

World Times

Educating for Life

Autumn 2002



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Launches new
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Shoulder to shoulder with our students in Israel



ORT Israel student speaks about the death of his friend to mission participants

Faced with constant biased media portrayal of the situation in Israel, World ORT leaders decided to organise a mission to the country and see for themselves what ORT students and staff have to deal with on a daily basis. For many, it was a real eye-opener, as for the first time they were able to get a real understanding of the fear and violence that exists under the threat of terrorism.

Shira Baruch, a 16-year-old student at the ORT Ramot High School in Northern Jerusalem, told mission participants, "We can't go to clubs any more. The only places to go are shopping malls, because there is security, but my parents call me every half-hour. They are terrified whenever I go out. It feels horrible to go only

*"We want to go out,
have fun and come
home, not go out,
have fun and die"*

where there is security. I should not be feeling that I might die every time I go out. We know every day that something will happen, that someone will die."

Sixteen-year-old Anat Mandelbaum added: "We want to go out, have fun and come home, not go out, have fun and die."

Many of the students and teachers at ORT Ramot in Northern Jerusalem live in the territories, putting themselves at great risk on a daily basis by just coming to school.

Miri Praisman, also a student at ORT Ramot said, "Because I consider myself a news freak, if something happens I will watch the news for hours, and the next day it affects my concentration on my schoolwork."

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ORT has launched a campaign to improve security throughout its network of schools

Update: Crisis at ORT Argentina

ORT Argentina is the largest Jewish educational network in the country. Just recently, all of its educational centres were under threat of closure. Thankfully, this was averted. Through a special global appeal, ORT was able to raise in excess of \$2 million, allowing the schools to remain open.

Ironically, the fall in the value of the Peso

has helped to close the funding gap, as the sums raised have appreciated in value compared to Argentina's own currency. Nevertheless a further \$500,000 is needed to secure the schools' operations for the near future.

ORT Argentina has already started the enrolment process for the next school year, which will commence in March

2003. A month after enrolment began, 620 out of the 700 vacancies have already been filled. (This is the number of new students annually joining ORT's schools). The requests for scholarships have rocketed to unprecedented heights and are expected to climb to a 35 percent increase from last year— an expected \$2 million will be spent in tuition fees alone.

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A message from the Director General

This edition of the World ORT Times appears a year, almost to the day, after the horrific events of September 11 2001 in the United States. They were events that changed the way most of us view the world, and it is fairly certain that the repercussions of September 11 will continue for a long time to come.

But in looking back, we must also look forward. In its 123 years of existence ORT has witnessed so many catastrophes and we have been called upon to respond to many difficult challenges. Throughout the world and throughout the years communities have turned to ORT for help and we have always reacted in the way we know best - by giving people the education and training that can help them to live their lives with dignity and pride.

ORT achieves its success by creating partnerships: Our generous donors throughout the world provide us with the financial means and the moral support to carry out our work. Our teams of devoted professionals invest their skills in the education programmes that provide the education and training for our tens of thousands of students. Our dedicated fundraisers - professional and volunteer - ensure that the ORT message is transmitted widely throughout the world. And our professional and lay leaders maintain contact with governments and education agencies to ensure that our schools and other institutes receive financial and political support at the highest level.

Here at World ORT our business is to cultivate these partnerships, and in this edition of World ORT Times you can read some of how we achieve this. You will see reports of our missions that bring the donors in to direct contact with the students and teachers that they support. These encounters have an electrifying effect on both the donors and the recipients: both come away from them spurred on to even greater achievements.

On other pages you will learn about the professional seminars that took place during the past months. Our seminars serve two main purposes: they bring ORT professionals together to exchange ideas and experiences, and they provide an opportunity to hear outside experts describe the latest developments in education, technology or management techniques that will enable us to retain our position as leaders in the education and training world.

Exemplifying the success of our continued efforts to ensure ORT's recognition among world leaders, on page two we report that Mikhail Gorbachev is now Honorary Co-chairman of ORT's Academic Advisory Council, and on page four of the awards presented to ORT students by President Katsav of Israel.

These partnerships will help us to face the coming year with hope, rising above the tragedies of a year ago and sending a clear message to our students, our staff and our supporters that ORT is alive and well, ready to face the next challenge.

Robert Singer, Director General

National Directors meet at Columbia University

For the past three years the National Directors of ORT worldwide have come together from all regions of the world for World ORT's National Directors Forum. This year the forum was held in June at Columbia University's Arden House in historic Harriman, New York.

The forum allows the directors of ORT worldwide countries to exchange ideas and address pressing issues such as Jewish education, technology, and leadership. Participants included directors from North America, Canada, Europe, Russia, Latin America, South Africa, and Asia. Other issues and topics discussed at the forum included future job market trends, public relations, quality management, the development of the ORT international youth movement, and International Cooperation.

Guest speakers such as Professor Eli Ginzberg, Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council, Professor Allan Rosenfield, Dean of Columbia Schools of Public Health, Columbia University, and Professor Judith Shapiro, President of Barnard, presented and discussed upcoming issues such as "Implications of New Technology on the Public Health Sector" and "New Openings for Women in the Modern Job Market."

During the forum it was decided that task forces would be created for programmes such as British ORT's initiative to launch a Gap Year programme, the Senior Executive Development/Certification programme and the International Cooperation programmes. The task forces will update members at the next Board of Directors meeting in Israel.

The next National Directors Forum will be held in Paris, France June 2nd - June 5th 2003.



