

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel BNEI DAVID ELI

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תשס"ח

WE WISH ALL OUR STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, WITH THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PRAYER, "JOY IN YOUR LAND AND GLADNESS IN YOUR CITY, AND THE FLOURISHING OF THE RADIANCE OF DAVID YOUR SERVANT AND THE LIGHT OF THE SON OF YISHAI YOUR ANOINTED ONE, SPEEDILY IN OUR DAYS."



The first Elul in the mechina's new Beit Midrash

One year ago, between concrete pillars and exposed pipes in this unfinished building, we sang and danced with our alumni and friends from near and far, in celebration of the successful completion of our "Giving Back to the Mechina with Love" campaign. With Hashem's help and their generosity, we reached our fundraising goal and a month later classes began in the new Beit Midrash.

This Elul was the first time the mechina students began their

studies in the new Beit Midrash. The 134 students in Bnei David's 31st cohort were welcomed into the spacious, brightly lit building designed especially for them and their teachers. For the first time every teacher has his own classroom, in the new building alongside the Beit Midrash.

We are continuing to accept dedication donations for the classroom construction, including the landscaping, infrastructure and furnishings, and hope to complete this work in the coming year. ■

Welcoming the 5779 academic year

This month we welcomed the 31st cohort of students to Bnei David Institutions. A total of 680 students from all over Israel are enrolled in our various programs - the pre-army mechina, the advanced yeshiva, the post-army Beit Midrash, the Maaleh

Ephraim branch and Midreshet Danielle. In preparation for the new academic year the teaching staff held meetings to discuss improvements and new ways for coping with the challenges facing us. We wish all our students success in their studies. ■

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel
Yeshiva for Discharged Soldiers
Advanced Yeshiva • Ma'ale Efrayim Branch
Midreshet Danielle for Young Women

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Maaleh Ephraim Continuing to grow

The Maaleh Ephraim branch of Bnei David began the academic year with 40 first-year students and 40 second-year students.

To accommodate this welcome growth in the student body, an additional caravan has been brought to the branch campus and converted into a dormitory. Despite the complicated process of transporting the caravan and connecting it to the utilities infrastructure in time for the students' arrival, we hope to continue growing and expanding this campus. ■



Behind the scenes of Israeli media

The summer session of the Chai Roi program included a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of Israel's media world, to gain a better understanding of its foundations, innovations and new directions. The tour included a visit to the Galei Israel radio station and Channel 2 News TV studio.

Senior news journalist Moshe Nussbaum met with the students and explained his perception of the media and the need, in his view, for reporters to be constantly on standby to report any event.

This tour was part of the Chai Roi students' education to prepare them to integrate into Israeli society and meet the challenges of the public sphere. ■



For yourself or for others

"You have two choices in life," Hadar used to say, "to be self-involved or to do great things."

During Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014, when his friends were resting and regaining their strength between skirmishes in the Gaza Strip, Givati combat commander Lt. Hadar Goldin, HY"D, sat and studied *Mesilat Yesharim* - Path of the Just, the 18th century ethics work by Rabbi Chaim Luzzatto. It was only during the shiva mourning period that Hadar's parents discovered this book among his possessions, and only two years later that they decided to publish his personal commentary for the general public.



Thanks to the initiative of Hadar's classmates (class of 2010), How to Build a Life - *Havruta* with *Mesilat Yesharim* by Hadar Goldin (Maggid Publishing) can now help others to deepen their understanding of this book. Hadar's friends have also founded Facebook study-discussion groups for the benefit of an even wider public. ■

Advanced yeshiva final Shabbat

The advanced yeshiva wound up the summer studies session with a Shabbat program at Moshav Keshet in the Golan Heights. By leaving early (at 5:00 a.m.) they managed to fit in a hike through the beautiful countryside and still have leisure time before Shabbat. In addition to enjoying the Shabbat shiurim given by the yeshiva rabbis, the students learned about the history of the Golan Heights since the 1967 Six Day War and the struggle for this area's full inclusion in the State of Israel. ■



State lottery scholarships
מפעל הפיס

This year 45 Chai Roi and Bnei David teacher training program students were awarded Mifal Hapais scholarships. In return, they have been volunteering in the schools in Eli and we have received very positive feedback. ■

**45 scholarships X 100 hours
of volunteering = 4,500 hours
of giving, sponsored by Mifal
Hapais state lottery.**

Danielle for life

Although the program at Midreshet Danielle is just one year, the girls know that their connection with their teachers and fellow students will continue into their National Service year and beyond.

The alumni director has visited each girl wherever she

is serving and brought her a copy of Rabbi Amir Sendler's book, "Conversations toward National Service," published at the initiative of Midreshet Danielle's 2nd cohort.

