



Vol. 3 Fall 2007

ORT AMERICA TIMES

ORT America Pledges \$1 Million to Build Additional High School in Argentina

ORT Argentina, supported by ORT America, will construct a new high school building to provide more classrooms, laboratories and workshops to accommodate an additional 750 students per year.

The two ORT technical high schools in Buenos Aires have been growing at a phenomenal rate. Today the ORT School No. 1 has an enrollment of 2,260 and ORT School No. 2 has 1,800 students. In addition to its two technical high schools, ORT Argentina also operates two post-secondary institutes of technology and a teacher training college.

Many more families would like to send their children to ORT, but the schools are already stretched to over-capacity and simply cannot enroll more. With an increase in admissions each of the last six years – since the economic crisis in Argentina began - almost 500 students had to be turned away last year due to the lack of facilities.



Rendering of the new high school

To put it simply, **the school has literally run out of space** and the problem is becoming increasingly acute as demand for places in the school continues to rise. ORT America is committed to raising \$1 million for the new ORT Argentina High School. These funds will be matched by ORT Argentina.

To highlight the need for the new school, it is important to understand the long term effects of Argentina's economic crisis. After 11 Jewish schools

had to shut their doors, ORT was more committed than ever to keeping ORT schools in Argentina open. World ORT and ORT America raised funds to rescue ORT Argentina from the disastrous situation it faced as a result of the economic crisis. Yet thousands of Jewish parents have been unable to afford tuition.

Still reeling from the economic crisis, more than half of ORT Argentina students receive tuition assistance, enabling them to attend the ORT schools. ORT has also provided hot meals for needy students

through ORT America's Students at Risk Program, which also provides students with books, school supplies and transportation.

The new nine-story building will house state-of-the-art laboratories including a mechatronics laboratory; a media laboratory; IT and ICT laboratories; an applied mathematics laboratory; a language laboratory; science laboratories including

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Daniela's Story

Fifteen-year-old Daniela is a bright, kind and friendly girl, but her manner conceals a tragic story. Daniela's mother was killed in the 1994 terror attack on the AMIA Building, the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires; shortly after, her father died following a long battle with cancer. As the economic situation worsened, Daniela was forced to attend a government-funded school, instead of her Jewish day school.

In a very old, decrepit building, Daniela shared a small room with her grandmother. Daniela's only clothes were a single pair of jeans and a few sweaters. She did not have a winter coat to keep her warm when temperatures dropped to freezing-point. Living below the poverty line for Daniela threatened to sever her ties with the Jewish community. At the government school, she lost touch with Jewish community life and stopped celebrating Jewish festivals.

After finishing elementary school, Daniela enrolled in ORT Argentina's high school where she began to flourish. Daniela found studying at ORT very challenging. It was also comforting and familiar, and she once again felt that she belonged. In addition to her academic studies, she joined the school's volleyball team and Israeli-dance group.

Daniela's story is one of many hundreds of students who benefit from ORT's schools in Argentina.



ORT America Annual Meeting
Boca Raton, FL
March 9-10, 2008
Boca Raton Marriott

President's Message **By Doreen N. Hermelin**

Since assuming my role as President of ORT America, I have truly experienced the dynamic global scope of our work. I can tell you that the programs I have seen, the students and teachers I have spoken to and the long term effect of our work will affect the lives and ultimate success of hundreds of thousands of students worldwide.



Doreen N. Hermelin

This year, our newly merged organization has forged ahead with **Science Journey**, a \$7.4 million program that provides science and technology laboratories at 32 school campuses throughout the State of Israel in communities that have never before benefited from ORT's expertise. I had the privilege of seeing some of the programs this summer. Many of the communities are near the Lebanese border and Gaza Strip, which have been under

attack from Qassam rockets. The **Science Journey** program includes existing ORT America programs, such as **Students at Risk**, where over 4,000 needy students have been identified in Israel alone as needing our help.

For the first time ever, teachers in **Science Journey Schools** will have luxuries we take for granted, such as projectors, cameras,

laptop computers, copiers and internet access. They are being trained to work on computers and to teach the students how to best use computers for their studies.

Our **Students at Risk** program has also been expanded to Rome and Latin America, where thousands of students are suffering the long term effects of the economic crisis that began in Argentina six years ago.

ORT America has also committed to a new **Latin American Campaign**, which includes

a new high school in Buenos Aires, a digital media center in Mexico City, scholarships for Jewish students at ORT Uruguay University and help for other smaller Jewish communities.

ORT's expertise includes adapting proven teaching strategies to meet the varied learning styles and challenges of its students. ORT's innovative programs represent real advances in teaching strategies and encourage students to explore the increasingly important fields of physics, robotics, nanotechnology, bioengineering and biochemistry. These outstanding programs produce students who surpass their peers at non-ORT schools worldwide.

Today, more students than ever are attending ORT schools. An ORT education is in demand because ORT creates and delivers educational programs that make an immediate and significant impact on enriching the lives of children, their teachers and the local community.

Thanks to your support, ORT America is truly making a difference.

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ORT America provides cutting-edge training and strategic educational initiatives that empower 270,000 people annually in 56 countries to become productive citizens and lead their families and communities forward. This is a responsibility ORT America welcomes as part of its commitment to supporting Jewish values, strengthening Jewish identity and providing the educational opportunities that help people help themselves. For more information, please visit www.ortamerica.org

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ORT America Pledges \$1 Million to Build Additional High School in Argentina

genetics and biotechnology, chemistry, and experimental physics; and an environment and alternative energy laboratory. Other facilities to be built in the new building will include a Learning Resources Center, a Research and Development Center, a Food Technology Center, a Communications Center, and an Entrepreneurship Center.

ORT Argentina's Jewish education is second to none. Along with ORT Argentina's advanced curriculums, students benefit from a comprehensive Jewish studies program, which includes Jewish history, culture, language and the State of Israel. In an agreement with the Jewish Agency, an Israeli representative works in the schools to keep the curriculum at superior standard.

With the help of ORT America and its committed supporters, ORT Argentina will soon have a new high school to accommodate the Jewish students of Buenos Aires and its surrounding communities.

Phase II and III of Science Journey Underway

ORT's \$7.4 million **Science Journey** program in Israel is moving into its second and third phases, thanks to support from ORT America.

Phase I of **Science Journey** was launched in January 2007 to raise the standard of science and technology education in Israel (see DVD enclosed in the Special Convention issue of the **ORT America Times**). Working with local authorities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the program marked a new phase in ORT's 59-year-long commitment to bring the best practical education available to the Jewish State. ORT America is funding a majority of the program. Its allocation doubles the Ministry's budget for science and technology education. **Science Journey** is intended to reach about 30,000 students who have never before had the benefit of a high-quality ORT education.

