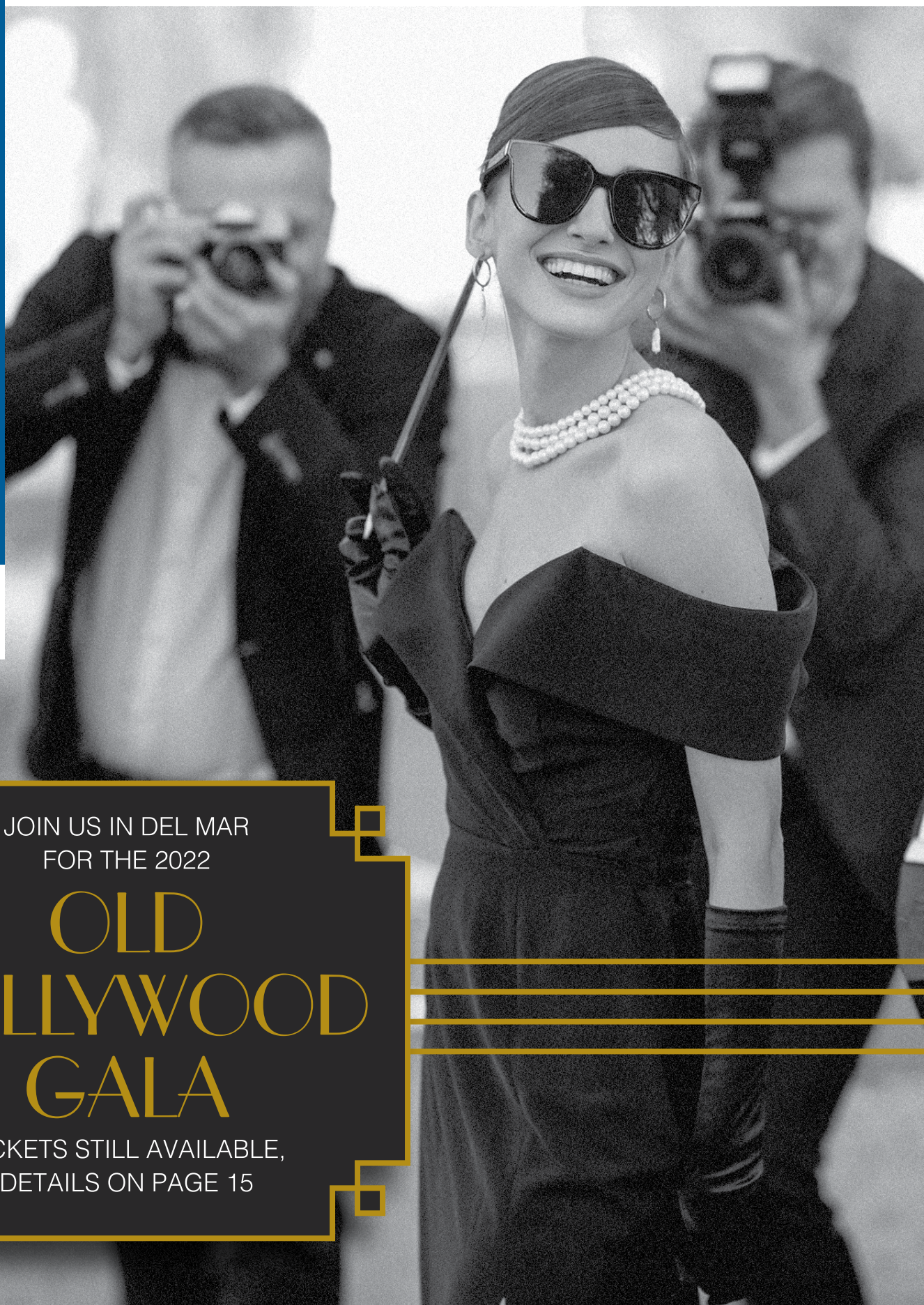


# FACETS

AUGUST  
2022



San Diego County  
DENTAL SOCIETY



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FOR THE 2022

## OLD HOLLYWOOD GALA

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE,  
DETAILS ON PAGE 15



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**San Diego County**  
DENTAL SOCIETY

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*The Charitable Arm of the Dental Society.*

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### **FACETS PUBLISHED BY**

San Diego County Dental Society  
1275-B West Morena Boulevard,  
San Diego, CA 92110  
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Fax: (619) 275-0646

#### **EDITOR**

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#### **MANAGING EDITOR**

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#### **GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

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#### **SDCDS STAFF**

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You can also get more information at  
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My NYU graduation

## Milestones

Milestones are fun markers to celebrate notable achievements in life. They can highlight good times, like a 25th wedding anniversary. Some can demonstrate resilience, like five years of sobriety for someone fighting addiction. Some show selflessness, like reaching 5 gallons of total blood donated to a local blood bank. Others show futility, like the Padres going over 50 seasons without a World Series title (but hopefully changing that soon!). My favorite milestone would be mile marker #26 during a marathon, signaling the run is almost done! Whatever milestone you choose, they are an important part of commemorating our lives, documenting our accomplishments, and putting our lives into perspective.

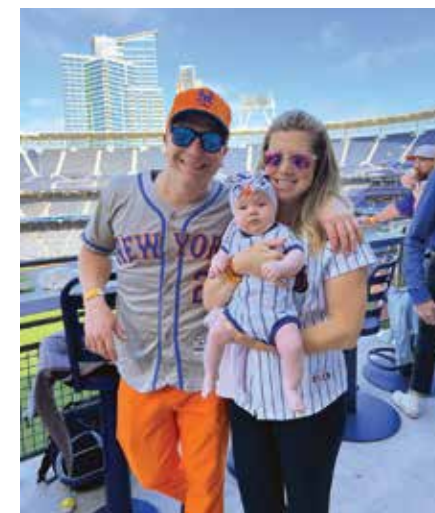
Personally, there have been some important recent milestones in my life. I just reached ten years since graduating dental school, five years since purchas-

ing our first house and five years since we adopted our first dog, Manhattan. Even more fulfilling, we have enjoyed watching our daughter, Carri, complete some milestones over the last 6 months, with many more to come! She's rolled over, started smiling and laughing (not just when she has gas!), tried food for the first time (she loves avocados, a true Cali girl!), and been to her first baseball game (of course it was when her dad's team, the NY Mets, were in town). Soon she'll be getting her first tooth!

In our profession, there's plenty to honor, whether it's individually or as a group. Can you remember your first extraction, or your first crown? How many do you think you've done since? What about that nerve-wracking day you purchased your first practice, and how little sleep you got the night before? What year of practice are you in, in 2022? As a group,

our Dental Society surpassed 2,000 active members in recent years, and we're in our 135th year of existence, as SDCDS was founded in 1887. Between the fundraising done by our Dental Society and our Dental Foundation, we've helped thousands of veterans with their oral health at our Veterans Village of San Diego since the program was started in 1981 (If you'd like to help out with more fundraising efforts, you can attend our Gala this Sept. 24, 2022).

