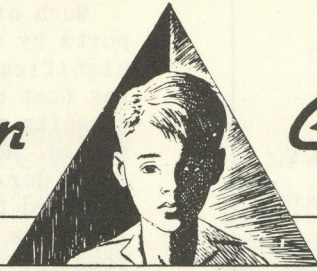


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children



Can Be Helped!

VOL. III, ISSUE NO. 4

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1951

NATIONAL CONVENTION

47 GROUPS AT GRAND RAPIDS
FEDER'S RESEARCH REPORT A HIGHLIGHT

More than 200 delegates, representing forty-seven parent groups from all parts of the United States, met in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the Second Annual Convention of the National Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children, held September 6th, 7th and 8th.

The AHRC, one of the founding members of the national organization, was represented by President Nathan Feder, national research chairman; 1st Vice-President George Hirsch, chairman of the national group's Scholarships and Awards Committee and also a delegate last year; and Director Woodhull Hay, who is Secretary of the NAPF. Mrs. Robert Schuyler, President of the AHRC's Erie-Niagara Chapter, was present as the delegate of her organization. (Local chapters of state groups or councils may hold individual membership in the national organization.)

An important move at the convention was the approval of a proposal to establish permanent staffed headquarters for the national organization. It was estimated that the initial cost of setting up such an office would be \$15,000; of which \$5,000 was pledged in the form of individual contributions by the delegates. Formal approval by the member organizations which will defray the balance is expected in the near future.

By official motion, it was decided to change the name of the national group, in the interests of brevity, to National Association for Retarded Children (NARC).

(continued on p.2)

ELECTIONS AT OCTOBER 26TH MEETING

The yearly election of officers and directors of the AHRC will be held October 26th, at the closed annual business meeting. The meeting will take place at the Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, 129 East 22nd Street, New York City, at 8:30 P.M.

In addition to elections, there will be regular annual reports to the membership, by all committees and officials. In view of the nature of the meeting it will be open only to members of the Association.

AHRC CLASSES OPEN!

FIRST TWO SCHOOL CENTERS
SET FOR CITY: THREE MORE SCHEDULED

The first two cooperative school centers established by the AHRC in New York City will begin sessions during October, it was announced by Association officials.

Intended to serve children who are not eligible for the special classes of the City's public school system, there will be one center to serve the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, and another in Brooklyn. A total of five such units has been approved by the Association's Board of Directors, and it is hoped to open the other three during the current fiscal year.

The first center to be opened will bear the name of the Joshua Orphan Aid Society, who recently made a grant of \$5,000 to the AHRC for the support of its school program. (See August issue of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE).

Each school center will include several classes. This will provide for differing age groups, and permit of smaller classes, so that children will receive more individual attention than is possible in a larger group. It is expected that the classes will not number more than ten children each.

(While negotiations for space and facilities were under way, definite locations of the two classes were not yet available as this issue of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE was prepared for the printer.)

In addition to at least one full-time class, each center will include several part-time (morning and afternoon) classes.

Testing of children whose parents have filed applications has been going on for some time, and the children have all been classified. Those chosen for the first classes will be notified; and the other eligible will be put on a waiting list until such time as additional classes become available, or vacancies exist in established ones. Over 300 children have been tested.

Association officials emphasized that the testing and choosing of children was not being conducted by AHRC members, but by qualified psycholo-

(continued on P.2)

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued approximately six times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

31 Madison Avenue New York 10, N.Y.

A NON-PROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION OF PARENTS
AND FRIENDS OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN.

CHARTERED BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK
FEBRUARY, 1949

President: Nathan Feder

Executive Director: Joseph T. Weingold

Editor:
EUGENE GRAMM

Co-Editor:
DAVID WEISS

AHRC CLASSES (cont'd from P.1)

gists and a special Advisory Board, composed of distinguished professionals in the medical, educational and social service fields.

