



# JINsight

news from *Jewish Institute For The Blind , Jerusalem*

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## Face-to-Face With the Community

The Jewish Institute for the Blind has worked hard for decades to help integrate the blind and partially sighted into the community. Working to fulfill this important goal, the Institute operates on two levels: blind and partially sighted students of the Institute are encouraged to participate in voluntary projects and meet young people on an equal footing in activities as well as a work environment. Also blind and partially sighted Israelis are invited to learn new skills and participate in activities at the Institute.

“Our students are finding a bigger welcome in the community, and they are excited about helping to give to others,” explains JIB school principal Rachel Skrobish. Students aged 18 – 21 continue to work in places like hospitals, an old age home and Yad Sarah, a center that lends medical equipment. Students also volunteer for a national service program or an army project, both requiring dedication and discipline.

Although Nadia Malishev, 21, suffers

*Enjoying music together*



*Be-Yachad sports on the Jordan River*

from physical handicaps as well as her visual problems, she is today one of the Institute’s national service volunteers that helps out in a class of seriously handicapped teenagers, but unless I am firm they will never learn math,” she smiles. “I think the fact that I have my own handicaps makes me sensitive to their problems.”

Institute students are also involved in an ongoing project with pupils from the nearby Dror school and students from both schools meet monthly to share joint

community service and enjoyable activities. More and more JIB students are participating in neighborhood youth movement activities on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Not only do they feel part of the community, but they are also enjoying the various projects with sighted young people their ages.

According to Shabtai Deutsch, more blind and partially students from all over Israel are also being exposed to activities at the Institute. As director of the Institute’s Department of Community Services, Deutsch is proud of the groups of Be-Yachad or ‘Youth Together’ participants who take part in Institute activities. In addition to the groups that come for summer or vacation retreats to the Institute, 10-14 young people come every Monday afternoon for varied activities. Weekend retreats have also been organized.

# Or Olam – Light to the World

The city of Jerusalem is oftentimes said to be a beacon to the world, and this summer the Institute hopes to host groups of blind and visually impaired young people from Jewish high schools all over the world. According to Shabtai Deutch the Institute is prepared to host visually handicapped young people from all over the world in an educational vacation experience

At present, the project Be -Yachad (Youth Together) encourages the integration of visually impaired Israeli students in activities at the Institute. Co-ordinated by the Institute and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Be-Yachad offers enrichment activities during the Chanukah, Passover and summer vacations. Emphasizing rehabilitation, education and extra-

curricular activities, the program has been warmly embraced in Israel.

“Now we are looking forward to the challenge of an international gathering of blind and partially sighted young people,” adds Deutsch. “We hope to enrich their Israeli experience and provide an exciting tour.”

## One of the Institute's Most Outstanding Employees

For 27 years, Yael Buzaglo has instructed students in independence at the Jewish Institute for the Blind. And perhaps more important than a student's math or English skills, his skills in independence will accompany him daily, constantly testing him in new situations. Although she began her career at the Institute as an art instructor, Yael has moved into teaching a more personalized skill.

“There are some days when progress is slow, but regardless of a student's level, he is always moving forward,” explains Yael. Each pupil at the Institute works according to his or her ability, following explicit instructions, until a project is completed. In a broad sense, Yael teaches home economics, but her classes are a preparation for life. If food is being prepared, the students



learn step by step, assembling ingredients, preparing, cooking or baking and cleaning up. Even when they eat their creations, she can give important hints in manners and comportment.

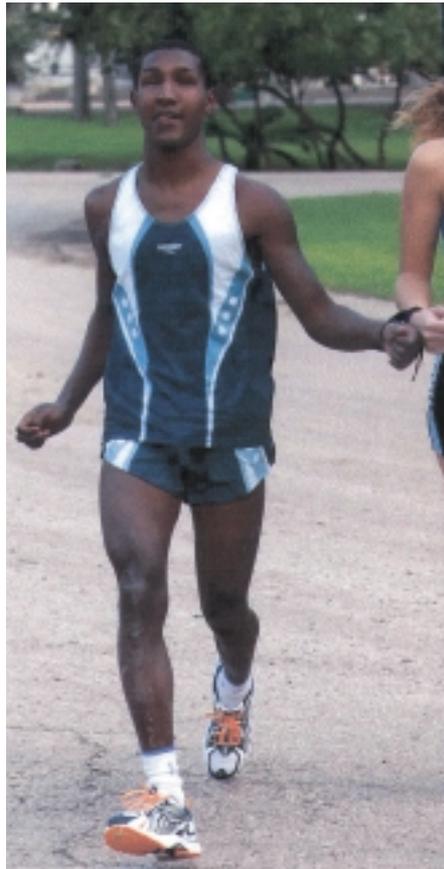
“The work ethics that students learn now will stay with them for life, and I hope they will help each and every student succeed according to their own ability,” says Yael. In addition to helping students in the kitchen, she works with them in preparatory apartments, helping them to master all the housekeeping skills they will need to maintain their living space neat, clean and aesthetic. Not only does she help them plan their closets, match clothes and work step by step, but she is there when any problems crop up.

