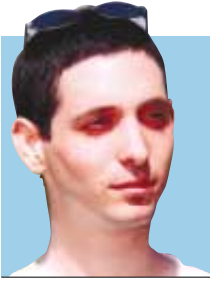


WORLD ORT TIMES



Up close and personal with ORT students
p4-5

Art of the Holocaust project launched
p7



Solidarity Mission reinforces ORT's dedication to State of Israel



A student at ORT Yad Levovich in Netanya sings during the memorial service held for the school's students who were killed in terrorist attacks.



Mothers of the ORT students killed in terrorist attacks read letters of condolences sent to them by people from around the world.

FROM 31 AUGUST until 4 September, ORT layleaders and professionals participated in an intensive Solidarity Mission to Israel.

ORT has, unfortunately, not remained unaffected by the current troubles in Israel. Displaying support for Israel during these difficult times, ORT layleaders and professional staff travelled to Israel, sending a message that the Jewish homeland will not be neglected at a time when it needs not just financial assistance from

Diaspora Jews, but also moral and emotional support.

Mission participant and First Vice President of Women's American ORT Judy Menikoff has travelled to Israel many times as a participant and as a leader of Women's American ORT missions. She has participated as a member of the Board of Directors of World ORT, and most recently this past April, as part of a Women's American ORT's Solidarity Delegation. "The situation demands that we dem-

onstrate our solidarity with the members of the ORT Israel family," Menikoff said. "Israel is central to Jewish life. Women's American ORT's solidarity with Israel, and strong desire for its well-being, remain unshakable. The ORT Israel programme is vital to Israel's strength and prosperity."

Chairman of ORT Belgium Eric Osterweil said that it was important for him to take part in the mission because he said he was aware of the Israelis' great

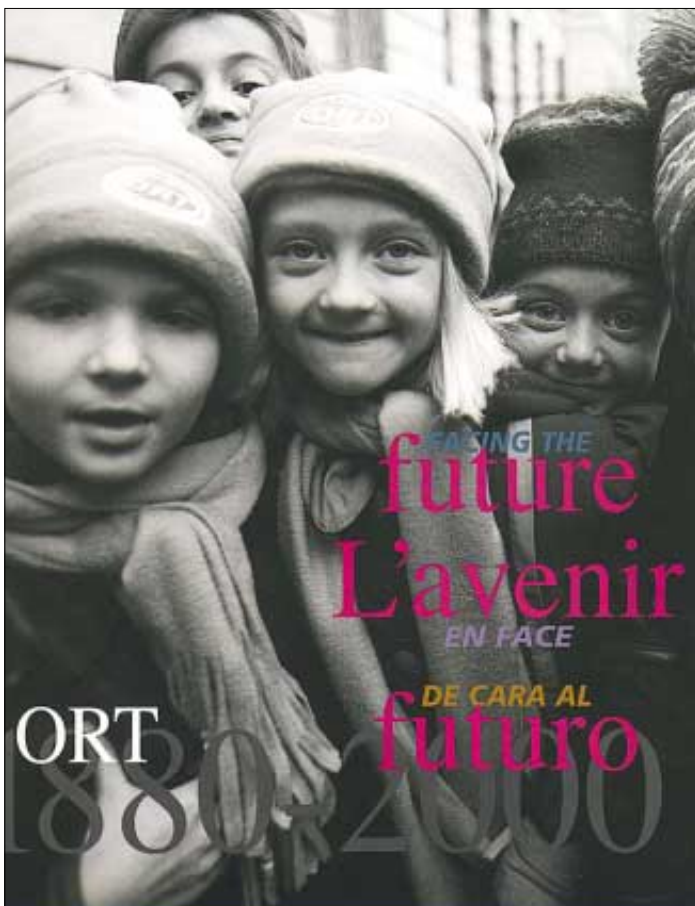
disappointment in the Diaspora Jews' failure to physically come to their aid. "I am a part of this mission because it constitutes a much-needed expression of support for Israel," Osterweil said. "Many American Jewish groups have cancelled organised visits or attendance at summer camps for their young people. Visiting Israel at the earliest opportunity is necessary and to go as part of a group such as ORT has more impact than just going alone." Uppermost in the minds of

Israelis is the question of security. ORT was in the headlines in May when a car bomb was detonated outside the ORT Yad Levovich School in Netanya. It was designed to harm as many people as possible but, thankfully, went off at a time when few people were in the vicinity. There were no serious injuries. However, two days later two of the pupils at the school, 14 year-old Maria Taglichev and 15 year-old Raisa Nemirovsky were among the 21 children killed

during the discotheque suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. Less than two weeks after that, another pupil of the school was shot as he was travelling home.

Director General of World ORT Robert Singer commented that terror can strike anywhere, and that all possible precautions have to be taken to protect ORT staff and students. "The children at the ORT schools in Israel are part of your family; of our family," Singer told mission participants. "They need to know that

and ORT Israel in particular, is people as well as programmes. ORT Israel's 'normality' in this period of crisis offers both stability and hope for its students, their families, the communities in which they operate, and the country itself," Menikoff said. "This mission has given us an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment, personally, organisationally and morally in support for the ORT Israel network."



THE STORY OF ORT, founded 120 years ago in Tsarist Russia, is told through wonderful archive material in this anniversary volume, now available in English with translations in French, Hebrew, Spanish and Russian.

Over 200 photographs with texts available in five languages tells the story of this exceptional charitable organisation that has delivered education and training to bring dignity and self-sufficiency to people in the more than 100 countries past and present.

The book is available from ORT offices worldwide.

ORT leaders in America give perspective on September 11 attacks

THE OFFICES OF American ORT and Women's American ORT, two of the largest fundraising organisations that support ORT operations throughout the world, are located in Manhattan. Though not damaged, American ORT's office on Broadway is just a short distance away from the scene of total devastation that befell the city.

It is too soon to tell what the possible ramifications for ORT will be in the coming months as a result of the attack. Both American organisations have been emphatic in reinforcing that they will not let terror stand in the way of ORT's mission.

Executive Director of Women's American ORT Alice Herman was at the Women's American ORT offices in New York City on 11 September. She describes what she and her staff experienced: "WAO staff experienced the horror as we alternated between our office fire escape and the conference room television. From the fire escape we had a direct line-of-sight view of the north tower of the World Trade Centre with a gaping hole where the first plane hit. We stared in disbelief. We were watching the television in order to understand what had happened. When the second plane hit Tower 2, it was too much to absorb at the time, except that it struck like a lightning bolt and it was apparent that this was an act of terrorism.

The next wave of shock and disbelief, when we already thought that we had seen the worst, was watching as the buildings began to buckle then collapse from within. Immediately we understood that the number of people trapped inside must be in the thousands. And of course immediately



Carol Linch

thereafter, the frantic phone calls as staff realised that certain loved ones were likely to have been in the WTC area that morning. I am thankful to report that WAO staff did not lose any immediate family. However, many of us lost friends or relatives and all are consoling others who suffered losses.

Despite the magnitude of this horrific attack, with over 6000 people lost, a sampling of WAO leadership indicates to me that our members are determined not to let September 11's terrorism change our lives. People are drawn to find ways to help in the recovery effort and to support the families of victims. At the same time, the value of human life has been brought to our hearts in a new way, and I sense a renewed dedication to help others beyond the reaches of the destruction. Of course, the wonderful work that ORT does around the world speaks to this



Robert Sill

goal exactly, and I believe that we will see renewed dedication by WAO members to give and raise money to improve quality of life for ORT students around the world."

Carol Linch, President of Women's American ORT writes: "I was at home in Chicago, on the Internet. Information and reactions poured in from all over the world. Emerging through the tears and terror was a very real sense that life had just changed forever. I can find some comfort in knowing that the majority of citizens of the world stand with us in mourning, and united against the tactics of terrorism."