Tuition has been set at \$55 a month for children in the full-day classes; and \$40 a month for the part-time students. Milk and cookies will be supplied to all children, and arrangements will be made for lunches for the children who stay all day. Transportation will be additional.

Provision is also being made for scholarships - either partial or full -- for those children whose parents cannot pay the tuition. Here again, it was pointed out, the decisions will be made not by Association members, but by a competent Advisory Committee drawn from community leaders in social welfare and the clergy.

Four teachers have been engaged for the first two school centers: Mrs. Rose Boles, Mrs. Gloria Tomlinson, Mrs. Eva Wilton and Miss Mildred Balmuth. They were selected from a large number interviewed, it was stated.

Those invited to serve on the Professional Advisory Board include: Professor Louis Rosenzweig; Mr. Chris DeProspero; Dr. Ernest Harms; Dr. Lisa Gellner; Dr. Lawrence Slobody; Dr. Joseph Wortis; Miss Doris Trepel; Mr. Wm. Quaytman; and Mrs. Edna Baer.

A special School board has been appointed to supervise the new school program. Its members are: Dora Banner, Joseph Campana, Margot Gutman, George Hirsch, Jack Max and Dr. Portnoy, all of AHRC.

DR. PASAMANICK TO GIVE COURSE FOR BROOKLYN CLINIC STAFF

Dr. Benjamin Pasamanick, well known psychiatrist and Professor at Johns Hopkins University, will conduct a two week course on Child Development for the staff of the Morris J. Solomon Clinic for Retarded Children at Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn, it is announced by officials of the clinic.

NATIONAL CONVENTION (cont'd from P.1)

Much of the convention time was devoted to reports by the various committees. One of the most significant, according to those in attendance, was that delivered by AHRC President Feder in his capacity as chairman of the national research committee. He outlined 44 basic research ideas to be considered by the national organization, and stressed the need for coordination of research efforts now being carried on in various parts of the country; both for the purpose of eliminating unnecessary duplication, and correlating data and findings. During the convention, Mr. Feder also conferred with Dr. A. Levinson, director of the Julian D. Levinson Research Foundation of Chicago, comparing research activities of the Foundation with the work being done at the two AHRC clinics.

Other activities by AHRC delegates included Mr. Hirsch's report for the Scholarship and Awards Committee, a report by Mr. Hay as national secretary, and the reading of a paper by Mrs. Schuyler concerning the play-therapy classes established by her group in Buffalo.

A report by the Resolutions Committee, approved by the convention, recommended action by the national organization designed to eliminate certain aspects of publicity emanating from the United Cerebral Palsy Association. It was felt that references to the mentally retarded in that organization's literature in past had unintentionally contained inferences not in the best interests of the mentally handicapped, and that official cognizance of this should be taken by the NAPF.

Among other reports were those by Mr. Morris Kleinman of the Welfare League of New York regarding research being carried on at Letchworth Village, and by Dr. Lisa Gellner of London concerning a new approach to the teaching of brain-injured children.

Addresses at the convention included one by Dr. A. T. Rehn, Superintendent of the Lapeer State Home and Training School, of Michigan, concerning the relationship of parent groups to the institution. Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan addressed the evening session of the delegates on Saturday, September 8th. He expressed the opinion that the national research program should be the most important part of the organization's work.

Upon his return from Grand Rapids, Mr. Feder stated, "Your delegates come back to New York with new inspiration and enthusiasm, despite the grueling three days of hard work we have just completed. I wish every member of the AHRC could have been there, to see the zeal and energy, the welding together of purpose by parents from every part of this nation. Lots of important progress was made -- the move towards setting up permanent headquarters in the near future is in itself a great step. For example. But in my opinion, greater than any of these is the knowledge that we parents now speak with one voice, not just in our own community, or city, or even state, but in this entire land. Such a chorus of millions cannot go long unheard."

