

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel BNEI DAVID ELI

Rosh Ashana 5774 BULLETIN Tishrei 2013



Bnei David Celebrates its Silver Anniversary: 5748-5773 (1988-2013)



Bnei David's 25th class is currently rounding up their first year at the Mechina. When the Mechina Beit Hamidrash opened its doors to the entering class of 70 students 25 years ago, the idea of having National Religious recruits serve in units throughout the IDF and assume important command positions seemed like a dream. But that vision – which we at Bnei David call “Taking Responsibility for the Security of the State of Israel” – has now become a reality.

Today, thousands of our graduates serve in every sector of the IDF. Units that scarcely knew a religious soldier are today brimming with Bnei David graduates joined by graduates of other pre-army academies along with other soldiers, all wearing knitted kippot. These idealistic boys are sanctifying the Name of Heaven and providing a sterling personal example of selfless dedication to the good of their people and their country. Our religious soldiers are living proof that meaningful military service can be imbued with the eternal values of the Torah.

Bnei David celebrated its 25th anniversary at a festive ceremony held this past Sivan at

Eli. The heads of Bnei David institutions, our Rabbis, and over a thousand graduates were present. Graduates from the Mechina, the post-army Beit Midrash, and the advanced Yeshiva were represented. Each graduate was given a name and class tag at the door. The main event was preceded by a joyous reunion of all the graduates and their Rabbis. Rabbi Yigal Levinstein gave the keynote speech. He shared with the audience the process of thinking and reexamination that went into resolving educational dilemmas over the years. He spoke of his close and abiding partnership with Rabbi Sadan, and concluded

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Bnei David Institutions wishes all our students, alumni and friends, together with all the House of Israel, a new year of sweetness and blessings. May this be a year of activism and devotion to the Jewish People and the Jewish State, guided by the timeless truths of the Torah.

“Hearing the sound of the Shofar means to focus oneself – to order one’s personality around the root of things, to become a centered and exceptional person. ‘Fortunate are the people who know the Shofar-blast’ – Fortunate are the people who achieve this dimension of the Sofar.” ■

Rabbi Eliezer Kashtiel
Olat Chodesh Bechodsho

◁ Silver Anniversary

his address with impassioned praise of Rabbi Sadan as “a visionary, a man of truth, and a revolutionary who has remained eternally youthful.” Following Rabbi Levinstein’s speech, a documentary of life in the early days of the Mechina was screened. Rabbi Eliezer Kashtiel, Head of the post-army Yeshiva spoke next. He highlighted the importance always to act with discretion and humility. Quoting Chazal, he reiterated that “blessing is only to be found for things that are hidden from sight” (Baba Metzia 42a). Bnei David’s outstanding success has come about because everything it accomplishes is done quietly, without making waves, with an attitude of deep humility, he concluded. Rabbi Amos Netanel, the father of Captain Yoni Netanel z”l, who fell during operation “Cast Lead” in Gaza, spoke about the involvement of bereaved families with the Beit Midrash of Bnei David. It is in the Beit Midrash that the students probe the meaningfulness of life, and come to appreciate the values that transcend life, he said. A film was screened about the diverse contributions of Bnei David graduates to the life of the nation – in the fields of education, state security, the Rabbinate, the government, and more. The film showed vividly how Bnei David’s efforts over the years are being crowned with success. Rabbi Sadan concluded the ceremony with a talk on the theme “Mighty waters cannot the flames of love put out” (Shir Hashirim 8:7). He spoke of his fervent desire to remain in touch with each and every Bnei David graduate as they all continue on their life’s journey. He reiterated the primary values unique to the Bnei David Beit Midrash: taking responsibility for the security of the State of Israel, wedding the sacred and the mundane, permeating all of life with the light of Torah, and the unrelenting striving in our own lives for Tikkun Olam – elevating the world to its ideal state. Rabbi Sadan confessed that the child to whom he gave birth has grown far beyond the expectations of its father. The father, for his part, yearns to hear from his many students and be kept abreast of what is going on in their lives. We plant the seeds of idealism in the Beit Hamidrash, he said – but it is up to the graduates to cultivate the wider world around them inspired by the vision of Bnei David.

The evening ended with a surprise. Representatives of the graduates stepped onto the stage and expressed their gratitude



and appreciation by giving Rabbi Sadan and Rabbi Levinstein each a token of their esteem. All present went home exhilarated, knowing that they belong to a movement that is bringing about important changes across the globe. A video of the entire ceremony can be viewed at the Bnei David website.

Three days after the 25th anniversary celebration, the Union of Pre-Army Preparatory Academies held an assembly at the Binyanei Hauma Conference Hall in Jerusalem. Thousands of students from institutions throughout the country attended.

