



INSIGHT

news from Jewish Institute For The Blind, Jerusalem

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State of Art Recording Studio at JIB



If a blind student needs texts for a university class, or a partially sighted pensioner wants to study the Bible or hear a book, the Institute's recording studio is the place to turn. The recording studio has been completely updated and today serves Israel's blind and partially sighted community with state-of-the-art facilities. Today in partnership with Israel's Central Library for the Blind and Partially Sighted of Netanya, the Jewish Institute for the Blind is expanding the possibilities for serving the visually impaired.

"Our recordings are now top notch, and the new soundproof studio at the Institute enable us to provide high quality recordings of books for students as well as anyone else that is visually handicapped or who needs our services", explains Shabbi Deutsch, Director of Community Services at the Institute. The new recording studio will also provide Institute students with a home base to learn audio engineering and even to specialize in radio and sound tech. In addition to benefiting the Institute and its community, the elderly and handicapped also utilize books on tape.

The recording studio and library at the Institute are constantly growing and provide a necessary service to the

blind and partially sighted of Israel. Students have their books and texts at the push of a button, and their world of darkness is opening to quality oral books in the fields of Bible, literature, science and reference materials.

The new recording studio was made possible through the bequest of the late Professor Yitzhak Wahl through the estate administered by Naomi Leitner.



A recording session at the Jewish Institute for the Blind

'Nesher' Council Gives to Others

The nesher in biblical interpretation is known as the most majestic of birds. Scholars assume that this bird is an eagle or Griffon vulture. Regardless of its English name, it is known for transporting its young on its wings. Nesher is also the name that has been chosen for the student council representing the Institute's students this year.

The Nesher representatives have already been very active in the initiation of projects that enable the students to give back to the community at large. On one of their first activities they visited Jerusalem hospitals with letters, pictures and small gifts for many of those injured in terrorist attacks. They have also planned treasure hunts, tree planting on



Tree planting on Tu B'shvat festival of the trees

the grounds of the JIB by each class, and with Passover around the corner, school cleaning projects are being initiated.

"Activities are great for team building and help to benefit the school as well as the students", according to educator Yael David, who administers the project. The student council is giving its participants tools for becoming more responsible citizens as well as helping them to work on their own leadership qualities. "The life skills that the Nesher participants are learning will benefit them long after they leave the Institute", Yael explains. "Not only are the students helping others, but they are also building their own self confidence".

A Glimpse at One of the Institute's Employees Yael David

An educator at the Jewish Institute for the Blind for almost fourteen years, Yael David knows her students, their strengths and weaknesses. This year she has taken on additional responsibilities as coordinator of social activities, and she has helped mold the student council into a unified group that is interested in the contribution they can make to their fellow students and society.

"It is a pleasure seeing this group taking the initiative and working to unify the school and reach out to the community", explains Yael. "Even the younger



Yael David

students are taking part in activities, and a new team spirit is growing at school". Educators like Yael are the symbol of growth and change in education at the Jewish Institute for the Blind.

In addition to what she imparts in the classroom, Yael is constantly on the lookout for ways to help her students develop character and become community spokesmen. "The students at the Jewish Institute for the Blind have so much to contribute, and it is a pleasure working at a place that helps to develop all facets of their personalities".

Spotlights

✿ Passover with Friends

The Jewish holiday of Passover celebrates freedom, and many of the elderly blind and partially sighted community of Israel have no family with whom to enjoy the festival.

As in previous years, the Jewish Institute for the Blind will again invite them to a hotel to enjoy the holiday festivities with other visually impaired adults. Not only will they enjoy the camaraderie, but they will also celebrate the first two nights of the holiday together.

✿ Running in Tandem

A group of running enthusiasts called Keshet Ayin or Eye Contact are men and women who love athletics. Oftentimes they meet weekly to run together in tandem. Teams consist of a sighted runner who is in partnership with a blind runner.

As their forearms or fingers are attached by a rubber strap, they can easily run together and the sighted runner is able to guide his or her unsighted partner with remarks and guidance. Participating in both the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem marathons this year, many of these Keshet Ayin runners completed a ten kilometer run or half marathon.

