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# ORT

# BULLETIN

ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING

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## Central Institute To Train Iranians

The Central ORT Institute, located at Anieres, outside Geneva, Switzerland, was originally established as a college-level educational facility for the purpose of training vocational instructors for the various ORT schools around the world.

It soon achieved renown throughout Europe as a unique pilot project. Its multi-national character is apparent, for example, from the composition of the student body, among whom are present today people from Algeria, Belgium, the Congo, France, Greece, Iran, Israel, Morocco, Switzerland and Tunisia.

### New Projects

In recent years, the institute has expanded its functions in many directions. The latest of these is the establishment of a teacher training project of two-year duration for 15 Iranians. The project is sponsored by the Swiss Government as part of its technical aid to developing nations.

The 15 students, five of whom are graduates of the ORT school in Teheran, were selected by a committee representing the Iranian Ministry of Education, the Swiss Embassy in Teheran, the ILO and ORT-Iran.

## National Conference Spotlights Critical Overseas Requirements

In a sequence of spirited sessions, which culminated in a gala evening dinner affair, delegates and guests to the 41st National Conference of American ORT, ranged over a broad series of problems facing the overseas program in the next period.

Over 500 persons attended the all-day meeting which took place January 20th in New York City.

### Triple Theme

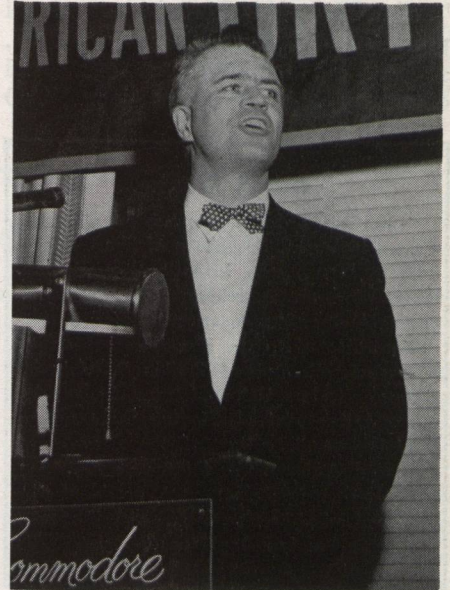
Three intermeshing themes were dominant;

- The sharp crisis in France, created by the influx of over 100,000 Algerian refugees and the resulting massive challenge to the ORT schools to meet a rising avalanche of training and education needs.

- The urgency of rapidly extending ORT services in Israel to large, new segments of immigrant youth, through the medium of a stepped-up apprentice program.

- The necessity of strengthening the membership and organization of ORT within the American community in order to make possible greater response to the growing financial requirements of the program.

Dr. William Haber, president, reporting on the effects of the Algerian immigration to France, underscored the particular problems of the youth among them. He described them as "an almost-lost generation, which is too old for admission to the regular French public schools and too young for admission to the state adult programs."



U. S. Assistant Secretary of State, G. Mennen Williams, addressing the National Conference

## Message from President Kennedy

It is a pleasure to greet the delegates to the National Conference of the American Organization for Rehabilitation through Training Federation and to thank all your members for their efforts on behalf of the peoples of the 19 countries in which your vocational training programs have proved so effective.

Through your educational programs you have provided many thousands with the technical and industrial skills which enable them to become productive members of their communities and to achieve a significant measure of self-respect and personal well-being.

Your new programs in West Africa, which have been developed in cooperation with the Agency for International Development, deserve special commendation. They provide these new nations with your years of vocational training experience—so vital to the economic, educational and technological progress of the people of these emerging countries.

With all good wishes for continuing success in your humanitarian efforts to provide hope as well as practical help to the underprivileged and the homeless around the world.

John F. Kennedy

Julius Hochman, vice-president, was chairman of the afternoon plenary session of the Board of Directors which voted a budget indicative of the grave, critical pressures for enlargement of ORT responsibilities and services.

