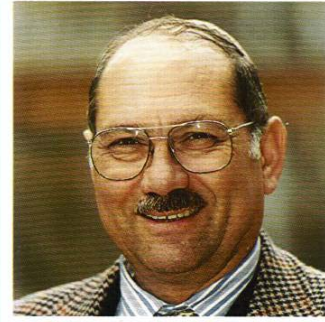




Spotlights

- ✿ Sasson Haba, outgoing Director of Residential Facilities at the JIB, was honored at a farewell party recently. After 11 years of service at the Jewish Institute for the Blind, the students and staff honored Haba in an emotional goodbye celebration. We wish him good luck in all of his future endeavors.
- ✿ Students are learning an extra month this year, and the lengthened school year was well accepted by students. Most learning activities take place in workshops, or in field trips around the country, so the shortened summer vacation wasn't missed by the students. Now the teachers.... that's another story!!
- ✿ Summer programs at the Institute included a vacation retreat for blind and partially sighted Israelis from all over the country. In the JIB's traditional summer holiday, 70 vacationers (blind adult plus companion) took an active part, enjoying facilities in Jerusalem and a wide range of activities in and around the city.



Director's Corner

Shalom. This has been a full and enriching year, and we usher in Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, with the hope and prayers that this will be a year of productivity and strength for our pupils. In a very informative trip to Australia for the first visit in 21 years, I saw the determination and effort that goes into the chapters of the Friends of the Institute for the Blind. It was quite an eye opener and a humbling experience to see the hard work that is being done on behalf of the blind population in our care.

Perhaps I should just insert here a reminder that all of our outreach programs done from the Jewish Institute for the Blind are without the benefit of a special public relations department. Jeanette Meyer and I handle all of the communications with the Friends of the Institute all over the world. Anyone that is interested in a tour of our facilities during a trip to Israel can squeeze it in with either Jeanette or myself, and we are always proud to acquaint you with the Institute.

Not only do we not have a professional public relations department, but all of our hardworking Friends abroad put in many hours voluntarily helping to raise money or interest in the Institute. This is perhaps the perfect opportunity to thank you all in your respective countries for the work that improves the life of our blind students and all of your efforts on behalf of the Institute. Have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Chaim Reshelbach,
Director

Scratching the Surface of the Desert

The students of the Jewish Institute for the Blind experienced an unusual but exciting tour to Mitzpe Ramon, a desert village in the Negev Desert, perched on the edge of the large Ramon Crater. From the first bump of a camel ride, to a trek into the ravine, all of the students were able to experience the desert firsthand. According to Institute school principal Rachel Skrobish the main theme of the tour this year was 'normalization'. "We wanted to make sure every pupil could experience the full impact of the desert, from the lack of

water to adaptation of plants to arid regions," explains Rachel. "Every student, even those with serious mobility problems, came on the tour. One young student in a wheelchair was carried everywhere we went, and she was part of all our activities."

In addition to the stark beauty of the desert, the pupils enjoyed an evening's hospitality in a beduin tent, a roll in the sand dunes or a very steep descent into a canyon. "This tour provided a real challenge to all of our students," adds Rachel. "It was a challenge well met."

Judaism Quiz Crowns Champs

The contest was a tough one, but seven outstanding Bible and Judaism pupils were selected to represent the JIB school in the fifth annual Judaism Quiz. The contest was held before Shavuot, traditionally the festival celebrating the giving of the Torah. After months of preparation, students were familiar with the weekly Torah portion, blessings and general knowledge of Jewish history.

In a close contest, seven finalists of varied ages were chosen to represent the student body. In an oral question and answer session, the seven finalists were pared down to three, and the winning students were Avi Salomon and Tadilla Salyu, both originally from Ethiopia and remarkable in their knowledge and interest in Jewish studies.