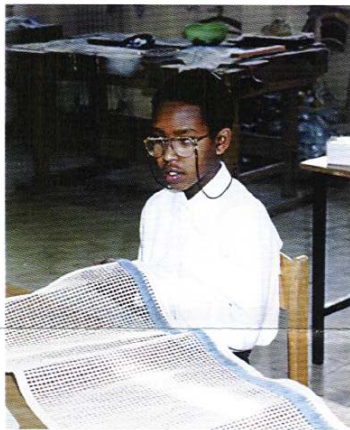


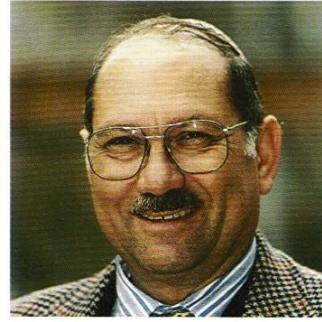


Spotlights

- ❁ The Jewish Institute for the Blind recently assisted a fact-finding mission of the Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired on a trip to Israel and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Arvo Karvinen, Secretary General, and instructor Erkki Suorlahti were guests of the Institute as part of a mission of the Finnish government to assist a school for the blind in Gaza.
- ❁ Tu B'Shvat, the New Year of the Trees, was celebrated joyfully at the Institute as students and their parents sat down for a festive 'seder', eating all of the seven species mentioned in the Bible. The evening was full of song as well as delicious fruits of the Land of Israel.
- ❁ Elga Joffee, of the American Foundation for the Blind, New York City, recently visited Israel. She spent a full day in meetings and consultations at the Institute with educators and counselors in interesting and informative sessions.
- ❁ The lovely playground in our garden has been dedicated in memory of Rose and Saul Cooper. Donated through the P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, New York City, the playground will give hours of fun and exercise to students at the Institute.



Colorful arts and craft exhibit of students work in art classroom



Director's Corner

Shalom! The 1996 budget of the Jewish Institute of the Blind was recently approved by our Board of Directors, and one of its most striking features is the fact that only 17% our budget is covered by government funding. We still rely on your contributions and generosity for the majority of our needs. Although the Ministry of Social Welfare helps us, and it is arguable that the Ministry of Education pays our teachers salaries, we need your assistance to cover the main part of our annual budget.

Our dorms are minimally supported, and they must be subsidized by our fund-raising efforts. Afternoon activities and enrichment programs must be privately subsidized.

Workshops such as home economics, music, art, metal, ceramics, carpentry and industrial education are financed independently, and although the Government does not finance these subjects, they are vital to the students, their self image, and their development.

We are proud of our effective outreach program in Israel, and our local campaigns are being met with more and more success. Today 17% of our budget is covered by donors in Israel. Moreover, we still must continue to appeal to our Friends and active organizations abroad to meet the remaining 66% of our budgetary needs. We welcome your visit and your continued interest in all of our endeavors.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy and kosher Passover season.

Chaim Reshelbach,
Director