

VITALSIGNS

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

FALL 2006



MOBILIZING FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

IRAN'S MANIFESTO FOR MURDER

HELPING THE ELDERLY STAND TALL

PAINLESS ROBOTIC SURGERY



RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

ISRAEL'S PREMIER MEDICAL COMPLEX

VITALSIGNS

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

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American Friends of Rabin Medical Center educates Americans about the Rabin Medical Center, located in Petah Tikvah, Israel and raises funds on behalf of Rabin Medical Center.

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WE ARE ALL ISRAELIS TODAY



Abraham "Barry" E. Cohen

Dear Friends,

Our friends and family in Israel have once again been called upon to protect their sovereign nation. They are fighting to keep others safe from harm, on the battlefield, at home, in offices, hospitals and bomb shelters. As always, we are with them in spirit, doing what we can in person.

Our upcoming annual dinner in New York will be held at Cipriani's on Sunday, November 5th. The goal for this year's dinner is to raise funds for the new heart center. We are delighted to have as our keynote speaker Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, honoree Dina Recanati, and our very great ally, the world renowned Larry King as Master of Ceremonies. We are also very much looking forward to a performance by Larry's lovely wife, Shawn King, a country music star in her own right.

We hope you will be able to take part in the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center gala dinner as it is, without doubt, our top fundraising event on behalf of Rabin Medical Center here in New York City. However, please also keep in mind that this is a time of increased strain on the people and resources of Israel. So, I am calling upon the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center to do what you can to help. Further on in this newsletter, you will find specific equipments needs that the hospital has shared with us to support current emergency care and potential mass casualties. Please take a moment to look over the list and, if possible, make a contribution.

We offer our collective prayers and good wishes to keep your friends and family safe from harm, and thank all for their great courage, both at home and at the front.

Warmest regards,

Abraham "Barry" E. Cohen

Chairman

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

EMERGENCY HELP



Joshua Eli Plaut

Dear Friends,

You never appreciate a hospital more than when there is a crisis. And Israel once again found itself embroiled in a conflict not of her making. No one expected the daily barrage of thousands of rockets and missiles to rain down on civilian targets in the North, affecting the entire country.

Many soldiers and civilians have been killed and injured and people displaced from their homes. Many more casualties would have occurred had people not used the sealed rooms and shelters.

Rabin Medical Center was and is ready to help Israel, her citizens and soldiers with emergency care and superb trauma and medical treatment.

Understandably, Rabin Medical Center's staff is always available to help the wounded in times of crisis and rehabilitation. We are pleased to be able to present vital information on how Rabin Medical Center responded to Israel's crisis and how you can help.

It is our privilege to be associated with a hospital that is vigilant in its care of Israeli citizens and to be able to reach out to so many friends who care deeply about the fate of our homeland.

Thank you for supporting one of Israel's premier medical institutions.

Joshua Eli Plaut, Ph.D.

Executive Director

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

Dr. Dan Oppenheim

Chief Executive Officer

Rabin Medical Center

COME TO THE 7TH ANNUAL NYC GALA DINNER ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

The American Friends of Rabin Medical Center (AFRMC) announces its seventh annual formal gala dinner to be held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City on Sunday, November 5, 2006. **Larry King** will serve as our Master of Ceremonies. We are honoring Dina Recanati a great friend of the Rabin Medical Center. **US Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton** will be our keynote speaker. **Marvin Hamlisch** will provide musical entertainment. The Jazz

Museum in Harlem All-Stars Band will perform. An award of excellence will be presented to Broadway legend **Joseph Stein**. **Larry and Millie Magid** of Long Island and **Arnold Burns** of NYC will co-chair the Gala Dinner and are joined by a committee of notable supporters. The evening includes an auction to purchase emergency relief equipment for the hospital. Reserve early by contacting **Beth Daniel** at (212) 279-2522. **AFRMC looks forward to welcoming you.**

ON HIGH ALERT



After so many suicide bombings and on again off again Intifadas, a semi-normal quiet had settled on Israel, and the summer of 2006 showed hope for being a great tourist season and a joyous summer holiday for Israeli children.

But Hamas and the Hezbollah had other plans--as terrorists so cruelly often plot--and Israel found herself in the midst of an unwanted war with three Israeli soldiers kidnapped behind enemy

RABIN MEDICAL CENTER STAFF INITIATE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND FOR CITIZENS IN THE NORTH

Doctors, management and personnel at Rabin Medical Center pooled their efforts to assist the citizens in the North during the August war. The project involved creating a special assistance program funded by the vacation days donated by Rabin Medical Center staff members. These days were in turn converted into monetary value and distributed to residents in the North of Israel.

