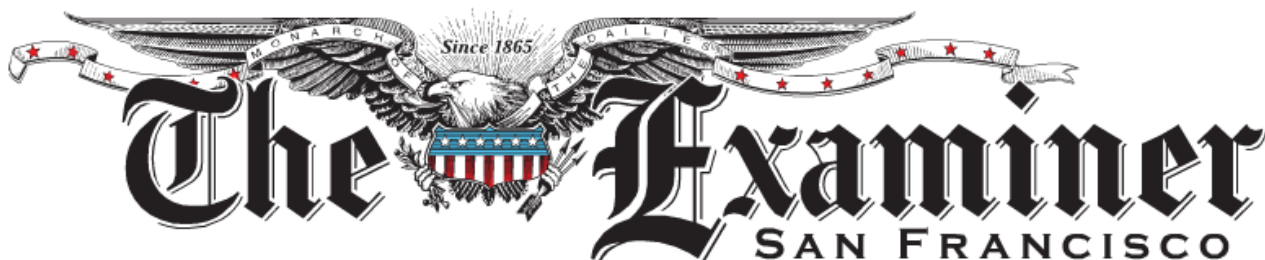


SAN FRANCISCO



SUNDAY!

THE 3-MINUTE INTERVIEW



Dr. Ella Faktorovich

The San Francisco ophthalmologist is working with Focus on Independence to provide free Lasik or vision correction surgery to patients 18 years and older who have suffered spinal injuries and have lost the use of their hands and/or arms.

Why did you get involved in this program? The current laser technology is at the level where we can offer optimal safety - especially for paraplegics who need to use eyes instead of their mobility.

How does the program work? We are the only facility in Northern California that offers the program. The patients are first assessed on whether or not they're eligible to have vision-correction surgery. To qualify, patients need to have suffered a spinal cord injury and have decreased mobility, which means they can't take their glasses on or off.

Why did you decide to offer your services? As a regular person, the need for contacts or glasses is just a minor inconvenience,

but the world stops for these people if their glasses get dislodged.

Why do you feel it's important to offer this service? I'd like to help people with the skill that I have developed over the years.

What are some of the technological advances made in Lasik surgery? We now use an ultra fast laser, the fastest in the world. The technology is one of the most developed in the field of eye surgery and it has brought better results.

-- Andrea Koskey