

FOUNDATION OF ORT-OZE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Leon Bramson, together with Dr. Aron Syngalowski and Dr. David Lavovitch were the leaders and co-founders of the World ORT Union functioning in Europe.

In 1927 when Dr. Leon Bramson came to South Africa on behalf of the World ORT Union to launch a campaign he was asked to include the World Union OZE in a joint campaign. It was then not possible to launch separate campaigns.

The OZE organization, which was a health organization, were extremely short of funds and unable to conduct independent campaigns and this is how, by mutual arrangements, campaigns were launched and this was how the S. A. ORT-OZE was formed and started in 1936.

When Dr. Bramson came to South Africa in 1927, it was Richard Feldman, who was then already vitally interested in ORT, who helped Dr. Bramson conduct the campaigns throughout the Union.

Dr. Bramson had a difficult time trying to convey the message of ORT and OZE to the South African Jews and, as a result, each time he left our shores, the campaign committees disbanded.

Dr. Bramson came to South Africa again in 1931.

In 1933 when Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Freda Feldman visited Europe they persuaded Dr. Aron Syngalowski to come to South Africa to establish the ORT movement.

In 1936 Dr. Syngalowski came to South Africa for a period of almost a year, and it was during that time that Richard Feldman was instrumental in helping him form the committees for the ORT and OZE and Mr. Richard Feldman became the recognised founder of the movement in South Africa in 1936.

Freda Feldman founded the Women's ORT-OZE movement in South Africa in 1936.

Today, (1978) 42 years later, of the early committees, the following are still actively engaged in working for ORT South Africa:

Freda Feldman, Annie Jaffe, Boetie Kessel and Ray Miller.

The South African delegates to the Executive of World ORT Union are:

Mrs. Freda Feldman (Hon. Life President), Mr. Richard Goldstone (Chairman). Alternates: Mr. Basil Wunsh (Vice-President) and Mr. David Sussman (President).

Central Board: Mr. David Sussman (President of ORT South Africa)  
Mr. Basil Wunsh (Vice President of ORT South Africa)  
Mr. Richard Goldstone (Chairman of ORT South Africa)  
Mrs. Freda Feldman (Hon. Life President),  
Mrs. Rose Norwich (President of Regional Committee)  
Mrs. Blanche Glasenberg  
Mr. Hillel Turok.