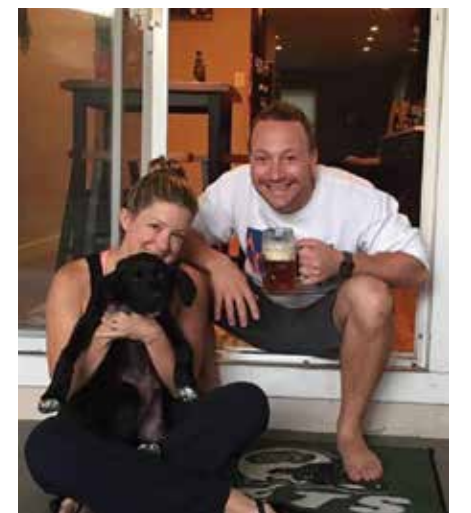
This month's Facets is all about celebrating milestones within our profession. We'll honor those doctors that have been members of our SDCDS for five years in this month's edition and will look forward to mentioning your more experienced colleagues that hit other practicing milestones soon. •



Carri's first Met's game



Carri's first avocado



The day we rescued Manhattan

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## Oh, the Places You Will Go (and People You Will Meet Along the Way)

I write this month's editorial from the island of Corsica. After two and a half years of staying close to home, my family was finally able to leave the Western Hemisphere and ventured to Europe, connecting with some long since missed friends along the way.

Being able to travel was one of many motivational factors for me to pursue dentistry. I have memories of my dentist growing up, having to schedule any treatment I needed around his very full traveling schedule. An avid scuba diver, he often visited such places as the Bahamas, Aruba, or Bermuda. For this small-town girl whose parents did not have a large income, and who had never left the state of California much less travel on an airplane (at least until the age of 17), this was greatly intriguing to me.

Over the years I certainly made up for lost time, made easier by a study abroad program I did in college. And with every trip I've taken, every country I've visited, every city I've stayed in, I find myself studying the people of the place. I observe their patterns of living, how they get to work, how they raise their children, the priorities they make in

living their lives. In each place I've visited, there has been a particular reason for the way its citizens live. And in almost every case outside of North America, they've been doing this for generations.

*What does my mentioning  
any of this have to do  
with dentistry?*

*It turns out, quite a lot!*

Because at the heart of it, every person on this planet has a story. They are not a faceless mass who happens to live in X city in Y country. They are the summation of their specific experiences. And these are quite often vastly different from our own! I've visited third world countries where the poorest citizens, paradoxically despite their circumstances, live with a sense of purpose and contentment unrivaled in many western countries. Less can be more.

I say all of this to remind you, dear reader, that this is an invaluable perspective to have when we treat our patients, work with our staff, interact with our colleagues. The people with whom we surround ourselves have had different

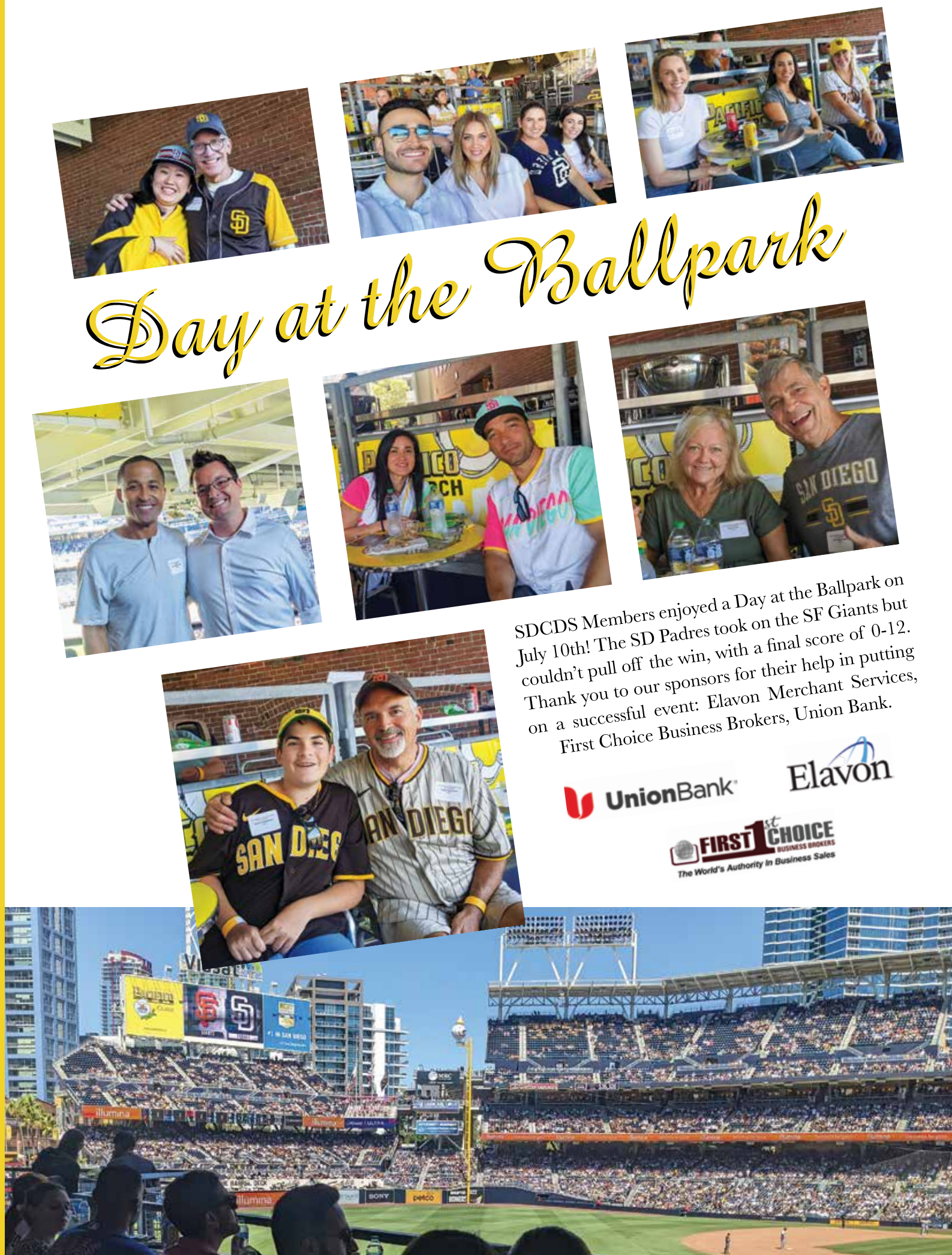
experiences than us. They may have grown up in different cities, states, countries, and quite often, even if within the same city, were exposed to different socioeconomic statuses.

When I was still practicing, one of my favorite parts of my job was to sit with my patients, if even for a minute, just to catch up, find out where they were on their path that day, to make sure they were fully onboard with what was going to happen in the chair. (Some days this was easier to do than others!) But ultimately, it was checking in with their story, their path, and to make sure that what we were going to do fit in. The vast majority of the time it did, but in doing this, I learned more about them and was able to better guide them in any further treatment they needed.

Traveling has greatly enhanced my sense of privilege in being able to experience something beyond my current circumstances. In a way I am grateful for my dentist growing up, for showing me that there was a place beyond my small-town life in California's Central Valley. But ultimately, it made me a much better dentist, and that was invaluable. •

## Day at the Ballpark

SDCDS Members enjoyed a Day at the Ballpark on July 10th! The SD Padres took on the SF Giants but couldn't pull off the win, with a final score of 0-12. Thank you to our sponsors for their help in putting on a successful event: Elavon Merchant Services, First Choice Business Brokers, Union Bank.