Within three months, Phase I was completed with the installation of state-of-the-art, custom-designed science and technology laboratories in 30 campuses identified by the Ministry of Education.

The municipalities (whose educational budget is funded by the Ministry of Education) provide in-kind matches for **Science Journey** that include renovated classrooms, furniture, security, insurance, coordinators and wiring for the computer, electronic and science labs.

Phase II (social needs) was completed in June. Over 4,000 Israeli students at 17 **Science Journey** campuses are recipients of ORT America's **Students at Risk** program as part of this phase. Nearly \$370,000 worth of vouchers was distributed to economically disadvantaged students for text books, school supplies, uniforms and sports attire. The **Students at Risk** program is also supported by the Jewish Federations of North America, together with matching funds contributed by Tsomet Sefarim Book Shop, H & O Clothing Store and Office Depot.

Students in Israeli high schools are required to provide their own textbooks as well as basic equipment, including calculators and tools for those studying vocational subjects. In cases where parents are unable to buy such basic necessities students are put at a real disadvantage that may undermine their long term commitment to education.

"One of the students who will receive the book vouchers is a boy whose father is a drug addict; his mother has eight children and is dysfunctional," said Shoshana Mirochnik, Principal at Shikma High School in Hof Ashkelon. "Thanks to World ORT, we can help him financially because he has a lot of potential. I truly believe that every little bit of help that we can give him will bear fruit many times over."



Just a few of the students being helped by Science Journey.

"The students were identified as being in urgent need of assistance in order to continue their studies," said **Shelley Fagel**, Chair of the ORT America Executive Committee. "Some of these students are from single-parent households, some have parents who are unemployed or underemployed, and still others are experiencing crises that have disrupted family income such as a death or serious illness."

"The students are not made to feel as if they are 'charity cases' but rather that the program is a natural continuation of other school activities. This has a great effect on the students' self-confidence and self-image and usually works to strengthen the ties between the student, the family and the school," commented ORT America Executive Director **Hope Kessler**.

Other beneficiaries of the **Students at Risk** Program are new immigrants from Ethiopia, youth in the Na'ale program who arrive alone in Israel from the former Soviet Union, and members of families who have found it difficult to make a living since being forcibly removed from Gaza.

Phase III (Teacher Empowerment Centers) is underway. The Teaching Empowerment Centers are specially designed high-tech staff rooms that feature staff workstations, scanners, photocopiers, printers, digital cameras, internet and intranet connections, photo and video processing software, design and development software, binding equipment and Power Point equipment. In addition, **Science Journey** teachers will be trained in the use of equipment and new teaching technology.

Science Journey Labs Named for Major Donors

ORT America is proud to announce that eleven **Science Journey** labs were named for major donors from the United States who pledged a minimum of \$100,000 toward their support. There are several types of laboratories in the **Science Journey** program, reflecting the specific requirements of the schools identified as being in greatest need of an enhanced science program.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Laboratory—where students learn computers skills that will help them in every aspect of their education and future careers, using the latest software and equipment. Science labs in this group include equipment to conduct biology, chemistry and physics experiments.

Media and Cinema Laboratories provide



Thanks to ORT, a student in Israel uses specialized equipment to conduct an experiment.

students with the equipment needed to enter the digital media age.

Electronics Laboratories were provided to a number of schools offering post high school programs in electronics, one of the specialist areas in which Israel excels. Where previously students in these

schools had no chance of entering this industry, ORT has provided an opportunity for a generation of students to work towards jobs in leading electronics companies.

Robotics Laboratories bring the schools into the exciting field of robotics as a teaching aid for computers and automation, an area of the curriculum that was pioneered by World ORT.

D. Dan and Betty Kahn Science Center at Kiryat Yam

Through a generous contribution from D. Dan Kahn of Michigan, ORT will renovate the science building in Kiryat Yam to benefit the 1,000 students of Rodman High School as well as members of the surrounding community through a series of educational outreach programs.

The science building renovation will provide the school with a well-equipped science center, including new state-of-the-art chemistry, physics and biology laboratories with computer stations, wireless internet access, printers, digital microscopes and laboratory equipment. Also, the new science center will provide a program for gifted students as well as enrichment and after school programs for elementary age students. A multi-technology laboratory and associated courses will be offered to junior high school students.

Students from Rodman High School will be able to participate in a three-year program with Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa during their senior year of high school. Selected students will work in close cooperation with Technion for their final project, giving the students a leg up in employment prospects and opening the door for special opportunities in the Israel Defense Forces.

ORT America donors who have funded labs in Israel as of August 10, 2007.

Carol and Herbert Ackerman – ICT Science Lab

at Qatsrin High School in Qatsrin

Leslie and Johnny Benator and family – ICT Science Lab

at Kfar Kana High School in Kfar Kana

Phyllis and Joe Cohen – Media and Cinema Lab

at Har VaGai High School in Dafna (Upper Galilee)

Shelley and Marvin Fagel – Electronics Lab

at Kiryat Atta High School in Kiryat Atta

Doreen N. Hermelin – Electronics Lab

at Kiryat Yam High School in Kiryat Yam

Claire and Bob Mazer – Electronics Lab

at Neshar High School in Neshar

Grace Mendelson – ICT Lab

at Hof Ashkelon High School in Ashkelon

Judy and Peter Menikoff – ICT Lab

at Kadoorie Youth Village in Galil Tachton

The Petranker Family Foundation – ICT Lab

at The Eynot Yarden High School in Amir (Upper Galilee)

Eileen and Bob Sill – ICT Biology Lab

at The Shifman Comprehensive High School in Tirat in HaCarmel

Sara and Aaron Trub – Robotics Lab

at The Anna Frank High School in Sasa (Upper Galilee)

For more information on Science Journey, please contact Lorraine Braun at lbraun@ortamerica.org.

Memorial Garden for ORT Graduate Keren Tendler

A memorial garden honoring the memory of ORT graduate Sgt. Major **Keren Tendler** z"l, was dedicated in Rehovot to honor the fallen war heroine.

When her helicopter was shot down over Lebanon by Hezbollah on August 12, 2006, Keren was the only female flight mechanic in the IDF. She was the first female soldier to be killed in action outside Israel since the Yom Kippur War.

The garden, which contains fitness equipment, is co-sponsored by World ORT, ORT America, the municipality of Rehovot and Nesher Israel Cement Enterprises Ltd.

"A plaque that features an engraving of the helicopter she flew tells Keren's story," said **Rivana Tendler**, Keren's mother. "Keren was a runner and an excellent swimmer. The garden combines her love of sport with her love for helicopters," Mrs. Tendler said. "The large attendance at the dedication ceremony was a sign of the high esteem in which Keren is held."

The one-acre garden is situated next to the military cemetery where Keren is buried and is also on a popular jogging route – the same route that Keren used to run. The paths through the garden form the Hebrew letters *kuf* and *tet* – Keren's initials.

