



## Israeli Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef visits Bnei David



**L**ast month Bnei David was honored with a visit from Rav Yitzhak Yosef. Hundreds of students welcomed the Chief Rabbi of Israel to Bnei David with singing and dancing.

Rav Yosef met with Rav Eli Sadan and a delegation of Bnei David rabbis, and Rav Yosef honored the rabbis and

students with a long halacha shiur interwoven with many stories about his father, the late Rav Ovadiah Yosef ztz"l. The Chief Rabbi encouraged the students to increase their Torah studies at all times. Rav Sadan thanked Rav Yosef for the shiur and for visiting Bnei David and gave him a gift of two of books that he, Rav Sadan, has written. ■



## Israel's president salutes Bnei David students and graduates at a special meeting at the President's Residence in Jerusalem

**O**n February 20, Israeli President Shimon Peres hosted a special visit for Bnei David students. During the meeting the president expressed his great appreciation for the contribution of an entire generation of Bnei David graduates to the State of Israel and the country's security.

President Peres praised the moral spirit that guides Bnei David students and stressed the importance of safeguarding our special heritage for

future generations. "You are the future generation of our fighters and heroes and you bring tremendous pride to the whole Jewish people," said the president. "Graduates of the pre-army mechina programs are known for their excellence as soldiers, outstanding officers and courageous fighters. I would like to express my deep appreciation for your fighting spirit and love of this country. Your mission is to transmit this love to the coming generations and thus to ensure the future of the State of Israel."



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## Israel's president salutes Bnei David students



During the meeting the students asked the president his opinion of the progress of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, the release of Jonathan Pollard and various other social issues. The students also told the president about their thoughts and most important concerns as they prepare to enter the IDF.

One of the most emotional moments during the visit was when President Peres was introduced to the next generation of Bnei David students – the sons of Bnei David graduates who were killed during their IDF service. One of these children, Or-Chadash Peretz, the son of Eliraz Peretz, z"l, told the president that shortly before Eliraz was killed, he had been learning with his son about the president of the Sanhedrin and the president of Israel, and Eliraz had promised Or-Chadash that one day they would go to Jerusalem together to see the president. Eliraz was not able to fulfill that promise, but now, almost four years after his father's death, Or-Chadash has made that promise a reality, and had his picture taken with the president. The security arrangements for the visit were overseen by the chief and deputy security officers at the President's Residence, both of whom are Bnei David alumni. ■



## "One stone at a time"

"The rebuilding shall begin even with a single stone," said the Vilna Gaon. Bnei David's Advanced Yeshiva was founded in 2006 to educate Torah scholars, men of spiritual stature, who would both learn and learn how to pass on their knowledge and contribute to the rebuilding of the Jewish People in our homeland and build Torah-oriented careers in both the Beit Midrash and the community. The Advanced Yeshiva currently has 150 students whose learning is guided by the teachings of Rav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook and the ideology of Bnei David – a sense of mission and taking responsibility in the State of Israel – in the world of Torah, the world of education, the security establishment and the civil service. The Beit Midrash originally built

to house the Advanced Yeshiva has become cramped and overcrowded, and some shiurim are now held in adjoining temporary classrooms. We recently drafted plans to build more classrooms that will enable us to accept the many students who are interested in Bnei David's advanced studies program. Construction is currently underway. We would like to double the size of the Advanced Yeshiva and invite you to partner with us in this project, which we hope to complete by Chanukah 5775 (December 2014). While the building is under construction, the students will be learning in the new north dining hall, which we hope to inaugurate by Pesach. Thank you in advance for your partnership and support – together we can make these plans a reality! ■



## Candlelight Shabbat after major snowstorm



The week after Chanukah a massive snow storm blanketed Bnei David's campus with over two feet of snow. Most of the students had gone home for Shabbat and only the small group of Advanced Yeshiva students who remained experienced this special Shabbat, during which they davened and ate the evening meal by candlelight. The storm caused an electrical blackout that lasted three days. On Saturday night rides from Eli were arranged to evacuate the students to Ariel, and from there they were able to travel to their homes. ■

# Shabbat alumni reunions – staying connected



Maintaining and strengthening alumni connections is very important to Bnei David.