Among those honoring the assembly by their presence were the Defense Minister, Lieutenant General (Res.) Moshe Yaalon; the Minister of Education, Rabbi Shai Piron; the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Beni Ganz; the IDF Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Rafael Peretz; heads of the preparatory academies; and other dignitaries. All those who spoke from the podium mentioned Bnei David’s 25th anniversary celebration, and had glowing praise for Rabbi Sadan and Rabbi Levinstein’s achievement in creating a movement that is empowering the IDF. ■

Off to Boot Camp

The students of Bnei David's 24th graduating class have finished their courses and are now in the process of enlistment in the IDF. To celebrate, the entire class went on a trip to the South of Israel, which featured a bicycle tour, a jaunt in the Eilat foothills, and sailing in the Gulf of Eilat.

At the same time, the entering class of the advanced Yeshiva, which has just finished its first year of studies, joined their parents for the traditional student-parent Shabbat held every year at Eli. The parents heard lectures on Bnei David's philosophy of Torah-based activism, and enjoyed the warm Bnei David hospitality. ■



Bnei David Welcomes the Incoming Class

This year's incoming Mechina class – Bnei David's 26th – numbers 144 students. 40 students will sit in the Beit Midrash of the advanced Yeshiva. The Chai Roi Public Leadership Program will absorb 15 new students. Planning sessions were held by the staffs of all of the programs; past performance was evaluated and directions mapped for the upcoming year. We wish all of the Rabbis of Bnei David a successful and fruitful year of study and growth. ■



A New Edition of "Vayehi Yadav Emmunah"

12 years ago, we published Rabbi Sadan's book, "Vayehi Yadav Emmunah" – a compilation of shiurim given in Bnei David's Beit Hamidrash in which Rabbi Sadan addressed topical social and political issues. The book was published with the support of the Harosh family [SPELLING? – DS], in the memory of Captain Moshe Harosh H"yd, [SPELLING? – DS] who fell in Lebanon while running to assist his wounded comrades. Rabbi Sadan has spent two years rewriting the shiurim for the new edition. Bnei David student Shalom Haiman edited the material for publication. The new edition can be purchased at select bookstores and directly from Bnei David. We extend our thanks to the Harosh family and the Shneidman family from Teaneck, New Jersey, whose generous support made publication of the new edition possible. ■





“Open Your Hand and Provide for the Needs of all Life” The New Kitchen and Dining Hall is Up and Running

We are proud to announce the completion of the first stage of the new kitchen and dining hall facility. The kitchen and Mechina dining hall will open in time for the beginning of the new academic year on Rosh Chodesh Elul. A joint surge of effort by the contractors, government supervisors and official planners brought this about. The lower level will be completed after the Chaggim, and the advanced Yeshiva dining room will be ready by Tu B'Shevat. For the first time in 25 years the students of Bnei David will take their meals together under a single, permanent roof! Tzuriel and Aliza Daniel, who have been our cooks since Bnei David's inception, now have a modern, industrial kitchen outfitted with state of the art equipment in which to prepare the delicious, nutritious meals for which they are renowned. Upgrading our physical plant is a critical priority at this point in time. We wish to thank all of our friends and sponsors in Israel and throughout the world whose support enables Bnei David Institutions to continue to develop and expand. ■



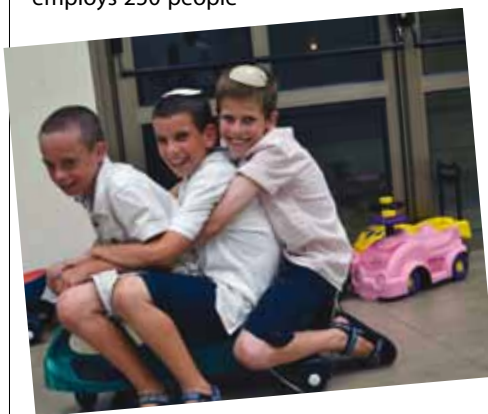
Remembering the Past while Turning to the Future – Bnei David's 8th Graduating Class has a Shabbat Reunion



The 8th graduating class held a reunion over Shabbat Parshat Pinchas, to renew ties forged 18 years ago. 37 couples with over 120 children participated. One of the participants shared his feelings on his Facebook page:

“In life there are peak experiences; there are simple decisions that set the course of one's entire future; and there are brief moments of well being and joy that remain with you for a very long time. All of this is captured in the picture before you – taken at the Shabbat reunion of the 8th graduating class of the pre-army preparatory Yeshiva of Bnei David in Eli. I am in the picture too. My dear friend Eli Weiss persuaded me to join the Bnei David Mechina 18 years ago. That simple decision changed my life. None can compare to the group before you when it comes to building a people and a state. In the picture you can see Rabbis, teachers, principals of high schools, brigade commanders in the IDF Officers Training College and in the armored

corps, a fighter pilot, physiotherapists (2!), members of the high-tech industry, an entrepreneur who created 3 companies and employs 250 people



