

BNEI DAVID ELI

R O S H H A S H A N A 5 7 7 6



We wish all our students, alumni and friends a sweet New Year, a year that will see the fulfillment of the prayer, "Happiness to Your land and joy to Your city, flourishing pride to David Your servant and preparation of a lamp for Your messiah, the son of Yishai, speedily in our days"

5776 school year

Nearly 700 students learning this year in our programs

This year Bnei David welcomed nearly 300 new students, bringing our total student body to almost 700, with record enrollment in the pre-army mechina program and the Advanced Yeshiva.

There are 159 students in the mechina and 78 Advanced Yeshiva students. The Beit Midrash programs for discharged soldiers are also full and the Beit Midrash students will be joined by 25 students in the Chai Roi

program, which combines Beit Midrash studies with an academic curriculum at a nearby university. New rabbis will be joining our teaching staff and everyone is making every effort to maintain both

the momentum of the studies and the personal connection with each and every student. We wish all our students throughout our programs a successful and meaningful academic year. ■



The new Bnei David branch in the Jordan Valley

On Wednesday, 4 Elul (19 August), the academic year opened for the first class of students in the mechina program in Ma'ale Ephraim in the Jordan Valley.

Ma'ale Ephraim is a growing community of 350 families, some of whom have

been there for 40 years, and the mechina will become an integral part of the community's life. Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel, Ma'ale Ephraim Mayor Shlomo Lalouche, and other important regional figures help promote and launch this program. At first, 20 of your

Continued on page 2



New – Danielli Girls Midrasha preparatory program for national civilian service

Danielli Girls Midrasha – Bnei David's preparatory program for national service opened in Kfar Tapuach, a community about 10 kilometers west of Eli, on August 25.

Many young women feel overwhelmed by all the challenges they face during their national service: the encounters with the secular world, interacting and functioning in harmony with the Israeli public on the one hand, while maintaining modesty and the cultural concepts of a lifestyle based on Torah

and halacha. The goal of the midrasha is to strengthen the young women's inner world, with an emphasis on deep, broad-based Emuna and spiritual fortitude and good character traits that will enable the program's graduates to cope with the complexities of the challenges of our times and to fulfill their national mission and responsibility in any sphere of life. We began publicizing the program about six months ago and now 45 young women have begun their studies, in preparation for a life of

Continued on page 2



The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel | Yeshiva for Discharged Soldiers | Advanced Yeshiva | Jordan Valley Branch | Midreshet Danieli for Young Women

Eli D.N. Ephraim 44828, Israel • info@bneidavid.org • www.bneidavid.org

Design & publication: Shilo • Barkats Beit-El • Translation & editing: Miryam Blum Jerusalem

Branch in the Jordan Valley

Continued

new students decided to be a part of this effort, and following a promotional evening for all the mechina's new students, nearly a dozen more joined the first group. About a month ago we moved into high gear with this



initiative, and with the help of Amana, a small campus was prepared, with one main building that houses the Beit Midrash, dining hall and kitchen, and five residential structures for the students. The infrastructure was hooked up and the boys spent their first Shabbat on campus. The gravel for the paths was made of stones from Eli that were crushed and trucked to Ma'ale Ephraim. The curriculum at the new mechina will be similar to that at the mechina in Eli, the teachers will be from the Bnei David - Eli teaching staff, who will divide their time between the two campuses, and the daily schedule will be the same. There are now 50 students at the Ma'ale Ephraim campus – 30 first-year students and 20 second-year students. There is a warm, family atmosphere there and the mechina staff includes Rabbi Tomer Weitzman, Rabbi Amit Zoldon and Rabbi Eliezer Bar-on, who are in full coordination with the mechina leadership – Rabbi Eli Sadan and Rabbi Yigal Levinstein, who will give shiurim at the new campus at least once a week and will occasionally spend Shabbatot there, too. ■

A permanent building for the mechina – after 28 years in a converted industrial structure

