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VITAL SIGNS

April 2002

A Heart to Heart with Dr. Ran Kornowski Appealing to hearts to save hearts

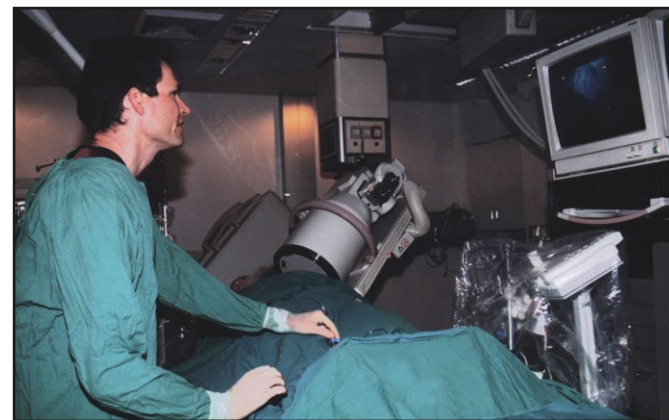
by Esti Sherbelis

As I sit in Dr. Ran Kornowski's office, after witnessing firsthand his capable hands at work during a catheterization procedure, a huge bouquet of tulips arrive, a token of appreciation from someone grateful to be alive.

Dr. Kornowski, who spent five years at Washington, D.C. Hospital Center, currently heads the cardiac catheterization team in the Department of Cardiology at RMC, responsible for over 4,000 procedures yearly and enjoying a success rate of above 97%.

According to Dr. Kornowski, the field of interventional cardiology has undergone a dramatic transformation since the first balloon angioplasty was performed in 1977. The last decade has witnessed the introduction of numerous devices for coronary revascularization and improved hardware for cardiac imaging and treatment, such as stent implants.

Dr. Kornowski and his team dedicate their time to clinical testing to ensure that patients undergo the best possible and least painful treatment. With this goal in mind, they submitted, in 2001, ten research protocols in different areas, including gene therapy and cell transplants to the heart. Dr. Kornowski strongly believes that further research will inevitably lead to more efficient diagnosis and treatment for RMC's many patients.



Dr. Ran Kornowski performing a catheterization

There is no doubt that RMC is unique in what it offers its patients. It serves as a primary referral center for the densely populated central region as well as offering consultations to patients nationwide. Kornowski explains, "Recognizing the load and diversity of primary, secondary and tertiary diseases that we deal with, RMC has been identified as a site for new, state of the art technology. Three new catheterization laboratories are in the process of being built, two specializing in coronary procedures and one in electrophysiology. This will make the unit the largest of its kind in Israel."

However, with the establishment of the new Catheterization Laboratories, the support of generous donors is necessary to assist in the purchase of the following needed equipment to make possible improved medical care and expanded research activity:

Digital Angiograph (fixed unit)	\$950,000
Digital Angiograph (mobile unit)	\$250,000
Intra-vascular ultrasound imaging unit	\$120,000
Haemodynamic monitoring system	\$ 65,000
Automatic contrast injection system	\$ 35,000

Those with "big hearts", interested in contributing to medical care and research to help those with "damaged hearts", should contact Burton Lazarow at AFRMC- 212-279-2522.

The Next Generation of AFRMC Reveal Their "FACE" for the Celebrity Mask/Silent Art Auction

by Danna Rosenthal

The stark white walls were alight with dramatic color of art; the moonlit sky streamed in through skylights; and the New York City skyline, complete with the legendary Empire State Building adding its presence, made for a quintessential backdrop. On any given night, one could argue that these would be elements of a traditional Manhattan art gallery cocktail reception. However, what was not typical that evening of March 21st, on the top floor of 44 West 28th Street at Gallery-In-The-Sky, was the event taking place there and its purpose.

The Celebrity Mask and Silent Art Auction featuring over 200 unique works of art was the Next Generation of AFRMC's first foray into putting together an event to benefit RMC. From the beginning, this new group showed their commitment to RMC by the enthusiasm they all had during the planning stages through the execution of the event itself. For most it was their first real step into adult philanthropic participation, but what they showed was their readiness to carry the torch and take the cause into the future to ensure that RMC becomes a

state-of-the-art Mediterranean health center and remains on the forefront of Medical research.



