

Rivertown Magazine - 2008

Lori Giachetti, Kristine Santoro and Christine Liscio are three young mothers with similar backgrounds. All three grew up here in New City and were friendly throughout their early years, while attending Clarkstown High Schools. They have since married and are raising families while now living in different areas of Orangetown. A couple of years ago they put their heads together in order to figure out a way to expand their interests into a career or business that would not interfere with their family obligations and have a market in the community.

The “hair” business, with all its tributaries, is one in which most of us give little deep thought, but its scope, in our daily lives, is enormous. Hair cutting, hair curling, hair straightening, hair coloring, hair conditioning, hair growth, hair removal. Our trio of ladies stopped here.

Their decision was to take advantage of the latest technology being developed for non-invasive hair removal and opened Laser Hair Associates in Pearl River. They first attended a course being given at the Laser Centers of Connecticut to become certified in the operation of the latest equipment along with receiving extensive instruction in the anatomy and physiology of the skin and hair and the interactions of the laser and tissue along with instruction as to safety and regulatory requirements. Since they had decided to limit their business to the removal of unwanted hair, they chose to purchase the best laser hair removal equipment available. Their GentleLASE is an FDA approved Alexandrite laser, an advanced system designed to be faster, less painful and more efficient than previous lasers.

In the course of our interview the phrase “less painful” came up and we inquired “less painful than what?” We were assured that the discomfort is slight, somewhat like a small pinch. The treatment can be used on all parts of the body by both men and women and while some areas of the body are more sensitive than others the term “painless” is still appropriate.

Their website, [www.laserhairassociates.com](http://www.laserhairassociates.com), is very informative and goes into great detail about the entire procedure.

Briefly, a patient's hair must be pigmented in order for the treatment to work, that is to say it must have color. It is the pigment of the hair that absorbs the laser light. The pigment becomes heated and destroys the hair follicle. There are six different skin types, relative to the color. The laser employed by Laser Hair Associates can only be used by clients having skin types I thru IV. It cannot be used on tanned or very dark skin.

Another interesting point is that there are three stages of growth in a hair follicle. This is explained in detail in the website, but basically the laser is only effective during one of these phases, which occurs at random. For this reason six to eight sessions are necessary to complete the treatment with a period of 4 to 12 weeks between sessions based on the specific area treated.

Each new client is asked come in for a complimentary consultation, during which they conduct a full medical history and perform a test patch to see how your skin responds to specific settings on the laser. Treatment may begin anywhere from 2 – 5 days after the test patch. If this summer's goal is smooth hairless skin, now is the time to start. The results are not instantaneous. It is a treatment process. But Kristine, Lori and Christine specialize in helping you achieve the look you desire.

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