

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel
BNEI DAVID ELI

Pesach 5773 BULLETIN Nissan 2013



A JOYOUS AND KOSHER PESACH



Bnei David institutions wish all our students, graduates, friends, and the whole House of Israel a joyous and kosher Pesach. On this, the festival of our freedom, may we merit to walk together in our Land and behold the final flowering of our redemption!



מכינה ישיבתית לצה"ל
 ישיבה לבוגרי צבא
 ישיבה נבונה
 The Military
 Yeshiva Academy
 of Israel

Bnei David's Silver Anniversary Celebration

Since the inception of the pre-army mechina academy 25 years ago, Bnei David has grown into a diverse and thriving community. 500 students are currently enrolled in a wide range of programs. Of our 2500 graduates, over a thousand serve in the IDF officer corps. Bnei David's 25th year reunion is scheduled for the beginning of this summer (ca. June 1). Alumni and friends of the Bnei David family will gather together to reflect upon the achievements of the past and renew their bonds as we turn towards the future. All are invited. Please contact us and we will gladly make all the necessary arrangements. ■



When the Rains Came

This past winter was blustery and cold, with rainstorms everywhere and snowfall in the mountains. But despite the weather, inner warmth prevailed in Bnei David. Channuka was a time of joy and celebration throughout our community. Students and staff of the post-army yeshiva danced with their children; afterwards, the parents joined a Torah shiur while the children staged a performance in honor of the festival. Israeli musical artists added fire and enthusiasm to a Motzei Shabbat Melave Hamalka banquet for Bnei David rabbis and students. Joy abounded at the Purim celebrations as well, which overflowed with uplifting words of Torah, singing and dancing. May we all know only blessings and joy! ■

The Bnei David Haggadah
A Song of Ascents
 Pesach Haggadah with commentary By Rabbi Eliezer Sadan

BNEI DAVID ELI
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Shabbat Program in Bnei Brak

Shabbat Parshat Bo found Bnei David's 25th class as guests in Bnei Brak getting to know the world of Haredi Jewry from the inside. This annual program has already become an established Bnei David



tradition. The Zisser family sponsored the event, provided the hospitality and made the arrangements for the entire Shabbat. This year's experience, as in years past, was moving and memorable.

On Erev Shabbat we visited the home of Rabbi Aharon Leib Shteinman Shlit"a, one of the leading Torah authorities of our generation and the outstanding figure in the community of the Lithuanian Yeshivot. Rabbi Shteinman spoke of the obligation of mastering the Torah in its entirety. Afterwards we went on a guided tour of Yeshivat Ponevezh. We then proceeded to the Great Synagogue of the Breslav Chassidim for Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv. Afterwards we danced in the streets adjoining the Synagogue. The passers-by have by now grown accustomed to our celebration.

We then attended the tishes of the Vishnitz and Nadvorna Chassidim. Well after midnight we returned to Yeshivat Ponevezh, where the beit hamidrash reverberates with the sound of Torah study until the wee hours of the morning.

Shabbat day we met with other representatives of the Haredi community.

As in previous years, we celebrated a festive Melave Hamalka in the presence of the Admor of Pittsburgh, Rabbi Mordechai Issachar Behr Lyfer, who came from his home in Ashdod. The Admor inspired us with an uplifting drasha (Torah discourse), and also taught us a Chassidic niggun (melody) set to the words of the prophet: "Shuvu Elai Veashuvu Eleichem" (Return to me and I will return to you – Melachi 3:7). We sang this enchanting niggun on the bus all the way back to Eli!

The Shabbat ended with a meeting with Rabbi Baruch Dov Poverski, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat

Ponovezh. Rabbi Poverski spoke of the importance of maintaining the sanctity of the Jewish home. Rabbi Sadan concluded the evening. We returned home to Eli late at night, enriched and invigorated.



