



Celebrating 35 years in York County



Photos by Marie Chomicki/Dillsburg Banner

Jeffrey Klein, DDS stands in front of the first dental office he and his partner, Keith Malchodi, opened 35 years ago this month in 1979 on Pleasant View Road, Lewisberry in the Old Crossroads store which was originally a one room school house. Today he practices in Dillsburg, too, alongside his sons, Jon and Barry.

KLEIN DENTAL

A family affair for decades to come

Steven Nesbit
Dillsburg Banner

"I had a partner until about five years ago, Keith Malchodi. We first opened an office in Lewisberry and then went to Dillsburg a few years later as Malchodi and Klein Dental. Originally, we were located in the Wiley Benn Professional building. We grew out of that rather quickly and decided to get into another building in downtown Dillsburg. Keith and I kept building the practice, but eventually he became sick and had to leave the practice. At that time, my sons were graduating from dental school. Both boys went to University of Pittsburgh. Jon graduated from dental school in 2004, and Barry graduated dental school in 2005. I must say I never pushed them toward dentistry, but they gravitated to dentistry on their own. So, it became a family affair at that point."

Jeffrey Klein grew up in Randallstown, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Maryland and went directly into the University of Maryland Dental School after graduation. "I met my partner when we were both in high school. We went to college together and dental school together. We were in some of the same classes, but it wasn't planned," he said. As fate would have it, both ended up in dental school at the same time. "So, during our senior year of dental school we tried to figure out what to do." Jeff and Keith started talking about wanting to open up an office together. "Maryland was supersaturated with dentists, so we looked at Pennsylvania," said Jeff. He talked with someone from a dental company and was told there was a great location to start a practice which was right near Red Land High School in south central

Pennsylvania. After renovating the Old Crossroads store, Malchodi and Klein opened their Lewisberry dental office on January 10, 1979. "Then on March 28, 1979, Three Mile Island erupted. We thought that's it. There it goes. Soon, there was an evacuation notice on our door. We both evacuated with our families." When the threat of a TMI meltdown was averted, Malchodi and Klein returned to the area, and life went back to the way it was prior to the TMI incident and soon their practice "took off like gangbusters."

The 1970s brought a major technology change to dentistry. The introduction of the high speed air driven water drill was a new tech-

nology that changed dentistry overnight. "A lot of old school dentists continued using a belt driven drill, back then," said Jeff. "When we came out of dental school, we were anxious to use the high tech advances of the 1970s."

The team of Malchodi and Klein decided they were not going "to put all of their eggs in one basket, so we looked at two locations: Dauphin and Dillsburg." They decided on Dillsburg. "We talked with Jan Wiley who was just completing the Wiley Benn Professional Center, and he gave us an opportunity to come into Dillsburg, and we took it," said Klein. Jeff remembers that initially it was slow which is normally the way a dental

office starts out. "Then it began to grow, and we outgrew that office space quickly, so we needed to find another location which ended up being here [the building on Baltimore Street]. We've been in Dillsburg since about 1987. I met Dave March when we were on Mumper Lane, and we started advertising. The *Banner* was instrumental in helping us to get people to come in," Dr. Klein added.

"When I was growing up, my dentist was just great. He had a happy-go-lucky attitude. He was always singing, and he seemed to have a great time at his work. So, I was really became interested in dentistry, and when I needed braces, my orthodontist was even better at enjoying

his career. I was working in a restaurant back then, and he would come in for lunch. He would take a two-hour lunch and read his *Time* magazine. He was so laid back and seemed so happy that I got to thinking I wanted a career like that. He was an inspiration to me," he said. Dr. Jeff didn't have a filling in his mouth until he went to dental school. "I had cleanings and orthodontics, but I really didn't know that much about dentistry per se; but, I just loved it. The program was very rigorous, but I've always had good hand and eye coordination. It was the perfect profession for me. As a kid, I was always good at making things, so I fell right into dentistry." Hands and fin-

ger dexterity is as important to a dentist as it is to a concert pianist.

Dr. Jeffrey Klein married the love of his life, Ellen Press, and will be celebrating 40 years of marital bliss in June. They have three children, all boys. Jonathan was born on April 14, 1978 in Baltimore, and Barry was born on December 19, 1979 in Hershey. Joshua was born on January 29, 1993 at York Hospital. Mrs. Klein was a stay-at-home mom. She's a registered nurse and worked part-time. "Mom was into arts and crafts, and taught aerobics, too," said Barry. She was very active in the community. "She would take us to the soup kitchen to help out," added Jon, "She taught us the importance of volunteer work."

"My older sons, Jon and Barry were very athletic growing up. I was a bit surprised Jon decided to go into dentistry. Jon was more interested in sports and girls. Barry always had the desire; he even worked in the dental lab that we had at the other office during some summer vacations. My third son, Josh, who turns 21 in January, has expressed an interest in dentistry," said his dad.

Jon and Barry, who were born only 20 months apart, agreed that "dad taught us sports and pushed us to excel. Dad coached us on the field and on the court, both baseball and basketball when we were kids." Baseball was the one thing they all had in common. They collected baseball cards together. In high school Jon played baseball, and Barry, who started wrestling in seventh grade, was quite a successful wrestler through high school. "Wrestling was my sport," he said. Today, Dr. Barry Klein enjoys competitive and recreational cycling as well as competing in triathlons. The



Jonathan Klein, left, and Barry Klein, right, stand in front of the Dillsburg office of Klein Dental Associates on North Baltimore Street.

Klein Dental

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brothers got along pretty good for the most part growing up, or so they said as both glanced at each other and smiled. The boys were quick to add that their father talked to them about their own future. "He told us to do something we could utilize, and it's your college major that will lead you toward a good job," said Barry as both nodded in agreement.

