

## BNEI DAVID ELI

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BNEI DAVID'S RABBIS, TEACHERS AND STAFF WISH ALL OUR STUDENTS, FRIENDS AND ALL THEIR FAMILIES A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! A YEAR BLESSED WITH ACHIEVEMENTS, LOVE AND KINDNESS



## Returning the former glory of Torah in south Tel Aviv

**The Oz V'Emuna yeshiva opened the academic year with 25 students. The yeshiva was founded in south Tel Aviv by Eli resident Rav Achiad Ettinger, who was murdered about six months ago in a terror attack at the Ariel junction. Bnei David was asked to continue the initiative begun by Rav Ettinger and to strengthen the yeshiva, which is housed in the synagogue on Yesod HaMaala St. in the Neve Sha'anani neighborhood of south Tel Aviv.**

Rav Yitzchak Paniri, a Bnei David alumnus, was hired to head the yeshiva. Rav Ido



Rozenthal, a senior teacher at the Bnei David mechina, joined the Oz V'Emuna teaching staff, and Bnei David alumnus Rav Yaron Adorian, who had taught alongside Rav Ettinger, will be heading the kolel (married students yeshiva).

Thanks to a successful online crowdfunding initiative, over NIS 1 million were raised for Oz V'Emuna, and went toward the extensive renovation of the synagogue. The renovations included repairing and repainting the walls, replacing the electricity and plumbing infrastructure, and installing air conditioning, additional washrooms and a small kitchen.

The students live nearby in the historic Beit Ha'Ulpana, which was built nearly 100 years ago

and had been used as a preschool and Talmud Torah. This building was also renovated, to provide the students with appropriate living conditions.

The festive opening of the new semester was honored with the presence of the Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv and former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rav Israel Meir Lau, Bnei David Dean Rav Eli Sadan, Minister of Transportation Bezalel Smotrich, representatives of the Ettinger family, Knesset members, local public figures and residents of south Tel Aviv. Rav Ettinger's parents, Yoram and Carmit Ettinger, unveiled the memorial plaque at the entrance to the yeshiva.

The presence of Jewish young people in this neighborhood is a glimmer of light and hope for the local residents, who are facing many challenges from demographic changes. ■

THE MILITARY YESHIVA ACADEMY OF ISRAEL • מכינה ישיבתית לצה"ל  
YESHIVA FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS • ישיבה לבוגרי צבא  
ADVANCED YESHIVA • ישיבה כבוהה  
JORDAN VALLEY BRANCH MAALE EPHRAIM • ישיבת חבון  
OZ VEEMUNA TEL AVIV • עוז ואמונה ת"א  
MIDRESHET DANIELI FOR YOUNG WOMEN • מדרשת לבנות דניאלי

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## A student in every seat in the new Beit Midrash

On September 1st Bnei David welcomed the 125 students of the mechina program's 32nd cohort, who joined the 100 second-year students in the 31st cohort. The first week of classes in the mechina's new Beit Midrash were devoted to orientation, making new friends and embarking on in-depth studies as part of the mechina program's curriculum of personal development and empowerment.



also passed northward through this area on his way to meet his brothers and who was ultimately buried near the foot of this



After an initial week of intense studies, the students went on a challenging and bonding bicycle ride up and down all the hills of Eli, to familiarize themselves with the area that will be their home for the coming year. The students also enjoyed a hike up to the top of Mt. Kabir, to the north of Eli, and learned about Abraham's journey southward through this region, and about Joseph, who

mountain, after the Exodus from Egypt.

The importance of Jewish identity as a foundation for the continuation of the Jewish People was among the important topics discussed by the students, whose studies at Bnei David and tours of this region are strengthening their connection and commitment to their Judaism and to Eretz Yisrael. ■

## Record enrollment at Bnei David

Bnei David opened the new academic year with 750 students in six programs. We welcome the 305 new students who joined the Bnei David family and wish all our students a successful and productive year. ■



## Jewish Communities Journey

Over the past few months Rav Yigal Lowenstein has been traveling all over Israel, visiting thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds, in order to listen to their stories and learn about the challenges of western culture, about the liberal world and its ideas, strengthening

family values, etc.

Rav Yigal does not end each encounter without answering all the questions from his audience, and these gatherings have been met with such positive responses that he has plans to continue meeting with more communities throughout the winter. ■

## Returning to Bnei David after the army

Dozens of alumni from Bnei David's 26th, 27th and 28th cohorts are now returning to the Beit Midrash – in the post-army programs.

The students are reacquainting themselves with the Beit Midrash routine and enjoying the shiurim. 18 of these students have enrolled in the Chai Roi program, combining their Beit Midrash learning schedule with academic studies. At a recent one-day seminar on social welfare in Israel, the students met with professionals in

this field and heard various perceptions and ideas for advancing Israeli society. Mr. Ilan Moreno, the father of fallen Bnei David alumnus Emanuel Moreno, served as director general of the National Insurance Institute for many years, and shared his perspectives on the challenges facing this country.