Robert Sill, President of American ORT was with the World ORT Mission in Moldova, on a bus, when he heard the news of the attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon. "It was such shocking news. Everywhere we went, everyone we met, including

the Mayor of Kishinev, were expressing condolences to me. The horror of what had occurred, as well as their sensitivity and concern for me as an American, affected me greatly and gave me a very different experience than what most Americans had. When I came to New York for the American ORT meetings, it was nonetheless unbelievable to see the skyline of lower Manhattan without the Twin Towers.

"The aim of terrorism is not only to kill indiscriminately, but to create a climate of fear and disrupt our daily lives. American ORT cannot and will not give in to terrorism. We will not cancel our autumn events, and in fact we held our Accountants and Bankers event in New York City and it was well attended. The horrendous attack on America does not diminish the real and urgent needs of ORT's worldwide network of schools and training centres, which are providing quality education for 300,000 students. There is no better tribute we can make to those who have fallen than to move forward with a new resolve."

"American ORT is also announcing a new scholarship programme with Bramson ORT College in Queens and Brooklyn, NY to come to the aid of those families whose primary breadwinners were lost in the World Trade Centre tragedy or whose livelihoods disappeared in the smoke and dust - both those who worked in and around the complex as well as the policemen, firemen and rescue workers who were caught up in the disaster. American ORT is raising funds to provide job training and counselling as well as placement assistance to all those who need it."

A Message from the Director General



This past year has been a traumatic one for the ORT family but it has also been a year in which we have made many notable achievements. This mixture is reflected in the stories that appear in this issue of World ORT Times.

In Israel, we witnessed the tragic deaths of three of our students and five of our alumni in terrorist attacks. Many others experienced the pain of having family and friends killed or injured, and everyone in the country has to remain in a heightened state of vigilance in the face of continued terrorist activity. Our Solidarity Mission to Israel in September demonstrated our commitment to the continued survival of the Jewish State and the ORT education system that is so vital to its industrial success. We are also launching a new international campaign to raise funds to replace the vast sums that have to be diverted from educational use, to security.

Even as I write these words, the world is dealing with the aftermath of the latest terrorist outrage that caused such immense devastation and loss of life in the United States. It is not yet clear how these events will impact on our own organisation, but it is apparent that many of our friends in America have suffered personal or financial loss. We extend our most heartfelt sympathy to the grieving families.

Elsewhere in the world, in Argentina and other countries of Latin America the economic situation continues to decline, placing enormous financial stress on the community and on our schools. On July 12 a fire broke out in our school in Kazan, Tatarstan, severely damaging the building and rendering it completely uninhabitable. It is quite possible that the fire was started deliberately. Once again, the world ORT family has responded to these challenges by providing active and focussed support.

During the 121 years of our organisation's history we have had to face up to many dark days, but we have always triumphed and we will continue to do so. The evidence can be seen in our archive collection, which is being carefully documented by our staff in London. We have prevailed because we have been determined to respond to the challenges that have faced us and to maintain our vital mission of Educating for Life. Is there any other organisation that has been working for the benefit of the Jewish people for so long with such success, in so many different countries?

We can see the value of the work we do when we look at the tens of thousands of people throughout the world who point to our organisation and say, "Thanks to you, I am able to live my life with dignity". Some of them tell their stories in this issue. And we can also be heartened by the wonderful stories of our students – some of whom were nominated to receive the Gina Harmatz Award – who enrich the lives of others, demonstrating the qualities of *chesed* – kindness, that are so much part of our tradition. Or the students in Israel who participate in the "Sunflowers" project and give help and support to young cancer patients.

I am proud of the work we do, and I am proud of the people who help to make it happen. Let us redouble our efforts to make sure that we respond to the current challenges and continue to do so for the next 121 years. Our students rely on us.

Robert Singer,
Director General, World ORT



In July World ORT hosted the Second Annual Wingate Seminar, held at ORT House in London. World ORT hosted 19 participants from 14 countries. This year's seminar focussed specifically on IT training skills, an aspect which plays a pivotal role in the international work of World ORT.

A letter from ORT Argentina

Dear Friends,

As I begin to write this letter, the first words that come to my mind are "chaos" and "sadness".

Chaos and sadness brought about by the terrorism that only a few days ago hit the United States so hard and with enormous cruelty; or by the recession, deflation, and ensuing poverty that seem to constitute the standard in Argentina at present. Hopelessness is in the air when we speak with relatives and friends, at home or in the streets, and it has also become a theme of speeches from the government. It is hard to conceive of a 20 per cent unemployment rate in Argentina or that the country used to be one of the breadbaskets of the world should have so many undernourished children. It is hard to believe, but it is sadly, true.

Chaos, sadness, despair and disbelief, indeed - but resolve as well.

It is our resolve at ORT Argentina that has helped us sail through such rough waters and still reach high standards of achievement.

ORT Argentina responds to the recession by allowing thousands of students to fill its classrooms to be educated and grow in an atmosphere that fosters their achievements. ORT Argentina faces the sadness with projects. It is the job of our schools to train people for work and for the future. The word "despair" has no place in our vocabulary: we are educators, and the philosophy of education is based on hope and expectations. And how can we possibly educate if we do not believe in the future?

It is our resolve, which prompted many local and international educational organizations to sign cooperation agreements with ORT Argentina. The latest to do so are:

- Université Laval, Quebec, Canada.
- School of Engineering, Universidad de Buenos Aires.
- Universidad C.A.E.C.E., Buenos Aires.
- Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina.

It was the success of our students that attracted the attention of the Director of the University Hospital in Buenos Aires. He offered apprenticeships for ORT students to design tools and instruments for medical purposes.

ORT Argentina is always active: we sponsored the development of the CD ROM "Jews in Argentina", presented at the International Book Fair. Our students continue to succeed in Olympiads and tournaments, both national and international, of Mathematics, Physics, Business Administration, Chemistry, Biology, and Sports.

ORT Argentina is committed to Judaism and Jewish Education. Thirty-two of our high-school students participated this year in the Mission to Poland and Israel. Also, a whole series of books on the "History of Israel" has now been published and is in use by our students.

With belief and hope, ORT Argentina has managed to grow through hard times to become the most prestigious educational complex in Argentina devoted to technology at high school and college level.

Baruj Zaidenknop
Director General, ORT Argentina

ORT en Italia



Chairman of Milan's Jewish community Roberto Jarach and Mark Mishon of British ORT representing WO with Professor Davide Nizza, principal of the school, and Keren Heyesod representative Guido Modiano at the new laboratory in Milan

WORLD ORT HAS recently opened a technology centre at the Jewish School in Milan. One of only two Jewish schools in the community, the school serves Milan's Jewish community of 10,000 people. Until five years ago World ORT was involved with the Jewish school in Milan, but for a number of reasons, relations had been cut. Under the leadership of World ORT's Director General Robert Singer, ORT's presence in Italy

was renewed when he visited the school. "When I visited the school I found it to be an important institution, the main tool that prevents full assimilation and intermarriage within the community," he said. "We have decided to re-activate our involvement there by opening a big computer centre in the school." World ORT Board of Directors member Roberto Jarach who was recently appointed Chairman of the Jewish community in Milan, said

that he was delighted and proud to have created this new link with ORT. World ORT collaborated with Keren Hayesod in opening the computer laboratory, which will cater to the 550 students at the school. Singer said that there is potential for ORT to carry out many new projects - two of which include sending 10th-grade students to Israel for five weeks to study Jewish education, Ivrit, Jewish history and heritage at an ORT Israel school, along with tours of Jewish interest. The other aim is to integrate ORT's IT programmes into the school's curriculum for Jewish education, which would include *Navigating the Bible*, *EnglishSpace*, *Learning about the Holocaust through Art* and *Do-IT*.

Focus on missions

WORLD ORT IS seeing its work on the Regeneration 2000 campaign come to fruition. On 10-14 of September, World ORT staged a mission to Ukraine and Moldova where brand new technology centres were inaugurated.

