



**American Friends of
Rabin Medical Center, Inc.**
220 Fifth Ave., Suite 1301
New York, NY 10001

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VITAL SIGNS

January 2002

Inauguration Ceremony of the Benny and Lotty Reich Geriatric Wing

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The new Benny and Lotty Reich Geriatric Wing incorporates two 38 bed modules, fitted with special mattresses that allow wide movement and prevent pressure sores. The wing also includes a spacious dining room, a fully equipped occupational therapy room and a physiotherapy hall with all the necessary facilities.

An intensive care room equipped with the most recent technology, including monitors and respirators is situated directly opposite the nurse's station so as to ensure close supervision.

Lotty Reich's benevolent gift has done more than just afford RMC with superior facilities and provide the aged, their families and staff with handsome surroundings. It will also contribute towards changing people's perception of the elderly and their needs in Israel.



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the new Benny and Lotty Reich Geriatric Wing at RMC are, left to right, Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, Director General of Clalit Health Services; donor, Mrs. Lotty Reich; Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC; and Rabbi Nissam Dahan, Minister of Health.

"A Salute to AFRMC" *continued from page 4*

It is therefore because AFRMC is in such capable hands, with ever growing support under Barry Cohen's Chairmanship, and because of my enhanced responsibilities and opportunities to serve my Army and our nation, that I will not be standing for reelection as AFRMC's President at the next annual meeting, nor will I be in a position to serve as an active member of the Board.

I thank Miriam Romm and Dan Oppenheim for the confidence they had in me from the very beginning and thank Halina Peabody for her devotion, hard work, and friendship. With all due respect and apologies to hundreds of others across our great land who are not acknowledged in this message, I thank Danny Goldberg, Shimon Topor, Annie Totah, Phyllis and Malcolm Trobman, Bilha Fish, Naomi Houminer, Raquel Ramati, Tsiky Rosenthal, Amira Rotem, Joel Frankel, and Arlene Strelitz who attended events Susan and I hosted, who opened their homes and gave of their time and resources, and who were there in a leadership role when we were, on occasion, more discouraged than encouraged by some. Thanks to them, many of you and others, we never faltered.

To Senator Howard Metzenbaum, a special thank you. When we needed credibility, a name, a statesman, he was there. And he went to Israel in 1995 when our American Friends of Beilinson became the American Friends of Rabin. His good counsel and support over the years were personally invaluable.

To Nava and Ehud Barak, for their inspiration in so many ways, we are grateful for their untiring efforts and for a precious friendship.

Unlike General Douglas MacArthur, this soldier will not fade away. After all, Susan and I have a plaque with our names outside a beautiful, sunny, single room on the Beilinson Campus of RMC that links us forever with this fine medical facility and its leadership, staff, and supporters. The gratitude shown to us will not be forgotten. Thank you for the honor to have served as your President. May your commitment to AFRMC continue to bring the personal satisfaction Susan and I have experienced over the years. May 2002 be a year marked by peace and security here and in Israel.

Shalom and thank you, each and every one of you, again for your support of AFRMC.

NY Governor George Pataki, Ehud and Nava Barak Pay Tribute to RMC

Dr. Samuel Waksal Honored at Gala NY Dinner

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center (AFRMC) proceeded with its annual gala event despite the hesitation of their Israeli friends who had expressed much concern about drawing upon the time and resources of Americans during this difficult time. But as the Chair of AFRMC noted in his opening remarks, the American



Participating in the dinner program were, left to right, keynote speaker and Israel's former Prime Minister, Ehud Barak & Nava Barak, President of Israel Friends of RMC; Dinner Honoree, Dr. Samuel D. Waksal; and Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC.

supporters of Rabin Medical Center enjoyed an outstanding dinner event at the Metropolitan Club. It was a celebrity studded evening in honor of Dr. Samuel Waksal and in support of the new Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center (DCCC), currently under construction at the RMC in Petah Tikva, Israel.

Following Governor Pataki's warm opening remarks expressing praise for Dr. Waksal and for RMC, a moment of silence was observed in recognition of the tragic events surrounding September 11th and the courage of the American people.

Mrs. Nava Barak, President of Israeli Friends of RMC and Former First Lady of Israel, offered greetings. "We in Israel admire the way in which you Americans reacted during the last crisis," she

Friends thought otherwise, believing in the importance of this great medical center and in moving onward with one of those projects destined to help build a better world for future generations.

