

The Military Yeshiva Academy of Israel

BNEI DAVID ELI

Rosh Hashanah 5772 Bulletin Elul 2011



Bnei David in the IDF reserves



The reserves are an important part of the IDF's might. There are many more soldiers in the reserves than in the compulsory service, and training sessions in operational activities are held throughout the year. Over 2,000 Bnei David alumni serve in the reserves, 1,000 of them as officers of every rank. An IDF reserve company is stationed near us, patrolling and protecting the Shilo and Eli area. Each month the company is replaced by another group of reserve soldiers. For the last seven months, all the officers have been Bnei David alumni, so we have had the pleasure of many visits

from them and their soldiers. Many of our alumni, including Bnei David rabbis and teachers, are currently participating in a commanders training course and in the future they will serve as reserve company and regiment commanders. ■



*"Joy to Your land
and gladness to Your city,
rising strength to David
Your servant, a shining light
to the son of Yishai,
Your chosen one,
speedily in our days."*

(FROM THE ROSH HASHANAH MORNING SERVICE)

As
Rosh Hashanah
5772
approaches,
we wish our students,
alumni and friends,
and the entire
House of Israel
a good
& blessed year,
a year in which
all our prayers
are accepted!



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One-day seminars at Teacher Training Institute address the challenges in education

The Teacher Training Institute, part of the Post-Army Yeshiva, has around 60 students, whose curriculum includes encounters with the many varied population groups in Israel, to familiarize themselves with these groups and the challenges in education. These encounters contribute to the students' personal growth, in preparation for teaching in Israel's various educational frameworks.

This past March, the Teacher Training Institute students visited Reishit high school in Tel Aviv. The students met with school principal Sefi Sherman, who told them about his great vision of educating Tel Aviv youth to become responsible adults. The Bnei David students held a panel discussion with Yaron Ziv, an Eli resident and Bnei David alumnus who teaches at Reishit. Our students also met with the high school students, learned with them and heard from them about the unique aspects of the school and its education methods.



Over the course of the summer, we held several workshops on improving and deepening interpersonal communication

among our students. The students participated in a course on the Imago method, learning how to use conflict as an opportunity to grow. According to the theory of Imago, any interpersonal encounter has the potential for closeness or alienation, strengthening or breaking a relationship.

The students learned about the structure of the brain and the importance of increasing awareness of the processes entailed in relationships. The workshops were led by Bnei David alumnus Mr. Moshe Loewinger, an Imago expert and lecturer, who explained to the students about the psychological dynamics of teacher-student encounters, and their potential for closedness or openness. The students practiced dialogue, listening and mirroring. At the conclusion of the workshops the students agreed that the exercises revealed unknown aspects of their personalities, including some that are the most important.



New Bnei David publication: "Sfatai Tiftach" by Rav Chaim Vidal

We are pleased to announce the recent publication of *Sfatai Tiftach* - a book on focusing one's thoughts during the Amida prayer.

In his introduction to the book, Rav Vidal writes: "My motivation for writing this book came from my own challenges during prayer, which led me to study and collect commentaries on the Amida prayers from the medieval and early modern commentators ...I began teaching how to focus during prayer at the Bnei David mechina in Eli twenty years ago, and continue to do so ever since, year after year. I gradually realized that the Amida is much more than a prayer, it is no less than the essence of the entire Torah."

Rav Vidal devoted many long hours to turning his lessons into a book. In 2009 the second-year mechina students began to revise the material for the book and Rabbi Asaf Greenfeld did the initial editing. The major editing was done by Rav Vidal.

We are grateful to our overseas friends who helped us to publish this book, which has been dedicated to the memory of First Lieutenant Amichai Merchavia z"l of Eli, who was killed in the Second Lebanon War, and to the memory of Sergeant Dan Schneidman z"l of the class of 2009, who attended Rav Vidal's classes and helped revise the material for the book. Sergeant Dan Schneidman was killed while on active duty.

The book can be purchased in bookstores, and through the Bnei David office. (Telephone 02-9407888 or email sale@bneidavid.org)



Welcoming our new students

On Rosh Chodesh Elul 170 new students will begin their studies at Bnei David Institutions, in the pre-army mechina program and the advanced yeshiva.

In addition, some of our alumni who have completed their army service are returning to study in the Post-Army Yeshiva. This year we will have over 450 students. Renovations and maintenance work over the summer includes the installation of a fire alarm system in the Beit Midrash of both the mechina and the advanced yeshivas.