Additional one-day seminars will be held in the coming months, one on different aspects and challenges of the civil service and another on conservatism. ■





## Bringing the truth to light

***A few weeks ago Bnei David filed a libel and copyright suit against certain interested parties who slandered and sullied our life's work. Our story begins 32 years ago, when we established the first pre-army preparatory mechina in Israel, in the belief that in order for young men to complete meaningful 3-year IDF service, they needed to build and strengthen their interpersonal and leadership skills.***

We built the mechina in Eli, in the Shomron region, and began to educate our students in the values of Judaism that believe in love for one's fellow man as a human being, the importance of contributing to Israeli society and the idealistic sense of mission in Zionism and the love for Eretz Yisrael.

Prior to the establishment of the mechina in Eli, young men who wanted to deepen their religious studies before entering the IDF had to choose from among advanced yeshivas that focused mainly on Talmud. We introduced a different curriculum that included emuna studies that guide a person throughout his life. We essentially founded a startup that combines Torah with life itself.

Today the Eli mechina offers a comprehensive curriculum that introduces the students to a wide variety of ideas and sectors of Israeli society, and has educated thousands

of IDF officers, Torah educators, medical doctors, economists, managers, teachers and businessmen who contribute to the entire Israeli society, motivated by idealism and emuna. These thousands of Bnei David alumni are testimony to the essence of the educational institution that is the Bnei David mechina.

Our work was acclaimed three years ago, when we were awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement. The Israel Prize jury was acquainted with us and our contribution to the establishment and growth of mechina programs, and to Israeli society as a whole. We have not changed one iota since then, and now we have decided the time has come for us to change direction and present our case, to bring out the truth as you and we know it: Zionistic, faithful to the state, idealistic and tolerant.

After much consultation and thought, and following our prolonged restraint despite the innumerable lies and half-truths spread by our detractors, we have decided that the repeated attacks can no longer remain un rebutted. We have not changed. We are the same mechina that received the Israel Prize three years ago, and we have our proof: thousands of alumni who are integrating into and leading positive initiatives throughout Israeli society. We need you on our side, and with Hashem's help we will do and we will succeed. ■

## Aiming high at the Advanced Yeshiva

Bnei David's Advanced Yeshiva is full to brimming. The 70 new students joined the 200 students who are continuing their studies from previous years, and the benches in the Beit Midrash are getting crowded. This year a special program was launched, for Advanced Yeshiva alumni who have completed their IDF service and wish to return to Bnei David. ■



## Ma'ale Ephraim update



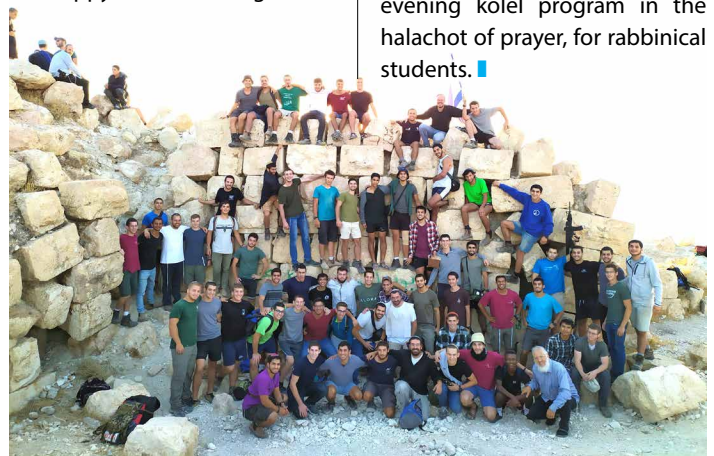
***The pre-army mechina program at Ma'ale Ephraim now has 55 students in the 5th cohort and 30 second-year students from the 4th cohort.***

This welcome increase in student enrollment sparked a swift plan to expand the Beit Midrash, using an advanced construction method: the existing Beit Midrash was split in two and separated, and a new section was built in the middle. This work was completed over the summer, and the students are happy to be learning in the

spacious, renovated building. A special dedication ceremony will be held in the coming months, in the presence of the donors – the parents of a mechina alumnus – and their family.

After the first week of classes the 5th cohort students went on a pre-dawn hike up Mt. Sartaba in southeastern Shomron, and were greeted at the top by a breathtaking sunrise and bowls of hot soup. After this outing the boys spoke enthusiastically of the feelings of capability and of their great potential and the need to delve into their studies and conquer the summits of spiritual and academic achievement.

