

# VILLAGE WAY EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES



Dotan Levi

## ► Message from Dotan Levi,

Director, Village Way Educational Institute

It's the last of the rains of the season, and green is everywhere. Spring is beckoning to

us that Passover is almost here and you can hear the children singing: "Why is this night different?"

The Seder is, of course, different from all other evenings. It is when we come together to ask what is different.

We know that family and friends are together as free human beings. We are all participating in special traditions in order to strengthen our collective narrative. We remember that we were slaves during difficult times and that it is our responsibility to never forget this suffering.

The days during the Passover holiday are referred to as "the days of the secrets of the heart". Why? Because confidence is planted in the heart of each child when sitting among their family, singing, eating, reading and being happy.

This year, we reach out to our partners and ask educators to focus on the importance of the Seder, especially for families who are struggling. The Seder table offers youth a sense of belonging and offers adults a chance to lead as role models. After all, it takes a whole village to raise a child.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy and Healthy Passover,



## ► Educator Network is Valuable Resource in Arab Schools

Educators from Jisr a-Zarka and Mahat Acco School, both partner schools in Arab communities, participated in workshops, exchanged teaching ideas, and shared teaching styles and transformative stories in order to gain important perspective on their classroom and student successes.

Eyad Salah, Director, Mahat Acco School, said: "Teachers are the only solid thing in the lives of youth at risk. Unlike regular school teachers, who can enter a class and just focus on teaching, we must come from the heart, otherwise it doesn't work."



Educator networking provides insight.

## ► IsraElite Graduates Elevated to IDF Officers

Four graduates of the IsraElite Leadership Program for Women (Women's *Mechina*) were congratulated by Israel President Reuven "Ruvi" Rivlin for their achievement in becoming officers in the Israel Defense Forces. President Rivlin "saluted" the women on his Facebook page, which is followed by nearly 250,000 people.



IsraElite graduates are saluted.

President Rivlin said: "Not every day three new IDF officers are sworn in together, but yesterday it happened: Esther Negosa, Abacha Dasa and Hadas Tafta are all graduates of the Israeli pre-military preparatory program in Migdal HaEmek. Yesterday, they completed the officers' course, while another member of the same pre-military preparatory program in Migdal HaEmek completed the Force Hashlama. Four out of a class of 24 girls is a remarkable achievement. I'm saluting you!"

## ► Ofek Juvenile Prison Update

The staff at Ofek Juvenile Prison now has a better understanding of the teenage population at the facility, thanks to the workshops and training sessions provided by Village Way facilitators. Ofek is the only detention center in Israel for youth under 18 years of age.

VWEI staff received positive feedback from prison personnel. According to a prison social worker, the change in the interactions between guards and the prison population is a highly significant positive element to the overall prison environment. Ofek has approximately 150 juvenile inmates.

