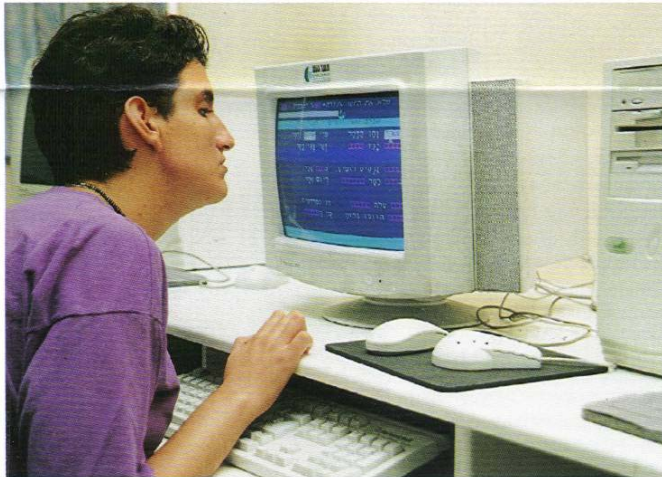




## Spotlights

- ✿ In a radio interview called "People helping People" the Jewish Institute for the Blind was featured recently. In a two hour discussion with Institute Director Chaim Reshelbach and former student Yoram Shilo many projects of the Institute were highlighted. Shilo is today the director of the recording studio which provides a subscription service for hundreds of Israelis. College students also utilize the service in order to obtain recordings of textbooks.
- ✿ Eli Amzaleg, a 17 year old pupil at the Institute, recently performed in a special recital at the Jerusalem School of Arts and Sciences with his tutor and piano accompanist Matti. An outstanding music major, Matti has worked with Eli all year in a special tutoring program, and Eli has shown marked improvement despite his many handicaps. The two make beautiful music together. Lyrics were written by Eli and the music composed and arranged by Matti.
- ✿ A schoolwide Bible competition was held this year at the JIB in honor of Israel's fiftieth year jubilee. Students participated in all levels, and not only were the results outstanding, but the pupils put a great deal of effort into preparations for the event.
- ✿ Outstanding preparations went into an end-of-the-year tour in Israel's Lower Galilee this spring. Despite the rough terrain and the many adventures, almost all of the students, even those in wheelchairs participated in the fun. In addition to hiking, exploring caves, riding donkeys, and learning about this interesting part of the country, counselors, teachers and volunteers made sure every child could be a part of the excitement.



Fruitful hours spent in computer workshop



## Director's Corner

In this 50th year of Israel's statehood, we at the Institute are proud to reacquaint our readers with students that lived and studied at the JIB fifty years ago. It was interesting to hear the stories of Jerusalem in the throes of a war for its existence. For our current pupils it is difficult to imagine a city under siege without basics such as water and electricity.

Surprisingly it was hard to reconstruct memories of only the war period. Despite the severity of the situation, we see that the supportive 'family' of the Institute helped to create good memories.

One thing all of these former students have in common is their strong connection with the Institute today. Very often, they stop by the Institute for lunch with our pupils, and many come weekly for various community center activities or swimming at the Sports Center. Yearly vacation retreats are held at the Institute, and blind and partially sighted often rekindle old friendships on the grounds of the Institute.

The three objectives that we try to fulfill for our pupils today are exactly what was instilled 50 years ago. We want our students to live a normal independent life, we want them to enjoy a quality of life that education can bring and we hope to encourage a joy of life as well. As the State of Israel celebrates 50 years of independence, we continue to strive for the independence of our pupils.

Chaim Reshelbach,  
Director