“It is a joy to work at the

# Israeli Representatives Visit Bartimeus Institute in Holland

"We were glad to have this opportunity to visit the Bartimeus Institute in Holland and see the expert services they offer the blind and partially sighted," according to Rachel Skrobish who heads the Rehabilitation and Education of the Jewish Institute for the Blind. The visit followed the in-depth tour taken last spring by Chaim Reshelbach, Director of the JIB.

Skrobish was accompanied on this fact-finding mission by Soly Hassid who heads Psychological Services at the Institute, Ilana Rosenbach, National Education Supervisor for the Blind of Israel's Ministry of Education and Kerem Nimrod, an Employment Supervisor for the Blind from the Ministry of Welfare. "The visit provided an excellent exchange of information, and it reaffirmed that despite our size and lack of resources, we are doing a professional job with our students at the Institute," adds Skrobish. The participants were fully hosted by the Bartimeus Institute and flight expenses were covered by the Jewish Institute for the Blind.



## Director's Corner

The Jewish Institute for the Blind is proud to be able to count increased community involvement as one of our main goals. With this in mind, the Institute has embarked on a program that will bring blind and partially sighted Jewish young people to come to Israel on an unforgettable, educational program. The youngsters will come for a three week period, travel throughout the country, meeting with Israeli teens and learning about services and frameworks for the blind and visually impaired in Israel.

Not only will the program be fun, but it will help blind youth who are mainstreamed into regular educational frameworks be exposed to Israeli young people with the same impairment. They will enjoy visiting Jewish heritage sites, camping, hiking, the Mediterranean Sea and meeting their Israeli peers.

We look forward to this connection with young people from the English-speaking world, and we may broaden the program, enabling groups in French, Spanish and Russian to participate. Just as we have opened ourselves to the community, it is time to open ourselves to the world!

May you and your family have a wonderful Passover season.

Chaim Reshelbach, Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Chaim Reshelbach".



## Spotlights

❁ Beza Nebaba, 21, is blind from birth but that doesn't stop him from the challenge of running a marathon. The Nebaba family immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia when he was 11, and Nebaba studied at the Jewish Institute for the Blind. He loves the challenge of sports and recently participated in the the Ein Gedi marathon along the shore of the Dead Sea. In order to facilitate the race, his arm was strapped to a tandem runner.

❁ Coming of age - Thirteen-year-old Netanel Cohen, student at the Institute recently celebrated his Bar mitzvah ceremony with family and friends at the Institute. First stop was the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem where Netanel prayed, and later he was joined by his loved ones at a festive meal at the Institute. Mazel tov!

# Recent Visitors to the Institute



## ARGENTINA

Mr. Alberto Daniel Blanca, Tucuman  
Alejandro Jaime Klinger, Cordova  
Alex Paul Literat, Tucuman



## CANADA

Mr. Raphael Ullman, Montreal



## ENGLAND

Mrs. Ruth Hollander, London  
Mrs. Ruth Starr, London  
Dr. Mathew Starr, London



## FRANCE

Mr. Alber Michaly, Sarcelles  
Mrs. Myriam Nathan, La Varenne  
Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Ulmann, La Varenne



## AUSTRALIA

Ms. Vicky Erlichster, Caulfield, Vic



## SWEDEN

Mr. Stefan & Simon Dobas, Limhamn  
Mr. Leif Nelson, Simrishamn



## UNITED STATES

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bachar, Newton, Mass.  
Mr. John Rockey, Chula Vista, Ca.  
Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Weinberg, Lakewood, N.J.



## Insights from Abroad



## INsight

news from Jewish Institute For The Blind, Jerusalem

### Bi-annual Newsletter

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and multi-handicapped  
over 100 years*

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(caption for photo—) Visiting Swedish artist Leif Nelson (right) and Swedish Ambassador Robert Rydberg (second from right), along with Vilka and Tamir from the Jewish Institute of the Blind in Jerusalem, plant an olive tree in honor of the artist in Rabin Park. (compliments of Jerusalem Post and photographer Joe Malcolm)

The Jewish Institute for the Blind expresses condolences to the family of Karl (Kalle) Berman of Hoor, Sweden. Mr. Berman died on November 26, 2004 at the age of 94. He was instrumental in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust in Sweden. He became a well known Jewish leader in Sweden as well as an active supporter of the JIB. May his memory be blessed.

The annual gala event was held in La Varenne, France on March 19 this year under the stewardship of Myriam Nathan. The many friends and supporters of the Jewish Institute for the Blind joined in to contribute to the success of this evening and express their respect to the memory of David Eddy Nathan.