*Details of ORT financing for 1963 are given on Page 5.*

Pres. John F. Kennedy, in a message to the conference, said: "Your new programs in West Africa, which have been developed in cooperation with the Agency for International Development, deserve special commendation. They provide these new

*(Continued on page 2)*

# National Conference Acts

(Continued from page 1)

nations with your vocational training experience”.

Guest of honor at the evening dinner, G. Mennen Williams, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, declared: “ORT is exceptionally well prepared to undertake tasks in the newly emerging nations of Africa during the Decade of Development, in view of its experience in North Africa and similar developing areas.”

Harry Greenberg, Administrative Committee Chairman, announced significant forward strides in the field of membership and organization. He noted in particular a new focus on the formation of men's chapters, which has begun to produce results, and reported on the successful fulfillment of a special effort last year for funds to meet the Algerian emergency in France.

Mrs. Helen M. Rosenberg, national president of Women's American ORT, stressed the continuing upward spiral of growth which has now given WAO



Samuel H. Daroff, honorary national chairman of the UJA, receives 25th anniversary scroll at the National Conference dinner, from Adolph Held, AOF Vice-President

ishment of a project for programmed instruction at the Central ORT Institute in Switzerland, which he heads; by John F. Davidson, chairman of the National Legacy Committee, on progress in this field; and other reports by John Moss of Chicago on the procurement of machinery for the overseas schools; and by Charles Levinson, director of ORT technical assistance, on the projects now in operation in Guinea and Mali, under contract with the U.S. Government.

## UJA Presentation

One of the most stirring moments at the evening dinner was the presentation by Adolph Held, vice-president, to Samuel Daroff, Honorary Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. Mr. Held recalled the origins of this great unifying instrument of American Jewry and gave Mr. Daroff a scroll honoring the achievements of UJA on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

An album of photographs of the new Marseilles ORT School was accepted by John F. Davidson on behalf of Murray Seasongood of Cincinnati, in appreciation of his efforts for this school.

Shlomo Argov, Israeli Consul, brought the greetings of Israel and of the Ambassador to the U.N., Michael Comay, who had been recalled for consultations to Jerusalem and was therefore unable to attend.

# Men's Groups Hold Workshop Session

This year's chapter workshop, the annual assembly of delegates from men's groups around the country that is customarily held at the time of the National Conference, was by far the best attended and most productive held to date.

Workshop chairman was Marvin Schermer of Cleveland, standing in for Joseph Spivack, national membership chairman. Practical steps taken this past year to increase the resources assigned to membership indicate the new status given this activity.

## Looking Ahead

The delegates adopted a forward looking perspective, stressing growth of present groups, but giving top attention to the formation of new chapters in new areas. The organization of chapters in Marblehead, Mass., Bethpage, N.Y. and Los Angeles in the recent period was welcomed as an indication of the potential for such development.

Morton K. Rosenbloom of Boston was accorded recognition for his exceptional efforts in that chapter and in particular for his initiative in the formation of the Marblehead group.

Considerable attention was given to new concepts of men's organization keyed to the establishment of leading committees of men of a community representative type.

## Board Elects

The Board of Directors meeting elected Mrs. Helen M. Rosenberg of Short Hills, New Jersey, who is national president of Women's American ORT, a vice-president of the American ORT Federation. Elected to the Board were Martin Gerber, director of Region 9, United Auto Workers Union; Jerome J. Jacobson, attorney of Washington, D.C.; Allen Kleinman, an officer of the Cleveland group; Arthur Netter, attorney of New York; Dr. Marvin Schermer, president of Cleveland's Men's ORT; and Ronald Silverton of Los Angeles.

a membership of almost 65,000, organized into 421 chapters.

The 20th anniversary of the Bramson ORT Trade School in New York City was announced by Joseph Tuvim, school chairman, who on the occasion presented members of the school staff and its most ardent worker, Mrs. Maria Kopeliovitich, with ORT Merit Awards. He reported that the school had given trade instruction to 14,000 persons in the course of its two decades.

