

BNEI DAVID ELI

PESACH 5777 Bulletin Nisan 2017



BNEI DAVID INSTITUTIONS WISHES ALL OUR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI
A HAPPY PESACH!



A permanent building for the mechina

The construction of the mechina building is in full swing. The superstructure is almost complete and we hope to complete the frame for the roof by Pesach and start work on the stone façade and the interior of the building.

The contractor has scheduled the building for completion in time for the beginning of the upcoming school year, which will mark 30 years since the mechina's establishment. Rabbi Sadan and the interior designers have already chosen

the floor tiles, wall coverings and the interior colors, and all the finishing materials are being prepared. The fund-raising aspect of this project is also progressing well and thanks to the help of our students' parents, friends, and alumni we have raised nearly 50% of the total cost. We are continuing our efforts to obtain the necessary funds to for the completion of the building, its infrastructure, furnishings and equipment.

We invite you to partner with us on this project. ■



"Not self-guided missiles to set and forget"

Each week Rav Yoel Rechel visits a different IDF base and keeps in touch with Bnei David alumni in all the various units throughout the country. During one of these visits Rav Rechel met with the IDF chief rabbi, who praised Bnei David's efforts in this field, noting that mechina students are "not self-guided missiles that you launch and let be." Our connection with these soldiers is very important and throughout the year we plan Shabbat programs and one-day seminars in coordination with the IDF, for our alumni to return to Bnei David and recharge their spiritual batteries. ■



The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel **מכינה ישיבתית לצה"ל**
Yeshiva for Discharged Soldiers **ישיבה לבוגרי צבא**
Advanced Yeshiva **ישיבה גבוהה**
Jordan Valley Branch **שלוחת הנקעה**
Midreshet Danieli for Young Women **מדרשה לבנות דניאלי**

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Midreshet Danielle remembers Ronit Loewenstein z"l

On parents day, held this year on erev Chanukah, Midreshet Danielle dedicated Ronit Library, a literature library established in memory of Ronit Loewenstein, with the help of our friends.

The library offers a wide range of books, and has comfortable reading corners for the midrasha's students. In honor of this dedication the girls decorated the dining hall with photographs and sayings that they had chosen, written

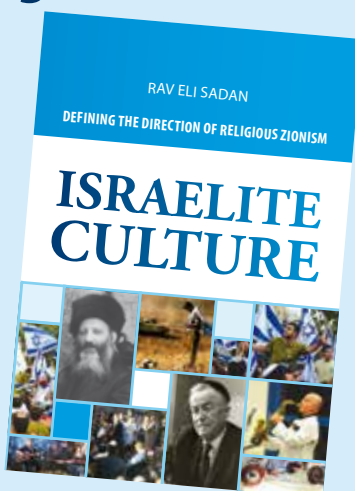


and illustrated. In February the girls went on a nature and Israeli heritage trip to Eilat. Over the past few months dozens of 12th graders interested in registering for classes next year visited the midrasha and met with the teachers and students. ■



Israelite Culture now in English too

At Chanukah thousands of copies of Rav Sadan's newest booklet, on Israelite culture, were distributed all over the country and via the Bnei David website. Following requests from our friends abroad and with the assistance of our loyal supporters, the booklet has been translated into English and will soon be uploaded to the website and distributed to our friends, to help them understand the challenges of contemporary Israeli society. ■



Rejoicing in the Jordan Valley

Bnei David students at the Jordan Valley branch of the mechina are continuing to enjoy their studies in the special atmosphere of this warm and embracing community.

Recently dozens of 12th graders visited the mechina for a trial week of shiurim and registration for next year is in full swing. As part of their extra-curricular activities the students built a wooden pergola and are enjoying this new shaded corner of the campus. The students also spend much of their free time in



the music room, rehearsing for the upcoming Purim party and other events. Over the winter the students participated in several Friday morning nature hikes, as well as a special Shabbat program in Safed and a field trip to Tel Aviv. ■



Bat Mitzva for daughters of Bnei David alumni

On the eighth day of Chanukah over 30 Bnei David alumni and their bat-mitzva age daughters came to Eli for a special day organized in their honor.

Rav Sadan welcomed they girls and their fathers and the enjoyed a joint study session, followed by lunch at Midreshet

Danielle. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit to the nearby stalactite cave, with a JNF guide. We hope to see the girls back at Midreshet Danielle after they finish high school... We are already planning the next event for the children of our alumni - on Isru Chag Shavuot, for the bat mitzva boys. ■



Lending a hand in Amona and Neve Tzuf

Following the tragic forest fire that damaged an entire neighborhood in Neve Tzuf in January, busloads of Bnei David students went to Neve Tzuf to help families salvage, pack up and move their belongings to temporary housing, so that they could return to their daily lives as soon as possible.