Barry remembered drawing a picture of a dentist in kindergarten. "I guess that was in the back of my head since I was very young." His dad remembers that he would hang around the weekends and was quite curious about the office. Barry recalled that even "their uncle, neurosurgeon Dr. Steven Klein, influenced our decision on pursuing dentistry."

When Jon went to the University of Pittsburgh, he majored in chemistry, so he had taken all of the prerequisites that enabled him to go to medical school or dental school or wherever he wanted to go because he had the grades.

"Somehow he seemed to develop an interest in dentistry, and then he applied to dental school. I was really shocked. It was totally unexpected but a great surprise. I'm very, very proud of both Jon and Barry," said Dr. Jeff Klein.

"So, the beginning of Klein Dental that my dad

started with his friend Keith began in Lewisberry and Dillsburg 35 years ago. Now, Jon and I are carrying on the family tradition," said Barry. "My stepdaughter already talks about wanting to be a dentist."

When asked about retiring, "Are you kidding me?" said Jeff. "Thirty more years of technology are now in our hands. It's a whole new world of technology again. The advancements are remarkable. We save a tremendous amount of time for patient comfort and for patient surgeries. We do things now that 30 years ago were considered science fiction. Today, we have easier and better treatments plans. Digital x-rays, which require less radiation, have become the current standard."

"I'll tell you, laser procedures are the wave of the future, said Dr. Jeff. "We'll be cutting teeth with a laser. It can eliminate the need for anesthesia, and the cut is very smooth. Cutting with the laser would be like cutting through butter," he explained.

Dr. Barry added, "We currently do have a soft tissue laser which acts as a scalpel and has considerably less bleeding."

A new piece of equipment recently added is the Omnicam, a digital scanner. With the new

Omnicam, powder is no longer necessary and the scans are in color helping them to create more accurate restorations.

"I can produce or mill my own porcelain at this point. I take a block of porcelain and the CEREC machine, which resembles a lathe, will mill whatever I design on the computer. First, I sculpt the tooth and scan the mouth. Next, I design a filling or a crown from my design, and I send it up to the mill [CEREC machine]. The mill takes a piece of porcelain and produces the exact piece of porcelain that I designed. When finished, I can cement the piece in the patients mouth and fix the tooth. The crowns are beautifully sculptured and fit perfectly. I can actually make a bridge stem to stem from start to finish right here while the patient watches. The materials are fantastic and the porcelain is beautiful. The materials are tissue compatible. It's amazing."

With the advent of technology in dentistry, the age-old perception of "being afraid to go to the dentist" may be beginning to disappear. "Fear is an aspect of dentistry that is not only in pediatric patients but also adult patients," says Dr. Barry. "We offer nitrous sedation and we create a friendly comfortable atmosphere to relax our patients." Dr. Jon adds, "As far as our pediatric patients, we typically recommend seeing them at 3 years of age or earlier if the parents think they will cooperate. We show them the instruments. We put them in the chair and give them rides up and down until they seem to relax a little." Barry agrees, "We like to have fun with the pediatric patients and give them a positive dental experience. Personally, I juggle for the pediatric patients which they enjoy."

"Sometimes parents notice that something's not quite right with their child's



Dr. Jeffrey Klein shows an impression to a patient in the Lewisberry office.

teeth, so we'll put our heads together to determine what's the best direction they should go. If child needs a specialist, we'll refer the parents to someone, or if it's something that we can treat here, we'll tell the parents that," Jon added. "As far as orthodontics, my dad has been treating patients orthodontically for more than 25 years," said Barry. "Jon and I also do orthodontics, especially Invisalign on adults and teens." What will dentistry look like in the next 30 years? No one really knows, but what we do know is that at the end of 2012, Jon and Barry bought out their father guaranteeing that Klein Dental will be continuing the family tradition of taking care of the dental needs of the Dillsburg and surrounding community.

For the record, Dr. Jeff is cutting back, but he's not going to stop. "Retirement is not going to happen. I want to keep working. I might not want to work as many hours, but I still love what I do. I still work as hard as I worked when I started. We discuss patient care, and I give them my

opinion whether it's about implants versus crowns versus bridges. Talking shop is ongoing and will continue. I'm taking more time off. I love to golf, fish and play tennis. I recently bought a house in Florida. I want a certain amount of time that I can be down in Florida with my wife doing whatever we choose to do; besides, I hate the cold."

"I want to thank the people from Lewisberry and Dillsburg for accepting my partner and I when we started out, and now decades later the community has welcomed my sons into the practice as well. The best people in York County are right here," said Dr. Jeffrey Klein. "I've been asked many times why I opened Klein Dental in Dillsburg. They question why I didn't go to Philadelphia or stay in Baltimore, and I tell those people that I don't want to be there. I don't really need city-type people. I really love it out here in rural York County. I wouldn't have it any other way." So, as Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Klein begin to prepare for those golden years, sons Jon and Barry have posi-

tioned their family's for the immediate future. Jon and his wife, Mary Beth became parents of a son, Nolan, born on September 29, 2013; Barry and his wife, Crystal and stepdaughter Kaily moved to Dillsburg this past summer, and Kaily is attending South Mountain elementary school. "I'd like our patients to know that my family and I are now part of the community, and we look forward to participating and enjoying the local activities."

A Special Note of Congratulations: On Monday, January 13, 2014 at 5:28 a.m. Barry and his family welcomed the arrival of Kyra Madison weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and 19 inches long. Life is good!

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- Dr. Jeffrey Klein