

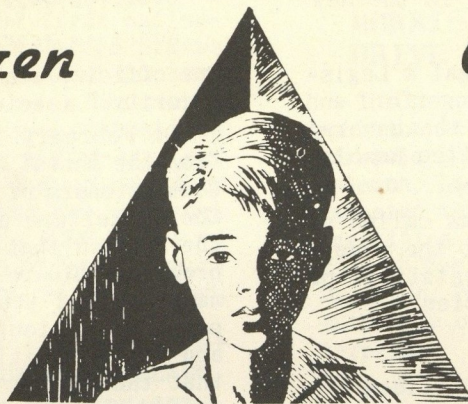
OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!

Issued approximately 6 times a year
by the ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP
OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.
31 Madison Avenue New York 10, N.Y.

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President:
Nathan Feder

Executive Director:
Joseph T. Weingold

RESOLUTION FOR STATE-WIDE STUDY OF RETARDED DIES IN COMMITTEE

Assembly Resolution No. 93, calling for a Joint Legislative Committee to make a study of the mentally retarded in New York State, and introduced into the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate by Assemblyman Sam Roman and Senator Earle Brydges, respectively, died in committee at the legislative session in Albany which ended on March 15th, 1951. It was the second year a Resolution of this type was introduced at Albany with the support of parents of the retarded. (Last year's Resolution met a similar end.)

The Resolution asked that Governor Dewey appoint a special Joint Legislative Committee, made up of legislators, professionals, and parents from parent organizations relating to the retarded, who would then make a one year study of the problems of mental retardation, and of the retarded, wherever they might be, with a view to the formation of a coordinated, over-all plan on their behalf.

The first impetus for this year's Resolution came from a speech by AHRC Advisor Richard H. Hungerford late last year, at the Annual Dinner of the Welfare League for Retarded Children, calling

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Unveiling of a plaque marked the official opening of the Speech Clinic for the mentally retarded at Flower-Fifth Ave. Hospital.

(L. to R.): AHRC President Nathan Feder; Mrs. Lillian Segall, President of Lena Invalid Aid Society, Sponsors of the Clinic; Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of the Clinic.

THE RESOLUTION THAT DIED OF OVER-POLITENESS

(An Editorial Statement by the Board of Directors)

Resolution No. 93 was a wise and humane measure, designed to remove the problems of mental retardation from behind their "iron curtain" of secrecy, ignorance and disbelief. Reduced to its simplest terms, it asked that New York State look at its mentally retarded. Yes, look at them, in the sense of counting them, noting their problems and their potentialities -- and bringing forth for the future an over-all plan for their care, treatment, training, and (where possible) rehabilitation, education and vocational placement. This study would have embraced the retarded in every basic situation -- those in state institutions, in private institutions and private day-schools, in special classes of the public schools, in regular classes of the public schools -- and those who are at home...with nothing.

We all wanted Resolution No. 93. But it died in committee. It died a polite death over the teacups and the courteous written exchanges. It died of diplomatic caution and discreet silence.

Oh yes! A few hundred people wrote post cards to Albany at the last moment! And there were one or two voices raised among the letters to the editors in the back pages of newspapers. But where was the rallying cry to the hundreds of thousands of parents of retarded children throughout the state?...And to the additional millions who are the relatives and friends of the retarded? Where were the huge, bold advertisements, emblazoned in big black type? There was none of this because it has been "contrary to our policy"...because "we are not a pressure group"...because "we must be careful not to make enemies of the powers that

(cont'd on p. 3)

RESOLUTION DIES IN COMMITTEE (Cont'd.)

for the Resolution. It was publicized in the New York Times.

On November 30th, 1950 the AHRC Legal & Legislative Committee conferred with Mr. Hungerford and Advisor Chris De Prosopo, agreeing on the general outlines of a Joint Legislative Committee Resolution.

On December 15th, 1950 a meeting was called at the offices of the AHRC. Responding to the widely distributed invitations, were representatives of the following organizations and agencies:

JEWISH BOARD OF GUARDIANS
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
B.C.R.M.D.
AAMD
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NYC
CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
N.Y. JEWISH CHILD CARE COUNCIL
CITIZEN'S UNION
UNITED PARENTS ASSN.
AHRC

The Resolution outline was presented to this group for general discussion, and various representatives attending, presented it to their boards.

