

# World Times

*Educating for Life*

Winter 2003

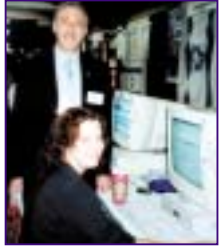


**Environmental Centre opened in Brazil**  
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**An ORT Hanukkah**  
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**ORT's brand of Jewish education and technology brought to North America**



**National Director of ORT Argentina Baruj Zaidenknop with a visitor to ORT's "Cyber Café," which was set up on the floor of the GA.**

IN November World ORT brought leaders from ORT organisations from around the world to the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in Philadelphia. There they conveyed to more than 4,000 delegates that the key to making Jewish Education attractive is through the use of technology.

ORT National Directors from the CIS and Baltic States, Argentina, Uruguay and France presented ORT's vision of providing Jewish communities, wherever they are, with skills and knowledge necessary to cope with the complexity and uncertainties of their environment.

World ORT's participation at the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in Philadelphia was successful exercise in promoting ORT's work for the survival of the Jewish people through technological training and education.

"All of ORT's programmes engage universal applicability to foster economic self-sufficiency, mobility and Jewish identity," said Judah Harstein, Deputy Head of Jewish Education at World ORT. "The purpose of the projects we develop at World ORT is to connect Jewish people vertically with their heritage and horizontally with other Jews around the world.

"By using technology to deliver educational programmes we can provide our children with the skills needed to succeed in today's job market."

## Senior ORT leaders meet in Israel



**Board of directors will show solidarity with ORT Israel's students**

MORE than 140 delegates from as far as the Baltic States and Chile will travel to Israel for the World ORT Annual Board of Directors Meeting from 26-27 January to assess the organisation's achievements from this past year and to set new goals for 2003.

It was agreed at last year's meeting in Cape Town that the 2003 World ORT Board of Directors Meeting would be held in Israel as a show of ORT's solidarity and support in these uncertain times.

Just before the Board assembles, World ORT's Executive Committee will hold meetings in Jerusalem on the campuses of ORT Ramot and ORT Givat Ram. During the two days, Supreme Court Justice of Israel Aaron Barak

will address the Executive, the Michael Rosner Resource Area at Givat Ram will be inaugurated, and delegates will meet with ORT students and heads of all ORT schools in Jerusalem.

A focus of talks will undoubtedly be the current situation in Israel. ORT Israel has lost many of its graduates and students through terrorist attacks. The need to provide enhanced security in the schools, combined with the need to provide emotional and psychological support for anxious students remains paramount.

Despite the disruption by the terrorism and political and social insecurity, ORT continues to enforce the belief that education is the key to eliminating intolerance.

Other items to be discussed include issues affecting technological education around the world such as the need for educational, vocational and technologic skills and education in the CIS, world trends in education, the needs of declining Jewish communities and communities in crisis.

Among the many highlights of the meeting will include an address from the President of Israel Moshe Katsav, a lecture entitled the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict—A Regional Perspective by Professor Shlomo Ben Ami, Former Israeli Foreign Minister and an address from the Mayor of Eilat Gaby Kadosh. After the meeting closes, more than 60 delegates will travel to the North and visit students and staff members at ORT Acco and ORT Braude in Karmiel.

## Hopeful future for Argentina students

THE future of many of the children in Argentina is a now brighter thanks to generous donations totaling \$575,000 from the Safra Foundation of Switzerland and the Meyers Foundation of Cleveland.

The Meyers Foundation from Cleveland has pledged \$250,000 towards tuition fees for ORT Argentina students with the Safra Foundation pledging \$325,000 for new equipment along with tuition fees.

With many Jewish schools forced closed, ORT Argentina is now serving 80% of students remaining

in Jewish high schools in Buenos Aires. If the ORT schools are also forced to shut, the loss to the community would be substantial.

