

# Historical Timeline 1925–2005



**T**he history of AMIT, like the history of the State of Israel, is deeply rooted in the saga of the Jewish people.

Our magnificent growth over the past 80 years, from a vocational school for young girls in Jerusalem to a dynamic network comprising almost 65 schools enrolling more than 16,000 students across the country, has been in response to the needs of an ever-growing population that arrived in Israel as a result of anti-Semitism, newfound freedom, and an opportunity to realize the Zionist dream. As such, the timeline which appears on the following four pages has been juxtaposed to a general timeline for Israel, including a separate line for the many waves of *aliyot*, or immigration.

Israel has absorbed more immigrants proportionately than any other nation, and as a religious and Zionist educational network, part of our mission has been to help these young men and women from across the globe assimilate into Israeli culture and society while maintaining ties with their own heritage. One component of our Jewish curriculum concentrates on teaching religious and ethnic tolerance. At our Kfar Batya campus in Ra'anana, for example, there are rotating *minyanim* where boys are exposed to both Ashkenazi and Sephardi *nigunim*, melodies. At other schools,


cultural days are held where children are invited to don the traditional ethnic garb from their families' country of origin.

While fostering cultural appreciation is important, it is only one aspect of a dynamic curriculum that is tailored to meet the individual needs of our students on a yearly basis. During the pioneering years of the State, students were trained in agriculture and other vocations which afforded them an opportunity to participate in the growth of the nation, rather than drain a developing economy. Many of these youngsters, often orphans, were Holocaust survivors from observant homes who embraced the loving Jewish atmosphere we provided for them.

In later years, as the nation continued to grow and the inner-city became a reality, AMIT was there again pioneering foster care facilities for young boys and girls who were victims of dysfunctional family life. AMIT established child havens where troubled children could experience a meaningful Jewish life, attend school after a nourishing breakfast, and arrive home to surrogate parents who could help them with their homework in a loving environment.

Today, in Rosh Pina, ambitious young men are being trained to work in elite IDF units in a unique pre-army religious studies program where they learn advanced Torah and Middle East studies.

In Haifa, at the AMIT Anna Teich Ulpana Junior and Senior High School, girls are participating in a space program that teaches astronomy, astrophysics, planet sciences, and space medicine. In Ma'ale Adumim, at the AMIT Tzemach HaSadeh Elementary School, we maintain a special program for autistic children. In 2003 this school was awarded the Education Prize in recognition of its programs for students with special needs, as well as religious and values education.

Whether it is a set of *teffilin*, money for schoolbooks or a hot meal, AMIT is there to provide each and every one of our children with an opportunity to succeed. And, their individual successes have been made possible through the effort and commitment of thousands of volunteers and supporters who have been working on their behalf for 80 years, several of whom provided major support for the establishment of the schools, programs and facilities included on our AMIT timeline. 

*The information for the timeline was compiled with the help of numerous AMIT volunteers and staff members. Special thanks to Honorary National President and Editorial Board Member Evelyn Blachor, Editorial Board Member Sifrah Hollander, and Editorial Board Member and Honorary Vice President Marilyn Moed.*

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**Aliyot Waves of Immigration to Israel**

1924-1928: Fourth Aliyah, 67,000, mainly Poland

1929-1939: Fifth Aliyah, 250,000, Germany and Austria

1934-1948: Aliyah Bet, 115,000, clandestine immigration from all over Europe

**State of Israel**

1925: Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus and the Technion, Israel's Institute of Technology, open

1927: The local currency, the Palestine Pound, replaces the Egyptian Pound

1931: Etzel, or Irgun, the Jewish underground is founded to repel the Arab riots

1933: Arab militants stage the Hebron Massacre, sweeping the city of any remaining Jews

1936: The World Jewish Congress is founded to address the interests and needs of Jews and Jewish communities throughout the world

1939-1945: WWII, Holocaust

1939: British White Paper is issued disclaiming any intention to create a Jewish state and heavily restricting Jewish immigration

**AMIT at 80**

1925: Mizrahi Women of America (MWOA) forms at the Cleveland Mizrahi Convention under the leadership of Bessie Gotsfeld, z"l

1925: Planting the seeds for a religious, Zionist, educational infrastructure

1927: MWOA purchases first piece of land in Jerusalem

1933: Beit Zeirot Mizrahi (BZM), the first vocational H.S. for girls in Palestine, opens in Jerusalem

1933: Religious Zionist leader and head of the Mizrahi World Movement Rav Meir Bar-Ilan endorses MWOA and calls upon the entire Orthodox community to support the organization's "holy work"

