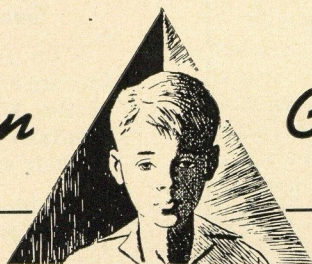


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children



Can Be Helped!

VOL. IV. — ISSUE NO. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1952

Annual Business Meeting October 29th

Russotto Renominated For President

The annual meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 1952 at the Mabel Dean High School, 129 East 22nd Street, New York, N. Y.

This meeting is open to active members in good standing only. The membership present will hear President Russotto's report and also reports of various committees concerning the activities of the organization.

In accordance with the amended by-laws an enlarged nominating committee of nine has chosen the slate for this coming year that will be presented to the membership with ballots at least two weeks before the election. These ballots shall be filled in by the members and returned to the Election Committee or handed to the tellers at the meeting before 9:00 P. M. of the night of the annual business meeting.

The slate selected by your nominating committee is as follows:

President	Alexander C. Russotto
1st Vice President	Bernard M. Fineson
2nd Vice President	Evald Gasstrom (Westchester Chapter)
3rd Vice President	Rose Nussbaum
4th Vice President	Joseph Kuhn
Financial Secretary	Sylvia Schachter
Recording Secretary	Margaret Riva
Treasurer	Irving Shiller
Corresponding Secretary	Ann Greenberg

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

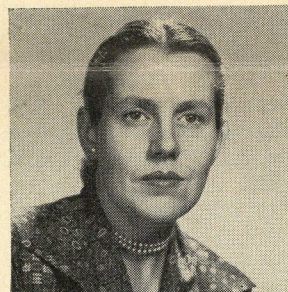
Two-Year Term

Julian Banner	Sidney Leviton
Woodhull Hay	Burton Loewer
Maxwell Herman	Evelyn Shulman
Augustus Jacobs	Sol Stich
Maxwell L. Kallor	Edward Weyer, Jr.
Freda Kleinberg,	William Weaver (Westchester Chapter)

One-Year Term

Ruth Bennett (Sullivan County Chapter)	
Helen James	Jack Jason
Frank C. McCarthy (Onondaga County Chapter)	

Appointed Director Of AHRC Schools



The attractive and competent lady pictured here will become in time very well known to most of us in AHRC. And even now, from us to her goes a heartfelt, "God speed you."

Since September 1, to her is entrusted a project close and dear to us, the administration of AHRC pilot classes. Her duties will include setting up and interpreting the program of training, the supervision of the teachers and, of course, helping us all to formulate both our special education goals and the means by which they can be reached.

Mrs. Patterson brings to her task a sense of dedication to our children. Their needs are a challenge worthy of the very best that any educator can give, she says.

And combined with her specialized vocation Mrs. Patterson brings to AHRC a rich background of experience with youngsters. Possessor of a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Cincinnati and graduate of the Bank Street College for teachers in Manhattan, Mrs. Patterson was formerly educational director of Les Coquelicot School in Great Neck, Long Island and of the Halsey Day Nursery in Manhattan.

In her approach to our children, Mrs. Patterson sees eye to eye with all of us in that she believes that every child deserves training and education up to the limit of his or her capacity to learn and that for each child this training should begin while the child is young and malleable.

Mrs. Patterson is the mother of a little girl, age 10, and resides in Roselle, New Jersey.

Robert Seaman (Long Island Chapter)

The following board members will remain on the board for another year and will therefore not be up for election in October, 1952.

Mina Bober
Ed Fliegel
George Hirsch

Sol Hulnick
Irving Krakoff
Rebecca Noble

Alice Pearlstein

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

31 MADISON AVENUE — NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

MUrray 9-8269

A Non-profit, Tax-Exempt Organization of Parents and Friends
of Mentally Retarded Children

Chartered by the State of New York
February, 1949

President: Alexander C. Russotto

Executive Director: Joseph T. Weingold

President's Message

Again it is my pleasure to speak to you through the columns of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE, this time for the purpose of greeting you on your return from what I earnestly hope was a happy, healthy and eventful summer. It is my hope that all AHRC members who have labored so hard in the past will return to their tasks with new vigor, and that many more members, heretofore inactive, and many new members will join in the performance of the work which lies ahead.

For there is much work to be done. One of the primary tasks of the AHRC is to educate the public and the community to the nature of mental retardation and the problem it presents, not only to the afflicted and their families, but to society as a whole. The ultimate goal of this educational process is the involvement of the community and the authorities in the furnishing of the facilities which are needed.

In order to demonstrate that facilities for the retarded of all types, and of a wide range of intelligence levels, are workable we have organized our schools, our social groups, our handicraft groups and are now planning our program of industrial training for the older children, which we hope, will be a stepping stone to the sheltered workshop. In order to demonstrate the need for and the great benefit to be derived from clinical services, we have sponsored and are supporting the Flower-Fifth Avenue and Brooklyn Jewish Hospital clinics. It goes without saying that we have been able to establish and continue all of these projects, most notably our schools and clinics, only because of the enlightened help and generosity of our wonderful donor groups.

