

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel 26
BNEI DAVID ELI

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Rabbi Eli Sadan receives Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement:

“I feel that this award is not being given to me personally but to everyone who shared in this tremendous effort”

At a festive ceremony at Jerusalem's Binyanei Ha'Uma International Congress Center, Bnei David Institutions founder and dean, Rabbi Eli Sadan, was awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement – Contribution to Society and the State of Israel. Like every year, the ceremony was held on Independence Day in the evening, in the presence of Israel's prime minister, president, Supreme Court president and education minister.



In explaining the decision to award the prize to Rabbi Sadan, the Israel Prize Committee wrote: The pre-army program was a trailblazing game-changer in the integration of national religious young men throughout the Israel Defense Forces, but was only the first step. Rabbi Sadan's vision and life's work led the way for the establishment of more such programs... Rabbi Sadan's efforts resulted not only in an impressive increase in the number of young people interested in significant military service and integration in society as involved and caring citizens, but have also built a bridge between the sectors of Israeli society and brought its complex parts together.”

In the short film screened during the award ceremony, Rabbi Sadan said he felt that the prize was not being awarded to him personally, but to everyone who shared in what Bnei David has become, that accompanying him to the stage to accept the award would be the many alumni of Bnei David and other mechinit who have given up their lives in the defense of the Jewish People and the State of Israel.

In the audience at the ceremony were not only Rabbi Sadan's family and friends, Rabbi Yigal Lowenstein, Bnei David rabbis, teachers and staff, but also



Chief of Staff Gadi Eizenkot visits Eli
Deeply impressed by the outstanding officers who
have graduated from the mechina at Bnei David

Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot visited Bnei David on May 17, accompanied by IDF Chief Rabbi Rafi Peretz. The visit began with a private meeting with Rabbi Eli Sadan and Rabbi Yigal Lowenstein, after which the chief of staff addressed an assembly of the students. He spoke about the threats and challenges facing the IDF and the army's plans for the future. In his address and the question-and-answer session that followed, the chief of staff stressed the importance of unity within the IDF and his efforts to strengthen the army's cohesiveness. “The IDF is united for the defense of the



State of Israel,” he said. Rabbi Sadan thanked Chief of Staff Eizenkot for his visit and praised

his dedication to the success of the IDF and the defense of the Jewish People. ■



← Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement

many Bnei David alumni – including from the class of 1989 – heads of many other mechinit and Bnei David supporters, some of whom had come from the U.S. especially to be at the ceremony. We wish Rabbi Sadan continued success in spreading

Bnei David's ideals and hope he continues to head Bnei David Institutions in good health and with the youthful energy that is such an inspiration to so many. The short film that was screened can be viewed on the Bnei David website. ■



Contributing to the Civilian National Service

Civilian National Service Director General Sar-Shalom Djerbi visited Bnei David and Midreshet Danielle in May. At Bnei David Rabbi Yigal Lowenstein took Djerbi on a tour of the batei midrash and he even met one of his nephews, who is studying in the Advanced Yeshiva. At Midreshet Danielle, Djerbi explained the challenges of National Service and his own challenges in

improving conditions for National Service girls in order to maximize the contribution the girls can make to Israeli society and derive from their service in the development of their own careers and futures. The girls had a fruitful discussion with Djerbi and we wish him and them success in their dedicated work for the betterment of Israeli society and the State of Israel. ■

Bnei David alumni among President's Award recipients



Two Bnei David alumni – Staff Sergeant Gilad Kestenbaum and Staff Sergeant Nachman Tibi (class of 2014) were honored at a festive ceremony on Israel's 68th Independence Day, in the presence of President Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon and Chief of Staff Gadi Eizenkot. Kestenbaum and Tibi had been recommended by their commanding officers for their dedication and leadership skills and as role models for motivating the soldiers under their command. In accepting his award, Kestenbaum noted the significant role Bnei David's mechina program had played in his development as a Torah-observant young man and a combat soldier in the IDF. ■





Sharing in the safeguarding of Bnei David's campus

Mechina and Advanced Yeshiva students take turns guarding the Beit Midrash buildings during the day and the dormitories at night. At the beginning of May the students went to an IDF base near Kiryat Gat for a week of weapons safety training and target practice, as well as instruction in the basic principles of guarding and security. ■

Map-reading and navigation

As part of their pre-army training, Bnei David mechina students go for a few days of navigating in the north and south of the country, guided by Bnei David alumni who have completed their army service. The students learn how to read a map and various navigation techniques that will be useful during their IDF service. ■



Preparing for the 2016-2017 academic year

In April all the students who have been accepted to Bnei David's various study tracks in the upcoming academic year came to Eli for special Shabbat programs to meet their classmates and participate in bonding activities. Among the guest lecturers at the Shabbat program for next

year's mechina students were Bnei David alumni who have completed their compulsory IDF service and are now working in all spheres of Israeli society – at universities, in core groups founding new settlements, in business and in the security services. ■



"I will establish this good thing that I have spoken concerning the House of Israel"

(JEREMIAH 33:14)

Now is the time to build the mechina Beit Midrash!