1934: MWOA gains its autonomy from the Men's Mizrahi Organization

1934: Nechama Leibowitz is hired in BZM, Jerusalem

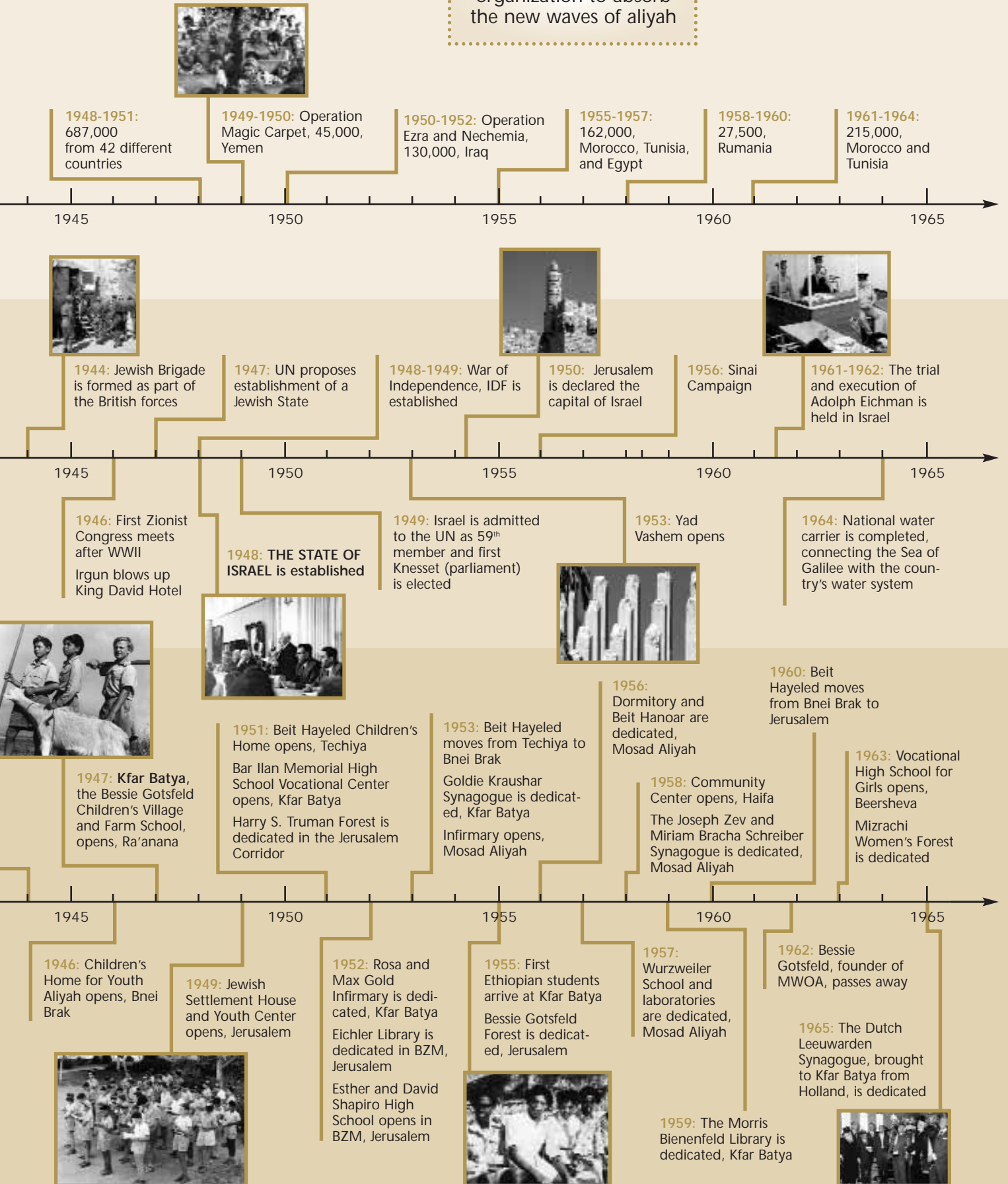
1938: Beit Zeirot Mizrahi opens, Tel Aviv

The Junior Mizrahi Women of America, or the Mizrahi Buds, is formed

1943: Motza Children's Home, a haven for children who escaped Eastern Europe via Teheran on foot, opens, Jerusalem

