

BNEI DAVID ELI

PESACH 5780 Bulletin | April 2020

BNEI DAVID INSTITUTIONS WISH ALL OUR STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND THE WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND KOSHER PESACH



BNEI DAVID IN THE FIGHT AGAINST Covid-19

Many Bnei David alumni are full partners in the battle against the Coronavirus. Some have volunteered to assist Magen David Adom in conducting Covid-19 tests, while others are working

with Home Front Command or the scientific community, in the search for a cure to this disease.

We salute them all and hope they will stay strong and healthy and wish them every success. Their success is the success of the entire Jewish People.

Even as we update you with news of current events during this time of uncertainty, there have also been happy events that occurred before and naturally also during the partial lockdown, and we would like to share those with you too. ■

EVEN DURING THIS CRISIS PERIOD, WE ARE FORGING AHEAD, RESPONSIBLY AND WITH DEDICATION AND GREAT FAITH

To all our many friends, alumni and partners, This is a time of distress for Israel – but we will be redeemed from it. We will draw strength from this tribulation and will elevate our spirits, strengthen our faith, for whoever has faith has no fear. We know that the world has not been abandoned. Hashem is our father and he loves us. He is our king and provides for all our needs. He is our redeemer and will save and deliver us and we will rejoice in his salvation.

We have no prophets today, and even our greatest sages can offer no insights into what the future holds. The truth, however, is that the real challenge is just coping with the present – the here and now. Over this, we do have some control. We are doing our best to keep in touch with our students and continue their Torah studies via various online platforms. We are weathering the economic crisis and trying to wend our way through the financial predicament with sensitivity and responsibility toward our employees and the monthly stipend recipients. We are trimming costs wherever we can and endeavoring to maintain our cash flow from sponsorships and donations, and know and believe that “Hashem will not abandon His people.” We are confident that Bnei David, as part of this people and this country, will recover alongside everyone

when the time comes, and in the meantime will continue responsibly and with dedication and diligence – until this storm passes!

As I contemplate our situation, I wonder to myself whether it is no coincidence that this crisis is unfolding between Purim, Pesach and Independence Day – the period that the Talmudic sages called “redemption from one level to the next.” In Adar we were saved from Haman, in Nissan we were liberated from Egyptian bondage, and our eyes look longingly toward the spring...

With best wishes for good news, for one and for all, and for a happy and inspiring Pesach.

With deep friendship and appreciation,
Eli Sadan



THE MILITARY YESHIVA ACADEMY OF ISRAEL
YESHIVA FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS • ADVANCED YESHIVA
JORDAN VALLEY BRANCH MAALE EPHRAIM • OZ VEEMUNAA TEL AVIV
MIDRESHET DANIELI FOR YOUNG WOMEN

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BNEI DAVID – ONWARD ONLINE THROUGH THE CRISIS

Bnei David's virtual Beit Midrash is continuing to bustle with activity. The site features live broadcasts of lectures that can be viewed via YouTube or Bnei David's Facebook channel.

In addition, the rabbis and teachers are holding online classes with their students, who are enthusiastically learning and

discussing Torah and emuna ideas that are applicable to this challenging period. As soon as the Ministry of Health ordered the closure of all educational institutions, dozens of Bnei David students volunteered to help clean the buildings and especially the kitchen, to ensure that the campus would be kosher for Pesach. Rabbi Sadan



sent a letter of appreciation and encouragement to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, thanking him for his foresight and astuteness in handling the Coronavirus crisis. ■



A PAGE OF GEMARA EVERY DAY

Hundreds of Bnei David students and alumni study the daily page of Talmud as part of the worldwide Daf Yomi program. Several groups meet each day to study the page, and gatherings are held to celebrate the completion of each tractate.

One of the students recently gathered with his family, friends and Bnei David rabbis to celebrate his completion of 7 1/2 cycle of the daily reading of the Gemara. We wish all our students meaningful studies and look forward to the next big celebration in another 7 years. ■



“REJOICE BELOVED FRIENDS”

We are overjoyed to see the many graduates of Bnei David who have recently got married. Mazal tov to them all.

There have also recently been some engagements between graduates of our programs. May their joy continue to uplift the spirits of everyone around them, and by extension, the whole of Am Yisrael. ■

WELCOMING THE DEFENSE MINISTER

We were honored to host Defense Minister Naftali Bennett at the mechina in Eli. He met with the teaching staff, visited the Memorial Room and chatted with the students about the importance of their IDF service, their mission and their contribution to the state.

