



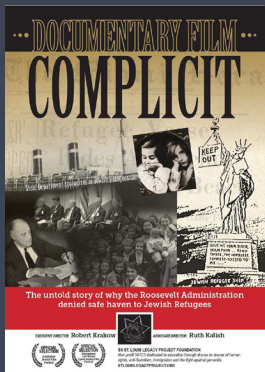
# DVI News

2015

Newsletter of the American Friends of DVI

## COMPLICIT Documentary Screening to Raise Funds for DVI

DVI's beloved founder Trudi Birger was a Holocaust survivor. She would be proud to know that the voices of others who survived are still being heard and that those who perished continue to be remembered and honored. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we invite you to a screening of the documentary film **COMPLICIT** The Untold Story of why the Roosevelt Administration denied safe haven to Jewish Refugees. The event, a fundraiser for DVI, will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the voyage of the SS St. Louis which set sail from Hamburg, Germany on May 13, 1939 seeking safety and freedom from Nazi persecution. A Q&A session will be held afterward featuring the film's Producer, Mr. Robert Krakow, as well as surviving passengers. For more information or to register please visit [www.AmericanFriendsofDVI.org](http://www.AmericanFriendsofDVI.org), [americanfriendsofdvi@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendsofdvi@gmail.com) or call (201) 336-0230.



### COMPLICIT

Sunday, May 17, 2015

6:00 PM Reception – Light Repast  
(kosher)

7:00 PM Documentary Screening  
followed by Q&A session

Goldman-Sonnenfeldt  
Family Auditorium  
JCC Manhattan  
334 Amsterdam Avenue  
(Corner of 76th St.) New York City



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## HEALING THE WORLD

By Dr. Michael J. Goldberg,  
AFDVI President

I'm often asked, usually by patients, "What do you do in Israel?" I explain that I volunteer as a dentist and provide dental care for needy children. But is that what keeps me going back? After all, I can treat needy children here in the USA!

What is unique about the DVI Clinic is that dentists from all over the world come together for a common goal. Dentists from over 35 Countries have volunteered to put their skills to work in one of the most contentious areas on our planet. What other city has generated the emotion, passion and attention that Jerusalem has?

What keeps me coming back and what keeps me actively involved goes beyond even Trudi's dream. Trudi wanted to care for indigent children. To help

others prevent the ravages of dental disease that she suffered throughout her life as a result of surviving the Holocaust. She felt that no child should have to suffer because of lack of access to dental care.

But Trudi did something extraordinary; when she went to Scandinavia to explore implants for herself, she made friends with a Christian dental organization. Thus, the ecumenical part of DVI was born. What had started as a predominantly French Dental initiative led by Dr. Jacques Ciepiewski in 1980, morphed into something bigger.

Now, 35 years later, DVI's reputation has grown and is considered the model for such programs around the world. "Healing the World" or "Tikkun Olam" in Hebrew is what DVI really does. A

venue where dentists from all over the world, from all religions and ethnicities care for children of disparate religions and ethnicities is unique. That's why I love the DVI Clinic.

I'm a dentist. I fix teeth and craft smiles all the time. But, at DVI I can do my small part to heal the world. And, actually, I don't even have to be at the clinic. My support of it goes beyond my volunteering to do hands-on dentistry. As an active member of American Friends of DVI, I can support the mission in other ways. I can actively recruit dentists, and I can solicit funds. I can help organize events and spread the word. You can do the same and, thereby, do your part in healing the world. If more people had this opportunity and took it, imagine how much better our world would be.

# Thank You 2014 Donors & Volunteers!

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 Zhan Jie  
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## PROFESSOR ALAN M. DERSHOWITZ HEADLINES FUNDRAISER FOR DVI

In November, AFDVI had the pleasure of presenting a very interesting and timely Q&A session with Professor Alan M. Dershowitz on the topic of Israel, ISIS and the War Against Terrorism. Although there were over 175 in attendance, Professor Dershowitz's approachable style gave the event the feel of an intimate gathering. His deep knowledge of history and thoughtful insight on the topic was attention-grabbing and left our guests wanting for more.



The fundraiser, in support of the DVI Trudi Birger Dental Clinic, was held at the Septodont Lecture Hall at NYU College of Dentistry.

Thanks to our guests, supporters and sponsors, the event was a great success. Together with the 116 dentist volunteers from around the world who gave of their time and expertise in 2014, we helped make it possible for the clinic to treat 2,453 children and at-risk youth last year.

We thank Professor Dershowitz for sharing his time for our great cause.

