



From the Podium

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Around the World by Selby B. Beeler, is a wonderful source of information.

As a presenter, Susan likes to roam and be in the center of the group. This way she receives greater input from participants. She also likes to integrate real cases relating to health care practices and ethics. Many participants have experienced similar situations and challenges, and sharing these enhances the program. Susan provides plenty of handouts so participants can hear the messages rather than spend a lot of time writing.

Susan graduated from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia with a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. She also received a master's in dental hygiene from Columbia University. As part of her doctoral studies at Nova Southeastern, Susan completed courses in health care for diverse populations and health care for special populations. As the only dental hygienist in the program, she weaved oral health messages to her colleagues from 23 areas of health care, including nurses and nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, physical

therapists, social workers, and counselors. Susan has presented numerous programs not only on cultural competence, but on pediatric dental hygiene, interdisciplinary approaches to care, and clinical evaluation.

Active in ADHA, Susan served on the group's Board of Trustees from 1996-2000, and currently facilitates Strategic Planning for the BOT and the ADHA councils. Access to care issues of the underinsured, especially within the pediatric population, is one of her primary concerns. Early childhood caries is five to six times more prevalent than asthma, according to the Surgeon General's Report on the Oral Health of Americans. Many children do not have adequate access to care and therefore face many challenges.

If she were not a hygienist, Susan would have pursued a career in academic or health law. She describes herself as creative, flexible, and empowering. She likes to go home with new pearls of wisdom from participants, and she believes that interaction is an important part of the learning process. Her least favorite part of presenting is the time constraints and the structure needed for presentations. She would always love another hour to present, regardless of how long the program is!

Passions in her life include renovating her Victorian home, antiquing, and refinishing furniture. Spending time with her husband, Bill, family, friends, and her Old English sheepdog are also favorite past times. Being a mentor and contributing to the education of professionals makes Susan very proud.