ORT has received a strong vote of confidence from Jewish parents and children in Argentina. A month after the enrolment process for school year starting in March 2003, 620 out of 700 vacancies had already been filled, the number of new students annually joining ORT schools.

*Read more about ORT Argentina on page 5*



## A message from the Director General

**T**he only certainty is that nothing is certain." Those words seem to ring as true today as they were when they were written by the Roman scholar Pliny 2000 years ago. The world at large and the Jewish community in particular are constantly being buffeted by the winds of uncertainty. Hundreds of families who, a few short years ago, were enjoying life to the full, are suddenly bereaved because they have become the casualties of terrorism; others find themselves destitute because of the sudden change in their economic circumstances; others are simply too fearful to put their trust in a benign future.

Throughout all this uncertainty - or perhaps because of it - the ORT mission is as important as ever it was: To educate and nurture adults and youngsters, and to give them the skills to develop their confidence in themselves and in their future. Sometimes, on the way, we have to take time out from formal education and concentrate on rebuilding the spirit of an individual that has been shattered by a personal trauma. This, too, we undertake and to it we apply the same professionalism that we employ in all ORT's activities.

The effort to build and re-build lives is a team effort. Those on the front line are the teachers, support staff and principals of the ORT schools around the world who deliver ORT's education, training and counselling programmes. Theirs is the tough job. But they would be unable to continue in their sacred work if they were not supported by the remainder of the ORT family - the professionals and the lay leaders who ensure that the infrastructure is in place and that the funds are there to keep the organisation going. Although most of our basic work is funded from national or local government sources, the "extras" come only from our fundraising activities.

And what are these "extras"? I do not believe that they are extra at all; I believe that they are fundamental. Is a security fence to protect our students an extra? Or a programme to help students with special needs? Or food for hungry students from poor families? Or counselling for students who have been bereaved and traumatised? Or a training seminar for teachers to ensure that they are equipped to carry out their work effectively? Or a study programme that will enable young Jewish people to learn for the first time about their heritage? All of these programmes, and more, are not paid for from governmental sources, but are provided by ORT with funds that have been raised by our dedicated lay and professional staff.

In this edition of World ORT Times you can read of some of these programmes and of the successes that we have achieved in bringing the ORT message to an ever-widening audience. Stories in this issue include our participation for the first time as a major player at the annual General Assembly (GA) of the Jewish Federations of North America; a report on the Hatter Seminar for ORT IT professionals, of new programmes in Israel, the CIS and South America and of the recognition of our achievements by leading personalities around the world.

If there is one tool that will enable people to rise above their circumstances it is education - and particularly education that leads to the acquisition of useful and marketable skills. In this uncertain world, ORT renews its pledge to continue to provide that lifeline to the thousands of individuals and families who depend upon us.

Robert Singer, Director General

# Hatter Seminar welcomes top ORT tech professionals

THE first World ORT Hatter Technology seminar took place in London in November.

Participants travelled from Israel, the CIS, France and Argentina to London to present the latest technology education developments in their country and to attend workshops of topical interest.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide a broad platform for the sharing of ideas, problems and experiences between ORT's Technological professionals worldwide.

Professor Rosa Azhari from the ORT Braude College in Israel said, "The seminar made me appreciate the high level of activities taking place in the different countries. Our ORT resources should be combined and shared."

Jean-Pierre Benchetrit from ORT France agreed, "The presentations gave me another view of how to teach Technology outside of the official curriculum."

During the seminar, delegates also visited a CTC college to see first hand how technology is taught within the British curriculum.

Sir Maurice Hatter said he wanted to initiate a seminar for some time that focuses purely on technology education.



Delegates of the Hatter Seminar at the entrance of a CTC college in London

technology education.

"In the Hi-Tech world of today, I firmly believe that Technology Education and Training is without a doubt,

the essential way forward," Hatter said. "The seminar was an excellent platform for the discussion and sharing of ideas on how to further develop technology teaching in the ORT network around the world."