## DEDICATED TO DVI

By Dr. Saul Pressner

I have been very fortunate to have volunteered at DVI four times in the last three years and plan to continue doing this at least once a year for as long as I am able. I was never blessed with having had my own children so I look for opportunities to give back to kids however I can. I also feel very strongly about Israel and the Israeli people and I want to help in any way I can to support that great nation.

The important feelings I have for the clinic come from my heart. D. Walter Cohen, who has been strongly involved in supporting the clinic, was my Dean at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine when I was a dental student. When he was honored by American Friends of DVI a few years back, it brought DVI onto my radar screen. Dean Cohen was very kind to me as a dental student. After the event where he was honored, I decided I wanted to volunteer at DVI.

The staff at DVI is wonderful. After having been there four times, they feel like family to me. It feels like coming home. The dental assistants are truly dedicated to Trudi Birger's vision of providing the highest level of dental care for Jerusalem's disadvantaged youth of all faiths. It is so special to volunteer in a place where such excellent care is rendered to children and young adults without regard to their ethnicity or religion. The staff and

volunteers only want to do what is best for the patients.

The dentists with whom I have volunteered are also very special people. I have become friends with a number of them. Three of my New York City colleagues are planning to go to the DVI clinic in the very near future to give of their services.

This is what DVI is all about. We are all working together to continue Trudi's goals: to deliver the best dental care to the needy children of Jerusalem regardless of their religious background and by doing so, give back to the state of Israel, the only true western style democracy in the Middle East. I feel we are giving back in the best way we can with our time and skill. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way.



## CORPORATE SPONSORS



**SAVE THE DATE**  
DVI's 35TH  
ANNIVERSARY GALA



Please save the date! Put 6 pm on November 29th into your Calendar. Sunday, November 29th, 6 pm. American Friends of DVI's 35th Anniversary GALA – “Peace Starts with a Smile”. It is an event that has been 35 years and thousands of children and volunteers in the making.

This special occasion is being held at the beautiful Museum of Jewish Heritage, overlooking the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The spectacular view, cocktail reception and dinner are not to be missed. The event will honor many respected leaders of the dental industry, special DVI supporters, and recognize the contribution of the thousands of volunteers from the United States, and the thousands of children who can smile a bright smile thanks to AFDVI.

Where else but the DVI clinic can impoverished Israeli children of all faiths, backgrounds and nationalities come to receive free oral care? And that dentistry is provided by the finest dentists from around the world - all nationalities, races, and religions, but especially from the U.S. And these practitioners go home after volunteering with a renewed sense of purpose and a greater understanding of other cultures. Only through such experiences can communication and understanding be facilitated and lead to PEACE. One smile at a time.

Dental Volunteers for Israel was founded in 1980 by the late Trudi Birger, a Holocaust survivor, microbiologist, and dedicated humanitarian activist. Trudi was born in

Germany in 1927. After fleeing to Lithuania, Trudi's family was confined by the Nazis in the Kovno Ghetto from 1941-1944. Trudi and her mother were then transferred to a Nazi concentration camp, but through her will to live, her quick wit, and her self-confidence, they lived to see liberation and eventually immigrated to Israel. After miraculously surviving Nazi persecution, Trudi vowed to make her life as meaningful as possible. She accomplished this goal by establishing Dental Volunteers for Israel, a free clinic where Israeli children of any background could receive free dental care.

This 35th Anniversary Gala honors the smiles of the children who have been helped by the American volunteers and donors. It is a special celebration you will want to attend. It is a fantastic cause, and we will honor our volunteers, donors, industry leaders, and other supporters. It promises to be a beautiful festive event.

For information about the 35th Anniversary Gala, please call (201) 336-0230 or send an email to [americanfriendsofdvi@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendsofdvi@gmail.com)

For more information about American Friends of DVI go to: [www.americanfriendsofdvi.org](http://www.americanfriendsofdvi.org)

I look forward to seeing you at the Gala.

Keith Drayer  
Gala Chairman



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**Become a Member of AFDVI**

Membership is a meaningful way to demonstrate your support for DVI and the children of Jerusalem. As a member, we will send you periodic updates, newsletters and photos. Become a member today and receive a special gift.

Silver Member - \$180  
A special DVI Lapel Pin

Gold Member - \$500  
A Dr. Joel Berg Signature Pediatric Bur Block made exclusively for AFDVI

Platinum Member - \$1,000  
An ancient Judean coin commonly called a “Widow’s Mite” dating back to about 100 BCE

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