

VITALSIGNS

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

SPRING 2008



**A tomato a day
keeps the doctor away**

NEW EMERGENCY/TRAUMA CENTER

ALAN DERSHOWITZ: CHOOSE LIFE

WARNING SIGNS OF A STROKE

CARING FOR ARAB ISRAELI WOMEN

EXTRA WEIGHT FOR ELDERLY IS BENEFICIAL



RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

ISRAEL'S PREMIER MEDICAL COMPLEX

PIONEERING HEALTHCARE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

VITALSIGNS

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER www.afrmc.org

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

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ISRAEL'S GIFT TO THE WORLD



Abraham "Barry" E. Cohen

Dear Friends,

This year we celebrate a happy occasion, the State of Israel's 60th anniversary. We remember the birth of Israel, its courageous leaders, and the many wars, but in spite of all the hardships it is extraordinary what has been achieved in 60 years. So many of us have dedicated ourselves to the prospering of Israel and have stood by its side during both the glorious and challenging moments. We have helped Israel in many ways and our efforts have borne fruit. We are proud of Israel's stellar accomplishments in every field both at home and abroad.

Israel's scientific contributions to the world, and future promise, are often not fully appreciated. Israel per capita exports more lifesaving technology to other countries around the world—and saves the lives of more people—than any other nation. Israel does and will continue to contribute much more than it receives. Those of us who support medicine and research in Israel are part of the solution for Israel and for humanity.

The mission of the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center (AFRMC) is to support the Rabin Medical Center in Petach Tikvah, a vital medical institution which services over one million patients annually. It continues to prove itself a highly respected institution for healing and research on an international level. We are committed to helping Rabin Medical Center realize its vision of a technologically sophisticated medical center. I am proud of our partnership and grateful for the opportunity that the Rabin Medical Center offers us to assist in building up its facilities, investing in its medical research, and serving as a model institution of medicine and science for the Middle East and the whole world. It is due to the involvement and passion of a great many people, both past and present, that American Friends of Rabin Medical Center has become a major player on the American charity scene and a true partner of the hospital.

Our work has only begun. Our great task, to continue to build up the Rabin Medical Center as one of Israel's premier hospitals, remains our calling. Thank you for your continued support and outstanding spirit of generosity. We are doing great work together, and let us go from strength to strength as we look to the future.

Abraham "Barry" E. Cohen
Chairman
American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

ISRAEL AT 60



Joshua Eli Plaut

Dear Friends,

The situation in Israel continues to be stressful. The citizens of Sderot are terrorized almost daily by the sound of alarms signaling yet another rocket attack, rockets which have moved closer toward Ashkelon and which can now reach Israel's major cities. Israel Defence Forces (IDF) soldiers tirelessly protect Israel against ongoing terrorism, while its leaders continue their quest for a peaceful solution with a weak Palestinian leadership. Yet, during this trying period, Israel stands strong, as we prepare to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday in May. Leaders from around the world will gather to celebrate this special milestone. Israel has built a vibrant nation, both economically and socially, of which we can all be proud. Israel has made the desert bloom, achieved global recognition in medicine and advanced technologies and is a world center of art and culture. The excellence of Israel is exemplified by Rabin Medical Center, an institution of compassion, co-existence and incredible technological advances for the region and the entire world.

America has always been Israel's ally and Americans have stood by its side to support the country's needs. American Friends of Rabin Medical Center, established 14 years ago, has played a major role in the thrilling transformation that has taken place at the hospital over the years, putting Rabin Medical Center of Petach Tikvah at the forefront of all medical specialties and becoming a leader in advanced medical care. Now the establishment of a new and unique Emergency Medicine and Trauma Center is on the horizon, which will provide superior emergency care to approximately 150,000 visitors every year. Thanks to the extraordinary spirit and generosity of Mr. Daniel Jusidman a crucial project such as this is finally being initiated, but there is still much work to be accomplished. The support of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center is vital and significant to the hospital's future.

Let us continue to work together to achieve new projects to advance state-of-the-art medical care for all citizens of Israel. Our history has shown us that when we work together greatness is possible. Happy Birthday to Israel at 60 and thanks always for your friendship and generosity.

Joshua Eli Plaut, Ph.D.
Executive Director
American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

Dr. Eyran Halpern
Chief Executive Officer
Rabin Medical Center

A TOMATO A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY



L-R: Dr. Michael Bergman, Dr. Hannah Besler, Prof. Meir Djaldetti, Dr. Herzel Salman

The juicy tomato, a daily feature of the Israeli diet, may be helping keep Israelis healthy. The tomato, which was once considered poisonous, is in fact a source of lycopene, a powerful antioxidant that has been proven to have significant promise in fighting cancer and other diseases. The pos-

itive effect of tomato products rich in lycopene is due to their ability to suppress biomarkers of oxidative stress and to decrease the risk of chronic conditions, such as coronary heart disease, osteoporosis, and type II diabetes. Its association with decreased incidence of prostate and breast

cancer has also been well established.

