



## Spotlights

✿ A Tu B'Shvat excursion to a home for senior citizens provided a nice occasion for Institute students to give to the community. The students brought cheer and joy to the elderly and they encouraged them to join in with singing and dancing.

✿ Purim is a holiday of joy, and the festival was celebrated at the Institute with thirty visiting recruits from the Israel Defense Forces as well as local yeshivah students. According to school principal Rachel Skrobish, the soldiers enjoyed the experience and the Institute was excited to host the party. "We were all proud to host such a successful party at the Institute, and it was a day we won't soon forget."

✿ In a recent tour to Eretz Braishit, or Genesis Land, a biblical desert encampment near Jerusalem, Institute students rode camels and baked pita bread. They learned about the hospitality of Abraham in the desert inside a traditional tent.



### Director's Corner

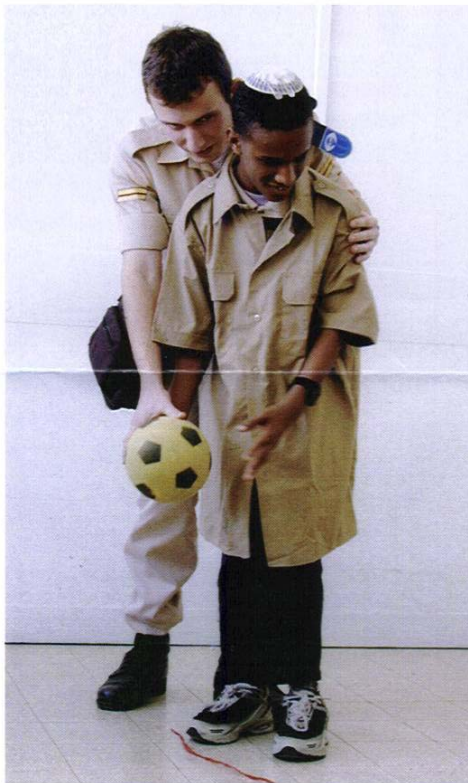
The Institute is undergoing a myriad of changes as our student population at the Institute has evolved to a group between the ages of 10 - 21 with a variety of handicaps in addition to their sight impairment. A microchasm of Israeli society, we have students from very supportive and involved families just as there are students who have no home to which they can return.

This year we have several pupils who do not take vacations or weekends with their families as they come from seriously dysfunctional homes, and they may be at risk if they return to their home environment. The Institute oftentimes needs to find holiday solutions for these students. In order to work as efficiently as possible, the JIB is in contact with professionals from every field to try and facilitate the best possible solutions for these students. One creative change might include a surrogate family which stays at the Institute with students that need a home away from home.

The holiday of Passover symbolizes the exodus, and we will continue to foster independence enabling our students to lead profitable lives. As the Book of Exodus tells us: "The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them on the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light so that they could travel by day and night."

We thank you for your support and interest. May you and your family have a wonderful Passover.

Chaim Reshelbach  
Director



*Purim visit to the Institute provided a chance for bonding between students as well as guests*