Barry Cohen, center, Chair of the Board of AFRMC, and Burton Lazarow, left, Executive Director of AFRMC, addressed the guests and volunteers at the Celebrity Art Auction, while Steven Hirth, right, Chair of the event, served as master of ceremonies.

The crowd was a mix of beautiful people, most of whom were professionals, who came out to support RMC. Guests nibbled on



Steven H. Hirth, right, Chair of the Celebrity Art Auction Committee poses with the Committee Vice-Chairs, Craig Bassett, Talya Nevo-Hacohen and Raquel Rosenfeld.

tantalizing hors d'oeuvres and sushi by Renaissance Caterers and sipped wine while they took in the one-of-a-kind celebrity masks made by such luminaries as Sean Penn, Itzhak Pearlman, Diane Sawyer, Martin Sheen, and Oprah Winfrey. While guests contemplated what to bid on, the gallery was abuzz with conversation. Thea Groene, the talented artist who created the portrait series of Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and Andy Warhol was happy to explain her inspiration in conceiving her work. "I was asked to create a portrait of Picasso in my own way by the Society of Illustrators and won my first award. This is my first exposure and this led to the other pieces in the series," said Ms. Groene.

The Chairperson of the Celebrity Mask Charity Event, Steven H. Hirth took to the floor to welcome the guests and explained the purpose of the evening. He then introduced the Chair of AFRMC, Barry Cohen.

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At The Forefront RMC Responds to Terrorist Attacks and the threat of War

by Esti Sherbelis

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In a basement in the middle of RMC's Beilinson Campus lies the base of Emergency Situations where a committee, led by Dr. Jacob Yahav, Director of Beilinson Campus, is faced with a difficult task. They are responsible for the coordination and execution of necessary measures in times of crisis. All have had to make major readjustments to their lives, for they are the team in whose hands many lives depend. At the Golda-HaSharon Campus Dr. Gad Neumann, its Deputy Director, leads another team of dedicated professionals. Although each campus functions independently, nevertheless there is full collaboration between them. Patients, staff and medical aids are shuttled between campuses when necessary.



RMC conducts regular exercises to prepare for all emergencies, especially those related to war and terrorist attacks. Above, the staff of RMC is engaged in preparations for providing medical assistance in the event of chemical warfare.

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Dr. Dan Oppenheim
CEO of RMC

Treatment and Tranquility

Bloodshed, pain, anguish. This is Israel today. It has been harrowing these many months, and Rabin Medical Center has often been placed at the center of these traumatic events. Being a Level One Trauma Center, one of only six in Israel, the hospital is accredited to provide treatment to multi-trauma patients, such as victims of massive terrorist attacks, many of whom have had to be transferred to Beilinson by way of its heliport.

This is a time when resources are vital not only for basic needs and coping with emergencies that are part of today's harsh reality, but addressing projects for future development, new equipment, research, and construction.

However, it is precisely for this reason that I have chosen to focus my thoughts on art. Art allows us to escape our often demanding

routine and transports us into a world of beauty and peacefulness, therefore, I applauded the art auction initiated by AFRMC. It was an opportunity to boost spirits and feed our souls at a period of time in our lives when tranquility helps us stay sane.

For this exact reason, while RMC is pleased to accept donations for each of its departments, we most welcome support for a sculpture garden, which we are in the process of erecting, where patients and their visitors can enjoy a respite from their troubles. These additions to the hospital have only been made possible by the generosity of caring people; and I am confident that, with your continuing support, we will ensure that RMC not only remains a top medical facility, but also one where everybody will not only be welcomed for treatment and assistance, but also will find a source where they may find serenity as well.

I would like to conclude on an optimistic note by wishing all our supporters and friends a happy spring.

Dedication Ceremony to Leah Rabin

by Esti Sherbelis

Many distinguished guests paid tribute to the late First Lady of Israel, Mrs. Leah Rabin, at an olive tree planting ceremony in her memory. Dr. Oppenheim emphasized that this particular tree, which had been purposely placed at the entrance to the hospital for all to see, had been selected because of its strong roots, its importance to Israel's landscape and its varying colors that reflect Leah Rabin. Among those present were Mrs. Nava Barak, Mrs. Rabin's children, grandchildren and close friends, and those of the RMC staff who cared for her during her numerous stays at the hospital.

while nevertheless declaring her gratitude to the staff of RMC. She also spoke of her mother's bravery during her illness, for not revealing to anyone the extent of her ailment. However, Mrs. Rabin-Pelosoff defined her mother as being, more than anything else, a person who sought to change and improve. She illustrated this by an anecdote of her mother who was lying in her hospital bed at RMC, two days before she died, discussing with Dr. Oppenheim how to give the department a facelift.