We were also visited by Mr. Moshe Zin, head of the social defense branch at the Ministry of Defense, who came with his colleagues to talk to the students and gain a better understanding of the mechina's goals and activities. ■



ADDING LIGHT

We were pleased to welcome Binyamin Brigade Commander Col. Yonatan Sternberg, to light the first candle of Chanukah in the mechina's Beit Midrash. ■

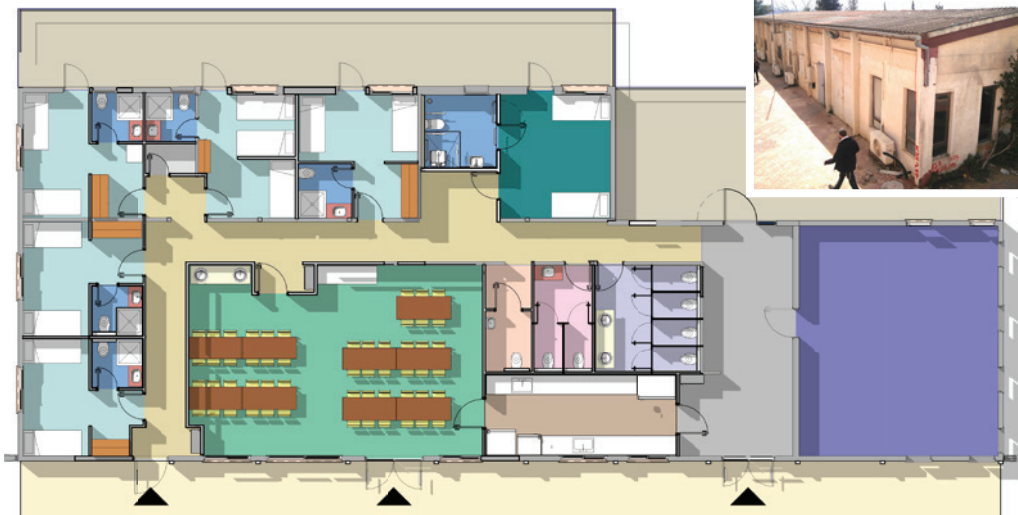
CHAI ROI STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE STATE

Every few months the Chai Roi program students, who combine post-army Beit Midrash shiurim with academic studies, have a field trip to learn about a different aspect of the challenges facing Israeli society and government.

The students recently toured the Knesset and met with Knesset Speaker Mr. Yuli Edelstein and Knesset Director-General Albert Sakharovich, and learned about the Knesset's work and the parliamentary activity that goes on within its walls. ■



NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – CONFERENCE AND HOSPITALITY CENTER



The original mechina building, which has been standing empty since the dedication of the new mechina building, is being converted into a study and hospitality center for groups of students and alumni who visit Eli to hear and learn about Bnei David.

A grant from the Israeli government and donations from our supporters have helped us launch this project, which we were hoping to complete by the end of the summer. ■

MAINTAINING THE STUDY SCHEDULE AT MA'ALE EPHRAIM MECHINA

Students at Bnei David's Ma'ale Ephraim branch are continuing their studies online, with the regular lectures from the rabbis and even physical education classes.

This past winter the students went on several field trips, including to Rav Kook's house in Jerusalem, where they were met by Natan Sharansky and heard the fascinating story of his life and dedication to the Jewish People. ■



WE ARE ALL BROTHERS

Throughout the academic year the mechina students learn about all sectors of Israeli society. In order to learn about haredi society close-up, a vibrant Shabbat program was held shortly after Chanukah in Bnei Brak.

The students were hosted by haredi families, prayed in the various neighborhood synagogues, attended a tish evening of Chassidic songs and Torah thoughts and met with local Chassidic admor grand rabbis and community leaders. After Shabbat a melave malka program was held with the Admor of Spinka. ■

GREEN ELECTRICITY AT BNEI DAVID

Last month we connected the mechina building and the dining hall to solar roof panel systems for generating electricity, providing green energy for our needs and surplus electricity to the Israel Electric Corporation. ■



NEXT YEAR'S CLASS AT MIDRESHET DANIELLE

The students at Midreshet Danielle are enjoying their studies, at the moment online, and in January came to visit Eli for a Shabbat bonding program with the girls who have been accepted to the 2020-2021 program.

The girls were hosted in the Bnei David campus for the Shabbat meals and the evening and morning and services, and for insightful discussion groups with the midrasha's rabbis and rabbaniot. ■



CONTINUING RABBI ACHIAD ETTINGER'S LEGACY



Last month we marked the one-year anniversary since the heroic death of Rabbi Achiad Ettinger, the founder of the Oz V'Emuna yeshiva in Tel Aviv.