CALLS AHRC CLASSES "HISTORIC STEP"

PROFESSOR ROSENZWEIG LAUDS PROGRAM AT FIRST FALL MEETING

Describing the new AHRC cooperative classes as a "historic event in the history of the mentally retarded", Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig paid tribute to the Association's school program in a speech delivered at its opening Fall meeting Tuesday evening, September 18th. A large gathering of members attended the meeting, which was held at the Central High School of Needle Trades in Manhattan.

Mr. Rosenzweig, who is professor at Brooklyn College in the field of mental retardation, and a member of the AHRC's Advisory Board, reviewed the history of special education for the mentally handicapped from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. He cited the development of parent groups such as the AHRC, and their establishing of special clinics, as recent steps "each of which marked a milestone."

"However" he continued, "the step that we are about to take crosses a chasm that a few short years ago seemed impossible."

After describing newly developed principles which have evolved in the field of special education, Professor Rosenzweig declared that the AHRC, in the creation of these classes, gave evidence that it intended to do more than give lip service to these principles; that it was "blazing a trail for others to follow."

Professor Rosenzweig, one of the professional advisors who aided AHRC officials in setting up the program, described the difficulties encountered -- the problems of teachers, space, organization, and goals -- and expressed his gratification at the culmination of what he called an exacting and momentous task.

In conclusion, he warned against excessive optimism, saying "Progress will be slow and you must not expect miraculous results. Please keep faith and I am sure you will reap the rewards of that faith."

Earlier in the meeting, George Hirsch, 1st Vice President of the AHRC and one of its delegates to the recent national convention of parent groups, gave a detailed report of what took place there. (Story on Page 1.)

TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE WORK

Gene Gramm has taken a six month leave of absence from all his committee duties in the AHRC. This includes: editorship of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE, Chairmanship of the Publicity and Sheltered Home Study Committees, and membership in the Institutions Committee. He continues as a Board of Directors member.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH STATE COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HYGIENE

Ask Support of Legislation for Retarded, Participation in Education

In a meeting held on August 15th, representatives of parent groups for the mentally retarded met with Dr. Newton Bigelow, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for the State of New York. Present were: Mr. Saul Fliederbaum, of the Welfare League for Retarded Children; Mrs. Scalone of the Benevolent League for Retarded Children; Edna Baer, Executive Director of the New York Jewish Child Care Council and Advisor to the AHRC; and AHRC Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold.

Dr. Bigelow was urged to lend his support to legislation for the establishment of a Joint Legislative Commission to study the problem of mental retardation in New York State. (Such a bill, introduced at the last session of the Legislature in Albany, died in the Ways & Means Committee.)

The parent group representatives also asked that the Department of Mental Hygiene become involved in the problem of education for children who do not qualify for existing special classes. It was pointed out that the number of children involved greatly exceeds in number those now in special classes; and that no public educational facilities whatsoever are available for these thousands of children.

It was reported that Dr. Bigelow signified his willingness to consult with the Department of Education to explore this matter in detail.

The attending parent group representatives described Dr. Bigelow's attitude as "sympathetic and cooperative" and expressed the hope that this meeting would lead to constructive measures of assistance to the mentally retarded on the part of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

TO OUR NON-MEMBER READERS:

RIISING COSTS OF PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION HAVE GREATLY INCREASED THE EXPENSE INVOLVED IN GETTING OUT THIS ISSUE OF "OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE."

TO HELP US DEFRAY THIS COST, AND ENABLE US TO CONTINUE SENDING YOU THIS NEWSPAPER, WE ARE ASKING ALL WHO ARE NOT DUES-PAYING MEMBERS OF THE AHRC TO SEND US ONE DOLLAR. (THIS WILL COVER ONE YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION.)

YOUR DOING SO WILL MAKE ONE MORE DOLLAR AVAILABLE FOR THE HELP OF OUR CHILDREN.

-- The Editors

(Our thanks to those who have already sent their dollar.)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR OLDER CHILDREN TO BE EXPANDED

A program of organized social activities for adolescent and young adult retarded children, inaugurated last year by the AHRC, is to be expanded during the coming year, according to leaders of the group.