Mrs. Nava Barak, a close personal friend of Mrs. Rabin, recalled her as a particularly strong individual, one who was never afraid to go against the stream when it came to her principles.



Deputy Minister of Defense and daughter of the late Leah and Yitzhak Rabin, Ms. Dalia Rabin-Pelosoff, left, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC, and Ms. Nava Barak, President of IFRMC, beside the tree planted and dedicated in memory of the late Leah Rabin.

HOUSTON COMMUNITY WELCOMES RMC



Dr. Dan Oppenheim, center, was the guest of honor at a reception at the home of the Consul General of Israel for the Southwest, Zion Evrony, to whom he presented a gift to commemorate the occasion.



Greeting Dr. Oppenheim at the Houston reception were: Stephen Breslauer, Chair of the American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and Miriam Rosenbloom, Cultural Affairs Officer at the Consulate.



Among the guests at the Houston reception were, left to right, Naomi Warren, Shirley Morgan and Minette Shepps.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan at RMC



Dr. Jacob Yahav, Deputy Director General, RMC, welcoming Mr. Oybek Usmanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan while Dr. Dan Gaton, Director of Customer Service at RMC looks on. The visit was initiated to explore the possibility of joint ventures between the two countries. This was preceded by the successful catheterization and open heart surgery of Mr. Arvil Abdukadirov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan.

U.S. Ambassador's Wife Visits WCHC at RMC



Mrs. Sheila Kurtzer, wife of U.S. Ambassador in Israel, and Mrs. Nava Barak bestowed many cuddles on the newly born twins at the Neonatal Department of WCHC. Here they are joined by Ms. Michal Leowenstien, Head Nurse of the Neonatal Department, Ms. Bracha Gal, Director of Nursing at the Women's Comprehensive Health Center and Prof. Dov Feldberg acting Chairman of the WCHC.

RMC Tidbits

by Esti Sherbelis

A rare operation, removing two kidneys simultaneously, was performed by Dr. David Lifshitz, head of the Endoscopic Urology Unit at Golda-HaSharon Campus, in conjunction with Dr. Eldad Powsner of the Department of Surgery B. The patient, a 50 year old man, suffered from high blood pressure as a result of kidney malfunction. The removal of his kidneys was done in a laparoscopic operation to ensure rapid recovery important to dialysis patients such as this one. The patient is kept alive on dialysis until a kidney transplant becomes available.

The Physiotherapy Clinic, Beilinson Campus, has begun a new treatment to deal with lymphedema. The treatment includes draining the lymph, treating the skin, preventing infections, and special exercises. This is vital to those who have had their lymph nodes removed due to a malignant growth, following radiation, those born with a defect in their lymph system, sufferers of infections, after plastic surgery and other diseases. If the edema is not treated it becomes chronic and causes limitation of movement, restriction in daily activities, distortion in the shape of the injured organ, recurring infections and slow recovery of wounds.

As part of their contribution to society, pupils of Amal A High School, in Petah Tikva, painted 300 sq. ft. of wall in the underground passageways of Beilinson Campus, brightening the spirits of all those who pass.

RMC, together with the Student Union of Tel Aviv University and Clalit Health Services, initiated an AIDS awareness campaign at the university. Fliers were distributed, and blood samples, taken from over 600 students were sent for diagnosis to RMC free of charge.

ER arrives at RMC. On the 8th floor of the main tower at Beilinson a new television program similar to America's ER is being filmed. The actor playing the CEO of the hospital has thoroughly enjoyed stepping into his new shoes. However, some of the other actors found their training, with RMC's medical staff, to be a harrowing experience.

One third of infertility problems stem from insufficient sperm count. Until recently, for diagnosis it has been necessary to randomly prick the testicle until the correct spot, where sperm is formed, is found. This method may cause damage to the blood flow to the testicle. Physicians at RMC have devised a new technique using ultrasound. The advantages are great. The technique is precise and focused, the number of pricks is minimal in comparison to the previous method, and areas of blood vessels can be pinpointed so there are fewer complications such as infections and bleeding.