## World ORT Executive Committee hosted by Ambassador

IN October, while in London for an annual meeting, The World ORT Executive Committee attended a champagne reception hosted by the Honourable Tzvi Shtauber, Israel's Ambassador to the U.K.

Shtauber briefed the committee on the current situation in Israel.

"It is a difficult time in our history and support from the Jewish community around the world is crucial. The most important thing is to increase the awareness of Jewish identity and to teach our children about the importance of Israel. We are a strong nation and I am sure that we will be able to steer our region to a better and peaceful future for our children.

As she presented the Ambassador with a gift from WO, Reese Feldman said, "The Executive Committee reflects the international aspect of the organisation which makes the ORT programmes so valuable in Jewish communities around the world. A main goal of ORT's programmes around the world is to increase the level of Jewish identity and awareness. ORT is contributing to and seeing the rebirth of Jewish communities in the places like the CIS and Baltic States. We are preparing them in the hope that, one day, those students will find their way to Israel."

After the reception, the Committee attended a dinner at ORT House where Justice Richard Goldstone, President of World ORT, gave a lecture entitled *Terrorism in the Post-9/11 World*.



World ORT President Justice Richard Goldstone with Ambassador Tzvi Shtauber

## Taiwanese Teachers visit ORT House



Teachers from Taiwan, who specialise in technology education, were treated to a morning at ORT House in November when Michael Shain, Head of the Information Technology Department at World ORT discussed Distance Learning with the group.

# Mission to Baltic States opens new ORT Tech centres



**(Left and top right): Students from the Shalom Aleichem School in Vilna welcome ORT delegates with flowers and a special concert**

AFTER a forced absence of 60 years from the Baltic States, World ORT re-established itself in the region by opening new Technology Centres in Latvia and Lithuania in October.

Dr. Jean de Gunzburg chaired the World ORT International Mission whose delegates met with local government officials including the President of Latvia Ms Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Mr Gundars Boyars, Mayor of Riga (the capital of Latvia), Israeli Ambassadors to the Baltic States, and local Jewish community leaders.

The Mission visited Riga, Latvia where they officially inaugurated the ORT Technology Centre at the Jewish Community Centre and the ORT Computer Centre at the Jewish Dubnov School. The ORT Technology Centre at the Shalom Aleichem Jewish School in Vilna (Vilnius), Lithuania was also officially inaugurated.

Israel's Ambassador to the Baltic States Avraham Benjamin welcomed the distinguished delegation to the Riga Centre by saying how pleased he always is to welcome representatives from ORT to the region because it means that something is going to change for the better.



**Robert Singer, Jean de Gunzburg, Principal of the school and Director of the Lauder Foundation Dr. George Ban cut the ribbon to the new ORT center at the Dubnov School in Riga.**

"The re-establishment of ORT's activities in this part of the world has gone hand-in-hand with the rebuilding of Jewish communities," Benjamin said. "We welcome here today the leaders of an organization that knows from experience that from a grass roots level it is possible to change people's lives for the better, to change their self image in positive ways and to influence society as a whole.

"Your contribution today is in the best traditions of Jewish philanthropy, but it is more than just that. It is also the contribution from the

Jewish world to the long term development of Latvia itself."

The ORT Centre at the Dubnov School was made possible through the generous support of the Lauder Foundation, the Clore Foundation and Terri and Jean de Gunzburg. The ORT Centre at the Jewish Community Centre in Riga was made possible through the generous support of the Lauder Foundation, the Clore Foundation, Terri and Jean de Gunzburg, Mauricio Merikankas and The American Joint Distribution Committee.

## Lay leader perspective

**By Reese Feldman, Chair of World ORT Executive Committee**

SEVERAL years ago we set the objective of bringing the ORT programmes and expertise to major centres within the CIS and Baltic States. With this recent mission to the Baltic States, we saw the realisation of that goal, as we entered into the Baltic States with three new programmes.

Although our mission was small we had with us major benefactors, who were instrumental in bringing these programmes to fruition.