With New York Governor George Pataki serving as Honorary Chair and opening the program, the capacity crowd of Friends and supporters of Rabin Medical Center enjoyed an outstanding dinner event at the Metropolitan Club. It was a celebrity studded evening in honor of Dr. Samuel Waksal and in support of the new Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center (DCCC), currently under construction at the RMC in Petah Tikva, Israel.

said. "Your patriotism, self-control, unity, compassion and determination set an example for us all. This makes my involvement with Rabin Medical Center, which began over six years ago, all the more important and I am eternally grateful for working with a leading, advanced medical institution that sets itself high standards in treatment, research and where the aim is, first and foremost, to save lives." Mrs. Barak also noted that November marked the six-year anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, and that the very evening marked one-year to the day of Leah Rabin's passing.

In addressing the crowd, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC, announced that during the week prior to the evening's event, Israel's first robotic surgical heart by-pass operation had taken

place on RMC's campus, an event that followed by just five days, Israel's first living donor liver transplantation, also at RMC, from an adult child to a parent. He also expressed gratitude on behalf of RMC for the support it receives from the financial involvement, leadership and participation of all involved. Dr. Oppenheim paid tribute, and offered special thanks to Leon Davidoff and his family whose major contribution laid the foundation for the creation of the new comprehensive cancer center, the first of its kind in the Middle East. Phyllis and Malcolm Trobman presented an award to Dr. Oppenheim in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of Beilinson Hospital.



Bringing greetings to the guests at the New York Dinner on behalf of the State of New York was it's Governor, George Pataki, center, who also served as Dinner Honorary Chair. Barry Cohen, Chair of the Board of AFRMC, left, and the Dinner Honoree, Dr. Samuel Waksal, right, played key roles in the success of the Dinner.

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The Miracle of Robot Surgery - Here Today

Consider heart surgery that does not require opening the chest, only three tiny incisions, a heart that continues beating, little blood loss, few post-op complications, an average 2.8 day hospital stay, quick recovery, and, most importantly, virtually no deaths. Compare that to the typical bypass operation requiring the chest to be sawed open, the heart being stopped for the duration of the procedure, blood transfusions, an average 6.8 days of hospitalization, and a long, painful, recovery often accompanied by complications. Furthermore, the chief surgeon does not need to worry about the slight tremors natural to even the best surgeons, all of this because of robotic surgery.

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The Miracle of Robot Surgery - con't

This is not a scene from a science fiction movie. In operating theatre No.12, on November 6th, 2001, Rabin Medical Center became the first medical institution in Israel, and one of only



Seated is Dr. Alon Stamler who conducted the operation by viewing the monitor and guided the robot using the control-sticks. Assisting is Professor Bernardo Vidne, Director of RMC's Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

25 establishments worldwide, to apply this method in a complex heart operation. Dr. Alon Stamler, a surgeon from RMC's Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, sat at the far end of the room, observing a computer screen while directing the robot with control-sticks. The only sound heard was the voice of the robot, from time to time, warning the surgeon of dangers. Professor Bernardo Vidne, Head of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, scrubbed and gowned in traditional fashion, was at the operating table, changing the surgical

attachments and ready to take over in the event that something went wrong.

This extraordinary concept, which will revolutionize the

Delay The Attack- RMC Study on Heart Attacks and Smokers

What negative things haven't been said regarding smoking? Most people are well aware that it causes cancer, increases the chances of contracting heart disease and ages the skin. Recently, it has also become apparent that smoking brings about heart attacks 15 years earlier than expected - especially in men.

A survey conducted in Israel examined forty thousand men and women who had suffered heart attacks. It was discovered that the smokers, 70 percent of whom were men, suffered a heart attack 15 years prior to those who had not smoked. However, the death rate was lower and the rehabilitation faster among the smokers.

Dr. David Hasdai, Deputy Director of the Department of Cardiology at Rabin Medical Center, who took an active part in the survey, states, "smokers who suffer heart attacks are generally younger and healthier, therefore recovery is quicker. However, those who continue to smoke are liable to undergo accumulative damage and have another, much stronger attack."

leaders, who sought to find a solution for the wounded soldiers on the battlefield, who, with the aid of a robot could get top medical care from many miles away. Recently this became a reality when an operation was performed in Paris, France, using a robot located in the U.S.A.



