

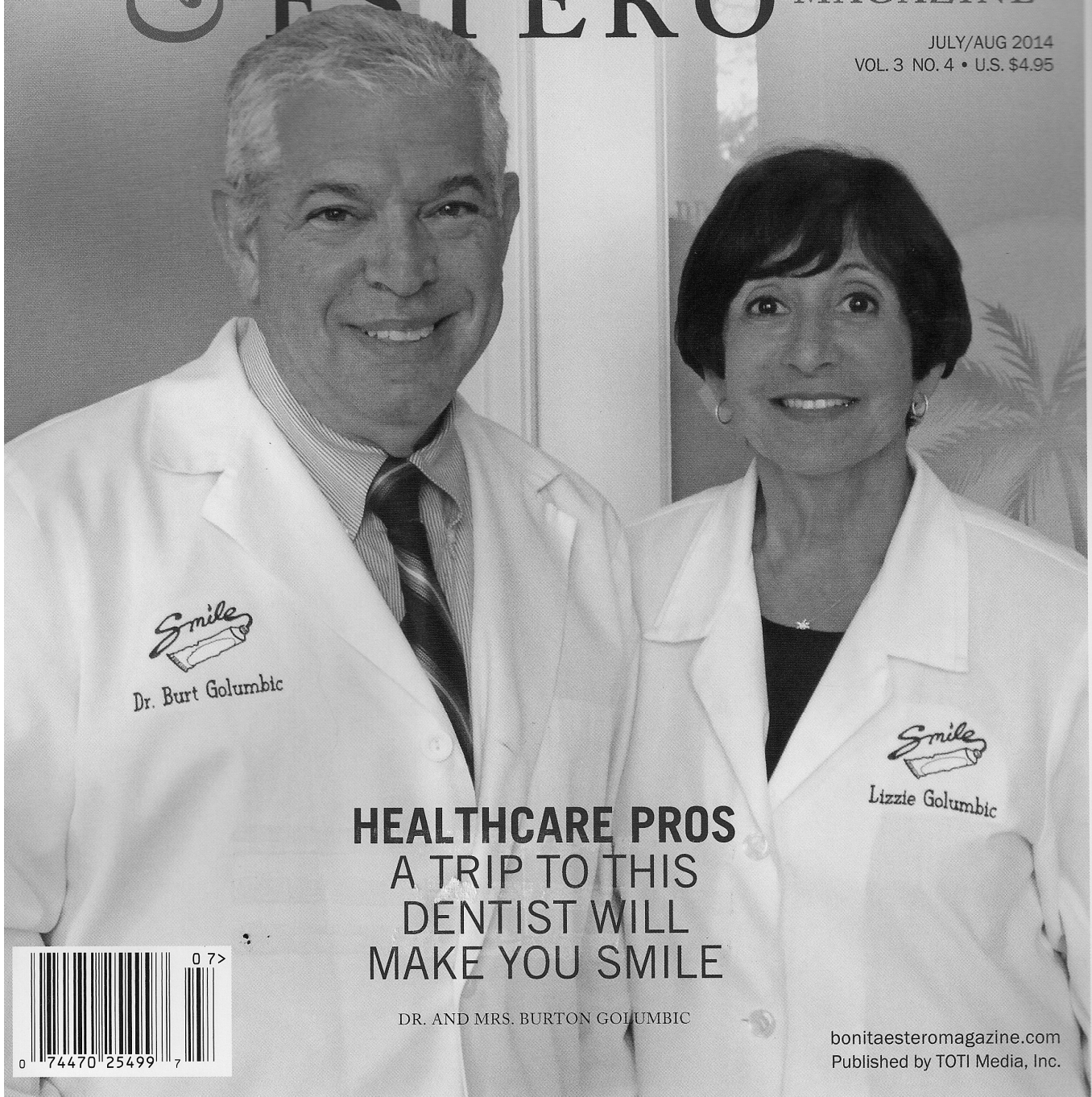
Overnight in Naples:
A Hotel to Spoil You

Tips to Keep
your Home Healthy

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Balloon Festival

BONITA & ESTERO MAGAZINE

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HEALTHCARE PROS
A TRIP TO THIS
DENTIST WILL
MAKE YOU SMILE

DR. AND MRS. BURTON GOLUMBIC

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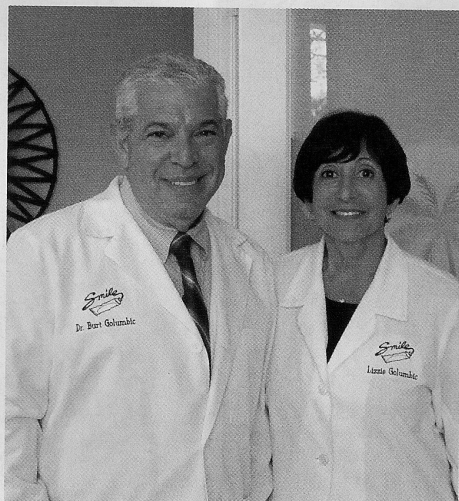
BONITA & ESTERO MAGAZINE