ORT National Directors at Arden House on the grounds of Columbia University



Mikhail Gorbachev

Gorbachev joins Academic Advisory Council

Mikhail Gorbachev recently accepted a post on the World ORT Academic Advisory Council.

"I think that the projects that have been implemented and the ones being planned for the territory of the CIS and Baltic States are very interesting and necessary," said the Nobel Peace Prize winner. "It deserves full support."

"It is extremely important to ORT that a man who changed the history of the modern world is now a member of its Academic Advisory Council," said Robert Singer of Gorbachev. "ORT was founded in Russia almost 123 years ago and has very deep roots there. It is a great part of our history, and we have significant future projects in the area."



JP Morgan sponsors first World ORT CFO Conference

JP Morgan Private Bank sponsored the first ever World ORT Chief Financial Officers conference at ORT House in London last August. It was the first opportunity for Chief Financial Officers to meet one another, listen to presentations and discuss

issues of concern.

"We decided to initiate this meeting to invest in further developing the level of our professionals," said Robert Singer. "We hope to make this an annual event in order to develop good working relations amongst this team."

Top IT professionals at Wingate Seminar

Representatives from IBM and CISCO were special guest lecturers at the 3rd Annual World ORT Wingate Seminar in May at ORT House in London.

Andrew Walter, IBM IT Specialist for E-Learning solutions discussed IBM's Approach to E-learning; and Michael Ferninger, Technical Manager of CISCO Network Academy spoke about CISCO Academy and E-Learning.

At the outset of the seminar Director General Robert Singer said: "Each

year we endeavour to make the Wingate Seminar a broad platform for the sharing of ideas, problems and experiences, between the top ORT IT professionals worldwide. This has always been a huge success, and we hope that this year's will be bigger and better than ever."

Nineteen delegates from 14 different ORT countries participated in the seminar, which each year aims to assemble the cream of ORT's IT professionals from around the world.

Throughout the week participants had the chance to meet one another, present projects developed in their own countries and to share their personal experiences as ORT educators.

"I think it is very useful to have people coming from different teaching backgrounds and countries, because you can gain different perspectives from each other," said Hadas Matas, Head of the Internet Development Team at the ORT Moshinsky Research and Development Centre in Tel Aviv.

Missions to Latvia and Lithuania scheduled for October

World ORT will hold a mission to Eastern Europe from October 24-27.

The Mission will originate in Riga, Latvia, where participants will attend the official opening of the new ORT Technology Centre housed in the Jewish Community Centre as well as the ORT Computer Classroom at the Dubnov Jewish School.

Participants will be briefed by the Israeli Ambassador, meet with Jewish leaders and

local officials and tour Jewish sites in the city including the ghetto memorial complex. The Mission will then travel to Panevezhis (Ponevezh), a famous centre of Jewish life until the Holocaust in Lithuania, and continue to Vilnius to visit the Jewish community. On the return trip to Riga, the Mission will also visit Bachkonis and Kaunas.

For information on how you can participate please email int.liaison@ort.org

Agreement signing and new opening moves ORT Minsk forward

In May ORT leaders dedicated the new ORT Technology Centre at the Marc Chagall Institute in Minsk, Belarus.

Just before the dedication of the Centre, a bilateral agreement was signed between World ORT and the Ministry of Education of Belarus leading to expansion of and support for ORT's activities in Belarus. Sir Maurice Hatter from the UK, Deputy President of WO, signed the agreement with the Minister of Education of Belarus, Mr Peter Brigadin. Ambassadors from the United States, Israel, the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany all participated in the ceremony.

The project in Belarus was built as a result of Regeneration 2000. The task of regenerating the Jewish communities shattered by decades of communist rule is a principal aim of Regeneration 2000. ORT has shown that its schools and centres in the CIS and Baltic States are setting the standards by which others are being judged.

The new Centre was made possible through the generosity of Norman Seiden of New Jersey together with his family, and also through supporters of Women's American ORT, American ORT and World ORT.

"My father and uncle were born in Grodno, Poland, and they learned tool-and-die-making at an ORT school there. When they came to the United States they were already skilled in their trade and could support themselves and their families," Norman Seiden told the guests at the dedication.

"Being involved in Regeneration 2000 has given my family and me satisfaction in knowing that we are revitalising a community in need, close to where my family

came from."

The Jewish community of Minsk is estimated at 20,000 people — some 50 percent of the total Jewish population of Belarus. Having an ORT Technology Centre in the Marc Chagall Institute will have important benefits, as it will act as the educational centre for implementation of computer technology programmes for members of the community, as well students at the Institute.

For the Jewish community, the Marc Chagall Institute, located in the National University of Belarus, fills an essential gap in the system of higher education, providing a centre for education where young people can combine professional studies with an opportunity to learn and experience Jewish cultural and historical tradition.

The Institute cooperates with the Union of Jewish Organisations and Communities, Jewish Communities of Belarus, the JDC and the Jewish Agency.

"The addition of the ORT Technology Centre will considerably enhance the facilities available at the Institute and attract greater numbers of students from the Jewish community," said Vlad Lerner, National Director of ORT CIS.

After the dedication, intensive talks took place between the World ORT delegation and the rector of the University, Professor Alexander Kozulin. The National University of Belarus is the largest and most prestigious university in Belarus with 20,000 full time students.

The ceremony was shown on Belorussian State television and a number of national newspapers were on hand to cover the event.



