2013 ANNUAL REPORT

JBI INTERNATIONAL

FOUNDED IN 1931 AS THE JEWISH BRAILLE INSTITUTE

Connecting the Blind and Visually Impaired to the Jewish World
Plus ça change . . .

The more JBI changes, the more it remains the same. Technology has changed the world and it has changed a great deal about how The JBI Library operates.

Using the newest technology, JBI is producing materials in Audio, Braille, and Large Print faster and better than ever before. Similarly, circulation has been streamlined, and our library users have easier access to all that we offer.

But in what matters most, JBI has not changed at all! Technological improvements—and the greater efficiency they yield—are used in fulfillment of our overriding mission: serving the individual needs of every JBI patron, from the blind or visually impaired child in school to the homebound senior wrestling with age-related vision loss.

The JBI staff is dedicated to personal interaction with its diverse client base. While most of JBI’s books are circulated to thousands of library patrons, we also work hard at fulfilling very customized requests, particularly for students of all ages, including older adults interested in continuing their Jewish Education. Recently, one visually impaired client contacted us with an urgent request: she needed to “read” Stuart Eizenstat’s *The Future of the Jews* in order to lead a discussion group. More than 38 of JBI’s dedicated volunteers worked nonstop to complete this recording in just 9 days! I am proud of the commitment and dedication shared by our many volunteers. Similarly, with only a week to go before Passover, our library received a call from the father of a young girl who is blind, asking if we could produce a Braille version of the Haggadah that was going to be used at a friend’s Seder. In three days our librarian was able to create a customized Braille Haggadah so that Naomi could have the version she needed in time to be able to read at the Seder alongside friends and family.

Outreach has always been at the forefront of our mission. We want everyone who needs us to benefit from JBI’s unique services. In 2013, JBI initiated a new, targeted effort in Los Angeles. Due to the size of its aging Jewish community, we felt it important to have a local coordinator “in the field,” as we already do in South Florida’s Palm Beach and Broward counties. JBI Talking Book Clubs continue to thrive, providing visually impaired older adults with a stimulating social outlet.

At the same time, parents of blind, visually impaired and reading disabled children now find JBI more easily, both as a result of our outreach and of our presence on the internet. These families are discovering how much JBI can be of help. I know you share my pride in the fact that these children are fully participating, vibrant members of the Jewish community.

JBI is truly International. As I write this, we continue to build JBI’s foreign language collections, enriching the lives of blind and visually impaired individuals throughout the worldwide Jewish community, particularly in Latin America, the Former Soviet Union and Israel. In every corner of the world, JBI delivers the company of a human voice and a connection to Jewish culture directly to an individual’s doorstep. And in Israel, we continue to take great pride in the innovative programs of The JBI Low Vision Clinic at Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv which has been in existence for over thirty years.

I look forward to the New Year with great enthusiasm and confidence in JBI’s ability to meet the challenges ahead. That confidence is reinforced by the support of JBI’s devoted and generous donors. On behalf of the 35,000 children, adults and seniors who benefit from our free services, I thank you most warmly for your heartfelt interest and support. Together we are truly able to accomplish so much.

Judy E. Tenney, Chairman of the Board
From the mother of 11 ½ year old Yael in Herndon, VA

Because our family has relocated several times, our Jewish identity is our ‘constant.’ Wherever we have lived, JBI has always been there for Yael—helping her land and feel part of the community from day one. Yael having access to the community means that our whole family has access to the community. Yael is a voracious reader—it is only a matter of having the books. And JBI’s dedicated assistance has always given her educators the confidence to welcome her.

Rebecca K.

From a client who is a Russian immigrant and lives in Forest Hills, NY

I was an avid reader before I lost my sight. It was so hard when I couldn't read books anymore. Then I found the JBI Library and its wonderful collection of Talking Books in Russian. They really saved me from feeling completely lost in this world. Thank you so much for the work you do.

Dimitri R.

From a JBI client who participates in a Talking Book Club in Deerfield Beach, FL

I have found comfort in Talking Books. The JBI Talking Book Club that meets once a month has created a place where I can be myself and express my thoughts. Thank you JBI for facilitating this group.

Mel R.

From the nephew of Gloria G., a JBI subscriber who lives in Springfield, NJ

Thanks to the JBI Large Print Haggadah you sent to my 101 year old aunt, she felt engaged throughout the whole Seder. It made her very happy and I can't thank you enough.

Michael B.