SDCDS Nominations Announcements

Slate of Officers

A meeting of the SDCDS Nominating Committee was held on July 11, 2022 producing this slate of dentist members to serve as officers, directors and delegates beginning their terms in 2023. According to our Bylaws, Chapter VII, Section 2, ". Additional nominations may be made by petition if such petition is signed by twenty five (25) or more members in good standing and provided the petition is filed with the Secretary of the Society forty (40) days before the noticed General Membership Meeting. The Secretary shall verify the authenticity of the petitions. If verified, notification of the additional nominee(s) will be made by mail at least thirty (30) days before the General Membership Meeting." **The Officers, SDCDS Directors, Board of Component Representative, and Delegates to the CDA House of Delegates shall be elected at this meeting, to be held on Friday, October 7, 2022, at 8am at the Handlery Hotel 950 Hotel Cir N. San Diego, CA 92108.**

CANDIDATES

Officers 2022-2023:

President: Dr. Tyler Johnson  
President-Elect: Dr. Lilia Larin  
Treasurer: Dr. Mark Macaoay  
Secretary: Dr. Virginia Mattson  
Immediate Past President:  
Dr. Christine Altrock

Directors 2023-2024

Dr. Doug Cassat  
Dr. Rick Hagstrom  
Dr. Misako Hirota  
Dr. Spencer Mauseth  
Dr. Thomas Olinger

House of Delegates:  
2023-2025

Dr. Jose Castillo  
Dr. Brian Fabb  
Dr. Thomas Olinger  
Dr. Sandra Primosch  
Dr. Sarah Silverstein

**Board of Component Representative:** Dr. Ronald Garner

An exciting future

I am honored to join the San Diego County Dental Society and San Diego County Dental Foundation as your new Executive Director. We all owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to Mike Koonce for his 14 years of commitment and strong leadership that has left SDCDS and SDCDF poised for a bright future. I am grateful for this opportunity and I am eager to begin working with our members, partners and the wonderful staff who have been so gracious in welcoming me aboard.

As a lifelong San Diegan, I have tremendous appreciation for the good works of the Society and the Foundation. I am excited to begin this role and put my many years of experience in nonprofit management, business advocacy, local government, and education to work on the challenges and opportunities we face.

My previous positions include having served for the past eleven years as Executive Director of North Park

Main Street, serving the needs of small business owners and drastically increasing the economic vitality of North Park through strong fiscal management, partnerships with corporate supporters and cultivating strong relationships with our region's elected officials.

Throughout my career, I have had the honor to work with and learn from some of the region's most influential leaders and changemakers, including Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins and former Senator Christine Kehoe, early in their careers. I enjoy every hands-on opportunity to engage in policy making, community outreach and advocating for changes that directly impact people's lives for the better.

As your new Executive Director, I look forward to working collaboratively on program development and implementation and building trusting relationships to advance our mission and values. I invite you to share your ideas and perspectives

at any time. I am eager to hear from you. I am committed to understanding the issues, gathering input from others, and working in partnerships to solve problems.

Outside of work, my life is rich and full of wonderful experiences. I am a proud mother of two ambitious, spirited, and compassionate young women. Their commitment to making positive change in the world gives me hope for the future. My family enjoys time together cooking, travelling and taking our 15-year-old Golden Retriever, Rosebud, to the beach.

Finally, I want to thank the hiring committee, our board chairs Dr. Altrock and Dr. Witcher and both boards of directors for entrusting me with this important responsibility and for doing everything possible to provide me with a smooth and welcoming transition. •

You can contact me at  
[director@sdcds.org](mailto:director@sdcds.org)

Welcome NEW *San Diego County Dental Society* Members

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Evelina Dragneva, DMD: UPenn, 1999                  | Xunyang Guo, DDS: USC, 2022                         |
| Nazareth Bedoya Gallego, DDS: International, 2021   | Rabie Hanna, DDS: LLU, 2022                         |
| Kaitlyn Neglerio, DDS: International, 2017          | Linda Truong, DDS: UOP, 2022                        |
| Kaely Kantaris, DDS: University of Iowa, 2014       | Grace Chen, DDS: International, 2018                |
| Steven Fronczak, DMD: Boston University, 2021       | Pediatrics at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, 2021          |
| Debra Vazquez, DMD: University of Puerto Rico, 1997 | Mays Alshawi, DDS: USC, 2022                        |
| Sumi Chung, DDS: USC, 2022                          | Nataly Yoncee, DDS: UOP, 2017                       |
| Yoana Fuller, DDS: USC, 2022                        | Andrew Lum, DMD: Tufts University, 2019             |
| Cynthia Jiang, DDS: USC, 2022                       | Chris Pham, DDS: UOP, 2004                          |
| Nancy Maroki, DDS: USC, 2022                        | Tyler Kuwamoto, DMD: UNLV, 2021                     |
| Jonathan Mills, DDS: USC, 2022                      | Hammad Afif, DDS: University of Detroit Mercy, 2000 |
| Allison Chan, DDS: LLU, 2022                        | Amanjyot Bains, DDS: SUNY Buffalo, 2019             |
| David Rutgard, DDS: LLU, 2022                       | Robin Lambert-Mells, DDS: UOP, 2017                 |
| Tiffany Nguyen, DDS: UOP, 2022                      |   |

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AUG 4

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EMAIL [SOCAL@DDSMATCH.COM](mailto:SOCAL@DDSMATCH.COM) TO RSVP



# Membership Milestones 2022

In this issue we recognize those members who have achieved membership milestones in five-year increments. Congratulations are due to you for reaching this mark, and we owe you thanks for your loyalty. Our goal is to make it more than worth your while to be a member, and we hope we've done exactly that.

Consider some of what you get out of membership:

**Professionalism:** That sticker you get each year to place on your office window comes with our logo, CDA's and ADA's

## 5 years

Vivencio B. Abante, DDS  
Mohammed Al Tekreeti, DMD  
Jonathan Albaugh, DMD, MBA  
Khaled Alwan, DDS  
Curtis L. Andrus, DMD, MD  
Stephan S. Barrington, DDS  
Nicole O. Bartolome, DDS  
Ligia I. Blanco-Spaeth, DDS  
Dustin M. Deering, DDS  
Randall J. Ewing, DDS  
David C. Flamenco, DDS  
Zachary L. Freer, DMD  
Dora E. Gallego, DDS  
Derek Havas, DDS, MD  
Kim Thanh Hoang, DDS  
Timothy W. Howarth, DMD, MSD  
Xuan T. Lam, DDS  
Irais Lozano, DDS  
Melissa Milder, DDS  
Tessa Miller, DDS  
Marie A. Moeckel, DDS  
Edmund Monsef, DMD  
Maricela E. Murillo, DDS  
Sarah nabai, DDS  
Anas A. Najm, DDS  
Dexter U. Nguyen, DDS  
Sean Odenwalder, DMD  
Resurreccion Oliveria, DDS  
Shabnam Pedram, DDS  
Aldo A. Peralta, DDS  
Rafik Riad, DDS  
Nasim Saeedi, DDS  
Ronaldo R. Saldana, DDS  
Mariechris A. Sapinoso, DDS  
Marco Savittieri, DDS  
Eric Z. Shapira, DDS  
Vahid Tabibzadeh, DDS  
Shalini S. Thatte, DMD  
Darryl J. Torculas, DDS  
Anh N. Tran, DDS  
Jessica Truong, DDS  
Emily M. Vaccarezza, DDS  
Joanne C. Vargas-Velasco, DDS  
Roberto S. Vasquez, DDS

so your patients know you belong to the largest professional organizations in dentistry. They can trust that you stand behind a code of ethics and principles by which you work.

**Education:** We strive to keep you up to date on the latest theory, and each year we provide dozens of elective courses that help you succeed.

**Advocacy:** The relationships that we build with legislators at the local, state and national levels help us to make a real difference in new laws passed.