Kishinev, Moldova 10 and 11 September

In Kishinev, a new ORT Technology Centre was dedicated in the presence of the President of Moldova, Mr Vladimir Voronin. Ronald Lauder, chairman of the Lauder Foundation who sponsored the project in conjunction with another foundation, attended the festivities. Additionally, leaders of the Jewish community, education authorities, representatives of the government of Moldova and representatives from the Israeli Prime Minister's office participated in the event.

Kharkov, Ukraine 12 September

Kharkov is an industrial city in Eastern Ukraine with a Jewish population of 50,000. It is considered one of the most impoverished areas of Ukraine with a high rate of unemployment.

The ORT Kharkov Technology Centre was officially opened with the JDC on 12 September. The Centre occupies the first floor of the local Jewish Community Centre - the JDC Cultural Centre. It is providing courses in Information and Communication Technologies and Jewish Studies. Students, both adults and young people, who attend courses at the Centre are able to study Hebrew while using computers and obtain information about Israel through the Internet.

In addition to attending the official opening of the ORT Kharkov Technology Centre, during the mission, participants had the chance to meet with students from the Jewish school and with the mayor of Kharkov, and took a tour of the city and its Jewish sites.



Director General of World ORT Robert Singer, left, Reese Feldman, World ORT Officer and Executive Committee Chairperson joins Viktor M. Kovalenko, representative of the Government of Kharkov, in opening the new ORT Technology Centre at the Beit Dan in the city's Jewish Community Centre.

Kiev, Ukraine 13 and 14 September

As part of Regeneration 2000 and thanks to the generosity of Milton and Shirley Gralla, the ORT Kiev Technology Lyceum was established. Kiev has a significant population of some 130,000 people. Currently 200 students study at the Lyceum, and due to the high number of applicants, World ORT is planning to expand the school in cooperation with the local authorities to allow 200 more students to study there.

During the mission, participants met with students at the ORT Lyceum who made a presentation especially for the mission. They met with a representative from the Ministry of Education of Ukraine. Mission participants also toured the

historical sites of Kiev and were briefed by the Israeli Ambassador.

World ORT began working in the CIS in 1991 with a handful of students. The figures grew very gradually for a few years until 1999, when ORT had approximately 3,000 students in this region. Then, with the help of generous donors, Regeneration 2000 was launched. The figures are now growing dramatically. By the end of 2001, ORT will have educational institutions in 15 cities.

The chief objective of Regeneration is to create successful and attractive Jewish schools, built upon high quality technology education that will provide graduates with a real competitive

advantage when seeking higher vocational education and opportunities for employment. The schools will also provide a focal point in the local Jewish community through which they will contribute to the continued rebuilding of Jewish life in the CIS.

Through Regeneration 2000, existing Jewish schools have enjoyed extensive refurbishment and upgrading of premises, installation of fully-equipped laboratories for teaching technology and ICT (Information and Communication Technology), teacher training programmes and a full range of supporting learning materials including texts and software.

By the end of this year, World ORT will be opening a Vocational Training Centre in Moscow and technology centres in affiliated

schools including Riga, Minsk and Kishinev.

There are now between 17,000 and 18,000 students in this region and World ORT is confident that it is on course to reach its target of 25,000 by the end of 2001.

Moscow Vocational Training Centre

A new Vocational Training Centre for the Moscow Jewish Community opened in October,

thanks to the generosity of Carole and Geoffrey Lawson. Their donation will fund both the establishment of the Centre and will cover tuition costs for the first four years, by which time it is anticipated that it will be self-sufficient.

Robert Singer, Director General of World ORT said the Moscow project was "very important both for the Jewish community there and in Israel. Many from the community make aliyah, but it takes them two years to learn the language and retrain to Israeli-standard qualifications. The new centre will mean that they can start retraining courses in Moscow months before they go to Israel. We also want these people to have a Jewish identity, so that is also part of the package."

The wisdom of King Solomon

A BRITISH ORT Technology Centre recently opened at the King Solomon High School in London.

This ORT facility in the U.K. is a resource for the school's pupils, as well providing an Internet café and computer facility for wider community. "We are delighted to have the chance to replicate the success and innovation of ORT overseas for children in our own community. The warm relationship we have developed with the Headmaster and his colleagues, and their excitement over the project, is a clear indication of the importance of this initiative," said British ORT's Chief Executive Jon Benjamin.

British ORT's links with schools in London are continuing and expanding. The E-link project in which students are linked electronically with their counterparts at ORT institutions in the CIS, has been highly valued by all of the schools that participated, both in London and in the CIS and Baltic States. "The project has proved to be a constructive way of using the children's computer lessons, and at the same time helping them to gain some understanding of the lifestyle and interests of Jewish children, of a similar age, being brought up in a very different environment," Benjamin said.



Students at King Solomon High School in London enjoy the new British ORT computer lab at their school.

ORT represented at ECJC's General Assembly

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL of Jewish Communities held its second General Assembly in Madrid and Toledo, Spain during the summer. Approximately 800 Jews from 44 European Countries,

including the CIF and Baltic States - as well as delegates from North Africa, Israel and the US - met in Spain, aiming to link European Jews.

Among the participants at

the GA were Director General of World ORT Robert Singer, who addressed delegates at the opening ceremony, and Deputy Director General of World ORT, Dr. Gideon Meyer.

The conference included workshops on a variety of topics, including looted art and payout of restitution, social welfare and a plenum session on Jewish education and the Internet - a session in

which Dr Gideon Meyer demonstrated ORT I.T. products such as *Navigating the Bible* and *Learning About the Holocaust through Art*. While in Spain, Meyer and Singer met with Veronica Lender, head

teacher at the Colegio Estrella Toledana, the only Jewish school in Madrid.

A Letter from Kosovo



Recent graduates of an ORT/JDC project in Kosovo

Upon returning from his visit to Kosovo during September, Chairman of World ORT's International Cooperation Standing Committee Jeffrey Reiff commented on the work that ORT in conjunction with the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is doing in this war-torn region:

"I cannot begin to describe how proud I am, and we should all be, of the good work that ORT, in conjunction with JDC, is doing in Kosovo. As I landed at the airport, after the first aborted landing attempt, I looked around the misty gray countryside scattered with military vehicles, UNMIK camps and other military camps. I arrived in Prishtina and I was immediately taken on a tour of numerous ORT schools. The ORT flag flew proudly outside the buildings, with numerous plaques, noting our presence. I was greeted with smiles and hugs from the teachers and students, who told me that ORT had gotten them

through the most difficult of times, and continues to do so. I interviewed some of the students and high school principals, who spoke from the heart, noting the importance of ORT and thanking the American Jewish Community.

I had no idea what to expect and I am not quite sure that many of our members are aware of the fact that we are operating numerous schools in this country. Although there are approximately 400-500 NGOs operating there, ORT and JDC seem to be the leaders as we were one of the first on the scene. I can assure you that we were well represented and I think it was important to be there.

We must continue to do great work together. More than ever, I feel strongly about our international cooperation projects and programmes. The most important thing is that we continue to develop our relationship with JDC as this is a partnership that enables each of the organisations to glow, whereupon the sum of the parts are greater than the whole."

News Briefs

ORT Israel representative to attend United Nations General Assembly

ORT Israel employee Hanni Rosenberg was invited by the United Nations to participate in a special session on HIV/AIDS at the UN's General Assembly in the USA at the end of June.

Ms Rosenberg serves as the Chairman of the Jerusalem AIDS project. In addition to her position as ORT Israel's medical supervisor, Hanni is the school nurse at ORT Rehovot. She has developed an educational model to inform students about the different issues pertaining to AIDS, and enthusiastically travels around the country lecturing Israeli youngsters on this subject.

ORT Alumni Association holds inaugural meeting

The first meeting of the Alumni Association of ORT Anières Students took place in Mali, where approximately 20 former ORT students gathered for a cocktail party and dinner.

