

## Women in the Working World

BY BEVERLY MINKOFF  
(NATL. PRESIDENT, WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT)

They have always been there: in workrooms in Bessarabia, ploughed and planted fields in Lithuania, at end-of-year parties in Shanghai and Poland. What were they learning, these women of forty, fifty, sixty years ago? Not for them the bunsen-burner test-tube, the lathe, but rather the needle, the wheel or treadle of a sewing machine -- the traditional skills which could be performed in or out of the home.

The ORT girls and women of the 20's and 30's were trained according to the time and place. But then came World War II and its aftermath, pushing economic and social development forward. Many activities traditionally performed by women at home were eliminated through the introduction of mass-produced goods and modern services. Women were free to look for opportunities of the job market, and in many places, ORT was there to give the right training.

The importance which ORT attaches to the training of women is indicated by the recent appointment of a network inspector of women's training.

For many years, ORT - France taught girls the traditional female employment skills. Its graduates in secretarial and office skills, its garment workers and accountancy assistants now work on all levels of the French labor market. Lately, girls are entering former male preserves. In Toulouse, two young women have qualified as radio and television maintenance technicians; another will be an electrical mechanic. At Montreuil, several girls will receive diplomas in electronics and electronic cabling.

In Italy, girls are strongly represented in the scientific section of the Liceo in Rome. Colette Shama who graduated from ORT-Milan in 1972 went on to medical school and is now a doctor, specializing in pediatrics. She says

that although her college choice was not a natural follow-up of her high school studies, the ORT experience was vital.

In Argentina, girls are well represented in the computer field.

In Israel, there are some girls whose parents bar higher education and a career. Sometimes, these girls come from orthodox families or from an "oriental" background. Sometimes, they come from broken or troubled homes where there is blind prejudice against a daughter working.

Most Israeli women do need help to scale the ladder of technology and administration. There is hardly an ORT school in the country where you cannot find girls studying electronics, mechanics or other courses formerly only taken by boys. At Ashdod, one brave girl in a section of sixty-eight boys is taking ship-electronics. At Tel Nof, seventeen girls are taking aero-equipment courses. Eighteen more are future precision mechanics and will graduate from ORT - Holon in the near future. Four others at Hof Kasharon are studying orientative electronics.

Nearly 500 girls are studying architecture and over 100 more are in building and planning and maintenance courses. Girls have chosen carpentry and woodwork. Hundreds of girls study advanced techniques in computers, electronics and instrumentation as well as many other skills essential for Israel's economic and industrial development, such as hotel and tourism trades, diamonds, food-economics applied arts and graphics, dental-work, optics and electro-optics.

At ORT - Israel's Institute for Combined Supplementary Vocational Education, where evening classes are held, women far outnumber the men in the "do-it-yourself" classes. One woman will be able to repair her refrigerator and improve her cold-storage unit when she finishes her refrigeration classes; twelve more will be experts in electronics. Ten others have enrolled in the pre-engineering section.

In a recent interview, the Italian writer Alberto Moravia stated that for historical reasons women had been banned from a society which was man's invention. Consequently, women stood both inside and outside of society, understanding why it was necessary and moral but also why it was good sometimes to be against society. If this objective stance that women have gained through experience is to be used to the benefit of all, then women must receive the kind of education and training that gives them full and equal status in the working world. This is one of ORT's goals.

## MARSHALL-ROUSSO TO BE HONORED



ART MARSHALL



HERB ROUSSO

Art Marshall and Herb Rouso, two prominent Las Vegas businessmen and community leaders, will be presented with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's coveted Torch of Liberty Award at a luncheon in their honor, Thursday, September 17, at Caesars Palace, announced Jerry Mack, Luncheon Chairman and Carl Cohen, Honorary Chairman.

Serving on the luncheon committee which now numbers nearly 100 prominent Nevada citizens are U. S. Senators Howard W. Cannon and Paul Laxalt, Congressman Jim Santini, Governor Robert List and Las Vegas Mayor William H. Briare.

Arnold Forster, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's General Counsel will

be the featured speaker.

ADL's Torch of Liberty Award will be presented to Marshall and Rouso for their numerous philanthropic and entrepreneurial contributions to the Las Vegas community.

As Regents of ADL's Society of Fellows, these two brothers-in-law have vigorously participated in the struggle against bigotry directed at all groups. In recognition of their longtime support of Israel, both men were recent recipients of the State of Israel Bonds Prime Minister's Medal.

Persons interested in attending the \$125 per plate (tax deductible) luncheon should contact ADL Assistant Director Susan Davidoff at (213) 655-8205.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israel Radio's Vienna correspondent reported that 20 of the 29 emigrants from the Soviet Union who arrived here during the past three days will leave for new homes in Israel.

## PRESIDENT FORD AND BETTY TO BE HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH

WASH. -- B'nai B'rith International will honor former President Gerald R. Ford and his wife, Betty, with its President's Gold Medalion for Humanitarianism. Jack J. Spitzer, president of the world's largest and oldest Jewish service

organization, announced here.

Presentation of the award will be made Oct. 10 in the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles.

Proceeds from the \$200-a-person banquet will be used to help support B'nai B'rith's famed youth services -- the Hillel Foundation, located

on some 400 college campuses the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization serving over 35,000 teenagers, and the Career and Counseling Services, providing career and job testing and counseling to thousands annually. Both Hillel and B'nai B'rith provide educational, religious and cultural

programs designed to strengthen the participant's religious beliefs and instill a sense of civic responsibility. The Eisenhower Medical Center in Palm Springs, Calif., is also a beneficiary of this event. Mrs. Ford is a member of the hospital's Board.

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