



# Voices of Orot - Monthly Newsletter

January/Tevet, 5786



## Dear Orot Friends,

“כִּי הָאָדָם עַז הַשְׂדָה”

“For man is like the tree of the field”

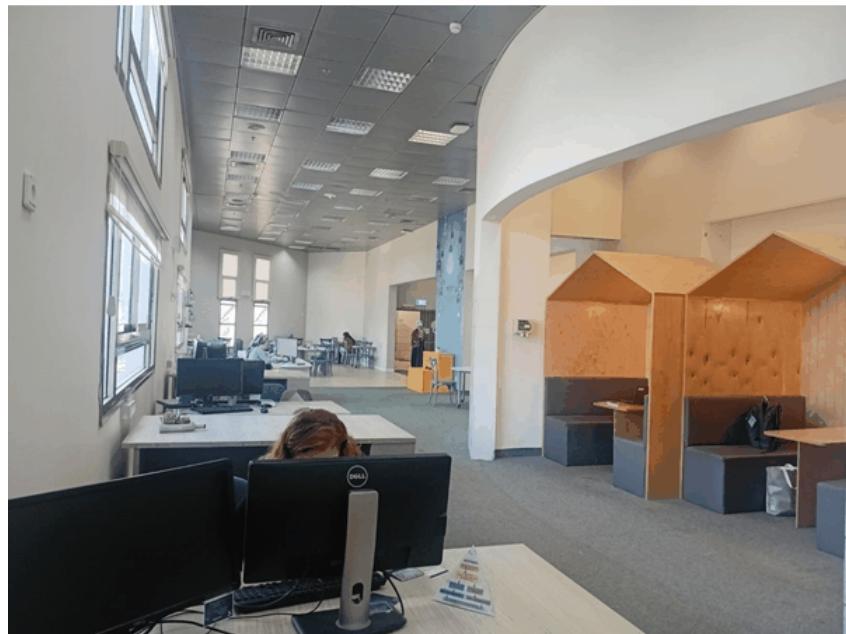
(Devarim 20:19)

Tu Bishvat reminds us that true growth often begins quietly, beneath the surface. Just as a tree draws strength from its roots before bearing fruit, so too does meaningful education require patience, care, and long-term vision. At Orot Israel College, we are deeply committed to nurturing strong roots—rooted in Torah, values, and academic excellence—so that our students can grow into educators who will shape the future with purpose and integrity.

Thanks to your partnership and generosity, seeds planted years ago continue to flourish. This Tu Bishvat, we celebrate renewal, continuity, and the lasting impact of your support. Together, we are cultivating an educational legacy—one that will bear fruit for generations to come.

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Orot Israel's Library and Study Center



## A Quiet Force of Knowledge: Shir'el

Shir-el, who has been part of Orot's library team for the past two and a half years and holds an M.A. in Information Science from Bar-Ilan University, shared meaningful insights about the evolving role of the library. She noted that while students don't come to borrow books as frequently as in the past, the library still holds many hidden treasures—especially the extensive collection of *Sifrei Kodesh* tucked away on its shelves. Today, much of her work involves teaching students how to search effectively online for academic research. She also pointed out that few people are aware that the library still receives printed academic journals, a valuable resource that often goes unnoticed. Looking ahead, Shir-el reflected on the growing influence of AI in academic life; although its full impact remains unknown, she emphasized that there is something uniquely meaningful about the physical experience of holding a book.

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## A Home for Torah and Teaching: The Rehovot Campus



The Rehovot (Men's) Campus of Orot Israel College, also known as *Campus Morashat Yaakov*, serves as a center for Torah-based academic excellence and teacher training. Designed for men seeking to combine serious Torah learning with professional academic studies, the campus offers a strong values-driven environment that prepares educators to make a meaningful impact in Israel's educational system.