The dedications at ORT's new operations were attended by leaders within the Jewish community and local and state government officials.

The dedication of the ORT Technology Centre at the Shalom Aleichem Jewish School in Vilnius was most special as the children entertained us not only in Hebrew but also in Yiddish.

We received the same warm and appreciative welcome that I have had the privilege of having in many other cities in the Ukraine, Moldova and Russia during the past two years. Here as in the other newly Independent states they have only had their independence for little more than a decade. However, here they are very concerned about their acceptance into the EU. As I write this they have been included in NATO and I'm certain they are confident that it will come to pass and they are working diligently to achieve that goal.

Our travels included many historic and memorial sites. Prior to WWII, both countries had sizeable Jewish communities. In many towns, especially in Lithuania, Jews comprised more than 80 percent of the population and in the major cities it was over 55 percent. Here, the Holocaust destroyed 94 percent of the Jewish community.



**Reese Feldman with a student in Riga**

Before the war, Vilnius (Vilna in Yiddish) was considered the "Jerusalem of the North" and the capital of Yiddish culture. It housed the first Yiddish academic institute, which is now YIVO located in New York City.

Knowing the history of this area made the realisation of our efforts ever more meaningful. To be witness to the most sophisticated technology, which is now available to the youth and adults of the remnant community, was very special indeed. We were once again reminded of the role ORT plays in rebuilding these small Jewish communities and bringing them back to their roots and to their rich heritage. Only here have I seen young eager faces in front of computer keyboards keyed in three languages English, Hebrew and Russian. That says it all!



**Students at the new centre collect samples for an experiment**

## ORT Brazil inaugurates new campus for environmental studies

IN November, ORT Brazil inaugurated the Experimental Centre for Environmental Education (CEDEA) in Petropolis, a conservation reserve about 50 miles from the center of Rio de Janeiro.

ORT Brazil President, Armando Klabin addressed the audience of local authorities, institution representatives, officers, teachers and students of ORT Institute of Technology of Rio de Janeiro.

"This is a pioneer and unique project for teaching in the field natural sciences to youngsters," Klabin said.

The Centre is located on more than 200 acres surrounded by forests, river, and lakes. The building is specially designed for studies and research in ecology and environmental education. It has a science and technology lab, a preparation room, two store rooms for materials and chemicals, an area for external experiments.

The project is funded by ORT Brazil, World ORT and the "Henrique Lemle" Summer Camp.

## ORT STARS launch experiment into space

FIVE students from ORT Kiryat Motzkin near Haifa were at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in January to witness the launch of the NASA Space Shuttle Columbia, which carried their experiments onboard.

The students have been preparing for this mission for more than two years as part of their involvement in the STARS Programme, a one-of-a-kind project that lets students from schools around the world send actual experiments into space. During the 16 research flight more than 100 experiments are expected to take place onboard Columbia including those conducted by the six lead schools participating in the STARS Program.

ORT Kiryat Motzkin's project is a chemical garden, which studies whether the lack of gravitational forces in space affects the development of crystals.

These 'future scientists' from each of these schools had the unforgettable experience of working with engineers, astronauts, and space experts to design and develop these fascinating experiments and will now have the opportunity to see their projects come to life in space.

The event was an achievement for ORT as they were chosen out of all schools in Israel to participate, and extra special for Israel because on board the space shuttle was the first Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon.

# FROM THE ARCHIVE

## ORT pioneers build Israel

ISRAEL, once it became a state in 1948, attracted a huge number of immigrants seeking security and prosperity in the Jewish homeland. The Israeli government turned to organisations such as ORT to develop education and training systems appropriate for people from many different backgrounds and cultures. It was a challenge ORT was competent to meet.

Developments took place in many fields. ORT established apprenticeship centres and industrial schools, giving students work experience in real life situations. Today, the largest and most prestigious of ORT's world-wide operations is in Israel.