Mrs. Alice Pearlstein and Mrs. Evelyn Leckart report that a total of 77 children participated in last year's activities, which included attendance at theatres, dances and social get-togethers. The groups meet periodically under the guidance of professional leaders. It is planned to add three more groups this year, in view of the tremendous popularity and success of last year's program.

Mrs. Pearlstein and Mrs. Leckart joined in urging parents whose children fall into the teen-age and-up category to enroll them in the program. It was pointed out that boys have been a bit more diffident than the girls in joining up, and that "they should come forward and join the fun."

Members from upper Manhattan and the Bronx may join by contacting Mrs. Leckart at 1165 Longfellow Ave., Bronx. Brooklyn members are advised to communicate with Mrs. Pearlstein, 405 Crown St., Bklyn.

PARENTS GROUP ORGANIZED IN SYRACUSE

Parents of mentally retarded children in Syracuse have formed a new parents group in that city under the leadership of Mrs. Robert P. Abbott, of 1622 E. Fayette Street.

The formation of this group is the outcome of months of effort on the part of Mrs. Abbott, who has been in continuous correspondence with the AHRC during this period.

The new organization will hold its first regular meeting in the near future, and has invited an AHRC representative to be a speaker.

PARENTS ADVISED REGARDING CLINIC APPOINTMENTS

As a result of numerous inquiries received by the AHRC office from parents who have filed applications to have their children examined at the clinics, Association officials have issued the following statement:

After an application has been received at the AHRC office, it is forwarded to the proper hospital (either Jewish Hospital in Brooklyn or Flower-Fifth in Manhattan). Date of appointment is set by the hospital itself, and all inquiries and communications regarding same should be directed to the hospital, not to the AHRC office.

The statement pointed out that the waiting lists at both hospitals are now very long -- as much as a year for new applicants; and that this graphically illustrated the urgent need for more clinical facilities.

FUND RAISERS THANKED BY CHAIRMAN

In launching the AHRC's fund-raising activities for the 1951-1952 period, Joseph Kuhn, chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, voiced his thanks to the men and women who were instrumental in the success of the last campaign, and asked for the continued efforts of all members during the forthcoming year.

"The Borough Chairmen and Co-Chairmen who gave so unselfishly of their time and energies last year," Mr. Kuhn stated, "deserve the gratitude of every member of this Association, as do the many members of their committees, I wish space permitted me to list their names; but I know that they would be the first to say 'We don't want thanks; all we want to see is more and more things for the children.'" And in the last analysis, how right they are!

"We're setting our sights high for the coming year. Most of the men and women I have just referred to will be in there pitching again. But they must have more help. More working members are needed from every borough; and the need is especially great in Queens and Manhattan, where a few people have been doing a back-breaking job which is rightly the concern of every member in those boroughs who can possibly spare even an hour or two a week."

Mr. Kuhn urged that members who have not been participating communicate with him at the AHRC office and offer their aid, so that they could be notified of forthcoming committee meetings in their boroughs.

'REDBOOK' FEATURES STORY ON RETARDED

"My son's Story" is the title of a feature article in the September issue of "Redbook" Magazine. Written by John P. Frank, it tells the story of Mr. Frank's own experiences as the parent of a mentally retarded child.

The article is a condensation of Mr. Frank's book which is scheduled for publication in the near future.

The author is a member of the faculty of Yale University.

YOU CAN STILL ENROLL FOR THE PARENT-EDUCATION COURSES!

There are still a few openings in the forthcoming series of Parent-Education lectures and forums which are being given for the second year by the AHRC.

Parents interested in enrolling should write to: George Hirsch, Chairman; Parent-Education; AHRC, 31 Madison Ave., New York.

DR. POSNER DIES

Dr. Emil Roy Posner, one of the AHRC's earliest members, and chairman of its first Clinic Committee, passed away on Friday, September 14th.

