

BNEI DAVID ELI

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Bnei David rabbis and staff wish the entire House of Israel a very happy and kosher Pesach



President Reuven Rivlin Educating the next generation of leaders

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin made a special visit to Bnei David Institutions during Chanukah, and was welcomed by the mechina boys with singing and dancing. President Rivlin met with Rabbi Eli Sadan and the senior staff in the Memorial Room, where Rabbi Sadan and Rabbi Yigal Levinstein gave the president an overview of Bnei David and the heroism of the alumni who had fallen in Israel's wars.

"I am here today," said Rivlin to the hundreds of students who assembled in the Beit Midrash to hear his address, "at the very first mechina, Bnei David in Eli,

and I look around me in deep appreciation of the tremendous educational enterprise that has been built here. Over the years this Beit Midrash has established itself as the crucible for the next generation of leaders. I have just come from the Memorial Room, where I stood in silent admiration of the brave young men who have fallen defending Israel's security." Rivlin praised the students and stressed the importance of taking responsibility for the benefit of Israel as a democratic Jewish state and placing the good of society above the needs of the individual or any particular political camp. ■

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "The tree has grown and produced beautiful fruit"



Toward the end of February Bnei David was honored with a visit by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who addressed a standing-room only crowd of students and guests who had come to hear his words.

Netanyahu opened his remarks with reminiscences of his previous visits to Bnei David over the years, and how the campus had grown. He noted that Bnei David has produced a long list of heroes who serve as role models for today's students. Rabbi Sadan and the prime minister discussed the challenges of running the country and Rabbi Sadan gave Netanyahu a copy of the book "VaYehi Yadav Emuna" a compilation of shiurim given

by Rabbi Sadan on the Jewish state, society and democracy. During the meeting, which was attended by Shulamit Perez, the widow of Bnei David alumnus Maj. Eliraz Perez who fell in the fighting in Gaza in 2009, Shulamit gave Netanyahu a letter written by Eliraz on the eve of the elections in 2006. In the letter Eliraz offered Netanyahu words of encouragement, urging him to remain strong in the face of all who were slandering him and trying to undermine him. Netanyahu was very touched by the letter and remarked that he always knew that Eliraz's death was a great loss, but after reading the letter, he has a greater appreciation of this loss. ■



בני דוד עלי
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A Permanent Building for the Beit Midrash

We are currently in the advanced stages of planning the permanent building of the pre-army mechina, which will include a Beit Midrash and classrooms. The building is being designed in coordination between the heads of Bnei David Institutions - Rabbi Eli Sadan and Rabbi Yigal Levinstein - the mechina teaching staff, Platin Architects and the in-house architect, Mr. Irwin Sadan, Rabbi Eli Sadan's father. Mr. Sadan, now 91, began his architecture studies at the University of Berlin prior to WWII and completed his degree at the Technion after the war. He has been involved in the design of all of Bnei David's permanent buildings. We hope to complete the planning stage by May and issue a construction tender. The current Beit Midrash is being subdivided into classrooms, as the caravans currently being used as classrooms will be removed after Pesach, to make way for the new Beit Midrash. We have begun our fundraising campaign among our friends in Israel and abroad. We need your help and support to meet the challenge of completing a permanent building for our mechina students. ■



Hallel – New girls midrasha for high school graduates

Over the past few months Rabbi Yigal Levinstein, Rebbetzin Geula Nissim and Tehila Pollak have been visiting religious girls ulpana high schools, promoting the new midrasha program that will be opening this fall. In January a Shabbat program was held for 200 girls who came from all over Israel to hear about the midrasha. The girls met with the rabbis and rebbetzins and learned about the spirit of Bnei David and the goals of the midrasha and enjoyed a special Shabbat atmosphere complete with singing and dancing. During February the girls returned for individual interviews and a group of 50 were accepted for the coming school year. The girls will learn a variety of subjects to strengthen their commitment to Torah observance and prepare them for their upcoming national service and life in general. ■