Now a recent study carried out at Rabin Medical Center by **Dr. Herzel Salman** and **Dr. Michael Bergman** of the Department of Internal Medicine at Hasharon Hospital (RMC) with **Dr. Hannah Besler**, senior researcher, under the direction of **Prof. Meir Djaldetti**, examined the effect of lycopene on malignant cell lines. Their findings were indeed promising, indicating that lycopene repressed the proliferation capacity of human colon carcinoma, myeloid leukemia, and lymphoma cell lines at high dosage levels of lycopene. Their findings were published in the international scientific journal *Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy* and will be further elaborated on in the future. Any and all hope in the fight against cancer is indeed positive and the Israeli diet may hold a clue. ■

EXTRA WEIGHT FOR ELDERLY IS BENEFICIAL

By David Brinn

For years, people have been telling Santa to go on a diet. But according to Israeli researchers, he might have the right idea. Toting a few extra pounds in your golden years might be the healthiest thing for you, a recently released study from The Rabin Medical Center has found.

According to findings of the study conducted in the Geriatric Department of Beilinson Hospital at The Rabin Medical Center, in Petah Tikva, elderly patients with a slightly higher body mass index (BMI) survived longer than patients whose BMI was in the standard range.

BMI is a measure of body fat based on height and weight, and is calculated by taking an individual's body weight and dividing it by the square of their height. The measurement has become a standard in the last few decades for gauging a person's 'fatness' or 'thinness'. A BMI of 18.5 to 25 indicates optimal weight, while a BMI of under 17.5 indicates anorexia.

"We tried to see if there was a relationship between the BMI of elderly

patients admitted to our acute geriatric ward among those who died and those who survived within the years of the study," said **Professor Avraham Weiss**, the deputy director of Beilinson's geriatric department, who led the investigation.

His team reviewed the medical records of 470 male and female inpatients in the Beilinson geriatric ward with a mean age of 81.5 who had been hospitalized between 1999 and 2000. Among the measurements taken was their BMI. The researchers revisited the list in 2004, and discovered that 248 of the patients had died. They then went back and looked at the statistics and found that their average BMI was 24 - considered 'normal'. The patients who were still alive had an average BMI of 26, defined by international standards as 'overweight'.

"What we found is that those who had higher BMI than those who had so-called 'normal' range BMI tended to survive longer," Weiss told ISRAEL21c. "However, the study has its limitations.

Firstly we looked at only a selected group of patients - those admitted to our ward. Even from among those, we only looked at those who were able to stand on request and participate in height and weight measurement. But even though the group is small, it's enough to raise an alert about the findings."

The main conclusions that Weiss says can be drawn from the study results, which appeared in the online edition of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* and will be published in the *Journal's* January edition, are based on the use of BMI on elderly people. He suggested that the medical establishment review the BMI numbers and consider revising them.

"Probably the criteria being used today for defining overweight for elderly patients shouldn't be the same for the population at large," he said. "We need to adopt more flexible criteria." ■

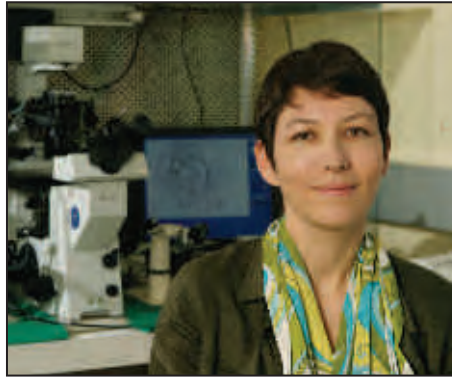
This article is reprinted with permission from *Israel 21c.org*, December 20, 2007

LESS ANXIETY IMPROVES IN VITRO FERTILIZATION

For many women who have difficulty getting pregnant, the in vitro fertilization (IVF) process can be extremely stressful and all consuming. A preliminary research study conducted by **Dr. Nathalie Rappaport**, clinical psychologist at Rabin Medical Center's IVF Unit, together with Dr. Yuri Gedron of the UK; Dr. Rivka Reicher-Atir, head of the Psychology Service at RMC; Dr. Onit Sapir, head of the IVF laboratories; and Prof. Benny Fisch, Director of the RMC IVF Unit, suggests that when it come to success with IVF, less anxiety is helpful to the outcome.

The study examined the relationship between coping techniques and the outcome of IVF treatment. A group of 132 women who participated in the study were evaluated at the beginning of an IVF cycle with regard to anxiety, depression, optimism and overall mental health. The study revealed that those women who were more relaxed during the IVF process, were more successful in getting pregnant.

According to Dr. Nathalie Rappaport, women undergoing IVF who were less stressed by the experience and who go into treatment with fewer expectations



Dr. Nathalie Rappaport

and anxieties are more likely to get pregnant. Techniques such as meditation and relaxation therapy are some of the ways women can cope with the treatment process and handle it with greater ease and comfort.