In addition, 20 apartments, normally reserved for nursing students, were made available for evacuees from the North seeking refuge in the relatively quieter Center of Israel. The invitation includes full room and board.

"During these days, in which Israel finds herself fighting a war, our hearts are with the citizens of the North, who against their will find themselves on the front lines of the battle. We, in the center of Israel, are charged with the desire to contribute on their behalf in order to alleviate some of the burden throughout these incredibly difficult times," states Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of Rabin Medical Center and a former resident of the North of Israel. Oppenheim concludes by saying: "I am touched by the heart-warming measures our hospital staff has undertaken to demonstrate solidarity with the people in the North of Israel."

lines, Israeli civilians killed by Katyusha rockets in their very own homes, and soldiers killed as they fought for Israel's security and right to exist. Once again Israeli lives were turned upside down.

Rabin Medical Center, located only 60 minutes from Haifa, a city so hard hit by rockets, was ready to assist in any emergency. Rabin Medical Center swung into high alert after Katyusha rockets landed in Northern Israel.

As one of the leading medical facilities in Israel, Rabin Medical Center has prided itself on being prepared for any and every medical emergency. The hospital and its staff worked hard over the years to plan for a smooth functioning of the hospital during stressful periods and wartime, thanks to an excellent staff, management team, stockpiling of vital equipment, and continued drills and simulations.

The Trauma Unit at Rabin Medical Center, headed by Dr. Mickey Stein, is one of six Level One units in Israel capable of treating large numbers of multi-injured patients simultaneously, both adults and children. In addition, the Trauma Unit serves as a referral unit for patients transferred from surrounding regional Level Two trauma centers, and in the present situation, must be ready to receive wounded from all areas being affected by the war. Rabin Medical Center has an adjacent heliport, which enables the wounded citizens and soldiers to be transported swiftly from throughout the country. The staff stand ready at all times with a trauma specialist on call twenty-four hours a day along with staff from the Department of Surgery who can reach the Trauma Unit within minutes. In the past, they have been awarded a medical prize in recognition of their faithful and relentless devotion in the treatment of terrorist attack victims.

When the call of an impending patient reaches the hospital, the physician in charge is immediately notified and begins to oversee the smooth running of emergency measures. This may involve calling extra doctors, nurses, psychiatrists and social workers to the scene, acquiring more hospital beds, setting up a hotline to keep family members informed of progress, and establishing an information center to remain in contact with other hospitals and municipalities.

In the event of unconventional warfare, such as biological or chemical, many extra steps are required, including ordering special medication and protective gear, placement of showers at the entrance of the hospital to avoid spread of contamination, obtaining special net stretchers so that victims can be hosed down, and preparation of additional respiratory machines to help victims breathe. These measures were already put into practice during the Gulf War, when the hospital was on alert for six weeks and ready to receive victims of chemical warfare.

During full scale war, as well as all the procedures mentioned above, Rabin Medical Center's Beilinson Hospital alters its capacity from 900 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 activities of the Trauma Unit increased dramatically since the beginning of the Intifada over ten years ago, with large numbers of wounded terrorist victims being brought to

our unit, including many Israel Defense Forces soldiers injured in terrorist attacks while on duty and citizens who wanted nothing more than to enjoy a night out on the town and were caught instead by a suicide bombing. Even now, two soldiers recently wounded in duty are being treated at the hospital when they stepped on a bomb near the Gaza strip. Rabin Medical Center is thankful to be able to save the lives of many soldiers and terrorist victims. When lives are lost in Rabin Medical Center's care, it feels like a personal loss.

Much more is needed to expand Rabin Medical Center's emergency capabilities. Although Rabin Medical Center does its utmost to meet the demands during emergencies, the emergency room at the hospital is small in size compared to all other hospitals in Israel. Rabin Medical Center is in desperate need of a new Emergency and Trauma Center to serve as a trauma center and as an efficient base of operations to oversee and administer all preparations for emergency relief. The total size of the Emergency Department today is 9150 square feet, which was adequate in the 1960's. The 150,000 emergency room visits to the hospital annually strains the hospital's capacity. With terrorism

from Hamas and Hezbollah now an ever-present reality, the hospital must not let its guard down.

Here is where the help of the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center is desperately needed. A project to expand the emergency efforts, the establishment of a new Emergency and Trauma Center is budgeted at 12 million dollars. The American Friends contributions to Rabin Medical Center can help pave the way to realizing the dream—no, the necessity, of having the best emergency center in Israel. This help can save the lives of Israel's soldiers and citizens and spare families further agony.

