

# ASK THE EXPERT



## A Smile Can Revive at Any Age

All his life, Phil Soraino's overbite was so large he could put the tip of his thumb there. At age 74, he decided to do something about it. Soraino, a former Army paratrooper and ski instructor, visited Dr. Shila Yazdani, a dentist specializing in neuromuscular and cosmetic dentistry, to have his smile reconstructed.

The aging process takes a toll on a natural, intact smile we had in our youth. Years of clenching, grinding, old dentistry (such as silver fillings) and an unbalance bite cause our teeth to become shorter, weaker, and prone to chipping and cracking. With the new technology available today we are able to restore and revive smiles. Using porcelain restorations crooked teeth can be straightened, stained teeth can be whitened, chipped or cracked teeth can be restored, and spaces and missing teeth can be replaced often times in just two visits.

"I could put the tip of my thumb in my overbite," said Soraino. "I was a speech pathology major so I knew this was an obstacle to proper speech and I wanted to correct it." In addition to the overbite, Soraino had other dental needs. His previous dental work was aging. A 34-year old bridge had been repeatedly battered from parachute landings and ski falls. Caps were beginning to age.

Using state-of-the art equipment and cutting-edge computer software, Dr. Yazdani was able to determine the correct position of his jaw where his teeth, muscles and joints would be properly functioning, healthy and comfortable. Once the bite was adjusted, Dr. Yazdani and her lab used porcelain crowns and veneers to improve his smile and bite. When Dr. Yazdani analyzed his bite, she also determined that it been worn down from Soraino grinding his teeth.

Soraino was amazed by what she could find out with the sophisticated computer in her office. "The computer showed me where my bite wanted to be instead of where it had moved over the years."

Soraino decided to treat himself to a new smile. "I had treated my kids for years; this time I would treat myself. Everyone should do that."

Soraino decided to have his entire mouth reconstructed.

Adjusting the bite first is a critical step because it ensures the longevity and integrity of the veneers. Soraino, who travels from Fairfield, PA., to Washington, D.C. for the dental work explained that he makes the drive because he is impressed with Dr. Yazdani's expertise and service. "She's very sincere and authentic and she really knows what she's doing," he said. "She is one of only 3 percent of dentists who have been trained in the way that she has."

Soraino's upper teeth were restored within the first two months of treatment. The lower jaw was resorted once the bite stabilized in its optimum position.

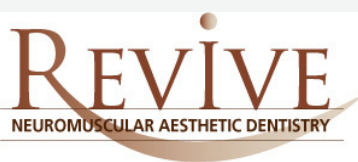
"It's so natural," said Soraino. "They look like my old teeth when I was 30 but even more straight. I wish I had done this earlier but I will enjoy them for the last decade of my life – if this is the last decade of my life." Soraino continued, "When I smiled before, it wasn't a full smile. I didn't want to expose my whole mouth. Now, I smile fully."

"This type of dentistry is truly life changing for the patient and extremely rewarding for us," remarked Dr. Yazdani. "There are no words to describe the joy we experience when we see people smile with confidence for the first time in their lives."

Having a unique dental practice inspires both Dr. Yazdani and Dr. Michael M. Mortazie. "It has always been our goal to be different than the average dental practice. There is no long wait, and no hurried visits with the doctors. We believe in individuality and see one patient at a time for one-on-one care," said Dr. Mortazie.



*Dr. Shila Yazdani and Dr. Michael M. Mortazie are skilled cosmetic, implant and neuromuscular dentists with years of experience helping patients attain the smiles they desire. Drs. Yazdani and Mortazie's talents and expertise have been featured frequently in the local media. They have appeared as guest experts on the "A New Me" television program and recently were named two of Washington, D.C.'s Leading Cosmetic Dentists in DC.*



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