50 High-Style Retreat

The Inn on Fifth in Naples kicks up its style meter with the brand-new Avenue5 restaurant and a wealth of pampering treatments at its spa. Here's why you should plan an overnight at this Fifth Avenue South gem.

56 The Power of Gemstones

Rubies, sapphires, emeralds and even diamonds are said to have positive effects on healing and energy. Find out where you can go to experience gemstone therapy.



On the Cover

Dr. and Mrs. Burton Golumbic have a dental practice in Bonita Springs, bonitaspringssmiles.com. Story on page 32.

TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHY MEETS MODERN

For Burton Golumbic, patients always come first

BY RENEE NOVELLE

The first thing I learn as I walk into Dr. Burton Golumbic's dental practice is that the patients come first. This is a trend that remains consistent in everything, from the philosophy of his practice to the cozy design of the office. And it isn't going to change any time soon, which is news that most Southwest Florida residents will be pleased to learn.

After the last patient has left for the evening, I get to sit down with the doctor and his wife, Lizzie, who make up the staff in its entirety. Naturally, I'm struck by their impressive smiles, which seem to come from a place of genuine joy. But I'm also enchanted by their ease, the way they finish each other's thoughts, and the

respect that they show each other. It becomes clear that theirs is a complete partnership in every sense of the word. And this has a calming effect on their entire practice.

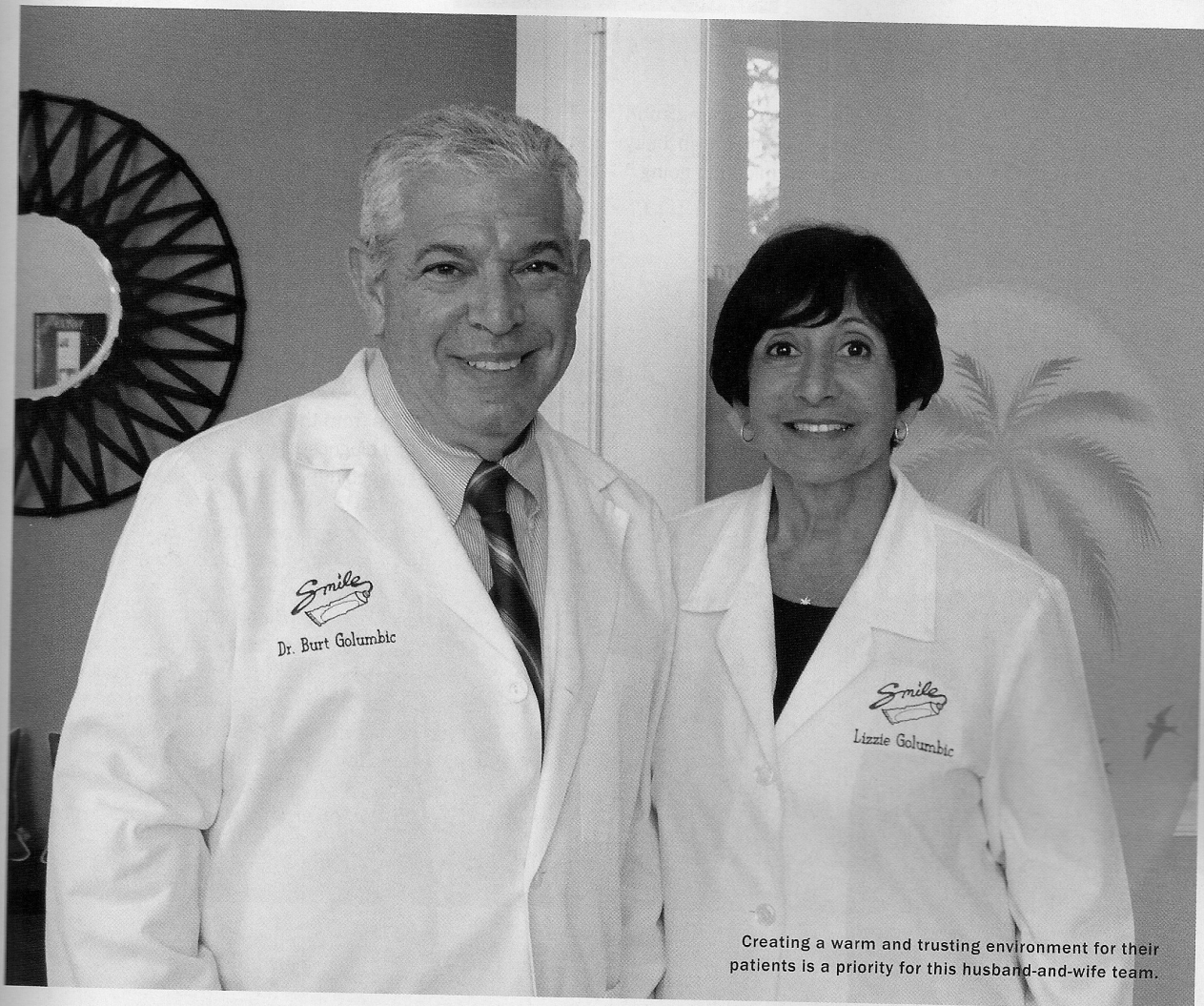
"We get each other," Lizzie says. "We have the same drive for how we think patient care should be, and that's really important to us."