And from a JBI client who lives in Salem, OR

JBI has been quite essential to my Jewish development—enabling me to learn Hebrew Braille, providing vital texts, and embossing graduate school materials as requested. Thank you for all you do to keep this actively engaged Jew going!

Joan M.

If you or a loved one could benefit from JBI’s services, please call 1-800-433-1531 or visit www.jbilibrary.org. JBI’s knowledgeable librarians will be happy to help.
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The Tikvah Society acknowledges with gratitude the many friends of the blind and visually impaired who have included JBI in their wills or who have named JBI as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, trust, IRA or gift annuity:

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For more information or to become a member of The Tikvah Society, please contact Beth Rudich at 1-800-433-1531 or brudich@jbilibrary.org.
Condensed Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2013

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT
2013
Contributions and grants 1,583,702
Legacies & bequests 1,491,613
Investment income 627,124
Other revenue and support 100,184
Total revenues gains and other support 3,802,623

EXPENSES
Program services:
Libraries and library development services 1,416,533
Educational and cultural programs 38,027
JBI periodicals 229,274
Outreach to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union 115,247
Israeli assistance program 150,862
North American Outreach and Library recruitment 743,002
Total Program Services 2,692,945
Management and general 257,296
Fundraising 326,542
Total Expenses 3,276,783
Change in Net Assets 525,840

Condensed Balance Sheet
Year Ended December 31, 2013

ASSETS
Cash (including money market funds) 1,208,689
Investments in securities 6,399,327
Contributions receivable 15,500
Fixed assets, net 7,708,717
Other assets 396,503
Total Assets 15,728,736

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
LIABILITIES:
Accounts payable and accrued expenses 18,514
Other liabilities 281,166
Total Liabilities 299,680

NET ASSETS:
Unrestricted:
General operating 453,204
Board designated reserve 500,027
Board designated endowment 4,747,948
Land, building and equipment 7,708,717
Total Unrestricted 13,409,896
Temporarily restricted 959,574
Permanently restricted 1,059,586
Total Net Assets 15,429,056

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 15,728,736

JBI Programs

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
• Circulating library of more than 22,000 Audio, Braille & Large Print titles
• Customized educational materials for students
• Special publications and liturgical materials
• Recording studio program
• Web-based downloadable Braille

NORTH AMERICAN OUTREACH AND LIBRARY RECRUITMENT
• Reaching out to the blind, visually impaired, reading disabled and physically handicapped through schools, JCCs, senior centers, social service agencies, advertisements, etc.
• Engaging blind and visually impaired subscribers through special JBI Talking Book Groups
• Educating the community about JBI’s free and unique services

ISRAELI ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND OUTREACH TO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION
• The JBI LowVision Clinic and Mobile Screening Program (Tel Aviv)
• JBI sponsored recording studios at the Central Library for the Blind in Israel
• Outreach to the visually impaired and distribution of Audio and Large Print foreign language materials throughout the FSU, Hungary and Romania

JBI PERIODICALS SERIES AND EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS
• Audio concert, drama and lecture series
• Popular magazines in Audio format (e.g., selections from Jerusalem Report, Commentary, Moment, Tikkun, Hadassah)
• JBI Voice and Jewish Braille Review - JBI’s own monthly anthology of articles from a wide variety of publications, with distinct Russian and Spanish language versions

*In certain cases, for the purpose of clarity in the pie chart, percentages represent combined related programs.
JBI MISSION STATEMENT

JBI International, founded in 1931 as The Jewish Braille Institute, seeks to empower blind, visually impaired and reading disabled individuals to participate fully in educational, cultural and communal life by providing free access to works of Jewish and general interest through its Braille, Large Print and Audio Libraries. Our global programs in many languages serve people of all ages and backgrounds.

THE JBI LIBRARY

JBI’s global library offers Jewish and general interest materials – fiction, nonfiction, periodicals, cultural and liturgical materials – in accessible formats in English, Russian, Yiddish, Spanish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Romanian and Polish. We serve readers on six continents.

JEWISH EDUCATION & JEWISH CONTINUITY

JBI enables blind, visually impaired and reading disabled children to obtain a Jewish education alongside their peers by providing customized educational materials in Braille, Large Print and Audio. The JBI Library also helps adults blind from birth as well as those who have become visually impaired later in life to capture the joys of reading and lifelong learning.

ISRAEL PROGRAM

In 1983, JBI established and has since continued to support the premier Low Vision Clinic in Israel, located at the Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv. The Clinic seeks to maximize the residual vision of those with severe impairment, whether it be the result of congenital disease, aging or injury.

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