Donors and supporters of the Friends of RMC, in Tel Aviv, thanks to the generous donation of Yoram and Leah Globus, of the Globus Group, partners of Warner Brothers, viewed the premiere of the movie "Ocean's 11". The staff of the departments scheduled to move to the Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center were also invited to attend the event, with their spouses, as guests. All tickets were kindly purchased by Yoram Petrushka, Chairman of the Friends of Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center.

A PRODUCTIVE RUN FOR CANCER RESEARCH

For the fourth consecutive year, friends and Trobman family members participated in the Naples, Florida 1/2 Marathon, raising more than \$5,000 in support of the Charles E. Trobman Data Management Center at Rabin Medical Center. Special "Go Team" Trobman hats were worn by all the participants, which included, left to right, Phyllis and Malcolm Trobman, Herb and Carolyn Eisenberg, Lois Klevan, Carl Mann, and Mayer and Desiree Trobman. Prior to the run, Cantor Lois Klevan, a Trobman family member, read the following prayer which she composed;



Dear God,

As we begin this weekend of Chuck's race, be with us as we walk to keep his memory alive and as we walk to raise needed funds for his cancer data center. Help us find the stamina to complete the race in good health and strength and to open the hearts of others materially to contribute to the cause. Remind us to be aware of the special blessing of wonderful family and dear friends and to have our eyes open to the beauty of the natural environment here in Naples, Florida as we approach the holiday of Tu B' Shvat. May the race not be in vain; its purpose fulfilled. Light a path for us this weekend.

AMEN.

Effect of a garlic derivative on immune responses

by Esti Sherbelis

The therapeutic value of garlic against parasites, worms and fungal infections is well known. However, little is known about the interrelationship between garlic and the immune system.

Research conducted by Dr. Herzl Salman, Head of the Medicine C Department at Golda-HaSharon Campus, revealed that garlic stimulates the immune system against infection.

Dr. Salman and his colleagues examined the in vitro effect of the garlic derivative (alliin) on white blood cells (of healthy people), which are responsible for the body's immune system.

"We examined two hypotheses," reported Dr. Salman, "one was whether garlic stimulates the body's immune system and the other examined how the immune system defends itself against viruses in the presence of garlic extracts."

The present results of the study indicate that alliin possesses, at least in vitro, a stimulatory effect on certain blood cell functions and that garlic extracts help prevent disease. Based on these conclusions Dr. Salman stresses the importance of taking garlic to prevent infection and strengthen the immune system.

AFRMC Shifts into High Gear continued from page 4

hospital, Montefiore Medical Center in New York. The purpose of this meeting was for the new committee to gather information from the public relations department of a well-established institution. A discussion about the internal structure of their p.r. staff and the variety of ways in which they garner media attention was discussed. The director was most helpful and has promised to offer assistance as our committee outlines its new marketing and public relations plan for AFRMC.

Recently, the nominating committee, under its Chair, David Onn, met to prepare a slate of nominations of officers and board members for the forthcoming year. The fund raising

committee under its Chair, Yaron Cohen, has held a number of meetings approving plans for various activities including the Annual N.Y. Dinner, events in Florida, Northern California and the greater Philadelphia area, as well as a direct-mail marketing program. The Finance Committee, under its Chair, Shimon Topor, has been supervising the 2001 audit, has prepared the 2002 budget, and has reviewed all income and expenditures of the organization while recommending distributions of restricted and unrestricted income to RMC. And, the Executive Committee, under its Chair, Woody Goldberg, has completed revisions of the Bylaws of AFRMC and has attended to the other various matters required to properly oversee all the

activities of the organization.

At a time of great struggle and concern over the welfare of Israel, it is heartening to see the way in which people, those who have been associated with AFRMC and a bright new contingent of younger members, have been galvanized into action. All are clearly inspired by the fundamental importance of RMC to the health and welfare of Israel, and for its potential contributions to people in this country and throughout the world. Under the indefatigable Executive Director, Burt Lazarow, the new Board Chair, Barry Cohen along with many new Committee members, AFRMC is moving diligently forward on behalf of Rabin Medical Center.

Revolutionary Diet Clinic at RMC continued from page 3

end of this period.