The mechina at Bnei David was founded in 1988, 28 years ago, with around 80 students. There are now a total of some 250 students in the first- and second-year programs. The original Beit Midrash was set up in a vacant one-story industrial building that was refurbished and expanded every few years, as the student body continued to grow beyond the building's capacity. The last expansion, a few years ago, was the final one from a structural engineering perspective, and the students soon outgrew that addition too. This year we began the groundwork for a new mechina complex and the students have been learning in the dining hall,

which is also too small for the Beit Midrash's needs.

We recently completed the architectural plans for the building and will soon issue a tender for its construction. The new building will have a main lecture hall, Beit Midrash and Memorial Room, classrooms, staff rooms and washroom facilities.

We invite you to partner with us to complete the new mechina building in time for Bnei David's 30th anniversary.

For dedication options please contact Lior Shtul at liors@bneidavid.org or +972-50-8849100.



Rabbi Eli Sadan – Life Achievement Award Special Contribution to the State and Society

to the expansion of this idea to the general public and created a rare collaboration between religious and secular for the betterment of the State of Israel.

Hundreds of Rabbi Sadan's students are employed in various significant positions throughout Israeli society: in education, in the justice system, and in the defense establishment.

Rabbi Sadan's social achievements are a bridge and a connector between diverse social values and contribute to a better understanding and acceptance between the various sectors that comprise Israeli society.

Rabbi Sadan lives in the community of Eli with his wife Vardina. They have 12 children, 47 grandchildren and recently celebrated the birth of their first great-grandchild.

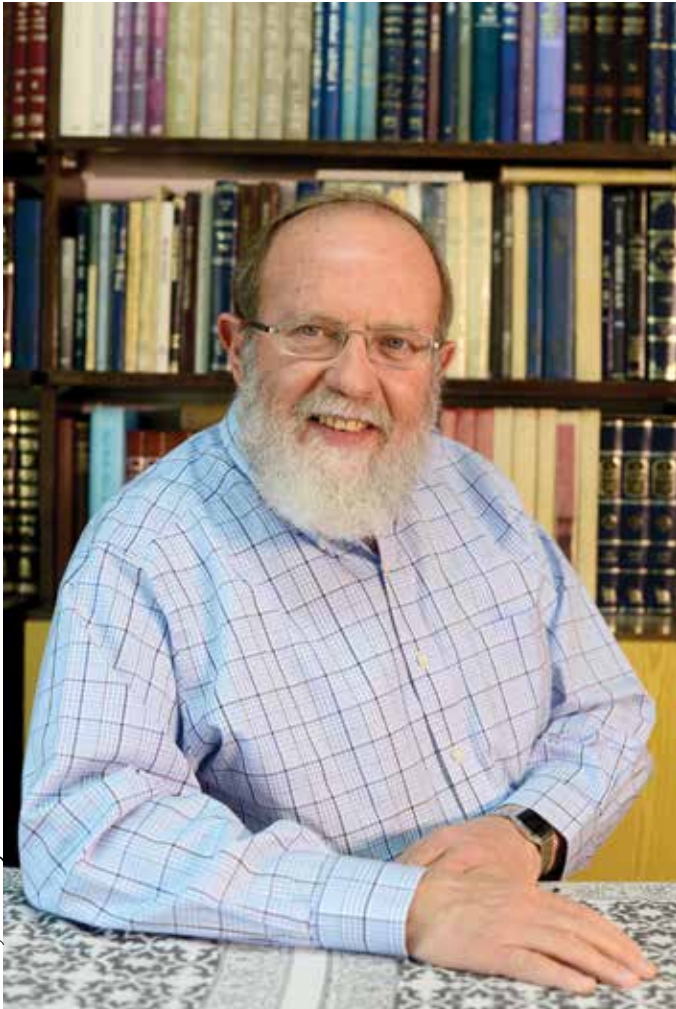


Photo by Avi Ohayon

Rabbi Eli Sadan established Bnei David, the first religious pre-army mechina academy, in Eli, jointly with Rabbi Yigal Lowenstein.

The mechina's goal was to integrate religious young men into significant positions in all units throughout the Israel Defense Forces and the security and civilian systems in Israel.

The mechina's main achievement is the perceptual change in national-religious society with respect to the possibility of full integration into all spheres of Israeli society

at large, through loyalty and commitment to the values on which the state was founded, while retaining individual religious identity.

Bnei David pre-army academy is a model for many educational programs that have been established in its wake and which are applying the values that Rabbi Sadan imbues in his students and graduates – faithfulness to the Torah combined with contributing to the state.

The establishment of Midreshet Nachshon - the secular branch of the Bnei David mechina – led

Beit Midrash classes in the field

Rabbi Yoel Rechel is continuing to expand his activities for strengthening Bnei David's connection with our alumni in uniform. Recently Bnei David published the first pocket edition of shiurim by Rabbi Kashtiel on *Path of the Just*, the essential text on Jewish ethics by 18th century Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, which is taught in all yeshivas. We are grateful to our friends and supporters who helped make this publication possible. ■



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