We wish all our young women alumni success in all their endeavors, whether in the IDF or the civilian National Service. ■



Twelfth grade girls visit Midreshet Danielle

For the first time ever, Midreshet Danielle held a 3-day summer program for girls entering 12th grade. The program combined midrasha lectures with interactive workshops and nature hikes. "In the middle of our summer vacation we took a few days off from relaxing, for an encounter with the Torah and with ourselves, in a way that was special and

different from our studies during the year," wrote one of the participants. "We saw how the midrasha nurtured our independence and deepened our knowledge of the great figures of our generation, whom we have the privilege to meet and learn from, and the aspects of ourselves that are important to understand and improve." ■



Close encounters with Torah and life

In order to nurture the family atmosphere of Bnei David's programs, every Wednesday the students have an evening get-together in their teachers' homes.

A shiur on current affairs through the prism of Torah is followed by singing and conversations that deepen the friendships between the students. ■



Serving with loyalty and dedication

Over 600 Bnei David alumni serve in the IDF at any given moment.

Dozens of mechina graduates were inducted this past summer,

visit them wherever they are posted. At the graduation from the recent officers training course at Training Base 1, Rabbi Rechel met with over 50 Bnei David alumni who had just



many of them into special combat units. Rabbi Yoel Rechel continues to keep in touch with our alumni and

completed various levels of training. We wish all our alumni a safe and quiet year. ■



Together, even during the summer break

What do the post-army Beit Midrash students do on their summer break? Continue being together, just with a different view. Last month 50 students went for a full-day hike in Wadi Mazor, ending at Ein Danny spring with a huge barbecue. ■

Secular studies just got better

One of the innovations at Bnei David right from the beginning was the integration of secular studies featuring special guest lecturers. Over the years we have hosted public figures, IDF top brass, social activists, economists and professors. This year Rabbi Yishai Tsur will be organizing the Seeds Program, a new secular studies lecture series.

The program is designed to build a bridge between the world of Torah and the reality of the modern world. Throughout the year our students will meet influential public sector figures and learn



about the dilemmas and challenges facing Israeli academia, the justice system and many other aspects of Israeli society. The students will also address the question of integrating Torah ideas and values

with the reality of Israel's economic, healthcare and government systems. The first lecture, on Israel's economy, was given Bnei David alumnus Amiad Cohen (class of 2001), director general of the Tikva Fund. ■

Fourth Bnei David bar mitzva experience

The bar mitzva experience for the sons of Bnei David alumni has become a tradition, and this year we hosted 32 boys and their proud parents.



The boys were excited to see their fathers' Beit Midrash and to learn with them in havruta study pairs. They also met with Rabbi Eli Sadan, heard a shiur from Rabbi Akiva Kashtiel and went on a bicycle tour along the Shilo riverbed. ■



Independence Day at Maaleh Ephraim

The mechina students in Maaleh Ephraim celebrated Independence Day with the local residents. In the evening they all gathered in the synagogue for joyful prayers, singing and dancing, followed by an evening of fun with the entire community.

At the festive evening meal Avi Berg, of the Shaar Hagai field school, gave a riveting talk about the battles for Latrun during the War of Independence and how Hashem helped the fledgling IDF win the war. In the morning Bnei David alumnus Col. Roi Tamir spoke to the students about the IDF's day-to-day activities to defend the

country, and in the afternoon the students embarked on an extreme challenge bicycle trail, followed by a barbecue with all the trimmings. ■



Seeing green



One of the unique donations to the new Beit Midrash was a truckload of shade trees, from a botanical nursery where agronomist and Bnei David alumnus Barak Buchman (class of 2004) works.

The planting of the trees and the landscaping surrounding the building were done by Elya Zeitman (class of 2003), whose Elya Gardening company is now undertaking all the gardening work at Bnei David's campus. A special thank you to Ganei Hebron, which developed and tended the gardens for the past 30 years. ■



Shabbat in Safed

After two years of personal growth and the joy of learning together, the students from the mechina class of 2016 traveled to Safed for a special, final Shabbat program.

On Friday the students toured Peki'in and met with Margalit Zinati, the last generation of a priestly family that has lived in this village since the expulsion of the Jews from Jerusalem when the Second Temple was destroyed. The students learned about Jewish determination and the continuous connection of Am Yisrael to Eretz Yisrael. On Shabbat the students met with Safed Chief Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu and had a long discussion with him about the fulfillment of the biblical prophecies in our times, right before our eyes, and our being a part of the Divine process of Am Yisrael's return to Eretz Yisrael. ■

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