(including 120 Haredi women programmers), 2 fellows who work in institutions for youth at risk, and more... and more... I am bursting with pride! – proud to belong, proud to be part of them, and proud of the life-direction I have chosen.” ■





Wives of the Avreichim Empower and are Empowered

Full time Torah study is flourishing at Bnei David. Some 100 families are part of the communities of the advanced Yeshiva and the post-army Yeshiva. The wives share their husbands' commitment to accomplishment in higher Torah study. Bnei David has decided to organize bonding and enrichment programs for these outstanding women. The programs include Rosh Chodesh celebrations, Torah study groups, and classes on the dynamics of married life and child rearing, as well as the occasional fun activity like the latest excursion to the Samaritan highlands. ■

Bnei David's Educators in Training Expand their Horizons

Students of Bnei David's teacher's training institute recently visited the Nachshon Yeshiva High School. They studied with the high school students as their havrutot, and exchanged information about educational methodologies and teaching strategies with the staff. ■



Are you coming to Israel for Succot?

**If you plan to be in Israel
over Succot, join me
for an adventure-packed day
in ancient Shilo
on Sunday, 22 Tishrei
(July 29)**



We kick off the day with a multi-media presentation of stories from the Tanach that took place in Shilo at the new "Migdal Haroeh" center in Midgal.

After that, we set out on land rover tours of the stunning countryside.

We stop for lunch at the newly revamped archeological site of ancient Shilo.

Activities for the whole family are available at the site.

To register, contact Lior Shtul
lior@bneidavid.org

Visitors of Distinction

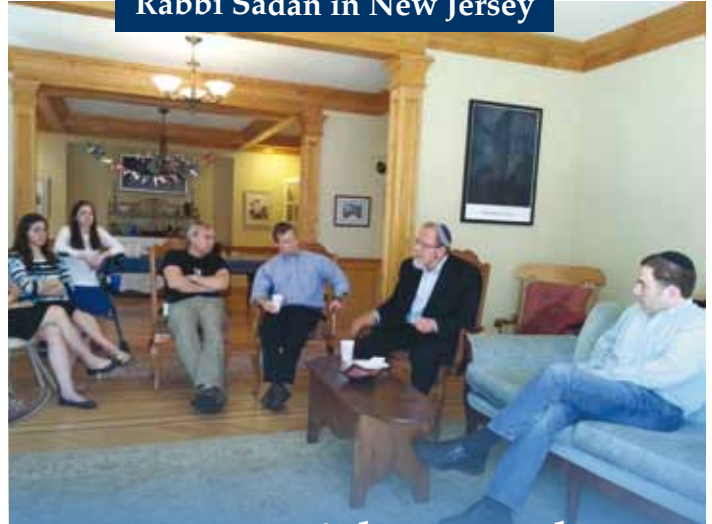


Knesset member Yoni Setbon of the Habayit Hayehudi Party visited Bnei David on Israel's Memorial Day for the fallen. He spoke to the students of the Mechina about his experiences as an officer during the second Lebanese war. He described the battle of Binat Jabal, in which he helped to retrieve the body of Major Roi Klein z"l, who had sacrificed his life to save his soldiers by flinging himself on a Hizballah grenade. MK Setbon participated in a Memorial Day ceremony held by the community of Eli.



Knesset member Dov Lipman of the Yesh Atid Party visited Bnei David and met with Rabbi Sadan. MK Lipman had high praise for Bnei David's students, who successfully integrate Torah with military service. ■

Rabbi Sadan in New Jersey



Guest of the Jewish community of Engelwood

In Tamuz Rabbi Sadan was the guest of the Jewish community of Engelwood, New Jersey. Rabbis Golden and Reichman organized the trip along with local community leaders. Over Shabbat Rabbi Sadan was hosted by the Ahavat Torah and East Hill synagogues. Rabbi Sadan spoke to a packed audience of Sefaradim and Askenazim. That Sunday Rabbi Sadan delivered a shiur to a circle of our friends in Teaneck at the home of Menachem and Rena Shneidman. ■



Our Blessings

We extend our congratulations: to the many Bnei David graduates who recently completed their officer's training; to our soldiers who completed their platoon command training, to all those who completed their regimental training; and to all those who received awards of excellence, in particular Lieutenant A from the 21st graduating class, who finished his pilot's training course with honors. ■

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