Physicians and technicians in the operating room change the robots tools on direction of the operating surgeon.

Surgical robots are able to fix hearts, remove gallbladders, repair fallopian tubes and remove prostates, among other procedures. Overlooking the patient on the operating table are three large machines (the robot), which can be fitted with about 40 surgical attachments and are linked to the monitor by fiber-optic cables carrying the surgeon's commands.



Dr. Dan Oppenheim
CEO of RMC

A New Era of Healthcare

by Dan Oppenheim

The annual Dinner in November was a wonderful happening from the hospital's perspective. It enabled us to identify with and express our empathy for the brave citizens of New York and America at large. However, it was also an evening dedicated to Rabin Medical Center and served as evidence of just how far AFRMC has evolved and progressed in the past few years.

I am certain that in the year 2002 AFRMC will flourish and assist us in promoting the hospital so that we may continue to improve the quality of our care.

In November, the first robot assisted heart surgery in Israel was performed at Rabin Medical Center. We are one of only 25 medical institutions worldwide to perform this kind of operation. As there was no need to open the chest cavity the patient went home only two days after the procedure. This is the beginning of a new era of better, more advanced treatment with fewer complications.

RMC continues its tradition of leading the way in treatment and research, determining higher medical standards in Israel.

In the coming year the Gour Shasha Tower will open its doors and a complex project will have reached its fruition. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Gour Shasha for his phenomenal donation, a contribution that has allowed us the means to provide this modern facility for our thousands of patients.

The final touches on the Women's Comprehensive Health Center and the construction of the Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center are progressing at full speed. They will be a source of pride to RMC and, more importantly, enhance the quality of care given to our patients.

With the support of our "friends" at AFRMC, we will continue to purchase the most advanced equipment, remodel our facilities, and push forward in our research, so vital in medicine. In the year 2002, I would be most pleased to welcome all visitors to Israel and personally show them our achievements.

Let us hope that 2002 will be a peaceful and healthy one for us all.

Helen Schneider Remembered

The Rabin Medical Center lost one of its truest and most dedicated friends on December 8th, 2001 - Helen Schneider. Staff and patients of RMC, and many others in the Israeli community mourn her passing and she will be greatly missed.

Helen was beloved by so many for her warmth, compassion and generosity, which has provided an enhanced quality of life, and significantly improved healthcare for so many patients.

The establishment of the Women's Comprehensive Health Center, a unique and highly impressive structure on the Beilinson Campus, exists today thanks to the initiative of Helen and Irving Schneider and due to their generous donation. Helen was a true partner, personally involved in every stage of the planning, helping to assure the utmost comfort for the women patients and ascertaining how best to meet their needs. She invested a great deal of attention in selecting the appropriate furnishings and color schemes, and attending to every other significant detail.

Helen and Irving Schneider are renowned for the establishment of the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel, the unique and largest medical center for children in the Middle East. Their contribution and involvement in this project led to the creation of a remarkable institution that has determined new standards and a core of excellence in Israel for the treatment of hundreds of thousands of children.

We deeply respected and admired Helen, a woman of true valor, whose dignity and standards of excellence were an inspiration to us all. Heartfelt condolences are offered to her devoted husband, Irving, her daughters, grandchildren and other family members.

Combat Soldier Hani Abramov released from RMC

Rabin Medical Center bade a fond farewell to combat soldier, Hani Abramov. Hani had previously undergone a successful but complex operation to reconstruct her jaw where a sniper's bullet landed after penetrating her mouth while on active duty during the El-Aksa Intifada.

Hani has attracted much media attention, being a female combat soldier and proving her bravery at a time when there is much controversy about women fighters serving alongside their male counterparts.

Among those who came to wish her well on her departure was Mrs. Nava Barak, wife of former Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, and President of the Association of Friends at Rabin Medical Center. Mrs. Barak remarked that she knew Hani personally as she had been one of the soldiers guarding their private residence in the town of Kochav-Yair. "Hani has recovered so quickly because of her vast determination and she is missed by all in Kochav-Yair," stated Mrs. Barak.