## 10 years

Edward A. Adourian, DDS  
Brian J. Asbury, DDS  
Sara Azad, DMD  
Bradley C. Bockhorst, DMD  
Jeffrey E. Brockett, DDS  
Devani M. Brown, DDS  
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Anna Hsu, DDS  
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Jenna M. Khoury, DMD  
Rebecca D. Lang, DMD  
Tuan A. Le, DDS  
Weiwei Lu, DDS  
Marisa C. Ludden, DDS  
Fina Y. Madrid, DDS  
Blake E. Marston, DDS  
Spencer E. Mauseth, DDS  
Karen McKenna Fitzmorris, DDS  
Melissa F. Minger, DMD, FAGD  
Justin Truong M. Nguyen, DMD  
Ashley M. Olson, DDS  
Jared C. Packard, DDS  
Anu R. Rajasekaran, DMD

**Networking:** We bring dentists together for social events to give you a chance to spend time with your colleagues.

**Service:** Our foundation provides opportunities for you to volunteer your skills outside of your practice and to help others in your community.

So here's to you, and your achievements in dentistry. Thank you for being a member, and by doing so, making the profession great.

Joanna El-Maasri Reppas, DMD  
Roshanak Roshanzamir, DMD  
Pirouz Salehi, DDS  
Jennifer D. Santoro, DDS  
Arthur D. Santos, DDS  
Erick Y. Sato, DDS  
Timothy Shen, DMD  
Samuel G. Soliven, DDS  
Cameron M. Stout, DDS  
Soojin K. Taylor, DDS  
A. Jayson Tengonciang, DMD  
Uyen N. Thompson, DDS

## 15 years

Myrna L. Aguilar-Chavez, DDS  
Ida D. Alfonso, DMD  
Omer Anisso, DDS  
Aminollah T. Bagheri, DDS  
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Christina Tsang, DMD  
Jorge A. Urrea, DDS  
Angelo Vasquez, DDS  
Diana C. Vasquez, DDS  
Leah M. Walker, DDS, MS

## 20 years

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Jeremy R. Bold, DDS  
Adam J. Brand, DDS  
S. Vivien B. Chadkewicz, DMD  
Jack W. Chan, DDS  
Charles L. Drury, DDS  
S. Lee Fleming, DDS  
Claudia G. Florescu, DDS  
Kambiz Ghandehari, DDS  
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Gerald G. Massimei, DDS  
Gregory A. McElroy, DDS  
Huan-Tony B. Ngo, DDS  
Duc H. Nguyen, DDS  
Khuong H. Nguyen, DDS  
Maricelle R. Ortiz-Luis, DDS  
Artemio F. Palaganas, DMD  
Fritzi A. Perez-Myers, DMD

Sandhya Ramanujam, DDS  
Jim S. Rhee, DDS  
Valeri J. Sacknoff, DDS  
Martha E. Schreiner, DDS  
Babak Shoushtari, DMD  
Jennifer E. Sims, DDS  
Mary Thomas-Harris, DDS  
Tenette S. Trevino, DDS  
Claudine W. Tsui, DDS  
David V. Vasquez, DDS  
Joseph T. Vu, DDS  
Damon J. Westwood, DDS  
David H. Wong, DDS

## 25 years

Joel H. Altshul, DDS  
John J. Bacino, DDS  
Christina A. Bartsch, DDS  
Vaheed Bayette, DDS  
Juan Bosque, DDS  
J. Philip Bradford, DDS  
Eric J. Eusebio, DMD  
Andrew S. Firtel, DDS  
Nicholas N. Gadler, DDS  
Yadira Gamez, DDS  
Sam J. Halabo, DMD  
Kami Hoss, DDS  
Rana K. Isaqi, DDS  
Cesar Jimenez, DDS  
Nazli Keri, DDS  
Jose L. Lopez, DDS  
Sahlee C. Melad, DDS  
Sarju Patel, DDS  
Paul D. Pierce, DDS  
Kimberley D. Sauer, DDS  
Andrew I. Sofitley, DDS  
Waleed A. Stephan, BDS  
Silvia S. Toma, DMD  
Thomas Toma, DMD  
Kristine N. Tran, DDS  
Chau T. Truong, DDS  
Calvin I. Whang, DDS  
Michael G. Willes, DDS

## 30 years

Jay Akef, DDS  
Will A. Andrews, DDS  
Homayoun Ardjmmand, DDS  
Chona M. Austria-Sagana, DMD  
Jason R. Brown, DDS  
Richard Cervantes, DDS  
Stephen P. Eskeland, DDS, MAGD  
Timothy S. Hansen, DDS  
Kambiz Kohani, DDS  
Sailaja Kuruvadi, DDS  
Vinod S. Kuruvadi, BDS  
Mark B. Martin, DDS  
Curtis E. McRae, DDS  
Hoang H. Nguyen, DDS  
Jose A. Penalva, DDS

Jennifer D. Rens, DDS  
Gita B. Sarkaria-Englert, DDS  
Catherine A. Schlaht, DDS  
Robert L. Scott, DDS  
Leslie S. Strommer, DDS  
Scott A. Strommer, DDS  
Katherine M. Tanaka, DDS  
Joseph A. Zakowski, DDS

## 35 years

Joel S. Berger, DDS, MD  
Steven A. Beuligmann, DDS  
Richard B. Bialick, DDS, PhD.  
David C. Bowman, DDS  
Curtis L. Chan, DDS  
Riza A. Dela Fuente-Lewis, DDS  
John E. Duling, DDS  
Arthur J. Ferrario, DDS  
Jim M. Fisher, DMD  
Delora L. Fletcher, DDS  
Lori C. Good, DDS  
Misako Hirota, DMD  
David S. Hornbrook, DDS  
Craig R. Huenergardt, DDS  
Barbara J. Kabes, DDS, MS  
Mark A. Kretz, DDS  
Michael G. McMahon, DDS  
Michael D. Minnich, DDS, MS  
Richard S. Mowry, DMD  
Kevin A. Nelson, DDS  
Daniel D. Roberts, DDS  
Bradley A. Ross, DDS  
Michael B. Scrydloff, DDS  
Harriet F. Seldin, DMD  
John P. Sepe, DDS  
Kenneth A. Storum, DDS  
James H. Thompson, DMD  
Rick K. Yamada, DDS  
Terrie T. Yoshikane, DDS  
Barbara Young, DDS

## 40 years

William R. Bremner, DDS  
James H. Bright, DDS  
Allen G. Davis, DDS  
Steven G. Detsch, DDS  
Richard M. Feinberg, DDS  
James S. Hargas, DMD  
Glenn J. Hom, DDS  
Robert G. Hunt, DDS, MD  
Israel Ismaj, DDS  
Julie E. Kangas, DDS  
Joseph Maldonado, DDS  
Raymond C. Mueller, DDS  
Steven R. Olmos, DDS, DABCP, DABDSM  
Mark S. Rothstein, DMD  
Larry A. Woznuk, DDS

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

# 5





# Membership Milestones 2022 ... *continued*

## 45 years

David S. Brunson, DDS  
Jay H. Fallon, IV, DDS  
James M. Helms, DDS  
Joseph A. Holtz, DDS  
James E. Hopper, DDS  
Robert B. Jacob, DDS  
Thomas H. Lange, DDS  
Richard T. Masek, DDS,  
FAGD, AAACD  
Paz M. Mayoral, DMD  
Jon L. Montague, DDS  
Michael L. Myers, DDS  
Karl F. Wehrle, DDS

## 50 years

Donald L. Anderson, DDS  
Vernon T. Au, DDS  
Donald W. Brooks, DDS  
Bill C. Crafton, DDS  
Richard A. Giglio, DDS  
William F. Halligan, DDS  
John E. Kramer, DDS  
Steven E. Krause, DDS  
Jack R. McCluskey, DDS  
Gary V. Parcel, DDS  
Robert F. Wied, DDS

## 55 years

Michael J. Brewer, DDS  
Michael S. Grossman, DDS  
John P. Herron, DDS  
John C. Holman, III, DDS  
Maurice Shahon, DDS  
Raymond T. Stewart, DDS

## 60 years

Wallace S. Smith, DDS

## 65 years

Gerald Handler, DDS  
Joseph C. Harris, DDS  
Samuel T. Kurtz, DDS  
Norman D. Sperber, DDS

If you feel there is an error made on this list, please contact Meg, Membership Coordinator at [membership@sdcds.org](mailto:membership@sdcds.org)



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## SAN DIEGO ADVANCED STUDY GROUP

A Seattle Study Club

"Cultivating Excellence in Comprehensive Dentistry"

**Sept 13th:** Season Kick Off, San Diego Yacht Club 6pm: "Pillars of a Transition" ... it's never too early to start planning!

