



## Spotlights

### ❁ Rotary Tour

Members of the Jerusalem Rotary Club visited the JIB for a full day initiating them to the work of the Jewish Institute for the Blind. In a letter from the Rotarians, they reiterated how much they learned about the pupils who live with handicaps often far more serious than their blindness. They enjoyed meeting and talking to staff members and students. Not only did they visit classrooms and see cooking and computer education firsthand, but they also saw the Institute's recording studio, sports center, and dined with the students.

### ❁ Snow Steps

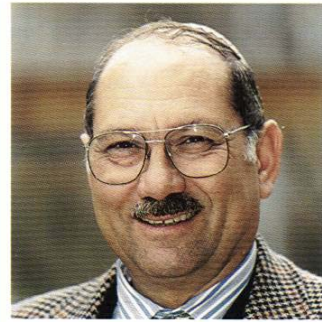
In the middle of the week on one icy January day, Jerusalemites woke up to a surprising thick coat of fluffy snow. Although public transportation was not available, and the Jerusalem municipality announced all schools would be closed, many Institute teachers and employees braved their way through the elements to get to the school. Perhaps the lessons taught in the classroom were not so memorable that day, but the dedication of a trusted teacher and friend guiding a blind child through his first encounter with snow, helping him to build a snowman — these are the lessons that are unforgettable.

### ❁ Home Improvements

Undergoing reconstruction, the Home Economics wing of the Institute will soon contain eight modern kitchenettes, shiny new workspace and modern facilities. The hours spent here by the students are perhaps some of their most productive, as they are a true preparation for the future.

### ❁ Champions on the Field

In a very competitive but fun sports day, the Institute won trophies and medallions for their fine showing in a city-wide special education sports competition. Twenty participants from the JIB enjoyed basketball, races and other field events. A second-place trophy was proudly won in a relay race competition.



## Director's Corner

This year the Institute joins in with the entire Jewish nation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. Our national Independence Day celebrations will be held with great fanfare, and at the Institute, independence is also one of the most important values we teach. We strive to make sure our graduates are ready for an independent life, and our pupils take pride in their day to day activities and self reliance.

As Israel celebrates 50 years of independence, the Institute is moving towards its centennial, and in a few years, we will mark 100 years since the doors of the Institute were opened to help the visually handicapped. Our efforts at the JIB, today, as well as 96 years ago can easily be summed up. Basically, we are striving to see that our students experience a quality of life, a joy of life, and the independence that they need to be successful and contributing citizens to society.

As we approach the festival of Pesach, may I remind you that independence is one of the ideals that we remember from this holiday. The Jewish people moved from slavery to freedom, from a state of dependence to independence — this same independence that we are striving for at the Institute. Thank you for your continued support, and may you and your family celebrate a wonderful holiday season.

Chaim Reshelbach,  
Director



*The Institute proudly hosted Eli Yishai, Israel's Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in March. Accompanied by the Director General and other members of his staff, the visit was very informative and demonstrated many different facets of the JIB. Yishai is shown here with blind athlete at Institute's Sport Center.*