Conferences were then held among three Parents' Groups in New York State -- AHRC, Benevolent Society for the Aid of Retarded Children, Welfare League for Retarded Children, who decided on concerted action, and who presented the matter to their respective membership bodies. The following meetings followed:

Jan. 11th, 1951 -- Meeting of the AHRC Legislative Committee to draw up the Resolution. (Present were Mr. Hungerford and Saul Fliederbaum of the Welfare League.)

Jan. 12th, -- Meeting of the three Parents Groups, approving the Resolution, as drawn.

Jan. 15th, -- Resolution was sent to Assemblyman Sam Roman and to all agencies, organizations and AHRC chapters for action. Erie Niagara Chapter of the AHRC was particularly active, winning the consent of Senator Earle Brydges to introduce the Resolution.

Support of the Resolution came from many quarters, including the National Association for Mental Health; Dr. Lewis Wilson, Commissioner of Education, Subcommittee on Mental Retardation -- Committee of 100 for Mid-Century White House Conference; and others who had been present at the December 15th conference (see above) including: AAMD, N.Y. Jewish Child Care Council, United Parents Association.

On January 31st a conference in Albany was held, with Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh, Governor's Counsel, Bernie Fineson, AHRC Legal and Legislative Comm., Neil Lieblich, Assemblyman Sam Roman, and AHRC Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold present. On the same date other conferences took place with the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Hygiene, State Senator Mahoney of Buffalo, Senator Quinn, Minority Senate Leader and Senator Brydges, and the same AHRC representatives.

Some of the arguments offered against passage of the Resolution were as follows:

Why can't existing machinery do the study?

Civil Defense Comes First.

Money is scarce.

One official stated: "Retarded Children have a low priority." (see editorial comment.)

On February 15th, the AHRC received a letter from the Mental Health Commission stating that the Commissioners of Mental Hygiene, Health, Correction, Social Welfare and Education had met and were of the opinion that the best practical answers to the problem could be obtained by using the coordination machinery of the Mental Health Commission (composed of various state department commissioners and representatives). The letter further stated that the Mental Health Commission had been asked to present a budget for such a study.

AHRC, Benevolent Society for the Aid of Retarded Children, and the Welfare League for Retarded Children concurred in the opinion that the Resolution presented the best way to make the study of the problem, and replied accordingly.

Parent-members of the above named groups then sent individual expressions of their support of Resolution No. 93 to various State officials, it was learned.

Said AHRC Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold who was active on behalf of the Resolution throughout the various proceedings connected with its formation, introduction, and the conferences in which it was debated: "Although everyone connected with support of this Resolution worked diligently and well, I do not believe that Resolution No. 93 received the amount and intensity of expressed support it deserved, considering the fact that it represented the plight of over 300,000 citizens and their families in this state. And those of us who were vocal, handled the situation a bit too gingerly, I believe.

"Some of the people who have been particularly helpful throughout," he said, "include: Richard H. Hungerford, Edna Baer, Neil Lieblich, Saul Fliederbaum, Lou Hults, Bernie Fineson, Roy Simon, Dr. Neil Dayton, Publisher Arthur L. Jacobs (The Jewish Day) Rev. Monsignor Joseph E. Toomey, Ruth Schuyler, (President Ernie-Niagara Chapter AHRC), Ruth Bennet, (President Sullivan County Chapter AHRC), Gene Gramm, and others too numerous to be detailed here".

TO OUR NON-MEMBER READERS:

Recent increases in the prices of material and printing, together with a sharp rise in circulation, have greatly added to the cost of getting out each issue of this newspaper. This entails a substantial drain on the Association's operating budget.

Therefore, if you are not a dues-paying member of the AHRC, won't you help us to defray the cost of sending you OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE by mailing One Dollar to: AHRC 31 Madison Ave., New York?

Your doing so will mean one more dollar available for the help of our children.

--The Editors.

NATIONAL PARENTS ORGANIZATION RATIFIED

The National Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children, the first nationwide parents' organization in the United States concerned exclusively with the welfare of the mentally retarded, came into official being last month, when the required number of member-organizations ratified the national constitution and by-laws set up in Minneapolis last year. This was announced by Mr. Woodhull Hay, Secretary of the new national organization, and a member of the AHRC Board of Directors. The AHRC was one of the first 21 organizations to ratify and join the NAPF, it was stated.

