



INSIGHT

news from Jewish Institute For The Blind ,Jerusalem

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Institute Mourns Teacher Killed in Attack

"We can't believe that Lili won't be here when school starts," cries 11-year-old Y., still shocked after hearing that one of his favorite teachers had been killed. The entire Institute staff and studentbody



still mourn as we go to press after the terror attack that brutally killed three Jerusalem residents. Long-time educator and former school vice principal, Elizabeth (Lili) Goren-Friedman, 54, was murdered in a horrifying terrorist attack in early July as an East Jerusalem Arab resident charged out of a building site where he was manning a bulldozer and ran amok

on one of Jerusalem's main streets.

The terrorist used the shovel of the bulldozer to flatten vehicles and even turn over two buses in the middle of the street until he was killed by a passerby and his rampage finally halted. Lili, one of

the Institute's most devoted teachers was one of three victims killed in this senseless attack which left dozens wounded.

"Lili has been one of the Institute's most dedicated educators for 23 years," according to school principal Rachel Skrobish. "She was a veteran teacher in charge of the syllabus, an

educator and at one point the vice principal." Not only did everyone enjoy working with her, she was very devoted to her students. Jeanette Meyer, English administrator of the Institute recalls seeing her just days earlier at the graduation ceremony as she helped to calm a child that was anxious being on stage. "Not only did Lili have the ability to help every child reach their potential, she was also totally dedicated to her work at the Institute."

Goren-Friedman also found time to volunteer with Shalva, the Association for Mentally and Physically Challenged Children in Israel as well as the oncology department at Hadassah Hospital. She is survived by three children: Zvi 23, Issachar 19 and Yael 16.

New Offices for Support Teachers

Oftentimes going from place to place and school to school, the resource teachers for the blind are an itinerant bunch. Not only do they teach mobility skills, but they work with blind pupils on a day-to-day basis, helping them to find their way through the maze of school. "A blind or sight-impaired child is usually integrated to a public school with a great deal of help from a resource teacher," explains Berta Bar-Gil, co-ordinator of the Jerusalem region resource teachers for the blind and partially sighted.

Most blind and partially sighted youngsters are integrated into public school from their kindergarten days.

"If a student is able to succeed in school, he is helped with Braille and lessons and books will be taped in order to facilitate his understanding the material," explains Bar-Gil. "Mobility lessons are also very important, helping the student's self confidence as well as teaching independence."

In Israel, resource teachers are employed by the Ministry of Education, and they work in different regions of the country. The Jerusalem region includes 20 teachers which help over 500 pupils from ages 3 - 21. This spring a wing of the Jewish Institute for the Blind has been especially adapted for their needs. "These

teachers work very hard, and we are glad that we can accommodate them in the Institute where they will have adequate space for meetings as well as learning materials and office space," according to Institute Director Chaim Reshelbach.

"The welcome we have been given at the Institute is incredible," adds Bar-Gil. She is effusive in her praise of the staff and board of the JIB for being so helpful and professional and making the move to the Institute so pleasant. "The pupils also come to the Institute weekly for an enrichment day, and it is a real boon to their education and independence."

Mishal - Helping Kids to Understand Themselves

Josh is a self-assured teen eager to meet young people his age. He begins talking to new friends he meets at the mall, and they decide to go for ice cream...Does Josh tell them about his sight impairment and take the chance that they will shun him? If he doesn't tell them, and they see themselves that he can't see properly, it might be even more embarrassing...? This dilemma and many others faced by the visually impaired have no 'correct' answers. These questions are being addressed, however, at the Jewish Institute for the Blind by all homeroom teachers in a project directed by Mishal - the University Center on Disabilities for Education, Empowerment and Research at Haifa University.



Practicing mobility skills

The Haifa University project initiated by Prof. Shunit Reiter looks at a disability from a humanistic perspective, and she and Dr. Itay Hess have written a program to help educators address 'real' issues firsthand. The Jewish Institute for the Blind is sponsoring the research and the educators and students at the Institute are a big part of the project with the blessings of the Education Ministry.

Educators at the Institute are eagerly introducing the issues to their pupils. In addition to lots of socialization opportunities, it should be interesting to see how the students learn to adapt to their disabilities.

Devoted Educator Lili Goren Laid to Rest

"It is hard to talk about Lili in the past tense, as she was such an incredible person," according to Jewish Institute for the Blind school principal Rachel Skrobish. "There wasn't a student that she didn't help advance on a personal, educational and rehabilitative level. We knew that if a student was falling behind and struggling, Lili would work tirelessly to help them."

Lili Goren-Friedman worked at the Institute for 23 years, and the entire staff and student body appreciated her efforts for the students. When interviewed in the past, she said there was never a boring moment in her job as the staff was constantly re-evaluating their work and the individual course of study planned for each pupil.

Originally from Austria, Lili came

to Israel in her late teens and completed her studies in Israel. At the Institute she particularly worked for a shiluv, or integration project which fostered social contacts and joint projects with students at a nearby school. She had also recently been very involved

in helping to initiate a life skills project at the Institute which addressed the issue of developing social skills in youngsters. Not only did she take an active role in the recent graduation ceremony at the Institute, but she also planned the farewell staff party as well.