During her stay at RMC, the hospital supplied Hani with a computer and fax machine, enabling her to respond to the numerous wellwishers throughout the country and communicate with her surroundings, for she is incapable of doing so verbally without great effort. Mrs. Barak, recognizing Hani's needs, initiated a search for a donation of a computer. The generous benefactor, Mr. Moshe Horev,



Dedication ceremony of the newborn unit, in the WCHC, donated by the late King Hussein and Queen Noor, in honor of Mrs. Leah Rabin on the occasion of her 70th birthday, May 1998. Pictured Mrs. Leah Rabin, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, Mrs. Helen Schneider and Mr. Irving Schneider.



Mrs. Helen Schneider welcoming Mrs. Hilary Clinton during her visit to the Women's Comprehensive Health Center, Nov. 1999.

CEO of the computer software company, Oracle, surprised Hani with a laptop computer on her departure so as to enable her to express herself clearly. "A laptop is definitely easier to handle than an M-16 rifle," joked Mr. Horev.

Hani is optimistic about the future and looks forward to returning to active duty as soon as possible.



Upon her release from RMC, Hani Abramov, left, received a gift at the instigation of Nava Barak, center, President of Israel Friends of RMC. Presenting the gift of a laptop computer and fax was Moshe Horev, CEO of Oracle Industries.

Inauguration Ceremony: Benny and Lotty Reich Geriatric Wing

“Don't forsake us in our old age” is not just a quotation from the Torah at RMC, it is an objective that began four years ago, thanks to the vision and generosity of Mrs. Lotty Reich, who asserted, in her speech at the inauguration ceremony, the importance of security and happiness of loved ones in their autumn years. She reiterated that Dr. Dan Oppenheim's shared view on the plight of the elderly had made possible the development of the project that was to become the new Geriatric Wing, incorporating the Geriatrics and Medicine A Departments, at Beilinson Campus. The aim of the new wing is to meet the needs of the patients. It is the most advanced facility of its kind in Israel, incorporating a progressive architectural structure, state-of-the-art technology and the highest level professional health care staff.

The Geriatric Wing was inaugurated at a rousing ceremony in the presence of Mrs. Lotty Reich; Minister of Health, Rabbi Nissim Dahan; Mr. Ron Huldai, Mayor of Tel-Aviv; Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, Director General of Clalit Health Services; as well as heads of departments, guests of Mrs. Reich and hospital staff.

Dr. Oppenheim emphasized in his speech that this center is designed to be distinct as it will provide not only the highest esthetic and functional standards but also have regard for the emotional and physical well being of the elderly.

Dr. Menachem Fainaru, Dean of the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel-Aviv University who also heads RMC's Department of Medicine A, spoke on behalf of Dr. Joseph Grinblat, Head of the Geriatrics Department and himself. In his address to the audience he stated, “Although life expectancy has risen by 90% in the 20th century, the quality of life has nevertheless not improved. The elderly are often susceptible to loneliness, dependency and vulnerability. The aim of the Geriatric Wing is to help the elderly take control of their lives by treating their medical problems so that they might sustain their autonomy and dignity. This, in turn, will contribute to resolving some of the social problems that they are faced with.”

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Shake Therapy

“As I lay in bed one day the house started spinning around me. I assumed it would pass but the situation worsened in the following months until I could no longer function. I stayed at home and stopped driving,” recalls 75 year old Professor Yakov Rand, who recently received the Israel Award for research in the field of education.

Like so many others in similar situations Rand sought the advice of experts in various medical fields, including cardiologists, ophthalmologists and neurologists. However, all told him that he was in perfect health and would just have to live with it.

However, this is not the attitude at RMC. A new clinic for the treatment of vertigo, situated in the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, at Golda-HaSharon Campus has resolved to find a solution.

Dr. Moshe Chaimoff, who specialized in this field in England, uses a combination of physiotherapy and psychology in his treatment workshops. “The phenomenon occurs when there is an overload of data on the brain's balance system. The brain must learn to compensate and alter the imbalance. Therefore we administer a series of exercises that transmit to the brain the relevant information regarding the injury,” explains Dr. Chaimoff.

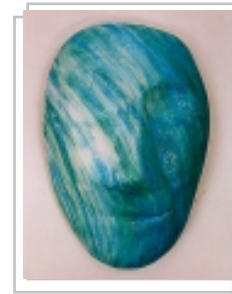
The clinic treats only those whose problem stems from misinformation deriving from the area responsible for balance in the inner ear.

