



Voices of Orot - Monthly Newsletter

Elul, 5785



Dear Orot Friends,

As the Hebrew year comes to a close, we pause to look back on all we've shared and accomplished as a community. Month by month, our university has been alive with learning, creativity, and connection. From holidays and celebrations to new initiatives and meaningful moments, each step along the way has been part of our story together. Let's take a journey through the past year and revisit some of the highlights that made it so special.

Shana Tova.

Before we begin our journey back, here are a few words from Rabbi Eitan Eizman, a member of the Board of Trustees at Orot Israel College.

Shofar of Redemption

Shalom to everyone. As we enter this new year, we find ourselves in extraordinary times. The people of Israel are fighting for their state, and the entire nation is experiencing a profound Divine process—the mitzvah of teshuva (repentance/return). As Parashat Nitzavim teaches, when we return to Hashem “with all your heart and with all your soul,” He will gather us from all the nations and bring us back to our land, bless us, and renew our hearts to love Him fully. Teshuva and redemption are intertwined: returning to Hashem, returning to our land, and establishing our state are all part of this sacred process.



Our state is a living testament to this return. We have built a strong, moral, and holy army, established a flourishing economy, and continue to rise spiritually and nationally despite challenges. With G-d's help, we will celebrate this Rosh Hashanah with renewed strength and unity, drawing inspiration from our unique destiny as a people who return, build, and sanctify. Fortunate are we, and blessed is our portion—together, let us encourage one another and continue to grow in holiness and strength. Shana Tova U'Metuka.

תִּשְׁרֵי – Tishrei

Orot Israel started the school year by inviting over 100 national service girls to the Elkana campus for a powerful seminar led by Tzvika Mor, father of the kidnapped Eitan.



חֶשְׁבָּן – Cheshvan

Women from the campus housing in Elkana, gathered for a chocolate workshop — to relax a bit, smile, and strengthen one another while many of their husbands were serving in the army.



כֶּסֶלֶב – Kislev

Communication-track students at Orot Israel College – Elkana Campus

went up to Jerusalem for a visit to the Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation KAN. The students, who study in the Communications program with courses in New Media, photography and digital editing, broadcast studio work, and more, had the opportunity to closely observe the work techniques used in the public broadcasting radio and television studios. They met with

media and digital professionals and got to know the people behind the microphone, including the Arab Affairs correspondent, program producers, and KAN Heritage director Yonatan Shorek.

The tour was led by veteran broadcaster Benny Teitelboim, a lecturer in the Communications program, who guided a discussion on the future of radio in the digital age, how to report on the enemy, and other current issues.

טֵבֶת – Tevet

During the month of Tevet, the English department at Orot Israel College held a special and inspiring event in honor of the Hannakuah theme "The Light Within Me."

The event focused on linguistic and educational aspects related to Hanukkah, guided by Lecturers Dr. Smadar Falk-Peretz, Dr. Koren, who teach discourse connections in the English Department.

The event featured an in-depth discussion on the power of inner light and its impact on us as educators, connecting the values of the holiday with educational practice, inspiration, learning, and moments that bridge professionalism and spirit.

שֶׁבַט – Shevat

Orot Israel College held an empowerment event dedicated especially to widows, led by the College's Family Center and the coordinator of the Widows Assistance Project, Sarit Gazbar.

Rabbi Lior Engelman gave an inspiring talk on the power to grow.

The event continued with an inspiring panel moderated by Rabbanit Dr. Hannah Katan, President of the Family Center, featuring Knesset member Limor Son Har-Melech, media personality Yael Shevach, and Mrs. Shulamit Zeiger, followed by a special workshop led by Sarit Gazbar, coordinator of the widows' activities at Orot Israel College.

The event left participants with a strong sense of support, purpose, and belonging.



אֲדָר – Adar

The month of Adar held a special student day- taking everyone out of the monotony of classes and into some fun. The women enjoyed a Zumba dance session, a tree workshop- creating pieces with their hands, and a comedy show.