The memorial garden was created under tremendous time constraints to be ready in time for the first anniversary of Keren's death. If the target date had been missed, the project would have been delayed a year because next year, beginning with Rosh Hashana in the Hebrew calendar, is a *shmita* year when Jewish-owned land in Israel is kept fallow and no trees, bushes, flowers or grasses can be planted.

Gan Keren (Keren's Garden) is as much about Keren's life as it is about her untimely death, said the Head of World ORT's International Liaison Department,



The Keren Tendler Memorial Garden.

Sonia Gomes de Mesquita.

"Even though ORT is 127 years old and Keren was just 26, she naturally embodied the original ideals and values from which the organization was born and which inspire us today," Ms. Gomes said on behalf of all ORT leaders.

"She proved that with the right education you can achieve incredible things. Her legacy will give others the chance to do the same. Many more young women, for years to come, will walk through doors that Keren opened."

In life, Keren had been a trail blazer: she distinguished herself at school by joining – and excelling in – the male-dominated mechanics track, becoming the IDF's only female flight mechanic.

Five years ago Keren told the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv*: "My goal is to show other women that this position, an on-flight



Rivana Tendler, mother of Keren, addresses the crowd at the garden's inauguration.

mechanic, can be performed by women."

In addition to the garden, ORT America has established a scholarship in Keren's name to encourage women to go into the male-dominated field of flight mechanics.

National Campaign Leadership Announced

As ORT America emerges as a new dynamic organization, a fantastic Campaign Leadership team has been brought together with many new faces to lead fundraising efforts on behalf of ORT's students around the globe. With new programs in Israel and the launch of the Latin America Campaign this is a very exciting time for ORT America.

"In partnership with our dedicated professional staff, I know we will achieve great things in both the near and long term," said Board Vice President **Linda Kirschbaum** (Highland Park, IL) who is leading the overall campaign.

Campaign Leadership Chairs are:

1880 Society: Former American ORT and Women's American ORT presidents Joe Cohen (Atlanta, GA) and Judy Menikoff (Salisbury, CT), respectively.

Major Gifts/Diamond Ladder: Gail Lanznar (Wilmette, IL) and Rob Colburn (Bloomfield Hills, MI).

**"In partnership
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— Board Vice President
Linda Kirschbaum**

Golden Circle: Susan Clayman (Alexandria, VA) and Ronna Heftman (Northbrook, IL)

Annual Campaign (for gifts under \$1,000): Susan B. Levine (Wayne, NJ) and Sharon Weiner (Buffalo Grove, IL)

deGunzbourg Society: Marilyn Eager (Chicago, IL) and Robert Neidorff (Altoona, PA)

Missions: Lois Hollander and Steve Schlosser (Delray Beach, FL)

At Large: Dee Bass (Highland Park, IL), Sandy Chumsky (Roslyn, NY), Eva Gans (Teaneck, NJ), Sandy Isenstein (Highland Park, IL), Hilly Panovka (Atlanta, GA), Françoise Rothstein (Mill Valley, CA), Sandy Salaman (Ventnor City, NJ), and Mitch Schneider (Cleveland, OH).

Professional staff members include: Lorraine Braun, Director of Major Gifts; Herbert Kaplan, Director of Annual Giving; Lisa Lager, Senior Director of Planned Giving; and Rachel Lobovsky, Director of Outreach and Leadership Development, including missions; and Janice Stolar, Chief Advancement Officer.

Fund Development Staff Retreat



2007 ORT America Regional Directors Retreat at the National Office.

Standing (L to R) Leah Siskin, Florida Region Advancement Director; Victoria Mitchell, Development Administration Manager; Loren Krongold, Greater Miami Region Director; Herbert Kaplan, Director of Annual Giving; Annette Israel-Holland, Florida Region Associate Director; Susan Lips, Southeast Region Director of Development; Phyllis Friedman, West Coast Region Director of Development; Michelle Passon, Michigan Region Director of Development; Tanea Hammond, Outreach and Leadership Development Associate Director; Lisa Lager*, Senior Director of Planned Giving; Roni Wallace, Cleveland Region Director of Development; Lorraine Braun, Director of Major Gifts; and Rachel Lobovsky, Director of Leadership Development and Outreach. Seated (L to R) Stephanie Pritzker, Midwest Region Director of Development; Hope Kessler, Executive Director; Janice Stolar, Chief Advancement Officer; and Esther Merkin, New Jersey Region Director.*

**ORT America is happy to welcome these new members of our staff.*

National Alliance Network Launched

The National Alliance Network, also known as NAN, is ORT America's new organizational structure, developed to provide effective and efficient servicing to local areas. All former AO chapters (excluding industry and trade groups), approximately 20 former WAO Regions and 290 Chapters have been brought into the Alliance Network as of July 1, 2007.

The NAN is chaired by **Marcy Wiseberg**, who oversees all service teams, service-related matters and the NAN Coordinators, who are responsible for overseeing activity within their respective Alliances.

The NAN's four alliances are based on area similarities such as goals, needs, leadership, size, and fundraising efforts. We are thrilled to have the following NAN Coordinator teams in place for each team.

Alliance A: Georgia (excluding Atlanta), Texas, North Carolina, Virginia (Norfolk, Richmond, Newport News), Tennessee, Delaware, South Jersey, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Northern Virginia, Makefield, Ohio (excluding Cleveland), Pittsburgh, Indiana, Illinois (excluding Chicago), Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Denver, Arizona, Las Vegas, and Seattle (Coordinators: Barbara Goldlust, Rhoda Gould, Susan Schwartz)

Alliance B: Florida & California (Coordinators: Toby Feuer (Florida), Jan Haber & Joan Wendroff (California))

Alliance C: New York (excluding Long Island), Rochester, Buffalo, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Rockland, and Westchester (Coordinators: Sandie Ivers & Linda Magalnick)

Alliance D: Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Long Island, Michigan (including Ann Arbor), and New Jersey (Coordinator: Judy Levin)

NAN Coordinators participated in a fast-paced, interactive one-day training session



National Alliance Network leaders come together for their first training workshop. (L-R) Back: Rachel Lobovsky (staff), Toby Feuer, Rhoda Gould, Linda Magalnick, Tanea Hammond (staff). 2nd Row: Terry Azose, Susan Schwartz, Joan Wendroff, Judy Levin. Front: Marcy Wiseberg, NAN Chair; Shelley Fagel, Chair of Executive Committee, Doreen Hermelin, National President.

at ORT America's headquarters in New York at the NAN Coordinator Meeting.

The NAN Consultants (we are still finalizing these appointments) will report directly to their assigned Coordinator. The role of the Consultant is to provide enhanced support and servicing at the grass-roots level by working directly with Region and Chapter Presidents.