Norman Seiden, Robert Singer, Rector of the University Professor Alexander Kozulin and Stephen Seiden cut the ribbon, officially inaugurating the new ORT centre in Minsk

In memoriam



Israel Goralnik

March 13, 1928 – July 2, 2002

Israel Goralnik served as Director General of ORT Israel from 1983 to 1997. He is credited with playing a prominent role in the establishment of the state of Israel, building it, helping in the absorption of its immigrants and creating a wide basis of youth and adult training in professional skills, thus contributing to economic development and defence.

As a young man in the War of Independence, Goralnik lost his right arm during one of the bitter battles, but continued to tend to his fellow soldiers as a paramedic. His identification with humane values and his active participation in building Israeli society gave him a special standing among leaders later in life.

"Goralnik was loved by all who surrounded him because he himself loved people," his friend and colleague Joseph Harmatz, former Director General of World ORT and ORT Israel, wrote in his latest book. "Israel Goralnik with one arm, embraced many more students, teachers, and young people than others did with both arms."



Students at ORT Uruguay queue for information on financial assistance

ORT Uruguay affected by regional crisis

Uruguay is now feeling the reverberations of the economic decline in Argentina. The problems in Argentina have had a direct effect on industrial exports, bank deposits and tourism, the main sources of income in Uruguay. As a result, ORT

Uruguay's activities are being affected. A large number of the parents of ORT Uruguay students have lost their jobs or businesses and can no longer pay their children's tuition, requiring scholarships so they can continue their studies.

ORT Uruguay professor appointed to Central Bank



Julio De Brun (right)

The academic coordinator of the of the Economics Department at the ORT Uruguay University has just been appointed President of the Central Bank of Uruguay.

Julio De Brun, 40, was also designated as the President of The National Development Corporation (NDC) — the largest financial development institution in Uruguay. Under Professor De Brun's leadership, the NDC has been actively involved in developing venture capital funds for high-tech start-ups.

First graduation for ORT Kiev

The ORT Kiev Technology Lyceum sent its first graduates into the real world at a graduation ceremony in June.

The Lyceum is only two years old and it is already regarded as one of the best schools in Kiev. During the academic year, 17 of the Lyceum students took first places in the Educational Olympiads. Medals of honour for outstanding achievements in education were awarded to three of the students. Seventy percent of the graduates have already secured a place at university — several of them at the International Solomon University in Kiev.

Shoulder to shoulder with our students in Israel

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In Israel, ORT has some 90,000 students and 9000 teachers from all parts of the country. Multiply these numbers to include family members you find that ORT represents a significant cross section of Israeli society.

Over the last two years, 37 ORT Israel students and recent graduates have been killed in terror attacks. In a number of cases, ORT students were with their friends when they were killed. The effect of this on the remaining students is deeply traumatic.

ORT's counsellors and psychologists said that they find it difficult to give the students a feeling of security - a hard task as they can often feel helpless in having to face the reality of everyday life in Israel.

ORT Ramot's Headmistress Aliza Golan explained to mission participants that teachers have to maintain an outward appearance of calm and assurance, both in and out of the classroom.

"Fear of the unknown, the likelihood of another terrorist attack, the helplessness of never knowing where and when you will be safe, have all contributed to a tremendous feeling of unease and insecurity amongst us all," she said.

The last stop on the mission was a visit to ORT Oleisky in Jerusalem. There a student expressed his thoughts to the group. He said he never realised how much Diaspora Jews care for him and his country.

"A common theme that we heard from most of the Israelis we spoke to is that we should not worry. Israel would prevail because they have to. They have nowhere else to go. They just need us to be behind them," said Roger Browdy, of American ORT.

Suzanne Davis, Chairman of the British ORT Women's Division said that being in Israel and seeing the situation firsthand is the only way to fully understand the level of crisis that the country is experiencing.

"The atmosphere in the country is one of fear - especially in the schools that we visited. But for me, it reiterated how important education is, not only because being in school creates a safe haven for students during the day, but because it moulds young adults into leaders who will have the ability to contribute to the future of a peace-loving Israel," Davis said.

Senior Field Director for American ORT Gary Perl agreed: "We had an opportunity to learn firsthand of the dangers our students and schools face everyday. We met both victims of terror and friends of victims, and witnessed how ORT Israel is helping them recover and cope with the current situation.

"Our message by being there with them at this time was that they are neither alone nor forgotten. In turn, our resolve was strengthened by their spirit, their enthusiasm and their heroism."

"Nothing that I have done or seen prepared me for the few days I spent on an ORT Solidarity Mission to Israel," said Emmanuel Kalles, Executive Director of ORT Montreal. "I was deeply touched by what I saw, by the people I met and by what I have heard. It has renewed my faith in these young people and redoubled my commitment to ORT and the Special Campaign for Israel that we have launched."

Presidential Award for operation Sunflowers

In a special ceremony at his home in Jerusalem, President of Israel Moshe Kasav presented several ORT Israel students with the President's Volunteer Award. Students from 15 schools that volunteer their free time to the Sunflowers Project all received the award.

The Sunflowers Project serves the haematology and oncology units at 11 hospitals around Israel, including the world famous Rambam and Hadassah Medical Centres in Haifa and Jerusalem.

Some 300 ORT high school pupils aged between 16 and 18 now participate in the project, visiting younger children receiving long-term in-patient treatment for cancer. Removed from friends and the normal, day-to-day activities of children, these young patients can easily lose hope. But with the friendships they develop with their older ORT 'brothers and sisters' they are able to visit far-off places via virtual tours, keep up with and research school assignments, chat live with teachers and fellow classmates, or just e-mail a friend. With computers, Internet access, software, and training all provided by ORT Israel, these children are able to stay connected to the ones they love, as well



Sunflowers volunteers at the President's home in Jerusalem

as explore the world beyond the hospital walls.