During the workshop the patient discusses his problem and then undergoes 27 different exercises. The patient selects the exercise in which he feels dizziest. He then repeats this particular exercise at home, 15 times, three times daily. The brain learns what is difficult for the body and, in 85% of cases, corrects the problem.

Rand, who underwent treatment, recovered after only one series of exercises. “I was instructed by the doctor to sit in a certain position. He then shook my head in different directions and I experienced extreme vertigo. Ten minutes later I was told to stand. I don't understand what happened but the dizziness virtually disappeared. A short time later I began to drive again and perform normally. I am completely astounded by my quick recovery,” Rand remarked.

RMC Tidbits

- A new spinal clinic, headed by Dr. Nissim Ohana who trained in spinal surgery at the University Hospital of N.Y., has opened at Beilinson. The clinic will deal with a variety of back problems including trauma and emergency.
- A Palestinian family agreed to have their son's organs transplanted into Jewish patients despite the tension existing in the country. The youth died in a car accident. His heart was transplanted in a 44-year-old man while the liver was given to a 19-year-old woman. Both operations were performed at RMC.
- A joint research project of Prof. Eldad Melamed and Dr. Daniel Offen of RMC and Tel-Aviv University and Prof. Daphne Atlas of the Institute of Life Sciences at the Hebrew University, formed the basis of an alliance between a new Israeli pharmaceutical company and a major pharmaceutical company in the U.S. for further testing of the Jerusalem based lead compound, AD4, a treatment of central nervous system disorders such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.
- The first workshop in Israel that teaches self-injection of hormones during fertility treatment has opened at RMC (Beilinson Campus). Eti Rosenberg, the head nurse of the In Vitro Fertilization Unit and developer of the workshop says that this will save the couple the need to make daily visits to the hospital and spare them additional emotional stress beyond that which they already endure due to their circumstances. Professor Benny Fisch, Head of the I.V.F. Unit at RMC says that the idea of the workshop corresponds with the policy of the department to simplify the process and convert the treatment to a more accessible one.
- At the Institute of Endocrinology at Beilinson a new diabetic foot clinic has been established. Diabetic patients are at a high risk for foot problems, including sores, blisters and fungi. Hence the need for preventative treatment and guidance as to the appropriate type of shoe, etc.
- Professor Raphael Feinmesser, Head of the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, has been elected editor of the exclusive “Head and Neck” magazine, distributed world-wide and used as a source of reference and advances for major medical institutions throughout the world. Professor Feinmesser is the first Israeli to hold this position.
- Dr. David Lifshitz, Head of Laparoscopic Urologic Microsurgery at Golda-HaSharon, was awarded first prize at the Endourology World Congress in San Paulo, Brazil for his research thesis. The research, carried out on pigs, examined the technique of enlarging the bladder, by using the small intestine during laparoscopy.
- The World Organization of Bones and Minerals presented an award of distinction to Professor Uri Liberman, the Chief Scientist at RMC, for his contribution on metabolic research. 3,000 scientists from around the world participated in the event.



MICHAEL EISNER



JERRY LEWIS



DR. RUTH



ITCHAK PERLMAN



BEVERLY SILLS



CHARLIE ROSE

CELEBRITY AUCTION MARCH 21ST AT GALLERY-IN-THE-SKY

Over one hundred and fifty celebrities and prominent artists have donated their talents by contributing painted and designed masks, and other art work (including all the work displayed on this page), for a special silent auction to be held on March 21, 2002 at the Gallery-in-the-Sky in the Chelsea section of Manhattan. 100% of the proceeds from this event will benefit the Rabin Medical Center.

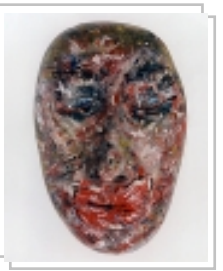
Commencing at 6:30 PM with a buffet reception courtesy of Gallery-in-the-Sky, participants will have an opportunity to view all the work to be auctioned and to enter a bid. There will be entertainment and refreshments until the rewarding of the highest bidders at 9:00 PM.

A catalogue of all the work to be auctioned will be distributed to all recipients of this newsletter along with an invitation to the event. Mail bids will be accepted, but only those present will have the opportunity to make additional bids.