In 1960 the Swiss Aid sponsored hundreds of youngsters from Africa to be sent to Anières, near Geneva, to study for three years to become vocational training teachers. The students mainly came from Africa, with some coming from Iran and Argentina.

Most of the approximately 450 students that were trained by ORT at Anières are now senior training officers in their countries. The others are engineers in their own businesses.

The president of the association, Mr. Aboubacar Doumbia, left the vocational training system a few years ago and established himself as a refrigeration engineer in Mali, where he employs 50 people.

Cultural enlightenment for ORT Venezuela students

ORT Venezuela recently held its first Exhibit of Drawing and Painting held in the organisation's headquarters in Cabimas, Zulia State. The exhibit was a joint effort between ORT Venezuela, PDVSA-CIED and the Margarita Soto Home-Museum Foundation (Funsoto).

More than 200 young people between the ages of 16 and 18 attended art training workshops given by renowned painters from the eastern shore of Lake Maracaibo.

The students were able to complement and integrate their industrial training with the exploration, discovery and development of their skills for art and artistic creation.

Students from the areas of maintenance mechanics, industrial electro-instrumentation, administrative assistance, secretarial training and computer operation took part in the innovative event. They were also given guided tours through the Margarita Soto Museum.

Guidance Counselor Zulay Ortega pointed out the importance of giving adolescents a chance to participate in art activities. "It lets them explore unknown facets," Ortega said. "Often they surprise themselves with what they can do." Seventeen-year-old student Kely Chirinos agreed. "These are unforgettable experiences that only institutions such as ORT can provide and promote for their apprentices," Chirinos said.

ORT St Petersburg students get graduation gift of Jewish heritage

The ORT School in St Petersburg organised a special ceremony to congratulate the graduating students of all St Petersburg Jewish educational institutions on behalf of World ORT.

The 9th and 11th grade students were presented with copies of the double CD-ROM "St Petersburg's Jewish Community - Three Centuries of History," which was originally issued by ORT St Petersburg in 2000. The school is now distributing the second edition of the album, sponsored by the Manitoba Foundation, led by a descendant of one of the founders of ORT.

More than 300 graduating students from five Jewish educational institutions were presented with copies of the computer album about St Petersburg's Jewish Community. ORT St Petersburg also provided the schools' libraries with additional copies of the CD-ROM, and copies went to students and their families. "The main goal of the ceremony was to make the students feel like they are a part of the Jewish world and show them how to study about their Jewish roots using multimedia technology," said, Vladimir Dribinsky director of the ORT St Petersburg School.

ORT Gemany celebrates 80 years

An ORT dinner celebration was held to celebrate the 80th anniversary of ORT Germany.

Amongst the 150 guests were the President of the Hessen Parliament Klaus Peter Moller, Karin Wolff, Minister of Education and Attache of the Israeli Embassy to Germany Dvora Ben-David, all of whom made welcoming speeches along with Moritz Neumann, Chairman of ORT Germany and Dr Gideon Meyer, Deputy Director General of World ORT. Following the speeches, guests enjoyed a live piano concert.

'Sunflowers' volunteers honoured by Minister of Knesset

Matan Vilnai, MK, Israel's Minister of Science, Culture and Sport, was guest speaker at a special gala evening held in honour of some 300 ORT Israel Sunflower volunteers. The event was organised by ORT Israel to show appreciation of the volunteers' activities in the children's oncology wards of eight different hospitals and medical centres throughout the country.

The 'Sunflowers', who are aged 15-18, visit children receiving treatment in hospital and help them pass the time more pleasantly. The volunteers also teach the children how to use the computers that have been donated by ORT to these wards.

Profile:

The world has changed somewhat since ORT was established in 1880, when handicrafts and agriculture were very employable skills. But the basic principles of ORT have remained unchanged for 120 years and today, ORT programmes are geared to the demands of countries and of the workplace now and in the future.

ORT runs its own primary, comprehensive and technical high schools and colleges, and offers post-secondary training, practical engineering degrees and bachelors degrees for technical teachers within its own teacher training institutes.

In addition to establishing its own schools, ORT supports training programmes in host schools, creating and developing programmes, providing equipment and training local staff. ORT provides skills-training and self-help projects for some of the world's most impoverished communities, using funds raised by its supporters and added to by development agencies and national governments, to put people on the path to economic independence.

The aim of ORT's educational programmes throughout the world, is to give its students the best possible preparation for their future.



Julien Benattar

Villiers le Belle, France

I have been a student at ORT Villiers Le Belle for seven years. In my time here, the work environment has always been pleasant and motivating. My instructors have always encouraged my classmates and I to strive to do the best in every subject. I truly appreciate all of my experiences at ORT Villiers Le Belle.



Susan Netshizwe

South Africa

I am a student of ORT South Africa's Employability Skills Training Course. Because of ORT I now know how to speak in public and have more self-confidence than I had before. I have also learned how to use a computer. Whenever I have questions or a concern a member of the staff's door is always open to me. I want to thank ORT South Africa for all it has done for me.



Dennis Markov

Moscow, Russia

I study multimedia at the ORT College in Moscow. I would recommend people to study at an ORT institution because all of the professors have worked in the field and have a first-hand knowledge of the curriculum that they are teaching. I am happy that I chose to study at ORT and believe that I will see the results of my hard work pay off in the near future.



Evgenij Borisov

Samara, Russia

I was in the 11th grade at the Jewish School in Samara when ORT Technology Centre was launched in our school. Before ORT came to my school in Samara, I had no experience in information technology because there were no computers in our school. I have just graduated and I am continuing on at the Samara State Aerospace Institute specialising in aircraft design. After the ORT Technology Centre was set up at our school, I began to study information technology. It has been very useful to me especially for the field that I hope to work in one day. There are no alternatives to studying at an ORT school because ORT is the best.



Keren Shasha

Haifa, Israel

I am in the 12th grade at ORT Hannah Senesh. I've been involved with the Sunflowers Project, ORT Israel's project that reaches out to young cancer patients, for three years. It is an honour to be a part of these children's lives, even if it's only a small part. Making a sick child who is suffering happy is a great feeling. I absolutely have got more from these children than I have given.



Joseph Schwarzbach

Strasbourg, France

My experience at ORT Strasbourg and with the rest of the Jewish community was extraordinary. I was attracted to ORT because the class sizes were smaller which means less competition among the students and an atmosphere of mutual help. I have now been accepted to one of the best engineering schools in France. I am very grateful to ORT for having prepared me to enter such a prestigious institution.



Elena Mirmovich

Moscow, Russia

I am a fourth year student at Moscow ORT Technology College studying design. I recently participated in Russia's Competition of Young Designers called "Russian Silhouette." I produced some pieces of clothing and have started a small fashion label called "Mirma." I hope to launch a small business but before then I plan on continuing my studies at a higher education institution. Thanks to ORT I am motivated to continue my studies.



Shamira Joseph

Bombay, India

I graduated from the hairdressing course at ORT India more than 10 years ago. My instructors were warm, friendly and supportive. At ORT I had an opportunity to use all my capabilities and immediately put into practice what I learned. ORT guided me and motivated me to take control of my destiny and achieve the success that, before coming to ORT, I could only dream about.

The bottom half of the page features a large, stylized world map. Lines radiate from various points on the map, connecting to the profiles of the students above. Below the map, a list of ORT programs is organized into five columns:

- Accounting**
- Aeromechanics**
- Agromechanics**
- Air-conditioning**
- Applied Arts**
- Graphic Design**

- Architecture**
- Autoelectrics**
- Automation and Control**
- Automechanics**
- Biotechnology**

- Business Studies**
- Carpentry**
- Catering**
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)**
- Computer Literacy**

- Computerised Communications Networks**
- Data Processing**
- Dental Technology**
- Desktop Publishing**

- Diamond Processing**
- Ecology**
- Engineering**
- Environmental Studies**
- Electromechanics**

‘ORT’s mission, through the years has remained consistent, to provide the greatest gift one can give: educating for life.’

