



## Spotlights

### ❁ Virtually Yours

The Jewish Institute for the Blind is now on line for your convenience. Use our web site for information, updates and donations. We can be found at [www.jewishblind.org](http://www.jewishblind.org). We would also like to receive your e-mail for correspondence at [jib-jeru@netvision.net.il](mailto:jib-jeru@netvision.net.il).

### ❁ Talents on Display

The end of the last academic year saw the students expressing a variety of their talents in graduation performances as well as talent shows encouraging everyone with the flair for the stage to participate.

### ❁ IBSO

The Israeli Blind Sports Organization has been launched and its goal is to advance sports activities for the blind in Israel. The organization will try to raise the level of sport for the blind in all areas of the country with the development of leagues and organized play.

## Summertime and the Living is Easy

Institute summer activities did not leave too much time for rest and relaxation. In an ambitious camp for partially sighted and blind Israeli high school students, a large home was utilized as a dormitory facility for teenagers from all over the country and they used the best of what the JIB had to offer. In addition to daily sports activities, tandem biking and touring in Jerusalem and the area, activities in the pool and community center were offered.

"These students study in regular high schools where they are oftentimes the only blind students in the neighborhood," explains Shabtai Deutsch, who directed the camp. "They are called on to excel daily, just to keep up with their sighted peers. In this summer camp, we want them to experience all kinds of challenges as a group where everything is paced according to their needs and abilities." The participants were also in the guest audience of a television show focusing on the blind, and attended specialized activities for the blind that were offered at the Institute.

Sponsored in conjunction with the Ministries of Education and Social Welfare and the Joint, this camp is the first program of 'Yachad'. In other summer activities, the Institute was well utilized by groups of blind Israeli adults enjoying vacation. JIB pupils were treated to a sleepaway camp in the north that was filled with rigorous challenges as well as fun.



*Tadela scrambles out of a cave on a tour sponsored by the Institute's summer camp*



### Director's Corner

'Yachad' is the start of a new era at the Institute. A new project called in Hebrew *together*, this idea does involve a lot of joint effort to improve the quality of life for the blind and partially sighted in Israel. At the JIB, we have been involved in projects all over the country for years. And now, in conjunction with the Ministries of Social Welfare and Education as well as the Joint, the Institute will provide a central service center for blind youth.

In this umbrella organization, the parents' committee representing blind youth will also be included, and facilities will be provided at the JIB for testing, evaluation, and advice. This project was launched this summer as blind teenagers from all over the country were hosted at a challenging summer camp in Jerusalem. Not only did they enjoy camp, participating as equals and socializing with other blind teens, but the facilities and expertise of the Institute was available.

In this decade, as more and more blind pupils enter public schools, we are proud to offer complementary services at the Institute which will bring the best elements of the system together or 'Yachad'. We look forward to serving our own student body at the Institute as well as blind youth from all over Israel. May this be a Happy New Year for all of our friends and supporters.

Chaim Reshelbach,  
Director