This event presents a unique occasion to support RMC while reaping the reward of obtaining some distinctive celebrity art. All “friends” of AFRMC and their friends are most welcome to attend.



Stream Sea by PETER CATAPANO
Oil on Board 8 x 10



KEVIN KLINE



DAVID COPPERFIELD



AL HIRSHFELD



ANN BANCROFT



MICHELLE LEE



ROBERT GOULET

“A Salute to AFRMC”



Woody Goldberg
President of AFRMC

It was apparent, to our many friends of AFRMC and to our special invited guests, that Susan and I had a clear conflict that precluded our attending the second Annual Gala Dinner on November 11, 2001. At this difficult time in our nation's history, each of us is conflicted in different ways, because our lives have been significantly altered since the heinous acts of September 11, 2001.

Susan and I, as with each person, have to make choices. We know that the leadership of AFRMC, and our valued friends and supporters across this great land and in Israel, understand why these recent and significant events necessitated our reprioritizing our heartfelt commitments to our not-for-profit activities, including AFRMC.

With our Armed Forces at war, my immediate priority, in addition to my full-time work with General Haig, is to fulfill the opportunities and responsibilities given to me as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Washington, DC. It is an honorific position from which I advise the Secretary, reinforce the Administration's messages on the war against terrorism, and lend support to those who serve in our Army, National Guard, and Reserve force. On November 11, in Washington, DC, there were several public events to mark Veterans' Day. We paid homage to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and hosted the first of West Point's Bicentennial Celebrations. My Army, our Army, needed me then, and it does now and will continue to do so, with, unfortunately, ever increasing urgency. Choices in one's use of time must be made, especially when one is confronted on nearly a daily basis with alternative priorities- and particularly when one's country calls. Each of you knows this in your similarly busy lives.

AFRMC has been my cherished pride from the very beginning because it enabled Susan and me to identify with Israel's finest medical facility and, in turn, with our heritage which is Israel. When AFRMC's success was but a vision, a dream, an aspiration of Dr. Dan Oppenheim, our special friend, Miriam Romm, inspired me to assist in its organization and serve as President. Through now nearly eight years, but especially the past two since Burt Lazarow became our Executive Director and good friend, Susan and I have seen this "child of ours," if you will, grow into what was evident at the Gala on November 11. AFRMC has become a cause with which the leadership of the American Jewish community has now identified and will continue to support. The active support being offered now to AFRMC is testimony that the Rabin Medical Center is recognized as a winning cause- and I am now confident AFRMC's future is assured.

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Start a rewarding relationship

Rosy Azar
Relationship Manager

Tel: +972-3-522 24 24 Fax: +972-3-524 23 43 ipb@discountbank.net

Please, contact Ms. Rosy Azar for more information or for an appointment
 ● Tel: +972-3-522 24 24 ● Fax: +972-3-524 23 43
 ● ipb@discountbank.net

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At the Pentagon and presenting a tribute to Douglas Feith, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, for his seven years as Counsel to AFRMC are, left to right, Woody Goldberg, President of AFRMC; Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC; Douglas Feith; and, Burton Lazarow, Executive Director of AFRMC.

AFRMC

- Abraham “Barry E. Cohen - Chair of Board**
- Sherwood D. Goldberg - President**
- Stephen M. Flatow - Secretary**
- Shimon Topor - Treasurer**
- Sen. (Ret.) Howard Metzenbaum - Chair, Honorary Board**
- Andrew C. Freedman - Counsel**
- Burton Lazarow - Executive Director**

Vital Signs is a publication of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization which is solely responsible for its contents. AFRMC was formed to educate and raise funds on behalf of the Rabin Medical Center, Petah Tikva, Israel. AFRMC is located at 220 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1301, New York, NY 10001, (Tel: (212) 279-2522, Fax (212) 279-0179, Email: afrmc826@aol.com)

The Difference is People Helping



Burton Lazarow
Executive Director AFRMC

As I completed my second year as the executive director of AFRMC, I was particularly excited to reflect on the number of new people who had come forward to offer support and assistance since the first year.

In 2001, not only did we recruit our first Chair of the Board, Barry Cohen, but also we added five new Board members. We now have a Public Relations Committee chair, Yvette Pomerantz, who is not only a p.r. professional, but who is also providing us with direct work in this area. Four other committees are also functioning for the first time- Executive, chaired by President Woody Goldberg; Finance, chaired by Treasurer Shimon Topor; Fund Raising and Programming, chaired by Ron Cohen; and Nominating and Board Development, chaired by David Onn.