The dust will settle on this war, but Israel will have paid a heavy price. In the aftermath, Israel will suffer scars from losses sustained that for many will never heal. Deep financial hardships will be felt throughout the country. For Rabin Medical Center, cutbacks will surely occur that will challenge the excellent care that is provided. The assistance of friends is needed to help Rabin Medical Center continue its role in offering the best medical treatments possible.

Rabin Medical Center is counting on its American Friends to stand by and help at this urgent time of need.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP ISRAEL ALWAYS BE PREPARED

Before the world knew of the terrible toll terrorism inflicts on societies, the government of Israel, along with Rabin Medical Center's emergency services, developed strategies to respond to disaster. These include:

- Assimilating of knowledge in coordination with medical personnel and civic government
- Assuring staff protection while saving lives of contaminated casualties
- Stockpiling vital equipment for emergency use
- Maintaining emergency capabilities over time

Rabin Medical Center is a leader in developing the capacity to safely assess, decontaminate, and treat victims of terrorist attacks or victims of natural or man-made disasters.

Due to Rabin Medical Center's reputation for emergency preparedness, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) jointly conducts large-scale drills on an ongoing basis evaluating IDF's readiness to evacuate and treat casualties in the event of chemical warfare. This program involves participation of medical, fire, and police departments, as well as the Ministry of Health and Magen David Adom. The hospital also has a plan to operate in the event of attack on its own facilities.

You can help in very concrete ways by considering the Emergency Medical Equipment list below.

Emergency Medicines	\$180
Emergency Medical Supplies	\$360
Volumetric Infusion Pump(s)	\$1,400
Automatic External Defibrillator(s)	\$2,000
Non-Invasive Blood Pressure Monitor	\$2,200
Special Orthopedic Bed(s)	\$5,000
Level One Hotline System	\$6,000
Respirators	\$10,000
Portable Monitors	\$13,000
Recovery Monitor	\$18,000
Blood Transfusion System (FMS2000)	\$28,000
IOL Master – Biometer	\$38,000
Blood Unit Centrifuge	\$39,000
Emergency Medicine & Trauma Center	\$12,600,000

Please contact Joshua Plaut or Beth Daniel at 212.279.2522 / afrmc@afrmc.org to discuss your support.

ISRAELI BREAKTHROUGHS IN MEDICINE

HELPING THE ELDERLY STAND TALL

As the population of the world continues to live longer, medical problems associated with aging create a particular challenge for medical institutions. A common problem is spinal fractures and other bone fractures. In the United States alone, there are approximately 50,000 cases of spinal fractures associated with trauma and 700,000 spinal fractures related to osteoporosis. These injuries cause pain, neurological deficit, and substantial morbidity due to impairment of physical activity and depression.

Elderly people who suffer from spine fractures, primarily related to osteoporosis, are rarely treated surgically, due to their lesser ability to endure surgical stress. Therefore, most worldwide spinal fractures (1,400,000) related to osteoporosis are treated conservatively and insufficiently. Rabin Medical Center has taken a giant step forward in producing an effective, minimally invasive surgical procedure.

Dr. Nissim Ohana, head of the Orthopedic Spine Unit at Rabin Medical Center, together with a team of experts, have developed a minimally invasive modular vertebral reconstruction implant that provides a physiologic, simple and low cost solution for treatment of vertebral fractures in trauma cases, as well as in osteoporosis related compression fractures.

Five such trial operations have already been successfully performed at Rabin Medical Center. One patient, a 70-year-old woman with a broken lumbar vertebra, had been unable to move from bed for over a month. Just one day after the implant surgery she was able to get out of bed and walk. She was amazed at the results. The other two operations were equally successful.

Dr. Ohana and his team hope that once these trials are approved by the Israeli Ministry of Health, they will be used more widely in Israel as well as internationally. It seems that another breakthrough is on its way at Rabin Medical Center.

NOT PARKINSON'S AT ALL

A common phenomenon among the elderly is sudden falls, the reoccurrence of which is often diagnosed by many physicians as the beginning of Parkinson's disease. Yet once they are treated with drugs for Parkinson's, they continue to fall because, as Director of The Clinic for Movement Disorders (part of the Department of Neurology at Rabin Medical Center) **Dr. Ruth Djaldetti** explained, patients are suffering from



Dr. Ruth Djaldetti

Posture and Imbalance Disorders and have simply been misdiagnosed.

Why the confusion? According to Dr. Djaldetti there is not enough awareness of this condition. So, when making a diagnosis, the first signs of this disease can point to Parkinson's, even though there are usually no other or only minor symptoms typically present in Parkinson's.

