

# Put your best face forward with dental implants

BY SHAVANA AB RUZZO

The worst nightmares can be overturned in the right hands.

Brooklyn oral and maxillofacial surgeon Dr. Steven Schwartz performed critical surgeries last month on two men who had been in ferocious fights. One had fractured his eye socket. The other had broken his lower jaw.

"It was like putting Humpty Dumpty back together again," says Dr. Schwartz, a surgeon and member of the teaching faculty at the Brooklyn Hospital Center, and Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center, who performed the face-saving operations using tiny titanium screws and plates.

The next day, both men were successfully discharged, says the specialist, who also treats diseases, injuries, and defects of the head and face, and the hard and soft tissues of the mouth and face, at NY Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons in Brighton Beach, his private practice that sustained its own trauma during Hurricane Sandy.

"We had to gut down to the studs," says his wife, Beth.

Yet the borough-born surgeon and his staff continued to



The newly renovated offices boast a soothing ambience and state-of-the-art equipment. Oral and maxillofacial surgeon Dr. Steven Schwartz treats diseases, injuries, and defects of the head and face, and the hard and soft tissues of the mouth and face.

Courtesy of Dr. Steven R. Schwartz, NY Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

treat patients while repairs were afoot, their hard work paying off when they celebrated the grand opening of their renovated offices, recently, complete with state-of-the-art equipment and a soothing decor of marine images taken by Dr. Schwartz, an avid scuba diver and underwater photographer.

The success story isn't unusual for the board-certified

oral and maxillofacial surgeon, whose stock in trade is helping people put their best face forward.

For many of us that begins with a perfect smile. Late American actress and comedienne Phyllis Diller knew the power of a radiant beam when she famously quipped, "A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."

Thankfully, modern den-



tistry has made great strides since George Washington wore dentures made from gold, ivory, lead, and human and animal teeth, with springs to open them and bolts to hold them together.

These days, dental implants are popular soldiers in the battle to conquer degenerative oral health because they form the foundation for replacement teeth that look, feel, and function like

natural pearly whites, say the experts.

"Now people don't have to put their dentures in a glass at night, I call it getting a third set of teeth," says Dr. Schwartz, whose attention to duty is apparent from the first visit.

Your initial consultation includes a diagnosis, the recommended treatment, and a review of your medical history and recovery period. Most procedures such as extractions and minor biopsies are performed on the same day. However, a complex medical history, or treatment plan, may require additional evaluations and treatments.

The aim always is to defuse anxieties, notes Dr. Schwartz, a graduate of New York University College of Dentistry, who completed his post graduate training at such prominent medical institutions as New York Hospital Queens, Bellevue Hospital Center, Manhattan VA Medical Center, and Staten Island University Hospital.

That approach has made his practice a top-tier one in a highly competitive industry.

"Our goal is to exceed your expectations every step along the

way, and we can hold our own," says Dr. Schwartz, who travels across the country and the world to impart his knowledge and learn about the latest techniques and procedures.

He now offers the injectable fillers Juvederm and Botox, which he says can help relax problematic bone joints, migraines, and muscle spasms, as well as improve the facial appearance.

Satisfied patients have posted their testimonials in cyberspace.

"You are the best surgeon ever!" writes Cathy. "I never thought I would be thanking a dentist, but I am," says Jay. "You took wonderful care of my son Jacob," states Scott.

The old saying goes that you can't throw a rock in Brooklyn without hitting a dentist. But consider yourself lucky, if you happen to strike at the door of Dr. Steven Schwartz.

*Dr. Steven R. Schwartz, NY Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons [2844 Ocean Pkwy. between West and Neptune avenues, Suite B2, in Brighton Beach, 11235, (718) 946-6600, www.nyomsurgeons.com].*