Nathan Feder, AHRC President, declared, "On behalf of every member of this Association, I wish to express our deep sympathy to Mrs. Posner and her bereaved family. Those of us who had the privilege of working with Dr. Posner in the pioneer, struggling days of the organization, will never forget his zeal, his devotion and kindness. He refused to let his own health -- which recently was not of the best -- to stand in the way when his knowledge and mature wisdom could be of help. We have lost a true friend -- as have our children."

Dr. Posner was a former president of the Physiotherapists Society of New York, and author of published works on the subject of physiotherapy.

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER EXHIBITS AT MINEOLA FAIR

The Long Island Chapter of the AHRC, encompassing Nassau and Suffolk Counties, was a participant in the annual Mineola Fair which was held September 11th - 15th at Mineola, Long Island.

The exhibit consisted of articles of handicraft made by the boys and girls of the Arts & Craft Group for Older Children in Brooklyn. The display attracted much attention from fair visitors, according to Mrs. Helen Kaplan and Mrs. M. Smith, who were in charge of the exhibit.

The Mineola Fair is one of the oldest and best known county fairs in the country, and annually attracts a large number of visitors.

GENE GRAMM'S ARTICLE IN "PARENTS' MAGAZINE"

An article by Eugene Gramm, AHRC 2nd Vice-President and Chairman of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee, is a feature of the September 1951 issue of "Parents' Magazine."

Entitled "New Hope for the Different Child", the article presents the problems of parents of mentally retarded children, and points up the importance of parents' groups. It traces the history of the AHRC from its beginning, reviews its accomplishments and program for the future, and projects the plight of the mentally retarded as a major national social problem, as well as a community responsibility.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDED FOR NEW CLASSES!

Are you in the bus or school transportation business? Or do you own a taxi?

We need transportation for the new AHRC classes in Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn. Call or write AHRC office if you can help!

ALBANY CHAPTER IN FORMATION

A group of parents of retarded children in the Albany area of the state have organized and requested affiliation with the AHRC under the name of the Capitol District Chapter, it was announced by Association officials.

At a meeting held August 15th in Albany, which was addressed by AHRC Executive Director Weingold, approximately fifty parents participated, and voted for the affiliation. Mrs. John J. Hotaling of Clarksville, who had organized the meeting, was elected Acting President.

The AHRC Board of Directors is expected to vote acceptance of the application for chapter status in the near future.

**If you haven't paid your DUES,
DO IT TO-DAY!!**

DR. SARASON TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Dr. Seymour B. Sarason, Professor at Yale University, and author of "Psychological Problems in Mental Deficiency," will be guest speaker at the next general public meeting of the AHRC.

The meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday, November 28th, at the Central High School of Needle Trades, 225 West 24th Street, New York City, at 8:30 P. M. Other details of the program will be announced shortly.

NEEDED!

FOR

THE NEW

AHRC CLASSES:



VOLUNTEERS: Carpenters, etc. to help make needed alterations.

EQUIPMENT: Record players and records, large dressed dolls, miniature jointed dolls, plastic dishes and utensils, blocks, large crayons, peg-boards, modelling clay sets, paints and easels, finger paints, large beads, 16MM projector and screen, children's films, etc. etc.

CAN YOU HELP? -- Call AHRC office, or write.

CHAPTER REPORTS

ERIE-NIAGARA CHAPTER

One of the first concrete recognitions of our work came with an invitation to Mrs. Schuyler to read a paper about our program at the Second annual Convention of the National Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children held in Grand Rapids September 6th-8th. A report of the convention will be given by Mrs. Schuyler at our meeting October 2nd.

Our achievement hope for 1952 -- a new home for our program must become a reality! We cannot grow any further until we have a building to house the complete program, on an expanded scale -- to handle the ever-growing waiting list. To insure success, we must start our building fund now!

The eight week summer tutoring group of ten children concluded August 17th. All the children did very well. Two are now ready for first-grade work, and one child is ready to go from special class to regular second grade. The entire program is so successful that more than twenty children are enrolled in the Fall tutoring group which will start Monday, September 10th at the Jewish Center of Buffalo. This unit is in charge of Mrs. Charlotte Rose, a qualified primary grade teacher.

