

BNEI DAVID ELI

CHANUKAH 5779 Bulletin | December 2018

“EVERY PERSON MUST REALIZE THAT WITHIN HIM BURNS A CANDLE, AND HIS CANDLE IS UNLIKE HIS FRIEND’S CANDLE, AND NO PERSON IS WITHOUT A CANDLE. AND EVERY PERSON’S DUTY IS TO UNDERSTAND AND REALIZE THAT HE MUST STRIVE TO REVEAL HIS CANDLE’S LIGHT TO OTHERS, AND TO MAKE IT BURN LIKE A GREAT TORCH AND ILLUMINATE THE ENTIRE WORLD.” (HARAV KOOK)

WE WISH ALL OUR ALUMNI, FRIENDS, AND THE ENTIRE HOUSE OF ISRAEL A VERY HAPPY CHANUKAH!



Help us to continue building up men of faith in the practical world

The extensive media coverage of the many verbal attacks on Bnei David rabbis over the past year has greatly hampered our efforts to raise funds for Bnei David’s general maintenance budget. We are grateful to our alumni and friends in Israel and around the world who believe in our path and are continuing to support us in educating men of faith for the practical world, with

one-time gifts or regular monthly donations.

With your assistance we can continue providing tuition scholarships to students from low-income families; stipends to over 100 married students; and tuition scholarships to Chai Roi program post-army students who are combining their academic studies with Beit Midrash studies.

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Miracles and wonders

Bnei David Institutions’ 700 students are preparing themselves for a life of mission for Am Yisrael and the State of Israel. Our alumni are excelling in their chosen professions and contributing to the strengthening of our people and our country. Despite all this... over the past year Bnei David has been under attack by radical leftist organizations, including Be Free Israel, Israeli Alliance and Mr. Yair Nehorai, who has set his sights on closing the mechana and doing everything he can to hurt us, including trying to sue us in the High Court of Justice.

Pictured above is Bnei David alumnus Eli Groner, a former director general of the Prime Ministers Office, meeting the president of China.

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



Miracles and wonders

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We began the academic year with 700 students in the various Bnei David programs, students who are learning and preparing themselves for a life of mission for Am Yisrael and the State of Israel. Idealistic, highly motivated men and women are needed in every field – defense, education, the public sector – and Bnei David is grooming students pursuing the challenge of a life of faith in the practical world.

Our alumni are excelling in their chosen professions and we rejoice at their success and their efforts to build up our people and our country. **Over the past year Bnei David has been under attack from radical leftist organizations, including Be Free Israel, Israeli Alliance and Mr. Yair Nehorai, who has set his sights on**

closing the mechina and does everything he can to hurt us, including planning to sue us in the High Court of Justice.

Every week, Bnei David students participate in hundreds of shiurim in our study halls, on a wide variety of subjects. Most of these shiurim are uploaded to our website, and tens of thousands of subscribers to the website listen to these words of Torah. By using half-sentences, removing them from their context, and misinterpreting the rabbis' original intentions, the leftist organizations slander the mechina and its rabbis.

We are learning from each incident and the saying, "wise scholars, measure your words carefully," (Ethics of the Fathers 1:11) has become more applicable than ever. We listen to criticism and are trying to learn from it, but will continue

Completing Shas in honor of 70th birthday

In a secret project, hundreds of Bnei David students participated in a complete reading of the Babylonian Talmud in honor of Rav Eli Sadan's 70th birthday.

The 2,711 pages of the Talmud were divided among the students in all Bnei David's programs, and over the course of a few months the pages learned by each

student combined to form the whole. In a special evening of study in the mechina's Beit Midrash, the students surprised Rav Sadan when they asked him to learn the last page with them. A representative of the students congratulated Rav Sadan on behalf of all the students and wished him many more years of good health for learning and teaching Torah. ■



to educate our students to meet the challenges of our generation through the in-depth study of the various issues from the perspective of the Torah and its values, and in recognition of the influence of western ideas. We will equip our students with the

ability to differentiate between ideas that continue and develop age-old Jewish traditions and ideas that contradict the Torah. Just as in those days, at this time also, Am Yisrael faces many challenges, and together we will overcome them. ■



Congratulating officers course graduates

In the early years of Bnei David, Rav Sadan would attend the graduation ceremonies at every officers course attended by mechina alumni, offering them his support and encouragement.

The years have gone by and the number of students has grown, and now Rav Yoel Rechel, director of alumni in the

IDF, attends the graduations. At the most recent graduation, however, Rav Sadan came with his family, to congratulate his youngest son Elkana, on completing officers training. Rav Sadan also met with other Bnei David alumni who completed the course with Elkana. We wish all the graduates success in their new command positions. ■



Chai Roi – reporting from the field

Chai Roi program students combine Beit Midrash and university studies, attend one-day seminars and participate in academic field trips.

Before Rosh Hashanah a day of lectures and visits to infrastructure sites was held, including to the underground train station site at the entrance to Jerusalem. Mr. Eli Groner, a Bnei David alumnus from the first cohort and a former director of the Prime Minister’s Office, spoke to the students about Israel’s economy and the importance of its continued development. After Sukkot the students had another day of lectures on Israel’s economy and entrepreneurship. One of the guest lecturers was Jon Medved, an Israeli innovator and serial startup entrepreneur, whose two sons are mechina alumni. ■

Running in honor of injured IDF servicemen

This year a national day was held in appreciation of IDF soldiers who have been injured defending our country.