Indicative of the broad scope of subject matter reviewed were reports by Dr. Robert E. Silverman, chairman of the Department of Psychology at New York University, on the estab-

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THROUGH TRAINING

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OFFICERS—Dr. William Haber, President; George Backer, Honorary President; Mark Carter, Adolph Held, Max Herzfeld, Julius Hochman, Louis Hollander, Mrs. Ludwig Kaplan, Mrs. Max M. Rosenberg, David Rosenstein, William R. Sinkin, Vice-Presidents; Charles Kreindler, Secretary; Alexander Dolowitz, Treasurer; George J. Mintzer, Chairman Exec. Comm.; Julius Hochman, Vice-Chairman Exec. Comm.; Harry Greenberg, Chairman Admin. Comm.; Paul Bernick, Executive Director. The American ORT Federation represents the World ORT Union, with which it is affiliated, in the United States. ORT is devoted to the vocational training and economic reconstruction of Jews throughout the world. The American ORT Federation currently receives its funds from the Joint Distribution Committee, a member agency of the United Jewish Appeal, and from membership dues.

# Plight of the Algerian Jew

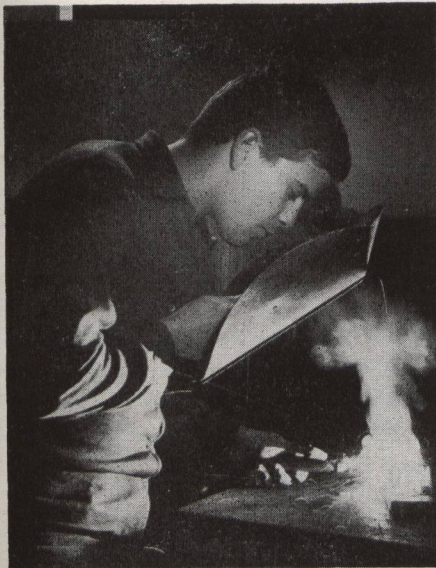
by Maurice Edelman

British Member of Parliament

Writing in the London Jewish Chronicle

The tragedy of the Algerian Jews is a double one. As Frenchmen, they are refugees from a country where they were co-opted into citizenship under the Cremieux Decree of the middle of the last century.

As Jews, they have abandoned the soil where they have been indigenes since Roman times. They have been obliged to leave the land in which they were far more native than many Moslems, and have now sought sanctuary in Metropolitan France, a homeland which most of them have never seen.



From the Streets of Algiers to the Pletzl of Paris — Welding student at the ORT Ecole de Travail.

From the *mellahs* of the small towns in southern Algeria, as well as from the sophisticated Rue Michelet of Algiers itself, they have come by sea and by air to a country where they have to make new roots in an atmosphere where friendliness exists side by side with the hostility and mistrust which the O.A.S has evoked among millions of Metropolitan Frenchmen.

The burden of the Algerian Jew is a heavy one. He has to bear the odium of a stranger, reinforced by the unpopularity of unwelcome associations—the Right-wing ultras of Algeria—from whom he himself suffered grievously in the past.

For most Algerian Jews, the port of entry into France has been Marseilles.

Here, the domestic Jewish population of 10,000 has been swollen to a total of 100,000 men, women and children—refugees from Algeria, who have arrived possessed of hardly anything but the clothes they wear.

The French Government has made great efforts to help the new refugees. It has set up reception centers in order to find lodgings and work for the destitute.

## Community Aid

The Jewish community of France has also sent teams of helpers to assist the refugees, who have arrived with the same terrors and some of the same hopes as the refugees from Tzarist pogroms arrived in East London in the early part of this century.

The problem for all the expatriate *piets noirs* is a grievous one. But most of the Jews, apart from the professionally qualified of Algiers and Oran,

were small artisans with primitive equipment and undeveloped skills. These constitute a major problem of rehabilitation and integration.

The task which ORT has shouldered is to help in rehabilitating the refugee Jews, and to try to give them technical training of a kind which will enable them to face the future with confidence.

