

BNEI DAVID ELI

PESACH 5778 Bulletin | 2018



BNEI DAVID INSTITUTIONS WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS,
ALUMNI AND STUDENTS A VERY HAPPY AND KOSHER PESACH

Bnei David everywhere



Rabbi Yoel Rechel, our alumni programs director, is constantly on the move, visiting Bnei David alumni at army bases and outposts all over the country. At a recent graduation ceremony from a parachuting course that included a record number of 15 Bnei David alumni, he surprised the paratroopers

by meeting them at their landing site.

In the past few weeks dozens of mechina graduates began their army service in various brigades and we wish them success in all their endeavors in the IDF. We also extend our congratulations to 41 alumni who recently graduated from officers training courses. ■

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



Eli D.N. Ephraim 4482800, Israel • info@bneidavid.org • www.bneidavid.org

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Shabbat with next year's mechina students

Over 120 candidates for the 2018-2019 mechina class spent a long weekend at Bnei David from March 8-10th, bonding with one another and getting a taste of shiurim from the rabbis and teachers.

The program began with a meeting with Maj. Gen. Moti Almoz, head of the IDF's Personnel Directorate, who spoke to the boys about the importance of spending a year or more in a mechina and Bnei David's place as the founding institute on which all the other mechina programs are modeled. Over

the course of the day the candidates met with Bnei David alumni who are now working in variety of fields – security, education, the civil service and community betterment organizations. We look forward to welcoming these students at the beginning of the next academic year, which will begin on August 12. ■



Appreciating nature at the Ma'ale Ephraim branch



Students at Bnei David's Ma'ale Ephraim branch recently heard a fascinating lecture about renewable energy and have so far participated in several nature hikes, which are held throughout the year.

The nature field trips are run by Israel's Nature and Parks Authority, and are designed to better acquaint the students with the surrounding area and with the challenges facing nature preservation today. The students learn about the flora and fauna, and even go wading in the winter streams. Word of these activities, combined with the Beit Midrash studies, are also continuing to attract candidates for next year's program. ■



Bat Mitzva event for daughters of Bnei David alumni



Dozens of girls and their fathers came to Bnei David for a special event on the last day of Chanukah.

The girls met with Rabbi Eli Sadan, who spoke to them about the great responsibility that comes with becoming a woman in today's society. The fathers and daughters enjoyed a joint study session and then went to visit Midreshet Danielle, where a JNF

representative joined them and took them on a hike to the nearby stalactite cave. After Shavuot a special program will be held for Bnei David alumni and their Bar Mitzva-aged sons. ■



Connecting with the past, present and future at Midreshet Danielle



The Midreshet Danielle program in preparation for National Service has many activities to connect the girls to the Torah, the land and the state, and of course to the importance of family.

One particularly special event included the girls' mothers, who came to Kfar Tapuach for a mother-and-



daughter evening of engaging shiurim and learning together. During the winter months the girls went on several field trips in the surrounding area, and learned about the Jewish People's glorious history in this part of the country. The girls also visited Beit HaEdut at Moshav Nir Galim, where they heard the stories of

heroic religious Zionist women during the Holocaust and the establishment of the state. For a special day dedicated to the memory and legacy of Danielle Sonnenfeld, after whom the midrasha is named, the girls participated in volunteer activities in the Oncology Department of Schneider Children's Hospital. ■



Between the holy and the mundane

Bnei David Publications recently published a new book (in Hebrew) by one of the mechina's teachers, Rabbi Eitan Kaufman.

The book, "Between the Holy and the Mundane" discusses the melding of the holy and the mundane in this era of the revitalization of the Jewish People, and offers many insightful ideas to anyone interested in being a "man of faith in the practical world." Among the topics covered are Torah and science, the relationship between thinkers and doers, the incorporation of Judaic studies in the education system, and the need for technological development to be accompanied by Torah-based ethics. ■

Employee appreciation day



Bnei David's staff now numbers nearly 70 men and women in a wide variety of jobs.