Future training workshops for NAN Coordinators and Consultants are tentatively scheduled for November 2007 and March 2008. In the meantime, regularly scheduled conference calls will be held for the Alliance groups throughout the year.

NAN is an initiative of the Leadership Development & Outreach Department,

which will continue to develop this new structure. The staff that will be working with the National Alliance Network include: Rachel Lobovsky, Director; Tanea Hammond, Associate Director; and Soretta Rodack, Member Services Coordinator.

Save the Date
ORT
AMERICA
Annual Meeting
Boca Raton, FL
March 9-10, 2008
Boca Raton Marriott

ORT Shorts

Inaugural Raya Cowan Summer School Held

Students from Israeli high schools were joined by ORT students from Italy, Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Chile for the first Raya Cowan Summer School at the Weizmann Institute, a three-week immersion in science and Jewish culture.



Raya Cowan Summer School opening.

The students listened to presentations on topics such as neurobiology, the thermodynamic foundations of evolution and particle physics. They formed small groups to perform serious research on various scientific topics under the supervision and guidance of experienced Weizmann researchers. Students prepared a formal presentation on their findings.

ORT Partners Ethiopian National Project

World ORT and the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) have committed more than \$300,000 over four years to provide educational support to over 600 Ethiopian immigrants in Be'er Sheva during the 2007-2008 school year. In addition, the project will help more than 1,600 others across Israel.



ORT and the ENP help Ethiopian students in Israel

"The Ethiopian population has the highest rate of poverty of any social group in Israel, so we are anxious to help in the best way we can," commented World ORT Director General **Robert Singer**. "World ORT has a long standing commitment to Ethiopian Jewry; this project is simply a continuation of our prior role as a major educational service provider in Ethiopia."

Tears and Pride at Inauguration of New Technology Class

A new technology class in memory of **Wassim Nazal**, the first of the three Israeli soldiers killed in the Hezbollah ambush that sparked the 2006 war, was inaugurated at Kfar Yanuach, near the Lebanese border.



Tomer Weinberg with ORT America National President Doreen Hermelin

The state-of-the-art equipment was made possible by \$30,000 donated by World ORT Board of Directors in the names of their children and grandchildren during a board meeting, where ORT Braude College of Engineering student **Tomer Weinberg**, a survivor of the ambush, spoke earlier this year.

Mr. Weinberg, who manages the fund, said he was working hard in support of the campaign to free **Ehud Goldwasser** and **Eldad Regev**, his two comrades-in-arms who were kidnapped during the ambush. The ORT fund will be used to set up similar high tech classrooms in memory of **Eyal Benin** and **Shani Turgeman**, who were also killed in the ambush.

ORT Rosner English Summer School

English is not the only language that the 35 teenagers from Israel, Belarus, Moldova, Italy and France learned while in London for the two-week World ORT Rosner English Summer School; they also studied the languages of tolerance and empathy.

"We learned a lot and most important, we managed to see things through each others' eyes," said **Jwan Morad**, a 16-year-old from Horfesh, a Science Journey school. "During this trip I came to know new places and meet other people from different cultures. I feel like a whole new world has been opened to me."



Students Luay Badar and Jwan Morad with Robert Bieber

Hewlett-Packard Boosts Partnership with World ORT



ORT Samara System Administrator Elena Vorontsova

The world's largest consumer IT company, Hewlett-Packard (HP), has boosted its partnership with World ORT by funding five new business skills training centers for young adults in Russia where ORT America just completed its \$2.8 million Regeneration program.

Four of the Graduate Entrepreneurship Training through IT (GET-IT) centers will be created in existing World ORT facilities, the fifth will be in a new site. In a separate move, HP has generously donated a portable computer classroom to the ORT Samara Technology Center, including laptop computers, a printer-scanner, wireless internet access, a digital camera and multimedia projector.

ICT Seminar for ORT Rome Teachers



A session at the ICT seminar at ORT Renzo Levi.

World ORT supplied Rome's ORT Renzo Levi School with a new science laboratory and outfitted a second computer laboratory with funding from ORT America's **Grace K. Mendelson**.

ORT provided teachers with intensive training on computer assisted teaching methods in science and technology, a workshop using the new data logging system, the use of web open source software for the dynamic teaching of science and mathematics, and the presentation of science experiments without the use of computers.

President's Prize for ORT St. Petersburg

The President's Prize, Russia's highest award for innovation and excellence in education, was presented to the ORT de Gunzbourg School in St. Petersburg for the success ORT students have enjoyed in national and international competitions.

The school was recognized for its innovative approach to education and the use of the "project method" by which students achieve in-depth knowledge of subjects through multi-disciplinary projects.



A class at ORT de Gunzbourg, St Petersburg.

World ORT Deputy President **Dr. Jean de Gunzbourg** – a direct descendant of **Baron Horace de Gunzbourg**, who co-founded ORT in St. Petersburg 127 years ago, said "It shows the quality of work that ORT does. It's a wonderful recognition of all the effort that ORT has put into its education network since returning to Russia in 1992."

Science Summer School a Great Success

World ORT's inaugural Raya Cowan Summer School at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science has been hailed a success. For the three-week summer school, the teenage participants were divided into nine research groups, each under the personal supervision of a Weizmann Institute scientist. The summer school concluded with each group preparing a written and oral presentation of its work.



Students at the Raya Cowan Summer School

Regional News

Atlanta

The ORT American Atlanta Region celebrated another year of successful Honey sales for Rosh HaShanah. Orders around the country were placed on their website, ORThoney.com, as ORT supporters sent a sweet gift to their friends and family in celebration of the New Year.



ORT Atlanta supporters Sue Weintrob, Lesley Berman, Dixie Schantz and Andrea Smith busily packing jars of honey at the Honey Hive.

Accountants and Bankers Chapter

Two of New York City's most distinguished professionals from the accounting and banking community, Bruce Fisher (L) and Joseph A. Pollicino, Jr, were recently awarded the



Outstanding Community Achievement Award of the ORT America Accountants and Bankers Chapter at its Annual Tribute Reception and Dinner at The Grand Hyatt in New York City.



Brooklyn Region

(L to R): Brooklyn Region leaders Sally Shamah, Arlene Price, Iris Coon, Linda Weinstein, Estelle Marcus, and Elaine Oberstein at their annual Visions of Hope Luncheon.

Cleveland



(L to R): Larry Kadis, President of the Cleveland Chapter, Loren Frieder, ORT Summer Salsa Spectacular co-Chair, Jerry Gideon, Live Auction Chair, Matt Rosner, ORT Summer Salsa Spectacular co-Chair.