DR. STORRS, DIRECTOR OF LETCHWORTH VILLAGE, AND ASSEMBLYMAN SAMUEL ROMAN ARE SPEAKERS AT AHRC GENERAL MEETING OF APRIL 4th

As this issue of OCV goes to press, Dr. Harry C. Storrs, Senior Director of Letchworth Village State Training School and former President of the American Association on Mental Deficiency -- and State Assemblyman Samuel Roman are scheduled to speak at the April 4th meeting of the AHRC at the Central High School of Needle Trades in New York City.

APRIL NAMED "RETARDATION MONTH" IN BROOKLYN BY BOROUGH PRESIDENT AS MORRIS J. SOLOMON LEAGUE LAUNCHES DRIVE TO AID CLINIC FOR RETARDED

The Morris J. Solomon Sunshine League, in conjunction with the AHRC and under the personal supervision of "Mr. Sunshine", himself -- "Moish" J. Solomon, has launched a fund-raising and publicity campaign throughout Brooklyn to expand the present facilities at the Morris J. Solomon Rehabilitation Clinic for Retarded Children, Jewish Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y. The Ladies Auxiliary of this philanthropic organization is also at work in this enterprise.

Publicity plans include radio, TV, newspaper, and poster, and Mr. Solomon has arranged to have the Brooklyn Borough President declare the month of April as "Mental Retardation Month" by official proclamation. George Hirsch and Gene Gramm of the AHRC are coordinating the efforts of the two organizations, with the assistance of Jerry Weingold.



THE RESOLUTION THAT DIED (AN EDITORIAL) (cont'd. from p. 1)

be". So we made friends and watched an idea perish at the expense of our children. We played it diplomatically, and little American youngsters will still walk the streets without schooling of any kind...Clinicians will still say, "Sorry Madam, all we can do is place your child in an institution"; social agency spokesman will still say, "we can't place your child in a job, he doesn't have the proper training...And the earnest, sincere workers, professionals and authorities in the field will still say, "We're doing all we can with the facilities at hand."

To that latter group, those in authority who are doing all they can -- we pledge our continued cooperation, respect, and sincere gratitude.

But there are others for whom there can no longer be a polite response. Their words should be burned indelibly into our memories. There was, for example, the important and well-known state official who told one of our committtees, "Retarded children have a low priority in the affairs of the state." That was a polite way of stating the opinion: "Retarded children are something less than human, and therefore do not have the priority for opportunities which are the natural birthright of other Americans."...We wonder how the parents of retarded children would have accepted that bit of judiciary philosophy if it had been presented to them in full page advertisements in the Albany-Times Union, the Binghamton Press, The Buffalo Courier-Express, The New York Times, Daily News, Il Progresso, Jewish Day...and other newspapers throughout the state of New York?

Another opinion, apparently emanating from one source, but finding its way to us through several legislators, was that "parents don't want the resolution; they are ashamed and want the problem kept secret". Such a contention is as ridiculous as it is insidious. Naturally, we denied it vehemently in wires to Albany. Any parents of retarded children, anywhere, will tell you that their greatest handicap is not their retarded children, but the secrecy, the ignorance, the iron curtain of misinformation which surrounds these children and hides them from public understanding, and therefore hides them from help. That's why thousands have organized into publicity-seeking Parents Groups in this state, and thousands upon thousands more are organizing into our national Parents Organization. Does that sound like parents who wish to hide in shame?

No. If we feel any sense of shame at all about the problem at this juncture, it is that we have been so discreet, so diplomatic...so polite, if you please, in asking for the things the retarded need and must have.

But we have learned our bitter lesson. The task is plain before us. We must build up powerful reserves of membership, funds, and public support so that everyone will be made aware of the plight of our children. Then, perhaps, next year's resolution in the state legislature will spring from the initiative of an awakened, well-informed public.

To do these things we must consider our organization first, our personal problems second. We must consider the children ahead of the child.

For we parents are the conscience...the skill...the fighting spirit of our children. We are what this very newspaper has forever named us -- our children's voice.

BOROUGH FUND RAISING NEWS

BRONX HOLDS BAZAAR AND PUPPET SHOW

The Bronx Fund-Raising Committee of the AHRC, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rebecca Noble, held a children's bazaar and puppet show March 18th at the Democratic Clubhouse of the 12th Assembly District, on East 189th Street. Both as a fund-raising venture (a profit of \$250 was realized) and an occasion of recreation for the children, the affair was termed a huge success by those attending.