“ This diet starves the body and causes a change in metabolism and balance of salts, therefore medical supervision is essential. Without the doctor's care there could be serious consequences such as dehydration, weakness, diabetes, heart and lung failure and even death,” warns Dr. Barak.

Although these diets do not require hospitalization they will fail without close medical supervision, hence the need for the diet clinic.

At The Forefront: RMC Responds to the threat of War and Terrorist Attacks continued from Front Cover

For over a year life in Israel has been anything but normal. The year 2001 saw a 337% increase in terrorist acts, over 1,750 attempted attacks resulting in 208 deaths and 1,523 wounded victims. The constant worry over terrorist attacks and threats of war have necessitated anticipating the worst. RMC is continually preparing itself against conventional, unconventional and all-out warfare.

Conventional attacks refer largely to the numerous terrorist acts. Dr. Yahav, or one of his counterparts, is immediately notified in such an event and must oversee the smooth running of emergency measures. This may involve extra doctors, nurses, psychiatrists and social workers, adding hospital beds, setting up a hotline, which is manned by social workers to keep family members informed of progress, and an information center in contact with other hospitals and municipalities.

In the event of unconventional warfare, such as biological or chemical, many extra steps are needed, including: special medications; protection gear; showers at the entrance of the hospital to avoid spread of contamination; special net stretchers so that victims can be hosed down; and, additional respiration machines. All these steps were already put into practice during the Gulf War when the hospital was on alert for six weeks ready to receive victims of chemical warfare.

During full scale war, in addition to the procedures mentioned above, RMC's Beilinson Campus alters its capacity from 850 beds to 1,250; doctors and nurses work twelve hour shifts, instead of the usual eight; and, a reserve platoon of 250 soldiers, along with 750 high school students, are called in to help.

The smooth functioning of the hospital during these stressful periods would not be possible without the arduous groundwork undertaken by the staff and management team, which require: regular training sessions given to staff; mandatory frequent drills; equipment checks; and updating of lists of emergency staff registered into the computer system daily.

Although RMC does its utmost to effectively meet the demands during emergencies, vital supplies and facilities are still lacking. Being a national trauma center, a safe and efficient base of operations must be erected on Beilinson Campus that will oversee and administer all preparations for emergency situations in each and every matter. The nucleus of this “operations center” will be a complete, sophisticated communications system with the digital cameras required for identification purposes. To construct such a base of operations, which will achieve maximum efficiency and ultimate security to institute all necessary health measures in times of emergency, requires that \$650,000 be raised.

To assist in making this project a reality, please contact Burton Lazarow at AFRMC- 212-279-2522.

SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual New York Dinner

Sunday October 27, 2002

Waldorf Astoria Hotel

Receptions Held for Women's Comprehensive Health Center Director

Receptions were held in Pompano Beach, Florida, and New York City for the Acting Director of the Women's Comprehensive Health Center at RMC, Professor Dov Feldberg. Joining him at the NY reception was Bracha Gal, Head Nurse of the Women's Center.

Prof. Feldberg charmed the attendees at both receptions with a dynamic and very personable presentation on the long-range plans of the hospital and on the revolutionary achievements of the Women's Center. Of particular interest was the work on in vitro fertilization and related infertility treatments for both women and men. Among the

exciting treatments is the ability to retrieve, by a simple operation, part of an ovary from a young girl or woman who would otherwise become infertile due to chemotherapy treatment of cancer. The tissue sample is frozen; and, in the future, as a result of research currently underway at RMC, when the girl (woman) is ready to have a child, either her own tissue can be thawed out and replanted, or her eggs can be matured under laboratory conditions and fertilized using routine IVF procedures common today.

The audiences were mesmerized when they heard about the cutting edge work being accomplished at

the Women's Center. In addition to the powerpoint presentation given by Professor Feldberg, Ms. Gal introduced a short video showing one of the many new alternative-birthing treatments the hospital is continually offering to those who are open to it. The video showed a pre-delivery patient receiving “Raiki”, which transferred energy from the nurse to the mother-to-be, giving the pregnant woman additional strength as well as relaxing her to help her with the delivery.

The hosts for the event in Florida were Senator Howard Metzenbaum and his wife Shirley, and, for the reception in NY, Dr. Bilha Fish.



