

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel
BNEI DAVID ELI

BULLETIN Chanukah 5770 - 2009



ADDING LIGHT TO THE WORLD



MECHINA STUDENTS JOIN SOCIAL ACTION ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY OF LOD

In order to become acquainted with all aspects of Israeli society, the students of the mechina went on several field trips, including a visit to the Israel Aerospace Industries near the Ben Gurion Airport. They saw close-up the wonders of Israeli technology – the mazlat – a small pilotless plane, business jets and even jumbo jets that have been converted by IAI. The students then visited Lod – a “mixed” city where Jews and Arabs live side by side. There is a Torah outreach organization in Lod that does wonderful work with the city’s unaffiliated Jewish youth and adults. The students and rabbis were so inspired by what they saw during this field trip that they decided to volunteer in Lod and help strengthen the social activities there. The heads of the mechina - Rav Eli Sadan and Rav Yigal Levinstein met with the mayor of the city and with the head of the outreach program and together agreed upon ways of working together.

During the course of the year every class goes to Lod for a week, during which they join the students at the Maoz mechina there. The students become familiar with the city and participate in social activities. They learn in study pairs with the Elyashiv yeshiva high-school students in the morning, and in the afternoon spend time with the neighborhood children at the Ramat Eshkol community center and sports field.



There is an Arab majority in the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood and the Jewish residents are very much in need of encouragement and support. The neighborhood children love meeting with their “big brothers” who also serve as fine examples and who keep them off the streets and away from their non-Jewish neighbors.

In addition, once a week the students go to needy families to help them with house repairs and painting, and to the elementary school where they learn the weekly Torah portion with the pupils.

The residents are overjoyed with this happy, highly-motivated idealistic group of young men who add young Jewish national pride to their lives, bringing new light to the city of Lod. ■

There are times in the life of a person and in the life of a nation, when one is in harmony with ones surroundings. The person’s ideas are heard and publicized, are accepted and influence the masses, and the person becomes an esteemed role model.

At other times, however, this same person may feel separate from his or her surroundings; that there is “no one to talk to” and no one is listening.

Such a person could, Heaven forbid, “pack up his ideas and go home,” lower his ideals and adapt them to the shallowness around him.

The Maccabees, whose light and determination inspire us at this time of year, looked inward, rather than at those around them, drawing on their inner strength and holiness for the courage to blaze a trail against the conventions of their times, and against all the odds. Their inner light shone forth and banished the darkness.

Dear friends, at a time when the “outside” is so hostile and we are required to “apologize” for our right to defend our country and our presence in Jerusalem, when lofty ideals such as building Eretz Yisrael and strengthening Israel’s security are no longer showered with accolades, it is heartwarming to know that we have loyal friends who continue to be faithful to the light of Hashem that burns in our hearts, and who courageously light the candles adding light to the world.

Even though each of us is just one small light, together our light has might, and this light will continue to burn ever brighter, and will vanquish and banish all the forces of darkness.

WITH BEST WISHES FOR
A HAPPY CHANUKAH

Rav Eli Sadan



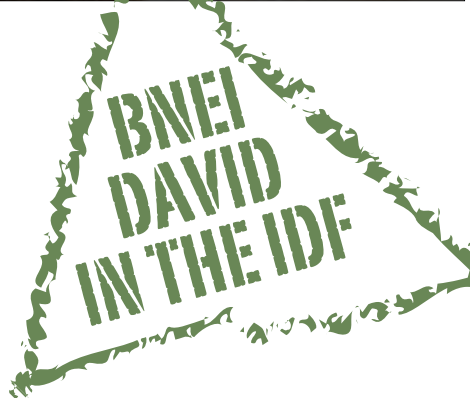
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THE MAN IN THE TANK WILL BE THE VICTOR

Brig. Gen. Yechezkel Agai, commander of the armored corps, met with the mechina students last year, to explain to them the importance of the armored corps. The lecture took place a week after Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip. In his speech, Brig. Gen. Agai presented the students with the challenges of the armored corps – the technology, the front-line fighting and the need for talented officers. He spoke to them about the force's "A Friend brings a Friend" program which enables serving in the armored force together with friends. A number of our graduates currently serving in the force joined this meeting.