*The following is an excerpt from a Yediot Ahronot article published in February 1947.*

"The directors of ORT have changed their views about Zionism, and the organisation will now deal with the professional training of olim. Dr. Syngalowski will soon be coming to Israel to estab-

lish a training institute. It is a pleasant surprise to see that ORT's view of Zionism has changed for the better.

The Joint Distribution Committee has given \$2,000,000 this year for ORT programmes. ORT's ambition is to contribute to the building of the country by training first rate professional and vocational resources.

This training has been given top priority by ORT during its last Congress.

ORT has two goals: training people for different professions in short efficient courses; and taking the most talented people and giving them the opportunity to reach the highest level of their potential.

Recognising ORT as the only communal organisation to deal with the vocational training of Holocaust survivors, the Joint has awarded it this considerable sum."



Students at the Tel Aviv Syngalowski ORT Centre, c.1960  
Top picture: Immigrant from Turkey at the loom, ORT Ramleh, 1950



Student at work at the building-trade school, Jaffa, 1949  
Left picture: Students in the workshop, Jaffa, c.1950

## ORT St Petersburg takes home third multimedia prize

The Jewish World in Postcards, a CD-ROM project created by the ORT-Gunzburg Centre in St Petersburg, won a prize in the category of Multimedia Design at the CONTENT 2002 competition in December.

The CD-ROM produced in cooperation with the Petersburg Judaica Centre, and with the support of the JDC presents various aspects of Jewish life in Russia at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

The Russian competition is carried out each year to promote hundreds of professional projects, such as CD-ROMs, DVDs, websites and other multimedia projects that are released in the country throughout the year.

ORT has participated in this competition twice before and, each time, took home prizes. In 2001, 'St. Petersburg's Jewish Community: Three Centuries of History' computer album became the overall winner in the category of Guides and Albums.

## ORT Binyamina broadcasts to community

The ORT Rothschild-Hashomron School was recently recognized by the Ministry of Communications. The Comprehensive High School in Binyamina was granted permission to broadcast a 27-minute community magazine through a cable television operator servicing an area between Haifa and Netanya twice a week. The magazine, *ORTV*, recently began experimental broadcasts. Each segment documents major events at the school as well as in the community, providing both news and other information.

## ORT IC professional receives Albanian Presidential Award

CLAUDIA JANISZEWSKI, an American volunteer at the University Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynecology #1 in Tirana, Albania, received the Albanian Presidential Award on December 6, 2002, for her work with abandoned babies, according to a news release issued by the U.S. Embassy in Tirana.

Janiszewski worked for three ORT projects in Albania, and in her spare time, founded a local NGO to address the problems of abandoned babies in Albania for which she was given the Presidential Award.

The "Medal of Civil Merit" honors Mrs. Janiszewski "for her important role in strengthening Albanian non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the precious human activity she exhibited in the assistance of abandoned children."

Mrs. Janiszewski founded the Organisation for the Support of Albania's Abandoned Babies (OSAAB) in 1996 after learning about the plight of Albania's youngest citizens. Since the programme's inception in 1996, more than 300 abandoned babies have been provided care by OSAAB in Albania's largest maternity hospital.

## ORT Toronto exhibition opens in Shanghai

The Gift of Friendship Art Exhibit, which was opened in Toronto last May, has now opened in Shanghai. The trip to Shanghai was headed by past ORT leadership Harriet Morton and Dorothy Schoicet along with Ian Leventhal, Toronto artist and Co Chair of the event. The following account of the opening was written by Ian Leventhal.

"On October 23, 2002, The Gift of Friendship was permanently installed in a newly refurbished building on the grounds of the Ohel Moishe Synagogue in Shanghai. After a speech by Canada's Consul General in Shanghai, Stewart Beck, and an address by the Deputy Magistrate of Hong Kou, Madame Yao, Harriet Morton and I read greetings from ORT Toronto and officially presented the exhibit to the people of Shanghai.