Cleveland recently held its third annual summer event, the Summer Salsa Spectacular, in the local showrooms of the Davis Automotive Group. Highlighting ORT's Latin American Campaign, the evening featured festive Latin sounds and tastes. ORT Argentina graduate, **Michaela Sananes**, provided a picture of the important role ORT Argentina plays in the lives of its students. A silent and live auction led to spirited bidding. **Loren Frieder** and **Matt Rosner** chaired the event. **Tammy Brosse**, **Michael Perlmutter** and **Chris Rosenthal** and their committee did a terrific job of obtaining items for the silent auction and **Jerry Gideon** urged even higher bids on the live auction.

Long Island



(L to R): Diane Hyman, L.I. Region Immediate Past President & Committee Member; Michelle Jacks, Board & Committee Member; Debbie Bernstein, Committee Co-Chair & L.I. Region Special Events Coordinator; Susan Pastreich, L.I. Region Director; Linda Hooper, Keynote Speaker; Gail Cener, Board & Committee Member; Stephanie Albert, Committee Member; Maryon Weill, Board & Committee Member; Fran Karliner, Committee Co-Chair & Board Member; Lori Bellask, Committee Member; and June Pashkin, Board & Committee Member.

The Long Island Region featured the award-winning documentary, "Paper Clips" with keynote speaker, **Linda Hooper**, Principal of the Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee, the catalyst for the

movie. More than 250 attendees from all over Long Island gathered to watch the movie and listen to Ms. Hooper speak about a school project that grew into an international phenomenon. Proceeds of the evening were earmarked for ORT America's **STAR (Students at Risk)** Program.

Marin

The Marin Chapter toured the beautiful terraced gardens at the home of **Vivien** and **Michael Bronshvag** followed by an informative discussion on raising orchids and roses while everyone enjoyed indulging in wine and canapés.



Front (L to R): Ruth Tanner-Glasson, Vivien Bronshvag, Roz Bloom, Susan Levine, Barbara Schwartz, Solange Gabany. Back: Françoise Rothstein and Bobbi Becker.

Naples Gulf Beaches



Back (L to R): Bill Bernstein, Helene Fuchs, Hella Amelkin, Simone Kott, Alex Kott, Midge Rauch, Mitchell Goldenberg and Lloyd Rauch. Front: Arlene Oppenheimer, Dottie Magen and Jill Goode.

Over 80 people attended the chapter's elegant dinner the Country Club of Naples where they unveiled their Chapter Charter while being entertained by flutist Chellie Deople. **Harry Nadler**, World ORT's North American Representative, gave a short version of "Around the World with ORT!" The chapter adopted the "**Sergeant-Major Keren Tendler Memorial Scholarship Fund**" as their project for 2007.

New Jersey



At the New Jersey Region's Lunch & Lecture at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township, (L to R) Mildred Greenberg, region president; Cara De Silva, editor of In Memory's Kitchen; Roz Scheidt, local arrangements chair; and Elaine Buechler, event chair, display the book, a collective memoir of recipes from women prisoners in Terezin Concentration Camp.

North Palm Beach

The North Palm Beach Gala, which attracted over 200 people, held an elegant pre-reception for the Golden Circle, Major Gift contributors followed by lunch.

Janice Stolar, ORT America's Chief Advancement Officer, spoke about the future of ORT and how important everyone in the audience was from the \$36 member to the largest contributor. North Palm Beach Region Presidents **Linda Rosenbaum** and **Barbara Siegel** lauded **Marion Taub**, Event Chair and her committee for planning the day.



Janice Stolar

Regional News

South Palm Beach

The South Palm Beach County Region held its third annual Contributors luncheon honoring Donor and Golden Circle members. Diamond Ladders **Deborah Rosenthal**, **Shirley Mostov** and **Shirley Sokolsky** attended.

More than 130 members gathered at Woodfield Country Club in Boca Raton. **Joe Cohen**, Past President of American ORT, shared his inspiring story of his education at ORT France. His charming personality won the hearts of everyone in the room. The Co-Chairs of the event were **Miriam Smith** and **Bea Sherwin**, along with their committee members **Shirley Slavin**, **Abbey Schenck** and **Elinor Katz**.



(L to R): Diamond Ladder Deborah Rosenberg, Past American ORT President Joe Cohen, and Diamond Ladders Shirley Mostov and Shirley Sokolsky

Greater Sarasota Area Council

The 2007 Sarasota Area Council event honoring **Ann** and **Sumner Baum** was held at Michael's on East. Over 60 members including Ann and Sumner's sons attend this lovely event. That evening Ann became the 5th Diamond Ladder in the Sarasota Area Council. The event raised over \$40,000 for the ORT America **Student at Risk** Program. Guest speaker, **Linda Kirschbaum**, National Vice President, spoke about ORT America and the all the new projects for the future.



Linda Kirschbaum

Palmward Evening Chapter

Barbara Feifer and **Randi Schenker**, Event Co-Chairs of the Palmward Evening Chapter, and their committee of 40 dedicated women coordinated this very elegant buffet luncheon at the Parkland Country Club in Parkland. This year the chapter gained 42 new supporters and raised over \$71,000. They had fabulous raffle prizes and an



(L to R): Barbara Feifer, Margaret Blume and Randi Schenker.

amazing silent auction. The beautiful orchid centerpieces were donated by **Margaret Blume** which were part of the auction. Guest Speaker, **Shelley Fagel**, Chair of the ORT America Executive Committee, presented a very inspiring ORT Update and a Yom Hashoah Recognition. Guest speaker, **Dr. Robert Watson**, author and historian, spoke about *American First Ladies*.

Los Angeles



Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Eberly at the Los Angeles Chapter of ORT America's 27th Annual "Evening Under the Stars" at the Hollywood Bowl. Chuck currently serves as Los Angeles Chapter president.

Michigan

The newly-launched **Student Ambassador** Program is a partnership between ORT America Michigan Region and the Frankel Jewish Academy. Foreign students will gain a U.S. educational experience, with the ultimate goals of improving their English, and learning about U.S. culture and Jewish life.



Danny Agukin

Current Student Ambassador and 10th grader **Danny Agukin** was born in Netanya, Israel in 1991 and his family moved to Russia in 2001. Danny longs to experience life in the U.S., wants to see how people live here, and wishes to make new friends. He also wants to know more about Jewish traditions and to compare the way they are celebrated in America and in Israel. He is also eager to help FJA students to practice Hebrew. **Ilya Zhivotovsky** will accompany Danny as chaperone and tutor.

Chicago

ORT America held a tequila tasting kicking off its Latin American Campaign efforts in Chicago. Over 50 people were in attendance at the home of Abby and Larry Block. **Lindsey Garfield**



chaired this spectacular evening which not only featured **Stuart Bander** as a Tequila expert but also highlighted ORT educational programs as shared by an ORT student from Uruguay, **Fabian Adler**. L to r: **Mindy Gordon**, MCR President; **Jeff Gordon**; **Fabian Adler**, ORT Uruguay Student; **Dave Garfield**; **Lindsey Garfield**, Young Leadership Chair.