**Sept 27th:** Biolase Speaker Bureau-Billing/Coding with Lasers. Patterson EDU 6pm, Light Dinner Provided

**Oct 11th:** Catherine Mattice – Harassment Prevention Training. Patterson EDU 6pm, Light Dinner Provided

**More Information:** May Tong, Study Group Coordinator, 619-298-2200x107 • [may@mvoms.com](mailto:may@mvoms.com)

Zeynep Barakat, DMD, FAGD



## A reflection on blogs past

Though I was late to the party and had to play catch up on several seasons, I discovered how much I love the Great British Baking Show. The "bakes" aside, this baking competition got me hooked. The highlight for me is that while it's a tense and emotional race to the honorable title of best baker, there is so much humor in it. The interactions between the comedians and the contestants make for the comic relief that the bakers certainly could use, but so could the viewer. There is precision, critiquing, creating and a nail-biting time limit.

Sound familiar?

Now those readers who have been reading my blogs for years, know that I have always enjoyed drawing parallels between other professions, sports, gardening, cooking and really anything else I come across in life, and dentistry. Getting a glimpse into how other professionals cope with demands of their trade and hone their skills has shed some light into my own profession of dentistry. One goal of this blog was to share some of those parallels with the readers of Facets. A morning review of procedures in a dentists' office, for instance, echoes the checklist system of pilots. Watching how sports coaches motivate their teams for performance, gave me insight into motivating my own team to be the best they can be. And of course, creating something precise and beautiful in a limited amount of time, (while adding some humor to it all) is exactly what these bakers try to do, just as do I as a dentist all day long.

The second objective I had with my blogs (this was my favorite) is that on any given day in our world of teeth, gums and jaws, there are other factors that can make a day good, bad, funny, or simply maddening. Whether it's the office thermostat wars, dentists forgoing lunch, or our beloved dress pants that got some impression material over the helm, causing us to ponder the switch to scrubs, we have workdays that make for interesting responses to the age old question- 'how was your day?'. But aside from all that, the patient conversations are by far my most personally treasured topics to write about. I hope that our "Chairside Musings" have brought some comic relief or a new perspective about what we do every day on autopilot mode. Sadly, this will be my last blog for our wonderful Facets. It has been an incredible privilege to be able to write for fellow society members and I am grateful to the editorial board for editing my writing and all their efforts to make Facets such a great newsletter. I hope our readers have enjoyed my thoughts, and humor. Thank you for supporting our newsletter and for the kind compliments I received on my blogs. Happy reading! •

Dr. Barakat graduated from Boston Univ. School of Dental Medicine, completed an AEGD residency in Detroit and practiced in New England before moving to San Diego. She is currently in private practice and is the Pres. of the San Diego AGD component. She is a regular contributor to the AGD's Daily Grind blog.

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6

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Home Opening Game & Stay at Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego.  
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Donated by Del Mar Thoroughbred Club
5. Paint Party for Four with Local Artist in her Sunset Cliffs Home.  
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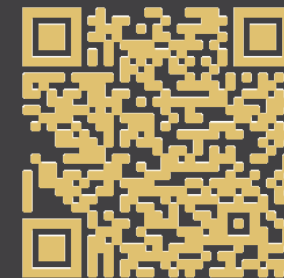


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**DENTAL FOUNDATION**  
EDUCATION, ACCESS AND ADVOCACY

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An interview with Malieka Johnson, DDS

Let me introduce... is a new column featured in Facets as a way to introduce us to the many members that make up the depth and breadth of the San Diego County Dental Society. We hope you enjoy getting to know your colleagues better.

# LET ME INTRODUCE...

*Dr. Eric Shapira*



*My wife, Susan*



*lecturing to up to 300 people*



I met Dr. Shapira while serving on the San Diego County Dental Society's Editorial Board. It would be an understatement to say this man is very interesting. He is beyond that and so much more. A husband, father, artist, dentist, educator, humanitarian and beyond. This is the first interview where I cried because I was so touched by his story and excellence for life. Hands-down he is one of the most intriguing and fascinating people I have met in my life and had the opportunity to interview. Our conversation was so rich and cannot possibly be contained in this article. I couldn't agree more with his statement, during our interview, "The people we meet and the people we treat is for them as much as it is for us." I ended our interview encouraged and challenged. I hope you will be too. Thus, I am pleased to share with you what I learned about our colleague Eric, the difference maker!

**So, tell us a little about yourself. Where are you from originally? Where did you grow up?**

From Mom and Dad. (Laughs). I was born in Los Angeles and lived there until I was 3 years old, then we moved to the San Fernando Valley. I left home at 17 and went to West Virginia for college.

**Are you from a big, medium-sized, or small family?**

I have a brother and sister. I am the oldest. So small but large in the sense that my mother was an only child and my father had 11 brother and sisters and he was the youngest son. His father, my grandfather, passed away at 87 years of age when my father was 12 years old. I lost my mother last year at the age of 97. My father's mother lived to be 100 years old and my mother's mother also lived to be 100 years old. My father died at age 62. The BRACA gene is heavy in my family. There is a high propensity for cancer with this gene and it took the life of over 23 people in my family.

**What was one of your favorite childhood memories or activities?**

Riding the ponies every weekend. I had a cowboy hat with lacing on the brim, a cowboy shirt, and little boots. Going to the beach, just swimming and hanging out. I had a piano at 3 years old and my first classical piano recital was at age 4 or 5. I also played rag time and jazz as I got older. My dad put pressure on me to study something other than music. I was also a tap dancer; having danced on the stage at the Hollywood Music Box Theater. I missed making a movie by 1 day, The Eddie Cantor Story. I also did ballroom dancing, enjoyed painting while I was a kid; but in college, I learned how to do ceramics. I have been sculpting for over 50 years. I use bronze, marble, wood, acrylic, obsidian glass and clay — all one-of-a-kind sculptures for the most part. I had my art in a gallery but there is no money to be made on the sculptures. The galleries don't want the paintings because there are "too many painters." I have shown my work in several museums as well.

**Where did you complete your undergraduate studies? What did you major in?**

West Virginia - Bethany College. Four United States presidents went there. I majored in chemistry and biology and minored in theatre. I was the first person in my immediate family to graduate college.

**What was your "aha" coming to dentistry moment? How did you choose this fine profession?**

In college I thought about medicine. My parents pushed it, but I got frustrated with the process. I was put on waitlists. In college, I met a guy who wanted to be a dentist and he went back to college to get some extra courses to do it. I had a couple of car wrecks and that is how I ended up sculpting. There was an art studio for women, Every Woman's Village, so I learned sculpture there, mostly clay. I wanted to know more about sculpture as I was very tactile. A guy who built movie sets started an art studio. My teacher showed me specialty tools and how to

make sculptures my own, like making hair and doing angles. I worked my way through college and one of my jobs was to sort nuts, bolts, and screws in a construction company. I could do it without looking after a while, as I could feel the article and know the size and where it belonged. I developed a good tactile sense. After learning how to sculpt, and my continued propensity towards medicine, I decided to go to dental school.

