



**The COPE Foundation's 20th Anniversary Annual Golf Outing  
Monday, May 20th at Glen Head Country Club, NY**

**COPE Honorees**

**Dr. Barry Bass and Dr. Kenneth Morris of Plainview Massapequa Levittown Oral and Implant Surgery**



**Dr. Barry Bass** joined Plainview Oral and Maxillofacial Associates in 1985. He is currently the Site Director of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at North Shore Hospital, Co-Chief of the TMJ/Facial Pain Clinic at North Shore University Hospital and is Surgical Director of the Implantology Training Program there as well. He is a voluntary attending at Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine where he teaches both students and residents. He has a special interest in dental implants and is also skilled at performing TMJ surgery when indicated in patients with severe TMJ dysfunction. Many of his lectures in the community have included: "Surgical Uprighting and Repositioning of Impacted Teeth", The Challenge of the TMJ-Surgical Management of the TMJ Internal Derangement", and "Dental Implant Complications".

COPE co-founder Dr. Richard Berg and Dr. Kenneth Morris brought Dr. Bass into the practice in 1985. He is most appreciative of their generosity, mentoring and friendship. The practice has grown from one office and three doctors to three offices and seven doctors, serving multiple communities across Long Island.

Dr. Bass is board certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He was a fellow in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at University Hospital at Stony Brook and served his residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Queens Hospital Center. Dr. Bass' educational background includes his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine; a Master's Degree at New York University in Biochemistry; and a Bachelor's Degree at Queens College in Biology.

Dr. Bass' Hospital Affiliations include North Shore University Hospitals at Manhasset, Plainview, and University Hospital at Stony Brook. His Society Memberships include Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, New York State Dental Association, Nassau County Dental Society, and the American Dental Association.

Dr. Bass has recently received honors from Northwell/LIJ Healthcare Division and LI Business News Achievements in Healthcare.

Dr. Bass volunteers with dental students on remote area medical missions to rural Tennessee and Virginia to provide free dental care. He has also serves on the UJA Summerfest Committee and as Chair of the Dental Healthcare Division. Other volunteer work has included providing one week of service for the 9/11 event identifying victims through dental records. His practice also treats patients from Gurwin, AHRC and ACLD (for children with disabilities) as a way to give back.

Dr. Bass supports COPE's golf outing every year, including donations for raffles and auctions. COPE is his designated charity of choice on Amazon Smile. He also provides numerous business networking group exposure and opportunities for COPE.



**Dr. Kenneth Morris** has actively practiced Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery on Long Island for over 38 years. After joining in practice with Richard Berg in 1976, he has watched the office morph from a single location in Plainview, to a larger group that now includes additional offices in Massapequa and Levittown and employs eight Board Certified surgeons. He is most proud that despite the growth, the practice has retained the quality, caring and compassionate approach to patient care that has allowed it to grow. Ken retired 5 years ago, but maintains an active presence in the office. Although he no longer treats patients, he goes into the office a couple of days a week to do administrative tasks. He enjoys the comradery with the other doctors, and with the staff.

Having grown up in the Boston area, Ken is an avid Red Sox and Patriots fan. For many years, he has had to endure the chides from his New York based friends, but now he is relishing lauding his team's successes over his friends.

Ken did his undergraduate studies at Brandeis University, where he met his wife Sandy during his senior year. They were engaged in just three months and married after his first year at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. After dental school, they moved to New York for his Oral and Maxillofacial residency at Long Island Jewish Hospital, before going into private practice in Plainview.

Ken and Sandy are the proud parents of Wendy, who lives in Westwood, Ma., along with her husband Marc and children – Rachel, age 14 and Jacob, age 11. Their son, Andy, lives in Seattle, WA. with his wife Lynne, and their children – Hannah, age 3 and Sylvie, age 6 months. Although they love their kids, it is the grandkids that really take their hearts away.

Travel, skiing and golf are passions that they share. They have traveled to over 70 countries and find Africa and South East Asia perhaps the most exciting.

COPE is an organization that they have supported over the years, as they recognize the important and worthwhile work done by the group.



**Parent Recognition Awardees  
Larry and Melanie Mergentime**



The Mergentimes were introduced to COPE in 2009 following the sudden loss of their 3-year-old daughter Samantha. The Mergentime family started Sammi's Circle Charitable Fund following Samantha's passing as a way of remembering Sammi's gentle spirit and to ensure that her kindness is passed on to those in need. Sammi's Circle quickly became an active supporter of COPE Foundation.

Larry's introduction and exposure to monthly group therapy sessions with COPE and his and Melanie's support of their mission has led them to take more active leadership roles within the organization. Larry joined the board of directors in 2016 and has recently joined the Executive Committee as Vice-President. In their professional lives, Melanie is an optometrist with private practice in Hicksville and Larry is a member of the real estate law firm of Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. in New York City practicing in the area of real estate transactions and development. The Mergentimes live on Long Island with their 2 sons.

Larry and Melanie's goal is to help improve the lives of families that have suffered a loss by encouraging their healing and to expand the organization's outreach.



**Public Service Honoree  
Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan**



Legislator Josh Lafazan, at 23 years of age, became Nassau County's youngest- ever legislator upon his election to the Nassau County Legislature in November of 2017. He is currently serving his first term, where he represents Nassau's 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

Josh graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education with a Master's Degree in Education Policy and Management in May 2017, and from the Cornell University ILR School with a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations in May 2016.

Previously, in May 2012, at the age of 18, Josh became one of the youngest elected officials in the history of New York State when he was elected to the Syosset School Board of Education. Josh was re-elected by his constituents in 2015.

Josh's dedication to community service began before he ran for the school board. In 2011, Josh became the Founder & CEO of Safe Ride Syosset, a community outreach program dedicated to ensuring that no Syosset teen gets behind the wheel of a car while intoxicated, or is the passenger in a car with a drunk driver. Josh and his volunteers safely drove home over 350 students in 2012, and there was not a single teenage drinking and driving accident in Syosset on the nights Safe Ride was operating.

Josh has made fighting the heroin and opioid epidemic his top legislative priority. Since 2013, Josh has served on both the Board of Directors of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD), in addition to the Nassau County Heroin Prevention Task Force.

In 2012, Josh was named to the Long Island Press' Power List of the 50 Most Influential People on Long Island. In 2014, he received the Academy of Education Arts and Sciences Educators' Voice Award for School Board Member of the Year. In 2016, Josh was named a recipient of the New York State School Boards Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Josh is also the author of "Political Gladiators: How Millennials Can Navigate the 21st Century Political Minefield and WIN!"