בס"ד

Voices of Orot - Monthly Newsletter

Tishrei/September, 5786

Preparing the educators who will shape Israel's future.
Help us begin the new academic year strong.

Support an Orot student



Shana Tova U'Mevorach!

Dear Orot Friends,

"הִנְנִי עֹשָׂה חֲדָשָׁה, עַתָּה תִּצְמָח"
“Behold, I am doing something new; now it will sprout.”
— Yeshayahu 43:19

As we enter a new academic year, we look ahead with renewed hope, excitement, and a deep sense of purpose. A new year brings new students, new opportunities, and new possibilities to strengthen Jewish education and communities across Israel.
At Orot Israel College, we are proud to begin another year dedicated to preparing educators who will lead with knowledge, values, and a strong sense of mission. As we welcome a new generation of students, we are reminded that every new beginning carries the potential to create lasting impact.
In this newsletter, we'll look ahead to the year to come—and take a moment to celebrate a few of the meaningful moments and accomplishments that shaped the year behind us.
We are grateful to have you with us on this journey and look forward to all that the coming year will bring.

Tishrei



Last September, Orot Israel College opened the practical training year for second- and third-year students under the theme "Fulfillment." The day brought students together for a meaningful start to their professional journey in education, featuring greetings from College President Prof. Meir Hildesheimer and Dr. Ruti Shapira, Head of the Teaching Practicum Program, as well as an inspiring talk from Rabbanit Sarahle Messing, Principal of Ulpanit Tiberias. Students also met with their pedagogical mentors and participated in workshops on personalized education, pedagogical innovation and AI, inquiry-based learning, and creative thinking. The day emphasized the mission, commitment, and professional leadership expected of Orot graduates as they prepared to enter the field and make a meaningful impact in their schools and communities.



Cheshvan

In November 2025, Orot Israel College hosted a warm and inspiring Appreciation Evening honoring Rabbanit Rachel Stern, attended by nearly 200 women from the community. The evening featured remarks from College CEO Rabbi Chaim Fogel and a meaningful lecture and words of blessing from Rabbanit Dr. Ruti Shapira, Head of the Undergraduate Studies Department. The event offered participants an opportunity to connect with Orot Israel College and its mission while celebrating the Torah leadership, kindness, and contributions of Rabbanit Rachel Stern.

Kislev



Orot Israel College held a meaningful and uplifting evening for its female students, filled with inspiration, connection, and celebration. The event featured words of blessing and encouragement from College President Rabbi Prof. Meir Hildesheimer, Rabbanit Dr. Ruti Shapira, Head of Undergraduate Studies, and Mrs. Nava Segal, Dean of Students. A highlight of the evening was an inspiring conversation with Yael Shevach, "By Your Blood, I Live," who shared her powerful story of loss, resilience, and choosing life following the murder of her husband, Rabbi Raziel Shevach.

Alongside festive booths and shared treats, the evening served as a reminder that the light of Hanukkah continues to guide, strengthen, and inspire us long after the holiday ends.

Iyar



Orot Israel College held a festive graduation ceremony for its Entry into Teaching training courses, celebrating a year of growth and learning for a new generation of educators. The evening included a creative spice workshop encouraging participants to reflect on their personal and professional identities, followed by an inspiring talk from Rabbi Aharon Cohen on the profound mission of education. Participants received

certificates of completion, while Mrs. Racheli Bar-Tov, coordinator of the internship and preparation program, congratulated the new teachers and wished them success as they began their careers in education.

Tamuz



Orot Israel College held a special day-long conference for graduating students as they prepared to enter the classroom as professional educators. The conference featured practical workshops on teaching alongside artificial intelligence, choosing the right school environment, and succeeding in job interviews, equipping students with valuable tools for their teaching

internships and careers. A highlight was an inspiring session with Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, who emphasized the sacred responsibility of educating the next generation, alongside College President Prof. Hildesheimer, Rebbetzin Ruti Shapira, representatives of the Religious State Education supervisory staff, and Rabbi Yona Goodman. The day reflected Orot's commitment to preparing educators with professional excellence, strong values, and a deep sense of mission.

Your support makes moments like these possible.



What Happens to Our Brains When We Move?



Maybe movement is much more than we ever imagined.
When we dance, the body doesn't simply move. It thinks, feels, responds, learns, and creates.
Through movement, we activate our bodies—but we also engage our minds, our creativity, and the way we experience ourselves and the world around us.
This is the starting point of the innovative Master's Degree in Dance at Orot Israel College—a program that invites us to look at dance in a whole new way.
Not only through steps and choreography, but through the fascinating connection between movement, the brain, body, mind, creativity, and thought.
Here, learning happens through experience.
Research happens through the body.
Creation emerges through movement.
Students explore how physical movement can influence the way we think, feel, learn, and grow.
At our recent Open Day, participants had the opportunity to experience this firsthand. Through movement workshops, each person found her own way to move—to listen to her body, let go, create, and be fully present.
Everyone was moving differently. Yet, when viewed from the outside, something shared suddenly emerged:
A dance that was never planned.
A creation born from listening.
Art created through movement—quite literally.
And this is only the beginning.
Movement and creation. Body and mind. Dance and the brain.
A Master's degree that invites you not only to dance, but to explore what happens when we move.

We wish Dr. Talia Perlshtein the very best of luck as she leads this exciting new program!

Eating Special 'Simanim' on Rosh HaShana

Rav Ari Shvat (Chwat)



The Gemara in Keritut 6a and Horayot 12a mentions five foods to eat or see on Rosh Hashanah: *kara, rubia, karti, silka,* and *t'marim*. Rashi explains that these foods are sweet or grow quickly, symbolizing the blessings we hope to receive in the coming year. The Geonim explain that their Hebrew/Aramaic names allude to the blessings we seek. The Abudraham, Tur, and others note that these five foods became the basis for adding additional symbolic foods and blessings—because the more blessings we invoke at the beginning of the New Year, the better! The order in which the Gemara lists the foods is not necessarily significant, and later authorities arranged them differently.

Even if children or adults don't enjoy eating these foods, the sources indicate that simply placing them on the table can have significance. These customs are cited in the *Shulchan Aruch* (Orach Chaim 583) and apply to Ashkenazim as well as Sepharadim. Historically, Jews in Europe often limited the custom to apples and honey and perhaps pomegranates because many of these fruits and vegetables were unavailable. Today, living in the Land of Israel and blessed with abundant produce, we have the opportunity to revive these ancient customs and add meaningful blessings to our Rosh Hashanah table.

Wishing you, your families, and all Am Yisrael a Ketiva VaChatima Tova!



Visiting Israel soon?

We'd love to welcome you to Orot!
Come tour our campus, meet our students, and experience the heart of our community.

Click here to email us to schedule your visit



Help Shape Israel's Future — One Educator at a Time

Every year, Orot students leave our classrooms and enter classrooms of their own — bringing knowledge, values, Jewish identity and a commitment to Israel's next generation.

As the new academic year begins, more students are preparing to become the educators our communities need.

Will you help them get there?

Your gift can help prepare a future teacher.

$2,000 — Sponsor a Future Educator

$1,000 — Support a Student's Education

$500 — Help Provide Educational Resources

$180 — Be Part of Orot's Mission

Support Now

See you in our next newsletter...