## Good Prospects

In the expanding economy of France today, I have every reason to hope that the industry and intelligence of the Algerian Jewish refugees can be put to a productive and useful purpose. But it requires the active help of organizations which seek to prevent these Jews from becoming a decaying refugee community and instead seeks to revitalize them with hope, through training.

ORT's work in retraining adults and providing trade schools and apprenticeship programs for the Algerian refugees is one which deserves the support of every Jew in the world who wants to substitute for the image of the ghetto Jew the new image of the Jew as a worker making a productive contribution to society.

# Report from India

by Robin Gilbert

Director, ORT India

It may seem strange that ORT has chosen to start a program for Jewish youth in India—a country which has such a tiny Jewish population, some 22,000. However, economic conditions are such that an ORT education can have a beneficial effect on the lives of a great many Jewish families.

There is, on the one hand, a Jewish youth unable to afford to stay at school after matriculation. Unequipped with any practical training, many school graduates are unemployed; and even those who have managed to get a college education often end up by joining the vast labor force which can aspire to nothing better than becoming office clerks, with white collars but poor earnings.

## Skills Spell Jobs

On the other hand, with the recent industrial expansion in India there is a desperate shortage of skilled technical personnel. Such is the need for skills that anyone who is equipped with an

ORT diploma can be assured of a decent job. Bombay in particular, where most Indian Jews live, is in the midst of rapid industrialization.

The ORT program opened in Bombay at the beginning of 1962 with evening classes in English, mathematics and mechanical drawing, conducted by local teachers.

It is intended to open the first full-time courses within the next few months, starting with a section in mechanics and a section in industrial design. A building for the new vocational school is under construction.

For the first time in ORT's history, this particular project is a joint venture with the Joint Distribution Committee. The Director of ORT India is also the representative of the JDC, and at the same time that the ORT school is being established the JDC is supporting other welfare projects which directly affect thousands of Indian Jews.

# THE ORT PROGRAM IN NINETEEN COUNTRIES DURING 1962

**NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS,  
TEACHERS AND  
TRAINING UNITS**



## ENROLLMENT BY TYPE OF TRAINING

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND TRAINING UNITS			ENROLLMENT BY TYPE OF TRAINING						
	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TEACHING STAFF	TRAINING UNITS	2-4 YEAR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS	TRAINING WORKSHOPS	VOCATIONAL COURSES	MANUAL TRAINING COURSES	TRAINING FARMS	IN-PLANT TRAINING	APPRENTICE and PRE-APPR. PLANS
Algeria	299	21	11	183		90				26
Argentina	251	17	13	16	198	8	29			
Austria	305	8	10		279	26				
Belgium	481	6	9	30	36		415			
Brazil	90	4	5		90					
England	9	1	1					9		
France	4,002	157	71	1,519	552	829				1,102
Holland	373	8	15		91	12	270			
India	42	2	2			42				
Iran	1,791	46	20	603	12	48	1,128			
Israel	16,277	698	144	9,001	2,728					4,548
Italy	3,192	56	72	336	92	2,119	645			
Morocco	4,274	85	46	1,738	52	242	291			1,951
Poland	2,982	73	114		942	297	961		782	
South Africa	750									750
Tunisia	1,966	41	32	556	315	199				896
Uruguay	193	11	6	16	129	48				
U.S.A.	723	4	3		723					
Switzerland Central Institute	176	15	5	132		44				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,176</b>	<b>1,253*</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>14,130</b>	<b>6,239</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>3,739</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>9,273</b>

\*OF WHOM 657 ARE PART TIME.

# 1963 Perspectives and Finances

Uprooted and displaced by the swirl of political and economic upheavals, over 200,000 Jews became migrants and refugees last year. For a comparable migration one has to go back to the records of more than a decade ago. The impact of this vast movement will sharply affect the activities of ORT in 1963.

While response to the needs of newcomers in their lands of settlement, particularly in Israel and France, will necessitate large scale and carefully prepared special programs, the basic network of ORT schools will likewise step up its vocational education and training services.