Mrs. Noble, in expressing her appreciation to Congressman Charles E. Buckley for donating the use of the clubhouse, stated, "We are sure that if Congressman Buckley could have heard the joy of the children's laughter, he would have felt amply compensated." She also voiced her gratitude to the Committee who "did such a wonderful job in putting the party over with a bang" -- Co-Chairmen Sylvia Schachter and Rose Lieberman; Mr. & Mrs. S. Werben; Mr. & Mrs. Katz; Mrs. G. Markowitz; Theresa Snyder; Jean Serebin; Mrs. M. Barnett; Ethel Brown; Mrs. Kovaris; Olga Nay; Dan Testa; Mr. & Mrs. L. Fink; Mr. & Mrs. Herman; Mrs. Pearl Dubronsky; Mrs. W. Shannon; Mr. & Mrs. Margolis, and Julia Bergida.

Speaking of the Bronx Committee's plans for future activities in connection with the AHRC's Second Annual Dinner May 20th, Mrs. Noble stated that participation by the members of that borough was most gratifying, and "Brooklyn and the other boroughs will have to go some this year if they hope to keep up with the pace we're going to set in selling books, Journal ads, and tickets."

BROOKLYNITES HURL DEFI

Co-Chairmen Harriet King and Minna Bober, of the Brooklyn Fund-Raising Committee, in reporting on the recent activities of their borough in connection with the forthcoming Second Annual Dinner of the AHRC, declared, "We understand the Bronx bunch are talking about 'setting a hot pace' for us this year. We're not underrating that swell gang up there; but, just like the Dodgers, we're going to wind up in first place this time."

Mrs. King and Mrs. Bober initiated the 1951 sessions of the "Friday-Nighters" by acting as hostesses at the first get-together recently. The activities of this group of AHRC members are aimed at a Gold Page in the Souvenir Journal for the Dinner.

A donation to the Brooklyn Committee's Dinner Fund was made by Mr. Michael Pauker, through the efforts of Mr. Pauker's sister, Mrs. Beatrice Selden. Mrs. Selden and her husband are recently enrolled AHRC members.

A February 20th meeting of the Brooklyn Committee was held at the home of Mrs. Frank, whose daughter Sandra sparked the establishment of the AHRC's Junior League recently. On March 6th, the Committee met at the home of Committee Secretary Ruth Seinfeld.

Chairmen Bober and King expressed their gratitude to Mr. Cy Cohen for his invaluable help in solving the "cake problem" for the numerous socials held by the Brooklyn gals.

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETS AT 31 MADISON

The Board of Advisors of the AHRC, together with the AHRC Board of Directors, met at the office of the Association last month to review the work of this organization and discuss its future program.

In the absence of Nat Feder, President, the meeting was chaired by George Hirsch. Present among the Advisors were: Dr. Emily Burr, Dr. Arthur N. Foxe, Richard H. Hungerford, Chris De Prospro, Prof. Louis Rosenzweig, Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, and Dr. Harry C. Storrs.

Several possible projects for retarded children were outlined. They will be studied by the Board of Directors, and those adopted will be presented to the general membership later.

AHRC TO PARTICIPATE IN GREATER NEW YORK FUND

On February 19, 1951, the AHRC was approved as a participant in the Greater New York Fund. The Greater New York Fund serves as New York's Community Chest for contributions of publicly-owned corporations, and for gifts of rank-and-file employee groups. The Fund makes one appeal, once a year, to these two groups on behalf of the 423 local hospital and health and welfare agencies which it helps to support. The goal of the Greater New York Fund this year is \$9,000,000. which, after campaign expenses, is divided among the participating agencies.

Although the rule of the Fund is that an agency shall have been in existence for three years before it can participate in the fund, this rule was waived in the case of the AHRC. It is felt that the participation of the AHRC in the Fund means the recognition of the Association as an organization contributing to the welfare of the community and acceptance of its aims and method of procedure.

CAN YOU SPARE TEN CENTS A WEEK FOR YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

The Membership Committee of the AHRC reports that many members are in arrears in the payment of their dues.

While your five dollar annual dues do not begin to meet the cost of running your Association, they are an important source of revenue; revenue without which we cannot do many of the things which we all want to do for our children.

If you cannot pay the full amount at once, remit half, or one-quarter; and the balance as you are able; but pay something now!

Your annual dues amount to less than ten cents a week. TEN CENTS A WEEK INVESTED IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR YOUR CHILD!

Can you afford NOT to pay???

