



Voices of Orot - Monthly Newsletter

December 2025/ Kislev 5786

Dear Orot Friends,



As we approach the days of Hannukah, we are reminded of the enduring light that emerges when faith, courage, and dedication meet. The victory of the Maccabim was not only a triumph on the battlefield, but a powerful affirmation of our commitment to Torah, to avodat Hashem, and to preserving the sanctity of Jewish life even in challenging times.

At Orot Israel College, we see this same spirit reflected in our students, faculty, and community—each one adding their own “ner shel mitzvah,” illuminating the world through learning, teaching, and acts of kindness. May the lights of Chanukah inspire us to continue strengthening Torah education in Israel and beyond, and may the days ahead bring blessing, growth, and renewed hope for Am Yisrael.

Orot Israel College of Education

**A Hannukah Dvar Torah from our esteemed
Rabbi Chaim Fogel, CEO/Executive Director of
Orot Israel College**

בימים ההם בזמן הזה — the message of Chanukah is that the strength of Am Yisrael has always come from our commitment to Torah and mitzvot. The Greeks tried to uproot the foundations of our kedushah: Shabbat, Brit Milah, and taharat hamishpachah. Yehuda HaMaccabi and his brothers fought with

mesirut nefesh to protect these core values, even when they were few against many — and Hakadosh Baruch Hu responded with open miracles.

Also today, we face challenges that remind us of those times. The devotion of Am Yisrael, and especially the courage of our soldiers, reveals the deep inner strength Hashem has given us. Their mesirut nefesh invites Siyata Dishmaya and reminds us that the light of Torah continues to guide and protect us.

May we merit to see nissim and yeshuot, as in those days and in this time.

תנו כה שמח

— Rabbi Chaim Fogel, Orot Israel College



בז"ה

Your Year-End Gift Shapes Israel's Future

As the fiscal year comes to a close, we invite you to make a meaningful contribution to Orot Israel College. **Your donation helps educate and train dedicated teachers who are shaping the future of Israel's children.**



Support
Israeli Education
Today

**Tax-deductible
donation**

Honoring Rabbanit Rachel Stern

A Meaningful Evening of Learning and Appreciation at Orot Israel College



In the beginning of November, Orot Israel College hosted a moving and inspiring **evening of appreciation in honor of Rabbanit Rachel Stern**, celebrating her leadership, wisdom, and dedication to Torah and kindness. Nearly two hundred women gathered for this special event, which reflected the spirit of connection, gratitude, and learning that defines the College.

The evening opened with greetings from Rabbi Chaim Fogel, CEO of Orot Israel College, and featured a heartfelt lecture by **Rabbanit Dr. Ruti Shapira**, who enriched the program with deep insights and inspiration. Warm words of partnership were also shared by **Adv. Eden Cohen**, Deputy Director of the Elkana Campus, emphasizing the meaningful collaboration between the College and the local community.

The event was beautifully produced by **Sarit Gizbar**, whose thoughtful planning and creativity brought together an atmosphere of respect, inspiration, and joy.

Participants expressed their appreciation following the evening:

“Sarit dear, I really enjoyed your production for Rabbanit Rachel. I loved the storytelling, the performance, and the audience’s excitement. You conducted the evening with confidence, presence, and creativity. All honor and appreciation for your work!”

“You wove together emotion, sensitivity, and deep investment in your production. The content, videos, and atmosphere—all blended into a full, meaningful experience that deeply touched the heart.”

The evening illuminated Orot Israel College’s ongoing mission to blend academic excellence with spiritual depth, highlighting the power of community and Torah values that continue to shape Israel’s educational landscape.

Innovation in Motion: A Campus Day with Alumot



Early in December, Orot Israel College hosted a special delegation from the “Alumot” program, an initiative dedicated to strengthening teacher training and promoting educational leadership in Israel.

The day opened with a meeting with the College President, Prof. Meir Hildesheimer, and the College CEO, Rabbi Chaim Fogel, who shared the College’s vision for teaching and its significant contribution to the field of education.

The delegation then visited several classes across the campus:

- Communication class with Dr. Yehuda Vitalzon and Mr. Aharon Ben Hamo: Students demonstrated models of innovative and creative teaching.
- Dance and movement session: The internship team showcased experiential learning that integrates movement, creativity, and educational reflection.
- Mathematics class with Dr. Reut Parsha: Guests experienced hands-on teaching methods that encourage problem-solving, creativity, and deep thinking.

Over lunch, an open discussion with faculty highlighted the strong sense of teamwork, dedication to students, and the wide range of educational initiatives happening at the College.

The group continued with a campus tour, meeting additional staff and learning about the ROM Excellence Program from its head, Dr. Haim Alboim. The day concluded with a shared sense of appreciation, inspiration, and partnership for the future. We are proud of our educational mission and of our students, who continue to lead in the field of education with professionalism, purpose, and tremendous heart.

Dance Department at Orot College



Orot Israel College is Israel's first and only academic framework where observant women can train to teach dance in the spirit of Halacha, earning a B.Ed., senior teacher's certificate, and teaching license from K-12. Since 1998, the program has merged art and faith, fostering professional excellence and spiritual growth. Students explore performance, creativity, and self-discovery, and about 80% of graduates work in education or as independent choreographers.

Looking to the Future- Master's Degree in Dance Teaching (M.Ed.)

Launching Israel's first M.Ed. in dance teaching, this program will develop "expert teachers," integrate Neuropedagogy and neuroscience with movement, and strengthen arts education in the state-religious system. It prepares women to be innovative, self-sufficient educators who can navigate both professional and spiritual challenges.

Noga Dance Company

Founded in 2009, Noga Dance Company is Israel's first religious professional dance company, providing a platform for choreographers and dancers to unite spiritual values with artistic expression. The company performs for diverse women's audiences and has appeared at major venues and festivals nationwide, including the Suzanne Dellal Center, Karmiel Dance Festival, and Emuna Dance Festival.

Dr. Talia Perlstein, Head of Orot Israel's Dance Department

Dr. Talia Perlstein, founder and head of the Dance/Movement Program at Orot Israel College, is a leading educator and choreographer dedicated to advancing dance within the Religious-Zionist community. She established Orot's four-year academic track in dance, developing a strong professional pathway for religious women and shaping the identity of the department through high academic standards, creativity, and values-based pedagogy.

Beyond her academic leadership, Dr. Perlstein has broadened artistic opportunities through initiatives such as the Noga Dance Troupe and community collaborations that bring high-quality women's dance to schools and cultural events. Her research and educational work focus on dance as a space for personal growth, professional development, and the integration of faith and artistic expression.

You can now view all our past newsletters on our website!

[Click here to view!](#)



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



How Well Do You Know Orot? Take the Challenge!

Question

How many campuses make up Orot Israel College of Education?

Riddle

Between the beit midrash and the dance floor, where halacha meets choreography, we shape teachers who pass on rhythm and reverence.

**Name the program*

(Hint, the answer is in the newsletter above)

Last month's answers:

-Do Alumni of Orot College also teach in Non Religious Schools?

YES!

*-I guide families to learn and grow,
With Jewish values we all can know.
Which Orot Israel Project am I?
Jewish Family Studies*

Mazal Tov to our winner, Mr. Jay Stein

He will enjoy dinner for two at the prestigious Joy Grill House restaurant on his next visit!

This is your opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of those dedicated to Israel's security and future. Together, we can ensure that Orot College continues to inspire and equip the next generation of leaders.

Support Now



See you in our next newsletter...