As a result of the meeting several Bnei David students joined the armored corps this past summer.

We wish them success in their military service and in bringing the spirit of Bnei David to the armored corps. ■

BNEI DAVID GRADUATE LT. EFRAIM TEHILA RECEIVES CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Bnei David graduate Lt. Efraim Tehila (class of 2002) received a citation of excellence for his performance during Operation Cast Lead. Here are words from the awards ceremony:

Lt. Efraim Tehila served as deputy company commander in the Golani brigade's Egoz unit during Operation Cast Lead and is currently a student at the College of Tactical Command. On the 5th of Tevet 5769, January 1st 2009, a company unit of the forward strike team surveyed a building on the outskirts of the Azat-Abad-Rabbo neighborhood, north of the Sa'gaea neighborhood in the Gaza Strip. During the survey the unit came under fire, and team commander Lt. Omer Rabinowitz z"l was killed. Lt. Tehila, who was at the rear of the building, tried to reach Lt. Rabinowitz z"l and came face to face with a terrorist. Lt. Tehila evaded the terrorist via a balcony and by climbing over the building's eaves troughs. He reached the back door of the room in which the terrorist was located, threw a grenade into the room and killed him. Lt. Efraim Tehila showed initiative and courage, perseverance, a personal example and leadership readiness under fire. ■

"Master of the World, complete this building"



The post-army yeshiva building is nearing completion. Thanks to the generosity of our loyal friends, the flooring and windows have been installed and we are progressing with the interior. The Aron Kodesh and Bima have been designed and are now under construction. We are planning the furnishings for the building with the renowned furniture factory at Kibbutz Lavi. Although we still lack approximately half of a million dollars in order to complete the construction, we have faith that with Hashem's help additional supporters will be found and we will be able to finish building before the Passover holiday.





THE CHAI ROI PROGRAM SPECIAL ONE-DAY SEMINARS

The students of the Chai Roi program learn in the post-army Beit Midrash while pursuing academic degrees in nearby universities and colleges. The program includes special lectures and one-day seminars that acquaint the students with the many issues that concern Israeli society today. Two such seminars were held following the Sukkot holiday. The first day's topic was business management and the second day was about Pidyon Shevuyim – the redeeming of captives. The issue discussed was the release of hundreds of terrorists in return for Gilad Shalit – the contemplation and decision process. Guest speakers were Shimshon Livman, who heads the team leading the public and diplomatic struggle for the release of Gilad Shalit, General (Res.) Yaakov Amidror,



Aryeh Bachrach, whose son was killed by terrorists, and a former POW from the Yom Kippur war.

Mr. Nisan Slomianski toured Bnei David and met with the Chai Roi students, speaking with them on the importance of their future work in the public sector.

Among the lecturers was Tzachi Dickstein, a graduate of 1997 now serving as political advisor to the Minister of Education, Gidon Saar, who spoke about Knesset legislation processes and parliamentary work; and Dr. Tzachi Seklaski, a graduate of 1988, who lectured on Torah and excellence in the civil service.

The Chai Roi students enjoyed the inspiring meeting with these graduates who bring the spirit of Bnei David to their places of work. ■

News from The Kitchen

Bnei David students and their parents would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to Tzuri and Aliza Daniel, our devoted cooks, who have been responsible for



feeding Bnei David's students since the establishment of Bnei David.

As the number of students grew, the kitchen needed a larger oven for preparing meals for the 450 students who eat at the mechina's dining hall each day. After a thorough market survey we have now purchased a large sophisticated oven that can accommodate food for all the students at once. The oven was brought into the kitchen with a crane and with the help of the students.

