

Dear Colleague,

As a member of the ADA, CDA and your local dental society, you're ensuring that your voice and the needs of the profession are being represented on every level. You are making the profession stronger. After all, the profession of dentistry should be shaped by those who practice it—people like you.



Daniel G. Davidson, DMD
President, CDA

Progress.

It's what happens when 25,000 dentists work together.

She lost a tooth, but discovered her passion.

In Ethiopia, qualified dentists are as rare as the black opals that are mined there. Often, extraction is the only option. Such was the case for Hibret Benjamin. She lost one tooth at 9, but when faced with the same outcome a few years later, she elected to endure the pain. In fact, she didn't seek help again until her family relocated to the states. Two root canals, two crowns and 10 fillings later, her young dentist not only saved Hibret's teeth, she sparked a passion for dentistry that burns brightly today.

A legacy of caring.

What do you do when your grandfather and father are both dentists? For Rex Yanase, the answer is anything you want. He never felt pressured to follow in their footsteps, but he knew he wanted to be in health care and he was also interested in business. Dentistry allowed him to combine everything. He could honor his family legacy, run his own business and care for people. It was a win, win, win.

One dental visit, two lives changed.

When Shana's son Nathan was 5, he didn't appear to be growing, but his pediatrician wasn't too concerned. After all, Shana and her husband weren't very tall. Nathan's dentist, however, thought it might be growth hormone deficiency, which could be determined by a simple wrist X-ray. The X-ray showed the bone of a 2 ½-year-old.

Her son's experience illustrated firsthand how dentistry is about caring for more than teeth. And with that, Shana the college student, became the dentistry student.

Hand-eye coordination in sports, helped him hit a home run in dentistry.

Scott Szotko had two passions growing up, sports and science. And while originally he thought he'd go into medicine, he began to think about dentistry in high school when his own dentist piqued his interest in the profession. Everything coalesced in college when he realized that with dentistry, he could use the hand-eye coordination from sports and his love of science to help people. A home run in his book.

You didn't settle for any career, you followed your passion. You wanted to care for people, be your own boss, make a difference. And you're not alone. That passion is why, for many CDA members, dentistry isn't just a career. It's a calling. Take a look.



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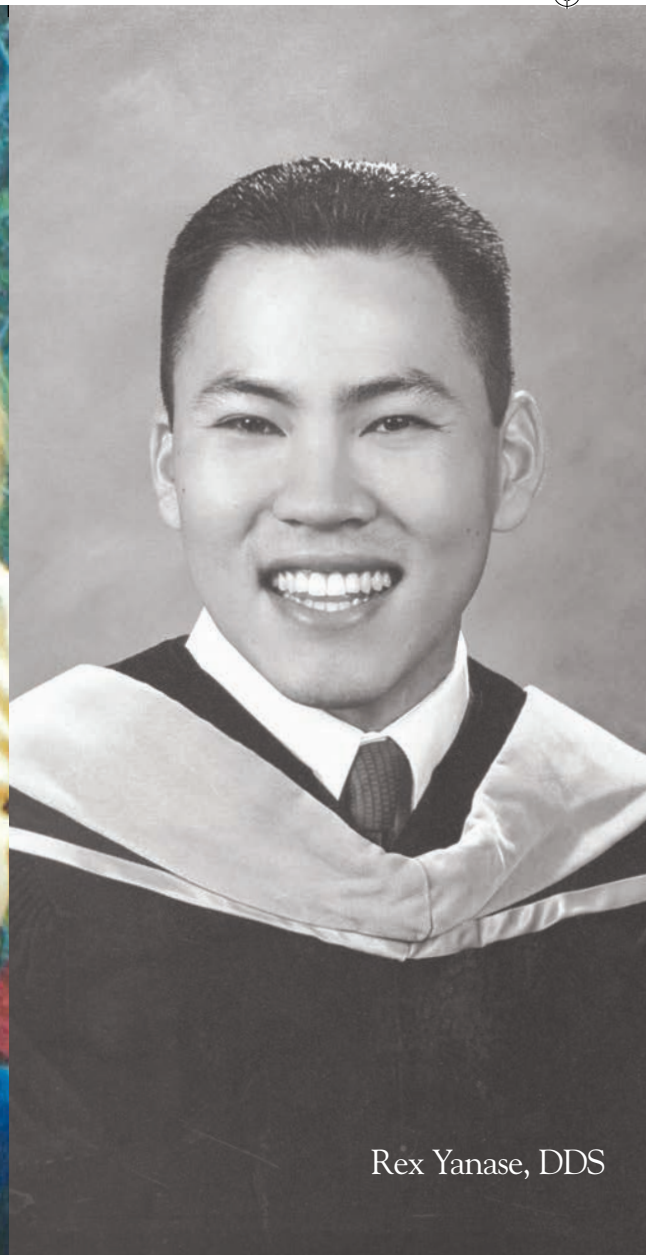
People like you.



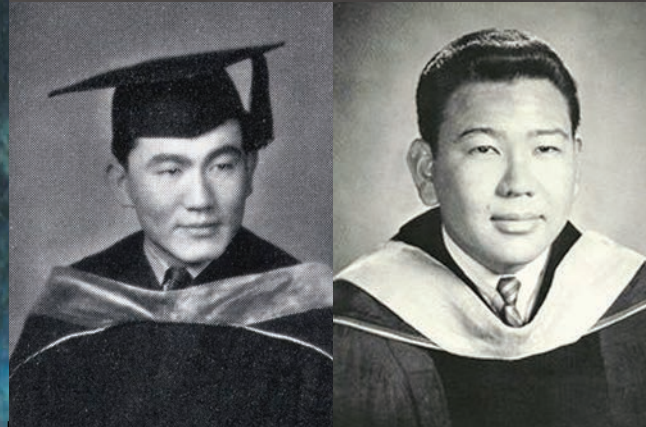
Scott Szotko, DDS



Shana Van Cleave, DDS



Rex Yanase, DDS



Hibret Hailu Benjamin, DDS

Renew. While the reasons to choose dentistry are as varied as those who practice it, the reasons to join CDA are clear—advocacy, protection, education and the support to not only help you make the most of your dreams, but to improve the oral health of all Californians.

Renew your membership today.
cda.org/member

Share. We want to know your story. Tell us about the moment you first knew you wanted to become a dentist. It's easy, simply visit cda.org/member