There are regional committees in Philadelphia/South Jersey, South Florida, and Maryland/DC, which have met and are anxious to move forward. A number of individuals in each of Northern and Southern California, Houston, Pittsburgh, and northern New Jersey have expressed an interest in helping us develop programs. And, of course, we have had tremendous success with our New York committee in conducting a second, even more successful, Dinner in November- doubling the financial achievement of 2000, and recruiting a 25% greater attendance with a waiting list only crowd. There will also be a second fund raising effort in NY in 2002- the Celebrity Auction.

AFRMC is most fortunate that in 2001 the law firm of Fulbright and Jaworski, represented by Andrew Freedman, became its Counsel. Our accountants, Hoberman, Miller, Goldstein and Lesser, P.C., provide us with an annual audit and federal filing and have made sure our registration and filings in all the states in which we conduct our business are up to date.

In 2002 we must make even further progress. More funds must be raised to allow RMC to continue to meet its long-term plan to better serve the people of Israel and the region. More volunteers are needed in all the geographic areas in which we are working- especially in helping us find the people we need to serve on our Board and committees and as the chairs and honorees for Dinners and other fund raising programs. More opportunities must be identified to allow us to bring to the public, to medically related institutions and corporations, to foundations and other donors, the message of what RMC can and will achieve in the future- with just a little help.

When we reach out to some of those who are reading this message, I hope the response will be positive. Perhaps there are some who would prefer to come forward without waiting to be asked. I welcome the call. With a little more support, 2002 will be a great New Year.

NY Governor George Pataki, Ehud and Nava Barak Pay Tribute to RMC

Dr. Samuel Waksal Honored at Gala NY Dinner - *continued from Front Cover*

The Chair of AFRMC, Barry Cohen, who also served as dinner host because the Dinner Chair, Carl Icahn, had an unanticipated conflict on the west coast, shared with all a special message- that thanks to the generous support of a few of the American Friends Board of Directors and some other special “friends”, this year's dinner was completely underwritten so all the proceeds would go directly to the new cancer center. In noting that this year marks the 65th anniversary of the Beilinson Campus of RMC, he said “Israel is important to the world because of its many contributions in so many areas, and the field of medicine will be one where it will star.” Mr. Cohen also paid tribute to RMC's Honorary Board member Isaac Stern in acknowledging his recent passing.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak gave the Keynote Address and called upon Americans to stay firmly focused on bringing an end to terrorism. He spoke of his life-long battle against terrorism and of an adage he has always kept in mind, that life is a narrow bridge and the most important thing is to fear nothing as we make our way across. With a reference to FDR's famous words about nothing to fear but fear itself, he said “If only we follow his advice in earnest, we will prevail.” Mr. Barak charmed the guests with some very personal and humorous anecdotes of his military exploits and shared his hopes and optimism for a successful peaceful outcome of

Israel's problems with her neighbors.

Dr. Samuel D. Waksal, CEO and President of ImClone Systems, a research firm responsible for the discovery and successful testing of the new cancer treatment- IMC-C225, was the RMC's dinner honoree. He graciously accepted a plaque which read, “...for his dedication to cancer and medical research, untiring and compassionate efforts to ease pain and suffering, and inspiring generosity in support of charitable causes...”. Dr. Waksal thanked his family for their support, particularly his brother, Harlan, for being his partner in developing their company and helping to bring the new drug through the arduous approval process to date. “In facing our greatest obstacles to just progress, we had to simply take our vision and run with it no matter what. The welfare of so many cancer patients depended on our success.”

The event was most successful, both in monies raised for the new cancer center and in bringing greater awareness of RMC to new supporters. “It is important for the American public to understand that this most impressive campus will serve as both a destination and launching pad in the field of medical research and technology,” said Mr. Cohen. “There is no question that RMC will play an important role as an equal partner in the worldwide battle against a broad range of diseases and disorders, and it is my privilege to make that message clear in this country.”