The Beit Midrash for the 250 students of the mechina program is currently crowded into the dining hall of the Advanced Yeshiva, and the Advanced Yeshiva students are eating their meals in the old mechina building, which can no longer house the studies of the growing mechina student body. The architectural planning of the new mechina building is nearing completion and we have begun arranging meetings with construction consultants. The caravans that over the years served various Bnei David programs as temporary classrooms, a Beit Midrash and dining areas have been removed from the site to make room for the new building and we hope to lay the cornerstone by Chanukah. We are now raising funds for this project and there are many dedication options for honoring loved ones. We welcome your partnership in this project. For details contact Lior Shtul at liors@bneidavid.org. ■



Danielli Girls Midrasha

Continued

community involvement and of taking responsibility for their personal families and their extended family – Am Yisrael. The midrasha, located in Kfar Tapuach, has a Beit Midrash, dining hall, kitchen, classrooms and dorms.

Midreshet Danielli is named after Danielli Sonnenfeld z"l, who died this past March during her national service. She was an exemplary role model of devotion to her Jewish heritage, ahavat chesed and exceptional dedication to her national service. ■

Continuing in the path of Elkana

Rabbi Eli Sadan greeted the new mechina class with his traditional opening address, in which he expounds on Code Elkana – the leadership by personal example practiced by Elkana, the father of the prophet Samuel. Elkana nurtured the connectedness of the entire Jewish people to the spiritual center during that period – the tabernacle in Shilo. This year on 5 Elul (20 August), during the opening week of classes, Rabbi Sadan was invited to ancient Shilo to speak about Code Elkana to the hundreds of participants in the fourth annual Shilo conference. Rabbi Sadan noted that each year he debates whether to give the students the same opening address, and wonders whether Code Elkana is no longer relevant. Each year he decides anew that there is nothing more relevant than Code Elkana to our times, when we are challenged by post-Zionism, arguments and disagreements. Leadership by personal example is important and must be our guiding philosophy. ■





Bnei David alumni meet in Nepal
“Whoever saves a single life, it is as if he has saved an entire world”

On Shabbat, 25 April 2015, a powerful earthquake shook Nepal. Immediately after Shabbat the Israeli government decided to send an IDF aid mission to Nepal. A Home Front officer who is a Bnei David graduate was among the soldiers sent to help the earthquake survivors. The Israeli rescue teams divided the work, with three main goals: providing medical care, rescuing people trapped in the collapsed buildings and locating missing Israelis. Throughout the delegation’s two-week stay in Nepal, the teams did everything possible to maintain their Jewish lifestyle – they built a field synagogue, held prayer services with a Sefer Torah, made all the necessary preparations for Shabbat, cooked kosher meals and made sure all the food products they purchased in Nepal and India were kosher.

“During those two weeks in Nepal,” relates the Bnei David alumnus, “I saw the true meaning of the saying by Hazal: “Whoever saves a single life is considered to have saved an entire world. I saw how people whose whole world had been destroyed began to rebuild their homes, how our help gave them strength and how much they appreciated our assistance.” As the saying goes: It’s a small world... during the rescue work and the search for missing Israelis, another young man who had studied with the officer at Bnei David and was touring in Nepal came to the Israeli camp. ■



**Once Bnei David...
 always Bnei David**

“You have no idea how much we gain from the Bnei David one-day seminars”

The headline of this article is the positive feedback we receive from our alumni after evening learning sessions in various parts of the country. One such evening, titled “The Spiritual Challenges of Summer” was held in the Tel Aviv suburb of Givat Shmuel in July. We were happy and excited to see over 200 alumni from all age groups, who had come to hear shiurim from Rabbi Kashtiel, Rabbi Yigal Levinstein and Rabbi Ohad Tirosh. In the breaks between the shiurim the alumni visited the booths set up for the occasion – selling books published by Bnei David; recruiting volunteers for the summer programs with at-risk teens; and recruiting families for the Torah community in Lod. This seminar was the second in a series begun before Pesach and which will hold a third evening of shiurim between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The first evening seminar was attended by over 300 alumni. ■