Students at the Rehovot campus can pursue a B.Ed. degree with specializations such as Bible, Talmud, Hebrew, history, mathematics, sciences, special education, and more, alongside advanced Master's programs in educational counseling and educational leadership. With integrated pedagogical training, close faculty mentorship, and a vibrant Torah atmosphere, the campus nurtures future teachers and educational leaders committed to both professional excellence and spiritual growth.

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## Rabbanit Neria

In the archive of **Rabbanit Neria**, where her personal writings, letters, and documents are being carefully organized. Although the speaker knew Rabbanit Neria only briefly in person, her character and life's work emerge vividly through these materials. The archive reveals a remarkable woman deeply attentive to the needs of others, involved in countless acts of care—writing to rabbinical courts, advocating for women seeking conversion, assisting families in distress, and reaching out to employers on behalf of those in need.

Despite her personal modesty, Rabbanit Neria devoted herself to one of the central challenges of her time: strengthening the Jewish home. During a period of social confusion, she addressed issues of relationships, marriage, and family life with clarity, wisdom, and deep responsibility. She lectured throughout Israel in both religious and secular settings, wrote influential books found in countless Religious-Zionist homes, and prepared guidance booklets for brides before marriage.

The archive also reflects the overwhelming trust placed in her, seen in the many letters she received from women and men—especially women of all ages—who shared their most personal dilemmas with her. Alongside her public work, Rabbanit Neria fulfilled her central role as the wife of Rabbi Neria and the mother of a large, warm family, which she viewed as the very heart of her life. The video concludes with the hope that, once the archival work is complete, students will be invited to study these materials and learn from the enduring legacy of this extraordinary woman.



One could be foundn nearly every Religious-Zionist home

## An update from our Widows of Operation Swords of Iron



About a month after Hanukkah, we look back on a meaningful initiative carried out as part of the Widows of Operation Swords of Iron project, led jointly by Orot Israel College and the Rambam Heritage Center. Ahead of the holiday, a unique gift package was distributed to a group of widows connected to the College—women who are alumnae, current students, or whose spouses studied at Orot Israel College and fell during Israel's wars.

This is a group we have been accompanying closely for the past two years. For each holiday, we strive to offer a thoughtfully chosen gift along with invitations to meaningful gatherings and events. This initiative is part of a broader effort at Orot Israel College to maintain a deep, ongoing connection with families of the fallen—strengthening and supporting these women throughout the year in close partnership with the Rambam Heritage Center.

The Hanukkah gift package included a natural self-care set, a beautifully designed candle-lighting kit, a family Hanukkah game box with eight games to encourage connection and joy,

and a personal blessing written for each woman. In addition, collaboration was recently expanded with the Department for Jewish Culture, which invited the widows and their families to Hanukkah events across the country, allowing each family to choose an activity best suited to them.

Although the war may be over, the need remains. These women continue to face daily challenges, and our commitment to them does not end with the headlines.

**We are now preparing the next gift initiative for Tu Bishvat, and invite those who wish to take part in supporting the Widows of Operation Swords of Iron to partner with us.**

To learn more or to donate toward the upcoming Tu Bishvat gift, please contact: [orotf@orot.ac.il](mailto:orotf@orot.ac.il) or directly via our website: <https://english.orot.ac.il/donation>

Together, we can continue to offer care, presence, and light—long after the holidays have passed.

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Be sure to join our social media groups for day to day updates....



## 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



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How Well Do You Know Orot? Take the Challenge!

### Question

What unique combination defines the Men's (Rehovot) Campus at Orot Israel College rather than other teacher's colleges?

### Riddle

I shape tomorrow's teachers by day,  
and deepen Torah learning along the way.  
In Rehovot I stand, with purpose and light—  
where am I?

Last month's answers:

How many campuses make up Orot Israel College of Education? -2  
Between the beit midrash and the dance floor, where halacha meets choreography, we  
shape teachers who pass on rhythm and reverence. -Dance Department

Mazal Tov to our 2 winners Hilit Brauran and Mr. Harari  
They will each enjoy dinners for two at the prestigious Joy Grill House restaurant.

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*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.*

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