

# "LAWYERS HANG FIRST WOMAN"

Rose Sigal Golomb '18

This startling headline in a metropolitan daily some eight years ago marked a significant event in the life of Ruth Lewinson '16. Her portrait, commissioned for the New York County Lawyers Association, had that day been hung in the reception room of the Association's building at 14 Vesey Street. Placed opposite the portrait of her father, Benno Lewinson, whom she succeeded as Treasurer of the Association, it is still the only portrait of a woman in that august building.



Ruth Lewinson '16, President of the Alumni Association, 1944-46. (From the painting by David Swasey)

An outstanding student at Hunter, as well as editor of the college weekly in her senior year, Ruth was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as an alumna, soon after Hunter was granted Nu Chapter.

Admitted to the Bar in 1920, she began her long and diversified career, rewarding in its every facet. She engaged in general civil practice, with extensive spe-

cialized experience in estates, guardianship adoption, lunacy cases, real property and contracts. She served many times as Referee, Commissioner, Receiver, Trustee, and Special Guardian by designation of Justices of the Supreme Court. At present, she is sitting regularly as Arbitrator in the Small Claims Court.

In addition to the workload of a busy legal practice, Ruth for many years gave a course in practical Law at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and taught a law course at the New School for Social Research.

For the past twenty-eight years she has been Treasurer and Director, by election, of the New York County Lawyers Association, the largest local Bar Association in the country, with a membership of over 10,000. She is a member of a number of its important committees. At the fiftieth anniversary celebration of this Association, in 1958, nineteen awards for conspicuous service were presented—eighteen of them to men, and the one to Ruth Lewinson which read:

"Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors of the Association since 1935. Succeeding her father, Mr. Benno Lewinson (one of the founders of the Association), Miss Lewinson has served as Treasurer, as well as in a multiplicity of other capacities, for almost a quarter century with high ability, tact, and selfless devotion. She has been a tower of strength to every president throughout the years."

To her Alma Mater, Ruth has been able to render signal service in many capacities. She was a Trustee of Hunter College for two full terms of nine years, and a Member of the Board of Higher Education from 1926 to 1939. As past president of, and legal counsel for the Alumni Association of Hunter College, Ruth has participated wholeheartedly and constructively in the many phases of its work, and still contributes her time, energy and talents to whatever problems the Association presents to her. Her expert advice on matters of policy and finance has been of tremendous aid and importance. In other phases of alumni activity, Ruth is a Director of Northrop Camp, a member of the Lenox Hill Committee, a Director of the Friends and Neighbors of Hunter College, and Incorporator and Trustee of Hunter College Student Social Community and Religious Clubs Association.

She has travelled widely through the United States

and Canada, Europe, South and Central Africa, South America, the Far East and part of the Near East, and has attended meetings of the International Bar in London, Salzburg and Edinburgh. In 1932, she was a delegate to the International Congress of Comparative Law at The Hague, and addressed the Congress.

Traveling and painting now constitute her two main hobbies. She has exhibited annually since 1946 in the annual art show of the Association of the Bar.

Ruth is the author of many articles on legal subjects in periodicals, including "Law Clerkships and Women" (in which connection it may be said that many a woman lawyer owed her first clerkship to the efforts of Ruth Lewinson), "Legal Education", "Life Insurance and Liquidity in Decedents' Estates", and is the adviser on the forthcoming "Basic Rules of Order". Her interest in children is evidenced by her "Happy Days", a book of poems for children, and "Happy Days—Happy Songs", a song book for children, approved by the Board of Education for the schools.

This is the story of a full life, rich in memories of people, places, events—a life of unselfish public and professional service that has brought her eminence at the Bar, special recognition from her colleagues, and the grateful appreciation of the community. Here is a distinguished alumna of whom Hunter is very proud and to whom we all can pay special tribute—Ruth Lewinson, J.D.

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## Forty Years at Northrop Memorial Camp

1963 is girls' year at Northrop Memorial Camp. Since this nature study camp was established in 1923, hundreds of children have been sent, alternately—boys the even years, girls the odd—in groups of twenty-four, to spend four memorable weeks at Northrop. The Camp, situated at "High Meadows" in Mt. Washington, Massachusetts, will celebrate its fortieth anniversary this summer.

"High Meadows" had been the home of *Alice Rich Northrop* '81, a much beloved teacher of botany at the College. Upon her death in 1922, a group of her former students and a number of friends of the alumnae of Hunter and of the School Nature League, decided to carry out her plan to establish a camp where city children might experience at first hand the joy and inspiration of nature study.

*Carrie Weiss* and *Settie Hirsch* '86, who bought the property for \$7,500, presented it to the camp. There have been many other splendid contributions. Among them Mr. Leo Brecher's annual gift of a Saturday morning movie for children each November has been realizing from \$500 to \$1,000 for the camp's benefit. On August 25th, a cabin will be dedicated at "High Meadows" to Mr. Brecher in recognition of his generosity.

Two other cabins will be named, in memory of *Carrie Weiss* and *Emilie Long* '88. All alumni who will be in the area are invited to attend the ceremonies, to be held at "High Meadows."

Since its inception, the camp has been operating entirely with volunteer service. From 1923 to 1951, *Emilie Long* and *Birdie Kallman* '02 acted as co-directors. Since Miss Long's death, Birdie Kallman has continued to superintend.

To be accepted as a camper, boys or girls (12 to 14 years of age) whose families have but small or moderate means, must have an interest in and an aptitude for nature study and a satisfactory school record. The applicant is required to pass a physical examination, administered gratis by *Dr. Rose Mayer Cohen* '37, who is a member of the Alumni Executive Council.

Accepted campers are requested to contribute \$25. For those who cannot, a few memorial scholarships are available.

Northrop Memorial Camp depends for support upon memberships and contributions. Memberships begin at \$5. All contributions are most gratefully received.

If you wish to recommend a child, please write before May 10, to

B. Elizabeth Kallman  
102 West 85th Street  
New York 24, N. Y.