Shalom Greenberg, the city's only Rabbi affixed a glittering Mezuzah on the sanctuary doorway. The blessing was recited and for the first time in over 50 years the Shecheyanu was heard. The Synagogue burst with life and purpose, freshly whitewashed, beautiful in its resolve to give meaning to a community reborn.

The Gift of Friendship has already made a tangible difference in the relationship between the Chinese and Jewish Communities. There are plans by the Hong Kou District Government and a consortium of Jewish-Canadian businessmen for the restoration and rebuilding of the former Jewish area surrounding the synagogue. We encourage Jewish travellers to visit Shanghai and experience first hand the ancient bonds that unite our two nations."



Harriet Morton addresses visitors at the opening of the exhibition in Shanghai



WAO PYLC 2002 graduates

## Young ORT making moves on both sides of the pond

IT is no secret that young people are vital to the future of Jewish philanthropy. With young ORT groups springing up, ORT can rest assured that its leadership will go from strength to strength in the coming years. A "Young ORT" committee was recently initiated by British ORT, and Women's American ORT Young Leadership is already firmly rooted with more than 30 chapters nationwide.

In October a core committee of 20-some-things from London staged a "Comedy Night" with proceeds going to British ORT. Members of the committee said they had been eager to do something for the "greater good" and thought ORT was the appropriate choice.

"With our first-ever event, we were really just hoping to have a good time and raise awareness to like minded people about ORT," said 25-year old Tania Levy, Co-Chair of Young ORT. "We were only looking to break even. But from our raffle proceeds we ended up profiting £1,000, which went directly to ORT."

In addition to planning fundraising events, WAO Young Leadership in 1994 initiated The President's Young Leadership Council. During an 18-month tenure, members received significant skills training, meet and interact with important leaders of WAO and the Jewish communal world, and network with other like-minded, caring young women from around the country.

"Being a member of the PYLC is a truly



The Young British ORT Committee at their first event

rewarding experience that allows for personal growth and exploration," said WAO Young Leadership Director Rachel Lobovsky. "By learning and gaining inspiration from prominent leaders and instructors, members come away from their tenure with the practical

tools and wisdom to help carry them forth in their personal, professional, and civic lives."

Plans are in the works to bring members of both groups to Moscow in the Spring for a Young Leadership Mission.



National Director of ORT Switzerland Catherine Gentilini (right) with Vivanne Gasser

## ORT Switzerland Annual Dinner

ORT Switzerland's Annual Gala Evening in October in support of ORT Argentina, was a great success and raised 50 percent more than last year's event.

Fundraising in Switzerland is a challenging task

due to the small concentration of potential donors in the country. Altogether, though, the four ORT Chapters in Switzerland (Geneva, Bern, Basel and Bern) had a record year, raising a total of \$273,000 for ORT operations worldwide – mainly to help ORT students in Argentina.



Marcelo Lewkow interviews someone at an outdoor fair in Santiago, Chile for his radio programme

## High Frequencies for ORT Chile

IN April 2000, the National Director of ORT Chile had to figure out a way for his country to celebrate World ORT's special 120th Anniversary Year.

ORT Chile's Marcelo Lewkow wanted to promote the work of ORT within his country and beyond. While ORT Chile was well known in education circles, the general public was not aware of the important work that ORT does around the world.

How could he get the message to as many people as possible in a cost-efficient way? And then it hit him. Radio. And so with assistance from the University of Chile, Lewkow started his own radio programme.

Every Sunday evening for two hours, Lewkow broadcasts to an audience of generally educated and high-profile people in the community. His main goal in presenting *Todos Educamos*, he said, is to shed light on topical events with an added ORT perspective.

"We don't discuss the news as it happens but wait a couple of months until it sinks in and then my guest and I do in-depth analysis on the issues," Lewkow said. "We analyse everything, from education to divorce, and technology and terrorism."

Lewkow said that the show reaches about 150,000 people throughout the country and he generally gets in guests like journalists and physicians to join him in discussions.