We wish all our students and rabbis a successful and productive year of study. ■

"Frogmen are men of silence"...

Four Bnei David alumni recently completed the elite Naval Commando 13 training course. Three of them are graduates of our mechina, and one learned in the advanced yeshiva. An impressive ceremony was held on the beach at the commando base following 18 months of arduous training, and each soldier was awarded the prestigious bat-shaped commando pin. Rav Netanel Elyashiv and Rav Sadan went to this ceremony, which was the first naval commando graduation Rav Sadan had had ever attended. At the end of the ceremony, all of the new commandos ran into the water for the traditional commando plunge in the sea. ■

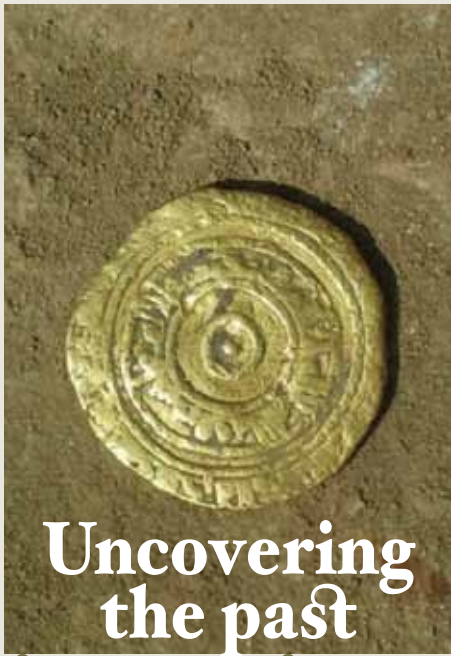


Sukkot hospitality at Bnei David

We invite all our friends to visit us during Chol Hamoed Sukkot to join in our tours of Eli, Shilo & Bnei David's growing campus

For further details, please write to:
lior@bneidavid.org

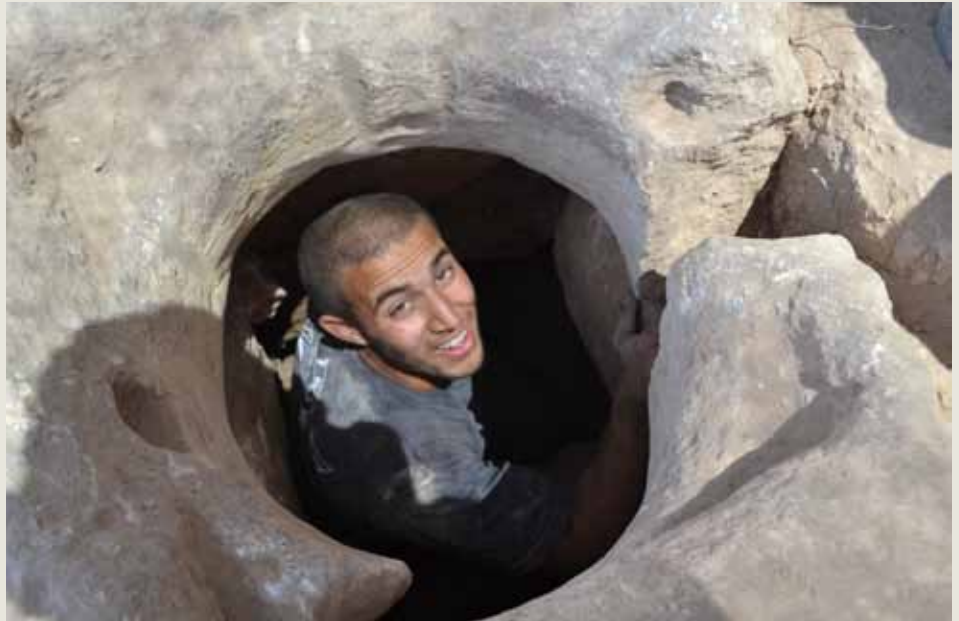




Uncovering the past in ancient Shilo

An extensive archaeological dig was begun recently at the site of ancient Shilo. Bnei David's mechina program students have been participating in the dig, arriving early every Friday morning to work under the guidance of Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologists.