This preparation includes education to help them become citizens who will make a positive contribution to their society, focussed training to enable them to undertake worthwhile and fulfilling careers, and - for its Jewish students - the knowledge that will give them an understanding and appreciation of their heritage. In communities around the world, ORT offers excellent facilities and opportunities for the local community to gain the skills they need to achieve their highest potential. ORT’s mission through the years has remained consistent, to provide the greatest gift one can give: an education for life.



Barak Raz

Tel Aviv, Israel

ORT has had a three-fold impact on my life. I attended school at ORT Kiryat Motzkin and then continued my studies in computer technology at ORT Syngalowski in Tel Aviv. And, finally, I went on to complete my studies at ORT Braude in Karmiel. There are so many possibilities in the computer industry to explore, and everything is always changing which makes the work so exciting. I am in the elite Mamram unit in the IDF where I am the Manager of Technical Support for the whole army base where I am stationed. The only other pupils who have been selected for this unit are ORT students.



Elodie Bokodza

Villiers le Belle, France

I have just begun my seventh and final year at ORT. I have cherished the relationships that I have made with my classmates and teachers through the years. I will never forget ORT. I wish that everyone could have a school experience as wonderful as mine was. It will stay in my head and heart forever.



Nombewu P Hlatshwayo

South Africa

I am a student at ORT South Africa’s Employability Skills Training Course. I think that ORT is like a present that God sent me in order to save me from falling apart. I feel like I have the power and confidence to claim what I feel is rightfully mine - my dreams and my goals. I know that after my training course is finished, I am going to come out a person with hope glowing like a sunflower.



Rabbi Gabriel Frydman

Buenos Aires, Argentina

When my father lost his job, he set a goal for me to become a technician because he had not been able to achieve the same goal. Because it was important for me to attend a school with a Jewish environment, ORT was the perfect choice. The teachers there were patient and understanding when my family could not pay the tuition fees every month. Thanks to ORT I received one of the highest scores on the entrance exam to the University of Buenos Aires. After I graduated with a Masters degree in chemistry, I went on to study at a seminary. I am now a rabbi.



Leonid Galperin

St Petersburg, Russia

I am a recent graduate of the ORT de Gunzburg School in St Petersburg. I am interested in all different aspects of programming and computer sciences. My biggest achievement at the ORT School was when I was awarded first place in a competition for two programming projects on which I worked. I will soon be off to Israel with my family. But before I emigrate, I will study at the St Petersburg Technical University and I will specialise in technical cybernetics.



Lev Kogan

St Petersburg, Russia

I am 11 years old and attend the ORT school in St Petersburg. I have received many awards for competitions that I participated in recently for Web design, mathematics and computer programming. I wish to continue my computer programming studies in the future. Since ORT has been present in my school, that goal has become easier to meet.



Micki Mogilevsky

Holon, Israel

I am a student at ORT Holon. My school specialises in accelerated studies for gifted students. The programme that I am involved in allows me to study at Bar Ilan University in conjunction with my normal studies. The programme teaches me to learn through research and independent work. By the time I finish high school, I will have received the equivalent of a university degree which will offer me a wider choice of professions within the army.



Eugene Y. Kostkin

Moscow, Russia

I’m 19 years old. At the ORT Moscow College, I study photography, computer design and video. I think that having an ORT education is beneficial to me to because the teachers at my school are trained well and experienced in each subject that they teach. They display the highest professional level and set a good example for myself and other students to follow.



**Electronics
Fashion Design
Hairdressing
Beauty Care
Hebrew
Industrial Chemistry**

**Ind. Maintenance
Ind. Management
IT
Instrumentation
Interior Design
Int. Marketing**

**Jewellery
Jewish Studies
Landscape Design
Marine Engineering
Mechanics
Media Studies**

**Metalwork
Mother & Child Care
Multimedia Design
Plumbing
Printing
Quality Assurance**

**Road Maintenance
Robotics
Secretarial Studies
Teacher Training
Technical Drawing
Telecommunications**

Focus on students courses and projects

Russia



Julia Rudeeva

JULIA RUDEEVA GRADUATED from the JET-2000 programme for teachers of Jewish schools at ORT St Petersburg.

Through the ORT JET Programme, Julia gained basic computer skills such as using e-mail, the Internet, Photoshop, MS Word and PowerPoint. She is now deputy director of extra-curricular activities and a music teacher at ORT St Petersburg. "The information technology skills I have gained have been very useful to me," she said. "I use the Internet to prepare music lessons by searching for song texts, biographies of composers and MP3 files."

She successfully organised a special school project – the creation of an audio CD-ROM. "A Day in the Life of a School Bell" uses literary and music fragments recorded and re-mastered by students to encapsulate different aspects of modern school life.

Venezuela



Ruben Dario Joseph

ALTHOUGH HIS SMALL legs can't support him, nothing deters Ruben Dario Joseph from striving to attain his dream - to run his own business.

Though polio has taken away his ability to walk, his hands are strong and able to display the skills he learned at the ORT Job Skills Training Centre in Venezuela where he recently received his certificate in a speciality field of electronic repair.

The ORT Job Skills Training Centre is located in the populous area of Catia. A necessary training platform was created there thanks to ORT Venezuela's collaboration with the Confederation of Jewish Associations of Venezuela and the Jacobo Borges Museum. "I thank ORT for giving me the ability to gain something very valuable and important—skills through training," Ruben said with confidence from his wheelchair. "I have gained the desire for independence and self sufficiency and I know that one day I will open my own business."

France



Sylvia Cohen and Nancy Rouillon

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK of their school programme, two aspiring accountants at ORT Marseilles undertook a project that helped to those in need.

After brainstorming various ideas, Sylvia Cohen and Nancy Rouillon decided to focus on a charity sale - the profit of which would go to a humanitarian organisation. They chose Solidarité Enfants Sida (Solidarity for children suffering from AIDS.) "We decided to make a heart shaped key ring, bearing an AIDS-prevention message," Sylvia said.

The project led students to use their skills obtained within various courses including mathematics, French, computing, art and accountancy. The students made and sold 500 key rings raising 4,000 francs, which was then handed over to the organisation. "It is the first time that our class completed such a successful and concrete project," Nancy said. "We are very proud of the result."

Bosnia and Herzegovina Democracy Network Programme



US Ambassador Thomas Miller (center) and USAID Mission Director Edward Kadunc awarding plaques and certificates at the ORT DemNet closing ceremony to the Jelena Bajic, Executive Director of Future ORT DemNet partner/grantee.

ORT RECENTLY COMPLETED a dynamic two-year democracy programme designed to develop and strengthen 28 Bosnian NGOs to undertake civic action functions and to demand effective governance from state and local institutions. An integral part of ORT's strategy was to develop and deliver

customised support packages, i.e., a comprehensive package of training and technical assistance (TA) targeted at strengthening democratic self-governance and civic action and advocacy.

Technical assistance and training programmes are designed to help instill a vision of partnership to impact social change and

to increase the understanding of both the NGO sector and government on democratic, social and economic development. Financial grants were provided as a means to build long-term institutional capacity and to support public policy initiatives and coalition building programs.

ORT has a long history acting

as a development and management resource for strengthening NGOs to play a significant role in developing a vibrant civil society. Since 1960, ORT has worked continuously with USAID to strengthen and build local capacity through development assistance.

Through implementing this

project, ORT significantly strengthened the capacity of a core group of 28 Bosnian NGOs to participate more actively and effectively in political and economic life.

In their own words ORT students describe their school experiences

Sergey Maevsky Moscow, Russia



AFTER GRADUATING FROM the Moscow ORT College this year, I began specialising in media management and marketing, and I will start studying at a specialised economics college this year.

One year after my studies began at the ORT College, my classmates and I were given work experience placements. I ended up joining the design department at Kommersant, a large and important publishing company in Russia. After that, I gained extra work experience as a stage manager for a computer festival, along with a few smaller jobs.