The IVF Unit at Rabin Medical Center's Women's Hospital was founded in 1985, and thousands of babies have been born since to parents who have sought Rabin Medical Center's help. Today Rabin Medical Center is the largest and busiest public IVF center in Israel, performing approximately 1600 IVF treatment cycles every year. From the first consultation through the treatment process and after-

wards, an experienced, highly skilled and committed team of specialists in infertility and reproductive medicine incorporates state-of-the-art techniques that have revolutionized fertility treatments.

The services at Rabin Medical Center extend far beyond fertility treatment into key related areas, including the reproductive endocrinology and infertility clinic, andrology clinic, a sperm bank, recurrent pregnancy loss clinic, and fertility preservation clinic. A significant part of ongoing research focuses on the field of fertility preservation for women. Rabin Medical Center's clinical and research laboratory, led by a world-renowned expert in this field, offers ovarian tissue cryopreservation to girls and women undergoing therapy which creates a risk of irreversible damage to fertility. In collaboration with the genetic team, there is also a program for assessing the chromosomal status of in vitro formed embryos.

It would be difficult to describe in words the moments of pure joy that the IVF team has brought to those who yearned for a child and saw their dream come true. ■

JAPANESE HEALING ART ENHANCES BIRTHING PROCESS

For women in Israel, pregnancy and birth have taken on new dimensions over the last 10 years. A much wider choice of tests, first-class hospitals and birthing suites are now accessible, and Rabin Medical Center (where almost 9,000 babies are born each year) remains one of the premier choices for women.

The Schneider Women's Hospital at RMC strives to provide new and modern techniques to enhance the birthing process, and has now introduced the use of shiatsu techniques. This traditional healing art, which originated in Japan, is based on the same principles as acupuncture, except no needles are used. Instead, shiatsu uses finger and palm pressure, stretches, and massage techniques to



Shiatsu at Rabin Medical Center

help balance and restore the body's life energy. During the birthing process, midwives at the hospital who have been trained in this area apply shiatsu methods to reduce stress, alleviate pain and

help in advancing the birthing process. The use of shiatsu during labor is fully coordinated with the medical team and is part of the conventional birth process. **Prof. Marek Glazerman**, Director of the Women's hospital, said: "Guided by the principle that giving birth is the most important and significant experience in a woman's life, we believe that the integration of holistic and conventional methods during the birth process will only enhance the experience and make it less stressful and more comfortable."

Rabin Medical Center has always been a trendsetter in advanced medical care and strives to provide integrated treatment options in all domains of medicine. ■

ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE IN THE ARAB ISRAELI POPULATION



L-R: Dr. Abeer Massarwa and Prof. Marek Glazerman, Director of the Women's Hospital at Rabin Medical Center

In continued support and friendship with Rabin Medical Center, **Harold and Tamar Snyder** have generously funded an internship in the field of gynecology. This grant has been awarded to **Dr. Abeer Massarwa**, a young physician from the city of Taybi, located northeast of Tel Aviv in an area with a large Israeli Arab population. The six-year specialization

program will take place under the supervision of **Dr. Marek Glazerman**, Director of the Women's Hospital at Rabin Medical Center, and will enable Dr. Massarwa to fulfill her dreams of becoming a gynecologist who can provide essential gynecological services to the women of her community. She hopes to combine her work in the hospital with work in her community, advancing women's healthcare in the Israeli Arab population, where many stigmas still exist that require women physicians whom women in the community can trust and depend on. She also hopes that by being an Arab female gynecologist, she will become a role model and have an opportunity to increase the status of both Arab and Jewish women across the country. ■

NEW EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA CENTER



L-R: Yoram Petruschka, Daniel Jusidman and Dr. Eyran Halpern

The Rabin Medical Center Emergency Department, a national Level One trauma center located in the highly populated center of Israel, had not been updated since the 1960s. In addition to providing critical lifesaving services in times of peace, no one could have imagined many years ago when the ER was first built that Israel would continue to suffer from a never-ending conflict with its Arab neighbors, one that would kill and injure citizens and soldiers in acts of terrorism.

Thanks to the wholehearted generosity of **Mr. Daniel Jusidman**, a new twenty-first century **Emergency and Trauma Center** will be built at Rabin Medical Center. Mr. Jusidman's donation will help establish **The Daniel Jusidman Center for Emergency Medicine and Trauma**, a new state-of-the-art facility that will significantly advance the emergency lifesaving services at Rabin Medical Center to meet current and future medical needs in a modern building equipped with the newest technological tools. Longtime friend of Rabin Medical Center and Israeli businessman **Mr. Yoram Petruschka** helped facilitate the contact between Mr. Jusidman and the hospital.

The total budget for the establishment of the new Center for Emergency Medicine and Trauma is slated at close to 20 million dollars. Additional funds beyond the donation will be provided by Clalit Health Services and the government of Israel. Other resources need to be secured by the generosity of Friends of the Hospital in Israel and abroad.