The members of last year's class, who had already experienced a Shabbat in Bnei Brak, expanded their horizons by spending a Shabbat with the



Belzer Chassidim in Jerusalem. They visited the magnificent Belz Beit Midrash and experienced first hand the vibrancy of Chassidic life and practice. ■

Visitors



From around the Globe

This winter many of our friends from abroad came to visit Bnei David. Among the guests was Rabbi Daniel Korobkin of Beth Avraham Yosef, Toronto, who lead a delegation of his congregants. They were greeted by a former



member of their congregation and Bnei David alumnus, who currently serves in a top-secret unit in the IDF (and for security reasons remains anonymous). "N" gave them a sparkling review of his pre-army experience at Bnei David. Bnei David also hosted Rabbi Moshe Hauer of Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion, Baltimore, who went on an expedition to the Shiloh winery, one of Israel's finest, and a land-rover tour of the panoramic plains of Benjamin. We would be pleased to welcome all of you on your next trip to Israel. ■



Chai Roi Partners with Ariel University

Selection of the next class of the Chai Roi civic leadership program is currently underway. We have partnered with the Ariel University, which was recently awarded full university accreditation, to establish an innovative format for the program. The students will work towards a degree in the afternoons and devote their mornings to uninterrupted Torah-study in the beit midrash. The academic syllabus covers economics, business management, political science and systems analysis. The curriculum includes internships designed to give the students training in public sector leadership. ■

New Dining Hall Proceeds Apace

Construction of the new dining hall and kitchen facility is well underway. We have completed the masonry and are now beginning work on the interior. We are pressing ahead to have the kitchen up and running by the beginning of the upcoming academic year this August. So far we have raised \$2m. of the target of \$3m. We appeal to all our friends and supporters to help us complete this project, so vital to the life of our community. Dedication opportunities for sponsors are available. ■



The Bnei David English Speakers Program Blazing a New Trail



We have Good News for you!

bdep
Bnei David English Program
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In response to popular demand, we have launched a special program designed to mainstream English speaking youth from abroad into the IDF and Israeli society via Bnei David. The program provides the tools for successful enlistment and integration – intensive Hebrew-language instruction, pre-induction counseling, physical fitness courses, and para-military training. Rabbi Yaron Levy, a member of Bnei David's 5th graduating class, who heads the program, has recently concluded up a coast-to-coast tour of North America interviewing students for the inaugural class. A few places are still available for qualified applicants. For information contact Rabbi Levy at: bdep@bneidavid.org ■

Talks with Religious Soldiers

The year before last we printed a compilation of talks that Rabbi Sadan gave to our students in advance of their enlistment in the army. Positive feedback from our graduates since then has shown the tremendous benefit this pamphlet has for religious soldiers in facing the challenges of their military service. Rabbi Sadan's perspective and insights are also of value for all observant Jews engaged in the modern world. One of our benefactors from abroad has now offered to support the translation of Rabbi Sadan's talks into English. We hope to publish the English translation this summer. ■



A Challenge to be overcome

Bnei David alumnus Avraham Apelkar promised he would enlist in the IDF despite his cerebral palsy and over the doctors' objections. Avraham has now graduated from officers training college and proved that nothing could stand in his way.

Avraham recently told his story to the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot. "I had a choice," he said, "either give up, or treat my condition not as a disability but as a challenge to be overcome."

The full interview is available in English translation at the Bnei David website:

www.bneidavid.org



Avraham Apelkar with his uncle, Prof. Rabbi Daniel Hershkowitz (former Minister of Science and Technology), as a student at Bnei David

From the Hermon to Eilat

Keeping in Touch

We make every effort to nourish our bonds with the 600 Bnei David graduates who are at any one time serving as enlisted men and officers in the IDF. This past winter, our rabbis travelled the length and breadth of Israel from the snow-capped Hermon in the north, to sun-drenched Eilat in the south, visiting our alumni in uniform. Rabbi Sadan went "undercover" to deliver a shiur on the meaning of Purim to officers of the intelligence corps based in the center of the country. This network of ongoing contacts and Torah shiurim can be accessed at our website and Facebook page.

Over the past two months, our last four graduating classes (#21-#24) returned to Bnei David over Shabbat for rest and spiritual renewal, over 200 soldiers in all. Our boys in uniform have a standing invitation for Shabbat to renew their ties with each other and with their rabbis and teachers at Bnei David.



A large group of our graduates in uniform took advantage of a week of their leave-from-duty to return to the Bnei David beit hamidrash, having risen to the rank of squadron-leader – the first level of command. Graduates from years past spent Shabbat Zachor at Bnei David and celebrated Purim with us afterwards. ■



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