The students also visited the families who were being uprooted from Amona several times, to give them moral support, including

holding a full day of shiurim there and participating in the protest demonstrations held in Ofra. After the families were forced to leave, the students coordinated with the IDF and went back to the homes to help the families pack and move to temporary housing. We hope that these families will soon be provided with the new houses promised by the government, and will help them move their furniture and belongings again. ■

Friday mornings with our soldiers

Every Friday morning Rav Pinhas Etzion meets with Bnei David alumni currently serving in the IDF, to help them keep up with their Torah studies and enjoy some time together over a meal of freshly baked pitta and warm hummus – a special treat. ■



Bar mitzva boys from Panama visit Bnei David

In February some 30 bar mitzva boys from Panama came to Eli to learn about Bnei David. The boys ate lunch with the mechina students, some of whom joined the boys for an afternoon activity highlighting the benefits of working together as a team. We wish all the boys mazal tov as they enter Jewish adulthood and hope they will visit us again. ■

Shabbat in Bnei Brak

A few weeks ago the mechina students spent an inspiring Shabbat in Bnei Brak, learning about the various ultra-Orthodox Litvak and Chasidic groups, as part of Bnei David's regular Jewish society studies program. For many years the Zisser family assisted in the organization of this Shabbat event. Last year Mr. Moti Zisser z"l passed away, and his widow and sons David and Yoni, who both attended Bnei David, decided to continue their support for this important activity. On Motzei Shabbat a Melave Malka was held to celebrate a siyum Shas Mishnayot in memory of our dear friend Mr. Moti Zisser z"l. ■





The essential educational principles in the state education system

In January Rav Sadan met with 40 members of an educational leadership initiative from all parts of Israeli society and presented his view of the essence of education, fundamental educational values for the state education system and the path of religious Zionism, based on the teachings of Israel's first chief rabbi, Rav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook ztz"l, who wrote that the goal of education is for a person to be good and honest, kind to others, the environment, his people and his land. Rav Kook advocated Torah study as a means for becoming a good person and secular study and physical fitness as a means for preparing for the battle for Israel's existence. Rav Sadan also stressed the importance of setting priorities in state education, enumerating four basic principles: Love for one's fellow man – including the non-Jews; good citizenship and integrity; love of the homeland and dedication to the state; and loyalty to family. Rav Sadan concluded his presentation with a reiteration of religious Zionism's belief that the State of Israel is a divine miracle, "the beginning of the flowering of our redemption." Mrs. Ayelet Cohen Melkman, a senior aide at the Ministry of Education, whose son is a mechina student, thanked Rav Sadan for addressing the group. ■



Completing Tractate Bava Metzia

Every day the mechina students have two Daf Yomi classes and recently held a siyum to celebrate their completion of Bava Metzia. One of the students from last year joined the class of this year's students, and with the siyum for Bava Metzia celebrated his completion of the entire Talmud before his induction into the IDF. Rav Sadan honored the students with his presence at the siyum, congratulated them on their dedication to the daily study and wished them continued success in their studies. ■

Pre-induction field trip

At 2:00 a.m. one morning last week the mechina students boarded a bus bound for Israel's southern reaches, where the boys spent a few days hiking and cycling the nature trails in the desert mountains near Eilat. Along the way they stopped at the IDF bases to visit the



Bnei David alumni serving there. The night before the trip a rare hailstorm blanketed Eilat in white and the campsite where the boys had planned to spend the night under the stars was flooded. Thankfully the nearby Israel Navy base was able to arrange accommodations for the students in its bomb shelter, and the boys had an unforgettable evening that included a very informative lecture from one of the commanders, who graduated from Bnei David in 2002. The next morning the students climbed Mt. Tsefahot, accompanied by Rav Sadan and his wife, and topped off the afternoon with water sports in the Red Sea. ■

Shabbat with the graduating class

On Shabbat Parashat Teruma the parents of the students who will embark on their IDF service this month came to Bnei David for a special Shabbat program with their sons and the entire mechina educational staff. That Shabbat was also the Shabbat Sheva Brachot for one of the students, who got married the previous week to a girl who is studying at Midreshet Danielle. ■



Tu b'Shvat blessings

"Oh tree, what blessing can I give you... that all your fruit be sweet...and all your saplings grow up to be like you"

On the day before Tu b'Shvat, at a graduation ceremony for battalion and company commanders, the outstanding soldier in the battalion commanders course was Major Avishai Beck, a Bnei David alumnus from the class of 2000. He received a congratulatory hug

from the course commander, Col. Avi Blut, who is also a Bnei David alumnus and will soon be promoted to head the commando brigade. After completing his IDF compulsory service as an officer in an elite Givati brigade unit, Avishai returned to Bnei David and enrolled in the Chai Roi combined university-beit midrash program, where he earned a B.Sc. in electrical engineering before returning to the army as a career officer. He delivered the valedictorian address at the ceremony and it was amazing to see how he interwove quotes from talmudic midrashim about Tu b'Shvat and the weekly Parasha with his thanks to the commanders and the other officers in the course. At that ceremony Nir Duft, a graduate of the Bnei David class of 2001, was promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. ■

Disconnecting for maximum connection

Special drawers for cell phones with plug points for chargers have been installed beside the doors to all of the batei midrash at Bnei David in order to help the students focus better on their studies and not be interrupted or distracted. The students also recently attended a gathering of Azim b'Kedusha, an organization founded last year by teenagers to increase awareness of the dangers of the Internet, and to increase holiness and purity in Am Yisrael by offering practical solutions to filter the Internet on smartphones. Rav Eli Sadan was among the rabbis and educators who spoke to the nearly 300 students about modesty and purity of thought and deed. ■



Bnei David staff meets with Midreshet Danielle staff

During Chanukah a joint gathering was held for the families of the educational staff at Bnei David and Midreshet Danielle. Paintball, bouncy castles and various other games were set up for the children while the staff of the two programs got to know each other and hear about recent developments on the two campuses and to tour the Midreshet Danielle campus and its host settlement, Kfar Tapuach. After lunch there was an Internet quiz about Bnei David and Chanukah, and the day ended with greetings from Rav Sadan, who thanked the staff for their dedication and the families for their support. ■

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