NY Dinner 2001



New York Annual Dinner Pre-Event Cocktail Party Saturday, November 10, 2001



Israel Consul General in NY, Ambassador Alon Pinkas; Dr. Sima Ariam and Ehud Barak



Seymour Rosenthal; Nava Barak; Dina & Dr. Yaacov Yahav, Director of Beilinson Campus; Ehud Barak; Barry Cohen, Chair of Board of AFRMC; Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO RMC; Leon Davidoff; and, seated, Ruth Davidoff



Marilyn Friedland; Nava Barak and Yvonne Cohen



Tammy Lieber; Dr. Bilha Fish; Amira Rotem and Tsiky Rosenthal



Beatrice Jaffe; Ehud Barak; Nava Barak; Lillian and Seymour Rosenthal



Barry Cohen; Yoram Petruschka, Chairman Friends of Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center; Arlene Strelitz and Leon Davidoff



Barry Cohen; Hava and Shimon Topor



Walter Weiner; Yvette Pomerantz; Simon Elias and Nina Weiner



Ralph & Judy Abrams and Ehud Barak



Barry Cohen and Mr & Mrs. David Deming



Stafford Elias; Simon Elias; Raquel Ramati and Jackie Elias



David Onn; Miriam Romm, Founding Executive Director of AFRMC; Burton Lazarow, Executive Director of AFRMC, Tzipora Onn; and Barry Cohen

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Martha Stewart; Dr. Samuel Waksal, Honoree; Lally Weymouth, Dinner Vice Chair; Hillel Weinberger, Dinner Vice Chair; Barry Cohen, Chair AFRMC; Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO, RMC



Ehud and Nava Barak; Barry Cohen; Yvonne Cohen; Yaron Cohen, Journal Chair



Leon & Ruth Davidoff; Yoram Petruschka; Arlene Strelitz; Nava & Ehud Barak; Yvonne & Barry Cohen; and Dr. Dan Oppenheim



Judit Solel, Director Israel Friends of RMC; Israel UN Ambassador Yehuda Lancry and Yolande Lancry



The Honorable George Pataki, Governor of the State of New York and Honorary Dinner Chair



Libby Pataki, Honorary Dinner Co-Chair and Nava Barak



Dr. Zvi Fuks, Deputy Physician-In-Chief for Planning Memorial Sloan Kettering; Nava & Ehud Barak and Sonya Ben-Yehuda



Kelly Gerstenhaber; Martha Stewart; Charlers Simoni and David Gerstenhaber



Seymour Rosenthal; Eli Zborowski, President American Friends of Yad Vashem; Sabina Waksal, Honoree's mother, Ehud & Nava Barak; Jack Waksal, the honoree's Father and Lillian Rosenthal



Linda Chester; Ken Rind; Kitty Carlisle Hart; Dieter Zander and Yvonne Cohen



Denise Cohen; Steven and Sharon Mann and Daniel Cohen



Rita Angel; Solange & Jean-Claude Landau and Joshua Angel

New York Dinner - November 11, 2001



The Waksal Family - Carol & Dr. Harlan Waksal; Elana Waksal; Jack Waksal; Dr. Samuel Waksal; Sabina Waksal; Eliza Waksal and Jarrett Posner



The Cohen Family - Daniel Cohen; Yvonne & Barry Cohen; Flora Hillel; Yvette & Stephen Pomerantz; and Denise Cohen



The Flatow Family - Rosalyn Flatow; Ilana Flatow; Gail Flatow and Stephen Flatow



The Rotem Family - Dr. Hanan & Amira Rotem; Karin Rotem and Niv Rotem



Roi & Orna Petruschka; Yoram Petruschka; Arlene Strelitz and Chen & Orni Petruschka



The Fish Family - Matthew Horner; Ariel Fish; Rachel Chesner and Dr. Bilha Fish



The Trobman Family - Malcolm & Phyllis Trobman and Les Trobman



The Davidoff & Levine Families and Friends- Joseph Kahan; Claudia Davidoff; Beth Levine and daughter Anna Thompson; Dr. Dan Oppenheim & Tzippi Raz; and Leon Davidoff



Seymour & Cynthia Reich; Daniel Kuhn; Abe Biller and Ziva Kuhn



Robin & Henry Nordhoff with Father Frank Stroud



Mrs. Eliezer Rachmilewitz; Nava & Ehud Barak and Sandy & Norman Pessin



Floyd & Ariella DeLaney and Nava & Ehud Barak