



## Spotlights

- ✿ Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert visited the Institute this year for the first time in a fact-finding trip. In addition to seeing the students in their classroom frameworks, he spoke and learned about their lives and education at the Institute.
- ✿ The Minister of Education of Azerbaijan Lidiya Rassoulova, visited the Jewish Institute for the Blind during a recent visit to Israel. She was very impressed with the level of services for the blind and partially sighted community in Israel and hopes that her visit will lead to further co-operation between Azerbaijan and the Jewish Institute for the Blind.
- ✿ This year students have benefitted greatly from the increasingly serious approach to learning at the Jewish Institute for the Blind. Regardless of a student's handicap or problems, they respond very well to the atmosphere of challenge that confronts each student. This year, in addition to a Chanukah workshop with parents and pupils, parents met with all their student's teachers in informative parent-teacher workshops.

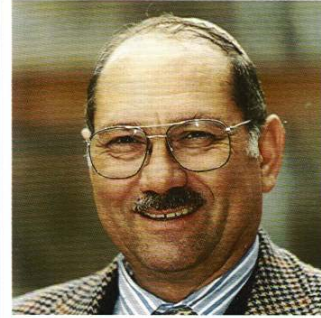
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have been entrusted to the most dedicated and professional of communal leaders and educators. In 1936, the cornerstone was laid for the present complex. Educational goals changed from time to time but basically the ideas of the founders have prevailed: "...to instruct in appropriate skills so that the self esteem be raised so that blind youth will not depend upon others for help but will themselves become helpful members of society."

Today the modern state-of-the-art atmosphere of the Institute is a far cry from its humble beginnings almost a century ago. Throughout the 20th century the goals of the Institute have not greatly changed. In 1996, as in the early 1900's, the Jewish Institute for the Blind is still dedicated to helping the blind to help themselves.



*Feeling the layers of history on a spring outing*



## Director's Corner

It is with great pride that we usher in Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary, and we are also proud of the Institute's contribution during the last century of the city's history. Rather than rest on our laurels, we are constantly striving to improve the services for the partially sighted and blind of the State of Israel. We are proud of the record of the Jewish Institute for the Blind as the first special education facility in the city, and we think that even as we near our 100th anniversary, we still provide a vital service for thousands of Israelis.

This year we have had a large tear ripped in the fiber of Israeli society with the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and we encourage our students as well as the entire population of Israel to refrain from any political incitement. Just these past few weeks, Jerusalem has also known blind terror as the acts of terrorists have resulted in the murder of 58 innocent men, women and children. The buses blown up in Jerusalem pass near the Institute, and one passenger seriously injured was a blind man on his way to swim at the Institute's Sports Center. We hope and pray for his continued recovery as well as dozens of other people seriously injured by senseless terror.

With these shocking events in mind, please join us in the prayer for the peace of Jerusalem and Israel. May this Passover be a season of joy and happiness for your family and the entire family of Israel.

Chaim Reshelbach,  
Director