Helping us navigate the 13th Bnei David raffle

Thank G-d this year approximately 450 students are learning at Bnei David. The ongoing expenses are high and despite government assistance and tuition we need donations for the day-to-day needs of the Bnei David Institutions.

Fourteen years ago we held the first Bnei David raffle and since then the donations have grown from year to year.

Every year and a half, graduates and friends of Bnei David who assist us with monthly donations participate in the raffle. This year the raffle was held at the office of Bnei David's accountant, Mr. Dov Kalmanovitch, in the presence of attorney Dr. Harel Arnon, who attended the mechina in 1991. The raffle prizes were: laptop computers, advanced GPS navigators, digital picture frames and radio-disc players. Official notices were sent to all the participants. We thank all of our supporters for their monthly donations and hope that you will continue your support and partnership.





➤ **Minister of Science and Technology Rabbi Prof. Daniel Hershkovitz**, met with our first-year students at the beginning of the school year. He spoke about current events and offered the students words of encouragement for their studies and preparation towards service in the IDF.



➤ Following Rosh Hashana, **Rav Shlomo Aviner**, the rabbi of Beit El and head of the Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva, met with our first-year students for an evening of questions and answers. The questions covered a wide spectrum of topics and Rav Aviner gave a detailed and interesting answer to each question.

➤ **The senior staff of The Civil Administration** were guests of Bnei David Institutions and heard a lecture from Rav Sadan about the path of religious Zionism. Rav Sadan presented them with his ideals and spoke to them about the conflicts between the military and politics. At the end of the lecture the officers thanked Rav Sadan for his impressive summary.



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Special events at the Bnei David Institutions

➤ Deputy Prime Minister Lt. Gen. (Res.) Moshe Yaalon, represented the Israeli government at the 25th anniversary celebrations of Eli in Elul. Minister Yaalon praised Bnei David in his address:

"This Yishuv, with all its men and women, tries to breathe life into the Zionist vision. In the center of this yishuv, there is a revolutionary educational institute that changed the face of higher education in Israel, the pre-army mechina of Bnei David.

Bnei David's mechina, the pioneer of all of the mechinat, educates talented officers who led in shouldering the security burden in the past few years and whose acts of heroism raise spirits throughout Israel.

I am personally familiar with and respect the endeavors of the mechina since I served as the commander of the parachute brigade, almost from the day Bnei David was established. This mechina led to the establishment of many others.

This is also an opportunity for me to express my great respect for the mechina's senior staff, lead by Rabbis Eli Sadan and Yigal Levinstein.

I have come here, residents of Eli, on behalf of government of Israel, to give you its blessings: May you continue to blossom



and flourish, and to spread the unique Torah that is learned here in the Beit Midrash, the Torah of the Land of Israel that seeks to bring good to all aspects of the nation."



Hoshana Rabba all-night study

All-night Hoshana Rabba study sessions were initiated by post-army yeshiva students, and attracted more than one hundred participants who heard lessons all through the night. This impressive attendance encouraged the students to hold additional evenings of Torah study.

Succot Tours

Tours of Bnei David and the Eli were held during Succot for friends from overseas. The guests visited at Tel Shiloh, at the wine-cellar and olive press, and enjoyed a two-and-a-half-hour tour by ATV. They saw the springs and aqueducts in this area, looked at the yishuv from an observation lookout point and met with Rav Eli Sadan. We will be happy to have you as our guests for a visit and tour during your next trip to Israel.



Navigation and army preparation

Following Succot our students went for a week of navigation training. The training began with a theory lecture in Eli, and a short navigation in the area, and continued in the south of Israel at Givot Goral where the students spent two days of field navigation. This subject is part of the training our students receive towards their recruitment into the IDF. In the beginning of the month of Kislev the students went for a week of weapons training, during which they learned to recognize the different weapons used in the IDF and how to shoot. After receiving a permit to carry arms they joined the guard duty at Bnei David. All guard duty at the institute is done by the students. At night they are joined by a student from the post-army yeshiva.