Lili Goren-Friedman leading pupils on spring outing

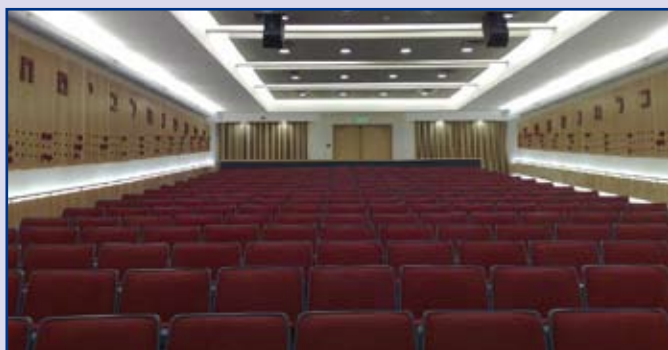
Not only was Lili an admirable addition to the Institute, she was a good friend and mentor to students and staff alike. The entire Jewish Institute for the Blind mourns the senseless murder of this valuable educator and dear co-worker.

Spotlights

❁ Favorite tours this year included a water hike in the Beit Shean Valley which left the young participants wet and happy. Many activities were scheduled as Israel celebrated its 60th anniversary.

❁ Summer activities involved hundreds of young people in sports projects, outdoor endurance activities and trekking throughout the country. The Yachad camp activities attract dozens of visually handicapped young people from all over Israel. The JIB also hosted a summer retreat for blind adults who enjoyed an action-packed vacation in Jerusalem.

❁ The new 235-seat auditorium was an exceptional venue for the recent graduation ceremony at the Jewish Institute for the Blind. The state-of-the-art hall was constructed for the ease of use by a blind and partially sighted audience with Braille numbers, and the rows of seats are built far apart so that no one is forced to arise for those coming to find their seats. The stage is also equipped with varied textures, enabling a blind person to place himself on stage with no danger of getting too close to the edge. The new facility has been dedicated to Alter and Hanna Kacyzne who were killed in the Holocaust and made possible by the Asul Foundation through the efforts of attorney Alain Köstenbaum of Geneva. The auditorium will be a well-utilized addition to the Jewish Institute for the Blind.



Renovated auditorium at Institute



Director's Corner

As we go to press, we are still trying to grapple with the enormity of the loss of our devoted educator in a senseless terror attack. Just a few months ago, our pupils and counselors were actually closed in their rooms when another terrorist began shooting at the neighboring Mercaz Ha'Rav Yeshiva, killing eight students and injuring others. In June of 2003, eighteen people were killed in Jerusalem when a terrorist blew himself up on a local city bus. Two of those killed in the blast were Yaniv Abayed, 22 and his fiancée Bat-El Ohana, 21, former students at the Institute.

The Jewish Institute for the Blind is so involved in the life and pulse of Jerusalem that it seems that we are in the middle of all of this horrifying news. Although the Institute has been a central Jerusalem institution of learning for over one hundred years, and a true island of peace, we are truly a part of the nation's capital and the tragedy that is unfolding.

We pray that next year will be a quieter year, enabling us to continue in trying to help every blind and visually impaired child that needs us. With the help of G-d, next year will be a year of success in all of our ventures. May you all have a year of health and happiness, and may the Institute be a quiet haven for all of those that want to grow and develop in the 'paths of peace'.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Chaim Reshelbach, Director

Recent Visitors to the Institute



ARGENTINA

Mr. Tobias Kostzer, Tucumán



ENGLAND

Mr & Mrs. Moshe Bezalel, London



SWEDEN

Mr. & Mrs. Arne Gordin, Stockholm
Mr. & Mrs. Leif Silbersky, Stockholm



BRAZIL

Mr. Naftaly Steinberg, Curitiba



FRANCE

Mrs. Myriam Nathan, La Varenne



SWITZERLAND

Mr. Robert Equey, Geneva



COLOMBIA

Mr & Mrs. Pinhas Gabay, San Andres Island



PANAMA

Mr. & Mrs. David Chocrón & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Cohen & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Jaime Gabay & Family



UNITED STATES

Rabbi & Mrs. David Lapp, Fair Lawn, NJ
Ms. Sharon Sacks, Los Angeles, Ca.






Enjoying summer outdoor activities

COME TO VISIT US

On your trip to Israel we would like to welcome you at our campus situated in Kiryat Moshe, 8 Degel Reuven Street at the entrance of Jerusalem.
To arrange a visit please call: 02-6599501



Insights from Abroad

-  Processing wood in the carpentry workshop has never been easier! Computerized state-of-the-art equipment has been acquired through the generosity of Hilfe Fuer Blinde in Israel, a Swiss organization based in Basel and headed by Dr. Jakob Silbiger.
-  We were honored to host Rita and Leif Silbersky of Stockholm who visited with friends as representatives of the Swedish Friends Committee. Touring the Institute and enjoying the updated computer department at the JIB, they saw firsthand how this Swedish project will enable our students to develop sharper skills in their computer classes.
-  Moises Abadi of North Miami Beach was a happy boy at his recent Bar Mitzvah. Remembering to think of others, he sent a nice letter and contribution to the JIB. Also, Temple Solel in Cardiff by the Sea, California recently sent a donation from their kindergarten pupils (Yonim Bet class). They are learning early to collect tzedakah and do good deeds.



Bi-annual Newsletter

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Jewish Institute for the Blind

serving Israel's blind, visually impaired,
and multi-handicapped

over 100 years

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