Jewish Agency Commits \$1 Million to ORT FSU Schools

The Jewish Agency for Israel will provide World ORT with \$1 million in the coming year in support of the **Heftsiba** program that operates in 15 ORT schools in the former Soviet Union. The decision reverses an expected \$350,000 budget cut and adds \$650,000 in additional support.

The **Heftsiba** schools have also received well over \$1 million a year from World ORT through **Regeneration 2004**, the campaign led by ORT America aimed at enlarging the network of ORT schools and centers in the region as well as enhancing the existing schools' IT provisions and broadening the range of subjects offered. Chaired by publisher **Milton Gralla**, a longtime ORT supporter, the Regeneration Campaign enabled ORT to establish a thriving, highly reputable network of Jewish schools.

The news dispelled fears that the Jewish Agency would cut 40 percent of its annual \$2.5 million to support 45 Jewish schools in the former Soviet Union. Such a funding cut would have forced World ORT to withdraw its support from six of its 15 schools (Samara, St Petersburg, Kiev, Odessa, Zaporozje and Kishinev).

The withdrawal would have left only a few pluralistic Jewish day schools in the region, presenting a dilemma for the many Jewish parents who show little enthusiasm for the Orthodox Jewish education provided by other day schools.

Under the **Heftsiba** program, Israel's Ministry of Education and the Jewish Agency will help ORT provide formal Jewish education in Jewish schools in the former Soviet Union; it is a partnership between local governments, World ORT, the Ministry of Education of Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel and local Jewish communities.



Members of the Israeli armed forces visit the ORT Technology Lyceum in Kiev last year. Renewed Jewish Agency funding has assured the school's future as a Jewish day school.

World ORT Director General **Robert Singer** was delighted and surprised by the Jewish Agency's announcement, which heralded a "small, positive revolution in our schools" in the former Soviet Union.

"I am extremely happy that months of intensive work, negotiations and lobbying have worked out in this way and to the benefit of our students in the region. The **Heftsiba** budget is now 500 percent greater than what we had anticipated," Mr. Singer said.

"This donation allows our schools to provide better Jewish, scientific and technological education," said **Hope Kessler**, ORT America Executive Director. "Now we have the financial basis on which to improve our schools and so attract more children."

Heftsiba funds meet the cost of Jewish education programs, including the salaries of Israeli teachers in many of the schools and financial incentives for local teachers.

Money is also provided for meals and for school buses and transportation, which allow children from outlying areas to come to the schools, extending ORT's reach to more Jewish students.

"We have many communities knocking on our doors asking for help so there is a need to enlarge the ORT network in the region," Mr. Singer added. "This is the time to mobilize worldwide Jewish resources to match local funding in order to save more Jewish children from being cut off from their roots. The strategic partnership between the Jewish Agency, World ORT and the Federation system in North America is an integral part of this effort."

After an enforced absence, World ORT returned to Russia in 1991. It now coordinates operations in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and Kyrgyzstan – 53 projects in 32 locations serving more than 30,000 people.

The Other Middle East Refugees

By Lynn Leeb, Marketing Chair

Countries such as Algeria, Iran, Morocco and Tunisia - once home to flourishing centuries-old Jewish communities and dynamic ORT schools - saw their Jewish populations uprooted after the birth of the State of Israel in 1948.

Living peacefully with their Arab neighbors for over 2,000 years before the birth of Islam, close to 900,000 Jews were displaced from Arab countries after the State of Israel was created in 1948 - they have never received refugee status. Yet they suffered mass violations of human rights - murder, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, stripping of citizenship and seizure of property, etc. In fact, more former Jewish refugees were uprooted from Arab countries than Palestinians who left Israel in 1948 (UN estimate at 726,000 - although this figure has swelled to more than 4.4 million by 2005 because of their descendents).

Despite the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ruling on two separate occasions that Jews fleeing from Arab countries were bona fide refugees who "fall within the mandate of UNHCR," there has been no international response to the plight of these Jews.

Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAR), a non-profit organization, is actively advocating on behalf of these Jews, trying both to raise awareness and document their history. These initiatives - encouraged by the Israeli government - hope to bring the desired international recognition incorporated in any final Israeli/Palestinian peace agreement.

Non-binding landmark resolutions on Middle East refugees were introduced in both the U.S. Senate (S. Res. 85) and in the House of Representatives (H. Res. 185) urging the President to use all means available "to ensure that any resolution relating to the issue of Middle East refugees, and which includes a reference to the required resolution of the Palestinian refugee issue, must include a similarly explicit reference to the resolution of the issue of Jewish, Christian and other refugees from Arab countries."

Representative Gary Ackerman (D-NY), chair of the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, recounted that between 1948 and the Six Day war in 1967, the Jews of Iran and the Arab world faced "terror or government edict to forfeit not just their jobs, but entire businesses; not just their personal assets, but the property of entire communities; and most painful of all, not only did they lose their personal dignity and security, but their entire national identity."

Concurrently, an international Rights & Redress Campaign supported by 65 countries and organizations, including the Israeli Government, has launched two initiatives - an international



A mechanics workshop at ORT Casablanca in Morocco in the 1950s

advocacy/public education campaign on the heritage and rights of former Jewish refugees from Arab countries and the registration of family history narratives that catalogue communal and individual losses. Their collected testimonies will be catalogued and preserved by a special unit in Israel's Ministry of Justice, established to compile the legal and factual basis necessary to assert the rights of these Jews.

Timing is critical since over 70% of those who left Arab countries are no longer alive. Similar to the urgent need to reach aging Shoah victims, these survivors must also tell their stories now! Today 50% of Israel's population are descendants of these refugees and thousands are today's ORT students.

ORTists the world over recently learned about ORT's return to the small Jewish community in Tunisia -after a 35 year absence - providing computers, internet connections and equipment for an ICT Laboratory at a small, Lubavitch-run school in Tunis. A school in Casablanca has asked ORT to return there.

As members of the ORT community, we have both a historic and moral obligation to lend our support. Visit our website at www.ortamerica.org/advocacy to link with your Congressional delegates and offer your support and find out how to secure an International Rights and Redress Campaign Registration Card for your family, friends, neighbors or associates.

ORT America eStore Open for Business

ORTAmerica.org launched this summer an online store, giving visitors to the site a fun and tangible method of supporting ORT America. Shoppers have the option of browsing through five categories: the Featured Item; Cards and Certificates; ORT America Merchandise; Books/CDs/DVDs; and Original Art.

The cards and certificates section is the perfect stop for those looking to honor or remember a friend or loved one with a beautifully designed keepsake. The gift of a Life Membership certificate is the perfect way to mark a special occasion.

In the ORT America Merchandise section, supporters can proudly display their support of ORT America by sporting a T-shirt or drinking coffee from a mug branded with the ORT America logo.