Posture and Imbalance Disorder are generally closely linked to infarction of small blood vessels in the brain and can be treated through rehabilitation. Yet, in either case, if the medication doesn't improve the patient's condition and there is still concern, an exact diagnosis can be made by taking a brain scan that can confirm the presence or absence of Parkinson's. Dr. Djaldetti points to the importance of diagnosing this condition at the earliest possible stage in order to receive the best possible treatment.

Results of Dr. Djaldetti's research were presented at the Conference of The Association of Neurology in Israel. Her observations will help many physicians clarify this problematic diagnosis.

WE CAN TRANSPLANT CELLS! BUT, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Assessing the success of a stem cell or bone marrow transplant depends on testing the recipient's blood to determine the ratio between blood cells from the donor and those remaining in circulation from the patient. The responsibility for this task of "chimerism" testing lies with Rabin Medical Center's Laboratory of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. A new computer program has been developed by **Prof. Don Kristt** to provide this service in a unique way.

The program not only automatically provides the chimerism results on the current sample, but also is capable of thirteen other automatic functions enabling rapid production of a final report. First, it represents the first computer tool that enables tracking of all sequential results on a patient within the practical time constraints of the laboratory. This approach, called longitudinal monitoring, affords the clinicians an opportunity for the first time to view the progressive changes in a patient's cumulative chimerism course for each new sample. This provides them with the earliest and most sensitive indication of changes in graft status. Such changes may necessitate additional treatment, or represent critical feedback on the effect of a previous treatment.

The second major capability of ChimerTrack is the ability to determine whether the numeric results are reliable and can be used as a basis for clinical decision-making. No other means for determining chimerism reliability currently exist anywhere in the world; unreliable results could lead to either under- or over-treatment in certain situations. Descriptions of the program have been published in many professional journals, including the prestigious journal *Leukemia*, and laboratories all over the world have requested copies of the program. Currently, Prof. Kristt is aiding laboratories at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Northwestern Medical Center, and Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Rep to establish a program of longitudinal chimerism testing based on ChimerTrack.

WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS



L-R: Itamar Solomon, Osher Damri and Chaim Yakar photographed just minutes before the incident.

A picture of three handsome, young soldiers smiling and embracing hangs framed in front of the bed in full view of **Sergeant Itamar Solomon** who just three weeks ago was admitted to Beilinson Hospital at the Rabin Medical Center.

Sergeant Itamar Solomon, 20 years old, was seriously injured while on a mission in Nablus (Shechem) with his unit called "Charov," which is part of the infantry division of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). He was first treated in the Trauma Unit at Rabin Medical Center and underwent a series of operations. He is currently recovering in the intensive care unit.

During the mission, in which Itamar was critically wounded, his best friend **Osher Damri** (z"l) (pictured center) stood by his side during the attack, but was killed.

Itamar has been an avid guitar player since a young age. After the incident, and the death of his best friend Osher, Itamar lost all will to play. In order to lift his spirits, his family decided to surprise him with a guest visitor, renowned Israeli guitar player **Sin-Goldah**. The surprise worked. Not only did the two guitarists jam together, but most importantly, it brought a huge smile to Itamar's face and he has since resumed playing.

Itamar's mother, **Michal Solomon**, expressed her amazement at the luxurious accommodations and the around the clock personal attention that the staff at Rabin Medical Center is providing to her son. "It is exceptional, commented his mother." She has been given a bed in an adjoining room so that she can be near her son. Mrs. Solomon attributes much of her son's recovery to the personal care of the doctors and nurses at Rabin Medical Center.

Rabin Medical Center's campus admits roughly 6,000 IDF soldiers a year. As a result of the ongoing attacks in the North of Israel, hospitals and government offices in the Northern region are overwhelmed. Rabin Medical Center, being one of the premier hospitals in Israel, more than doubled its number of Northern residents admitted as in-patients to the hospital in the last month and received wounded soldiers from Lebanon.

It is with this unified and determined goal that the staff of Rabin Medical Center vows to continue to offer the citizens of Israel and its brave soldiers the most up-to-date treatment and comfortable care during these difficult times.

HEALING THE PATIENT'S SOUL

The fight against cancer is an ongoing battle. We are at war with this disease and we must fight it with all the means we have available. Though time is not on our side and cancer is the number two killer in the Western World today, there is some hope on the horizon. There has been great improvement in diagnostic tools, and advanced treatment options have developed thanks to amazing research that has been done in this field. But from the patient's view, these improvements provide greater challenges in dealing with this disease, which make its treatment more and more complicated and strenuous.

