



Spotlights

✿ Fact-finding in England and Spain

Rachel Skrobish, Director of the Institute's Department of Education and Rehabilitation recently led a fact-finding mission to Spain and England to compare and contrast each country's work with the blind. Participating in this professional exchange were social workers, psychologists, and rehabilitation specialists from all over Israel. Also participating from the Institute was Solly Hassid, Director of the Institute's Therapeutic Unit.

✿ Salute from the General

Rabbi Mordechai Piron was well known in Israel as the Chief Rabbi of the Israel Defense Forces and a general and upon his retirement he served as the Chief Rabbi of Zurich. Now back in Jerusalem, he and his wife recently dedicated a lovely and useful social hall in the dormitory building for the use of the students at the Institute.

✿ Torch Trust Comes to Visit

Janet Stafford and a group of tourists from Torch Trust for the Blind of Leicester toured Israel recently and spent one of their days in Jerusalem visiting the Institute. As many of the participants were blind, they enjoyed the hands - on visit to both the well equipped gym and computer department.



Director's Corner

At the Jewish Institute for the Blind, we are looking critically at our work and responsibility to the blind community of Israel. It is no secret that our student body is changing, as most problems of blindness from birth have been eliminated. A child that has no other handicap except blindness is oftentimes mainstreamed into the educational framework. And the pupils at the Institute usually suffer from handicaps in addition to their sight that make it difficult for them to study in a regular educational setting.

In addition to the work we are doing with our students, we have organized a steering committee to help us develop our talents and expertise to serve as a national resource center for the blind in Israel. Sitting together are educators, social services professionals, representatives of the Ministries of Education and Social Welfare and members of our board of directors to forge a framework that will be helpful for the blind and their families throughout Israel.

We look forward to reporting our assistance to young people from all over the country with evaluations as well as short term specialized courses. As education and rehabilitation for the blind are our specialty, we hope to increase our impact on the blind and visually impaired throughout the country, helping them to reach the independence for which they are striving.

May this season of Passover be one of freedom and independence. Thank you for helping us at the Institute to achieve these goals.

Chaim Reshelbach,
Director

Annual spring outing is hands on experience for the students