"ORT is about education, but it also has a social commitment," said Zvi Peleg, National Director of ORT Israel. "The Sunflowers Project is a way to teach students that there is more to education than simply grades."



Irit Ben Hamo from ORT Kiryat Bialik and Hasan Abu-Achmed from ORT Ronson Usfia accept their award from President Moshe Katsav.

Heightened level of fear sets in at ORT school

During a mock emergency last February, students at ORT Spanien High School in Jerusalem demonstrated for the city's mayor how quickly and orderly the 350 students at the school could escape if an attack were to occur.

Little did they know that less than six months later, their school would be caught in the middle of a real terror catastrophe.

On June 18 a bus exploded just 250 metres from the ORT Spanien High School in Jerusalem.

In the course of the attack, 19 people were killed, including 10 school children, and 52 people were wounded.

Most students were already in school when the blast occurred. The two students from ORT who were on the bus were slightly injured.

The school's pupils and staff, and even those not directly affected, were in state of shock following the attack. And because many of the students at the school expressed their concerns about not having safe places to go during the summer holidays, the school's administration made a decision to extend the school year until mid-July, with many staff and faculty volunteering their time.

Here are some written thoughts and feelings of students at ORT Spanien:

"My name is Eliran Shalom of Spanien ORT in Jerusalem and I am in the seventh grade.

On Tuesday June 18, I arrived at school at 7:55 a.m. I saw my friend Joshua at the bus stop and invited him to come pray with us in the Beit-Midrash. Joshua said he was waiting for another friend to come. I entered the school synagogue and started laying tefillin and got up to the middle of the blessing. Suddenly I heard a tremendous explosion. At first I figured it was just a plane flying beyond the speed of sound, and so I disregarded the noise. Shortly thereafter my friend Yishai came running in shouting about the terrorist attack that had just taken place in a bus at the nearby junction and that he knows Zohar is on the burning bus. I left the sanctuary and ran toward the junction to see what had happened.

Pieces of bodies were strewn all over on the ground. People were busy moving bodies away and arranging them on the side. I saw dead and wounded people lying in the street. The wounded cried for help. I continued searching for Zohar and I found Joshua sitting and weeping. I asked him what happened, and he said that Zohar was on that bus. I asked a passer-by for a cellular phone to use and called Zohar on his mobile phone. At first there was no reply, but eventually he answered the phone and said that he was fine.

We started assisting people in need who had been wounded. The sights were really scary. A few minutes later there was already a long line of corpses covered with black bags being identified according to serial numbers. I hope never again to witness an event as frightening as this."

Ariel Tzaba, a ninth-grade student ORT Spanien wrote:

"On Tuesday June 18 I was supposed to start school a bit later than usual. When I woke up in the morning I went shopping with a friend at the Talpiot Mall. At 7:50 a.m. I heard on the radio that there had been an explosion on a bus at the Patt Junction near our school crossing.

I ran right over to our school filled with a sense of fear. I wasn't too sure I wanted to know who had been hurt. This bus runs on a route that we travel every day to get to school. I heard that many students were caught in the burning bus.

When we arrived at the site we saw many parked cars and an ambulance taking wounded people away. The ruins of the bus still stood there. The most unbearable feeling was a sense of uncertainty as to the unruly fate ahead. Was anyone from my family or circle on the bus at the time of the explosion?"

Usually in times of bombings the cellular phone lines go out, and nobody can be reached. Our school was under a lot of pressure. Teachers tried locating students, and guidance counsellors came into the classrooms to talk to the students they could find.

What scares me the most is the feeling of insecurity, tomorrow I might be in grave danger, like the next turn in Russian Roulette."



ORT Spanien students in a mock emergency

**Update:
Crisis at ORT
Argentina**

The continuation of ORT's activities in Argentina has been the source of great relief for many in the country's Jewish community. Notwithstanding the toll taken by the economic crisis on most families, continued schooling at least means that their education can continue without interruption during these crucial formative years.

In an address to the World ORT National Directors Forum, ORT Argentina National Director Baruj Zaidenknop reported that while the situation in his country remains uncertain, ORT's determination to provide its students with the best education remains top priority.

In addition to educating the some 6,500 students at its two technical high schools and two colleges, ORT Argentina also assists in retraining unemployed members of the community and offering job placement services. ORT Argentina also functions as a Tzedaka distribution centre, handing out foodstuffs, medicine and in some cases money so that families can pay for basic services.

"ORT maintains a healthy level of involvement in the community-setting an example for others to follow," Zaidenknop said. "ORT students continually receive recognition as a result of their dedicated participation in a number of community-wide social action projects."

Though ORT students in Argentina are suffering economic hardship, their thoughts and prayers are with their counterparts in Israel who are facing a security crisis.

ORT Argentina: Israel we're with you

In a touching link between two suffering countries, ORT students in Argentina sent e-mail messages of solidarity to their brethren in Israel. The children displayed their fortitude and compassion for others experiencing difficult circumstances beyond their control. "We are thinking of you," wrote Florencia in Buenos Aires. "We are having a tough time too, but don't lose hope. No one can take that away from us."

"My country is suffering a very hard crisis, maybe the worst of its rich history. However, I'm very worried about the situation in the Middle East. Like everybody here in Argentina, and almost everyone in Israel too, I support peace. But that doesn't mean I'm against you, but that I'm with you. Palestinian terrorist attacks have caused the death of many Jewish brothers, mainly civilians.