Several organizations, including the Jewish National Fund, organized events at sites throughout the country, and one of these was at nearby

Ancient Shiloh. A group of 20 Bnei David students expressed their solidarity with and appreciation for the soldiers by running from the mechina in Eli to Ancient Shiloh, where they joined a parade there and participated in the main ceremony honoring the injured soldiers. ■



“They could not speak peaceably” – the importance of dialogue

On the first Shabbat in December mechina students were hosted in Bnei Brak. On this Shabbat, when we read in synagogue about Joseph and his brothers not speaking to one another, mechina students from Eli and Maaleh Ephraim came to meet and speak with their contemporaries in haredi society.

Throughout the weekend the students met with Torah scholars, heads of yeshivas, admor chasidic court leaders and local families, to learn about their lifestyle, Torah study programs, chasidic customs

and the many chesed mutual aid initiatives in this city.

On Motzai Shabbat a Melave Malka meal was held in memory of the late Moti Zisser, who

began this important tradition of hosting mechina students in Bnei Brak, and whose family continues to host the students each year. The Admor of Spinka



and the mayor of Bnei Brak greeted the students and sang and danced with them, adding to everyone’s enjoyment. The students and the hosts expressed how important it is for all parts of Am Yisrael to meet and become acquainted with one another. ■

Special study evenings at the Advanced Yeshiva

The Advanced Yeshiva began the academic year with over 200 students, and their parents participated in a special study evening before Rosh Hashanah.

Study evenings are also occasionally held on Thursdays, when seventh and eighth grade students in the local Talmud Torah learn with Advanced Yeshiva

students. These special evenings strengthen the connection between the local educational institutions and build relationships between the students.

Advanced Yeshiva alumni also have special gatherings, and recently over 100 visited Eli for a Saturday evening get-together with their rabbis and friends. ■



Quarterly blood drive

Every three months Magen David Adom's blood bank comes to Eli and "sets up shop" at Bnei David Institutions.

The students help with registering donors and measuring their blood pressure, and line up to donate too. Over a hundred units of blood are collected at each blood drive and are a significant contribution to maintaining the blood bank's supply. ■



Ma'ale Ephraim growing & developing



The 4th cohort at Ma'ale Ephraim began its studies, with 40 students joining 40 of the 3rd cohort students who are continuing their studies for a second year.

In keeping with a Bnei David tradition, before Rosh Hashanah the students hiked up Mt. Sartaba - one of the peaks where bonfires were lit in Talmudic times to send

the message of the declaration of the new month. On the eve of Yom Kippur the students participated in the mitzva of settling the Land of Israel by helping in the establishment of the new community of Gadi, in the Jordan Valley. The students cleared weeds and stones, and some stayed to join the minyan there for Yom Kippur prayers. ■

Midreshet Danielle – Studying, learning about our country and building our future



Midreshet Danielle began the academic year with a variety of programs. The fourth cohort at the midrasha started classes full of enthusiasm and joy, and the girls listen attentively to the various rabbis and rabbaniot. Part of the program to prepare the girls for a life of mission and endeavor includes field trips to learn about the rich history of every part of Israel.

In Elul (August) over 30

alumni participated in a special program in preparation for the High Holidays. In Cheshvan (November), with the beginning of the academic year at Ariel University, Midreshet Danielle welcomed 16 students to its new university-midrasha program. The girls live in the midrasha dorm and combine their university studies with evening classes at the midrasha.

Applications have already

begun for Midreshet Danielle's fifth cohort (2019-2020 academic year). Rav Sadan and Rav Loewenstein have visited many religious girls high schools and spoken to the students

about the importance of a year of midrasha studies prior to national service, and how these studies can increase the girls' resilience to the challenges of our times. ■



Follow us on Facebook:

בני דוד - עלי, מכינה ישיבתית לצה"ל



Over 3,000 followers get regular updates via Bnei David's (Hebrew) Facebook page. Each week short videos and news posts are uploaded. Some of

this year's mechina students are really good photographers, and there are even some video clips photographed by a drone. ■

Go south young man: meeting the challenges of the Negev

A few weeks ago the mechina students visited Bedouin towns in the Negev, to learn first-hand of the challenges the Bedouin pose to the State of Israel.

The students met with Yair Ma'ayan, director of the

Governmental Authority for the Settlement of Bedouin in the Negev, and with Bnei David alumni families who are waiting to move to Hiran, a new Jewish community founded in the Negev in 2010. ■



Keeping in touch with our soldiers everywhere and at all times



In the middle of last month, when rockets were raining down on Israel's southern communities, alumni director Rav Yoel Rechel went to visit Bnei David alumni on various IDF bases throughout the south.

We keep in touch with our alumni via a liaison for each cohort, who is in constant contact with alumni from a particular year. The liaison is an alumnus who has completed his IDF service and is learning

in the Advanced Yeshiva or the Post-army Yeshiva. He meets with the mechina students during their studies here and maintains contact with them during the army service. ■



Searching for the right way

After Sukkot the 31st cohort of mechina students went on a field navigation exercise. The navigation program opened with Rav Sadan explaining the literal and figurative importance of knowing how to read a compass – in life, as well as in the army.

Overcoming challenges means knowing how to think, learning ones surroundings and searching for just the right way to resolve difficulties. Bnei David alumni who have completed their IDF service helped the students to learn and practice the basics of map reading and navigation. Students in the 4th cohort at Ma'ale Ephraim also had a big taste of the outdoors



and bonding activities, on a challenging overnight hiking and camping trip to the Large Makhtesh in the northern Negev. ■

Pittsburgh: With them in their grief

11 Jews were murdered in the hate crime against the synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The entire Jewish people all over the world were shocked and aggrieved by the horrific

murder of Jews just because they were Jews. Bnei David's students joined in the "We are with you Pittsburgh" show of support on the social networks. ■



Help us to continue building up men of faith in the practical world

As the 2018 fiscal year draws to a close we appeal to you to support us in continuing the important efforts of Bnei David. Donations can be made through the "friends" associations in each country

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