

A personal letter from Jon F. Bauer, DDS

Being of service to others is a gift. You, my colleagues, and staff have provided me with all sorts of life experiences and opportunities for learning and growth, both professionally and personally.

There are two professional experiences that really stand out to me. One is my experience of co-creating the Raymond Greene/Ronald LeBaron Dental Clinic for treating those in Los Angeles with HIV/AIDS starting in 1985. This clinic is still in operation today at Aids Project Los Angeles. Nothing in dental school could have prepared us for this journey. I am eternally grateful for all of those patients who taught us so much about courage and love. My fellow employees and colleagues, including Dr. Galper who was a volunteer and on staff as a dentist, inspired me as they so bravely served this community. I am also thankful for all of you in our practice at this time who never once questioned our involvement in all of this during those confusing, frightening, and painful days. This experience provided me the gift of observing so many rise to the occasion, while opening their hearts. This also gave me the opportunity to heal much faster from my personal losses and losses of patients as a result of this epidemic.

More importantly perhaps is the second experience. HIV/AIDS brought me into eventual partnership with Dr. Mitchell Galper. We came together when our mentor, Dr. Ronald LeBaron became ill and succumbed to AIDS in 1987. I have learned a great deal about compassion, empathy, and patient and practice management with Mitch. I enthusiastically and confidently am leaving all of you in the masterful and gentle care of him, along with Patty, assistants, Oscar and Sarah, and our hygienists, Miguel, Natasha, Robin, and Doreen.

I am so grateful that I have plenty of life left to taste the waters never before drunk. I recently applied to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), and I have been accepted into their Fine Arts Program in painting and drawing. I was even given a four year merit scholarship. I also applied to the New York Studio School (NYSS) and have been accepted to their yearly summer marathons for the next five years. I have not yet decided if I will go to MCAD, but I am most grateful for this gift at my stage of life. It is my intention to be completely open to this next step or a similar path of study in Southern California. I am excited about an upcoming show to exhibit my artistic journey these past seven years. If you have a desire to attend this or any future showings of my work, please email jonfbauer@gmail.com, and I will place you on a list. I would love to see all of you there.

My targeted ending day in our office is Wednesday August 16, 2017. I am sure I will miss the daily challenges that show up in our world of dentistry. Most of all, I will really miss your visits and the conversations we have enjoyed. I have enjoyed the abundance of humanity that comes forward in a private dental practice setting. I am eternally grateful for your support and for the opportunity you have given me in providing your care. I know I will not be able to say goodbye to all of you in person. Please know that I am forever grateful. I could not have done any of this without every one of you! You are forever in my heart. I wish you all a life of abundance, grace, and ease.

Sincerely,

Jon Bauer, DDS

Contact me at jonfbauer@gmail.com to learn about my art show

”One Day”

“One day I will say
the gift I once had has been taken.
The place I have made for myself
belongs to another.
The words I have sung
are being sung by the ones
I would want.
Then I will be ready
for that voice
and the still silence in which it arrives.
And if my faith is good
then we’ll meet again
on the road,
and we’ll be thirsty,
and stop
and laugh
and drink together again
from the deep well of things as they are.”
David Whyte