



Spotlights

✿ In honor of the Institute's 100th anniversary, Israel President Moshe Katsav will host 200 invited guests at the President's Residence in Jerusalem in May 2002. Also attending will be Limor Livnat, Minister of Education, Shlomo Ben Izri, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and Ruby Rivlin, Ministry of Communications. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will also be in attendance.

✿ The Jewish Institute for the Blind is proud to announce the publication of the Hebrew volume of *Sefer Ha'Suma*. The word 'suma' in Aramaic means blind and the book compiled by Aryeh Rodriguez is a compilation of blindness in Jewish sources. Published by the Jewish Institute for the Blind, this book should be of interest to scholars and laymen.

Vacation Seminars Continue to Attract Students

As the students join their families for a well deserved rest on Chanukah and Passover vacations, the Institute stays busy. Dozens of blind and partially sighted teenagers including Israeli Jews, Moslems and Christians from all over the country attend carefully tailored seminars and retreats at the Institute in Jerusalem. This year they visited Hebrew University, meeting with representatives of a campus blind student organization. They also toured in Jerusalem and met with other teenagers on vacation in the city.

In addition to workshops on drama, art and employment, the students saw a professional play and practiced their hiking and navigational skills on the historic Burma Road. According to Shabtai Deutsch, the students joined a large group as part of IBSO, or the Israeli Blind Sports Organization. "These students showed an incredible interest as well and motivation," says Deutsch. "It was a learning experience to hike with them and their partners."

Director's Corner



We are thrilled to share with you our gratitude and excitement as we celebrate the Institute's 100th centennial anniversary. We are proud of the national recognition the Institute is receiving on this hallmark date. Not only is the President of the State of Israel hosting invited guests to a reception at his official residence, moreover, a stamp and medal have been issued in commemoration of the JIB's 100th anniversary.

Politically, educationally and socially, the Institute is recognized for its dedication and heartfelt work with the blind and partially sighted. Unfortunately, however, this 100% of respect and honor is not transferred in its entirety to our day to day needs. Only 20% of our operating budget is covered by the various government ministries. Another 30% is covered by Israeli donors (thousands of Israelis contribute to the Institute yearly), another 30% is contributed by foreign donors including individuals as well as our Friends Committees all over the world.

Today, estates and legacies comprise another 10% of our operating budget, and we are left with a deficit of approximately 10% that we are trying to minimize. In addition to our school and dormitories, we have numerous projects that benefit the entire blind and partially sighted population of Israel. We thank you as always for your unfaltering support of the Institute. Every individual contribution helps us plan new and comprehensive plans for the population of the Institute as well as young and old sight inhibited people all over the country.

Just as we go to press, the Institute is in the process of donating 'Kimche d'Pescha' or charitable offerings before the Passover festival. This year, 180 needy families will be able to choose foodstuffs from the supermarket and have their purchases delivered to their homes. We are happy we can enable these families to enjoy a happy Passover holiday at home with their families. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy and healthy Passover.

Chaim Reshelbach,
Director