**GENERAL MEETING OF MARCH 12th HEARS SPEECH
ON VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF RETARDED
AND PEP-TALK FROM AHRC JUNIOR LEAGUERS**

"Vocational Rehabilitation is a process which really should start in early childhood", according to Mr. Leonard W. Rockower, Supervisor of Psychiatric Services in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Speaking before several hundred members and friends of the AHRC at the Central Needle Trades High School at the March 12th meeting, he pointed out that it was the responsibility of the parents to develop these good social habits in mentally handicapped children necessary for working: personal hygiene, self-reliance, a sense of belonging, etc.

Before coming to the DVR, Mr. Rockower has many years of experience as a social worker, psychologist, and personnel manager in public and private employment. He has been working with AHRC officials on the problems of employing teen-age and adult retardates.

Miss Sandra Frank, Chairman, and Stanley Bakshi, Treasurer of the newly formed Junior League of the AHRC also spoke, on behalf of the brothers and sisters of mentally retarded children, and their role in aiding the retarded. They said that the parents have set a splendid example and must continue in their efforts.

"LITTLE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE"
TO BE HELD IN BROOKLYN

The Brooklyn Council for Social Planning is planning a Little White House Conference on Children and Youth, to be held on Tuesday afternoon April 24th, at a place to be announced.

Modelled on the Mid-Century White House Conference held in Washington last year, the meeting will consider all aspects of child health and welfare, including the problem of the mentally retarded.

**ANONYMOUS FIGURE SPARKS FUND RAISING
COMMITTEE AIMS FOR A HALF MILLION
DOLLARS IN '51**

The Fund Raising Committee of the AHRC is setting the goal of a half million dollars for 1951, according to a spokesman of the committee who is highly active in their planning, but prefers to go unnamed.

Among the recent undertakings of the committee have been the production of collection cans and illustrated can-supporting cards, negotiations for radio station-breaks and negotiations for a full two hour fund appeal program on a television station. Some of these plans will be in effect before this issue goes to press.

The dynamo behind these many activities who prefers to remain anonymous is a familiar figure at the AHRC office these days, and as one AHRC officer put it, "An inspiration to the entire organization for his zeal, determination, and tireless dedication to the needs of the retarded." "Mr. Anonymous" is the parent of a retarded child now in a state institution.



**WHO WILL SEND A NEEDY
RETARDED CHILD TO
CAMP DURING THE HOT
SUMMER DAYS?**

Once again the AHRC issues its annual appeal for camp scholarships for the mentally retarded children of needy families. There are two Summer Camps for the retarded, privately owned, which offer special reduced rates for children in dire financial circumstances, recommended by the AHRC. Our files have a number of cases which are heartbreakingly pitiful...Families on relief...working widows...and always, the retarded child...truly forgotten by the rest of the world! To send a mentally handicapped youngster from such a family to camp for even two weeks is a double blessing. For the child it means undreamed of pleasure denied him by camps for normal children. And for the families of the retarded, it means a breathing spell from the great strain of caring for a mentally retarded child...and often, it means an end to their feelings of bitterness. For who can blame them if they sometimes feel that the world has forgotten them and scorns their mentally crippled children? Show them that their children are not outcasts from Society after all! On behalf of these needy ones we implore philanthropic organizations and individuals to lend a hand. Every dollar counts!

SPEAKERS' BUREAU SEEKS ENGAGEMENTS

The Speakers' Bureau of the AHRC is anxious to establish contact with groups throughout the community whom it may address for the purpose of enlisting their aid in the Association's program, according to David Weiss, Chairman of the Bureau.

"I would like to ask every member", Mr. Weiss stated, "to consider himself a committee-of-one to get us speaking dates. If you know of a women's club, business men's group, or other organization which is interested in philanthropic or social-welfare activity, please send the names and addresses of such groups to me, care of the AHRC office. (Wherever possible, the name of the individual who heads the organization should be included.) We will then contact them and ask them to invite one of our parent-speakers to address their membership. Remember, most of our major projects -- such as our clinics -- were established by organizations who responded to appeals from our parent-speakers. You may very well be responsible for the next important project for our children."

CHAPTER REPORTS

LONG ISLAND PLANS MORE CLASSES AND LARGER CAMP PROGRAM.

The Long Island Chapter of the AHRC is constantly growing in membership, according to Chapter officer Joan McConnell. Mrs. McConnell also reports that the 1951 efforts of the Chapter are in the direction of more classes, to augment the two (one for pre-school children, the other for teen-agers) already established. These now accommodate about 40 children. The program is under the direction of Mrs. Helen Kaplan; and the classes are supported by a nominal tuition and the proceeds of various fund-raising functions.