In trying to come to terms with these treatments, many cancer patients are finding that integrating their conventional cancer care with alternative medicines help overcome many of these obstacles. That is why Rabin Medical Center is pleased to develop The Unit for Integrative Medicine at the Davidoff Center. Working simultaneously with the multi disciplinary team of specialists developing individualized patient treatment, the patient can now combine conventional medicine with alternative treatments, such as acupuncture, herbal remedies, and hypnosis.

Dr. Ofer Caspi, the head of this unit, is considered an expert and leader in the emerging field of integrative medicine. Dr. Caspi studied at Hadassah University in Jerusalem and Harvard University. Upon completion of his studies, he traveled to China where he studied traditional Chinese medicine.

Over the years, it has been shown that a patient's state of mind is crucial in helping him/her triumph over disease. The Davidoff Center was founded on the concept of providing comprehensive medicine, and every effort has been made to incorporate all aspects of care for patients so as to provide the very best treatments in a calm, serene atmosphere, ever mindful of patient's wishes.

Rabin Medical Center is proud of the Unit for Integrative Medicine that fulfills a vision of the founders of the Davidoff Center, a cancer center that, as Dr. Oppenheim says, "not long ago seemed like a distant dream."



A BRIDGE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE USA

In 1973 **Shellie Wislizki**, a native New Yorker, followed her heart and immigrated to Israel with her Israeli-born husband. A mother of three, she joined the staff of Rabin Medical Center two years ago as the North

American Liaison. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Relations from the University of Buffalo. In her position, she organizes and coordinates public relations between the hospital and the office of American Friends, prepares media materials, writes articles for Vital Signs, and posts updates on hospital activities and accomplishments.

TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF A FOUNDER BY DOLORES BEILENSON

The Beilenson family has a most interesting three-generation history with the Beilinson campus of the Rabin Medical Center. My husband, **Tony Beilenson**, is a double cousin of **Dr. Moshe Beilinson** for whom the Beilinson Hospital — now a part of the Rabin Medical Center — was named. Tony's parents were both Moshe Beilinson's first cousins and our family has always felt a close connection to his legacy.

Today, Tony and I both serve on AFRMC's Honorary Board of Directors.

This brings us to the third generation. On a visit to Israel this May, it was my pleasure to bring our son, **Dr. Peter Beilenson**, to meet Dr. Oppenheim and see the Rabin Medical Center. Peter is a public health physician and was the long-time Health Commissioner of the city of Baltimore, Maryland. He is the first

Beilinson in our line of the family since Moshe to become a doctor and is actually the same kind of physician as he — looking after the public health of his people. He also carries the leadership gene in our family and is running for the U.S. Congress this year from Baltimore.

During our tour of the Center, I saw the remarkable transformation of the hospital my husband and I first saw 20 years ago into the premier medical center it has now become under the inspired leadership of Dr. Oppenheim. Dr. Oppenheim briefed Peter on the workings of the Center and its place in Israel's healthcare system. A leading public

health official in the U.S., Peter saw how this institution provides the highest level of medical care in an environment both comforting and hopeful to patients, uses the most advanced medical equipment, conducts notable research, and provides the newest technology available — all housed in architecturally state of the art buildings. I was impressed to see that Rabin Medical Center houses the country's largest and most sophisticated women's health facility and information center — and remembered **Nava Barak's** heroic efforts to bring this project to fruition.

Since our return to the U.S., Peter and I have spoken often to others of our moving experience in seeing what Dr. Oppenheim and the Center's supporters have accomplished at Rabin Medical Center and of the exciting plans for an even greater future. I was so proud to have Peter see the fruits of our family's roots in Israel — it was a wonderful and heartwarming experience for us.



Dr. Moshe Beilinson



L-R: Dr. Dan Oppenheim, Dolores and Dr. Peter Beilenson

Moshe, who was born in Russia in 1890, was an early Zionist and a leader of the early pioneers in Israel. He was a physician, a journalist and a philosopher. He was a leader of the Israeli Labour Movement and the architect of its health services. When its first medical center for the Sick Fund was built, it was named for Moshe who died in 1936, just weeks after its dedication.

The next generation involved my husband's career. Tony served as a Congressman in the U.S. Congress for 20 years from the state of California. Prior to his service in Washington, D.C., he was a state senator serving at the State Capitol in Sacramento. One day a distinguished visitor arrived from Israel to confer with the governor of the state and some leading legislators. It was **Yitzhak Rabin**, then Israel's Ambassador to the United States. When he was introduced to the senators, he noted Tony's name and told him that it was a renowned and much admired name in Israel. When Tony told him of his family's relationship to Moshe, Rabin's face brightened and he said, "Then I have a story to tell you. When I was a boy, my mother, who was the political activist in our family, took me to hear Moshe Beilinson give one of his speeches. She told me to be very quiet and to listen carefully as this was a very wise and just man who spoke about life and the future we could have as a country. I listened carefully and later read his writings; he has always been an inspiration for me." How fitting that these two great men — one who helped inspire the other — will forever have their names joined together at this great medical center.