This long term trend, reflecting the dynamic impact of changing technology on the educational needs and interests of Jewish youth, is indicated, for example, by the 300 percent rise in enrollment of adolescent aged youngsters in the three and four year ORT technical and vocational schools in Israel, Europe, North Africa and Iran during the past decade.

## Two Directions

Projections for ORT in 1963 reflect both this historic direction, which is remaking the Jewish occupational pattern in many areas, as well as the immediate emergency created by the latest migrations.

*For the Algerians in France . . .* The new school opened in Marseilles last year doubled the number in training there. The 1963 outlook is for the addition of adult classes, expanded apprenticeship, construction of additional facilities and even greater squeeze on those now in operation.

At the Montreuil school in Paris, 16 emergency courses were instituted; total enrollment exceeded 1,000. Although already packed tight beyond capacity, inevitably ways will have to be found for more of the newcomers.

Agreement has been reached with the French Government for ORT to open a new school for Algerian refugees in Toulouse . . . Discussions are

underway for another training center at Villiers-le-Bel, one of the Paris suburbs that has become a major refugee settlement.

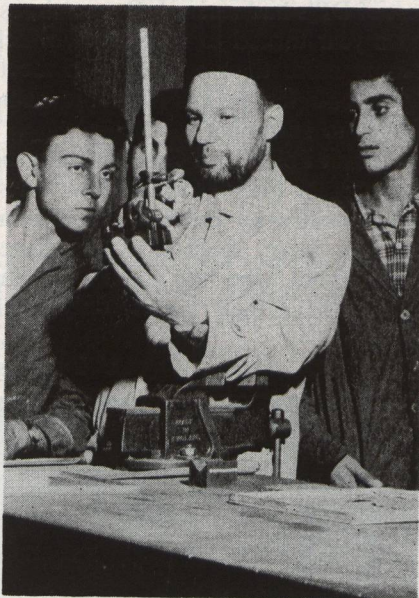
At the *Ecole de Travail*, located in the old Jewish quarter of Paris, student enrollment jumped 60% in 1962 . . . This school is specially designed to serve North Africans and will grow in 1963.

*Growth in Israel . . .* Over 16,000 persons received instruction at the ORT centers in Israel in 1962. This year's enrollment may reach close to a phenomenal 20,000.

## Major Advance

Biggest advance is expected in the apprentice program, with the development of large, new centers in Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. Training of Yeshiva students will increase. The schools at Nazareth, Beersheba, Haifa barely begun last year — will assume fuller dimension.

The entire network of trade high schools, technical institutes, pre-apprentice schools, adult programs, ye-



Skills for Yeshiva bocherim, a new undertaking of ORT in Israel.

shiva and apprentice training may be expected to maintain an across the board development.

*North Africa and Iran . . .* The ORT schools in Iran will continue to respond to the quickening industrialization, while the programs in Morocco and Tunisia may be expected to adapt their operations to changing conditions.

*Next step in India . . .* The new school in Bombay is expected to reach completion shortly.

## International Meeting

Jewish leaders from five continents assembled in Geneva, Switzerland on January 27th-28th for the annual budget session of the World ORT Union executive committee. The noted French statesman Daniel Mayer is committee chairman. U. S. representatives present included Dr. William Haber, Mrs. Alexander Konoff, Mrs. Helen M. Rosenberg and Paul Bernick.

Max A. Braude, Director-General, summarizing the previous year of ORT work, warned that, although the last period was a time of "adjustment, planning and accomplishment", nevertheless, the tasks lying ahead are of the most urgent nature and the funds will have to be found to accomplish them "or it may be too late".

*The overall view . . .* Some 40,000 persons will enroll in a network of 600 training units, serving Jewish communities in 19 countries.

Preliminary estimate of the cost of these activities is over \$7,700,000. A \$250,000 increase over 1962 is budgeted for France in view of the special circumstances there.

Under terms of an agreement with the Joint Distribution Committee, ORT will receive \$1,950,000. This pact is the sixteenth such consecutive agreement between the two organizations. The JDC grant will be provided from income of the United Jewish Appeal, and in part from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Women's American ORT has for many years been the second largest contributor to the international ORT budget. This largest ORT membership organization has set a target of almost a million dollars.