I also gained work experience in Park VI Production, the biggest company in the field of TV commercial production in Russia. After a few months I was taken on as a member of staff.

Since joining Park VI Production, I have worked in the capacity of Post Production

Manager. My duties included budgeting for post production work on editing the commercials after shooting. I have worked on projects for Coca Cola, Wrigley, Shok Chocolate and Russian beer brands such as Klinskoye, Tolstiyak, Sibirskeye Korona.

My mother's initial training was as an engineer and at the beginning of the 1990s she worked for Jewish organisations and then retrained as a psychologist. She now works in the field of religious tolerance in Russian society. Before he passed away, my father worked as a technician in the transmitter industry.

At the moment I am interested in advertising, but I am not sure that this is what I will do for the rest of my life. I believe that whether or not a person achieves success, depends for the most part on the individual. I have learned that if people strive to continue to improve themselves, and remain interested in all new things, they can achieve anything.

Analia Schnitman Buenos Aires, Argentina

AN IMPORTANT FEATURE of my school, the ORT Technical School No. 2, is that the students can pick the track that most appeals to them for their studies

during high school. I chose the Mass Communication track because of the wealth of opportunities available in the field.

Today, new spaces for the transmission of information and ideas are continually being discovered. Since I have grown up with these new forms of media, I am able to appreciate their importance and usefulness. It is likely that I will be able to find a good source of employment in this interesting field, where vocation goes hand in hand with work.

During our last year at school we take apprenticeships in the professional media and prepare projects for external customers. We thus become comprehensive producers that are ready to solve all the problems, either for a short, a video clip, a radio programme, or an advertisement. This is most important when we prepare our resumes, at the time of applying for a job.

As students in the Mass Media track, we learn to use the tools that will help us put our ideas into practice with the support of our teachers, who know much about the subjects like: **Radio Workshop, Design and Photography, Audiovisual Technology, Mass Media and Communications, Scriptwriting, Image and Sound, Graphic Design and Advertising and Marketing.**

During our third and last year, we focus on the production of

audiovisual work and on project design. We use the technology needed for the production of a TV programmes, documentaries and shorts. In our Final Project class we prepare a TV programme using all the subjects studied along the track.

In a world where I have access to Italy through the TV in my room, to the latest events in Japan through the Internet, and to Scandinavian culture through a movie, we may wonder how it is that we can communicate over large geographical and cultural distances? We can because we share codes that allow us to relate with other people, regardless of cultural differences. I wish to understand those codes and help spread them, to create new codes and elaborate on them. That is why I chose to study Mass Media.



The Harmatz Award

The Gina Harmatz Award is given to ORT students who have distinguished themselves in their conduct towards their fellow human beings; demonstrating care and respect for elderly, infirm and disadvantaged members of their communities.

GINA HARMATZ, THE late wife of Joseph, former Director General of World ORT, was born in Frankfurt in 1924, the second of seven children. With Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 the family moved to Paris. Her mother and five of her siblings perished in the Holocaust. Gina made her way to Switzerland, returning to France at the war's end. She emigrated to Israel in 1950 and married Joseph Harmatz a year later. They had two sons, Zvi and Ronny.

Her home was always open to all members of the ORT family where everyone felt instantly at home in the warm atmosphere created by Gina's unique personality. Much admired, she greatly enjoyed the company of her close friends, appreciated the importance of family relationships and concern for the welfare of others.

The Gina Harmatz Award truly reflects the character of this special lady and ORT is proud to add the following students to its list of recipients:

Mark Shainstein, 15, Moscow, Russia – Mark helps younger children with Hebrew lessons and coaches a soccer team for 9 to 12 year olds and also helps elderly members of the community.



Kseniya Shalova, 17, St Petersburg, Russia – visits a local orphanage to play with the children, helps them with schoolwork and collects toys and sweets for them.

My name is Lyuba Selezneva. I live in Odessa on The bank of The Black Sea. When you look at The seawater you feel as The kindness comes Through you, you become happy and you want to share This feeling with other people.

Children try to help with activities. I take part in concerts. When I perform in These concerts and see The happy eyes of The old people, I feel myself useful To Them.

During autumn holidays I've participated in The concert, which was organized for children without parents. I was pleased when children felt happy. I am very sorry That There are lots of children without parents and I am happy To see Them smiling at least someTimes.

Lyuba

Lyuba Selezneva, 15, Odessa, Ukraine
Here Lyuba Selezneva writes of the satisfaction she derives from helping in her community.

Tali Shieff, 17, Karmiel, Israel – helps disabled veterans and children and the Ron Arad Campaign.



Eliran Ben Siton, 17, Acco, Israel – organises a sailing club working for physically disabled children.

Lautaro Diego Kremenchuzky, 17, Buenos Aires - runs activities for and distributing toys to underprivileged children.

Victoria Lebedeva, 14, Moscow, Russia – youth leader organises visits to the elderly and helps younger pupils with Jewish studies.

Lia Gueldman, 10, St Petersburg, Russia – helps elderly, housebound neighbours with shopping and regular visits.



These graduates have finished preschool in Akaki, Ethiopia, where ORT's International Cooperation Department has just completed an early childhood education project. ORT's ICD trains local people, thus ensuring the sustainability of the project when ORT hands the project over to local people.

From the Archive:

ORT's activities during the darkest of days

To coincide with the launch of the new Learning about the Holocaust through Art website, this archive page highlights ORT's own work during the 1930s and 40s. The events of these years had a profound impact upon the Jewish people. ORT was caught up in and responded to these events. ORT equipped refugees, supporting those interned in ghettos and camps and, when the war had ended, provided vital rehabilitation and retraining for survivors.

Refugee

The rise of the Nazi party in the 1930s inaugurated a mass movement of refugees – from Germany, initially, but later from other countries as they came under fascist control.

Many Jews sought refuge or stopping-over point in France and during the 1930s ORT France's programme greatly expanded to accommodate their needs. But European refugees went much further afield – to Canada, United States, South America and even Cuba and China. ORT followed them there, setting up schools and training programmes to equip them for their new lives.

If the political events in Russia in the 1910s had helped establish ORT in Europe and North America, the events of the 1930s turned ORT's operations into a world-wide programme. By providing key vocational skills – before they left Europe or once abroad – ORT's programmes presented many Jews with a 'passport to freedom'.

Holocaust

Despite the climate of oppression, ORT's programmes continued to run up until the very last minute. As the war progressed, communication between World ORT and its European operations was often cut, so it is impossible to gain a complete picture of what happened. But there is evidence of schools and programmes continuing in isolation – and of former ORT directors and teachers setting up courses within their camps and ghettos.

In 1937 ORT opened a school in Berlin to teach Jewish youth denied both an education and the right to emigrate. Remarkably, ORT was able to relocate most of the school to England in August 1939 – just weeks before the outbreak of war. Those who remained behind continued to run the school and it operated as late as mid-1943, when the SS finally shut it down.

ORT had a substantial programme in Poland before the war. In September 1939 most of this was swept away, yet within weeks ORT's Warsaw workshops were re-opened. Initially operating unofficially, in August 1940, official authorisation was given and thousands took up places in its workshops. As many as 20,000 people may have received training between September 1940 and August 1942, when the deportations were stepped up and ORT was again forced into hiding. Studying or working with ORT helped many avoid early deportation, and when the ghetto was liquidated in April 1943 ORT students and graduates were numbered among those who resisted.

In the Kovno ghetto a group of ORT teachers led by Jacob Oleiski began a secret training programme during Purim 1942. This was discovered and closed down, but the Jewish Council persuaded the authorities that ORT schools were indispensable to the ghetto's industry. As in Warsaw, the Kovno schools ended with the ghetto's destruction (July 1944), but ORT's work bought time for its students and contributed much to the material comfort and morale of the ghetto's inhabitants.

ORT also worked in the French internment camps – officially, by supplying tools, materials, and training, and also personally – through the individual efforts of its staff and supporters (see article on Alperine).