During Tony's tenure in Congress, we went to Israel often and visited the then Beilinson Hospital early on. I later became one of the founding members of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center and worked closely with Dr. Dan Oppenheim.

REMEMBERING SEYMOUR ROSENTHAL

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center mourns the passing of our dear friend, Seymour Rosenthal, a dedicated executive board member, and extends its deepest sympathies to his wife Lillian, and her family. Seymour was a *mentsch*, a gentleman, and a true friend of Israel and Rabin Medical Center. May the Rosenthal family be comforted together with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

A GIFT INAUGURATING THE DAVID BARUCH DAY CARE FLOOR

On the evening of May 7th, 2006, **David Baruch** from Fort Lee, New Jersey, accompanied by his three children **Assaf**, **Sharon** and **Karen**, officially inaugurated the David Baruch Day Care Floor at the Davidoff Cancer Center. The three wings on the floor are named in memory of David's beloved parents **Salima** and **Saleh Baruch** and his nephew **Doron Baruch**. Assaf, who spoke on behalf of the children, spoke proudly of this accomplishment: "This project is the realization of a dream for my father in memory of his parents and our grandparents, in a way that would save the lives of others. I only hope that one day we can do the same for him."

David Baruch generously donated toward establishing the Day Care Department that will provide thousands of patients every year with a "hotel" level of in-patient services equivalent to only several foremost cancer centers around the globe. Here the patients receive the most up-to-date treatments developed by multi-disciplinary teams of experts utilizing methods in practice today by leading cancer centers worldwide. The staff benefit from practicing in an environment that affords ultimate state of the art conditions and comfort, which is conducive toward maximum professional staff performance. Each day the Day Care Floor treats 120 cancer patients requiring chemotherapy treatment, with an emphasis on comfort, privacy and compassion.

Many distinguished guests attended the ceremony, including the Minister of Health, **Yacov Ben-Yizri**; American Ambassador to Israel, **Mr. Richard H. Jones**; **Mr. Zeev Vurembrand**, CEO of Clalit Health Services; and **Nava Barak**, President of Israeli Friends of Rabin Medical Center.

Mr. Zeev Verumbrand, CEO of Clalit Health Services, remarked: "The Davidoff Center sets a new standard of care for cancer patients in Israel on the level of medicine and on the level of service now being offered. The inauguration of the Baruch Day Care Floor is another stage in completing a medical center that will serve as a lighthouse to the Israeli public health system."

Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of Rabin Medical Center, who initiated this center and helped bring it from dream to reality, reflected: "thanks to the generous donation of Mr. David Baruch, the Day Care Floor will provide a warm inviting home to so many cancer patients struggling every day with this painful disease."

Thanks to the generosity of people like David Baruch the Rabin Medical Center can continue to offer out patients the best medical advances possible.



David Baruch (speaking) with his children Assaf, Sharon and Karen



L-R: David Baruch, Itzhak Ohayon—Mayor of Petah Tikva, Richard H. Jones—US Ambassador to Israel, Prof. Ofer Shpilberg—Director, Institute of Hematology, Dr. Dan Oppenheim—CEO, Rabin Medical Center, Prof. Jack Baniel—Director, Urologic Wing, Yakov Ben-Yizri—Minister of Health

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER DOWNTOWN

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center and the New Circle Committee members hosted a fun-filled evening for Israeli professionals in real estate and finance on March 23, 2006 at the prestigious new 20 Pine Street building, referred to as "The Collection." The building itself, where this event was held, was itself an example of the Israeli influence on American real estate because it was a project that converted a bank into residential condominiums and was designed by Armani Casa, developed by **Leviev-Boymelgreen**, and marketed by **Shvo Concepts**. Leading Israeli developers, including **Shaya Boymelgreen**, greeted the guests while **Ofer Yardeni** and **Moshe Azogui** mixed with the participants. Over 400 people attended the event, which will be the first of several programs established by the New Circle of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center. **Oren Heiman** and **Michael Shvo** made presentations on the success of Israeli real estate and finance in the United States in 2005 and speculated on the future for Israel in this industry. The atmosphere was congenial and informative, with the presence of an open bar, a light dinner, and Israeli music playing in the background. For further information on future events of the New Circle committee, please contact Meredith Conen at 212.279.2522 or afrmc@afrmc.org.