But we must never lose sight of the fact that the services we give are on a pilot basis and that they are designed to demonstrate, to prove, if your will, that they are services which should and must be furnished by the community at government expense. Until that happy day we must work ourselves to raise the money, to perform the myriad volunteer tasks so essential to our survival.

Once again, "Welcome". And I ask you to join with me in the hope that our achievements of the future will dwarf those of the past—and to join with me in the labor which will make that hope a reality.

ALEXANDER C. RUSSOTTO.

Weingold Addresses Michigan State Group

Guest Speaker at Annual Convention Banquet

On Saturday, September 6, our executive director journeyed out to Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the invitation of the Michigan Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children to be the principal speaker at their annual banquet.

Addressing some 300 guests, Mr. Weingold's topic was "A New World for the Retarded".

The meeting was most successful, with representatives from 17 different member units and many professionals participating on Friday and Saturday. Gov. Mennen Williams of Michigan addressed the convention on Friday evening and delivered a most sympathetic speech on the problems of the retarded and the responsibilities of the state with regard to them.

Panels included the topics of "Your State Homes and Training Schools", "Mental Retardation", "The Known and Unknown" and "Training Your Children". They were held at Michigan University which contributed the facilities, and under the inspiring chairmanship of Harold J. McKercher, president of the Michigan State Ass'n.

BROOME COUNTY NEWEST CHAPTER

On Monday, September 8, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the application of a group from Binghamton, Endicott and Johnson Cities to become affiliated with the AHRC as a chapter to be known as the Broome County Chapter.

This latest group had its beginning way back last year when Jerry Weingold addressed a panel of the Welfare Workers' meeting in Buffalo. Present there was Donald MacGregor of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in Binghamton. This contact was renewed by Gus Jacobs when he visited his son in school in that city. A preliminary meeting of the community workers was held in May and on July 23, when Mr. Weingold addressed a meeting of over 200 parents and friends in Binghamton. The vote for affiliation followed several weeks later.

Situated in an important industrial area and with a community keenly aware of the needs of the handicapped our Broome County Chapter opens many possibilities for community participation. (Hope I am not rushing you. Ed.)

Glenn L. Young, of 304 Kent Avenue, Endwell, N. Y. is the chairman of the group. Welcome to the AHRC.

TWO MORE LIFE MEMBERS

Mac Kallor and Marge Williams have become the second and third life members of the AHRC. Life membership is granted to a member who applies for it and pays the sum of \$100.00.

The following excerpt from Marge Williams' letter may be a good tip for those who are wondering where they can get the money for this. She writes: "I have made a terrific discovery; by not buying now, you can realize the greatest savings in history! As a result of having applied this principle, I find myself in possession of a few bucks, which I herewith turn over to the Association."

WALTER ABEL MAKES 45 SECOND FILM FOR AHRC



Walter Abel, our good friend and star of stage, screen and radio, flew from a hectic season on the Strawhat circuit to a blistering day in New York and still hotter cameras.

The occasion was the filming of a 45-second appeal for us financed by Cameo Curtain Company, Bernard Rosenberg, Vice President. This film, first seen on Channel 7 in New York, Sunday, September 14, at 4:45 P. M., will be shown in 43 cities throughout the United States and should be most effective.

Scheduled to date are showings Sunday, September 14, Cameo Curtain Time at 4:45 P. M., WJZ, Channel 7.

Walter making the following impassioned request:

"Hello, this is Walter Abel telling you about a problem that hundreds of thousands of families are facing today. How many of us are aware that 3% of our children are mentally retarded? Yet these mentally limited boys and girls are not given the same kindness and special consideration that we give to **physically** handicapped children. But **we can help** these lonely, rejected, mentally retarded youngsters receive the special training they need. We can lighten the terrible burden their parents now carry by sending some contribution, any amount to the Association for the Help of Retarded Children(or name and address of chapter)."

VOICE OF AMERICA TO BROADCAST AHRC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Taking cognizance of the work of the Association through the recent radio, television and newspaper publicity, the Voice of America has asked for material on our work to prepare broadcasts on this aspect of American life and how we are trying to solve these world wide problems.

We have received requests for information from many countries throughout the world before this and have been instrumental in getting groups formed. We are indeed carrying out the philosophy of this movement, to help retarded children everywhere, if we can.

Second Claire Mann Glamour Fashion Luncheon Planned

Success calls for a repeat performance! The Fashion news, cues and hues will once more be yours for the asking at the Second Claire Mann Glamour Fashion Luncheon, November 12, in the Gold Room of the Savoy-Plaza Hotel, 58th Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City, at 12:30 P. M.

The parade of fashion, showing the most modern of mode, comes to you again through the efforts of AHRC's ambitious twosome, Barbara Weingold and Minna Bober. Via charming Barbara, Claire Mann, the star of radio and TV, will present the Luncheon for the benefit of the Association. Miss Mann will impart her own talents at the Luncheon and Mc the fashion ensemble. There will also be present many celebrated persons who are interested in the cause of mental retardation.

To facilitate a smooth affair, Minna Bober, chairmans this event. Minna learned that not only is fashion the key attraction for women, but most important proved that clothes and lunch go a long way in raising funds for so important a purpose.

Gifts, prizes and treats galore await the luncheon guests. