



Spotlights

✿ Be-Yachad participants from all over Israel enjoyed leadership development activities at the Ein Gedi hostel this year as the Institute's dormitories are undergoing renovations. Two separate age groups included 30 children of junior high school age and 35 high schoolers. In addition to a visit to Masada, and a desert tour in a safari jeep, the blind and partially sighted participants from all over Israel worked on public speaking skills.

✿ A successful arts and crafts fair was held at the Jerusalem municipality bringing together many local programs of special education. The Jewish Institute for the Blind had an excellent showing, displaying fine hand-painted items, paper mache, jewelry and needle work.

✿ Israel proudly hosted the European Blind Goal Ball Championship this year from August 1-5. Delegations arrived in Jerusalem from Belgium, Croatia, Holland, Italy, Norway and Ukraine to participate in the Championship held at the National Sports Center of the Jewish Institute for the Blind.

✿ Photographers Han and Karin Schenk of Holland recently visited the Institute, and they filmed the students and staff in daily activities and projects. They hope to make a film of the footage that was shot in Israel. Han was an official photographer of Holland's royal family, and Karin films and edits documentaries.

✿ The Institute is proud of the certificate recently received from Israel's Minister of Justice confirming the outstanding administration of the JIB.

Be-Yachad participants enjoy the refreshing water at the spring at Ein Gedi in the Judean Hills



Director's Corner

This summer the Institute proudly hosted the European Blind Goal Ball championship. The games were selected to be held in Israel by the International Blind Sport Organization. Over 80 participants came from seven countries, and the games were fine examples of excellence and sportsmanship. In the past, Israel's national team has shown outstanding merit, and they won second place in international championships in 1990. In 1991, Israeli representatives won the European Goal Ball Championship.

Not only is goal ball a clever balance of skill and action, but for a sighted person, it is exciting to watch these players expertly executing goals, guided by the ball which has a bell inside. These Olympic Games for the Blind and Partially Sighted won wide coverage in Israel, and they have boosted the image of sports at the Jewish Institute for the Blind in Israel and abroad.

In these days when the world media is broadcasting dour news from Israel, and the country is struggling to a full and peaceful return to normalcy, it is a pleasure to be caught up in the exciting competition of sportsmen that excel in their chosen field. We wish all the sports participants and their families luck in their sport and in all of their pursuits. As we approach the coming Jewish New Year, I would like to wish you a happy and healthy holiday. May this be a New Year of happiness and peace.

Chaim Reshelbach
Director