L-R: Oren Heiman, Shaya Boymelgreen, Michael Shvo



L-R: Michael Wahba, Ofer Yardeni

PAINLESS ROBOTIC SURGERY



A distinguished heart surgeon from Rabin Medical Center in Israel visited South Florida in April to discuss with the medical community new technologies in minimally invasive heart surgery using robotics, so that patients may resume activities within three days.

Dr. Eyal Porat, new chairman of the Department of Cardio-

thoracic Surgery at Rabin Medical Center, described to 75 doctors at the JFK Medical Center in Boca Raton, a new procedure in the repair of thoracic aortic aneurysms that eliminates the practice of opening the chest cavity and requires only three pencil thin holes to repair the heart.

Dr. Porat established the robotics program at the University of Texas Health Science Center and hopes to bring this technology to Rabin Medical Center, the first of its kind in all of Israel.

Dr. Porat noted that the development of robotic surgical systems opened new approaches in general and cardiac surgery. Robotic enhancement has emerged as a facilitator of minimally invasive surgery in various surgical fields, primarily in urology and cardiothoracic surgery. Dr. Porat also spoke to some 800 people at congregations in Boca Raton and Delray Beach, describing the advancements in medical technology in Israel.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'



L-R: Bill Bernstein, Shelby Goodman, Manford Mosk, Dr. Dan Oppenheim

On June 20, the Bel Air, California home of **Evelyn and Bill Bernstein** was filled with over 100 supporters when the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center held an informative event on Parkinson's disease. Guests watched a video highlighting Rabin Medical Center's stem cell and other research projects. **Dr. Jeff Bronstein** professor of neurology and director of movement disorders at the UCLA School of Medicine and **Mike Pursel** of Teva Neuroscience spoke about latest developments in Parkinson's research and treatment. **Dr. Dan Oppenheim**, CEO of the Rabin Medical Center, spoke about Israel's premier medical complex, while Dr. Joshua Plaut, national executive director of the American Friends thanked the group for helping to launch the organization's new presence in Southern California.

NEW YORKERS HEAR WAR REPORT



L-R: Judy Hershon, Dr. Bilha Fish



L-R: Yvonne and Barry Cohen, Dr. Dean Ad-El

In the middle of August during the Israel-Lebanon war, **Stephen and Yvette Cohen Pomerantz** hosted an event at their New York City home with **Dr. Dean Ad-El**, Director of Plastic Surgery at Rabin Medical Center. Dr. Ad-El spoke to the assembled about "Israel & Rabin Medical Center Facing War," and a new piece of equipment for burn treatment was donated.

STRAIGHT FROM THE PLANE

On June 5th, 2006, Rabin Medical Center was honored to host **Rabbi Richard Yellin** and a delegation from Temple Emeth in Delray Beach, Florida. When **Dr. Ziv Rosenbaum**, Deputy Director of Rabin Medical Center spoke before 500 members of the synagogue in December 2005, Rabbi Yellin was quite impressed and promised on his next trip to Israel to visit the hospital. Though on a tight schedule, he went to Rabin Medical Center directly from the plane.



L-R: Dr. Ziv Rosenbaum, Deputy Director RMC (Center) and part of the Delray Beach, Florida delegation at the Davidoff Cancer Center

Dr. Rosenbaum and Shellie Wislizki, North American Coordinator for Rabin Medical Center, greeted the Rabbi, his wife Ora, and members of his synagogue. Two prominent doctors, Dr. Eyal Porat, the new Director of The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and **Prof. Ran Kornowski**, head of Cardiac Catheterization Institute, met with the group.

The visitors toured the hospital campus and the Davidoff Cancer Center, inaugurated in 2004. They ended their visit in the hospital synagogue designed by the famous Israeli architect **Ram Carmi**. Truly uplifted by their visit, Rabbi Yellin and his congregants spoke of continued cooperation between Rabin Medical Center and Temple Emeth of Delray Beach, Florida.

A NEW HEART AT LONG LAST

The nightmare of **Pini Yuval**, 57 years old, started 17 years ago when he was just 39. That's when he had his first heart attack. His situation continued to deteriorate. He suffered three more severe heart attacks and was told, by his cardiologist at Rabin Medical Center, that the only way to save his life was a heart transplant. A year later he was placed on a priority list of donors, yet the designated heart never arrived.