Furthermore, the Argentinean Jewish community has suffered two terrible attacks, so we know what it feels like. As you are fighting to stop the terrorist wave, I send you all my support. Maybe it's not a big support, but it's my little contribution to your cause. So, I would like to thank you for all you've done to protect the Israeli people, and to give you all my support, in representation of many Jewish people all around the world, physically far away from Israel, but very near in fact.

"This letter is for whoever wants to read it and know that our wish for you is the biggest. We hope that this crisis you are going through



bullets in the sky won't stop the war and only love and understanding will be the best way to have a perfect world.

"I'm from Argentina, and I usually see the news here, to see what happens there, in Israel. Me and my family here are very worried about the situation there, and we have a lot of family there. The situation gets worse every time, but the best you can do is wait to see what happens, and stay calm. It must be a very bad situation to live there, and I hope everything would get better soon. We talk about this in our homes, in our schools, in our communities, in the synagogues. We are all worried. I don't like to see people suffering, in pain, people dieing, I feel really bad. I hope everything would get better soon, and I'm sure it will happen.

"I don't have the necessary words in English to tell you how I feel when I see what is happening in Israel. How

can I have words in English if I can't even find the words in Spanish for my feelings? You know that Argentina is in a terrible moment too. Although it is not a real war with soldiers in the streets, we share with you the feeling of insecurity we have when we go into the streets. I don't know you, but I have to immigrate to Spain because of economic and social crisis we are going through and this is terrible. Why is my country suffering this way? Why is your country suffering that deadly war?

stops immediately and the governments to agree and be happy. We know that only the people are the most harmed in this crisis. We hope the whole world to be in peace, but it's very difficult to make it happen. It's difficult to think about wars, discrimination, and racism. You must know that the whole Jewish community is thinking about you and in your country every day. We want peace, equality for the people. Your country is one of the most important in the world but these things, these murders are useless, that the

Special distinction for ORT Uruguay film

A documentary film produced by ORT Uruguay entitled *Despite Treblinka*, was awarded the jury's Special Distinction in the documentary category of the 20th International Uruguayan Film Festival.

Despite Treblinka was directed and produced by a small group of teachers of the ORT Uruguay School of Communication. Initiated by 30-year old director Gerardo Stawsky, the film is based on interviews of Shoah survivors in Uruguay and Israel with special focus on the Treblinka uprising.

Gerardo Stawsky, said at the festival press conference, "This is a film about life, hope and endurance rather than death and destruction alone."

National Director of ORT Uruguay Dr Charlotte de Grunberg added, "We feel very proud of this achievement which, incredibly enough, came to the public eye at a moment of conflict and anguish for the Jewish people,

negative press for Israel and often blatant anti-Semitism."

The film was the only Uruguayan documentary that received an award at the international festival, and was greeted with enormous enthusiasm by the 1000-strong audience which included the leaders of the Uruguayan Jewish Community, Israel's Ambassador, Members of Parliament, journalists and the general public.

The documentary is the first part of a multimedia educational project on the impact of the Shoah on Jewish lives and how some individuals managed to survive, raise families and enjoy "normal" lives after enduring hell.

There are plans to produce a multimedia version and a web site with teaching guides for history teachers of Jewish and non-Jewish schools all over the country. English subtitled versions of this documentary are also in the pipeline.



Poster for the film that was shown at the festival

Crossing borders for peace

ORT students from ORT Holon, ORT Lvovich and ORT Kiryat Bialik participated in a three-day seminar in Turkey in August.

Crossing Borders is a coexistence project funded by the State Department of Denmark and run in Israel by the Jewish-Arab Centre for Peace at Givat Haviva. The aim of the project is to bring together young people from four sectors of Israeli society - Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs, Palestinians and Jordanians in the hope that communication and discussion will make all groups understand the

importance and value of coexistence in the Middle East.

While in Turkey, the students attended journalism seminars and wrote articles that were published in the *Crossing Borders* magazine, which is distributed to schools around the country.

Heads of ORT schools were eager to take part and help with the coordination of the project. They are hopeful that more schools will apply to the project next year and the number of students representing ORT will increase.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

ORT in Italy



ORT Building Trade School, Milan, March 1948

ORT has worked in Italy for more than half a century, serving both the local Jewish community and tens of thousands of refugees who have passed through the country on their way to other lands.

A major theme of ORT's programme in Italy has been its work with refugees. Indeed, ORT Italy was created in 1946 with the very purpose of training thousands of Holocaust survivors in the country's DP camps. Although this work was largely completed by 1949, from the fifties to the late eighties, ORT Italy offered language and vocational courses for thousands escaping the Soviet bloc: particularly Jewish refugees from Hungary after the 1956 uprising, and from the USSR during the seventies. ORT also supported North African Jewish refugees from Egypt after the Suez crisis (1956), Jews from Libya after the Six Day War (1967), and non-Jewish refugees from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Poland, Romania and Hungary in the eighties.

As its DP programme drew to a close, ORT turned its attention to the needs of the local Jewish population (about 35,000). ORT concentrated its work in the larger centres of Rome and Milan, but also assisted the smaller communities of Turin, Florence, Livorno, Venice, Genoa, and Trieste. During the fifties and sixties ORT ran a wide range of practical and vocational programmes for youth and adults throughout the country. These ranged from technical training in Jewish elementary schools, to evening classes for adults and formal apprenticeship training. ORT's own schools in Milan and Rome concentrated on secondary-level vocational education. Over the years their curriculum turned from mechanics to electronics (for boys) and from dressmaking to secretarial skills (for girls), but by the seventies the main emphasis was on languages and business administration.

