

# Pinecrest

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## Dr. Kessler did not always know he wanted to be a dentist

BY CAROLINA WILSON



Periodontist Dr. Lawrence Kessler did not always know that he wanted to be a dentist. During high school, in fact, he wanted to be a chemist. Once he began his undergraduate education at Indiana University, Kessler was certain he wanted to enter the health profession.

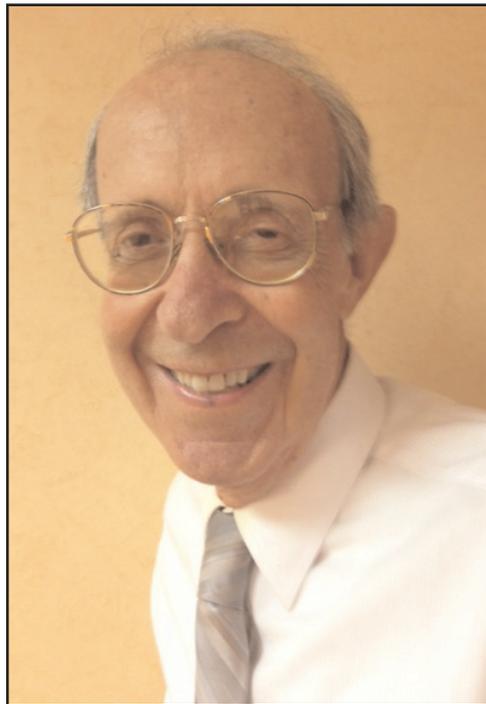
"I decided upon dentistry because it was a way to help people and have a more normal life," Kessler said. "I love what I do, I've never looked back."

In addition to serving as a dentist in Germany during the Vietnam War, Kessler was a teacher.

"I taught periodontics for 35 years at the Dade County Dental Research Clinic and at Mt. Sinai to residents in dentistry," Kessler said. "I loved teaching."

When dental implants became popular in the United States, Kessler decided that he wanted to get involved. Kessler says the procedure is painless, which allows patients to feel comfortable and relieved.

"Most of the time [implants] are not stressful at all to do. It's so painless that patients don't believe it until the procedure is



Dr. Lawrence Kessler

done," Kessler said. "It's very enjoyable because the patients are so appreciative and grateful."

Kessler says he initially chose to practice in Miami because of the warm weather, which also allows him pursue his gardening interests. Kessler belongs to the Rare Food Council and Florida Tropical Tree Society.

"I love this weather and I love being outside. I do a lot of gardening by growing fruit trees and flowering trees," Kessler said. "I do grafting of gums just as I do grafting of trees. So I call myself

the gum-gardener."

His move to South Florida also allowed Kessler to become increasingly involved in one of his largest hobbies, the arts.

"I've been on the board of directors and treasurer of Actor's Playhouse since its inception for 25 years," Kessler said. "I do everything I can to promote the arts."

Passion for the arts runs in the Kessler family. Kessler's daughter, Nikki, became interested in the theatre when she attended Southwood Middle School. There, too, Kessler became involved.

"I got very involved in Southwood as president of the parents' theatre group. We were constantly promoting the importance of keeping the arts program alive, hoping to avoid budget cuts at all costs."

Regarding the environment of his dental practice, which is at 7400 N.Kendall Drive, Kessler emphasizes that his patients are the priority.

"I'm very time conscious. If I've made an appointment, I've made a commitment with the patient. Also, after a surgery, I call patients at home to make sure they're doing fine," Kessler said. "The patient comes first. That is the philosophy, always."