His health continued to decline, until October 2005 when Mr. Yuval was admitted into the heart and lung transplant unit. His heart was not functioning. He suffered from shortness of breath and severe pain. His situation was so severe that the doctors could not release him and as a result Pini laid waiting in the hospital for a year and eight months awaiting the arrival of the donor. He was up for a transplant four times, but complications always seemed to arise that prevented the surgery from taking place.

The end result was worth it. The moment that Pini and his family were waiting for finally arrived: a new and healthy heart was successfully transplanted into Pini by **Dr. Benny Medallion**. After a year and eight months, Pini, who now was a member of

the family at Rabin Medical Center, said goodbye to the hospital staff and doctors and returned home with his family to Kibbutz Kfar Giladi, situated on the border between Israel and Lebanon. When Pini was asked just before he left the hospital, "what is your wish for the future?", he responded, "to sit on my balcony and breathe in the clean air of the Galilee."

Pini's dream to take in the clean air of the Galilee did not last very long. He was released from the hospital at the end of June 2006 and within days the hills of the Galilee began to shake with the sounds of war. Pini's house is adjacent to the Lebanese border. Missiles flew over Pini's house in all directions, from Lebanon to Israel and from Israel back to Lebanon. Pini, who was trying to recover from complicated surgery, hesitated to leave the comfort and sterility of his home for a safe haven in the center of the country due to his fragile state of health. When the director of Beilinson hospital, **Dr. Yaakov Yahav**, heard Pini Yuval's story he volunteered to host him and his family at his home in the center of Israel. Only after a missile directly hit Mr. Yuval's home did he finally agree to accept Dr. Yahav's invitation to be a guest in his home and is now currently a guest in his home.

IN THE NEWS

IRAN'S MANIFESTO FOR MURDER BY DANIEL JONAH GOLDHAGEN

The following are excerpts of a speech given given by Prof. Daniel Jonah Goldhagen on January 15, 2006 at a South Florida gathering of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center in Boca Raton at Congregation B'nai Torah.

His talk was accompanied by a presentation by Dr. Maurico Lynn who compared the Ryder Trauma Center at the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami with emergency preparedness and the Trauma Center at Rabin Medical Center. Goldhagen words helps put into perspective Israel's fight against both Hamas and Hezbollah. His words are frightening and need to be read by every Jew and Israeli in the world.

"Much has been said about the Hamas charter's call for the destruction of Israel and the need for Hamas to renounce this goal as the condition for being granted international legitimacy, economic aid and diplomatic recognition.

But an examination of the charter (available at <http://www.palestinecenter.org/cpap/documents/charter.html>) reveals that Hamas, also known as the Islamic Resistance Movement, is not just dedicated to the destruction of Israel. It shows Hamas to be governed by a Nazi-like genocidal orientation to Jews. "Israel, by virtue of its being Jewish and of having a Jewish population, defies Islam and the Muslims," Article 28 of the charter says. This otherwise stunning statement is not surprising, given that Hamas describes Jews and Israel as a cosmic evil. Almost mimicking Nazi textbooks, Hamas contends that Zionism does "not hesitate to take any road, or to pursue all despicable and repulsive means to fulfill its desires." And what are

those desires? "To demolish societies, to destroy values, to wreck answerableness, to totter virtues and to wipe out Islam. It stands behind the diffusion of drugs and toxics of all kinds in order to facilitate its control and expansion." (Article 28)

Faced with this demonic enemy, Hamas is determined to rouse the Islamic world to act in the only manner adequate to the danger. Negotiation, compromise, any permanent modus vivendi with Israel and Jews is not thinkable. Jihad and destruction is. Proclaiming every inch of Palestine, including all of Israel, to be Palestinian and Islamic, and in accord with its demonic view of Jews, the charter declares, "[Peace] initiatives, the so-called peaceful solutions, and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem, are all contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement."

As a lifelong student of Nazism and its radical murderousness, I have always been extremely reluctant to use the epithet "Nazi" for other reprehensible, anti-Semitic or genocidal movements. Whatever the other differences, the anti-Semitism and the murderous logic that form the principal content and rhetorical structure and substructure of this charter and this political party are unmistakably Nazi-like with regard to Jews.

The last 100 years have shown that those expressing murderous dreams, like Hitler, mean it!"

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, a member of Harvard's Center for European Studies, is the author of Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust. He is completing a book on genocide in our time.



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NEW YORK GALA DINNER

Sunday, November 5, 2006

6:00 pm, Cipriani, 42nd Street, NYC

Join together as we honor Dina Recanati,
a great friend of Israel's Rabin Medical Center

*American Friends of Rabin Medical Center looks forward
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Larry King
MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Hon. John Bolton
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Marvin Hamlisch
ENTERTAINER