Professor Feldberg was hosted in the New York apartment of Dr. Bilha Fish, left. Bracha Gal, second from left, Head Nurse at the Women's Center spoke about various OB/GYN activities at the Center. Among the 45 participants were, fourth and fifth from left, Amira Rotem and Naomi Houminer.



Nava Barak, second from left, Chair of RMC's Women's Health Center and President of Israel Friends of RMC, greeted the new young leaders of AFRMC at the reception for Professor Feldberg. Left to right are: Ariel Fish, Mrs. Barak, Raquel Rosenfeld, Yvette Pomerantz and Steven Hirth.



Prof. Dov Feldberg, center, acting director of RMC's Women's Health Center was hosted by Senator (Ret.) Howard Metzenbaum, Chair of the Honorary Board of Directors of AFRMC, right, at a reception in his honor at the Palm-Aire Country Club in Pompano Beach Florida. Burton Lazarow, Executive Director of AFRMC also addressed the gathering.



Enjoying the New York reception were, left to right: Seymour Rosenthal, Burton Lazarow, Joan Easton, Yvette Pomerantz and David Onn.



In a very personal interaction with the audience at the reception in Florida, Professor Dov Feldberg, right, responds to questions from Manny and Marsha Packman, members of the South Florida Committee of AFRMC, while another attendee listened attentively.

Revolutionary Diet Clinic at RMC by Esti Sherbelis

A unique diet clinic, the first of its kind in Israel, has opened at Beilinson Campus at RMC. Dr. Nir Barak, of the Departments of Medicine D, who specialized in this field at the University of Chicago, heads the clinic.

According to Dr. Barak the clinic is intended only for those with severe weight problems who cannot be operated upon. In view of the extreme nature and possible side effects of the two kinds of diets involved, strict medical supervision is mandatory.

The concept of the clinic is to regard dieting as a medical tool in order to help the patient overcome the various diseases attributed to obesity, such as heart failure and high blood pressure.

The Ketogenic Diet is one whereby the amount of carbohydrates is limited. This produces a state of ketosis in the body, helping suppress one's appetite and enhancing the burning of calories.

Besides counting carbohydrates there is a limit on fruit, vegetables and baked goods. However, eggs, meat and rich cheeses are not restricted.

The high level intake of potassium, sodium, magnesium and liquids needs to be under strict supervision of a doctor. Should the patient stray from the permitted food list, it would cancel the state of ketosis, water would be retained, causing edema, and it would be necessary to start the diet all over again.

The Very Low Calorie Diet consists of eating less than 800 calories a day (3-4 times less than the norm). The desired reduction rate is 6-8 kg. a month and the diet is limited to 12 weeks. During the final stages the patient is taught the correct eating habits to adapt at the

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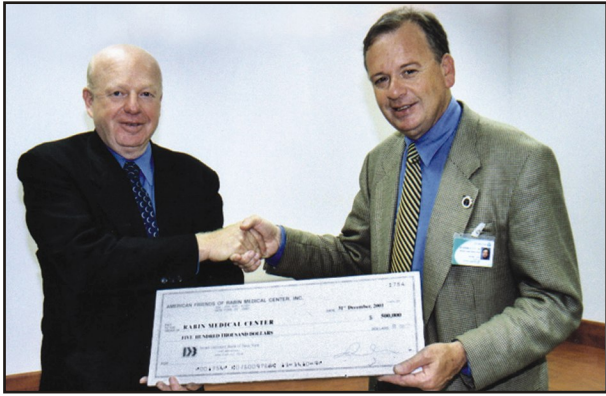


INSPIRATION

For the past three months it has been inspirational, and my very great pleasure, to have worked with a group of more than thirty of the most intelligent, persons able, creative and dedicated volunteers I have ever had the privilege to assist. And almost all of them are under the age of 40. They came together to perform a mitzvah on behalf of the Rabin Medical Center; and, for nearly all of them, it was their first serious step into adult philanthropic participation.

More important than the quality of their collective and individual achievements, which was high indeed, was the level of their spirit and enthusiasm and their commitment to making sure that they produced what was required so that the goals of AFRMC would be met. While it was not intended as such, putting these young people in charge was, in some way, an experiment addressing the question as to whether

AFRMC Presents Check to RMC



Shimon Topor, left, Treasurer of AFRMC, is shown presenting a check to Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC, for \$500,000 representing unrestricted donations received by AFRMC during the last quarter of 2001.