A special meeting of this chapter will be held Tuesday, November 13th at 8:30 P. M. at the Jewish Center of Buffalo. Mr. Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the AHRC, will be our speaker.

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

At the present time, 38 children are enrolled in the Westchester AHRC Day School. A new primary group has been formed, consisting of children who showed marked progress in last year's pre-school group, and who in the opinion of their teacher require more intensive training. Reading readiness and speech training will be emphasized. We now have one pre-school group attending all day, and one-half day; also one older morning group and one older afternoon group, in addition to the primary class.

On September 8th, a picnic for our membership and their entire families was held at the Hudson Country Day School, in New Rochelle.

Our campaign to have the Mental Health Commission recognize our need for financial help received a temporary setback when we were informed by Dr. Bigelow that they could not include us in the coming year's budget. We shall however keep fighting for this help, which we feel we have a right to expect.

While there has been no further development in the court case of some of Pelham Manor vs. AHRC Day School, we expect the case to come up shortly. Public opinion has developed pretty strongly in our favor, and we expect to win it.

We are planning a fund-raising drive which will be headed by Mayor Stanley Church of New Rochelle, and County Supervisor Gerlach.

THE THINGS THAT WON'T BE DONE (An Editorial)

It is customary, with each first issue of a new Fall season of activity, to talk of plans for the months ahead.

We should like this time, however, to talk a little of some of the things that *won't* be done this coming year. Of the classes that will *not* exist for the thousands of children who cannot be accommodated in the present limited program. Of the many, many children who *won't* be admitted this year at the two clinics; because the waiting list is already a year long. Of all the many things so greatly needed which cannot come to pass during the next twelve months.

There are many who will find, when what has been accomplished is thus weighed against what remains to be done, disillusion and dismay in the grim imbalance. For patience is hard come by when there is so much for which to be impatient.

But we ask these to put this question to themselves: What of the time when there was no clinic waiting list -- because there was no clinic? When there was not even the hope of something better for tomorrow, because every tomorrow held only the same black despair as all our yesterdays?

All the things that we *won't* have this coming year; are they in any way a negation of our efforts, a sign of failure? Only if we permit ourselves to lose sight of the original purposes of this Association can they be so construed.

It is important to remind ourselves always of just what the purpose of our projects is. Above all others, it is to *demonstrate to the public and government officials at all levels what can be done for our children*; and then, having so demonstrated, to demand that those facilities be established in sufficient quantity to care for *all* the children; something we have never claimed we could do ourselves. It is as simple as that; yet understanding this fully, and accepting it, is of paramount importance if we are to avoid confusion, and above all, discouragement.


That is why, as we enter another full season of general membership activity, we have talked of the things we will *not* be able to bring into being this coming year. They are the things that we alone shall never be able to do; but they are also the things that will come into being if we remain steadfast in our resolve to do the things that we must do.

D.W.

BEG PARDON!

In the previous issue of *OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE*, the article listing donors of scholarships to summer camps for needy retarded children inadvertently omitted to name one of the benefactors: the Rugby School of Brooklyn, who generously gave two scholarships to their day-camp.



Direct to you 

Some time ago I wrote of the difficulties, organizationally, in starting Pilot Classes for children who do not qualify for the special classes in the public schools. We have come a long way since then and I hope that the first two school centers under the auspices of the AHRC in New York City will be under way by the time you read this column.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read of the details of the classes treated as a news item, which, indeed, it is; news of the utmost importance to the parents and retarded children in this state. What I want to talk about is the major importance of these classes. We must bear in mind at all times that these classes, like all the AHRC projects, are PILOT CLASSES -- DEMONSTRATION CLASSES. Their function is to demonstrate the feasibility of training these children IN THE COMMUNITY and the value of such a community program to the family and therefore to society.

