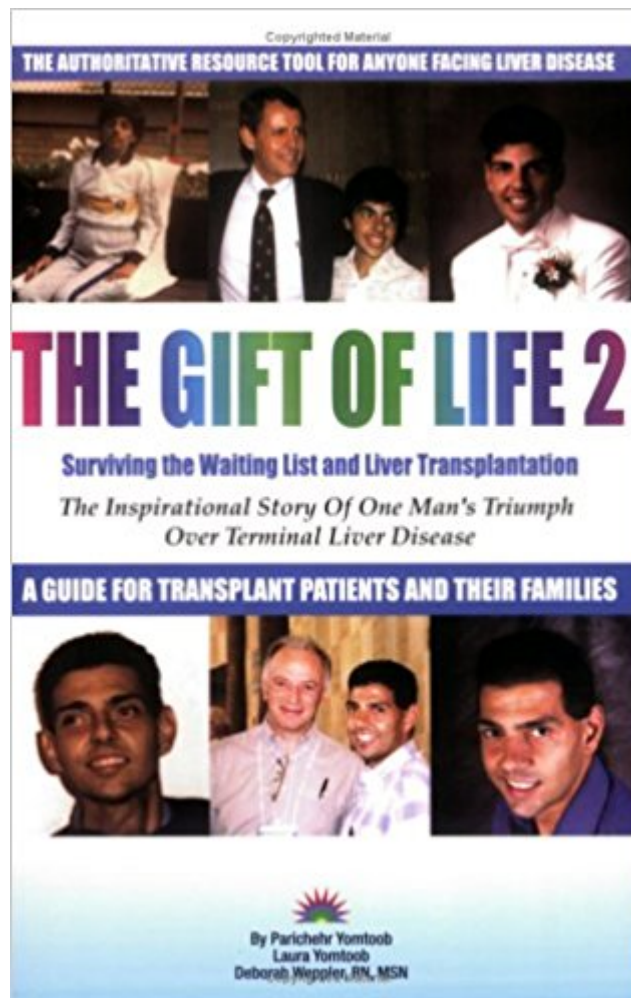




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# The Gift Of Life 2: Surviving The Waiting List And Liver Transplantation



## Synopsis

Seventeen years after a successful liver transplant, David Yomtoob once again found himself fighting for his life against the backdrop of organ waiting lists and a valiant team of doctors and nurses working to keep him alive while he waited. Only 12 years old when his first liver failed with advanced Wilson's disease, David was among the first to receive a transplanted liver in 1981. He led a normal life when suddenly, 17 years later, that liver began to fail. Three years and four transplants centers later, David arrived home again with a new liver, but only after he and his family had been tested by the challenges faced by every transplant family on the waiting list. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), nearly 90,000 people are waiting for donated organs today and every 13 minutes a new name is added to the list. Every 13 minutes another family's life is thrown into turmoil as they begin the waiting process with the hope that their journey will end in life and not in death. As each patient's name is added to the waiting list, a number of unforeseen challenges await. The Gift of Life 2 was written to assist patients and their families in managing those challenges: Which transplant center is best for the patient? How does the waiting list work? How does a patient communicate with medical personnel most effectively to manage their treatment? Who is the best candidate to be a living related organ donor? What are the various religious positions on organ donation and transplantation? Where does one find financial, emotional, and spiritual support during the waiting period? How can a layperson understand the medical tests? What can go wrong? Most importantly, how can a loved one be kept alive long enough to receive a transplant? Parichehr Yomtoob, David's mother and the co-author (with Ted Schwarz) in 1986 of The Gift of Life, the story of David's first transplant, is an activist and educator for organ donation and transplantation. She has co-authored The Gift of Life 2 with her daughter-in-law Laura Yomtoob and Deborah Weppner, one of our country's most experienced transplant nurses. Between them, they answer all of the questions patients and their families will have before, during, and after transplantation. This book gives inspiration and purpose to those awaiting transplant, as well as those contemplating organ donation. It will also provide valuable insights to doctors, medical students, nurses, and other hospital personnel, along with members of the clergy, and the families and friends of transplant patients.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book should be given as required reading to every liver patient who has had or may need a transplant. --Allan Kolsky, Liver recipient  
An experienced transplant nurse helps explain in lay terms liver transplantation, modern immunosuppression and almost all known complications. --Andreas G. Tzakis, M.D., Ph.D., University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Parichehr Yomtoob is a mother of three, grandmother of five, teacher, wife, volunteer, and an activist and educator for organ donation and transplantation. Her first book, *The Gift of Life*, was about her son David's Wilson's Disease and successful liver transplant. She coauthored the book with freelance writer Ted Schwarz. The book was published in 1986 in the U.S. and Japan and received rave reviews. Parichehr and her husband Joe reside in a suburb of Chicago. Laura Yomtoob was born in 1965 and educated at the University of Michigan. She lives in the Chicago area with her husband and two sons. This is her first book. Deborah Wepler is the Clinical Specialist/Senior Transplant Coordinator for the Liver and GI Transplant Team at Jackson Memorial Hospital, University of Miami Medical Center. As a Senior Transplant Coordinator, she is responsible for coordinating over 200 liver transplants and 30 intestinal transplants annually. She also follows approximately 600 pre-transplant and 2,200 post-transplant patients, supervises seven post-transplant coordinators, five preoperative coordinators, three pediatric coordinators, and multiple ancillary personnel. In addition, she oversees multiple clinical research projects. She has been the author and coauthor of many medical articles and books.

As the mother of a multiorgan transplant daughter, we were very fortunate to be under the care of

Debbie Wepler and the transplant team at the University of Miami. My daughter recovered from a very difficult transplant by following Debbie Wepler's advice. If you or a loved one is facing a transplant, read this book so you will know what to expect. It will be a tremendous help for you and guide you through the process.

This is a great book with useful medical information about the transplant process as well as a heart warming account of the struggles of waiting for an organ donor and receiving a liver transplant. I could hardly put the book down after I started reading. Emotions and events are described so well that you feel you are part of the family and therefore part of the journey.

I recently read this book and found it to be a particularly moving experience, expressing a remarkable commitment between mother and son and family. Even though the topic illness is liver failure and liver transplant, I felt that thoughtfully reading The Gift of Life 2 would be very helpful to a family coping with any serious illness. Sincerely, Susan K. Farley

I was amazed and touched by this book. Well-written, thought-provoking and heart rending....you feel the triumph and tribulations of this family and their journey with each page!! You will definitely think very strongly about writing a living will and becoming an organ donor.

Reading the personal problems that the Yomtoob's had living with Liver Transplants has helped us as a family to deal with the situation. It is NOT a helpless journey, just a very long and difficult one. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us.

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