

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel
BNEI DAVID ELI

BULLETIN Erev Rosh HaShanah 5773 - 2012



Iron Dome

15 graduates of the latest infantry officers training course are Bnei David alumni. A correspondent for Motzash Magazine recently interviewed our graduates to find out "what they put in the water the students drink in Eli." She discovered that the stuff from which these excellent officers are made comes from their spiritual convictions and training. The article concluded with the words of one of the young officers: *"We chose to become officers regardless of what others may think, and we don't look behind us to see if other people have chosen the same path. I believe in leading by example. If I do the right thing, others will storm the enemy with me."* The picture of the passing-out ceremony shows the cadets with another Bnei David graduate, a lieutenant-colonel who serves at the IDF officer training academy. The full-length article is posted on our website. *"Iron Dome" – the name of Israel's missile interception system, and a play on words referring to the spiritual strength of religious soldiers (kippa means both dome and yarmulke).*

Rabbi Eli Sadan Dean Bnei David

Looking forward to the forthcoming new year, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you, who have supported us selflessly in our common sacred project. Together may we raise a generation of Jewish youth to be servants of Hashem, who will dedicate themselves to the redemption of His chosen people. May Hashem give us the strength to join with Him to restore the former glory of the Jewish People – our sacred Torah and its sublime values, radiating from the vital

national life and autonomous government of our people residing in the Land of Israel. Let us stride forward together to rebuild our nation and make it whole once again. As Chazal taught us: *"Torah Scholars create peace in the world, as it is written (YESHAYAHU 54:13): All of your sons, steeped in the knowledge of Hashem, enjoy great peace. Read not: your sons (banayich), but rather: your builders (bonayich)."* – MASSECHET BERACHOT 64A. ■

Rabbi Eli Sadan



Dear Friends,

Once again we stand at the threshold of a new year – a year that marks the 25th class of Bnei David. A quarter-century has passed since our inception. An entire generation! I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you: our students, alumni and their supportive parents; our friends and benefactors in Israel and the Diaspora, and – last but not least – the entire staff of Bnei David, including our directors, rabbis, administrators, and kitchen and maintenance personnel. Your magnificent efforts, blessed with siyata de-Shamaya, have made the Bnei David dream a living reality. May Hashem bless us all with a sweet new year, one of health, prosperity and resounding success in all our endeavors.

Wishing you a joyous new year,
Lior Shtul
 Director General

Wishing you
 all a sweet
 & good new year,
 a year of blessing
 comfort
 & salvation



מכינה ישיבתית לצה"ל
 ישיבה לבוגרי צבא
 ישיבה נבחרת
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 of Israel

25 Years

Bnei David's Silver Anniversary

Twenty five years ago, on Rosh Chodesh Elul, Rabbi Eli Sadan and Rabbi Yigal Levinstein opened the doors of the beit midrash of the pre-army preparatory yeshiva at Eli to its first class of 70 students. Bnei David was an innovation in its time, a great experiment in a then unknown place, whose outcome could not be foreseen. Today, 25 years later, we greet the new academic year with an entering class of 450, more than 500 enlisted men and 1000 officers serving in Israel's armed forces, and some 2500 alumni. This Rosh Chodesh 170 new students will swell the ranks of the advanced and



preparatory yeshivot. As in years past, our students come from the length and breadth of Israel and from around the globe. This year we welcome students hailing from England, Switzerland, Holland, the United States, and South Africa. We wish all of them a new year of outstanding success. ■



Soft landing, the program for discharged soldiers that combines yeshiva studies with university entrance exam preparation, has graduated its first class of 12 students. The students spent this past summer studying joyously in the post-army beit midrash and in addition preparing for their entrance exams – which they all passed with flying colors. Some will continue to devote themselves to full-time Torah study, whereas others have chosen to enroll in university. ■

Two Bnei David Graduates Receive the Presidential Award for Distinguished Service

Every year on Independence Day Israel's president Shimon Peres honors outstanding soldiers in the IDF with the presidential distinguished service award. This year, two Bnei David graduates, Avraham Apalkar of Haifa and Yair Kum of Ranana, were among the proud recipients.

Avraham, who serves in the Intelligence Corps, is a graduate of Bnei David's twenty-second class. Avraham has overcome a congenital medical condition to lead a full and productive life. In his official letter of commendation, Avraham's commanding officer wrote of him: "He combines the gifts of leadership, clear-thinking and analytical ability, with tremendous motivation and the unceasing striving for excellence. Anyone who meets him recognizes that he is a soldier of a different caliber. Having a soldier like him under my command is a privilege of which I am extremely proud."