The project is being planned by American architect **Jerry Switzer**, of "Morris Switzer – Environments for Health" together with the Israeli architect Marcelo Brestovsky. The center will extend over an area of 16,400 square feet, four times the size of the current emergency facilities.

This new center will include:

- Treatment areas allocated according to severity of patients' medical condition and not according to medical specialties as it is today
- A Fast Track for walk-ins
- A new trauma unit equipped with state-of-the-art technologies and equipment
- A new imaging unit with cutting-edge imaging modalities including an advanced CT to be located adjoining the ER
- A unique environment for providing exceptional quality care to thousands of patients with an emphasis on their privacy and individual needs
- Underground parking facilities with the necessary infrastructure for use during an emergency crisis

Dr. Eyran Halpern, CEO of Rabin Medical Center said: "The Daniel Jusidman Center for Emergency Medicine and Trauma will be the most advanced in Israel and will afford the staff highly developed professional tools for the overall benefit of the patients. We sincerely thank Mr. Jusidman for his true generosity and support which will afford exceptional medical care for the people of Israel." ■

NEWS FLASH: EMERGENCY DRILL

While rockets were falling in March on Ashkelon and Sderot, Rabin Medical Center, only about 34 miles away from Ashkelon, held an emergency exercise drill. The drill was held in cooperation with the police, the fire department, Israeli Railways, ZAKA (search and rescue unit), the Israeli Red Cross and the local municipality. During the exercise participating staff coordinated and handled multiple injuries from several possible scenarios at the local train station, including a terrorist bomb explosion.

REMEMBERING SENATOR HOWARD METZENBAUM

Former Ohio Senator Howard Metzenbaum, **Founding Honorary Chairman** of the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center (AFRMC), died at the age of 90 in March. Metzenbaum, a Cleveland native, served three full terms as a United States senator, retiring in 1995. His involvement began prior to Rabin Medical Center receiving its name, when it was known as American Friends of Beilinson, and he was there in 1995 for the transformation of the institution that would from then on be known as Rabin Medical Center. Senator Metzenbaum was the highest profile American public figure to be a champion for AFRMC efforts and he was responsible for helping to produce videos of the hospital that helped Rabin Medical Center gain world-wide recognition. AFRMC has today evolved into a respected and successful organization in good measure because of the Senator's devotion.

The following are excerpts from Senator Howard Metzenbaum's introduction to a book about late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"I was an admirer of the late great Yitzhak Rabin, a friend and true statesman for whom this outstanding Medical Center



Senator Howard Metzenbaum

is now named."

"We in America respect and applaud you for opening your arms to all the Jews of the world be they from the former Soviet Union, the Arab states, Ethiopia, and to many Americans too. Israel is probably the only nation in the world with that kind of open-door policy. And the Rabin Medical Center will carry on that same open-door policy. Its magnificent health-delivery systems will always be open to all peoples, Israeli or otherwise, without regard to race, creed, religion or national origin. Our faith in the future is reflected in our commitment, that we the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center, have to

this outstanding institution and its tradition of excellence in medical care....Through enhanced medical care that is made possible by your medical research, medical education and your commitment to the care and wellbeing of each of your patients, the Rabin Medical Center became a world-renowned institution....We, American Friends of the Rabin Medical Center assure you that as the center prepares for medical care in the 21st century, we will be with you—we will stand by you." ■

STARTING YOUNG AND GIVING GENEROUSLY

The third annual celebration of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center (AFRMC) New Circle for Young Professionals in Real Estate and Finance was held on February 26 at the stunning SICIS mosaic showroom in trendy Soho. AFRMC thanks **Amy Tannenbaum**, Vice President Sales and Marketing at SICIS, for coordinating this event, which has become the buzz of New York City as a premier real estate networking opportunity. Two hundred and twenty-five guests enjoyed the evening, which featured a keynote address by **Stephen Siegel**, Global Chair of CB Richard Ellis and a New York real estate legend. Stephen Siegel told the assembled crowd that "adversity breeds opportunity," even in the current difficult market. He



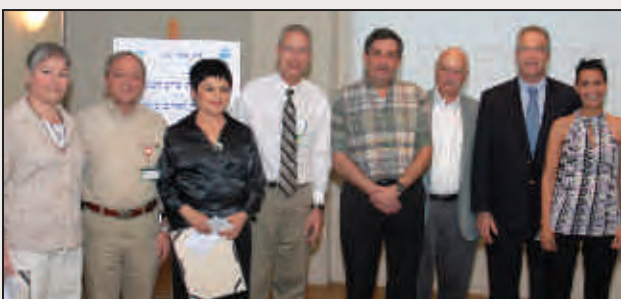
L-R: Iris Bahr and Oren Heiman

advised the Young Professionals to have a life of service, to "start young, and give the rest of your lives back." Entertainment was provided by **Iris Bahr**, the star of the acclaimed Off Broadway Israeli show *DAI*.