Pottery from various periods has been found during the dig, and the remains of the city's houses are being revealed. Other discoveries include a gold coin and an ancient water well. Plans for the development of



the site include the construction of a new observation tower that will

use advanced technology to display images of the tabernacle at Shilo. ■



Benji Walkathon

On Friday, 15 Iyar, 50 mechina students participated in the annual walkathon in memory of Major Benji Hillman, a mechina alumnus killed in the Second Lebanon War. The walkathon is held in Ra'anana to raise money to build "Benji's house" for lone soldiers. The students walked and ran segments of 3-10 km., and contributed much to the atmosphere of the walkathon. Afterwards they spoke with Benji's family about the continuing connection with the mechina, and ended the event with singing and dancing. ■



Learning about the government and its institutions and congratulations to our graduates

Our Chai Roi program students are preparing themselves for public service. During their academic and yeshiva studies they participate in special one-day seminars to learn about the public sector and about Israeli society.

After Pesach we held a two-day seminar in Jerusalem on "The Central Government and its Work – the government and its institutions." During this seminar the Chai Roi students met with Science and Technology Minister Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz; Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr Eyal Gabai; Government Secretary Mr. Zvi Hauser; Prof. Yossi Shain, head of Tel Aviv University's Hartog School of Government; a Foreign Ministry representative who spoke about the various job opportunities at the Foreign Ministry; and acting Civil Service

Commissioner Mr. Ehud Praver, who spoke about the challenge of serving the state.

During the seminar, the students visited the Tax Authority, and a Jerusalem assessment clerk, Mr. Avi Bechar, gave a lecture on the Tax Authority's activities and employment opportunities there.

After the lectures we thanked the speakers and presented them each with a book and a letter of appreciation for their volunteering to participate in the seminar.

In July we held a graduation ceremony for the Chai Roi program students. The rabbis congratulated the students on completing their academic and Beit Midrash studies, and wished them success in the job market. We hope that each of our graduates finds his place in the public sector and continues to contribute to Am Yisrael and the State of Israel. ■



Building homes for officers and married students

Many of our alumni who serve in the IDF, and married students who learn in the Post-Army Yeshiva and the advanced yeshiva would like to live close to the Bnei David's campus. To meet the high demand for housing, we built 6 apartments this year with the help of friends of Bnei David and we rent them to our alumni at discounted rates. The houses were built using the Iconex method, whose advanced thermal insulation system conserves energy. We have also begun construction on additional stories to houses that belong to Bnei David, to enable more families to live near Bnei David's campus. ■



Independence Day & Rav Sadan's birthday



Bat Mitzvah Project for soldiers' wives



A few months ago one of our friends, whose daughter was celebrating her Bat Mitzvah, told us he wanted to do something special for her Bat Mitzvah. Together we decided to organize a project designed to thank and encourage the wives of IDF officers living in Eli. The Bat Mitzvah girl and her friends bought toys for the soldiers' children and here in Israel gift boxes of Ahava cosmetics were purchased for the wives. The gifts were packaged together and sent to the families, with letters of appreciation and encouragement. The children and wives enjoyed the attention and were grateful for the initiative that brought them so much pleasure. We also join in saying thank you and Mazal Tov to the Bat Mitzvah girl and her family. This project joins the Tefillin lending project that this family founded last year to celebrate their eldest son's Bar Mitzvah. ■

On Independence Day, Israel and Rav Sadan – celebrated their 63rd birthday. This year Bnei David students decided to surprise Rav Sadan with a special birthday present, as they explained in their birthday greeting:

"Today is Israel's 63rd birthday and it is hard to believe this miracle that took place 63 years ago. Surprisingly, this is also your birthday.

We believe that G-d does not send souls down to earth haphazardly – everything is carefully planned, such that each soul comes into the world at the exact time when it is needed here and can use its special talents to influence its generation. The date on which each person is born is significant, as is his name, and in fact every detail of a person's life bears witness to his strengths, life mission and uniqueness. After 63 years we can see the results, the changes that have taken place in the Jewish people and the process of Geula that is knocking at our door. We learned how to be part of this process, to lead and promote it, and thus to build our world of spiritual



values and ethics. We would like to thank you for the past two years of growth and change, for instilling in us dedication to Torah and a life full of meaning, and for empowering our spiritual independence to fulfill the mitzva of "choose life". We wish you many more years of teaching Torah scholars and men of achievement.

With love and appreciation, the students of Bnei David wish you a happy birthday.

The special birthday gift the students gave Rav Sadan was a presentation of Divrei Torah from the dozens of entire tractates of Mishna and books on Jewish philosophy that the students had learned in Rav Sadan's honor. Rav Sadan was very touched and thanked the students for the best birthday present ever. ■