1944: Mosad Aliyah Children's Village for Holocaust refugees opens, Petach Tikva

1950: Expanding the organization to absorb the new waves of aliyah



**1970: Emerging as the official network for religious secondary technological education**

1968-1976: 100,000, USSR

1984-1985: Operation Moses or Mifitza Moshe, 8,000, began as a result of the large number of Jews trying to travel on foot from the Sudan

1985: Operation Joshua, 800, Sudan

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985



1967: Six Day War



1973: Israeli athletes are murdered at Munich Olympics



1978: Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat sign the Camp David Accords and later are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1973: Yom Kippur War: Golda Meir is the first Israeli Prime Minister to meet with a pope when she meets Pope Paul VI at The Vatican

1979: Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty is signed

1980: The Israeli lira is replaced by the shekel  
The Lebanon War



1966: Allen Cultural Center and agro-vocational center opens, Kfar Batya  
The Yetty and Solomon Silberberg Seminary opens, Mosad Aliyah  
Medical technology labs open in BZM, Jerusalem and BZM, Tel Aviv



1975: BZM, Tel Aviv is renamed Julia Eisenberg Comprehensive H.S.



1982: Kiryat Ata Technological H.S. joins the reshet

1985: AMIT H.S. in Tzfat is dedicated to the memory of the 22 students murdered in Maalot in 1974

1974: 103 students and 4 teachers from MWOA High School in Tzfat are taken hostage by terrorists. 22 students, 3 teachers, and an IDF soldier are killed.

1978: Gush Dan Religious Technological H.S. opens on Bar Ilan University Campus

1980: Mosad Aliyah expands and is renamed Kfar Hanoar Aliyah  
Gruss Agricultural & Technological H.S. opens, Kfar Batya

High schools in Azata, Beit Shemesh, Lod/Ramle and Tzfat open  
Gould H.S. dedicated, Rechovot

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1967: MWOA Film "The Scrolls of Leeuwarden" wins the U.S. government Cine Award

1970: Mary Schreiber Library is dedicated, Mosad Aliyah

1976: Computer courses begin at BZM, Jerusalem

1981: The Ministry of Education designates AMW as the official *reshet* (network) for religious secondary technological education  
Rechovot Religious Comprehensive H.S. joins the *reshet*

1983: AMW changes its name to AMIT  
AMIT Albert M. and Francis Frisch Beit Hayered opens, Gilo

1973: Teachers Seminary opens in Beersheva  
Oscar and Regina Gruss Comprehensive H.S. opens in Kfar Batya  
MWOA changes its name to American Mizrahi Women (AMW)

1979: Lucy Bohm Shay Gymnasium is dedicated, Kfar Batya

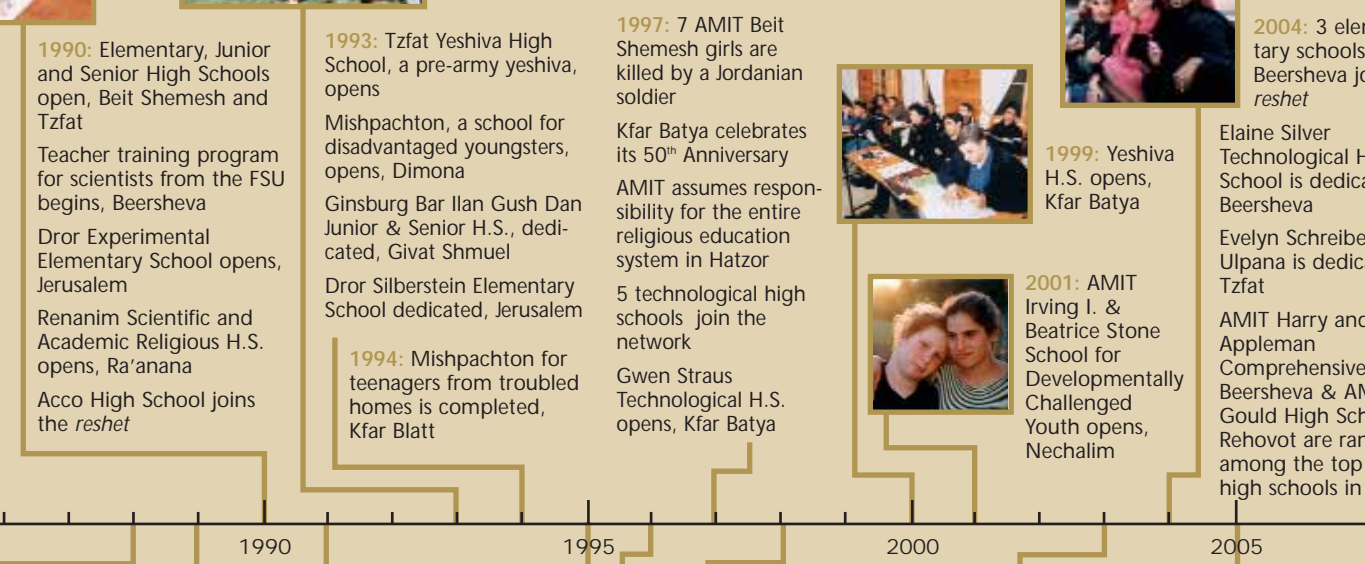
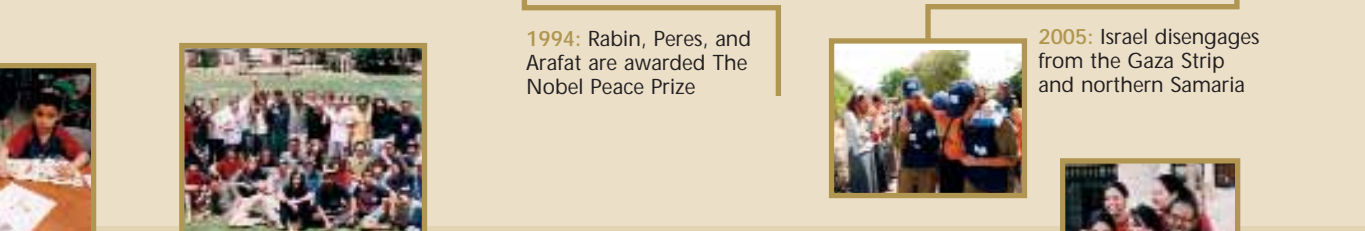