The event co-chairs were **Oren Heiman**, **Yoav Oelsner**, **Edan Shibolet**, and **Joe Berko**. Honorary chairs of the evening were **Yaron Cohen**, **Robert Ivanhoe**, **Stephen Siegel**, and **Ofer Yardeni**. Thanks to the corporate patrons and sponsors: **Itzhaki**

Properties, **Brack Capital Real Estate**, **Planned Companies**, **Massey Knaki**, **Vision Group**, **Extell**, **Artimus**, **PSG Construction**, **First American Title Insurance Company of New York**, **Capstone Equities**, **The Real Deal**, and **Sabon**. ■

POLLIN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



Pollin Awardees: L to R Haya Yurfest, Dr. Evgeny Abramson, Dr. Rima Sadov, Dr. Yaron Mushkat, Dr. Boaz Tadmor, Amos Eyran, Dr. Eyran Halpern, Efrat Zairi

"The Abe and Irene Pollin Award of Excellence" was presented to four staff members of Rabin Medical Center for outstanding excellence in their work. This annual award, now in its third consecutive year, was established to recognize the work of exceptional individuals at Rabin Medical Center. **Mr. Amos Eran**, a friend and representative of the Pollin Family, spoke about Abe and Irene's lifelong philanthropy and years of generosity and infinite compassion toward others, symbolized by the "Abe and Irene Pollin Award of Excellence." Those who receive this award embody the spirit of Rabin Medical Center in their uncompromising devotion to their work. ■

2007 GALA: PROVIDING A VITAL LIFELINE FOR ISRAEL

A star-studded group of 600 supporters attended the 2007 American Friends of Rabin Medical Center (AFRMC) Annual Gala Dinner on October 28, 2007 at the magnificent Cipriani Wall Street in downtown Manhattan. AFRMC Chairman, **Barry Cohen**, welcomed everyone and noted that the evening's purpose was to support the Rabin Medical Center, Israel's premier hospital and an institution of central importance in Israel and the Middle East. Cohen recognized distinguished guests and supporters of Israel who were in the audience. They included gala honoree **Frederick Frank**, a renowned investment banker; gala co-chairs **Arnold Burns, Esq.**, and **Millie and Larry Magid**; **Dina Recanati**, past gala honoree; **David Barouk** and his family, a generous friend **Phil and Pat Frost**; **Alan Dershowitz**, the keynote speaker; and numerous Hollywood and Broadway personalities, including **Tovah Feldshuh**, **Sherill Milnes**, **Anne Meara**, and **Eli Wallach** and **Anne Jackson**, the Award of Excellence honorees. This year 170 young professionals were in attendance to support the Gala Dinner, and to attend a first ever After Party for the young and young-at-heart.

Nava Barak, President of Israel Friends of Rabin Medical Center since 1997, a First Lady of Israel and the First Lady of the Rabin Medical Center, greeted the assembled guests. She reminded everyone that Israel still faces threats and danger on a daily basis, with a barrage of Kassam rockets fired continually on the citizens of Sderot. The situation is still volatile, she stressed, and all segments of Israeli society rely on the Rabin Medical Center, from immigrants to IDF (Israel Defence Forces) soldiers. Nava praised the tremendous transformation at Rabin Medical Center, thanks to the cooperation and friendship of the circle of friends of Rabin Medical Center. She introduced a video showcasing the work of Rabin Medical Center's Emergency and Trauma department, featuring a heart attack survivor and a wounded IDF soldier. As a special surprise, **Tom Schechter**, the young wounded soldier featured in the video, took the podium and spoke of the "amazing" treatment he and his military unit had received at Rabin Medical Center. "We couldn't have been in a better place or better hands," he said. "This hospital is our lifeline." The audience was deeply moved as he thanked everyone for their support and generosity.

Jennifer Roth, Senior Vice President at Sotheby's, conducted a successful Equipment Appeal auction to raise money for equipment that would help bolster the Emergency Unit.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote address by **Professor Alan Dershowitz**, renowned civil liberties lawyer and Harvard University Professor. Prof. Dershowitz spoke about the three threats facing the Jewish people and Israel today: an academic threat from hate-filled propaganda on college campuses, political attacks on Israel, and a military threat from a nuclear Iran. Dershowitz highlighted Rabin Medical Center's record of excellence and compassion, demonstrating the best of the Jewish community and the Jewish state. Hospitals in Israel admit and care for all patients equally, irrespective of religion or ethnicity. Further, Israel per capita exports more lifesaving



L-R: Anne & Rob Ivanhoe, Shari & Ofer Yardeni, Wendy & Steve Siegel



L-R: Tovah Feldshuh, Eli Wallach, Anne Jackson, Anne Meara



L-R: Dr. Phil Frost, Dr. Joshua Plaut, Daniel Erem, Gabriel Erem, Harvey Krueger



L-R: Judge Abe Sofaer, Fred Frank, Tovah Feldshuh



L-R: Milly & Larry Magid and Dr. Joshua & Lori Plaut

technology to the rest of the world than any other country. Such facts demonstrate the highest values of respecting human life, which Israel represents and champions.