“An investment that produces results even before the investment is completed” Dedication of the Advanced Yeshiva



With these words, Leon Falic opened his address at the dedication ceremony of the Advanced Yeshiva building. The Falic Family helped Bnei David complete the Advanced Yeshiva building and named it after their father, Haim (Fima) Falic, z"l. The yeshiva, classrooms and Ateret Shlomo reference library will be located in the new Haim Building. Rabbi Oded Wolanski, of Yeshivat Har Hamor in Jerusalem – praised the generosity of the Falic family and spoke about the importance of building a life imbued with Torah. Members of the Falic family mentioned the importance of growing up and learning in a Torah environment and taking their learning with them into national missions in education, security and public service. ■



War wounded give thanks for their recovery

Several of our graduates were injured in combat in Gaza last summer. Rabbis and friends visited them in hospital to encourage them and kept in touch during their recovery. Elyosef Malkiel was one of the more severely injured, when a grenade he threw ricocheted off a wall and landed back in his armored vehicle. He protected his friends by shielding the grenade with a knapsack, and prevented a bigger tragedy. After several operations on his arm and leg, Elyosef was discharged from hospital and held a thanksgiving party with his family, friends and fellow students. ■



In strength and humility

Bnei David salutes four of our students who received citations for their bravery during Operation Protective Edge in July 2014. The Chief of Staff awarded the Medal of Distinguished Service to First Lt. Eitan Fund who rushed into the tunnel and pursued the kidnappers of his friend, First Lt. Hadar Goldin z"l. At the ceremony Fund mentioned the special spirit of "strength and humility," and the importance of maintaining humility even after receiving the citation. ■



The glorious splendor of thy majesty

Classmates of First Lt. Hadar Goldin z"l, who was engaged to be married two months after he was killed, decided to commemorate him with a special chupa wedding canopy, similar to the one illustrated on Hadar's invitation, and to use this chupa at their weddings. The first wedding was held last month. Mazal Tov!



Torah scroll in memory of First Lt. Hadar Goldin z"l



The Falic family has decided to perpetuate the memory of First Lt. Hadar Goldin z"l, by donating a Torah scroll to the Beit Midrash of the mechina where Hadar learned. The first letters of the Torah were written by Simcha Goldin, Rabbi Sadan, Rabbi Pinchas Etzion, Falic family members and additional guests, in the Memorial Room next to Hadar's photograph. We hope that we will soon be able to complete the scroll and welcome it into the Aron Kodesh. ■



World Bible Quiz, yeshiva students and IDF reservists

Chananel Malka, a student in the Chai Roi program and an IDF reservist, won first place in the World Bible Quiz for Adults held on Chanuka. He celebrated his victory together with his friends and rabbis, who commended him on his comprehensive knowledge. ■



Connecting to Am Yisrael

As part of the program to meet Jews from other communities around Israel, mechina students spent a Shabbat in Bnei Brak, where they met the ultra-Orthodox communities

and were introduced to their special way of life and vision. Following that Shabbat, the students held discussions on topics that arose from their encounter. ■

Chai Roi addresses the issue of illegal migrant workers



Students participated in a seminar in south Tel Aviv during Chanuka, on the issue of the illegal migrant workers, and met with the enforcement and immigration authorities, representatives of the local neighborhoods, and illegal migrant from Sudan. They also toured the area, gaining a greater understanding of this complex issue. A discussion was held on ways that the students can help deal with this problem. As part of the Chai Roi vocational training program, a workshop was held on preparing for a job interview, and a workshop on other professional issues will be offered later this year. ■

News from the Field

Rabbi Sadan gives shiurim in Eli and all over Israel, and recently traveled to the Jordan Valley to visit Bnei David alumni serving in the Shimshon regiment. Rabbi Sadan listened to their experiences in the army, inspired and encouraged them with Divrei Torah and updated the students on events at Bnei David. ■



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