"Having a radio programme is a great way to get the word out about ORT," Lewkow said. "It's a great fundraising tool."



At the beginning of the academic year, the ORT Technology College in Moscow added new courses to the curriculum including painting, photography and film production

# New ORT Centre inaugurated at Moscow Jewish School



A STATE-OF-THE-ART ORT Multimedia Technology Centre was inaugurated at the Lipman School in Moscow in November.

Thanks to the generous support from the UJA Federation of New York; Sir Maurice Hatter of the U.K., Deputy President of World ORT; Senator from the Russian Federation Leonid Nevzlin, the Moscow Jewish Community and the local authorities, the Centre is fully functioning and being used with much enthusiasm by the more than 300 students at the school.

The Lipman School, established in 1991, is one of the largest Jewish schools in Moscow, home to a Jewish community of some 300,000. The students at the school are provided with a standard curriculum specified by the Russian Ministry of Education in an Israeli-Jewish environment. Up until September, when the ORT Centre opened, the



school was lacking technological facilities.

The Centre at the Lipman School is one of a number of similar World ORT projects in the CIS and Baltic States which are part of ORT's strategy in creating successful and attractive Jewish schools built upon the delivering high quality education that will provide their graduates with a real competitive advantage when seeking higher education and opportunities for employment.

# Gracious graduates at ORT Argentina

MORE than 1,000 students graduated from ORT Argentina schools in December. Thanks to the help from many generous ORT supporters, this year's graduating class was able to complete their studies.

Last spring, in an effort to avert closure, ORT Argentina was forced to reduce its staff and programmes, while World ORT coordinated a special global appeal, raising almost \$2 million in pledges from its national organisations and private donors.

Today, ORT schools in Argentina continue to meet the challenge of providing top quality education despite the economic problems, and remains positive and focused.

"The situation is certainly terrible," said National Director of ORT Argentina Baruj Zaidenknop. "But true to the spirit of ORT, and because we are so proud of our activities and our students-continues to work hard, doing what we can, making a difference. We are very grateful for all the support we have received from the ORT family and friends around the world. It makes a big difference knowing that others are thinking of us and helping us in practical ways."

Below are some letters of gratitude from recent ORT Argentina graduates



Tamar Colodenco and Veronica Singer pictured with President of ORT Argentina, David Michan. The girls graduated from the Industrial Design track at School No.2 and were awarded a special prize for their internal and external model of the United Nations.

"I'd like to thank the people of ORT who, in spite of the distance, understand the situation we are suffering in Argentina; the people who help us and stimulate us although they don't know us personally.  
I have been studying at ORT Argentina's Technical school since I was 12. I am now finishing my secondary education in the Musical Production programme, and in a few months I will have graduated. There are many things I'll take with me, and many others that I will miss. I will miss the place and the people, but I'll take with me all I learned here about life and a profession. I will take with me the generosity of the ORT people; they don't know me, but they have helped me through these rough times. My parents and I are grateful to ORT for all I learned and for their economic assistance."  
Pablo Arcuschin, Musical Production

"I am in my 5th year program, and I expect to keep studying Chemistry at the University of Buenos Aires. I know that ORT graduates don't find the admission exams too difficult. It is very important for me to know this, because I can be hopeful about my future.  
My family and myself are very grateful to ORT. Without your economic assistance I wouldn't have been able to study in this school. While my sister studied here (she graduated from the Computer program 3 years ago), my parents didn't have to ask for assistance, but now they could not possibly afford the fees!  
I'd like to express my gratitude to all the people who make this possible.  
MUCHAS GRACIAS!"  
Pablo Thaler, Chemistry

# The miracle of ORT

HANUKKAH is a holiday in which Jewish people around the world celebrate the great nes (miracle) that happened to the Jewish nation over 2,000 years ago. Luckily for many Jewish people around the world today, ORT is there to help many of them gain a better sense of their identity. Whether in the tiny community of Havana where the Jewish community is steadily reforming, or in the CIS where religious freedom is a new concept, ORT is helping students reconnect with their heritage and ORT programmes are making a positive impact on the lives of people—a modern-day miracle.