With declining birth rates and economic downturn in the eighties and nineties, ORT's schools combined with existing Jewish community schools, but ORT has continued to have a presence and an involvement in Italy. In June 2001 it helped establish a technology centre within Milan's Jewish school and there are plans to re-establish ORT's programme in Rome.

Displaced Persons Programme

ORT's DP work began in Germany and Austria. In 1946, ORT decided to extend the programme to Italy and ORT Italy was established at the end of that year. It was hard work finding instructors and premises and motivating the refugees - they viewed Italy as a short transit stop on their way to other countries. But by the middle of 1947, there were ORT courses in every camp. ORT ran a wide variety of courses, including a building construction school and aviation course (see photographs).

ORT's Italian DP programmes tended to be short and disrupted - reflecting the brief stay of DPs in the country, especially after Israel left ORT's courses with very useful skills, few took graduation certificates with them. In late 1947 the whole programme suffered a major upheaval when the Italian government decided to move the camps to the south of Italy, where it could better control them. ORT hastily relocated its courses, trainers and equipment and was up and running again within weeks. The programme wound down in 1949 as most of the DPs left, but ORT continued to run special rehabilitation courses for Jewish and non-Jewish DPs left behind with tuberculosis.



ORT aviation course, late 1948

Vocational Education



Television technicians course, Milan, late 1950s

These photographs depict two of ORT's vocational courses. These were established for the local Italian Jewish community, but also served refugees. ORT Milan's television technicians course began in 1953, alongside similar courses for dental technicians and mechanics. Although the Milan community itself was quite wealthy, many of those attending ORT's technical school came from smaller, much poorer Jewish communities scattered throughout North Italy. ORT found accommodation for them in a local Jewish hostel, paid for by Women's American ORT. When this hostel was closed, in 1957, ORT set up its own hostel in the city, again with the assistance of Women's American ORT.

ORT's curriculum in Rome was similar to that in Milan. Initially, ORT concentrated its programme among the poor Rome community, who were still centred in the ghetto and had few educational opportunities. By the seventies, its largest programme was for Russian refugees, with as many as a thousand at any one time learning English or taking vocational courses at ORT centres in Rome and nearby Ostia and Ladispoli.



Hairdressing and beauty course, Rome, 1960s

New project planned for Mordovia

Russian Federation Senator Leonid Nevzlin has initiated a three-year project in Mordovia, Russia.

This project aims to create an attractive state of the art technology centre in Saransk, the capital of Mordovia. The project will be operated and supervised by ORT Russia together with the local authorities, and will consist of the establishment of a Technology Resource Centre

and a Regional Teacher Training Programme. The project will be funded partly by the Mordovian Department for Education and by UKOS, one of the largest petrol companies in Russia.

Leonid Nevzlin is the former President of the Russian Jewish Congress and plays an active part in the regeneration of Jewish communities in Russia.



Leonid Nevzlin

Calling all cyclists

British ORT and a team of hardy supporters are set to return to the organisation's roots next year with a sponsored cycle ride ending in St Petersburg. The city, which celebrates its 300th Anniversary in 2003, saw the establishment of ORT in 1880 by a small group of wealthy Jewish philanthropists.

The riders will visit Moscow before travelling to the starting point at Volodya, some 600 km east of St Petersburg. The ride itself covers 450 km, taking participants through Russia's heartland, past forests, small towns and villages and providing a view of the country unseen by most tourists. Riders will also spend some nights under canvas. The event will culminate in a welcome reception by ORT in St Petersburg, home of the ORT de Gunzberg School and its 450 pupils.

The opportunity to take part in the ride is also being made available to riders from other countries in which ORT is active, including Canada, South Africa and the United States.

"We are really looking forward to assembling an enthusiastic group of riders to see a part of the world so familiar to our grandparents and great grandparents, but so alien to us," said Jon Benjamin, British ORT's Chief Executive and veteran of charity bike rides in Jordan and Vietnam. "The route and particularly the culmination of the ride in St Petersburg will have a particular prominence for ORT, whilst helping us support our projects all around the world."

For details of how to participate, please email british.ort@ort.org

WAO Tikkun Olam Award

Claire and Bob Mazer of Chicago received the Women's American ORT Tikkun Olam Award during its annual meeting in Chicago in July.

The Tikkun Olam Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have shown commitment to strengthening the Jewish community.

The Mazers were honoured for their continued and outstanding philanthropic commitment to Women's American ORT and to World ORT.

Currently an honorary vice president, Claire Mazer has recently held positions including a member of Women's American ORT's national board of directors and as co-chair of Pacesetters, a group for donors who give \$25,000 or more annually. She also serves as secretary on the board of trustees of Zarem/Golde Technical Institute, an ORT school located in Chicago.

"Having visited the schools annually since our first trip in 1969, we're always amazed by how relevant and viable the ORT programme is," the Mazers said.



Bob and Claire Mazer with The Hon. Moshe Ram, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest and Carol Linch, National President of WAO.

"Claire Mazer has epitomized dedication to the ORT programme throughout her 45 years with Women's American ORT," says Carol Linch, National President of Women's American ORT. "The generosity of her commitment—both of her time as well as her donations—has been inspiring to leaders and members alike."

Lay leader perspectives

By Roger Browdy
American ORT
Vice President for
Leadership Development

Over a quarter of the Israeli work force in industry is ORT trained. As such, ORT schools are a valid cross-section of Israeli society as a whole and learning about the problems faced by these schools gives us an important insight into what it is like to live in Israel during "the situation", as it is called there.