**Where did you attend dental school?**

**What year did you graduate?**

**Did you complete a residency?**

I graduated dental school in 1975 from Temple in Philadelphia. During my last year of dental school, I worked on the Island of Sardinia at a dental clinic for 1 year. I gave a paper in Amsterdam as a student dentist for an International Symposium. It was my first lecture, but certainly not the last. I was able to attend this conference because I had finished my requirements early. I was also teaching in the Periodontics Department at Temple Dental School. All the departments wanted me to specialize. I went to medical school at the University of Pittsburgh for 2 years and earned a master's degree in Biochemistry. I also attended USC School of Pharmacy where I earned master's credits in Nuclear Medicine and Radio Pharmacy. I completed a residency GPR in medicine and dentistry at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco. It had a medical internship, so we made rounds in all the departments. I also hold a Certificate in Clinical Hypnosis, and an Oral Conscious Sedation permit.

**What do you love most about dentistry?**

It is both the art and science gateway to people's overall health and longevity and I am happy to contribute to that. I enjoy working with people, changing lives, and increasing their happiness. and lifespans. I learned a lot about myself through helping others.

**Do you own your own practice?**

I had my own practice for over 30 years. I had 12 employees, 2 hygienists, my wife ran the practice. We also had an

insurance specialist, front office appointment specialist and students, as part-time associates. I sold it due to a neck injury and surgery in 2004. I was in rehab for 2 years and that's when I wrote the book *A New Wrinkle*. I have worked as an associate part-time in other practices. I have also taught at different institutions. I used to teach at UCSF in the TMJ Clinic and at UOP for 4-5 years as an associate clinical professor focused on medically compromised patients, geriatrics, and special needs patients. I would take senior students to the Laguna Honda Hospital, a chronic care facility in San Francisco. I wanted to make sure these students knew about these "special needs and compromised patients." Many were ambulatory adults, and some were bedridden. When we were in dental school, we didn't have special needs patients. I was exposed to brain damaged people at a special need's facility. I was scared at first, but I knew I had to challenge myself. I have enjoyed teaching Implantology and have placed implants for years.

I also worked in China as a foreign expert in dentistry and medicine. They paid my way but I received no salary. They have 600,000 foreign experts in China from all around the world. I taught dentistry, nursing, geriatric dentistry and medicine and dental palliative care, hospital administration. I assisted the hospital in designing a new geriatric hospital. In early 2008, while in China, my wife wanted to give blood after a terrible earthquake. I found the Blood Mobile staff not wearing gloves or maintaining sterile conditions. We gave money for aid and not our blood. It took me 4 years of teaching there to stop the doctors from smoking in the hospital. I was teaching on aging and oral systemic disease, as well as many other topics. From 2007-2017 I worked in China. In 2014 I was honored and presented with the countries Friendship Award, which is the highest humanitarian award given in China. There were 6000 people nominated and I was the only doctor out of six awardees. The government gave speeches, there was music and singing.



*Moses*



*pastel from a live model*



*"On Point."*



*"The Beginning"*

*continued on next page*



## LET ME INTRODUCE...CONTINUED

### Are you married? Do you have kids?

Yes. My wife's name is Susan. We celebrated our 43rd anniversary this year and have known each other for 45 years. She majored in geography and worked for a cartographer in San Francisco. She was a director at a senior center when we met and asked if I could give a talk to her seniors at the center. So, I gave a talk on oral cancer to the seniors. A few weeks later I saw her on a tennis court and the third time I ran into her she asked me if I liked horses. Yes! So, for our first date we went riding on the beach!! Romantic, I have to say. We have a son who went to art school and has a plumbing business, he lives in Half-moon Bay. We have twin daughters, one in Grass Valley and the other is in Susanville, CA. We have 6 grandkids and 4 great-grandchildren. Both of my daughters worked in my office at the age of 15 and both became RDAs. My granddaughter is an RDAEF and lives near Lake Tahoe.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of dentistry?

**- Family, Hobbies, Talents, etc.**  
**I know you are a writer.**

I like to cook. I like to grow veggies. I planted an olive orchard at my house, and I had 8 quarts last year. I had to throw away about 1/3 of my crop due to pests. We get snakes, rosy boas, gopher snakes, white banded king snakes, rattlesnakes, and coachwhip snakes. The coachwhip tried to bite me twice, but they are not poisonous. I don't want to kill them.

I am a musician, artist, writer, and teacher. I am an Aging Specialist and I wrote a book on aging, *A New Wrinkle: What I learned from Older People Who Never Acted Their Age*. It is in its 2nd edition. At the present, "even if I can't do much, I can do something." I had neck surgery and was in a collar for 9 months a year ago and I couldn't sleep, so I wrote a textbook on geriatric dentistry and medicine. I teach a master track course on aging and dentistry with the Academy of General Dentistry. I love teaching and have been an advisor and mentor.

### What is one thing on your life bucket list that you have yet to fulfill?

I am in the process of writing 3 more books right now. I would like to travel more and spend time with our family.

### Do you volunteer in dentistry? Are you involved in the dental society or other forms of organized dentistry or dental missions? I know you are on the Editorial Board with the Dental Society.

I have done a lot of service around the world. China, (where I always had a translator and a bodyguard), all throughout S. America, Chile, Sri Lanka, (where I brought 40 water purification systems, latrines and water filtration), Ecuador, Mexico, (where I was a part of providing 250 wheelchairs), and Bolivia (where I have performed Cleft lip and palate surgeries). I have done most all of this on my own dime. This is the price we pay for the space we occupy. I have done dentistry in Jamaica, (in the jungle with no electricity and you can imagine how hard it is to work while the chair is stuck in one position). One time customs had confiscated all my stuff, yet I still managed to be of assistance. Also, I have been a Rotarian for over 47 years, the Rotary Club has been a great help, and we gather donations and send them to countries.

### How many languages do you speak? I have to ask with all the traveling you have done.

I speak a few languages. English, Spanish, some Mandarin, German, some French, Italian, Hebrew.

### Do people ever tell you that you look like someone famous?

Some people say I look like Howie Mandel or Billie Crystal. I don't see the resemblance. My brother looks spot on like Anthony Bourdain. People have asked him for his autograph and he does it!

### Do you have a life quote?

"We don't know what gifts we have until we give them away." This is my own quote that I came up with. Dentistry changes lives. Be a frog, they can only go

forward. If a frog wants to go backward, they have to turn around and then they are going forward again."

**Thank you for this interview Eric.**  
**If a fellow dentist wants to reach out to you can they email you?**  
Yes, [eric@drshapira.com](mailto:eric@drshapira.com)