Reconstruction

Soon after their Liberation, Jacob Oleiski and other staff held at Landsberg set up vocational courses in their camp. ORT staff in Bergen-Belsen did the same. World ORT built on these beginnings, persuading UNRRA (the UN Relief and Refugee Agency) to fund ORT's work in other camps in the US and British Zones of Germany. In 1946 ORT was asked to extend this programme to Austria and Italy.

In all, an estimated 80,000 displaced persons passed through ORT's vocational centres – a quarter of Jewish DPs. As with the pre-war refugees, ORT's training provided them with a livelihood in new lands. Many went to Israel to build a new nation and ORT went with them.

Much of the documentation from this vital period of ORT's history has been lost. The World ORT Archive would like to hear from anyone who was involved in ORT programmes before, during or immediately after the war, or from anyone who has relevant photographs or documents (including diplomas and school books). We also seek those interested in sponsoring the research, preservation and publication of ORT's Holocaust record.

First person account: ORT in the Warsaw Ghetto

Rachel Gurmanova, sole survivor of the ORT Warsaw staff.

"In the middle of August [1942], the space reserved for the ghetto was again reduced, and ORT moved from the large premises on Leszno 13 to smaller ones on Gensza 29. Although the concession for the training workshops was cancelled, ORT's activities suffered no interruption. With 15 machines and a minimal inventory the workshops for tailoring and shoemaking were re-opened, and a laundry was installed. These workshops served a double purpose. The workers received the so-called 'life certificates' (which, for a certain time, were believed to be a protection against deportation), while on the other hand, the people went naked and barefoot, a fact which made the supply of clothes and shoes imperative. The German occupant still refrained from speaking overtly of the destruction of the Jews, referring officially only to the "discharge" from the ghetto of "superfluous elements". Accordingly, they left productive Jews comparatively alone, which resulted in an increased demand on the part of the Jews for ORT shops."



Students at the ORT school in the liberated Bergen-Belsen Camp in 1947

First person account: ORT in the Kovno Ghetto

Jacob Oleiski, Director of ORT Lithuania, later Director of ORT's DP work and the first Director General of ORT Israel.

"The idea to set up the vocational school, as a continuation of the ORT school in Kaunas [Kovno] was welcomed by former ORT workers with enthusiasm. Through the devoted efforts jointly exerted by ORT instructors and some of the craftsmen employed in the town, it was possible to collect the tools in the ghetto itself. On the whole, the tools were stolen from places of work and smuggled in clothes or in bundles of timber, which passed through the ghetto gate. Needless to say, those who took part in these operations risked their own lives and those of their families."



ORT's workshop in the French camp at Brenns

ORT launches Holocaust Art Website

AT THE BEGINNING of September, ORT launched its new Holocaust education resource: *Learning about the Holocaust through Art*.

Concentrating on art works produced within the camps and ghettos, this website offers a new approach to learning about the Holocaust. Students can view high-quality images of drawings and paintings and then read the life-stories of the artists that produced them.

Learning about the Holocaust through Art is the result of the collaboration between World ORT and Israel's Beit Lohamei Haghettao - the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum. The museum was established by survivors of the Warsaw ghetto and includes

one of the most important collections of Holocaust-related art.

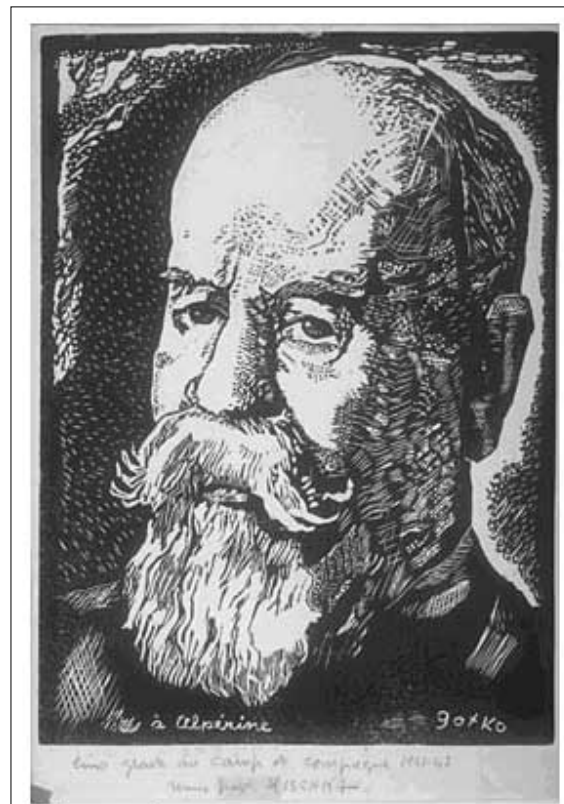
Art works produced during the Holocaust provide a powerful visual testimony. Despite the harsh conditions, many artists caught up in the ghettos and camps were able to continue to be creative. Some, like Polish artist Halina Olomucki, felt driven to record their experiences: "I never thought rationally what I am doing", she later wrote, "but I had this incredible need to draw, to write down what was happening. I was in the same condition as every other person all around me. I saw them close to death but I never thought of myself close to death. I was in the air. I was outside my existence. My job was simply to write down, to draw what was happening. Of course there were no

paints and colours, but always a pencil and always a piece of paper somewhere."

Halina Olomucki was imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto and later at Majdanek and Auschwitz-Birkenau. She is one of 27 artists included in *Learning about the Holocaust through Art*.

www.holocaust-education.net is available in Hebrew and English and includes resources for teachers and students. ORT is seeking additional funding to produce versions in Russian and Spanish.

Portrait of an ORT leader



This artwork - from the new Learning about the Holocaust through Art website - is a portrait of Avarham Alperine, the co-founder and first chairman of ORT France.

ALPÉRINE, A RUSSIAN émigré, was interned at Drancy and then Compiègne, where this linocut was made. A natural leader, he quickly took charge, organising the sharing of food, distribution of medicine and underground mail. Alperine was released from the camp at the end of 1942 and

returned to Paris, where he organised welfare for Jewish families and hid the children of parents interned in camps. After the war he continued to be very active as a World ORT lay leader.

The artist, Jacques Gotko, also Russian, had been a successful painter before the war. In

mid-1941 he was imprisoned in Compiègne and the Nazi's destroyed his "degenerate" art. Gotko joined other artists in Compiègne and they found ways to produce and exhibit art. But on 31 July 1943 he was deported to Auschwitz, dying soon after of typhus.

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- The full Hebrew text plus Haftarat and blessings
- Hours of recorded singing
- Valuable background information.

Navigating the Bible II is currently available on the Internet in English, Spanish and Russian. It is also available on CD-ROM in English, Spanish, and Russian from Davka Corporation.

English
Spanish
Russian

'Women in Power' address WAO convention

DRAWING UPON THEIR unique and compelling experiences in the public service realm, as well as in the non-profit and corporate workplaces, Rebecca Lieberman, chief executive officer of The Democracy Compact and daughter of Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman, and Susan Molinari, chairman of Susan Molinari, L.L.C., former New

York Congresswoman addressed the always-pertinent topic of "Women in Power" at the closing brunch of Women's American ORT's Convention 2001 in New York City.

The brunch was the closing event at the convention of the 60,000 - member organisation. More than 500 of WAO's members and leaders convened to

determine continuing policies and priorities regarding its support of educational, technological, and vocational training offered by ORT schools and programmes throughout the world.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, Women's American ORT is the single largest private contributor to World ORT.



President of WAO Carol Linch, left, with former New York Congresswoman Susan Molinari.

American ORT National Conference

THE AMERICAN ORT National Conference in New York City was a success this year.

Highlights of the conference were dinner and a performance by traditional Russian folk dancers at the newly renovated Russian Tea Room, private VIP tour and "around-the-world" lunch at the United Nations, harbour dinner cruise, dancing and entertainment with panoramic views of

the Manhattan skyline aboard the "Spirit of New York" and a visit to Brooklyn to meet students and see the Bramson ORT facility.