On the Monday following Shavuot a festive bar mitzva celebration was held for children of Bnei David alumni. The main goal of this event was to open the Bnei David connection to another facet of our alumni’s lives by bringing their 13-year-old sons together at our growing campus. Rabbi Sadan addressed the fathers and sons and spoke about the importance of the continuation of Am Yisrael’s journey throughout the generations and led participants in a rousing rendition of songs based on passages from the morning prayers, “Light up our eyes to Your Torah... to listen, learn and teach...” This was followed by a joint learning session on the halachic significance of becoming “bar mitzva” and a film about the mechina program. The afternoon concluded with a bicycle ride along the dry riverbed of the Shilo Stream and a dip in the waters of the Oz Spring. Each boy was given a book on overcoming challenges in life and taking responsibility for our actions. Before everyone went home, there was one last stop – at the Eli cemetery, around the grave of Amichai Merchavia, HY”D, a resident of Eli who was killed along with Roi Klein while defending Israel from Hezbollah in the Second Lebanon War in 2006. Everyone was moved by the poem read by Rabbi Yoel Rechel, which he wrote shortly after Amichai was killed. We wish all the bar mitzva boys and their families a life full of meaning and a heartfelt Mazal Tov.



Alumni class reunion without Hadar Goldin HY”D

Sixty Bnei David alumni from the class of 2009, about 20 of whom are married and came with their families, returned to Bnei David for a reunion in memory of Hadar Goldin, HY”D, their classmate who was killed last summer in Operation Protective Edge. Rabbi Eli Sadan gave the opening shiur of the Shabbat program at the Friday night meal, and during the Oneg Shabbat after the meal Tzur Goldin, who is also a Bnei David alumnus and is Hadar’s twin brother, spoke about their childhood together. Rabbi Yigal Levinstein gave a shiur on Shabbat morning and other Bnei David rabbis led discussion groups throughout the Shabbat. Additional alumni Shabbat programs were held throughout the summer and in 5776/2016 we hope to complete the five-year cycle of alumni Shabbat programs for all our graduating classes. ■

Visitors at Bnei David

Many guests have visited Bnei David in the past few months, including Knesset member and head of the Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home) party, Yinon Magal; Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel; the editors-in-chief of Army Radio; Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielski, who came to visit residents of his city who are learning at Bnei David; and teachers at the Amit Kfar Batya technological school, who came to meet with Bnei David rabbis and teaching staff. Bnei David also hosted a group of visitors from Baltimore, led by Rabbi Hauer, and a number of groups of high school students from Florida. ■



Notes from the field! Strengthening ties with our soldiers



Nearly 70 of this year's mechina graduates, most of whom spent two years at Bnei David, donned their army uniforms in August. We wish them all successful and meaningful service.

Many of our alumni recently completed officers courses and are embarking on the next stage of their IDF service as commanders. We wish them every success with their new soldiers. Kudos to our alumni who participated in the tactical studies course and made time to learn Torah in the evenings at Bar Ilan University.

Over the past two months some 60 Bnei David alumni hung up their uniforms after three, four and even five years in the IDF. We wish everyone a "soft landing" in civilian life and success in all their endeavors. In the coming month we hope to hold a special evening program for the discharged soldiers, to learn Torah, give thanks for their safe return and present the alumni with

the various options for continuing their studies at Bnei David.

We recently published Volume II of the shiurim of Rabbi Kashtiel on Path of the Just. Thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Kahan, this book was given as a gift to many soldiers during Rabbi Yoel Rechel's visits to the various army bases where Bnei David alumni are serving. May we all merit to ascend the path of the just. This book was dedicated to the memory of the Kahan family members and the fallen mechina alumni from Operation Protective Edge – Hadar Goldin hy"d and Zvika Kaplan hy"d. ■



USA

Bnei David-Eli C/O
One Israel Fund,
445 Central Ave. Ste. 210
Cedarhurst, NY 11556,
United States

Canada

The Mizrahi
Organization of Canada
Israel Resident Committee
Remittance,
296 Wilson Ave.
North York, ONT. M3H 1S8

England

Friends of Bnei David
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead London
NW6 2EG

Panama

Friend of Bnei David
Ezra Cohen
PH Mirage # 2
Punta Paitilla
Panama
Rep of Panama

Israel

Bnei David- Eli,
The Military Yeshiva
Academy of Israel
Eli D.N. Ephraim 4482800, Israel,
info@bneidavid.org
www.bneidavid.org

