

## Ort Day '75

By JOAN WEAVER

Women's American ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) celebrated the culmination of their spring membership drive with a luncheon and fashion show by Saks Fifth Avenue at the Michigan Inn in Southfield recently.

Mrs. Sidney I. Feldman, president of the Michigan region of Women's American ORT, welcomed more than 800 women who attended the luncheon.

And Mrs. Daniel C. Siegel, ORT Day chairman, stated the theme for ORT Day '75, "L-chain-to life."

The organization operates in 22 countries to rebuild lives through vocational education.

The highlight of the afternoon was the fashion show narrated by Brenda Rosenberg, fashion director of Saks Fifth Avenue, who said the look for spring was easy, big and loose with supple unconstructed fabrics.

THE FASHIONS were carried out in movement as models improvised on the usual sedate walk on the ramp with lively dance steps.

Throughout the show, there was an emphasis on head coverings, with wide brimmed straws topping tailored classic styles, berets, caps, cloches and sailor hats accentuating the more casual look, while the versatile scarf

was used to wrap heads with flair for all styles.

Scarves of every size were also used as chokers, belts, or just tied and floating.

Colors were either soft and subtle, or brilliant and bold, with no in-between.

Past suits in subtle shades of beige, orange and turquoise featured wide sleeves and waists and fuller pant legs, some with drawstrings at the waist.

A group of one and two-piece dresses and jumpsuits in olive-drab and light tan khakis exemplifying the 1975 work ethic were in sharp contrast to the look of "skin," a colorful array of long, flared skirts with band-waist tops, simple bare sandals and a slink of black which was laced up the front.

ETHNIC DRESSING from around the world featured a soft and flowing Indian multi-print gauze caftan, a Mexican wedding gown and a long, full-skirted peasant outfit with tiny flowers on a black background.

Rain coats in shiny white, bright red, yacht blue and soft brown in fabrics so lightweight they float when left unbuttoned, were modeled in trench, smock and duster styles.

The most elaborate was saved for last, in ephemerally pale pink, egg shell whites and soft beige, romantic chiffons for an elegant summer evening, trimmed with lace and ruffles.

Prior to the fashion show, Mrs. Stephen Brown, education coordinator for the group, talked about the separate departments in Women's American ORT as representing the "seven flames of life."

Mrs. Joel Mahler, Mrs. Max Beal and Mrs. Michael Jacobson presented awards to several chapters of Women's American ORT for membership, expansion and enrollment.

THE STANDARD ORT SCHOOL is a vocational high school with a curriculum in which an academic high school education is given, along with technical training in industrial trades, to poverty-stricken people in underdeveloped countries, refugees, immigrants and youngsters trying to build secure futures.

The ORT program is financed by private contributions, worldwide foundations and by the Joint Distribution Committee, a member agency of the United Jewish Appeal.



Raincoats were shown in bright colors and soft fabrics



Suits in two and three pieces exemplify the 1975 work ethic. Staff photographs by Harry Mauthe



MRS. DANIEL SIEGEL

### Passover

## Mankind's oldest liberation movement

By MARILYN BETHAN AND SHIRLEE HEN

"Let my people go" was the rallying cry of the first liberation movement in the history of mankind.

Passover, the Festival of Freedom, has echoed this cry throughout the centuries, and during the traditional Seder dinner, Jewish people throughout the world express their gratitude to G-d for delivering the Hebrew slaves from Egyptian tyranny.

THE CELEBRATION OF PASSOVER is replete with symbolism, because it represents both physical and spiritual freedom.

In observance of the holiday, the conditions that existed for the Jews prior to the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai are symbolically reconstructed.

Since the Jews were constantly wandering through the desert, they did not have time to allow bread to rise.

It is for that reason that "matzah," or unleavened bread is eaten throughout the eight days of the holiday, and no trace of bread can be found in the house.

At the Seder, members of the family take turns reading from the Hagada—a booklet that relates the story of Passover and reveals the wondrous miracles that were performed by G-d in those days.

IN THE SPIRITUAL SENSE, the message of Passover is a timeless one. The eight days are a time to reflect on the persecution of the Jewish people in centuries past, and to examine the existing plight of Jews who have yet to learn the meaning of freedom.

In the past decade, Jews in the free world have compared the situation of those imprisoned behind the iron curtain to that of the Hebrew slaves. This year peace will be made for the

freedom of Syrian Jewry and for aid to all who hunger.

According to the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, in ancient Palestine it was customary for the head of the household to step into the street and seek out traveling strangers, invite them into their homes and give them the seat of honor at the Seder meal.

This was to fulfill the scriptural commandment, "Feed the hungry, even the stranger among you."

A new thematic statement is the result of an inter-faith effort to call to public attention those in the world who are enslaved by hunger and war.

The Detroit Interfaith Action Council, along with the Rabbinical Commission, is urging other faith groups to incorporate statements on hunger into their group's liturgies for Passover and Easter.

"There is much to cause us concern on Passover, as Jews, as Americans and as citizens," Rabbi David Nelson of Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park has told the congregation. "We dare not remain silent. If we do, then it is we who have been enslaved or who have been accomplices to enslavement."

RABBI NELSON SAID freedom is under attack on many battlefronts of the world.

"We must raise our voices in support of men and women who are denied their human dignity and their inalienable rights."

The Rabbi and his congregation have long been active on behalf of the plight of Syrian Jewry.

The precarious situation of Jews living in Syria is a special concern also of Rabbi Richard Hertz of Temple Beth El in Birmingham.

Rabbi Hertz, who recently returned from a Middle East Tour, said the condition of Syrian Jewry is "appalling and far worse than that of Soviet Jews."

He referred to the Syrian government as a "Police state," saying that the plight of Syrian Jews is less publicized and less understood than that of Soviet Jews, although the danger is greater than ever before.

"EVER SINCE the birth of the state of Israel," Rabbi Hertz said, "Jews living in Syria have been regarded as enemies and stringent controls have been placed upon them. They are not allowed to emigrate, and this is a gross violation of the Human Rights Declaration, which Syria has signed."

"They must carry cards which identify them as Jews; they cannot attend universities; they are forced to live in ghettos and they are often imprisoned on false charges and are beaten and starved."

Rabbi Hertz cited reports of four Jewish women who were murdered by Syrians.

Their bodies were found tortured and dismembered.

Another report told of two Jewish girls who were raped in the streets of Damascus. When they complained to the police, they were raped by the authorities.

RABBI HERTZ suggests world publicity and pressure may work to save Syrian Jews as it has worked for Jews in the Soviet Union.

"It is up to each of us to call upon our officials to refuse aid to Syria and demand that they adhere to the basic human rights," he said.

He added that letters to legislators, the State Department of the White House and the United Nations would also help embarrass the Syrian government and bring eventual freedom for the Syrian Jews in the spirit of Passover.

This year, in addition to the traditional four cups of wine at the Seder, a fifth cup—the cup of Elijah the Prophet—will be set aside as a token of solidarity for Syrian Jewry.

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