*The more we learn about one another and the more we come together around our commonalities and our diversities, the more we grow and thrive as a community. That's how we build not only our collegial network but it is one way we can build friendships. We hope you like this new series. Enjoy getting to know someone new each issue. We are indeed better together!*



teaching implant dentistry in the OR in Taiyuan, Shanxi, China

## Meet Robin the Robot

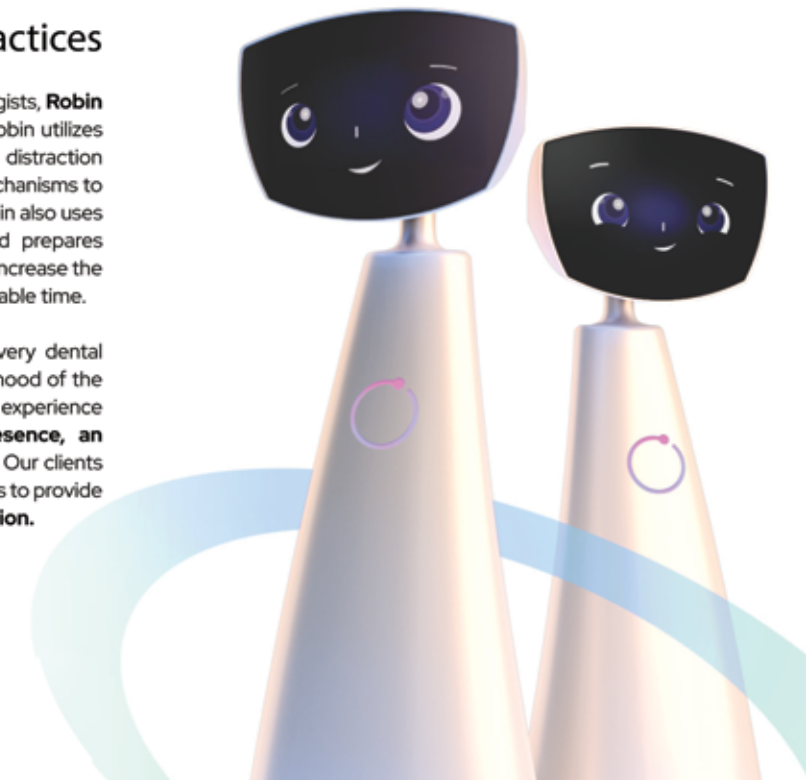
### An innovation transforming dental practices

Designed for children by scientists, engineers, and pediatric psychologists, **Robin is the first of its kind robot used in pediatric dental practices.** Robin utilizes peer-to-peer interactions and engages children in various active distraction techniques and physical activities. Robin teaches children coping mechanisms to help reduce their stress and anxiety related to dental procedures. Robin also uses child-friendly terms and visuals to explain dental procedures and prepares children for the actual treatment. All of Robin's doings have proven to increase the children's collaboration with the staff, thus ultimately saving them valuable time.

Robin's charming character creates a welcoming atmosphere in every dental practice resulting in a successful patient visit and increasing the likelihood of the patient returning. With the addition of Robin the Robot, dental clinics experience **improved customer satisfaction, improved social media presence, an increased number of new customers, and higher retention rates.** Our clients see the ROI within the first few months. Robin brings new opportunities to provide exceptional customer service, patient care, and brand differentiation.

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### Dr. Richard S. Mowry Gives Back to the Community

Dr. Richard S. Mowry, an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon practicing in Chula Vista for the past 34 years, reaches out to the community each year by awarding four \$500 scholarships. This is awarded on the basis of academic merit and perceived future potential. Applicants write an essay and provide academic performance information. This year, the scholarships were awarded to (from left to right) Cristian Ramirez from Eastlake High School, Lucia Valles from Olympian High School, Dr. Richard S. Mowry, Liana Duque from Otay Ranch High School, and Pablo Shimizu from Bonita Vista High School. They are all to be congratulated with pursuing their College careers.

Dr. Mowry said, "Each student was praised for their hard work, leadership skills and their selfless interest to help others in the community."



### In Memoriam

SDCDS has been informed that Dr. Evelyn Grace Soto Neglerio passed away in May 2022 at the age of 66. Dr. Evelyn Grace was born April 10, 1956 in the Philippines. She was a member of SDCDS since 2002.





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For Sale - Escondido general practice of 35 years approx. 200k, on three days call 760.310.3773.

Dental Office for Sale in Las Vegas

Established dental practice in same location in Las Vegas, Nevada for 30 years (two different owners). Dentist is leaving practice to get his specialty certificate. High potential for growth with a full-time dentist and attention to marketing. Office located along major street, closest competition is a few blocks away. The asking price for the practice is \$150,000. The dental office includes 3 operatories, decent-sized waiting room, private business office, large employee room/doctor's office, one restroom, one sterilization room, dark room, and a supply room. Perfect for new or recent graduates. Email [chewbitesmile@yahoo.com](mailto:chewbitesmile@yahoo.com) or call 702.860.4317

Turn-key Dental Space  
Coastal North County San Diego!

3-chair practice, 1,300 sqft, lobby, consult, lab, and reception, in corner suite of a medical building facing a beautiful courtyard. Lease is active through Dec 2024 (\$4,474 /mo) with 2 five-year options. \$152,000. Please contact Jared at 760.215.1353.

Two General Practices  
For Sale in Southern California

This is a spectacular opportunity to buy 2 dental practices in Southern California! 14 & 7 Operatories, Fully digitalized office, Amazing interiors, Strategic locations, Current doctor willing to stay on for up to 2 years. This property/business is co-listed with Haven Real Estate, CA DRE #01103581. Contact Patrick Roberson at [patrick.m.roberson@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.m.roberson@gmail.com) or 919.559.6916 for more information.

**Dental Office For Lease Beautiful Del Mar**  
Fully plumbed, ready to move in, ocean views, 2 operatories, Lab, Waiting Rm, Priv. Office, 635 Sq Ft. Contact Craig Dewitt 619-465-5851

General Practice For Sale  
in Sierra Foothills, CA

Spectacular practice for sale in Sierra Foothills, CA. 6 operatories, Fantastic location, Fully digitalized office, Building available for purchase, Recently renovated building on a corner lot. This practice is collecting over \$1.2M! For more information, please contact Patrick Roberson at 919.559.6916 or [patrick.m.roberson@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.m.roberson@gmail.com).

Dentist retiring

Dentist retiring 200 plus active patients rent is cheap. General Dental office 3 working rooms and 4th room plumbed with chair available in room. Asking price 200,000 OBO. Call 858.733.1607 or email [lakhani858@gmail.com](mailto:lakhani858@gmail.com)

Dental office for sale

General practice in Escondido/San Marcos area. Main floor with excellent signage and exposure. 40 years of goodwill. PPO/Fee for service. Collected 467k in 2021 on 3.5 day work week. Three ops. 1,200 sq. ft. at \$2,200/mo. Call 619.884.0866

Office Space for Rent

We are sharing our beautiful office located at a prime location in San Diego for days that we are not occupying the premises to any specialist. 6 fully equipped operatories, digital x-ray, CTCB scan. Flexible arrangement. Please email [dentalpearlsinc@gmail.com](mailto:dentalpearlsinc@gmail.com)

SUPPORT SERVICES

Anesthesia Associates

I.V. sedation and general anesthesia in your office. Dental Anesthesia Associates – Board certified Dr. Marco Savittieri, Dr. Tyler Tomkinson and Dr. Regina Dowdy. Providing anesthesia services to San Diego County Dental Society members. Email us at [Dentalanesthesiaassoc.com](mailto:Dentalanesthesiaassoc.com) or call Brigitte at 760.451.0582. *We thank you for your continued support!*

Office based dental anesthesia

Board-certified, licensed, insured. Anesthesiologist available to provide general anesthesia (or IV sedation) to patients in your office, pediatric or adult. Please contact me for more info. or questions. [40winksanes@gmail.com](mailto:40winksanes@gmail.com) | 206.948.2468

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Associate Position in east County

Seeking associate for two offices in East County. Experience restoring implants, CAD/CAM, removable, and endo required. We require a dentist with a focus on quality comprehensive care and good chairside manner. Motivation to be a part of a team and future partnership/ownership. Email [drmichaelytler@gmail.com](mailto:drmichaelytler@gmail.com)

