

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel
BNEI DAVID ELI

Chanukah 5774 Bulletin Kislev 2013



Colonel Ofer Winter Assumes Command of the Givati Brigade



Colonel Ofer Winter was installed as the new commanding officer of Israel's renowned Givati Infantry Brigade in a moving ceremony held a few days before Rosh Hashana at the unit's base in Metzudat Yoav. Ofer, a member of Bnei David's second graduating class, is the first of our graduates to assume the high-level post of brigade commander in the standing army.

Ofer's first official act as commander was to complete a Sefer Torah that had been donated to the Givati Brigade in the spirit of the verse (Devarim 17:19): "This scroll must always be with him, and he shall read from it all the days of his life." Among those honored with the inscription of a letter in the Torah scroll were the Head of Israel's Southern Front General Tal Rousseau, other IDF generals, the IDF Chief Rabbi Brigadier-General Rafi Peretz, the Givati Brigade's officers, and Rabbi Eli Sadan. Ofer inscribed the final letter in the Sefer Torah.

IDF officers, who spoke first, praised the new Brigade Commander for his leadership

qualities, originality, and outstanding personal courage.

In his inaugural address Ofer credited his Rabbis at Bnei David for giving him the vision and motivation to succeed. Ofer quoted the prayer "Heneni He'ani Mi-ma'as" – I, one destitute of acts (recited by the Shaliach Tzibbur on Rosh Hashana prior to Mussaf) in its entirety. Ofer asked of Hakadosh Baruch Hu that He help him to lead with humility following the example of Moshe Rabbeinu, wage war courageously in the manner of King David, and conduct himself with wisdom as did Solomon. Ofer concluded by saying to the bereaved families of soldiers in his unit who fell in battle: "It grieves me that I was unable to bring your sons back home to you. You can be justly proud of your loved ones, whose legacy of courage and dedication is an inspiration to us all."

We are proud of Colonel Ofer Winter, who is a shining example of the Bnei David ethos of faith and responsibility in the world of action. ■

Bnei David Institutions wish all our students, graduates, friends and the entire House of Israel
A VERY HAPPY CHANUKAH!



Home away from Home for Visiting Soldiers at Bnei David

The number of soldiers who return to Bnei David while on army leave has grown by leaps and bounds. We are setting up a mobile home for these soldiers, complete with the amenities of home – living quarters, kitchenette, air conditioning, etc. All are invited to stop by and enjoy a pleasant stay! ■



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Bnei David 26th Class Scales the Summit of Mt. Sartava



The 26th Bnei David incoming class, 146 students strong, began their studies in Elul. They joined 100 students from the 25th class in the Beit Hamidrash. The Mechina Beit Midrash, full to overflowing, resounds with the melody of Torah study throughout the

day. Prior to Rosh Hashana, Rabbi Sadan took the incoming class on an expedition to the summit of Mt. Sartava. On the mountain top, Rabbi Sadan gave a talk on the responsibility each student has to make the most of his time spent in the Beit Hamidrash to absorb Torah

and develop his potential. After he finished speaking, Rabbi Sadan gave each student a copy of the new edition of his book, "Vayehi Yadav Emmunah" – His Hands Remained Steadfast, a compilation of his shiurim on timely issues. ■

Chai Roi - Old Wine in New Bottles

The Chai Roi public leadership program, established in memory of Bnei David alumnus Major Roi Klein z"l, is designed to cultivate idealistic leadership for Israel's public sector who will be qualified to address the major challenges facing Israel today. The program combines degree-gear academic studies, Beit Midrash studies with a focus on the interface of Halacha and Public Administration, and internships in specialized fields.

This year 22 students joined the program. Rabbi Avraham Schiller and Rabbi Ofir Wells head the Chai Roi Beit Midrash curriculum, and Dr. Shimon Weiss, former Director-General of Machon Lev in Jerusalem, was appointed as the dean of academic studies.

Under the auspices of the program the students recently went on three fact-finding tours of central Israeli institutions:

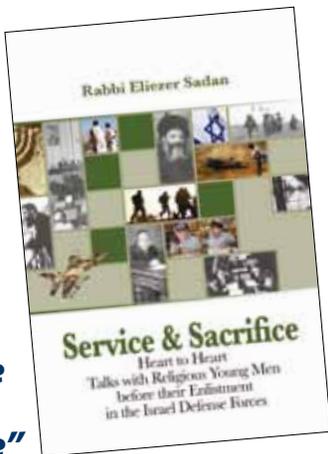
the Bank of Israel, the Samarian Regional Council, and the Jewish National Fund. We extend our best wishes to all of the students for a productive and successful year! ■





