

## For Your Information . . .

- The Eli Whitney Dental Assisting Program was recently recognized for their efforts during Dental Assistants Recognition Week, in March 2001. Our warmest congratulations to Angie Macolino and Jan McMorran for all of their efforts.
- Our association mourns the passing of two of our members, **Dr. Michael Arabolas** and **Dr. Robert Mercurio**.
- The Connecticut Society of Periodontists has made a contribution of toothbrushes to the Fund for Dental Caring.
- **Dental Office Space Available:** Fully equipped dental office with 2 complete operatories and lab is available immediately. Office is on Whitney Ave in a medical complex near town hall. Contact Dr. Rubenstein (203) 288-0722.

Please send your comments or items of interest to:

**Avie Goldstein – NHDA Secretary**

Address: 419 Whalley Ave., New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: (203) 777-5385 – Fax: (203) 776-7233 – email: Goldstein@periodonticspc.com



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

New Haven Dental Association  
Dr. Avrum R. Goldstein, Secretary  
419 Whalley Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511

# N New Haven Dental Association NEWSBRIEF

*A Bulletin For New Haven Dental Association Members*

September 2001

### Officers 2001 - 2002

Dr. Ronald J. D'Andrea  
*President*

Dr. Dean G. Cloutier  
*Vice-President*

Dr. Avrum R. Goldstein  
*Secretary*

Dr. Thomas G. Duplinsky  
*Treasurer*

### Executive Committee

Dr. Philip C. Harrington

Dr. Douglas A. Rollins

Dr. Gerald D. Alexander

### Board of Trustees

Dr. David Kusovitsky

Dr. Harold L. Horton

Dr. Morton Weyler

Dr. Sheldon H. Natkin

Dr. Ronald H. Delfini

**NHDA WEBSITE**  
[www.newhavendental.org](http://www.newhavendental.org)

## OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2001**

### ***Legislator Night***

Joining us for this meeting will be:

**Mr. Noel Bishop**, CSDA Executive Director

**Mr. Jim Polites**, CSDA Government Affairs Administrator

**Ms. Toni Harp**, State Senator

**Mr. Cameron Staples**, State Representative

### ***New Haven Country Club***

**6:00 PM**      *Cocktails*

**6:45 PM**      *Dinner*

**7:30 PM**      *Program*

**RSVP** to Jerry Alexander — **782-0677**

by Tuesday October 2, 2001.

You may mail your reservation and payment to his office at  
129 York Street, New Haven, CT 06511

A **Buffet Dinner** will be served.

Cost will be **\$34** with a reservation and **\$38** without a reservation.

---

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 11, 2001

I remember only two other days in my lifetime when a major historical event had effected me so emotionally: the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the Challenger space shuttle disaster. I remember where I was, the pictures on the television and the voices on the radio. These memories are permanently etched into my brain. Now there is a third.

On this day, one my patients entered the office shockingly reporting that he had just heard that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. Everyone in my office stopped what they were doing and all of us: Doctors, staff and patients, huddled around the two television sets and watched in amazement and horror just as the another jet plunged into the second tower.

It was difficult to recover from watching that scene. After being stunned by what had happened, we did continue with what seemed to be our trivial duties and kept holding our emotions together as each event unfolded: the strike at the Pentagon, the fall of the jet near Pittsburgh and the collapse of both towers.

We all kept asking ourselves "How can we stay focused? Did we know anyone in those buildings or on those planes? How many people have lost their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children and friends? How could police and firemen be so brave? How could they hurry into a burning building knowing fully well that they could be losing their lives?" WHAT COURAGE !

There was an Executive Board meeting this night. I called the other members and the truth was that we just didn't have it in us. We wanted to be with our families. We wanted to go home and hug each our loved ones and maybe even cry as we would watch those devastating scenes together.

I felt again this day the same way I did on those other days. How short life can be. How quickly the gift can be taken from us. In the blink of an eye, we can lose someone precious to us.

I'll try to remember this when that crown doesn't fit, when I'm running so far behind because I had an emergency and helped someone out of pain or when a patient calls to complain because his insurance company didn't pay the claim.

How angry we can get over such trivial issues We take for granted so many gifts from God: our lives, our freedom, our health, our families and our friends.

We have seen how this disaster has brought America together. This country is more united than I have ever seen in my short 46 years on this earth. Let us not forget this day for many reasons: for the suffering, for the anger, for the tears and especially for the love we have for this country and for each other.

God Bless America.

I'm sorry. There is no business I wish to discuss today.

Ron D'Andrea



---

## REMEMBER WHEN

*by Dr. Sheldon Natkin*

My professional career has been engrossed in The New Haven Dental Association and the Connecticut State Dental Association for the past 20 plus years. In retrospect, being active in the Societies has expanded my knowledge and improved the patient care that I render. It has taken a long time to become a seasoned professional, but the journey has been enjoyable. However, the marketplace for dental business has changed since I became a dentist in 1971.

Let me reflect on some of the irrational happenings of my beloved profession.

- ◆ There will be fewer dentists graduating from dental schools for about the next ten years with fewer applicants to fill each class.
- ◆ There are fewer specialty graduates.
- ◆ Some dental schools have closed.
- ◆ Faculty positions at schools are becoming more difficult to fill.
- ◆ The cost of dental education has risen and the indebtedness of graduates has increased.
- ◆ The population of our country is increasing with our patients living longer with their own teeth.
- ◆ There is a huge unmet need for dental services by people of lesser means.
- ◆ The dentist/patient ratio is drastically going down.
- ◆ It is more difficult to find an associate dentist or find a buyer should retirement beckon.

### **However:**

- ◆ Practice overhead expenses have increased significantly as a percentage of patient fees.
- ◆ According to the AGD Newsletter, 6/26/01, significantly more dentists are participating in discounted networks of PPO plans. (I suppose dentist enjoy write-offs from insurance companies.)
- ◆ Capitation dentistry has not become a major player in the scheme of things, as feared some ten years ago. It was difficult for third parties to form the networks they needed to foster their efforts.
- ◆ More patients are joining networked dental plans. Many states have enacted legislation to allow patients to go out of network and assign benefits to a non-participating dentist. (Dentists continue to participate?)
- ◆ Many dentists worry about not having enough patients or become paranoid should a patient leave the practice. Do we not enjoy each individual patient encounter as we might?

Remember when we picked this job for its scientific and technical intricacies combined with its artistic flare. We became independent. Do we now stress through each day, watching the days rush by, waiting for our next vacation?

REMEMBER WHEN

---