The Books/CDs/DVDs section is comprised of both informational texts and interactive software. A couple of fascinating books give you a detailed look at the history of ORT in Russia, Europe and more on the rich past of our 127 year-old organization. Our popular Navigating the Bible II CD gives users an in-depth look at the Torah, complete with cantillation marks, commentary and English translation. This is the ideal gift for your friends, children and grandchildren who are learning their bar or



bat mitzvah portions. The CD is programmed with the voice of a professional cantor who reads every Torah and Haftorah portion. With something for everyone in every price range, the ORT America eStore is a must stop on your next visit to ORTAmerica.org.

New eNewsletter Provides a More Interactive Experience

ORT America supporters nationwide were pleasantly surprised in July to see a completely revamped edition of the ORT America monthly eNewsletter.

In addition to bringing the latest ORT news from around the world, features have been added to give users more interactive options and a more personalized experience when visiting ORT America's home on the web.

Video links have been embedded, giving ORT America supporters instant access to the faces and voices of ORT students and teachers in all corners of the globe.

A community photo of the month has been added, along with upcoming calendar dates of featured ORT events.

All of these improvements are ultimately designed to give ORT America supporters a more pleasant experience when visiting our website. An increasing number of our users, like the rest of the online world, are becoming more web savvy. The newly formatted eNewsletter is just one of the steps ORT America has taken to remain ahead of the curve.



35 ORT Students from Five Countries in London for Intensive English Program

In line with World ORT's commitment to co-existence, tolerance and mutual coexistence, 35 Jewish, Druze and Muslim high school students from Israel, Moldova and Belarus, Italy and France are in London for the World ORT Rosner English Summer School at the Hampstead School of English.

[Read More](#)

HP Funds ORT Training Centers in Russia

The world's largest consumer IT company, Hewlett-Packard (HP), has boosted its partnership with World ORT by funding five new business skills training centers for young adults in Russia.

Visit Israel on the ORT Science Journey

Tax Savings Alert For 2007

Community Photo of the Month

To register for the free monthly eNewsletter, please visit ORTAmerica.org.

Save the Date!! World ORT General Assembly/ORT America 2008 Mission to Warsaw and Israel

Save the Dates for what will be an extraordinary experience to Poland and Israel with ORT. The trip has several segments so participants can come on the entire trip or just a portion.

The mission begins in Warsaw, Poland where participants from more than 30 countries will gather for World ORT's General Assembly (GA). The program begins on June 1 (arrive on May 31) with a moving Opening Ceremony in the Warsaw Ghetto, followed by a World ORT March of the Living (Birkenau to Auschwitz) on June 2.

The special sessions of the World ORT General Assembly, will be held June 3-4 followed by travel to Israel late on June 4. Don't miss this opportunity to meet face-to-face with delegates from around the world and represent ORT America at this international gathering.



The Israel experience kicks off with visits to Science Journey schools on June 5-6. ORT America is adding an extension during which participants can visit the Old City of Jerusalem and discover the magical sights of Israel. A detailed itinerary is being planned, so Save the Dates and join ORT America for an enlightening visit to the Holy Land!

Four participant options

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| One: June 1 – TBD | The complete Warsaw and Israel tour |
| Two: June 1 - June 4 | Warsaw Only |
| Three: June 1 – June 6, 2008 | Warsaw and Science Journey Tour |

Students At Risk Globalized

ORT America announced the globalization of the **Students at Risk** project (which formerly benefited only Israeli children). The STAR Globalized project supports economically disadvantaged ORT students in 22 countries - including Israel, France, India, Italy, Russia, the former Soviet Union and Argentina - with essential needs such as uniforms, books, school supplies, hot meals and transportation vouchers. ORT America's research indicates that more than 4,000 students qualify as a Students at Risk in Israel alone and that thousands more qualify in other countries and are in need of urgent financial support in order for them to remain in school. Students identified for this project are depending on each of us to make a difference in their lives. Each gift of \$550 helps pay the expenses for one student for one year.

ORT America would like to thank all of our areas and supporters for contributing to the success of the 2006-2007 Students at Risk (STAR) Campaign. We'd also like to recognize and congratulate the following areas for achieving their 2006-2007 STAR Goals:

Cactus
Central Connecticut
Cleveland
El Camino
Long Island

North Palm Beach
Northern Shores
Ocean Hills
Queens
St. Louis

San Marino
Silicon Valley
South County ORT
Taconic/Country Hills
Toledo

Thank you for the role you play in making a difference in the lives of ORT STARs around the world!

ORT America will continue to promote STAR as an integrated part of our Annual Campaign. For information please contact your Region or Chapter Contributions Chair, or Herb Kaplan, Director of Annual Giving at 800.519.2678 x242.

Giving Societies and Recognition Levels

Supporter

Any giver of \$36 or more (annually) shall be considered a member of the ORT family. Where a household gift totals \$72 or more, an additional family member is entitled to join the ORT family.

Contributor

Special recognition will be provided locally at the Contributor levels of \$150, \$250, and \$550. Contributions of \$550 (or multiples thereof) can be designated for the Students at Risk (STARS) project and will also receive national recognition.

Golden Circle

The ORT America Golden Circle Society recognizes the generosity of supporters whose annual gift is \$1,000 or more. Golden Circle contributors may earmark their gift to specific countries/geographic regions supported by ORT America, receive recognition in ORT America's annual donor recognition report, and receive special publications from World ORT.



Diamond Ladder

Reflective of Maimonides' eight degrees of charitable giving, the Diamond Ladder recognition society consists of individuals who have made a major gift commitment of at least \$5,000 per year for each of three years. Because of the multi-year commitment, ORT America is better able to plan for the future and expand its support of the ORT program around the world.

1880 Society

In celebration of ORT's 125th year, World ORT created an elite society for our major donors – the 1880 Society. This international group is comprised of men and women whose vision and generosity will ensure that ORT remains at the forefront of science and technology education around the world.



de Gunzbourg Society and Heritage Club

Membership in the de Gunzbourg Society is established when a supporter notifies ORT America (or its predecessor organizations, American ORT and Women's American ORT) in writing that she/he has included ORT in his/her will, makes ORT the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy or participates in one of ORT's life-income gift programs. To achieve membership in the de Gunzbourg Heritage Club, one must make a verifiable planned gift at the \$50,000 or above level.

For more information, contact the Fund Development Department at 1-800-519-2678.

Next Generation Update

Florida

The Greater Miami Region recently launched its “Next Generation” chapter, the Young Leadership Network, at the all-new Q Lounge in Aventura.

A collaboration of area young professionals, supPОРТers and ORТ alumni, the group’s mission is to continue to foster ORТ programs through community awareness, fundraising activities and student supPОРТ.