AFRMC Shifts into High Gear

by Yvette Pomerantz, Chair, Public Relations Committee

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center (AFRMC) is showing rapid progress on all fronts. Following a very productive year, during the past few months, many of its primary organizational objectives have begun to be realized. In a burst of energy and activity, all the administrative and program committees have been formed with enthusiastic volunteers, a younger generation has come on board conveying great promise of long-term support for the organization, and an aggressive marketing and public relations plan is well under development which will shortly be presented to the Executive Meeting and then to the AFRMC Board for approval.

This detailed marketing and public relations plan is crucial to the overall success of AFRMC. It will provide a framework upon which to gain support for many of the primary goals of the organization. Recent inroads include the appointment of top-level media people, in addition to a dynamic contingent of public relations professionals from the younger generation, to the public relations committee. The public relations plan will include recommendations for structuring communications between AFRMC and RMC in Israel, the development of an advisory board, an outline of a variety of programs to take place throughout the U.S., and overall goals for AFRMC to implement an effective relationship between RMC and the American media. Already, a large number of key U.S. media outlets are aware of and have expressed interest in RMC as a result of media efforts to date in conjunction with recent RMC events including the New York Gala Dinner scheduled for this October, the N.Y. Dinner of last November, and, most recently, the Celebrity Mask Auction in March. This latest event was most successful in that it was organized by an energetic, highly dedicated group of young people who represent the next generation of AFRMC (see articles on page 1 and 4).

the current "next generation" would rise to the challenge of performing community and institutional mitzvot as their parents have done before them.

It has been the concern of many that the perceived hedonistic behavior of the next generation would turn them from undertaking the responsibility of working on behalf of maintaining those not-for-profit organizations that the "older" generation had inherited or founded.

If what I have witnessed is any indication of what lies ahead, we need not worry about the future of those endeavors we hold dear and for which we toil and contribute so generously. Those who will be in need of help will be well served. Our institutions of service will be maintained and will grow. Let us welcome these young people to our ranks of leadership and volunteering. They will help us, learn from us, teach us, and lead us confidently into the future.



Escorting Sheila Kurtzer, left, wife of U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer, are: Nava Barak, President of Israel Friends of RMC; and, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC.



Itzhak Perlman was the special guest artist at a concert in Israel where ticket sales benefited the Israel Friends of Rabin Medical Center. Left to right are: Dr. Dan Oppenheim; Maestro Itzhak Perlman; former Israel Prime Minister, Ehud Barak and Mrs. Nava Barak, President of IFRMC.

On January 18th, a meeting with Professor Uri Lieberman provided the public relations committee with insight into the activities of RMC's research facilities. In addition to an explanation of clinical research and lab work currently underway within the research center at RMC, the discussion focused on taking advantage of the frequent visits by scientists and doctors at RMC to the U.S. by arranging small gatherings for friends of RMC as well as the media. Primary benefits would include maintaining an ongoing flow of information about the many topics now being explored in the research facilities of RMC, offering a unique benefit to friends and supporters of RMC in this country to meet these dedicated researchers.

Just such a gathering occurred on January 30th when Professor Dov Feldberg, Acting Director of the Women's Comprehensive Health Center at RMC, and its Head Nurse, Bracha Gal, made a very impressive presentation to a group of friends here in New York and in Pompano Beach, Florida. (See story on page 3). Among the 50 people present in N.Y. was Mrs. Nava Barak, who was visiting her daughter and son-in-law to celebrate the birth of her first grandchild. Also present was a top-level American network television producer. The discussion focused on the current inroads into basic research including: diabetes in pregnancy research; high-risk pregnancies; in vitro fertilization techniques, as well as the role of mid-wife assisted deliveries (about 98% in Israel). Another point of interest was the focus on education in prenatal care, particularly for the Arab and Orthodox population. The presentation made clear the fact that RMC is on the cutting edge of new techniques in women's health care and in basic research.

In early March, members of the public relations committee met with Ms. Barbara Janes, Director, Office of Public Relations at RMC's "sister"

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The Next Generation of AFRMC Reveal Their "FACE" for the Celebrity Mask/Silent Art Auction

Continued from Front Cover

Burt Lazarow, Executive Director of AFRMC, for being "a provider who takes great care in planning events."

