those who loved us!! And there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think back to those days in my office, working with my dad, and how we loved to share ideas, thoughts, and ways to improve our patients' dental health, as well as the well-being of our families and humanity! And with all our combined efforts, this will never come to an end! I'm just so glad that at age 3, I made that decision!



**Harrison, Brooke, Mallory, Len, Amara Seated: Ross, Arden, Taylor (missing Blaine).**



**Seated: Dr. Len Brenner, Dr. Michael Gelb, Dr. Jeff Shapiro, Dr. Jake Shapiro. Standing: Dr. Louis Elson, Dr. Harry Pascal ASDA Annual Event**

# Around AO

## New York

### Welcome!

**Dr. Nasim Tishbi** is the newest AO member to join the provider panel. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemistry from Stern College, Yeshiva University and received her dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Tishbi completed two years of GPR in Brooklyn before specializing in endodontics at Rutgers University.

Her practice is located in Plainview, NY. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, and taking long walks with her dog, Coco!



## Boston

**Dr. Steven Spitz** brings a distinguished legacy of service to his newly installed role as President of the Massachusetts Dental Society, having served as Past International President of Alpha Omega Dental Society and Boston Ambassador for the AO-HSC dental program. Originally planning to enter veterinary medicine, Dr. Spitz discovered his true calling after working with his uncle in a Florida dental practice, where the one-on-one human connection inherent in dental care resonated deeply with him. The Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program embodies everything that drew him to dentistry—providing compassionate care to those who need it most—a commitment that carries profound personal significance



as his wife's grandparents were Holocaust survivors, two of only four family members who returned home after the war. For Dr. Spitz, this work represents both professional responsibility and personal honor, giving back to those who fought to preserve Jewish freedoms and heritage while serving vulnerable members of today's communities.



Laurie's grandparents Cantor Allen and Klara Stearns. Her grandfather was the Cantor at B'nai Emunah Synagogue in Skokie, IL when the Nazis marched.

### Mazel Tov

## Chicago

### Relocation from New York

A long-standing Queens patient recently moved to Chicago. We referred her to a local provider, whose office manager shared that she is "so sweet and so happy." This underscores the program's ongoing commitment to consistent patient-centered oral care.



Dr. Laurie Gordon-Shaw and Ms. Maya Gumirov, Survivor Services Director, CJE SeniorLife Chicago

# Around AO

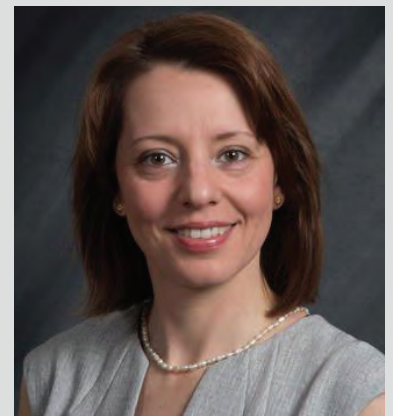
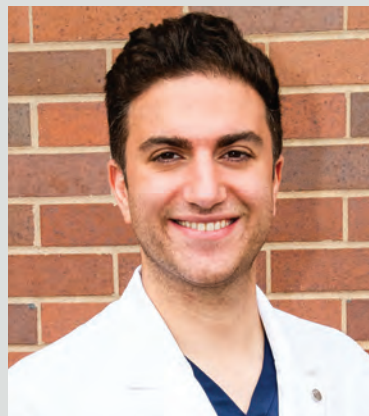
## Rochester, NY



### Welcome!

**Eastman Institute for Oral Health's Golisano Specialty Care Clinic** is the first oral healthcare provider in the nation to be recognized as an Age-Friendly Health System Participant. EIOH has been a leader in treating older adults for decades, providing care at nursing homes throughout the community, training dentists how to address their unique needs, and engaging in relevant research.

The Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program will be coordinated through Eastman Institute for Oral Health as the sixth dental school in the country to implement the program.