During the Chanukah vacation they went on a field trip of their own, to Genesis Land, a biblical experience desert hospitality site with outdoor theater hosts dressed as Abraham and his servants. The staff was pleasantly surprised to learn that the son of the owner is also a Bnei David alumnus. ■

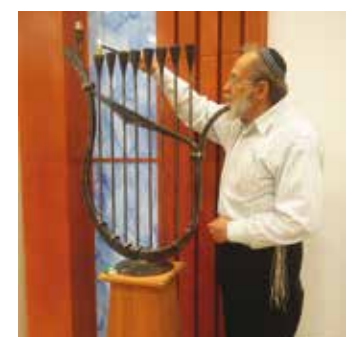
Nanotechnology, Smotrich and Peace Now



The many guest lecturers who visit Bnei David give the students ample opportunity to meet with public figures from all walks of Israeli society. Recent lectures included Prof. Avi Schroeder (Bnei David class of 1995), who gave an intriguing lecture on nanotechnology, why elephants do not get cancer (did you know that?), and what we can learn from them. Avi explained the wonders of nanotechnology and the power of curiosity, urging the students to be curious and excel at whatever they do and to make a meaningful contribution to the IDF and



Israeli society. Knesset member Bezalel Smotrich spoke to the students about Israel's values as a state and the challenge of promoting these values in the Knesset. Eran Nissim, an activist in Hazon, the diplomacy advocacy department of Peace Now gave an interesting talk that was followed by a flurry of questions that enriched the knowledge of both the students and the speaker. ■



Spreading the light of Chanukah

During Chanukah we had the pleasure of lighting the Chanukah candles in the new Beit Midrash that was dedicated last Sukkot.

The Chanukiya was designed by Israeli artist Yossi Gur Aryeh, in the shape of King David's harp. Chanukah activities for the students included a visit to Torah sages in Jerusalem, who iterated the importance of Torah study "in those days at this time." ■

Challenges make us stronger



Bnei David's class of 2018 set the bar up a notch for the physical fitness instructors. One winter evening the class left the comfort of the dormitory for a 35-kilometer night hike under the light of the full moon, from the Herodian aqueduct at the beach north of Caesarea to Atlit beach, south of Haifa. Rabbi Eli Sadan accompanied the boys throughout most of the hike, making it an extra-special experience for everyone. ■



41 years since the Entebbe rescue



One evening shortly before the students in the class of 2018 began their IDF service, a special guest lecturer, Shai Gross – the father of one of the students – came to tell

them of his experience as the youngest hostage in the hijacking of the Air France plane that was forced to land in Entebbe in July 1976.

The students listened attentively as Shai recalled how he and his parents were rescued by IDF commandoes. Understandably, the students had many questions, and Shai answered them all with great patience. "We have a tiny and amazing country with extraordinary people who dared to come all the way to Entebbe to rescue us," said Shai. ■

Construction news

During the past several months the construction of the classrooms and the pathways leading to the mechina's new building has continued at full speed.

We hope that all this work will be finished by Pesach and that the students will be able to enjoy all aspects of the building by the beginning of the summer session. We offer



our heartfelt thanks again to everyone who has partnered with us in completing the Bnei David campus. ■



Bnei David in Panama

Each year Bnei David hosts several students from the Diaspora – from the United States, Canada, England, South Africa, Australia and this year, from Panama too.

In the past few years many representatives of the Panama Jewish community have visited Bnei David and learned about the unique education program here and its contribution to the Jewish People and the State of Israel. When Yisrael Meir, who grew up in Panama but speaks fluent Hebrew, decided he wanted to serve in the IDF, our friends in Panama



recommended that he join the mechina program for a few months before his induction into the army after Pesach. He was welcomed here and made many new friends. We wish him and his entire class success and meaningful service in the IDF. ■

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
Friends 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