נִיסָן – Nisan

In preparation for the upcoming 2025 graduates, Orot Israel held an event aimed at bringing the students closer to the world of education in the field and prepare them for entering the world of educational work. The day was run by heads of the college and seniors in the Israeli Education System. Beautiful words were given by Mrs. Sarit Cohen, the supervisor of the students of the colleges, addressed personally to the participants:

"Each of you dreamed of touching the soul of a child. For this dream you dedicated three years of study. I want to say thank you - thank you for choosing to be a part of those who help mold the next religious-Zionist generation.

אייר – Iyar

As the month of Iyar began, Orot College spoiled their students with an exciting day in honor of Yom Yerushaliym (Jerusalem Day). The day included music, lunch, and a performance.



May we be merit next year to celebrate together in Jerusalem, Amen.



סיון – Sivan

A highlight of this month was the fascinating tour of the Weizman Institute. The mathematics students were invited to the prestigious Institute for a day of touring the campus, science experiments, and lectures.

תמוז – Tammuz

As the school year wraps up in Tammuz, Orot Israel held multiple graduation ceremonies for our students. "Congratulations, today is a holiday for you and also for the college," this is how the college president, Rabbi Professor Meir Hildseimer, opened his moving words. Receiving the certificate symbolizes the culmination of the sacred work - the work of education. And we are proud of you for the journey and the huge achievement!"



אב – Av

Just because the students are on break, doesn't mean the school is quiet. Thanks to a generous donation received last year, we were finally able to breathe new life into our campus pool—and what a difference it's made! Now beautifully renovated and covered, the pool has quickly become a favorite spot for our students, staff, and their families to enjoy some much-needed relaxation and "fun in the sun" (or in the shade!).

But the joy doesn't stop there. So far, we've already had the privilege of welcoming two IDF units for a **pool and pizza party**—a small but meaningful way to give these dedicated young men and women a well-deserved break. With the warm weather often stretching well into the fall, we hope to host even more units in the coming months and continue sharing this special space with them.

אלול – Elul

Even in Elul, the school is still buzzing with preparations for the upcoming year. Our team is hard at work putting the finishing touches on the brand-new **Open Air Classroom** and

outdoor study spaces, just in time for the start of the new school year. These beautiful areas will give our students the chance to learn, reflect, and grow together in the fresh air—something we know they'll really appreciate.

We can't wait to see what's coming next year, and even more—we'd love for you to come visit to see our special school for yourself.



Support Now



Visiting Israel for the Holidays?

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!

How many campuses make up Orot Israel College of Education?

- 1
- 2
- 3

👉 Think you know the answer?
[Click here to reply with your choice!](#)

Riddle Me This:

He dreamed of a college where Torah and education would grow hand in hand.
A rabbi, a visionary, and a builder of the future of Jewish learning.
Without him, Orot would not exist.

👉 Who was the founder of Orot Israel College of Education? _
[Click here to send us your answer.](#)

Last month's answers:

In what year was Orot Israel College of Education founded? -1978
Which Orot Israel degree am I? - Early Childhood Education

Mazal Tov to our winner, Mr. Joe Cohen!
He will enjoy a dinner for two at the prestigious Joy Grill House restaurant.

Editors Note....

I wanted to introduce myself, I'm Shira Barry, and I joined the Orot Communications Department about a year ago. For the past eight months, I've been putting together your newsletters, sharing updates and stories from our amazing campuses. When I'm not writing, I love spending time with my family—since making Aliyah and living just 20 minutes from the Mediterranean, we spend plenty of time at the beach. I'm excited to keep bringing you all the great happenings at Orot Israel College!



All of these projects — from the pool renovation to the new open-air classroom — are possible thanks to generous friends like you. Your support helps us continue creating spaces of learning, joy, and inspiration for our students make a tangible difference in the lives of Israel's future educators and leaders.

Support Now



See you in our next newsletter...