## A Havana Hanukkah



DRESSED up as lights on the Hanukkah Menorah, students at the ORT Centre in Havana, Cuba, danced and performed traditional Hanukah songs for members of the community.

Two years ago World ORT joined to the community efforts and helped to improve education by adding computer facilities to the Jewish Community Centre in Havana.

Since the 1960s the Jewish community in Cuba has been diminishing. Most of its members left the country and those who did remain assimilated. But in the 1990s Jewish communal leaders from around the world staged a revival for the community.

Today, the Sunday School at the JCC, has 62 students aged two- 14 years old. They study Hebrew, history and tradition and use the computers provided by ORT to facilitate their studies.

## ORT Argentina helps brighten Hanukkah for needy

IN AN effort to help the community's less fortunate have a happy Hanukkah, student volunteers and teachers from ORT Argentina organised a free dinner. Festive holiday foods including latkes and doughnuts were passed out and enjoyed by all.



Kazan

## CIS and Baltic States



Minsk

IN recent years there has been an unprecedented opportunity for the remaining Jewish communities in the CIS and Baltic States to reconnect with their heritage. By providing quality education in a Jewish environment, ORT is a staple in the region promoting Jewish continuity and expression.



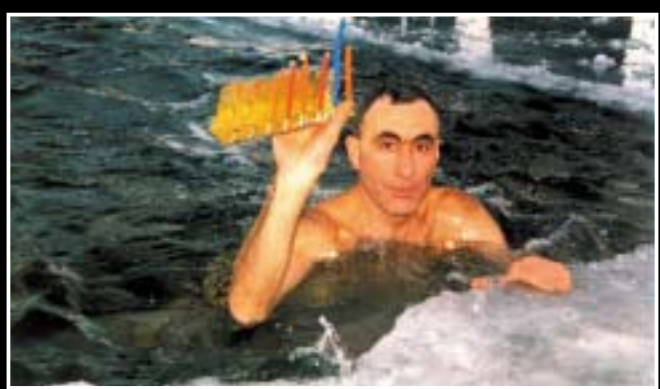
Moscow



St. Petersburg



Boris Kornetzvet, the sports teacher at ORT Kazan invited fellow members of the local Walrus Club to for an unusual Hanukkah celebration.



KAZAN is the capital of Tatarstan, the largest republic in the Russian Federation and a Muslim state – where roughly 6,000 Jews remain. The ORT Technology School was opened in Kazan in 2000 as part of Project Regeneration. In 2002 the school roll numbered 500 students, with an additional 300 students and adults on short-term courses.

## ORT Israel brings Scientific American to Hebrew speakers



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, the oldest continuously published magazine in America, is now available in Hebrew thanks to ORT Israel.

Scientific American has been bringing its readers unique insights about developments in science and technology for more than 150 years, and is now being translated into Hebrew by the Research and Development Team at ORT Israel.

More than 120 Nobel laureates have written for Scientific American, most of whom wrote about their prize-winning works

before being recognized by the Nobel Committee. In addition to the likes of Albert Einstein, Francis Crick, Jonas Salk and Linus Pauling, the journal continues to attract esteemed authors from many fields.

Scientific American is a global enterprise. In addition to Hebrew, the magazine publishes 15 foreign language editions and has a total of more than 1,000,000 copies in circulation worldwide.

"ORT is very proud to be able to make Scientific American more accessible to people in Israel, and offering them insight into new

horizons in the world of science and technology," said Zvi Peleg, National Director of ORT Israel.

"This is a great achievement for the Research and Development team at ORT Israel," he said. "It is especially important to ORT Israel because we are giving people in Israel, especially students, who don't speak English, access to such an important and useful magazine that reports on the latest developments in the world of science and technology."