The evening's entertainment was provided by **Loren Schoenberg's Jazz Museum in Harlem's All-Star Band**. Tovah Feldshuh introduced Anne Meara, who presented the AFRMC Award of Excellence to Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson, stars of the stage and silver screen, for their cultural contributions which have enriched the lives of all Americans. Next, **Judge Abe Sofaer**, one of America's outstanding jurists, presented the evening's award to Frederick Frank, Vice Chair of Lehman Brothers, a friend of Israel and the Jewish people. Co-chairs of the dinner, Millie and Larry Magid, introduced the new CEO of the Rabin Medical Center, **Dr. Eyran Halpern**. Dr. Halpern described the work of the hospital, and then paid tribute to **Dr. Dan Oppenheim**. The concluding evening's entertainment was provided by the **Three Mo' Tenors**. Following the dinner, there was a spectacular After Party with entertainment provided by **Johnny Colon and his Salsa Orchestra**. This year's Gala Dinner was the most successful to date in attendance and fundraising efforts. ■

PROFESSOR ALAN DERSHOWITZ: CHOOSE LIFE



L-R: Barry Cohen, Dr. Eyran Halpern, Alan Dershowitz

Rabin Medical Center is a wonderful hospital named after an incredible human being. I had the privilege of knowing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin....We have an obligation as a successful community to bring about justice for the Jewish people and for Israel....In the Bible it says "therefore choose life." In Israel every life is valued. Israeli hospitals do not discriminate between those they admit. Per capita, Israel exports more lifesaving technology to the world than any other country. [It has] the highest ratio of medical personnel to the population...it builds bomb shelters and wants to minimize the death of civilians on both sides...Israel has a higher standard of compliance with human rights and the rule of law...no other country has higher compliance...There is a deal we all implicitly made with Israel. They put their own and their children's lives at risk. Our part of the deal is we pay a tiny percentage. We have to fulfill our part of the deal by contributing to this institution [Rabin Medical Center] that stands for and represents the best of the Jewish people and Israel. (Gala excerpts)



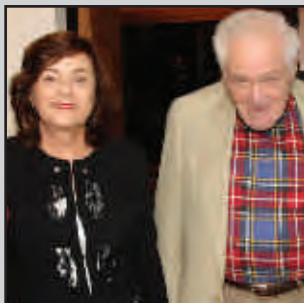
David Barouk and daughters dancing at the After Party

COCKTAIL PARTY HONORS SPECIAL FRIENDS

On Saturday night, October 27, 2007, Yvonne and Barry Cohen hosted a special cocktail party in which good friends of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center gathered to honor Frederick Frank for his generosity.



L-R: Yvonne Cohen, Dina Recanati, Barry Cohen



Tamar Hirschl Snyder & Harold Snyder



L-R: Joel & Rachel Reck, Dr. Maya Halpern, Ina Heafitz, Dr. Eyran Halpern, Lewis Heafitz



L-R: Mary Tanner, Fred Frank, Nava Barak



Mrs. Patricia Frost & Dr. Phil Frost



L-R: Jacki Florin, Alan Dershowitz, Millie Magid, Dr. Bilha Fish

WOMEN MOBILIZING FOR NEW BREAST CARE CENTER



L-R: Janice Gillerman, Iris Bahr, Ambassador Dan Gillerman



L-R: Arlette Cohen, Phyllis Arnold, Roni Blanshay

Please help fund the purchase of crucial equipment for the \$2.7 million integrated Breast Care Center.

\$2,800

Non-Invasive Blood Pressure Monitor

\$32,000

Vacuum assisted breast biopsy needle

\$150,000

GE Premium Ultrasound

\$300,000

MRI Breast Modalities

The annual **American Friends of Rabin Medical Center Women's Luncheon** was hosted by the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations and his wife, **Ambassador Dan and Janice Gillerman**, in their Manhattan home. Seventy women, old and new friends of the Rabin Medical Center, attended the elegant luncheon. The event co-chairs were **Dr. Bilha Fish, Jacki Florin, Phyllis Trobman, and Amira Rotem**. Ambassador Gillerman said that every day, as he advocates for Israel, he takes strength and feels proud that Israel is "a country that makes the desert bloom, limbs move with medicine, and a country that makes the world a better place with its creativity and excellence and innovation. Israel's excellence is exemplified by Rabin Medical Center, an institution that stands for compassion, co-existence between Arabs and Jews, and advancing technologies for the region and the entire world."

AFRMC **Executive Director Dr. Joshua Plaut** thanked Janice Gillerman for initiating an annual Luncheon to support a new comprehensive Breast Care Center at the hospital. Dr. Plaut noted that everyone in the audience knows someone afflicted with breast cancer. Dr. Bilha Fish stressed that breast cancer is a complex disease requiring that Rabin Medical Center adopt a multidisciplinary approach to centralize the services

women patients require in one state-of-the-art facility. All guests at the luncheon were given a list of vital equipment needed for the future Breast Care Center.

