

Spirit of ORT

The year 1980 marks one century of ORT's service as the vocational and technical education program of the Jewish people.

Because of ORT, more than two million Jews were given the modern skills that helped them attain livelihood and often life itself. Because of ORT, two million Jews were able to lift themselves up from squalor and hopelessness to productive lives in the societies in which they lived. Because of ORT, the State of Israel gained a top-level, dynamic, innovative vocational and technical education system that became the major force in turning out desperately needed skilled workers for Israel's burgeoning economy. Because of ORT, the Jewish world -- and indeed the world of all mankind -- was made somewhat of a better and more human place to live.

ORT values run deep in Jewish tradition. They go back to the Jewish reverence for learning and the respect of the Jewish sages for the dignity of labor. What ORT has done, essentially, is to translate the ancient Jewish tenets into modern terms. Today, ORT which began under Czarist oppression in 1880, operates in some two dozen countries on five continents, with an annual student enrollment of 100,000. In Israel alone, 60,000 students study in 95 ORT schools each year and more than a quarter of a million Israelis -- one sixth of Israel's total work force have received ORT training in one country or another. Truly ORT embodies the spirit of the ancient Jewish tenets that are quintessential to Jewish life.

On the occasion of ORT's 100th anniversary our local ORT group, together with some 1200 chapters of Women's American ORT from coast to coast, will plan many gala Centennial

events and observances. But the organization, with the wisdom characteristic of ORT, will concentrate not on a "remembrance of things past," but on the formidable challenges to the Jewish people and to all mankind which lie ahead. What the world needs is more programs with the substance and spirit of the ORT program!

NEW YORK JEWS REMEMBER HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK (WNS) -- As 250 students of Jewish day schools held lighted candles, thousands of persons inside Manhattan's Temple Emanu-El and outside on Fifth Avenue recited Kaddish for the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

They also commemorated the 37th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising as well as the heroism of other Jewish resistance fighters during World War II. "Those who fought were victims and those victims who died and did not fight were heroes," Elie Wiesel, the author and chairman of President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust, declared.

The Yom Hashboah ceremony at the New York Reform temple, was one of many held in Jewish communities throughout the United States, as well as elsewhere in the world. President Carter declared the week of April 13 Holocaust Remembrance Week. Governors and mayors throughout the country issued similar statements.

In Israel, entertainment places were closed, memorial assemblies were held and teachers devoted the day to talking to their students about the Holocaust. Hundreds of students visited the Holocaust and Resistance Museum at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot and others visited Yad Vashem.

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