



# Voices of Orot - Monthly Newsletter

Cheshvan, 5786



The Jack & Anne Weinbaum Auditorium & Beith Limud

## Dear Orot Friends,

As the new school year begins at Orot Israel College of Education, we enter this season of renewal with gratitude and hope. Our classrooms are once again filled with students preparing to become the educators and leaders of tomorrow, even as many of them — and their families — continue to shoulder the weight of national service. Their strength and dedication inspire us all, and we join in praying for their safety and for peace to soon return to our land.

## A Year of Fulfillment Begins: Opening Events



The new academic year at Orot Israel College opened with two inspiring events that captured the vibrant campus spirit, sense of unity, and deep educational mission that guide every step of our students' journey.

In the beginning of October, second and third-year students gathered for the opening of the *practical training year* under the theme "Fulfillment."

The students arrived with a sense of renewal and excitement as they set out on a meaningful professional journey into the field of education.

Then, a week later, the year also began with a coffee gathering and community conversation, followed by greetings from the College President, Prof. Meir Hildesheimer, and the Head of the Teaching Practicum Program, Dr. Ruti Shapira, who spoke about the personal and professional growth that begins at this very moment.

The students then heard from Rabbanit Sarahle Messing, Principal of Ulpanit Tiberias, who spoke about the sacred mission of education and the personal connection of trust built between teacher and student.

Throughout the day, the students met with their pedagogical mentors and participated in a range of enriching workshops:

- Formative Learning — Personalized Education | *Efrat Levin*
- Pedagogical Innovation and AI in Education | *Dr. Meital Alon*
- Inquiry-Based Learning and Creative Thinking by Subject Area | *Various Lecturers*

The atmosphere was filled with a sense of mission, commitment, and deep connection to the world of education.

The college staff emphasized the importance of value-driven and professional leadership among Orot Israel graduates in schools and in the broader community.

The students concluded the day feeling empowered and inspired to continue growing, dreaming, and fulfilling their aspirations.

A few days later, the college welcomed first-year students for a festive and inspiring academic year opening event, marking their first steps into the world of higher education and educational leadership.

The event began with greetings from the College President, Rabbi Prof. Meir Hildesheimer, followed by Dr. Ruti Shapira, Head of the B.A. Program, and Dean Nava Segal, who warmly welcomed the new students.

Later, the students participated in a captivating and uplifting talk with Hadas Levinshtern, on the topic *"Living with a Spark in Your Eyes."* Her message, about the importance of action, faith, and belief in one's path, beautifully set the tone for the year ahead.

The day concluded with refreshments and a delicious lunch, just before diving into a full and meaningful study routine.

Together, both events celebrated the beginning of a new academic journey — one filled with purpose, passion, and a shared commitment to education and growth.

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## First Place in a Student Satisfaction Survey: A Testament to Adaptability & Excellence



A nationwide survey conducted by the **Maagar Mochot Institute** ranked **Orot Israel College** first among teacher-training colleges in the national-religious sector — and among the top institutions in Israel for student satisfaction and quality of learning.

This distinction reflects Orot's ongoing commitment to combine **academic rigor, spiritual depth, and personal care** — creating an environment that empowers future educators to lead with confidence and purpose.

Through thoughtful investment in faculty, technology, and student support, Orot continues to adapt to the evolving needs of education while staying true to its mission: nurturing teachers who inspire minds and uplift hearts.

More than an achievement, this recognition affirms a guiding belief at Orot — that when learning is grounded in values, excellence naturally follows.

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## "Anti-Semitism? Don't Be Scared!"- P' VaYelech

Rav Ari Shvat (Chwat)

In the final Torah Portion of the year, Moshe Rabbenu commands us not to follow the sin of the Meraglim (spies): "Be strong and courageous! Neither fear, nor be dismayed of them, for the Lord, your God He is the One Who goes with you. He will neither fail you, nor forsake you" (Dvarim 31:6). This mitzvah teaches that every Jew must trust in Hashem, even in battle, for the honor of God is reflected through the honor of Israel. Throughout history, anti-Semitism has often been used by leaders to rally the masses, making Israel a target not for wrongdoing, but because it embodies morality, justice, and Torah values. From Haman to Hitler, and in today's geopolitical conflicts, Israel has endured attacks while maintaining its moral and spiritual mission.





Today, Israel stands as a global defender of morality, family, tradition, and justice. Despite pressure from nations and ideological coalitions, we are guided by Hashem to combat evil and protect His people, demonstrating that it is both just and possible to resist threats while upholding our values. The responsibility placed upon us is great, but so is the opportunity to bring blessing to all of mankind.

As opposed to Europe and Christianity, the G-d & morality of Israel says: "If you can't beat them... try harder", but definitely don't be scared!



## Learning Family: Orot's New Online Program Strengthens Jewish Homes

Orot College's Family Center has launched an inspiring new initiative titled **"You Don't Choose Family – You Learn Family."**

This online program offers a series of short, accessible lectures that explore the beauty, challenges, and sacred responsibility of building a Jewish home.

With approximately 15 video lectures led by top educators and Torah figures — including **Rabbi Yoni Lavi, Dr. Hana Katan, Dr. Naomi Shachor, Sara Meichor, and Liran Bitan** — the program provides practical and spiritual guidance for couples and families at every stage of life.

Participants can choose between two focused tracks:

- **Family at the Start (Ages 20–40):** Covering topics such as pregnancy and birth, marital communication, family planning, and financial management for young households.
- **Change Begins in the Family (Ages 40+):** Exploring health transitions, renewing connection, relationships with adult children, and maintaining emotional and spiritual balance through life's changes.

Each course is self-paced and available online, allowing participants to learn from the comfort of home and grow together as a family — guided by Torah values and modern understanding.

We look forward to seeing you watching and growing together with us through this new and meaningful program.

## Meet our graduate, Special Education Advocate, Sara Levi

I earned a B.Ed. in Special Education, summer 2025, specializing in educating children with serious disabilities. I currently work in the northern region of the country, where I'm deeply involved in supporting and teaching children with diverse needs.



Looking ahead, my dream is to help children feel less "different"—to ensure they experience inclusion and belonging alongside their peers. I believe every child deserves to feel equal, valued, and part of the group, regardless of their challenges.

One of my most vivid memories from my time at Orot College is a class where the teacher focused entirely on learning through games rather than traditional lectures. I eagerly anticipated each session, excited to discover what creative activity awaited us. This hands-on, engaging style of learning became my favorite—and it's a method I now aim to bring into my own classroom. I want my students to move, play, and learn joyfully.

My advice to others pursuing this path is simple but powerful: don't forget to play.

Sometimes, adults lose touch with the value of play, but it's essential for people of all ages.

In my experience, the best learning happens through hands-on, sensory-rich experiences. Play isn't just fun—it's an essential part of growth and connection.



## Visiting Israel this fall?

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

 Do alumni of Orot College also teach in non religious schools/educational settings?

#### Riddle

I guide families to learn and grow,  
With Jewish values we all can know.

 Which Orot Israel Project am I?

[Click here to send your answers!](#)

#### Last month's answers:

*How many campuses make up Orot Israel College of Education? -2*

*Who was the founder of Orot Israel? -Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Felix*

**Mazal Tov to our 2 winners Mrs. Marlene Oberman and Mr. Levine.**

**They will each enjoy dinners for two at the prestigious Joy Grill House restaurant.**

*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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