Joshua Plaut recognized **Eve Queler**, maestro of the Opera Orchestra of NY, on her 100th performance at Carnegie Hall. Jacki Florin, producer, philanthropist, and AFRMC Board member introduced the luncheon's performer, **Iris Bahr**, star of the acclaimed Off Broadway Israeli one-woman show *DAI*. Iris Bahr regaled everyone and then spoke movingly about her own mother's breast cancer and the trauma her family suffered during this illness. She stressed the need for an integrated Breast Care Center for women in Israel that would have not only cutting-edge facilities for early detection and the most modern technology, but also the psychological support, social services and compassion for which Rabin Medical Center is noted. Iris described breast cancer as "terrifying," and as a disease which attacks the "base of your femininity." She spoke with pride how Rabin Medical Center is leading the fight in Israel against breast cancer: "The Rabin Medical Center is known for its world-renowned staff and care, and they care for people across the spectrum, regardless of race or ethnicity." It is "Humanity without Borders" in action. ■

ISRAELI ORTHOPEDIC EXPERT VISITS NEW YORK AND FLORIDA



L-R: Dr. Bilha Fish, Dr. Daniel Lerer, Dr. Moshe Salai, Dr. Joshua Plaut

On January 30, 2008, the American Physician Friends of Rabin Medical Center hosted a presentation by **Dr. Moshe Salai**, the Director of the Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery at the Rabin Medical Center. The evening, hosted by **Dr. Bilha Fish** in her Manhattan home, was well attended by young and senior physicians, including a contingent from Montefiore Hospital in New York, and by friends of the Rabin Medical Center. Dr. Salai described how the Rabin Medical Center signed a contract with the Israeli army in 2003 to treat soldiers. The hospital presently treats 5,000 soldiers annually. Dr. Salai discussed a multidisciplinary approach to emergency care, noting: "As peace eludes Israel, the casualties of this continued conflict will count on our continued care."

From New York, Dr. Salai visited Florida to speak to 1,000 people at Temple Emeth in Delray Beach on the topic "To the Rescue: Medical Treatment of Casualties of the Israeli-Arab Conflict." He also spoke at a private party at the home of Tibor and Hana Stern on Harbor Island, Florida.

During his visit to the United States, Dr. Salai presented four fundraising projects on behalf of the Department of Orthopedics: a new Comprehensive Orthopedic Ambulatory Services, TraumaCad Web-based Digital Templating software, the Hexapod System for Orthopedic Surgery, and a Fellowship in Orthopedic Trauma. American Friends of Rabin Medical Center welcomes inquiries from individuals interested in supporting any of these projects. ■

BRINGING BACK THEIR SMILES



Dr. Dean Ad-El in India with a patient

With little time to spare in his busy schedule as the Head of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Burn Unit at Rabin Medical Center, **Dr. Dean Ad-El** found his way to India to spend two weeks operating on Indian children born with a cleft lip and palate. These children, who live in poverty, have no hope of paying for this operation, which costs as little as \$250 dollars. Without this corrective surgery they cannot eat or speak properly and face difficult lives filled with shame, isolation, pain and heartache. This endeavor was sponsored by "The Smile Train" program, through which doctors from around the world volunteer to operate on these children in all impoverished countries.

Dr. Ad-EL was happy to volunteer for such an important mission that dramatically changes the lives of these children. Their smile is truly worth a thousand words. ■

Dr. Ad-EL was happy to volunteer for such an important mission that dramatically changes the lives of these children. Their smile is truly worth a thousand words. ■

LIFESAVING HEROICS



Prof. Israel Meizner with Limor Agamy and her son

Professor **Israel Meizner**, head of the Ultrasound Unit at Rabin Medical Center's Hospital for Women, has performed thousands of ultrasounds and invasive procedures on pregnant women throughout his long career, but nothing like the extraordinary ultrasound of Limor Agamy. In her twentieth week of pregnancy, a huge cyst was

observed in the right fetal lung and doctors attempted to alleviate this problem using pleuro-amniotic shunting to drain the fluids. During this procedure, Prof. Meizner discovered that the fetal pleural cavity had filled with blood, the heart was compressed to the side, and there was only a faint heartbeat. It was obvious that the fetus was dying.

Without a second thought, Prof. Meizner performed a lifesaving procedure by placing a needle straight into the fetal thorax and pumping out the blood that had accumulated. As he carried out this very delicate and dangerous procedure, the fetus's lungs expanded and a normal heartbeat was restored, saving the unborn baby's life. In her thirty-eighth week of pregnancy, Limor gave birth to a beautiful healthy son. Her joy was indescribable. ■

WARNING SIGNS OF A STROKE

YOUR VITAL SIGNS

Vital Signs spoke with **Dr. Jonathan Streifler**, Head of the Unit of Neurology at Hasharon Hospital, Rabin Medical Center.