This year we will hold seven Shabbat alumni programs, each for students from a different



year. So far this year we have held Shabbat programs for the classes of 1998, 2002, 2007 and 2008. During these special Shabbats the alumni reconnect, reminisce and catch up on each other's news. The feedback we receive after these programs is always very positive, and we hope to hold many more Shabbat programs in the future. ■

## Connecting worlds – Bnei Brak and Bnei David

Every year Bnei David's first year students spend the Shabbat of Parshat Yitro (in January) visiting the city of Bnei Brak and its various ultra-Orthodox communities – Chassidic and non-Chassidic. On Friday the boys met with 99-year-old halachic authority, Rabbi Steinman; in the evening they visited the Viznitz and Nadvorna Chassidic courts, where they joined the Chassidim in singing Shabbat songs; and at midnight went to a special late night learning session at Ponevezh yeshiva. Over the course of Shabbat the students met with many of the exceptional personalities in this city and on Saturday evening enjoyed a Melave Malka with singing



and dancing at the Sadigura yeshiva. The boys were enthralled by all the different communities and were happy to connect with them, especially in the current climate of controversy over IDF service for yeshiva students. ■



## Moving to our new offices

The construction of Bnei David's new dining hall complex created an empty space on ground level that turned out to be perfect for new administrative offices, to replace the temporary quarters we had been using for over 25 years. We recently moved into the new offices, where our dedicated staff is looking forward to the next 25 years and more, with new modern surroundings and office equipment that will help keep all Bnei David's programs running smoothly. ■





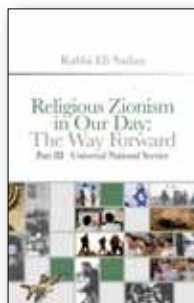
## Bar Mitzvahs at Bnei David

We are very pleased with the warm relationship Bnei David has developed with the Jewish community in Panama. The Harari family of Panama chose to donate a classroom and dedicate it during the Bar Mitzvah celebrations for their son, Maurice. The extended family came for a tour of Bnei David's growing campus and enjoyed singing and dancing with Rav Sadan and the mechina

students. After the unveiling of the dedication plaque, Rav Sadan gave a shiur in the classroom and the Harari family met with Miriam Peretz, whose son Major Eliraz Peretz, a Bnei David graduate, was killed during a military operation in the Gaza Strip nearly four years ago. We thank the Harari family for this gift and look forward to strengthening their relationship with Bnei David. ■

## Environmentally friendly and economical, too

Our recent efforts to maintain a balanced budget include an electric car for Avi Michaeli, Bnei David's campus maintenance manager. Now Avi can travel quietly to all parts of the campus and the dormitories, save on gas costs and help reduce the air pollution in Eli. ■



## Religious Zionism in Our Day: The Way Forward

We recently completed the translation of the Religious Zionism in Our Day: The Way Forward, Part III – Universal National Service. This slim volume was published in Hebrew about six months ago and distributed in 80,000 copies, all over the country. After its publication in English this booklet will be available for reading online on Bnei David's website. ■

## Cyberspace – the IDF's next battlefront



Over the past few months we have been in close contact with the IDF's academic department, to promote a unique program for Bnei David students who are interested in joining the IDF's cyber warriors. We have held a meeting with representatives of the IDF and Ariel University and are hoping that some of our students will be accepted to the program that will open

next year at the university. These students would receive a further deferment of their IDF service while they earn a B.Sc. and would then join the IDF as cyber professionals. ■



## MK Eli Yishai visits Bnei David

During times when some parts of society are stirring up controversy, we do our best to add unity. Former Shas Party leader, Knesset member Eli Yishai, recently visited Bnei David. During his tour of the

campus and all the batei midrash he spoke about the tremendous strength of the special combination between holiness and the study of Torah and sharing in the defense and protection of Israel's security. ■



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