



JIBsight

news from Jewish Institute For The Blind ,Jerusalem

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Prime Minister Lights Chanukah Candles at Institute



Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (left) lights Chanukah candles with former student Chaim Levi and Institute Director Chaim Reshelbach

1982 and as Mayor of Jerusalem in 1995.

“Blindness doesn’t have to limit possibilities, and the students and graduates of the Jewish Institute for the Blind are the best examples of achievements that can be reached,” explained Olmert. “Their years at the Institute help these young people overcome seeming impossibilities to build a rich and profitable life.”

“The students at the Jewish Institute for the Blind feel the warmth and richness of the lights of Chanukah even if they don’t see them,” according to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert who lit the Chanukah menorah at the JIB on the last night of Chanukah this year. The Institute’s auditorium was filled to capacity with students, parents, guests and journalists as the eighth candle was kindled. The joy of the festival of lights actually eclipsed the difficulties in southern Israel for a few hours as the IDF soldiers continued to battle in the Gaza Strip to stop the Hamas rocket attacks on Israel’s southern cities, villages and agricultural fields.

Despite the difficult battles raging elsewhere in Israel, the Prime Minister spoke only of the subject at hand--- the blind and the work of the JIB. He commented that this was his third visit to the Institute, and he was proud to see the accomplishments of the students and graduates. Institute Director Chaim Reshelbach presented the Prime Minister with photographs of his previous visits to the Institute in



Prime Minister Olmert shares a few words with Institute student

Spotlights

❁ The Israeli national goal ball teams will be participating in the European Championship this spring and summer. The men's national team stands a good chance of victory in Portugal this May. The women's team will face off in Munich in August.

❁ The new dining room has been completed to provide a modern and bright venue for meals and celebrations at the Jewish Institute for the Blind. The kitchen and dining room were totally refurbished, and today highlight all meals in the modern new facilities.

❁ As southern Israel came under daily barrage of missiles this winter, the blind suffered terrible psychological stress and uncertainty. The Jewish Institute for the Blind opened its doors and invited

families from southern Israel for a weekend respite at the Institute which provided a quiet refuge away from the uncertainty of their home lives. As the Institute pupils were away for the Chanukah vacation, the timing was perfect to utilize the dormitory facilities to provide a quiet 'home away from home' for blind families from the south.

❁ Purim was celebrated at the Institute as blind and partially sighted teens from all over Israel came to Jerusalem dressed in costume and enjoyed a Purim party. Pupils at the Institute also enjoyed a treasure hunt that took them all over Jerusalem. Skits were also performed with girls from a Jerusalem seminary Neve Yerushalayim. Pupils visited a hostel for mentally impaired adults laden with Purim gifts and good cheer.

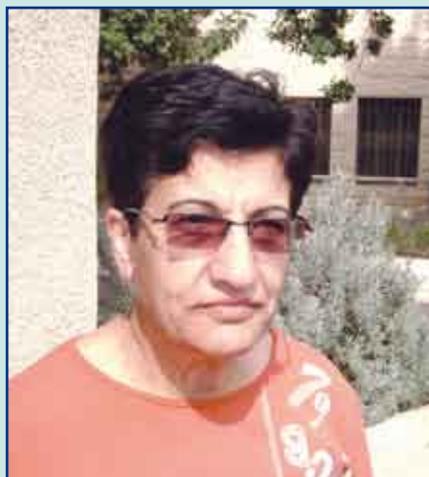
One of the Institute's Most Outstanding Employees Levana Mizrachi

"I have been at the Institute for 21 years, and I make it my business to know each student and his or her habits," explains Levana Mizrachi. At present, Levana is the housemother at the Institute, and in addition to maintaining the high standards of the new dormitories, she ensures that every pupil has the attention he needs to help instill habits of cleanliness and order.

"The counselors and national service volunteers all are here to help the pupils, but after raising five children of my own, I know that each one needs special attention and care," she says. Levana makes sure that the sighted pupils learn to operate the washers and driers, and the blind learn that an orderly room is a room which can be kept

hazard-free and where everything is in place and can be located.

Levana, herself, grew up as the oldest of nine children, and she was always 'on duty' in her parents' home. "I learned early in life that if you teach someone to complete a task, it is one less job for you to do, and it will benefit the learner all his life." Levana's father-in-law was also well known at the Jewish Institute for the Blind where he worked for over 40 years. Blinded by a Jordanian sniper in the War of Independence, he came to work at the JIB as a young man. "Not only was he a part of the Institute for years, but everyone in the neighborhood recognized him," she adds.