The Long Island Chapter also plans to again conduct the summer camp which was so successful last year; and, if possible, to add another such camp in Suffolk County.

A member of the Chapter is teaching a class in Hapauge, which is attended by children from neighboring villages. No "I.Q." demarcation line is used in this class; and it is reported that results obtained have been most encouraging.

The last monthly meeting was held in Bay Shore, and was addressed by AHRC Advisor Chris DeProspero, on the subject of proposed legislation in behalf of the mentally retarded.

The Chapter's next meeting is scheduled for March 29th at Rockville Centre.

Plans are progressing for the establishment of the Long Island Chapter's own newspaper in the near future.

ERIE-NIAGARA PLAY-THERAPY PROGRAM PROGRESSES; PARENTS' DISCUSSION PERIODS HELD.

Much progress has been made in the play-therapy program conducted by the Erie-Niagara Chapter of the AHRC, according to a report from Mrs. Robert Schuyler, President of the Chapter. There are now seventy-five children in the program, who are divided into age groups, with six children to a group. Each group meets for play-therapy activity for from one to three hours a week, under the direction of Mrs. Constantine Yeracaris, clinical psychologist. Children are accepted regardless of degree of retardation or collateral handicaps. Included are children who are blind, children with cerebral palsy, children who cannot walk, children who cannot speak or who have speech difficulties.

One eight-year old boy has finished the play-therapy program and is being tutored privately to prepare him for entrance next September in public school. It is expected that by July 1st, six children will have completed the play-therapy course and be in the group being tutored. The play-therapy program will be continued without interruption through the summer months.

The Erie-Niagara Chapter is also conducting a weekly two-hour discussion period for parents. This is also held under the direction of Mrs. Yeracaris.

WESTCHESTER AHRC SCHOOL OPENS; FIRST ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE HELD.

On February 19th, the Westchester Chapter of the AHRC opened its recently established Cooperative School with the admission of the first three children. Additional children were admitted daily, and there is a present enrollment of 21. The school is under the Directorship of Bernard Schneider, assisted by Evelyn Schneider. There are three classes: a full-day class for ten younger children; a morning class for six older children, and an afternoon class for five older children. All children receive lunch at the school. Rest periods are provided for the younger group, with each child having his own cot for the daily nap.

Plans call for the addition of two more half-day groups for younger children to open April 1st, with teachers now being interviewed. 31 children are scheduled to be enrolled by that date; and as the program progresses, more will be added.

The Westchester Chapter held its First Annual Dinner Dance at Vernon Manor in Mount Vernon February 10th. Ed Matthews was Dinner Chairman and Toastmaster. Speakers included AHRC President Nathan Feder, AHRC Advisor Richard H. Hungerford, Chapter President Bernard Rosenberg, and Chapter Vice-President William Childs. Among the guests were Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the AHRC, and AHRC officers Ann Greenberg, Margaret Riva, Rebecca Noble and Christopher Lydon. Messages of greeting came from Governor Dewey, Assemblyman Hunter Meighan, Mayor Stanley Church of New Rochelle, and Children's Court Judge of Westchester County George M. Smyth. The invocation was delivered by Reverend Wallace Downes of Community Church of Pelham.

SULLIVAN COUNTY HOLDS ONE-DAY CLINIC

The Sullivan County Chapter of the AHRC recently conducted a one-day diagnostic clinic at the Monticello Hospital. Three doctors, associated with the AHRC's clinic at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital in New York, came to Monticello to conduct the examinations; Drs. Margaret Giannini, Cyrille Halkin, and Morrison Levborg. Each of the children was given an individual diagnosis; and prognosis, as well as recommendations for treatment and therapy where indicated, were rendered.

Mrs. Ruth Bennett, president of the Sullivan County Chapter, afterward stated, "We are deeply grateful to Doctors Halkin, Giannini and Levborg for their devotion to the cause of our children. The results of the clinic definitely prove that the problem of the mentally retarded child affects a great many families here in Sullivan County, as elsewhere; and we know that many of these children can be helped, if proper special training and varied therapy can be made available."

Mrs. Bennett has been addressing civic, religious and educational groups throughout the county, on the subject of mental retardation. Groups interested in having her appear before them may reach her by writing to Monticello, N.Y., Box 249.

"AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM" (An Editorial)

The money spilled out, scattered and rolled all over the desk: quarters, dimes, nickels -- even pennies.

