

DR. GARY FEUCHT
General & Cosmetic
Dentistry
(734) 459-7110
garyfeucht@msn.com



FALL 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

A Look Back Over the Years

It seems like just yesterday that I graduated from dental school. Actually, I've been practicing dentistry for almost 30 years, 26 of them in our current location.

Looking back on my practice brings many fond memories of individuals, families and staff members met, stories shared and smiles created.

My staff and I are always welcoming new patients, but many of you have been coming to us for years. In some cases, we've served several generations of the same family, watching children grow up, marry and begin their own families. Births, graduations, retirements. Along the way, we've shared your stories and photos of children and grandchildren and the milestones in your lives.

I look forward to coming into the office each day, knowing that new stories and old friends are waiting. It's what has made these years so satisfying and memorable.

Over the years, my goal has been to grow the practice to bring you the best care my profession has to offer. When I was starting out, I never dreamed I'd be pampering my patients with TV, music and hot wax hand treatments! Or dramatically transforming smiles with advanced cosmetic dentistry. Or educating patients on the important connection between dental health and overall health.

If you need assistance after hours or on the weekend, I will personally answer your call. My staff and I consider you part of our extended family and hope to continue to grow along with you and to be there when you need us.

Thank you for being part of my life over the years. If you haven't been in for a while, we'd love to



see you again and catch up on things. Just call to schedule an appointment. And don't forget those family photos!

Good News for Dental Patients with Certain Heart Conditions

For decades, it was thought that taking antibiotics shortly before dental treatment would prevent infective endocarditis (IE)—a potentially life-threatening infection of the heart's inner lining or valves that occurs when bacteria enter the bloodstream and travel to the heart.

In its April 2007 scientific journal, *Circulation*, the American Heart Association (AHA) announced new guidelines recommending that people with certain heart conditions may no longer need short-term antibiotics as a preventive measure before their dental treatment.

AHA guidelines emphasize that maintaining optimal oral health and practicing daily oral hygiene are more important in reducing the risk of IE than taking preventive antibiotics before a dental visit.

A partial list of conditions for which antibiotics are no longer required includes:

- mitral valve prolapse
- rheumatic heart disease
- bicuspid valve disease
- calcified aortic stenosis

However, preventive antibiotics *are still advised* if you have:

- artificial heart valves

continued on page 2

Have Lunch or Dinner On Us!

WHERE: Atlantis of Plymouth
39500 Ann Arbor Rd. & I-275
(734) 453-5047

HOW: Refer a friend or neighbor to Dr. Feucht. Be sure they mention your name when they come in. After their first visit, we will present you with a \$25 certificate for lunch or dinner at Atlantis. The person you refer gets great dental care. And you get a great meal at this popular local family restaurant—with our compliments!



“Dear Dr. Feucht & Staff,
 Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They really brightened my day... and a very special thanks for taking such good care of my son and I.
 Sincerely,
 Desiree LeBlanc”

X-Rays Explained

Because things can go wrong in your mouth in spaces we can't see, our office sets up a personalized X-ray schedule for each patient. X-rays allow us to find and treat problems before they become serious, saving you time, money and needless discomfort.

X-rays reveal cavities between the teeth, gum disease, impacted teeth, bone infections, abscesses, developmental abnormalities and tumors.

Your personalized X-ray file takes into account your overall health, age, risk for disease, and any signs and symptoms you may have. Dr. Feucht will review your history, examine your mouth and then decide whether you need X-rays and what type.

We always work to minimize the amount of radiation you receive. Most of us receive about 300 millirems of radiation every year just from the natural environment. By comparison, a full mouth X-ray (21 films) delivers about 13 millirems.

We take X-rays only when and where necessary. We use a lead apron and thyroid shield as appropriate, the latest X-ray equipment and the fastest type of X-ray film.

Visit our website at: www.PlymouthDentistry.com for more information about who we are and what we can do for you. E-mail us at: garyfeucht@msn.com.

New Patient Special!

CLEANING, EXAM & X-RAYS

\$85

TAKE-HOME TOOTH WHITENING

\$175

with each New Patient Exam & Cleaning

Got A Dental Emergency?

Call: (734) 459-7110.

Your call will be forwarded to Dr. Feucht. We do not use an answering service. Emergencies happen, and we are here when you need us.

Heart Conditions continued from page 1

- a history of IE
- a cardiac transplant that develops a problem in a heart valve
- certain specific, serious congenital (present from birth) heart conditions.

Patients with congenital heart disease can have complicated circumstances and should discuss these guidelines with their cardiologist.

According to the study, the risks of taking preventive

antibiotics outweigh the benefits for most patients. There is no compelling evidence that taking antibiotics prior to a dental procedure prevents IE in at-risk patients.

IE is more likely to occur when bacteria from the mouth enter the bloodstream as a result of everyday activities such as

brushing or flossing than from a dental procedure.

Please notify our office if you have a heart condition and if you are taking medication for it. We may ask you for your physician's name and contact information and permission to consult your physician about your heart problem.