Steven Hirth then went on to explain about the volunteers' role that evening and how to purchase the artwork and encouraged guests to buy more raffle tickets, laughter erupted from the jovial comment, but everyone was anxious to know what great prize they might win. Mr. Hirth thanked the Gale Group, owners of the gallery, and Renaissance Caterers. He thanked the Vice-Chairs of the event Craig Bassett, Talya Nevo-Hacohen, and Raquel Rosenfeld, the committee members from the various sub-committees and the volunteers. With the anticipation akin to that of nominees waiting to hear their names being called out as the envelope is opened at the high glamour Hollywood award shows, here too the guests waited with equal excitement to see who had the winning bids to take home the art and celebrity masks they admired as well as the coveted raffle prizes.

Among the winning art bidders were: Rita and Joshua Angel; Peter Phelan; Daniel Cohen; David Fischer; Richard Galuskin; Mark Kapnick; and Diane Sokolowski. Raffle winners were: Dr. Inna Bakker, Grand Prize round trip tickets to Israel on El-Al; David Fischer, Edna Hibel Lithograph; Margaret Myhan, Weekend at Helmsley; Signature Bank, Dinner at Tocqueville Restaurant; Pam Socolow Dinner at Ilo Restaurant; Dr. Harvey Manes, Bliss Spa, complete massage treatment.

Dr. Inna Bakker was so enthusiastic about the event and when reached for comment about her win of the tickets to Israel she said, "I feel that my luck has turned around because I never won anything before," and then almost as a foreshadowing of her good fortune that evening added, "right before I left the house to come to the event I spoke to my son, Ilya, about how important it is to visit Israel right now so friends and family know we are with them and together." As a dentist, health and medicine are

very important to Dr. Bakker and she plans on visiting RMC on her trip.

It was apparent as the evening progressed that this was in fact the New Generation's turn to shine and all acknowledged this. Burt Lazarow echoed those feelings as he referred to his column entitled "Inspiration" to appear in the next issue of Vital Signs (see page 4). In it, he says he feels that we can look confidently into the future as he has found that the new generation has embraced "the challenges of performing community and institutional mitzvot." He invited others to now get involved in the planning of future events that this group would now spearhead. "The enthusiasm and spirit of the young people who were committee members, volunteers, and guests was very infectious," Mr. Lazarow said and then added, "it is very important for organizations such as ours to involve the young adults in a manner that gives them a feeling of satisfaction of having done a good deed while enjoying themselves in a social setting. Notwithstanding the goal of raising funds for RMC, raising a new generation of those who will care is equally important."

Perhaps, Steven Hirth, who later relayed a story told to him by a friend growing up in Israel, summed the evening up best. This friend had heard German-speaking Jews passing bricks and stones to one another as they built the streets and structures of Israel. These men were not masons, but were in fact professionals, businessmen, and academics that had fled Europe and were building new lives for themselves and others in Israel brick by brick and stone by stone. "The Next Generation of the AFRMC are just like those brick and stone layers. We are not masons, but like them we come from different areas with varying skill sets. We united to finish a pre-started project. We succeeded by mean of our collective efforts and because of all who attended. We have the bricks, stones, and mortar to build the Next Generation," Steven Hirth said.

CELEBRITY MASK AND ART

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

TROPICAL ROSE
By Apple Kime

WORLD TRADE CENTER
By Thoa Greene

MASK
By Diane Von Furstenberg

March 21, 2002
SILENT AUCTION

During his speech Mr. Cohen talked about the importance of RMC and called the work of the hospital "inspiring." He mentioned how the Center treats Arabs/Palestinians with the equal care that an Israeli would receive. He then went on to say, "It is the dream that Rabin Medical Center will evolve to be much more than just a hospital, but become a Mediterranean Center that far exceeds expectations, and will clearly demonstrate that it is essential it survives and prospers." He thanked

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

VOLUNTEER
CELEBRITY MASK AND ART SILENT AUCTION

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center
CELEBRITY MASK AND ART SILENT AUCTION

Thursday, March 21, 2002
Gallery-in-the-Sky, Chelsea
Penthouse - 44 West 28th Street - New York City

GRAND PRIZE:
2 TICKETS TO ISRAEL ON EL AL AIRLINES
\$25 PER TICKET 5 TICKETS FOR \$100
Ticket holders need not be present to win.

raffle ticket

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

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