Aventura Commissioner Luz Urbaez Weinberg, Social Chair of ORТ America’s Greater Miami Region Board of Directors, spoke about the world of ORТ. As one of the oldest and largest worldwide educational organizations, ORТ is the only charity in which you can “think globally and act locally” for education, commented Weinberg.

Weinberg also reminded ORТ’s Next Generation members of ORТ America’s Outstanding Community Achievement Award ceremony honoring Aventura Commissioner Bob and Arlene Diamond and Luis and Yelma Dikes of Weston Jewelers.



New York

A Next Generation group gathers at the home of Andrea Kay and Adam Stoltz in New York City to meet ORТ student from Israel, Qanshaw Avgana. Qanshaw attends the Kadoorie Youth Village which is part of Science Journey, ORТ’s campaign to equip 30 campuses with science and computer labs as well as technology education.

Chicago

Rachael Halstuk and Lori Silverman are heading up the Metropolitan Chicago Region Next Generation initiative of 20 and 30-somethings along with a fabulous committee of young professional women and men. The group held their first

successful event last month – PassPОРТ to Paradise – a Happy Hour with over 100 Next Genners that came together to support ORТ programming.



(L-R) Greater Miami Social Chair, Commissioner Luz Urbaez Weinberg; Carolina Spector (ORТ Alumni); Pasqual Korchman (ORТ Alumni); Jacky Korn (Host/Owner of Q Lounge); Valerie Katz-Seibald (Host/Q Lounge Manager); Adriana Jaegerman (Host); and Loren Krongold (Greater Miami Region Director).



Young Chicagoans and ORТ supporters enjoying each other’s company at PassPОРТ to Paradise. (L to R): David Brown, David Dreifuss, Erica Schwartzenfeld and Nikki Adelman.

PLANNED GIVING: Sisters' Legacy Supports Future Generations of ORT Students

Each year ORT America is thankful to receive bequests from the estates of loyal supporters. These bequests play an important role in supporting ORT's work in 56 countries around the world. The most recent was a surprise bequest of \$600,000 from **Idah Salzman** to Women's American ORT (now ORT America). Idah's estate included that of her sister **Esther**, who had predeceased her.

What prompted such a gift? The generous bequest came from two amazing women.

Esther and Idah's core values included the firm belief that everyone had a right to an education. Through their own lifelong quest for self-improvement and education, they learned that knowledge was a valuable, self-enriching experience, and above all else, this must have been the principle that endeared them to ORT. Clearly, Idah strongly felt that giving to ORT was a way of helping people to become productive citizens.

The sisters were introduced to ORT in the latter part of the 1980's, while living in the Boston area. Esther and Idah had never heard about ORT until reading a copy of the **ORT Reporter**, where they read about the

lifeline ORT offered Jewish communities worldwide since its founding in 1880.

Inspired by what they read in **The Reporter**, Esther and Idah Salzman called the Boston office of Women's American ORT. They were referred to **Frances Short**, a longtime devoted member in Eastern Massachusetts who was in charge of solicitations through its Capital Funds program. The rest is history.

Over lunch, Frances gave Esther and Idah a detailed account of ORT's history and programs which supported technical/vocational schools across five continents. The elderly sisters were duly impressed by the scope of ORT's work and how its comprehensive education courses and high tech training programs impacted and changed lives of countless people by giving them job skills and hope.

Instantly deciding that ORT was a worthwhile charity, they each pledged to give \$1,000 annually and they allocated their gift to a specific school. For example, they earmarked funds to an ORT school in Ireland, then to programs in Mexico, France and South America.

Not long afterwards, Esther Salzman passed away, leaving her entire estate to Idah. The bequest was left exclusively to

ORT America and was made in memory of their parents **Chaim Engel Salzman** and **Fredl Engel Salzman** and guaranteed that the Salzman family legacy would benefit the lives of generations of ORT students for years to come.

Such a generous gift will benefit the ORT program significantly. Needless to say, ORT expresses its gratitude and deep appreciation to **Esther and Idah Salzman**, whose lives will be remembered and whose legacies live on in a fitting tribute through their gift.

To find out how to include ORT America in your will, or to learn of other methods of giving tailored to your personal and financial goals, please contact Lisa Lager, Senior Director of Planned Giving, at 800.519.2678 ext. 226 or by email at plannedgiving@ortamerica.org.



Esther Salzman

TAX WISE ALERT FOR 2007

Special Pension Protection Act of 2006 – Incentives End December 31st, 2007

Act now – If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift to ORT America using funds from your individual retirement account (IRA) without any undesirable tax effects. Prior to the new law, you would have to report withdrawals taken from your IRA as taxable income, then take a charitable deduction for your gift which would be subject to a cap of 50% of your adjusted gross income. In effect, you might have had to pay more in income taxes than if you didn't make a gift at all.

Now you can make the gift from your IRA to ORT America without tax complications during your lifetime and witness the benefits of your generosity.

You can transfer up to \$100,000 during 2007 from your IRA or Rollover IRA to ORT America and avoid paying income tax on the

withdrawal, as long as you are already 70 1/2 at the time the action is taken. Since you will not pay income tax on the withdrawal, you will not be able to claim a charitable deduction for this gift. Tax-wise, it is a "wash." However, it's yet another way to make a gift to ORT America, reduce the ultimate size of your estate and save estate taxes for your heirs.

Simply contact your IRA custodian for the forms necessary to transfer your desired gift amount to ORT America.

For more information about the benefits of donating retirement assets or other planned giving options, please contact **Lisa Lager**, Senior Director of Planned Giving, at 212-505-7700, ext. 226 or by e-mail at plannedgiving@ortamerica.org.



ORT America National Officers and Board of Directors



Back row (L to R) standing: Herbert W. Ackerman, Treasurer; Stuart Frankenthal and Roger L. Browdy. **Third row (L to R) standing:** Dr. Conrad Giles; Marilyn Eager; Gail Lanznar; Steven M. Schlosser; Hilly Panovka; Neil Model; John I. Benator; Craig Singer, Vice President; Michael P. Broida and Eva Lynn Gans; Sara R. Trub; and Joe Cohen, Past President, American ORT. **Second row (L to R) standing:** Roslind Vermut, Vice President; Marcy S. Wiseberg; Terry Azose; Linda Kirschbaum, Vice President; Francoise Rothstein; Linda Law; Judy Menikoff, Past President, Women's American ORT. **Seated first row (L to R):** Grace K. Mendelson, Secretary/Associate Treasurer; Hope Kessler, National Executive Director; Doreen N. Hermelin, National President; Shelley B. Fagel, Executive Committee Chair and Nicole L. Kovacs. **Missing:** Morris Gocial, Vice President; Serge Berguig; Robert Colburn; Ronald A. Fisher; Peter Menikoff; Mitchell Schneider; and Taffy Stern.

FALL
2007

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