## Local Support

One of the distinctive features of ORT financing is the portion met in the communities served. Thus, in 1963, 45.8 percent, or \$3,641,200 is expected from governments and communities where the schools are located.

At the same time, ORT organizations in other countries, such as Canada, England, Switzerland, Scandinavia and South Africa will do their part for an anticipated \$793,000.

The sum of all these presently planned efforts would leave a yawning gap of \$264,000, a severe deficit that can only be diminished by efforts on a larger scale than ever before within the American Jewish community.

# And Still They Come . . .

## The Unfinished Business of Aiding Newcomers to the U.S.

WHEN, ON A WINTRY afternoon in October 1942, the Bramson ORT Trade School opened its doors in a tiny loft tucked away on Canal Street in downtown New York, it was expected to make short shrift of its job and go out of business.

The school's aim was to give vocational training in garment skills to Jews who had escaped the Hitler juggernaut and had arrived in the U.S. before the wartime barriers shut down tight.

### Portents

Fifty-four persons enrolled in the first classes. The great majority were German and Austrian Jews, but the handwriting on the wall was already apparent. Thus, in this first group were to be found Jews from Holland, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Lithuania and Russia, the first blasts on the roll call of communities caught in the destructive tide.

In retrospect, it is clear that the school's establishment fits into a particular historic slot of Jewish life, what might be termed the "tooling up" phase; those institutions that were to achieve full utility in the massive post-war rehabilitation of the European survivors were being blocked out.

Only a bit earlier, another ORT school had already gone into operation in New York, this one devoted to mechanical trades. Wherever numbers of escapees and survivors were able to find haven—from Havana to Shanghai and from Montreal to Santiago—other ORT schools, were organized including the extensive network within the DP camps themselves. All have long since closed down.

### 20 Years Later

Not so the Bramson School. A few months ago, this institution, now located on the fringe of the garment district, celebrated its twentieth anniversary with classrooms packed to capacity, students standing in the anteroom for a chance at one of the advanced machines, and a waiting list for several of its advanced courses. A report of a few weeks ago states laconically: "in order to accommodate the overflow of applicants for Merrow machine operation,

it was necessary to reduce the sessions from two hours to one."

Two decades later, and eighteen years after the fall of Hitler, this school is still serving refugees.

In the interval, 14,000 persons from two score countries have passed through its courses on the way to resolving that most anguished and frightening obstacle faced by a newcomer in a strange land, learning the ways of work and getting his first job.

The successive waves that swept through the school read like a catalogue of the human displacements which have caused this period to be described as the Era of the Refugee.

### Post-War Tide

After the German-Austrian refugees, came people admitted under special wartime Presidential dispensation, followed after the war by the DP's. High tide was 1949-52, when the full crest of DP's had arrived. Over a thousand a year turned to the school, which became more than a school—a meeting ground for people with the same hurdles to surmount.

Yiddish Polish and German were the languages of instruction in those days, made possible by the fact that the instructors were themselves graduates of the school, who had come along the same path as their pupils, only a bit earlier.

Eleanora Scherer, director for most



A newcomer of the sixties at the Bramson ORT school in New York.

of the 20 year period, was a graduate of the school's very first class, and had come from Poland. The present director, Helen Lowe, also a graduate, came from Germany. The link with industry is indicated by the fact that school chairman is Joseph Tuvim, manager of the Neckwear Union, I.L.G.W.U.

### Migration Pattern

As migration tapered off in the early fifties, so did the number of applicants. Late in 1956, however, came the Hungarian uprising and the arrival in the U.S. of some 5,000 Jews among the Hungarian "parolees". Activity at the school immediately spurted. Hungarian Jews to this day form a considerable part of the student body, as many who, for a multitude of personal reasons were not previously ready for training, arrive at the point where it becomes a necessity.