Were these classes for direct services only, we would soon find ourselves running a public school system -- these children are so numerous -- and there just isn't enough money for that; nor do we conceive this to be a function of parents groups, any more than parents should be required to provide educational facilities for their unretarded children. Yes, parents of retarded children must pull themselves up by their bootstraps to demonstrate (how ironic) that these children deserve to stay in the community and should have educational facilities there. But the primary responsibility rests with the state to provide state aid for this education.

Many educators ask: "Where does the responsibility of the family end and that of the public school begin?" Too often that is used to escape responsibility for public services to our children. Here is a case where the families insist on taking responsibility but also insist that the state assume its responsibility with the family. And that means public training and education for these truly "forgotten children."

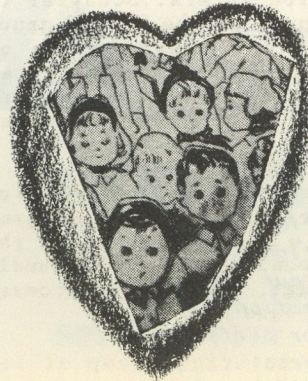
Such is the attitude, even in officialdom, towards our children that we must "prove", if you please, that these children are trainable, not to use that bad word, "educable", in a community setting. This we, as parents of retarded children, are setting out to do, if we must. That is the larger purpose of our classes: to achieve classes for all those trainable children wherever they may be when the parents want to keep them at home.

TO OUR MEMBERS:

THIS IS YOUR NEWSPAPER! Its purpose is not only to bring you all the news of your Association, and keep you advised of developments concerning the problem of the mentally handicapped, but to reflect your views and opinions; your suggestions and criticisms.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

IN
THE AHRC LIGHT



AARON
L.
JACOBY

(Advisor to the AHRC)

Chief Clerk of Surrogate's Court, Kings County, Aaron L. Jacoby is one of the distinguished figures in the community who, in the AHRC's early days, was invited to become an Advisor to the Association. Unlike many of his co-members on the Advisory Board, however, he was not professionally involved with the problem of mental retardation.

There was, nevertheless, good reason for AHRC officials to extend that invitation. For, over a period of many years, Aaron L. Jacoby has been a tireless and devoted worker for a multitude of causes concerned with children. He is President of the New York Jewish Child Care Council; a member of the New York City Commission for Temporary Shelter Care of Children; member of the Mayor's Committee on Child Care; member of the Board of Trustees of Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and the Children's Aid Society; Consultant to the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum; on the Executive Committee of the Girl Scouts of America; Vice-President of the Brooklyn Council for Social Planning; and a Sponsor of the League to Help Mentally Ill Children. -- He has been cited for 25 years of service with the New York Federation of Charities.

With such a formidable array of interests, it would have been understandable if Mr. Jacoby had limited his participation in the affairs of the AHRC. But from the very beginning, he has made his considerable talents and energies, his prestige and his mature wisdom, unstintingly available to officials of this Association. For two successive years, he accepted the trying assignment of acting as Toastmaster at the AHRC's Annual Dinner. Those who attended can attest to the depth of feeling, the sympathetic understanding with which he spoke of these children whom, like so many others, he has taken to his heart.

The AHRC-light shines on Aaron L. Jacoby because, in a world too often concerned with the pressures of material success and self-interest, he has enriched the society in which he lives by his selfless devotion to all those little ones who are hurt, or suffering, or have lost their way.

It has been said that "No man stands so straight as he who stoops to help a child."

Aaron Jacoby stands very, very straight indeed.

(Editor's Note: It is characteristic of Mr. Jacoby's modesty that we were unable to procure from him a photograph to accompany this column.)

POETRY CORNER

One morning as I awoke,
-- Even before I spoke,
I started to impart
What was in my heart:
A Prayer

When the little legs and feet
cannot compete;
When the little arms and hands
can't meet with all demands;
Let us hope and pray
it will not always be that way.

With love and devotion,
with less emotion
We will accomplish our aim;
With care and protection,
not looking for perfection
We will find happiness
and much to gain.