(from top left going clockwise) Leading the effort: EIOH Director Dr. Eli Eliav, Dr. Sziliva Arany, Dr. Adela Planerova, Dr. Shalom Benzaquen

## THE DR. ALLEN FINKELSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

will honor eight 3rd, 4th or graduate-training dental students each year who are committed to making positive changes in oral health. Participating schools are being asked to nominate one student each year. The nominee should exemplify exceptional leadership, service, academic achievement and professional excellence, helping to cultivate the next generation of dental leaders dedicated to making a lasting impact on oral health. The initial round will include one student from each of the schools with which the AO-HSC dental program has partnered, as well as Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University.





**On January 27, 2026, the United Nations observed International Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the victims of the Holocaust. This date is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp in 1945, where nearly one million Jews were exterminated.**

Israel led the effort for an international day of remembrance. On January 24, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly held a special session to mark 60 years since the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. Nine months later, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 60/7, which made January 27 the

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The resolution states that the Holocaust “will forever be a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism, and prejudice.”

This year, Ms. Melissa Fleming, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, hosted the proceedings. The observance included speeches from various political dignitaries and testimonies from several Holocaust survivors. Their powerful messages reminded us of our commitment not only to remember the past, but also to protect the future. Cantor Raphael Frieder chanted El Maleh Rachamim.



from left Dr. Jonathan Richter, Elizabeth Vera RN, Dr. Rada Sumareva-Ukrainisky, Bernice Edelstein

# IN MEMORIAM

**Bruce Donoff, DMD, MD, dean of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine from 1991-2019, passed away December 25, 2025, at the age of 83.**

**He was a visionary leader and a beloved member of Alpha Omega, advancing many initiatives, including The Tree of Peace Program, which honors dentistry's role in promoting peace and understanding. He was a supporter of the Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, nominating it for the Gies Award, and presenting the award to the program's co-founders. His global impact extended through his leadership in the Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders and he helped establish Rwanda's first dental school.**

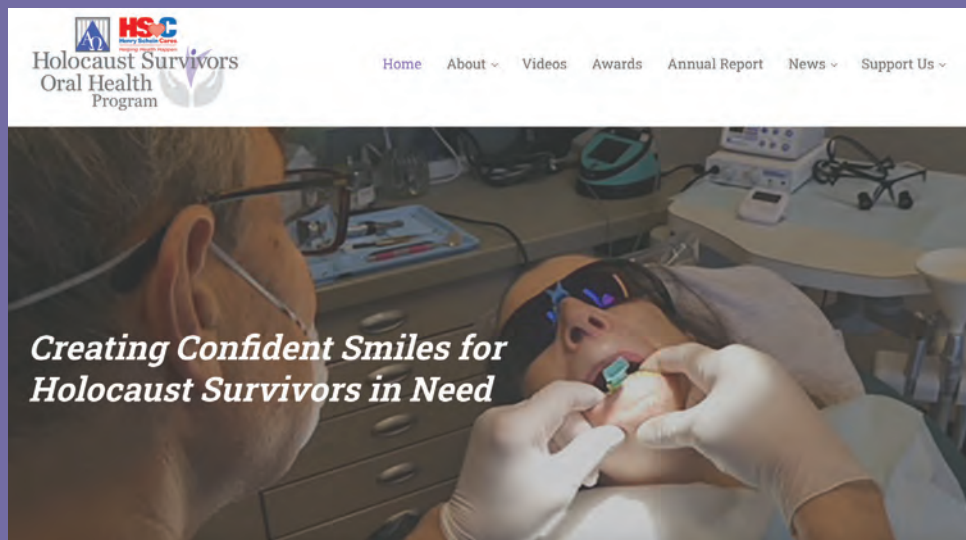
**He viewed oral health as integral to overall health and well-being. He launched the HSDM Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine, a program that continues to advance the importance of oral and systemic health to this day.**

**Among his many honors were the Alpha Omega Achievement Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Dental Science, as well as numerous national and academic distinctions.**

**May his memory be for a blessing.**



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.AOHSC.ORG](http://WWW.AOHSC.ORG)**



## Mission

The Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program's mission is to provide comprehensive oral health care to Holocaust survivors living in poverty across North America.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT PROGRAM TO  
TREAT THE ORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THIS DESERVING POPULATION

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