Another addition to the Ma'ale Ephraim curriculum is an evening kolel program in the halachot of prayer, for rabbinical students. ■



## Bringing parents & children together



***Towards the end of the 31st mechina cohort program, a parents-and-sons evening was held. Over the course of the evening the parents learned and discussed various Torah ideas with their sons. This type of discussion is wonderful for strengthening the parents' connection with the sons. At the end of the evening a festive barbecue was held at the spring at the foot of Eli, accompanied by music and dancing. ■***



## He is IsraEli too

*This was the title of a series of posts on Bnei David's Facebook page, introducing the public to all the figures they know, who are also Bnei David alumni, and to showcase their wonderful work for Israeli society.*

One of these figures is Avi Harlev, a graduate of Bnei David's second cohort, and whose son this year joined the Beit Midrash of the Advanced Yeshiva. "Every day the message of setting a personal example echoes in my mind, as well as the principle of saying little and doing much, and following a lifestyle that combines the spiritual and practical worlds. These are the values I absorbed in Eli."

Avi and his wife Shlomit live in Sansana with their 5 children, one of whom is following in his father's footsteps and is studying in Eli. Avi served in the Tank Corps and is a colonel in the reserves, directing his brigade's combat operations. Avi and Shlomit bring new life into the world in their roles as medical professionals. Avi is director of the IVF unit at Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon, and Shlomit is a midwife at Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva. Avi's and Shlomit's choice of life-giving professions was their response to their own personal loss that included Shlomit's two brothers, Dror Weinberg, hy"d and Shai Weinberg, z"l.

Avi studied gynecology, obstetrics and fertility at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and graduated with excellence, then went on to specialize in fertility treatments at the leading clinic in the world, in Cleveland, Ohio. Back in Israel he became a senior physician in his field at Soroka Hospital, and recently transferred to the university hospital in Ashkelon. ■

## Midreshet Danielle welcomes 5th cohort

*Midreshet Danielle is continuing to gain popularity, and recently welcomed its largest class ever – 58 young women have begun their studies in Torah and Emuna, to invest in their personal growth before embarking on their civilian National Service. On the first day of classes the students arrived accompanied by their parents, for an orientation tour and a meeting with Midreshet Danielle Dean Rav Shachar Vertman and the program coordinators.*



Over the course of the year the students will meet with accomplished women who can serve as spiritual role models, will tour important sites around the country and will be actively involved in the community life of Tapuach, where Midreshet Danielle is located.

Over the past month Midreshet Danielle also welcomed 37 post-National Service women, for a special program of studies in preparation of Rosh Hashanah.

After the High Holidays the Danielle student village will be joined by 25 young women who will be combining academic studies at Ariel University with shiurim and community activities in Tapuach. We wish all our Midreshet Danielle students and alumni success in their studies and National Service. ■

## Midreshet Danielle graduation event

*The fourth cohort of Midreshet Danielle celebrated the completion of the program with a touching evening at the home of Mr. Moti Sonnenfeld, the father of*



*Danielle z"l. The students heard a fascinating talk by Mrs. Sivan Rahav Meir on ways for women to overcome the challenges of the society surrounding them, and Mr. Sonnenfeld spoke about Danielle's exceptional personality and his partnership in the establishment of the midrasha.*

At the end of the evening, the girls read an emotional letter they had written to Mr. Sonnenfeld: "Along with our choice to go to Midreshet Danielle and learn about the amazing role models who accompany us, it is important for us to tell you that one of our favorite role models is Danielle. One of the questions that troubles us most is – how can we practice all the values we have been shown? Then when we look at Danielle, we feel we have been given the answer... We hope that we can adequately continue her path and maintain the same level of commitment and dedication, particularly in our National Service, and for the rest of our lives... We want to thank you, Moti, for your tremendous contribution to our midrasha, which is so important to our future." ■



## IDF promotion for Rav Yoel Rechel

Rav Yoel Rechel, who is in charge of staying in touch with Bnei David alumni during their IDF service, was

promoted last month to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Bnei David salutes and thanks Rav Yoel for his investment of time and energy, traveling to visit our soldiers and officers at bases and outposts all over the country. ■



## Preparing for Selichot – "Listening to the joy and the prayer"

*During Elul, the month of Selichot, we had the privilege of hosting acclaimed composer Rav Hillel Peli, who has written music for so many of our prayers.*

Rabbi Peli played and sang Selichot and spiritually uplifting songs from the High Holiday prayers. This event was attended by Bnei David students, alumni and Eli residents. ■



## Bnei David alumni businessmen – 2nd Midtown gathering

Following the success of the first get-together, which was attended by 80 Bnei David alumni who have become businessmen, a second such gathering will be held on 24 October, with keynote speaker Mr. Jon Medved, a serial entrepreneur and the owner of OurCrowd, one of the first Israeli startups. There will also be round-table discussions in various fields, including real estate, law and entrepreneurship. ■

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