Who are the newcomers of the sixties? Leon is from Cuba. He does not claim to have been persecuted, just that life under Castro became intolerable. He used to sell jewelry in Havana. Now he tries to eke out a living as a piano teacher, but feels he must have a trade with a future.

Manuel was a tie manufacturer in Buenos Aires. He thinks he may be again, once he learns American ways of production.

Simone is from Alexandria, Egypt, a woman of culture and education, accustomed to a comfortable way of life, which Nasser brought to an end. Now, she has to become the breadwinner for herself and two youngsters.

### From All Over

Joel and Hannah are from Eastern Europe. In a very real sense, they have been transients for the past 20 years. They have been waiting that long to get out of Europe and come to the U.S. They have just made it and, at ages of 55 and 48 respectively, are trying to start life anew.

Bramson school enrollment is like a seismograph of the unrelenting upheavals that continue to displace Jews from their homes. Last year, some 8,000 Jews came to the U.S. This year, as a result of some liberalization of the law, about 9,000 are expected. Hundreds of them will turn to the school for aid in acquiring a trade and a job.

Twenty years after, the job remains unfinished.

### Philadelphia Elects

Philadelphia Men's ORT held its 7th annual installation at the Royal Oaks Country Club in Ambler, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, February 3rd. Certificates of Merit, in recognition of outstanding service, were presented to Jack Wagman, Edward Yanowitz and Jack Kauffman. A gold pin commemorating his leadership was presented to Lester Lang, outgoing president.

Leading the chapter in 1963 are: *president* — David Rudolph; *vice-president and chairman of the ways and means committee* — Jack Wagman; *vice-presidents* — Edward Yanowitz and Nathan Birenbaum; *recording secretary* — Marvin Goldberg; *financial secretary* — Morris Adlersberg; *corresponding secretary* — Herbert Jacobson; *treasurer* — Jack Kaufman; *chairman of the board of directors* — Lester Lang; *representative to the national executive committee* — Max Gershman; *member of the national board of directors* — Irving Roth.



### Yvette of Ouezanne - Prize Winner

Yvette is a long way from home. Ouezanne where she was born, lies in the mountain region to the north, a far cry from the modern city of Casablanca. And from the hovel where she had lived with her family, it is an even greater distance to the cheerful dormitory at the girls' ORT school.

To Yvette, these past two years at the school have been so transforming, so decisive for her view of herself and her outlook on the world, that the

Ouezanne of her childhood has become somewhat dim, as if belonging to another.

In the bleak room off the alleyway where the family was crushed together, maintaining a semblance of order, of cleanliness, was a constant struggle. Perhaps that is why Yvette was so attracted to a new course in window trimming begun about the time she came to the ORT school. It involved a good sense of design, arrangement and color, all of which she discovered she had. It was also a new profession for women and was in accord with her new found sense of liberation.

Not long ago, Air France sponsored a contest for the best design for a window display. The theme, not unexpectedly: Paris in the spring. Yvette, along with three fellow ORT students, decided to enter. She and a classmate were awarded prizes in the first category. She was a top winner. She saw her name in the newspapers, her talents publicly rewarded. Yvette of Ouezanne has indeed come a long way.

### Joseph Gold

The officers of American ORT Federation deeply mourn the passing of Joseph Gold, member of the executive committee and board of directors. Mr. Gold was for many years an active and devoted officer of American Labor ORT, representing the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. Quiet and modest in manner, he was a completely dedicated and idealistic human being. We shall miss him.

### Los Angeles Affair Honors John Ulene

By far the largest and most impressive affair in the history of Los Angeles Labor ORT took place on January 27th. It was a double barreled occasion — anniversary of the organization's first decade and of the leadership during that period by its chairman, John Ulene, as well as his 60th birthday. More than 300 persons crowded the hall, overflowing into adjoining rooms.

Mr. Ulene, Manager of the L.A. Dress and Sportswear Joint Board, ILGWU, was greeted by a long roll

call of speakers and messages. Samuel Otto, I.L.G.W.U vice-president and its Pacific Coast Director, served as Master of Ceremonies. The roster of salutes was led by Gov. Brown and Reps. Roosevelt and Wilson. Ernest E. Debs, presented a plaque in the name of the County Board of Supervisors.

