



INSIGHT

news from *Jewish Institute For The Blind, Jerusalem*

volume 26 number 50- spring 2002

100 Years and More...

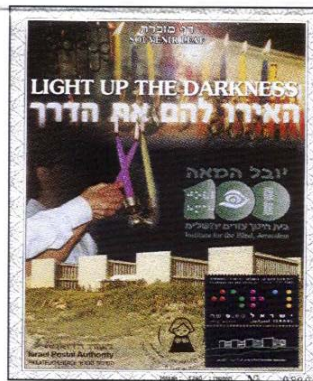
"The Jewish Institute for the Blind has taught generations of students who have made their mark on Israeli society," according to Erez Biton, Israeli poet, and chairman of the Hebrew Writers

Association. "From my own eight years of experience as a student at the Institute, I can testify to the immeasurable contribution of the Institute to my development as a poet and as a person who can face the challenges of reality," he adds. "I suppose my optimistic approach to life and to the country also stems from my education at the Institute."

Optimistic he is, and still a staunch supporter of the Jewish Institute for the Blind, Biton is one of many former students who will celebrate as the Institute kicks off its 100th anniversary of dedicated service to the blind and partially sighted of Israel. The history and growth of the JIB is part and parcel of Israel's history as well, and Biton remembers

the days when tourists that came up to Jerusalem stopped at the well known Institute. This year, the city of Jerusalem, as well as the entire country will join in to help celebrate the centennial.

This special year was inaugurated by the minting of a new medal by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation. A fitting tribute to the Institute's heritage in Jerusalem, embossed on the medal are scenes of the city including the Western Wall. The Israel Philatelic Service also issued a stamp in December 2001 in honor of the JIB. The word 'Israel' is embossed in Braille letters on the stamp, and an illustration of the four buildings of the Institute's campus is on the tab. The first day cover also has the words 'hundred year jubilee' in Braille letters. The stamp was designed by Igal Gabay, and it honors the Jewish Institute for the Blind and its historic contribution to the State of Israel.



Souvenir leaf of the Jewish Institute for the Blind's 100th anniversary. This impressive numbered souvenir photo montage was issued with the 100th anniversary stamp by the Israel Philatelic Service. For info on purchase, contact the Institute.

Celebration of Former Students

A reunion of former students will be one of the highlights of the year of the Institute's celebrations. On the Jewish festival of Lag B'Omer (April 30) a large picnic will be held at the Institute, and as many as 450 graduates may attend. "We are expecting former students from all over the country, and we hope to be surprised with students that were here as many as 50 or 60 years ago," explains Shabtai Deutsch, the Institute's Director of Community Services. The day of celebration will include sports activities for all ages, children's entertainment, music and a large picnic on the grounds of the Institute. A traditional Lag B'Omer bonfire will celebrate the Jewish festival.

During the year, the Institute will be open to visitors and various activities will also highlight the centennial year. The Jerusalem municipality will also join in the salute to the Institute, and posters in its honor will decorate the city. In a gala concert closing the centennial year in December 2002, the Jerusalem Philharmonic Orchestra and the Israel Broadcasting Company will pay a tribute to the Institute and blind performing artists will be honored.

In this exciting year of our 100th anniversary, we hope to open our home to you and your family. Congratulations to all are in order!