When it had been gathered together and counted, it totalled \$25. --- \$25 resulting from the sale of two books for the forthcoming Second Annual Dinner of the AHRC.

So begins a tale-with-a-moral. A moral for all of us who have been putting off the sale of our books, of ads for the Souvenir Journal; who have been burying those books, and those ad-blanks, in desk or bureau drawers. (And closing our eyes to the fact that, in doing so, we may be burying the hopes of our children for a brighter tomorrow.) -- Putting off, and burying -- because it just seemed too much of an effort to try to sell them. Too much of an effort to walk around the neighborhood with them; too much of an effort to talk to people about what their money could do for all our children.

--But we're forgetting the end of our tale-with-a moral. The story of someone who didn't find it too much effort to walk around and sell those books; to convey the story of our children's needs, to the tune of \$25.

That \$25, in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters was collected by Ronnie A. of Long Island.

Ronnie is 12 years old.

Ronnie is - crippled.

BOARDING HOMES FOR RETARDED CHILDREN SOUGHT

Circumstances often compel parents to seek temporary boarding facilities for their children, according to AHRC officials, who report that inquiries regarding such facilities are often received by the Association office.

It is suggested that readers of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE who may know of anyone willing to accept one or more retarded children on such temporary boarding basis communicate with the AHRC office.

NOTICE TO QUEENS RESIDENTS

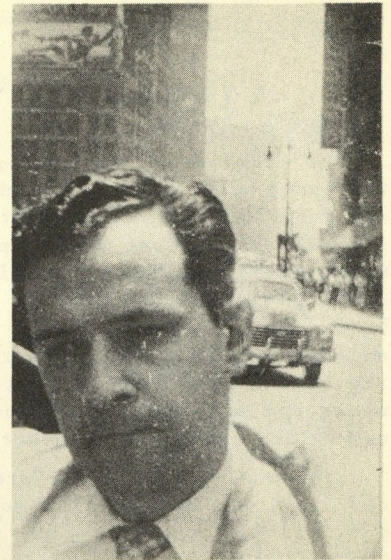
If you reside in the Forest Hills, Rego Park, Corona and adjacent areas, and if your child is between the ages of 8 and 14 and eligible for CRMD classes: write to: Mr. N. Kallor, c/o AHRC, 31 Madison Avenue, New York.

Your prompt response may be instrumental in bringing about the establishment of CRMD classes in the above-mentioned community, and enable your child to attend a school nearer his home.

AHRC PROFILE

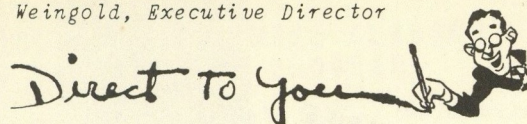
No. 3

GENE GRAMM (2nd Vice President)



Born: October 24th, 1919, Peekskill, N.Y.... Educated: N.Y.C. High Schools, University of Oregon, Columbia U...1st prize winner, Nat'l Scholastic literary competitions, Nat'l. Quill & Scroll Scholarship, 1937....During war, was cited by General Groninger of War Department for ideas aiding the armed services....His writing on retarded children in Herald Trib. before start of the AHRC was used by Nat'l. Mental Health Foundation in nation-wide appeal....His poem on the retarded, published in a handbook for institution attendants, and read by the famed Dr. Meninger in an address... Joined AHRC at 2nd Public Meeting in early 1949... As Publicity Chairman from April 1949 to Jan. 1951, he co-authored the AHRC leaflet and co-founded OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE (with Jerry Weingold), wrote literature and numerous letters for Fund Raising and other Committees...Is publicity worker and Annual Dinner Fund Appeal Spokesman for Welfare League for Retarded Children, and a member of their Board of Directors...Is Publicity Chairman, 1951 AAMD Convention, and was ditto for the 1950 National Parents Convention in Minneapolis...Led movement to return facilities at Halloran to retarded children, resulting in 1,000 additional beds for them there last year...Issued first appeal on behalf of retarded to Int. Latex Corp., who responded with word they were to finance research on Revascularization surgery for brain-injured at Cleveland... Appeared on WCBS and WMCA in Fund and Membership appeals...Spoke before Women's organizations for support of AHRC projects...His article on Mentally Retarded scheduled for publication in a forthcoming issue of PARENTS Mag....He was recently offered, and declined, paid executive position with Parents of Retarded Group in another state...Is employed as Advertising and free-lance writer..Wife: lovely and talented Edith Gramm (Hunter gal) paints, writes...has also published poetry and an article on retarded child...Son: Peter, 8, does crayon "portraits" of Mommy and Daddy when they visit Letchworth. Says Gene: "They're not very flattering, but awfully sincere!" (Nevertheless, Petey's drawings now hang proudly on the Gramm foyer-wall next to that citation from General Groninger!)