LOOKING TO BUY

I am searching for an office

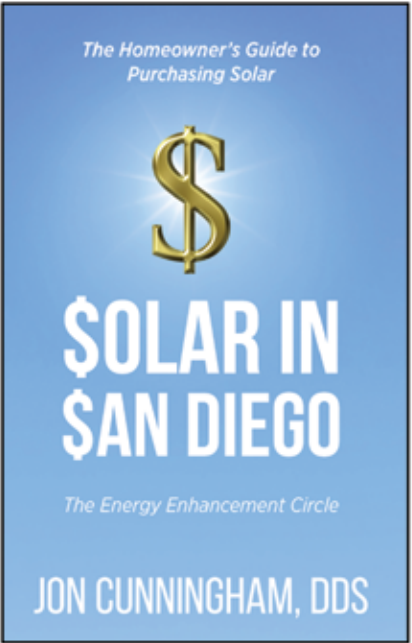
Dear experienced dentists, I am searching for an office worth investing my future into. Whether you are looking for a partner to gradually take over, or if you are ready to sell, I am your person! I have four years of clinical experience, and I pride myself in practicing with complete transparency and thoroughness. I'm an energetic and compassionate individual seeking an opportunity to invest myself, efforts, and skills for an office that I can one day call my own. If you have been searching for a sincere and ethical person to care for your patients and team members, please don't hesitate to reach out to me! [blessed88blessed@gmail.com](mailto:blessed88blessed@gmail.com)

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Dr. Jon Cunningham has just published his second book where he tackles some of our largest problems, all interrelated, in one form or another, namely climate change, empty reservoirs and cash flow.

This short, easy-to-read book explains most everything you need to know about buying solar. It also explains how our severe water shortages are tied into electricity production problems. This information demonstrates how all this can be put back into balance. As you will see, it's not complicated, no math and no headaches.

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# SAN DIEGO COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY EVENTS

SDCDS is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. SDCDS designates each activity for a specified number of C.E. Units.

**ADA CERP®** Continuing Education Recognition Program

**AUG  
18**

THURSDAY

4CE  
units

## BLS Renewal for Healthcare Providers

*FREE CE\**

**Summary:** Register early if your CPR card is expiring; limited spaces available.  
**Time:** 5:30-9:30pm (5pm check-in)  
**Location:** SDCDS Office  
1275 W Morena Blvd. Ste. B  
San Diego, 92110  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org) | (619) 275-7188 | [admin@sdcds.org](mailto:admin@sdcds.org)  
**Pricing:** member \$50  
\*(or use your 1 free member benefit CE for 2022). nonmember \$70, member staff \$60  
**Includes:** Dinner & refreshments provided during registration (please indicate special dietary needs when registering).



**AUG  
27**

SATURDAY

## Shred-A-Thon

*North County – Encinitas*

**Summary:** Join us for this exclusive members-only event while we lighten your office load! We will accept up to 10 (ten) boxes per member. Certified destruction will occur onsite. Please visit our website for what we will and will not accept. \*\* X-rays need to be separated prior to drop off \*\*  
**Time:** 9am - 12pm  
**Location:** Encinitas Pediatric Dentistry, parking lot, 135 Saxony Road, Encinitas, CA 92024  
**Pricing:** Free for SDCDS Members ONLY  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org) | (619) 275-7188 | [membership@sdcds.org](mailto:membership@sdcds.org)



**SEPT  
15**

THURSDAY

2.5CE  
units

## New DDS Seminar

*Alternatives to Ownership*

**Summary:** TBD  
**Time:** 6 - 8:30pm (5:30pm check-in)  
**Location:** SDCDS Office  
1275 W Morena Blvd. Ste. B  
San Diego, 92110  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org) | (619) 275-7188 | [membership@sdcds.org](mailto:membership@sdcds.org)  
**Pricing:** FREE  
**Includes:** Dinner  
**Sponsor:** Henry Schein

Sussi Yamaguchi, DDS



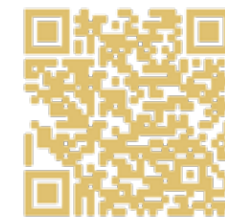
**SEPT  
24**

SATURDAY

## GALA

*An Evening in Old Hollywood*

**Summary:** Our last Gala sold out, buy your tickets now. The evening will feature a wide variety of entertainment, dinner, and spectacular live and silent auctions. We even secured a special room rate if you'd like to stay the night at the Hilton! Don't forget to dress to impress as your favorite 1940s Hollywood actor, or come in classic formal attire. Join us as we host our annual gala to raise funds for the Geis Dental Clinic at the Veterans Village of San Diego. For more event details, go to page 14.  
**Time:** 6pm - 10pm  
**Location:** The Del Mar Hilton  
**Pricing:** Tickets \$150 each  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org)  
(619) 275-7188  
[membership@sdcds.org](mailto:membership@sdcds.org)



Scan here to buy tickets

**SEPT  
30**

FRIDAY

6CE  
units

## All-on-X: Diagnosis & Treatment Planning for Predictability

**Summary:** Graftless solutions provide a relatively good solution for a patient with a terminal dentition. This presentation will focus on diagnosis and treatment planning. A systematic step by step approach will be prosthetically based.  
**Time:** 9am-4pm (8am check-in)  
**Location:** Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Cir N. San Diego, CA 92108  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org) | (619) 275-7188 | [admin@sdcds.org](mailto:admin@sdcds.org)  
**Pricing:** member/member staff \$150  
\*(or use your 1 free member benefit CE for 2022). nonmember \$225  
**Includes:** Continental breakfast during check-in, lunch & light refreshments during breaks. (please indicate special dietary needs when registering).  
**Sponsors:** Keystone Dental Group, California Dentists' Guild, Garfield Refining, Fortune Management, Ken Rubin Practice Sales

Saj Jivraj, DDS,  
MS, ED



**OCT  
07**

FRIDAY

4.5CE  
units

## Dental Practice Act and Infection Control

*FREE CE\**

**Summary:** This all-in-one course meets the requirements set forth by the Dental Board of California to renew a professional dental license. Each segment of this class provides the most-up-to-date information in a dynamic, informative and interesting presentation.  
**Time:** 8am-1pm (7am check-in)  
**Location:** Handlery Hotel  
950 Hotel Cir N.  
San Diego, CA 92108  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org) | (619) 275-7188 | [admin@sdcds.org](mailto:admin@sdcds.org)  
**Pricing:** member \$95  
\*(or use your 1 free member benefit CE for 2022). nonmember \$150, member staff \$95  
**Includes:** Breakfast & light refreshments during check-in. (please indicate special dietary needs when registering).  
**Sponsors:** Provide and Union Bank

Nancy Dewhirst



**OCT  
13**

THURSDAY

4CE  
units

## BLS Renewal for Healthcare Providers

*FREE CE\**

**Summary:** Register early if your CPR card is expiring; limited spaces available.  
**Time:** 5:30-9:30pm (5pm check-in)  
**Location:** SDCDS Office  
1275 W Morena Blvd. Ste. B  
San Diego, 92110  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org) | (619) 275-7188 | [admin@sdcds.org](mailto:admin@sdcds.org)  
**Pricing:** member \$50  
\*(or use your 1 free member benefit CE for 2022). nonmember \$70, member staff \$60  
**Includes:** Dinner & refreshments provided during registration (please indicate special dietary needs when registering).



**OCT  
27**

THURSDAY

## New DDS Social

**Summary:** Talk, toast and make new friends.  
**Time:** 6 - 8:30pm (5pm check-in)  
**Location:** TBD  
**Register:** [sdcds.org](http://sdcds.org) | (619) 275-7188 | [membership@sdcds.org](mailto:membership@sdcds.org)  
**Pricing:** Free  
**Includes:** light refreshments  
**Sponsor:** Patterson Dental



COVID REQUIREMENTS MAY CHANGE, BUT AS OF TODAY: All attendees will be checked in only after proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test (performed within the 72 hrs. prior to the event) .





**San Diego County**  
DENTAL SOCIETY

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