Passover Haggadah "Song of Ascents" by Rabbi Sadan in English

Several years ago Bnei David completed the complex project of translating Rabbi Sadan's monumental commentary on the Haggadah, "A Song of Ascents," into English. The Haggadah, which distills the received teachings of Rabbi Sadan's rabbis, Rav Zvi Yehuda Kook z"l and Rav Zvi Tau shlit"a, contains a thematic introduction and extensive running commentary on the text. ■



New at Bnei David Press: "Service and Sacrifice"

Rabbi Eliezer Sadan gives a series of talks to the Bnei David graduating class every year in preparation for their enlistment in the Israel Defense Forces. We are pleased to announce the publication of an English adaptation for the wider public of the Hebrew edition of these talks, titled "Service and Sacrifice – Heart to Heart Talks with Religious Young Men." "Service and Sacrifice" comes to grips with issues of enduring relevance for all Jews: The universality and primacy of Divine service; the wedding of the sacred and the mundane in our lives; and the challenge of putting the redemptive ideal into practice in our time. The booklet was published with the generous support of two families, the Zeifmans of Toronto, Canada, and the Smiths of Johannesburg, South Africa – Ra'anana, Israel. To place your order please contact: sale@bneidavid.org. ■

"Expand the place of your tent, and they will stretch forth the drapery of your habitations..."

The Advanced Yeshiva continues to burgeon. This year's incoming class of 40 has swollen the ranks of students to 150, and we expect next year's numbers to rise. To meet the increasing need for space we are currently drawing up plans for enlarging the Beit Midrash and adding extra classrooms in consultation with the Rosh Yeshiva and staff. We hope to begin construction after Chanukah and finish the building project by next Rosh Hashana. The fundraising drive for the estimated budget of \$875,000 is now underway. For information on sponsorship and dedication options please contact lior@bneidavid.org. ■



Visitors

Visitors Arrive at Bnei David

We were extremely pleased to host over 100 of our friends from abroad in the Bnei David Succah in ancient Shiloh. Our guests enjoyed refreshments, visited the new archeological museum on site, and went on a land rover tour of the scenic countryside.

The Board of U.S. Friends of the Israel Defense Forces visited Bnei David at the beginning of Kislev, headed by the organization's President Mrs. Nily Falic and accompanied by the their Executive FIDF Director General (Res.) Gerry Gershon. The Falic family's ties with Bnei David go back many years. The group toured the Bnei David campus, and was briefed on Bnei David – its background, vision, and contribution to Israel. Rabbi Sadan and the Chief IDF Rabbi Brigadier-General Rafi Peretz addressed the delegation in conference. ■



The Yehuda Brigade Receives a New Sefer Torah

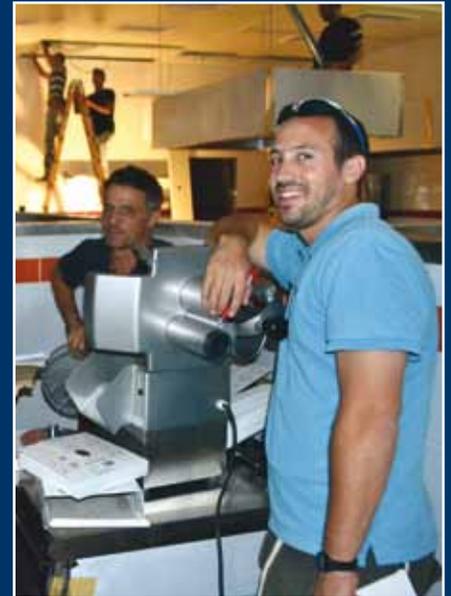
On the same day that Colonel Ofer Winter completed his unit's Sefer Torah, the IDF Yehuda Brigade, stationed in Hebron, gathered for a Hachnasat Sefer Torah celebration of their own. The new Torah scroll was dedicated by friends of Bnei David in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of four boys from the U.S., and in memory of Bnei David graduate Lieutenant Colonel Emanuel Moreno z"l, who fell during the Second Lebanese War. Bnei David graduate Colonel Avi Blutt, Commanding Officer of the Yehuda Brigade, presided at the ceremony. ■



“Open Your Hand and Provide for the Needs of all Life”



The academic year began with our new kitchen and dining hall facility open for business! The modern, industrial kitchen is currently providing meals for the Mechina program in their own dining hall. The second dining hall, which will serve the rest of the campus, is under construction and scheduled to be completed by Purim. Much thought went into the “human engineering” aspect of the facility’s design, to make it an efficient and pleasant place for our students and dedicated staff to work. A special elevator was installed to deliver goods directly to the kitchen. We wish to thank all of our friends and sponsors in Israel and throughout the world whose support enables us to upgrade our physical plant and meet the needs of our students at this critical stage of our growth. ■



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