Yair, who serves as an officer in the Paratroops, is a graduate of Bnei David's twentieth class. Yair tells us that his mechina studies helped him to clarify questions of life-direction and personal identity. His experience at Bnei David motivated him to enlist in the army



and join an established unit. Yair received the award for his unceasing hard work and outstanding contribution to Israel's national security.



Bnei David is proud of Avraham and Yair, and we wish them, along with all our graduates serving in the army, great and continuing success. ■

Teacher Training Students Visit Prison

A week before Pesach, the Festival of Freedom, students of the teacher training institute paid a visit to the Ellah penitentiary outside of Be'er Sheva as part of their regular curriculum. The visit brought home the weighty responsibility an educator bears: the teacher who fails to reach each and every student, no matter how difficult the challenge, contributes indirectly to a path of failure that may lead in the end to a prison sentence. The teacher plays a vital role in forming the spiritual and cultural world of his students.

Rabbi Yona Yoniov, the rabbi of the prison, organized and directed the visit with great professionalism and dedication. He briefed the students on the circumstances that bring youth to prison, explained how the youth are treated while in prison, and told them of the programs for rehabilitation before and after release.

The visit included a learning-session in which the students studied one-on-one with the prisoners. It concluded with a stirring round of dance that left all the participants moved and with renewed hope for the future and the possibility of teshuva. ■



Give Honor to the Torah

This past Iyar we were privileged to dedicate a new Torah scroll to the post-army yeshiva. The Torah scroll was donated by the Hoffman, Kaddosh and Greenbaum families in the memory of Yosef David ben Yechiel Michal and Techelet (Chelsta) née Kalo bat David Hoffman z"l. Rabbi Eliezer Kashtiel and Rabbi Ohad Tirosh, the heads

of the post-army yeshiva, completed the Torah scroll together with the family members by each inscribing a letter at the end of Sefer Devarim. Afterwards, the participants escorted the Torah scroll in a festive procession of song and dance to the post-army yeshiva, where it was placed in the ark with great joy. ■



New Dining Room Gets Off the Ground

The construction of our new kitchen and dining facility is proceeding apace. The building infrastructure is in place, and we are currently finishing the walls of the new kitchen. Our growing student body is already making use of the dining room thanks to temporary lighting and air conditioning installed on the site. We have met half of the fund-raising target to cover the construction costs and are seeking additional sponsors for this important project. All donations large and small will be gratefully accepted. ■





Jerusalem Day

As in years past, our students went up to Jerusalem for several days of learning and reflection in the aura of the holy city. The students also joined the traditional flag-procession, which begins at the Old City's Damascus Gate and ends with a festive dance at the Western Wall. ■

The Virtual Beit Midrash

The Bnei David website operates round-the-clock, disseminating Torah in Israel and abroad. At the site one can keep abreast of the latest developments at Bnei David and choose from among thousands of lectures given by our rabbis in our own batei midrash. In response to increasing demand, we have made a considerable investment these past two years in order to upgrade the site itself, in addition to our earlier purchases of computer systems and cameras for producing and editing high quality videos of Torah lectures. We have recently

hired Kobi Meltzar, one of our alumni, to manage the ever-growing website. The site also has a forum, virtual book store and online registration for receiving a weekly Parsha sheet via email. The site is at www.bneidavid.org. ■



Chai Roi Graduates Enter the Work Force

This past Tamuz we held a ceremony to celebrate the successful close of the academic year for the Chai Roi Public and Civic Leadership program. 17 graduates, having completed their degrees and course of study at the post-army yesivah, are now entering the work force. The graduates received their diplomas and were given warm blessings by Rabbi Eli Sadan, Rabbi Ehud Tirosh, Rabbi Avraham Shiller and Rabbi Roni Gellis. 9 new students have registered for next year's program. ■



Visitors Come to Bnei David

Bnei David hosts many visitors during the year. This past summer we welcomed the youth-group of the Toronto branch of Aish Hatorah, students of the Los Angeles Yavneh school, friends from the United States and Panama, members of the IDF Education Corps, and rabbis of Jewish communities in Israel and abroad – to name but a few. We would be pleased to arrange a personal guided tour for you on your next trip to Israel. ■

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