



INsight

news from Jewish Institute For The Blind, Jerusalem

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Summer Activities Provide Leisure as well as Learning



Arts and crafts work at summer camp

"Summertime gives us all time to recharge our batteries, and even though the Jewish Institute for the Blind has an extra month of school in the summer, the students are the winners," according to Rachel Skrobish , Director of the Institute's Department of Education and Rehabilitation. Not only is there an accent on day trips and excursions, but independence is encouraged and the students have a wide range of fun activities from which to choose.

When the students go home to their families or off to camp in the Galilee, the Institute's dormitories provide a retreat for Yachad campers as well as blind and visually impaired adults from all over the country. Dozens of campers in both of these groups enjoyed activities at the Jerusalem campus of the JIB this past summer, utilizing the sports facilities, computer department, as well as arts and crafts and music departments.

In addition to the state-of-the-art facilities in Jerusalem at the Institute, two groups of campers enjoyed being in northern Israel at the Jordan River

Village, a camping facility originally founded as part of the late Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Camps. The Jordan River Village is the first of these camps founded in the Middle East, and it aims to provide a fun-filled, empowering week which is also medically sound and supervised. This year there were two sessions where the blind and visually impaired could participate in all activities, enjoying camping experiences and fun under the sun.

Over 200 participants experienced one of the JIB camp facilities this summer, and this year many of these activities were made possible by the generous contributions given in loving memory of Ilse Katz of Switzerland. These donations were made possible by Advocates Robert Equey and Alain Kostenbaum of Geneva.

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The climbing wall at the Jordan River Village takes a great deal of skill and precision

Goal Ball Team Takes Gold!

In a spectacular gold medal win, the Israel women's goal ball team defeated China 4 - 1 at the International Blind Sports Association world games in Seoul, Korea in May of this year. Not only did the Israeli women take the gold medal, but they will represent Israel in September in Rio de Janeiro in the Paralympic Games immediately following the Olympic Games in Brazil.

"The blind and the visually impaired have taken a giant step forward in international sports, and this first place title has certainly put Israel on the goal ball map!"



Israeli champs - First place prize goes to the champion

Israel women's goal ball team at Seoul, Korea

"we are proud of all of the participants in Seoul," explains Shabtai Deutsch, Director of the Institute's Department of Community Services. In addition to goal ball, Israelis participated in judo, soccer, power lifting, ten pin bowling, and chess tournaments. The women's goal ball team was the headline grabber, however, and although they had been ranked fifth in the world,

A Glimpse at One of the Institute's Employees *Bruria Gispan Ozeri*

Bruria might be the oldest educator at the Jewish Institute for the Blind, but she has the energy of a much younger woman, and she doesn't show any sign of retiring in the near future. She turns 80 this year, and she has already retired once as a teacher, so why should she think of leaving the students and staff that she loves at the Institute - those same people that convince her to get out of bed every morning!

Bruria, originally from Jerusalem, moved to Netanya as a young woman where she taught special education for 35 years. After retiring, she moved back to Jerusalem to the Kiryat Moshe neighborhood in a building very close to the Jewish Institute for the Blind. "I heard that there



Bruria Gispan Ozeri

was a position available as a teacher's assistant," explains Bruria, "and without any hesitation I took it and started another twenty-year career. I love the students as well as the devotion of the staff, and I think the Institute is a paradise for the students that study here."

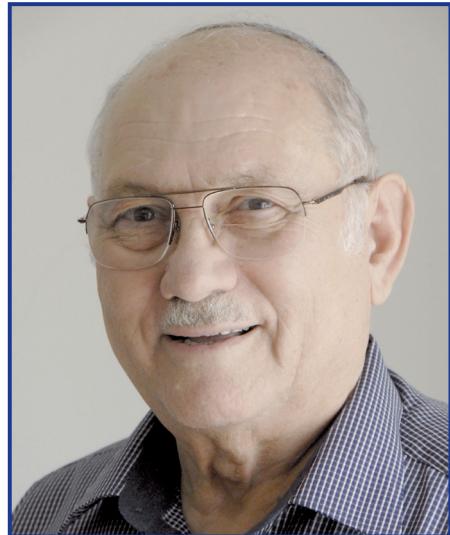
Bruria has education in her blood as her father, first husband and brother were all educators, and even one granddaughter is carrying on in her tradition. "Special education is a challenge, but when you see the advances of each student and the positive feedback, it is a profession that gives so much to the educator as well as to the student." We wish Bruria many more productive years at the Jewish Institute for the Blind.