There are 25 students in the study program there, which is headed by Rabbi Yitzchak Paniri.

On Rabbi Ettinger's yahrtzeit a special evening program was held, attended by his students, family, friends and others who came to honor his memory. Israeli Chief Rabbi David Lau honored the gathering with his presence, and spoke about his childhood memories of the synagogue and about Jewish life in that neighborhood. ■



SPRING INDUCTION CEREMONIES IN THE IDF

Immediately after Purim, dozens of Bnei David graduates donned their IDF uniforms for the first time.

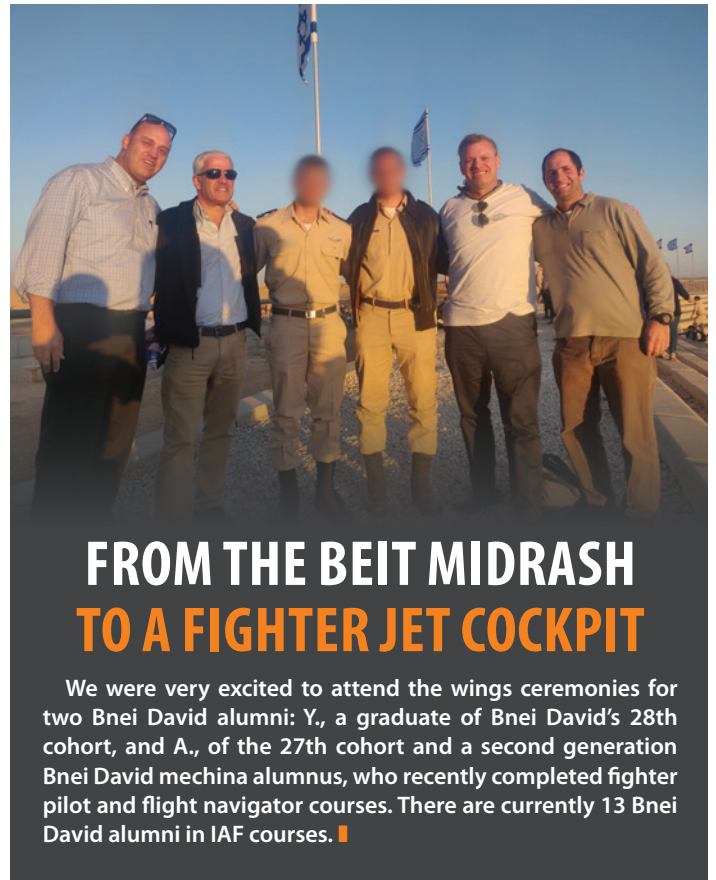
Like every year, shortly before their induction the students went on a challenging winter hike in the Eilat Mountains, followed by a boat trip in the Gulf of Eilat. We wish all the new soldiers a healthy and meaningful service. ■

BAT MITZVA CELEBRATION

On the last day of Chanukah 30 bat mitzva girls and their Bnei David alumni fathers visited Bnei David.



The girls were excited to see where their fathers had sat and studied, and to have a joint learning session in the Beit Midrash. This special day also included activities run by the JNF's education department and a trip to the secret stalactite cave in the nearby community of Tapuach. ■



FROM THE BEIT MIDRASH TO A FIGHTER JET COCKPIT

We were very excited to attend the wings ceremonies for two Bnei David alumni: Y., a graduate of Bnei David's 28th cohort, and A., of the 27th cohort and a second generation Bnei David mechina alumnus, who recently completed fighter pilot and flight navigator courses. There are currently 13 Bnei David alumni in IAF courses. ■



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR ALUMNI

Every mechina program and every graduating class has a staff member who is in charge of keeping in touch with the alumni during their IDF service. At Bnei David, Rabbi Yoel Rechel joins each alumni relations director on visits to IDF bases, swearing-in ceremonies and special course graduation hikes.



A special online program was launched recently, to strengthen our ties with our alumni even

more, and to help them maintain study schedules even while in the army. ■

NOW

IS THE TIME
TO SUPPORT BNEI DAVID
AND HELP US
MAINTAIN OUR PROGRAMS
DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

We realize how difficult and challenging the current economic situation is for all our supporters in Israel and abroad, and appeal to you at this time to make extra effort to help us survive this crisis.

We have trimmed salaries and student stipends, but still need your assistance. You are our loyal partners in all our efforts, including during this Coronavirus crisis.

Please visit the One Israel Fund site at

<https://oneisraelfund.org/project-donation?project=228>

to send your gift to Bnei David, to keep our programs going strong, in preparation for what we hope and pray will be a brighter future for us all.

A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND KOSHER PESACH



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