1988: Mosad Aliyah is rededicated Kfar Blatt Youth Village & Mishpachton



**1990:** Continuing to expand in order to fulfill the educational needs of Jewish youngsters

**2000:** Refining the network through educational continuity and an adherence to religious, Zionist ideals



Teacher training program for scientists from the FSU begins, Beersheva

Dror Experimental Elementary School opens, Jerusalem

Renanim Scientific and Academic Religious H.S. opens, Ra'anana

Acco High School joins the *reshet*

Mishpachton, a school for disadvantaged youngsters, opens, Dimona

Ginsburg Bar Ilan Gush Dan Junior & Senior H.S., dedicated, Givat Shmuel

Dror Silberstein Elementary School dedicated, Jerusalem

1994: Mishpachton for teenagers from troubled homes is completed, Kfar Blatt

Kfar Batya celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

AMIT assumes responsibility for the entire religious education system in Hatzor

5 technological high schools join the network

Gwen Straus Technological H.S. opens, Kfar Batya

1999: Yeshiva H.S. opens, Kfar Batya

2001: AMIT Irving I. & Beatrice Stone School for Developmentally Challenged Youth opens, Nechalim

Elaine Silver Technological High School is dedicated, Beersheva

Evelyn Schreiber Ulpana is dedicated, Tzfat

AMIT Harry and Bina Appleman Comprehensive H.S. in Beersheva & AMIT Gould High School in Rehovot are ranked among the top 10 high schools in Israel.

1995: Silberman Holocaust Studies Center is dedicated at the AMIT David Silberman H.S. in Jerusalem (formerly BZM, Jerusalem)

1991: SCUD missiles damage several AMIT schools

Religious H.S. for Torah, Science & Technology opens, Haifa



1996: Yeshiva of the Arts opens in Tzfat

Dror Bellows Junior & Senior H.S. dedicated, Jerusalem

Bienenfeld Hevruta Yeshiva & Kollel opens, Kfar Batya

1998: AMIT assumes responsibility for all religious education in Beersheva and Sderot.

Kfar Batya's synagogue is rededicated as the Krashaur/Seif Synagogue

AMIT adds track in Sderot Hesder Yeshiva for non-yeshiva graduates

AMIT student, Moran Gomri, wins the 40<sup>th</sup> International Bible Quiz

Israel Ministry of Education honors 4 teachers at AMIT H.S. for Girls in Haifa

AMIT graduate, Hadas Malada, becomes Israel's first Ethiopian immigrant to receive an academic deferment from the IDF to attend medical school

AMIT Sderot Senior H.S. receives Religious Education Prize

Harvey Goodstein Sports Complex is dedicated, Kfar Batya

AMIT teacher, Victor Melamud, wins National Excellence in Teaching Award

AMIT Ulpana H.S. for Girls in Beersheva is ranked among the top 10 high schools in Israel