--D.W.



The problem of the teen-age boy and girl, and the young adult is many sided. Vocational training and job placement, or a sheltered workshop are the ultimate aims. Even more important than these in many instances, and certainly necessary to reach these goals, is the ability of the youngsters to become social beings, adjust to the everyday give-and-take of living with other people and the feeling that they belong as part of a community. This means not only schooling and working, but play, recreation and social contacts.

Like most of the other problems connected with our children, we felt this soon after the AHRC began. In many respects this was even more urgent than other needs, because the parents of the older child felt desperately that time was running out for their child. The children with whom these youngsters may have played when younger were now young men and women by whom our children were no longer accepted. Older now, too, the retarded teenager and young adult felt the need for a more mature companionship denied them. They, too wanted clubs, parties, group outings -- all the things the other youngsters were doing in the community.

There was almost nothing in the community to meet these needs. At the various community centers there was the same lack of understanding and acceptance that they found in the neighborhood streets. For the delinquents, the emotionally disturbed, the orthopedically handicapped, there were facilities for a social life; but not for the mentally retarded.

This was a case, however, where the parents began a program on their very own. Under the leadership of Evelyn Leckart, the first group was started in the Bronx; to be followed very soon by another in Brooklyn, where Mrs. Snapper took the initiative. Not all the children could fit into the group, however, and it soon became apparent that there would have to be several clubs suited to different potentials of the various youngsters. Alice Pearlstein undertook this aspect of the program, which is now following charted lines drawn up under the guidance of Mr. Hungerford, with the cooperation of Dr. Mary Harnett, many of his staff and the AHRC. The program now includes the finding of suitable housing, such as a Y or a community center, the use of trained group leaders, the setting up of these groups on a social-club basis, separately for boys and girls, meeting together at social functions such as birthday parties, etc., group activities for each, such as athletics, craft work, dancing, films, community singing, trips, sewing, parents nights, social service activities and social and vocational guidance.

The aim of the program is "to bring about through constructive means the continued development and maturation of older retardates - through (1) recreation, (2) socialization, (3) informational and instructional pursuits; so that they may become, insofar as their potentialities permit, socially adjusted individuals."

NATION'S AUTHORITIES ON MENTAL RETARDATION TO PRESENT LATEST FINDINGS AT AAMD CONVENTION

PARENTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT MEETINGS

The American Association on Mental Deficiency, the organization of professionals in the field of mental retardation, will hold its annual convention in New York City May 22nd through 26th at the Hotel New Yorker. Professionals in the fields of Medicine, Psychiatry, Surgery, Education, etc. will present papers on research and most recent findings. Parents will also participate in the program. A registration fee of one dollar will be charged to any non-member interested in attending the open sessions, it was announced. Among the participants at the convention will be Pearl S. Buck.

"It is hoped that through this 75th Annual Convention, attention will be strongly focused on the problems of the mentally retarded and their families," Mr. Richard H. Hungerford, President of the AAMD stated.

PARENTS MEET TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES OF SHELTERED HOME PROJECT FOR RETARDED

A committee of approximately forty parents from the AHRC has been set up to study the possibilities of a Sheltered Home for Retarded individuals. The committee is under the advisorship of Richard H. Hungerford, and the temporary Chairmanship of Gene Gramm.

The committee was formed after Dr. F. Kleinberg and Lou Yanofsky, Board Members, presented a communication to the Board of Directors calling for the consideration of this project. The committee's function is purely one of study, at this point. Some of the questions being debated are whether or not a Sheltered Home for the Retarded would be financed entirely by cooperative means, or whether it would be a Pilot Project, financed by the AHRC. The committee meets about twice a month.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE INVITES SUGGESTIONS

The AHRC's Committee on By-Laws, under the chairmanship of Bernard Fineson, is now in session to consider revisions of and amendments to the Association's By-Laws. Members who are interested in making suggestions in this regard are asked to write to Mr. Fineson, in care of the AHRC's offices.



All questions and contributions for this newspaper should be addressed to OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE, Association for the Help of Retarded Children, Inc. 31 Madison Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

EUGENE GRAMM.....Editor
DAVID WEISS.....Co-Editor