The programme also included talks by several esteemed speakers, reports on ORT programmes worldwide and award presentations. Ambassador Alon Pinkus, Consul General of Israel delivered a detailed analysis of the social, economic and political

forces influencing Israel and the situation in the Middle East today at a private breakfast briefing and Yehuda Lancry, Israeli Ambassador to the UN, gave a speech about international politics.

The conference ran concurrently with the Women's American ORT triennial convention.

Fire forces school to close



Students gathered in front of the Jewish School in Kazan

A FIRE CAUSED extensive damage to Kazan's only Jewish day school, which houses the ORT Technology Centre this summer.

The ORT Technology Centre is a joint venture of the educational authorities in Kazan, ORT Russia, the Russian Jewish Congress, the Russian Ministry of Education, the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Israeli Embassy.

A fire began in a shed near the school. Due to strong winds, it spread to the school's roof and fourth floor. The fire brigade came promptly and managed to extinguish it. The ORT Centre is located in the first floor, so neither the Centre, nor the equipment was

damaged. However, while extinguishing it, the entire building was flooded with water, resulting in serious damage to the ceilings, walls and floors on all levels of the school. Significant repairs are required before the building can be used again.

The estimated cost to repair the Kazan school is \$200,000.

The ORT Technology Centre opened in September 2000, equipped with the newest computer systems and furnishings, to provide the best opportunities for students to achieve success in the new technology-driven economy of the region. Like many ORT programmes in the Commonwealth

of Independent States (CIS) and around the world, the ORT Technology Centre was available to adults and others in the community after school hours, enabling them to benefit from the facilities through a variety of courses.

"There is a necessity now to apply joint efforts of all organisations interested in the school's continued functioning, namely the City Education Department, the Jewish community, the Israeli Embassy, the Russian Jewish Congress and ORT," said Vlad Lerner, Director General of ORT in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

KGB Files

RECENTLY DISCOVERED FILES from KGB archives have shed more light on the expulsion of ORT from Stalin's Soviet Union in 1938.

ORT was already in its 27th year of operation at the time of the October Revolution in 1917. The Communist regime, recognising the skills and funds that ORT was able to apply to helping a poor and oppressed underclass of Jews, was not averse to its continued presence. There was, however, much debate amongst ORT's leaders overseas about the policy of indirectly helping the Soviet Union through ORT's ongoing activities, but the

prevailing view was that the Jewish population of 2,700,000 was too important to abandon.

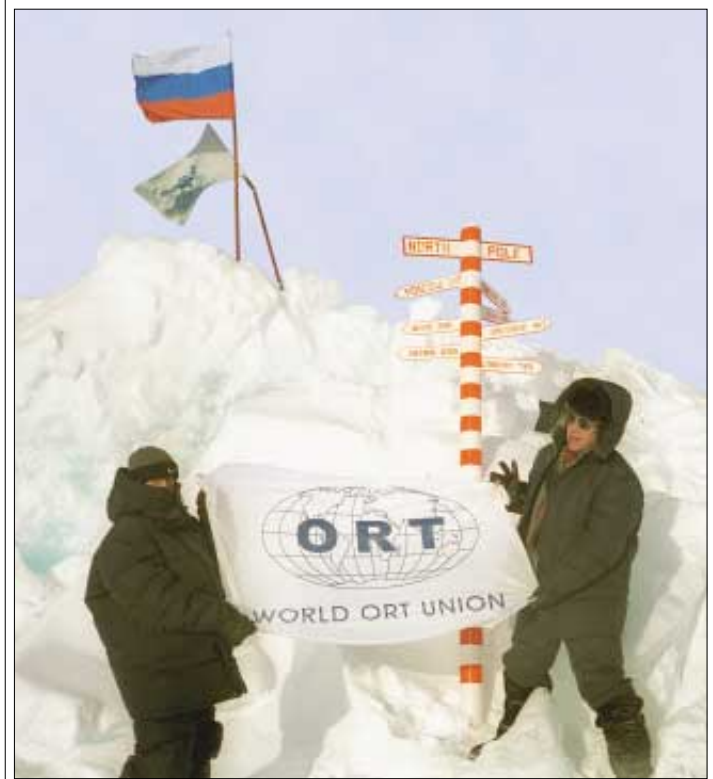
In the event, as war approached and Stalin's purges intensified with his paranoia, the special agreements negotiated with the Soviets to enable ORT to operate were not renewed when they expired in 1938. The authorities seized ORT's equipment and reneged on the promised payment of \$264,000 to ORT. No ORT personnel were allowed to stay to oversee the winding down of operations and indeed a number of ORT's officials disappeared in the purges.

New lab to open at ORT Hermelin

THE 1,500 STUDENTS at ORT Hermelin College will benefit from the establishment of the Quitak Advanced Projects Laboratory due to open this autumn. The Laboratory will give those working on their graduate theses the resources to develop their own projects using the most up-to-date technology in an environment that realistically replicates the conditions that they will find in industry and commerce.

The project will be funded by Edgar and Marguerite Quitak. Edgar's own background is in engineering and the couple was eager to support students in the field, particularly in a way that encourages innovative thinking and problem solving. With the Hermelin College rapidly becoming one of the principal sources in Israel for highly trained engineers, the new Laboratory will considerably strengthen the country's vital technological sector.

The ORT Pole



Dr Eugene Gontmacher, right, seizes the North Pole for ORT

WORLD ORT CONQUERED the North Pole recently when a member of its Board of Directors planted an ORT flag on the North Pole marking ORT's 121st Anniversary.

At the request of Robert Singer, Director General of World ORT, Dr Eugene Gontmacher, together with a delegation of prominent politicians of the Russian Federation, took part in the expedition to the North Pole.

In Memoriam

In Israel, over the last couple of months, members of the ORT family have lost friends, colleagues and relatives. The list is a tragic roll call of innocent young people, with so much to live for, whose lives have been cruelly cut short.

- Ronen Landau**
student at ORT Ramot, Jerusalem
- Maria Tagilchev**
student at ORT Yad Levovich School, Netanya
- Raisa Nemirovsky**
student at ORT Yad Levovich School, Netanya
- Corporal Hanit Arami**
graduate of ORT HaShomron High School, Binyamina
- Sergeant Avi Ben Herush**
graduate of ORT Horowitz, Karmiel
- Dvir Reshef**
graduate of ORT Beit She'an Religious High School, Beit She'an
- Zvika Golombak**
graduate of the ORT Horowitz High School, Karmiel
- Doron Suwary**
graduate of the ORT Harnatz College of Practical Engineering in Giva'at Ram, Jerusalem
- Eli Yitzhaki**
graduate of the ORT Zeil High School and Junior College, Lod.

Missions And Seminars

January 2002

- Board of Directors Meeting
Cape Town, South Africa
- World ORT and American ORT Mission to Cuba

January/February

- ORT Head Teachers Seminar, London
*to be confirmed

February 3 - 9 2002

- World ORT Mission to India
*to be confirmed

March 2002

- American ORT Mission to Argentina and Uruguay

April 21 - 27 2002

- World ORT and Women's American ORT Mission to France, Montreuil and Paris

May 2002

- Wingate Seminar for Heads of IT, London

May 13 - 17 2002

- World ORT International Mission to Russia
Moscow-Kazan and Minsk-Belarus

June 7 - 12 2002

- World ORT National Directors Forum
Columbia University, New York

September 2002

- World ORT Mission to Baltic States
Lithuania- Latvia-Estonia
- World ORT International Cooperation Mission to Kosovo

October 2002

- World ORT International Mission Israel

November 2002

- World ORT International Mission to Eastern Europe,
Hungary and Czech Republic

For more information contact:

the International Liaison Department
+44 (0)20 7446-8500
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Learning about the Holocaust through Art

השואה האמנות



New Holocaust Website from
World ORT and Beit Lohamei Haghetat
www.holocaust-education.net

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