Irene Tilem



OLDER CHILDREN GIVE AHRC OFFICE VALUED ASSIST

A number of the older children of AHRC members were responsible for clearing up a serious log-jam in the AHRC mailing room recently, according to information received from the AHRC office. When an unusual accumulation of heavy mailing jobs threatened to swamp the office staff, Mrs. Shirley Droutman of Brooklyn hastily recruited a group of the older girls, most of whom are members of the Social Group for Older Children.

"They did a grand job" one of the office staff stated, "and we hope they'll come again to help us out."

ATTENTION: QUEENS PARENTS

If you live in the Jamaica area of Queens, and have a child who is attending C.R.M.D. classes, you will be interested in the following:

An after-school play therapy group of CRMD children is in the process of being started by a parent. The class would meet somewhere in the Jamaica area, from 3 to 5 P.M. Plans call for the group to be under the supervision of a teacher experienced in working with retarded children.

If interested, communicate with:
Mrs. Minna Kirchner
147-40 77th Ave.
Flushing, N.Y. 67, N.Y.
Telephone: JAMAICA 3-3385

AHRC PROFILE

No. 5

DAVE WEISS

4th Vice-President



Born: Sept. 15th, 1912, in N.Y.C.... Educated: Stuyvesant High School; College of City of New York (where he studied Business Administration...For over 20 years was with sales division of large textile mill, which position he left last year to enter children's wear manufacturing field...Enlisted in Army early in World War II, serving 3 years...Saw 11 months combat in European Theatre, and wears four bronze battle stars on his ETO ribbon, one of which is for Battle of the Bulge... Refers to himself as a "frustrated writer" but in this editor's opinion he is a highly skilled and dynamic "wordsmith" who has banged out some memorable writing on his battered typewriter.

Joined AHRC in mid-1949...became active in Publicity and Public Relations....One of his first contributions was to get AHRC its initial publicity break in N.Y. Daily News...Was responsible for the Sidney Fields feature column in Daily Mirror which drew tremendous response and led to AHRC's first national radio publicity on "Portia Faces Life" program...Also arranged recent Sunday Times feature story by Dorothy Barclay on AHRC...Handled publicity for Fund Raising Committee. It was for one of their campaigns that he first undertook the assignment of writing a treatment for the idea: "This is a Picture of a Crippled Child." His brilliant fulfillment of this assignment formed a major part of the subsequent New York Times ad which he and Gene Gramm later planned and wrote together, and which has been reprinted and quoted by Parents' Groups throughout the country....Is presently Chairman of Speakers Bureau and of Publicity Committee...Was instrumental in founding of the New York State Council of Parents Groups and is an AHRC delegate to that body...Has been Co-Editor of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE since November, 1949...Elected to Board of Directors in 1949, elected 4th Vice President in 1950.

Dave is highly valued as an "idea-man" and his ideas have continually paid off. For example: the clipping service on the subject of the retarded, which put us in touch with parents throughout the U.S.A. and helped enormously in furthering the national movement. He is also, for all his soft-spoken, mild manner, a ferocious "watch-dog" of the interests of retarded children. Two examples: his frequent clashes with a national organization that misrepresents the true facts about our kids, and his tangle with a certain Brooklyn State Senator who made the fatal error of calling retarded children "physically and mentally dead." Dave's typewriter machine-gunned that Senator down to pygmy-size in a story that got headline prominence in the B'klyn Daily Eagle.

Personal data: His beautiful wife, Cynthia, a native Philadelphian enhances many a publicity conference at Stuyvesant Town. Daughter, Kathi, a completely captivating 3½ year old is Dave's inspiration and catalyst for his dynamic and selfless service to the mentally handicapped. Dick Hungerford once called Dave "one of the true statesmen in this movement." To that, this editor can add: here is one of its few long-range, beyond-this-generation-planners...When it comes to the future of retarded children everywhere, mark down Dave Weiss as one of its principal AHRCitacts!

--E.G.