Dr. Streifler: What can you tell us regarding the warning signs of a stroke?

First, we should all be aware that strokes do happen suddenly. Sometimes people's conditions deteriorate quickly and they vary in nature and severity. Most importantly, people who suffer strokes must get to a hospital immediately because crucial treatment is possible only during the first hours after a stroke occurs. If diagnosis occurs quickly, there is an excellent chance of survival and reduced neurological damage. Therefore, we should all be aware of signs that could warn of an impending stroke. If you believe you or someone else is having a stroke, please get help immediately.

The warning signs of a stroke are:

Abrupt onset of

- Weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Numbness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- An asymmetrical smile or the mouth drooping to one side
- Slurred speech or difficulty in speaking a simple sentence
- Trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Blurred vision or some difficulty in seeing properly in one or both eyes
- Sometimes a severe headache with no known cause

Separately these warning signs may not signal a stroke, but it is definitely advisable to play it safe and seek professional advice, even if these signs seem to fade or go away. Checking with a physician may be a lifesaving decision.

----> **Please send any of your health questions to afrmc@afrmc.org**

WHAT'S UP DOC?



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

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Israel at 60!*

SAVE THE DATE

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER
HELPING ISRAEL'S PREMIER HOSPITAL IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS



Larry King
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

2008 NEW YORK GALA DINNER
Wednesday, November 5, 2008 — Plaza Hotel
Gala & Entertainment 6:00–9:30 pm After Party 9:30–12:30 am
American Friends of Rabin Medical Center looks forward to welcoming you.
Reservations: 212-279-2522 or afrmc@afrmc.org (limited space)

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER
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QUAKER RIDGE GOLF CLUB

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Monday, May 5, 2008

Reserve a foursome today! Call 212-279-2522 or e-mail afrmc@afrmc.org



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Spring 2008

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Dear Friends of Israel,

As we celebrate Israel's 60th birthday, it is hard to believe that Israel is still struggling for its very survival. We all hope that peace comes soon.

But today Israel is in crisis. Israeli citizens of Sderot are terrorized daily by sirens signaling yet another rocket attack from Gaza. And enemy rockets are now capable of reaching Israel's major cities. Syria and Iran are waiting for their opportunity to strike at Israel.

In the face of adversity, Israel's Rabin Medical Center of Petach Tikvah stands as a model of strength in these difficult times. **Rabin Medical Center cares for the wounded, heals them, and comforts their families.**

At this time of threats to Israel's existence and security, Rabin Medical Center is doubling its efforts to heal those who have been injured defending our beloved homeland, to find cures for all who are ill. Did you know that **Rabin Medical Center treats over one million patients annually?** That is one out of every six Israelis. In 2007 alone, over 165,000 Israelis received treatment in the hospital's aging Emergency Unit.

Rabin Medical Center is now building a new Emergency and Trauma Center. Because we simply must provide the latest and most sophisticated care to save the lives of the young men and women who guard Israel's security. **But we can't do it without people like you. People who understand the importance of the Rabin Medical Center.**

Rabin Medical Center cannot purchase the necessary equipment or finance the Emergency and Trauma Center on its own. The building, its infrastructure, and vital emergency equipment are too costly for an already burdened hospital. You, our American Friends, can make a real contribution by making this emergency facility come into existence, sooner rather than later.

What a magnificent birthday present for Israel and its citizens! Every donation will help us obtain vital emergency medical equipment, and assist our dedicated staff in finding the latest treatments and cures. **WE NEED TO STAND BY ISRAEL NOW.**

A tax-deductible gift to Rabin Medical Center is a declaration of trust in the future of Israel. It will allow the State to fulfill her mandate to save lives and to provide the best healthcare for all of her residents.

So, please give Israel a wonderful birthday present on the occasion of her 60th anniversary. Your donation will bring health and prosperity to the Jewish people as YOU ensure Israel's security and future.

Thank you for your generosity and Happy Birthday Israel!

Dr. Joshua Eli Plaut
Executive Director



THE PRIDE OF ISRAEL: THE PAST YEAR AT RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

8,519 NEW BABIES BORN

4,400 boys and 4,119 girls
254 twins and 5 triplets

144 MEN AND WOMEN WERE "REBORN"

8 heart transplants
23 liver transplants
33 lung transplants
80 kidney transplants

5,301 GOT A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

1,135 cardiac surgeries
4,166 catheterizations

3,255 PEOPLE OPENED THEIR EYES

35 cornea transplants
3,220 cataract surgeries

OUR PATIENTS

658,651 outpatient visits
165,005 ER admissions
12,646 MRI scans
40,430 CT images
416,584 days of hospitalization
140,520 people were hospitalized
32,204 operations were performed
5,904 people were treated following road accidents

**ALL OF THESE PATIENTS WERE TREATED BY RABIN MEDICAL CENTER'S
DEDICATED AND COMPASSIONATE STAFF OF 4,500**