The animated program included addresses by Harry Lang of the Jewish Daily Forward; Harry Bloch of the ACWA; Isidore Stenzor of the ILG Joint Board; Samuel Milman, Executive Secretary of American Labor ORT; Max B. Wolf, Callie Williams and Samuel Schwartz of the Dress and Sportswear Joint Board; Mr. Ulene's son, Howard; Mark Carter, Vice-President of American ORT Federation; Joel Litewka, the group's secretary; and many others.

Mr. Ulene received a presentation from the Labor ORT chapter and in his response declared that the finest honor he could be given would be greater devotion to building the ORT organization.



Ernest E. Debs, right, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, pays tribute to Labor ORT chairman, John Ulene.

# The UJA Record . . . At the Quarter Century Mark

On November 3, 1938, a Jewish student in Paris, Herschel Grynzpan, in protest against Nazi persecution of the Jews, shot and killed Ernst Vom Rath, a German consular official in the French capital. It offered the Nazis a pretext to set off a brutal pogrom on November 9 to 10, which became known as the "Kristall Nacht".

In addition to beatings and killings, the Nazis burned or destroyed every synagogue in Germany, destroyed Jewish homes, offices and businesses by the hundreds.

## "Kristall Nacht"

Outraged by the Nazi savagery, leaders of American Jewry concluded that, to fully enlist the necessary resources to meet the crisis, a single, centralized fund-raising body was imperative. Before the glass of "Kristall Nacht" was swept up, representatives of the United Palestine Appeal, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the National Coordinating Committee organized the United Jewish Appeal.

In coming together, they put aside former rivalries and differences of opinion on how best to aid Jews in need overseas.

Proof that the unified objective of the new organization had the backing of the community was provided in the very first campaign, which was launched in January, 1939. The three agencies had, during the previous year, raised \$7,000,000 in separate drives. The first united effort netted the unprecedented sum of \$15,200,000. This was the beginning of U.J.A.

But before the campaign was con-

cluded, Hitler's forces had rolled over Poland and were herding Poland's Jews into ghettos. For the next six years, the unprecedented violence of war and the unprecedented destruction of humanity formed the backdrop for desperate efforts of salvation.

## Reconstruction

The end of World War II brought with it the revelation of the tragedy that befell European Jewry — the death of 6,000,000 Jews killed by Hitler. Beside this overwhelming fact, all efforts, no matter how extraordinary they had seemed, appeared pale and dwarflike.

American Jewry now decided to look ahead to the tremendous job of rehabilitating and resettling the "remnant" of European Jewry that had survived the holocaust.

## Camp Era

More than 250,000 Jews languished in the demoralizing DP camps while one international committee after another "investigated," while one Allied country after another "studied," the possibilities of immigration. Alerted to the needs of the refugees, the American community, continued to respond with fantastic generosity. At the same time, an outpouring of good will as well as dollars served to solidify the very real sense of partnership that was developing between American Jews and the Jews of Palestine.

This relationship was climaxed with the establishment of the State of Israel. In dollars and cents terms American Jewry expressed its solidarity with



**Flight** — the 25 years of UJA have been an almost continuous story of Jewish migration . . . and organized effort to resettle and rehabilitate the migrants.

Israel's people and the 250,000 Jewish DP's by contributing in 1948 the greatest sum of money ever gathered in its history—\$148,000,000.

Support to Jews in distress and danger has been the cornerstone of U.J.A. The entire fund raising apparatus it created has had but this one purpose. During its first twenty-four years, the UJA raised almost one and a half billion dollars. This sum, perhaps the largest ever achieved by a voluntary agency, has been utilized by its beneficiary agencies to provide direct assistance to 3,000,000 Jewish men, women and children. Through ORT alone, almost a half million were rehabilitated occupationally.

All this has been but prelude to the vast work of human rehabilitation that remains the continuing need of tomorrow.

**ORT BULLETIN**  
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