✿ Sports League Games

In mid April, blind and partially sighted athletes from all over the country met at the Institute for a two-day sports' meet. In over 35 games, sportsmen and women enjoyed playing and competing with each other. Over seventy sports enthusiasts attended the meets.

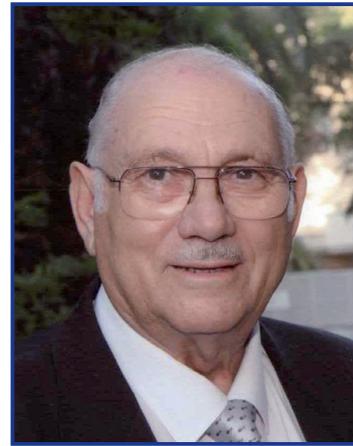
✿ Olympic Athletes

Just as the Olympic games end in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this summer, preparations start for the Paralympic games which will begin on Sept. 7, 2016. Representing the JIB in the games are the women's goal ball team who recently took the world championship of the International Sports Association world games in Seoul, Korea. We will be cheering them on!!



Running in tandem at the Tel Aviv marathon

Director's Corner



Recently I was honored to celebrate my 80th birthday at the auditorium of the Institute surrounded by family, friends, and people with whom I have worked for my entire career. This year I am also honored to note forty years as Director of the Jewish Institute for the Blind.

As part of the meaningful program which illustrated my life and career, I was honored to see Nir Barkat, Mayor of Jerusalem as well as former members of the Israeli parliament and government ministers in the audience. In attendance were also former students such as well known Israeli poet Erez Biton. The music of the evening included blind performers and musicians such as Meir Barabi who began their training at the Institute. A wonderful choir was also directed by Rafi Biton. Not only was this personally a very meaningful evening, but I think it also included a slice of life at the Institute of the past decades. I am thankful to all of those who organized and helped to contribute to the success of the evening.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and kosher Passover and a beautiful spring season.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chaim Reshelbach".

Chaim Reshelbach, Director



Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat congratulates Institute Director Chaim Reshelbach

Recent Visitors to the Institute



AUSTRALIA

Mr. Avi Olshina



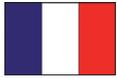
SWITZERLAND

Mr. Robert Equey
Mr. Alain Köstenbaum



UNITED STATES

Mr. Zev Berman, New York
Mr. Leo Brandstatter, New Jersey
Mr. & Mrs. David & Judith Jelen, Connecticut
Miss. Emily Jelen, Connecticut
Rabbi & Mrs. David & Ruth Lapp, New Jersey



FRANCE

Mr. Daniel Bernstein, Paris
Mrs. Myriam Nathan, LaVarenne

COME TO VISIT US

On your next trip to Israel we would like to welcome you to our campus, situated at the entrance to Jerusalem

8 Degel Reuven Street
Kiryat Moshe

To arrange a visit
please call: 02-6599501/11



Purim dress-up fun at the Institute as counselors and pupils celebrate together



Bi-annual Newsletter

Editor: Janet Mendelsohn Moshe
Jewish Institute for the Blind
serving Israel's blind, visually impaired,
and multi-handicapped

For over 100 years
P.O.B. 925 Kiryat Moshe
91008 Jerusalem, Israel

Tel: (02) 6599501/11

Fax: (02) 6512186

E-mail address:
office@jewishblind.org

www.ivrim.org
www.jewishblind.org



Insights from Abroad



Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Jews from Hungary in the Holocaust. Although his fate is still unknown, he will be remembered at the Institute by a promenade that will soon be unveiled in the presence of Carl Magnus Nesser, the Swedish Ambassador to Israel. The donation to the Institute and the plaque in memory of Wallenberg was initiated by the Swedish Friends of the Jewish Institute of the Blind and through the efforts of Peter Christensen.



A 'Blackout Brunch' will be held in the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York City on May 22nd. This inspirational event, relying on non-visual senses, will help the participants understand the life of those without sight and will benefit the Jewish Institute for the Blind. The brunch is being organized through the efforts of Leo Brandstatter, Executive Director of the N.Y. office, as well as Barry Mahler Esq. President, and Vice President Judith Jelen.