One teacher referred to it as the "Three A's: Anybody, Anywhere, at Anytime". It takes a highly professional team of educators to keep up the morale and support the graduating classes of approximately 200 students in each school per year who go straight into the army.

The staff encourages them to question what is going on around them, and explains to them that they have the right to be afraid and uncertain about the future, and that they, like every other Jew, have a commitment to their utmost to ensure the survival of the State of Israel. The teachers have not lost hope for a better future, and they take every opportunity to pass this hope on to their students.

After experiencing what these students and educators have to live with every day, all of us were certain that we were not the courageous ones. Those dealing with the situation and carrying on despite everything happening around them are the true examples of courage.

It is up to us to show our solidarity in our own small way. Like the educators and counsellors who have to summon up all of their strength and professionalism to help each other in such times of crisis, so must we summon up all of our strength and courage to show whatever support for Israel that we can.

Mother and Child Care Project over to Porto Alegre

A Mother and Child Care Project developed by ORT in one of Brazil's poorest urban areas, has been officially endowed to the local municipality of Porto Alegre. At a ceremony attended by representatives of Brazil's Jewish community and ORT as well as the Israeli Ambassador to Brazil, community leaders expressed their pleasure in having provided such a valuable facility for their needy neighbours.

ORT helped to set up the infrastructure for a community centre, which houses a pre-school for children up to the age of 6, and classrooms for adult vocational training classes. The Mother and Child Care programme provides adults, with health and nutrition education, improving existing health care and helping to alleviate malnutrition among young children. In addition, vocational training courses for adults at the centre focus on training unemployed people from the community in skills such as gardening and building construction.



Pre-school class in Porto Alegre

In common with most of ORT's projects of this nature, the beneficiaries of the programme were heavily involved in its development and have been trained to run the project without the need for ongoing outside assistance.

More than 30 percent of the families living in Porto Alegre earn less than the national minimum wage and around 120,000 children and adolescents live in poverty. Situated in the developing region of Cavalhada, Porto Alegre is notorious for criminal gangs involved in drugs and causing violence.

"The Porto Alegre Town Council commits itself to ensuring the continuation of this project now that ORT has completed the groundwork," said Jacob Amselem, the ORT International Cooperation representative in Porto Alegre. "The Jewish community of Brazil is very proud of this very important and valued project that ORT has initiated."

Montenegro Advocacy Programme

ORT's Montenegro Advocacy Programme (MAP) has begun in Montenegro, part of the former Yugoslavia. The project will ensure that local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will receive the skills and experience needed to establish and gov-

ern their own democratic society.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded \$3 million for the three-year project.

ORT is well known through-

out the Balkan region for its experience in strengthening civil society. ORT's International Cooperation has a long history in development and management resources and in building local capacity to ensure sustainability of projects.

Send Us Your Stories Calling All ORT Students

We want to know all about your school and how ORT has helped to make a difference in your life and in the lives of those around you.

Stories should be:

- well-written with strong English proficiency
- display a human-interest quality
- promote ORT in the school, community and the wider world

Wish ORT were:

Profiles - feature an outstanding student or teacher in the school. Tell us about them and what they have done to make them exceptional people in the school or community

New events - Report on major events happening in your city or town where your school is located and include how low ORT might relate to it

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

All stories will be considered for publication in the World ORT Times. At the end of the academic year, three of the best stories will be chosen and cash awards will be given to the young journalists who have displayed an excellent ability in reporting and writing a story about ORT.

Send your stories with photos (if applicable) by email to worldort.press@ort.org

Events 2002 - 2003

October

03 British ORT Annual Dinner with Mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert

10 ORT Switzerland Annual Dinner

24-27 World ORT International Mission to Latvia and Lithuania

26-28 World ORT Executive Committee Meeting, Moscow

November

18-22 Hatter Technology Seminar, London

20-22 UJC General Assembly in Philadelphia

December

15-17 The Bernick Fundraising Seminar, New York

January

22-24 World ORT Executive Committee Meeting, Jerusalem

26-28 World ORT Board of Directors Meeting, Eilat

28 World ORT Mission to ORT Israel Schools



30 Bill Clinton to speak at ORT Mexico Dinner

Why not join our mailing list and receive up to date information on upcoming missions? Further details can be obtained by emailing int.liaison@ort.org

How can I help?

Please help World ORT to continue its important work by making a donation. In doing so you will provide an invaluable gift to future generations. You can make your contribution by contacting your local ORT offices, or by visiting our website at www.ort.org, or send a check payable to World ORT, 126 Albert Street, NW1 7NE, London, England.

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UK Chief Rabbi launches new ORT website

The official launch of World ORT's Yizkor website took place on Wednesday September 4 at ORT House in London. The site was launched in the presence of the UK's Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, Cantor Chaim Adler, who lent his spectacular voice to the website and Sir Maurice Hatter who generously sponsored the project.

During the launch, guests were treated to the breathtaking voice of Chazan Chaim Adler who performed a brief pre-Rosh Hashanah cantorial melody, and also chanted the memorial prayer for the 37 ORT Israel students and recent graduates that have died in acts of terror. Visitors to the site can hear the beautifully rendered Kaddish, Yizkor and the memorial prayers by the world-renowned Cantor of Tel Aviv, who recorded the pieces especially for this project.



Guest at launch samples the website

It is in the spirit of harnessing technology to issues of Jewish continuity that ORT has developed its renowned online Navigating the Bible project and, now, the Yizkor memorial website.