Originally practicing out of the Empire State Building, Burton Golumbic relocated to Bonita Springs shortly after the tragedy of 9/11.

"It was exciting to work in Manhattan. You meet so many different kinds of people," Golumbic says, mentioning that he also enjoyed his experience teaching at Columbia University's dental school. "And then 9/11 came, and it was a tragic time for

Together Dr. and Mrs. Golumbic run their dental practice out of this office in Bonita Springs.





Creating a warm and trusting environment for their patients is a priority for this husband-and-wife team.

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—DR. BURTON GOLUMBIC

everybody. My practice literally disappeared overnight because people were afraid to go into the city.”

It was then that he decided to leave the hustle and bustle behind and relocate to a place where he could enjoy life more fully.

“This is a comfortable place to be,” he says. “We just love the area and the pace here.”

Starting the new practice from the ground up, the couple has relied mostly on word of mouth to build their patient base. It was a risk, but one that has paid off well for them. “We’ve gained a lot of trust, and I’m very flattered by that,” he says.

It’s easy to see why they’re so successful since Golumbic has built his philosophy of care around mutual respect. Patients are

only scheduled one at a time to ensure complete privacy and to nurture an open environment. They’re also given a longer-than-usual appointment slot, so he’s able to complete each cleaning and examination himself—there are no dental hygienists to go through first. And they rarely, if ever, keep a patient waiting.

“That’s something I’ve always been a real stickler about,” Golumbic says. “Their time is just as important as mine.”

“We like to get to know our patients.” Lizzie smiles warmly while reassuring that it’s important their patients don’t get lost in the shuffle of business. And when one of them needs to see a specialist? “We make the call, and we like to have a personal connection with who we send you to.”

"One of the things that I insist on is really good communication from specialists," Golumbic says. "You shouldn't be so busy that you can't take a minute to get that communication going."

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—DR. BURTON GOLUMBIC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Southwest Florida Epilepsy Walk
In partnership with Epilepsy Foundation Florida
efof.org

But, though they're traditional in some ways, the practice is run with advanced technology, including digital images that can be easily shared with another dentist by email.

"It's a great service," Golumbic says. "It turns out to be better care for the patients because everyone knows what everything looks like."

It also saves the patients from having to repeat procedures or x-rays. And while the practice keeps them as busy as they want to be, they still find time to give back to the community. The couple has been involved with the Southwest Florida Epilepsy Walk for the past five years, an event that's very near to their hearts. Held each November, it was started by their son, Danny, who also suffers from the disease.

When Danny was first diagnosed, they feared the time away from the office at his doctor appointments may affect their practice. But they've found their patients to be warmly receptive to their efforts.

"Our patients have become a part of all that," Golumbic says. "So it just shows that we've made a true connection with them on every respect."

But what really sets this practice apart is the amount of time and detail they put into thinking about the best care for their patients. It's the way he's always practiced, and the way he always will.

"Everyone should do things the way they enjoy to do things," Golumbic smiles widely as he reflects. "They'll end up having a better life."

That certainly seems to be the case in this instance. *✿*

Renee Novelle is an author and freelance journalist living in Southwest Florida.

Dr. Golumbic's patients appreciate the extra time he spends getting to know them and their dental needs.