For more information, see "Overview: New Guidelines from the American Heart Association" on the American Dental Association website at: <http://www.ada.org/public/topics/antibiotics.asp>

A Passion for Canes: Dentist Assembles World-class Collection

By Brad Kadrich, Staff Writer; Reprinted from the Plymouth Observer, June 21, 2007

Occasionally, Plymouth dentist Dr. Gary Feucht will feel the urge to get especially dressy for an evening out, and he'll add a nice walking cane to his ensemble. That's easy enough for the Beverly Hills resident, because Feucht has a world-class collection of some 190 canes.

But it's not just the luxuriousness Feucht gets out of the collection, it's the sense of history it provides that keeps him on nearly constant lookout for additions to his collection. "What you see in canes are carvings that depict an era long gone now," said Feucht, who's had his practice for 29 years. "They depicted status, they were part of the dress of the day. Some people had a cane for every occasion.

Now so does Feucht, pretty much. Feucht, a 1978 graduate of the University of Michigan who also got his master's and doctorate degrees there, began collecting canes in 1990, while vacationing in Europe with a friend. The friend talked Feucht into stopping in at a "hay market," a European equivalent to a flea market.

Inside, Feucht noticed a cane that had been a "bobby whistle" and, \$50 later, he had unknowingly unlocked a passion. "That really sparked my interest," said Feucht, who started going to garage sales after that. "A lot of (canes) were works of art. Every one tells a story."

As his fervor grew, Feucht discovered that Internet-buying wonder - eBay - and the existence of cane auctions around the country. He attends one of his favorites - Canes Through the Ages - twice a year in Richmond, Ill. It's at such events he gets to commune with others sharing the passion. "You meet a lot of people who are fascinated with canes, and they all have a story to tell," Feucht said. "I've visited some of (the people) in the U.S. and in Europe. It has broadened my horizons."

Feucht has been broadening his horizons since getting out of college. He vacillated between medicine and dentistry, a decision made easier by the fact he couldn't get into medical school. The owner of the Ann Arbor sandwich shop where he worked knew some people at the dental school and, voila, he was in.

Not long after starting dental school, Feucht was accepted by Wayne State's medical school. By that point, though, he'd already decided dentistry was something he could sink his teeth into. He started in a Westland practice, but the partnership dissolved and Feucht went out on his own, becoming the first tenant in the Plymouth Office Plaza on Ann Arbor Road.

Some of his old patients went with him, and Feucht subsequently purchased two other practices. And, thanks in large measure to the success of the practice, Feucht can pursue his other passion - his cane collection.

The collection can become a costly avocation. According to Feucht, it isn't unusual to pay between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for the average cane. Others are even more expensive. For instance, Feucht is on the lookout for a Narwahl cane, which he estimated could run as much as \$4,000 to \$6,000. At a recent Massachusetts auction, such a cane went for more than \$8,000. Erotic canes, Feucht pointed out, are both popular and pricey.

"The narwhal canes are getting pricey ... but I don't have one and I love nautical canes," Feucht said. "If you've got someone (at auction) who really wants a particular cane, there's really no (price) limit." Even though it's a hobby not many people know about, and it can get pretty expensive, Feucht said it's well worth it for all the lessons and love it brings him.



"It's an era of history, and it's a lost art. It makes you appreciate the talent it took to make these things back in the 1800s."



Plymouth dentist, Dr. Gary Feucht, has a world-class collection of some 190 canes.



These moderately rare, porcelain canes are part of Dr. Feucht's collection.



Dr. Feucht holds his rarest cane, a Japanese cloissone handle on ebony stick, circa 1890.

Photos by David Reed

DR. GARY FEUCHT, DDS, PC
40400 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 103
Plymouth, MI 48170
(Between I-275 and Haggerty)

(734) 459-7110
www.PlymouthDentistry.com
garyfeucht@msn.com

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.



See Our Special Offers Inside!

Fun Floss Facts

- Commercial floss was first manufactured in 1882.
 - Floss was first made of silk.
 - Starting in the 1940s, floss was made of nylon, which was invented 1935.
 - Americans buy more than 3 million miles of floss annually, about 18 yards per person, which is enough for only one flossing per week (assuming 12 inches for each use).
 - If we were all flossing daily, we should be buying 122 yards minimum a year.
 - Almost half of us feel guilty about not flossing.
 - A third of us lie to our dentists about flossing.
 - A prison inmate used floss to cut through a wire fence; another reportedly sawed through bars in his cell with floss, and one braided floss into a rope to help scale a wall and escape
 - Other non-dental uses for floss: shoelaces, kite string, cheesecake cutter, bead string, ukulele string, fishing line, picture hanger, chain inside toilet tank
 - Don't flush floss down the toilet. The nearly indestructible threads can gum up municipal sewer systems and pumping stations.
- UC Berkeley Wellness Letter*



2007 Fall Festivities

Fun Things To Do in Plymouth

ANNUAL GREAT LAKES CHILI COOKOFF

Sunday, September 30

Downtown Plymouth

(734) 455-8838/<http://www.chilicookoff.com>

Email: nativewest@sbcglobal.net

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL

September 7-9 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Downtown Plymouth

Live Entertainment • Carnival • Refreshments

Art & Craft Show • Car Show

Annual Rotary Chicken Bar-B-Q

(734) 455-1614/<http://www.plymouthfallfestival.com>

GREAT PUMPKIN CAPER

Monday, October 30, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Trick-or-Treating to Downtown Businesses

Costume Contest

(734) 453-1540/Email: chamber@plymouthmi.org