"The Jewish people are the world's first virtual community," the Chief Rabbi told guests at ORT House. "Since the destruction of the Second Temple the Jews did not have a common nation, but they were always connected, if not in space but in time.

"Every Shabbat and every festival they said the same words so all of them, no matter where they were in the world were connected by their tradition. This website allows all Jews today wherever they are in the world to remain connected."

Lady Amelie Jakobovits, wife of the Late Chief Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, graciously closed the ceremony. September 4, the date of the launch, was 59 years to the day when she and her family were rescued from Nazis in France. She told the very poignant story of how she was rescued and how ORT helped her family get back on their feet after the traumas of their escape.



Sir Maurice Hatter with Lady Irene Hatter

"When we say Yizkor we pray that God will remember us for life," Lady Jakobovits said. "When we got out of the camp it was ORT's kindness and graciousness that reminded us that we had not been forgotten."

Visit the site at www.yizkor.ORT.org and see for yourself.

14-year-olds conquer country for ORT

How many people can say they have walked right across a country? UK-based student Daniel Manson can — and he did it for ORT.

Earlier this year, 14-year-old Daniel decided he would like to take up the challenge of crossing England on foot. He gathered a team of three friends the same age who were prepared to conquer the country with him and who, like him, decided this would provide a good opportunity to raise money for three charities, including the ORT Dikhatole project in South Africa.

Though Dikhatole is not a place where you would expect to cruise the information highway, Hewlett-Packard, with ORT and other partners, is helping to build a state-of-the-art "digital village" there.

Dikhatole Digital Village, with more than 90 Internet-enabled workstations, is the largest HP facility of its kind in the country. ORT South Africa is in charge of the project.

Launched in the United States in February 2000, the HP Digital Village programme aims to bring the tools for learning and competing in the digital economy to communities that need them most. It includes HP products, services and consulting.

The project will open up new opportunities for people in the community as they acquire computer, Internet and business skills. It is the hope of project organisers that it will provide the beneficiaries with a better chance of finding employment or starting a small business and will address the vicious circle of poverty.

"We are looking at unemployed people becoming employable," says Iris Colyn, national director at ORT South Africa. "It will impact at least 4,000 people over the next three years." But, Colyn points out, the impact will be much broader, as economic benefits ripple outward to family members and the community.

Dikhatole started as a squatter camp for black labourers under the apartheid regime. There is water and electricity but no paved roads. Most of the houses are shacks. The 10,000 families living in them face South Africa's worst problems — the world's highest incidence of AIDS, as well as unemployment, violence, crime and inadequate schools.

According to Colyn, the Digital Village can bring to the community not only information and communication technology (ICT) skills, but also self-esteem and hope.

Daniel said he chose to give the money he raised to the ORT Dikhatole project because giving people useful skills is important to him.

"I think a lot of the kids in my school were very impressed with what my friends and I accomplished," Daniel said. We had fun, and knowing that the we were helping disadvantaged people made us feel like we had done something very worthwhile."



Daniel Manson

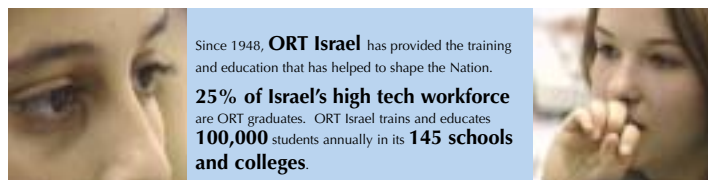
IN MEMORIAM

The ORT family mourns the untimely deaths of its Israeli students and graduates who have died as a result of acts of terror.

Amit Zana
Rachel Levi
Cochi Polanski
Danny Daray
Raisa Nemirovsky
Marina Tagilchev
Hanit Arami
Avi Ben Herush
Ronen Landau
Zvika Golomak
Dvir Reshef
Kobi Nir
Doron Suwary
Assaf Yitzhaki
Yaniv Levy
Eyal Sela
Raz Mintz
Assaf Avitan
Yossi EIEZra

Moshe Yedid
Halevi
Eli Ganam
Sharon Arama
Keren Rothstein
Beni Kikis
Erez Turjeman
Dan Emunei
Matan Biderman
Avi Rahamim
Zeev Hanik
Nail Waa'bi
Menace Hava
Shlomi Ben-Haim
Sarial Katz
Yigal Nevipoor
Adi Dahan
Avraham Barzilay
Sari Goldstein

Emergency campaign for ORT schools in Israel



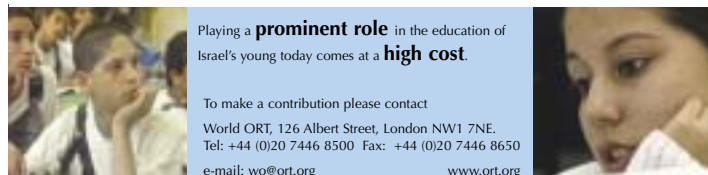
Since 1948, **ORT Israel** has provided the training and education that has helped to shape the Nation.

25% of Israel's high tech workforce are ORT graduates. ORT Israel trains and educates **100,000** students annually in its **145 schools and colleges**.

ORT needs additional funds **to provide trauma counselling** to students and their families — 37 ORT Israel students and graduates have been killed through recent acts of terror

ORT needs additional funds **to provide security** fences and protection for students and staff

ORT needs additional funds **to restore school hours cut** because of reduced government spending



Playing a **prominent role** in the education of Israel's young today comes at a **high cost**.

To make a contribution please contact
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