Levana Mizrachi

Lili's Way Dedicated



Student plants bush with gardener on 'Lili's Way'

TuB'shvat, or the festival of the trees, comes in the middle of Israel's brief winter and it is marked by the planting of young saplings. Although the day was cloudy this year, the sun came out, enabling the students of the Institute to plant a garden pathway in memory of longtime educator Elizabeth (Lili) Goren-Friedman who was killed last year in a shocking terrorist attack in central Jerusalem. Quoting from the Song of Psalms, school principal Rachel Skrobish reminded the students of the interpretation that oftentimes it is the most beautiful fruit that is plucked for the garden of the Lord. Not only was the ceremony a moving tribute to this dedicated teacher and friend, but her 'way' will be remembered as the garden pathway is utilized daily by all of the students and staff.

The Jewish Institute for the Blind expresses condolences to the family of Dr. Yerucham Fischel Goldman, a member of the Institute's Board of Directors, on his untimely death. In addition to his practice as a nephrologist, Dr. Goldman was appointed to the Institute's Board of Directors as a representative of Israel's Ministry of Health in 1975. He will be sorely missed at the Institute.



Director's Corner

As we go to press, we are reminded of the recent loss of people who are closely affiliated with the Institute. Dr. Yerucham Fischel Goldman, a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Institute was well known in Jerusalem as a beloved physician. He continued learning Torah all of his life, and as a physician he helped chronically ill patients with love and care. As a member of the Institute's Board for many years, he was very sensitive to the needs of the blind community.

Smuel Feig's relationship with the Institute was love at first sight. Feig was visiting Jerusalem from his home in Ottawa, Canada over twenty years ago, and he happened into the JIB as he wanted to donate charity. He was so taken with the work of the Institute that he decided to create and head the Canadian Friends of the Institute. His involvement was contagious, and his friendship with the Institute was deep. We hope that the committee that he established will continue to grow and flourish.

A good friend from La Varenne, France was the late Rabbi Avraham (Albert) Messas who died recently. The son of Jerusalem's late Chief Rabbi Shalom Messas, he showed an interest in the blind of Israel and the work of the Institute. His warm and hospitable home was always opened to me on visits to La Varenne. Oftentimes, he praised the work of the Jewish Institute for the Blind in his speeches in synagogue.

All three of these good friends and supporters of the Institute will be sorely missed, and a void has been left in their wake. May they rest in peace. Let us hope that new people and ideas will come forth to follow in their footsteps.

We wish you and your family a happy Passover holiday.

Chaim Reshelbach, Director

Recent Visitors to the Institute



ARGENTINA

Ms. Reina Zeitune de Kostzer, Tucuman
Ms. Daniela Kostzer, Tucuman
Mr. David E. Kostzer, Tucuman
Mr. Tobias Kostzer, Tucuman



ENGLAND

Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Bezalel, London
Mrs. Ruth Hollander, London



FRANCE

Mr. Franck Douieb & daughter Oceane, La Varenne
Ms. Noemie Douek, Paris
Mrs. Myriam Nathan, La Varenne
Dr. & Mrs. Denis Peretz, La Varenne



UNITED STATES

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Belfer, Cherry Hill, NJ
Ms. Vivian S. Singer, Bklyn, NY
Mrs. Brenda Tawil, Long Branch, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. David Tawil, Bklyn, NY

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



Exercising at the Institute's gym



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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Insights from Abroad

-  The Jewish Institute for the Blind expresses condolences to the family of Smuel Feig, former President of the Canadian Friends of the Institute. Our heartfelt wishes are expressed to his wife Malka and the entire Feig family.
-  La Varenne, France was bedecked in joy as a gala event was held for the friends and supporters of les Amis de L'institut des Aveugles de Jerusalem. Chaired by Myriam Nathan, the evening was dedicated to her late husband David Eddy Nathan.
-  We were saddened to hear of the passing of Rabbi Avraham (Albert) Messas, the Rabbi of La Varenne. The funeral was held in Jerusalem. Rabbi Messas was a devoted friend of the Institute for many years, and we send heartfelt condolences to his entire family.
-  A meaningful Chanukah appeal was made to the Danish Friends of the Institute, Venner af Blindeinstituttet I Jerusalem, through the initiative of Milton Rothschild. The letter, published in Jodisk Orientering met with great response by the Danish population.