Spotlights

- ❖ The final graduation celebration at the Institute this year also served as the grand opening of the new multisensory park and playground.
- ❖ A photography course with Shachaf participants led by photographer Yehudit Leiberman helped students to develop their photographic eye as well as express themselves in this medium that was new to many of our students.
- ❖ Blind Day was celebrated throughout Israel helping to raise awareness of the blind and partially sighted population in Israeli society. Activities in the Jewish Institute for the blind were open to the public including a cafe with waiters from the Institute. Also in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, many lawmakers blindfolded themselves, realizing that 'we are all equal, close your eyes and see.'
- ❖ The entire contingent of athletes that represented Israel in the International Blind Sports Association games in Korea were invited to meet with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin before their departure. Of course they received the president's blessings, and perhaps that 'good luck charm' is what helped in their remarkable victory!



'Blind Day' cafe at the Institute with student waiters on duty



Director's Corner

This year we are very proud of all the blind and visually handicapped that were hosted at the Jewish Institute for the Blind for summer camp activities or retreats. Many of our fulltime students had an exceptional session at the Jordan River Village, camping under the stars, wading in the Sea of Galilee, riding on the zip line and enjoying every minute of their independence. Dozens of visually handicapped youngsters and teens also came to the Institute, utilizing our facilities while they had a fun week at their camp, socializing with their visually impaired peers from all over Israel and enjoying lots of sports and touring.

Even the older blind and visually handicapped were treated to a week's retreat at the Jewish Institute for the Blind as they moved into the dormitories and utilized all of the facilities such as the state-of-the-art sports center, arts and crafts rooms and a bus that took them to sites in and around Jerusalem daily. We are glad to open our facilities and dorm rooms to provide a great vacation to our former students as well as the visually impaired from all over the country. Each one comes with an escort, and everyone enjoys a vacation in Jerusalem which is full of places to visit, interesting museums and lots to see. They also enjoyed a long day at the spa of Ein Gedi at the Dead Sea.

We are glad to take advantage of the dorm rooms when our campus empties out as our pupils are enjoying their summer vacation. As this season of the Jewish New Year is upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and peaceful New Year and be inscribed in the Book of Life.



Chaim Reshelbach

Chaim Reshelbach, Director

Recent Visitors to the Institute



CANADA

Leslie & Sara Breiner, Ontario



FRANCE

Myriam Nathan, LaVarenne



UNITED STATES

Dr. Abraham Bichler, New Jersey

Leo Brandstatter, New Jersey

Rabbi & Mrs. David & Ruth Lapp, New Jersey



DENMARK

Anna-Maria Brix, Copenhagen



ISRAEL

David & Jackie Graham, Modiin



ENGLAND

Ruth Hollander, London

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This summer was indeed a time of developing new strengths and talents. In the words of F. Scott Fitzgerald in "The Great Gatsby":

..."I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer." May this Jewish new year as well as the academic year be one of vigor and success.



A flag dance culminates the graduation ceremony this year at the Jewish Institute for the Blind.

Insights from Abroad



The Los Angeles Group for the Blind of Israel recently thanked Jeannette Cameron Nadell for her untiring efforts for the Institute with a champagne brunch held in her honor. Indeed she is a tireless champion for the visually impaired of Israel. At the brunch, her son and daughter in law, Steve and Diane Tobin had framed photographs of memorabilia from their last visit to the Institute. Honors also to Marcia Fink and Janice Berger for all of their efforts that help the JIB



The American Friends of the JIB held a meeting of the Board of Directors in May of this year. In attendance were Rabbi David Lapp, Barry Mahler, President and Chairman, Judith Jelen, Vice President, Dr. Abraham Bichler, Secretary/Treasurer, Leo Brandstatter, Executive Director of the N.Y. office, Marty Cohen, CPA and Ephraim Adatto, office intern.



Our sincere thanks to the kindergarten children of Temple Solel in Cardiff by the Sea, California for their donation to the Jewish Institute for the Blind this year. Under the tutelage of educators Hilda and Valerie, the children collected 'tzedakah' money in their neighborhood ('Good Deed Money') to send to the Institute in Jerusalem. May these pupils continue to learn the value of charity and good deeds!



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Bi-annual Newsletter

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Jewish Institute for the Blind
serving Israel's blind, visually impaired,
and multi-handicapped

For over 100 years

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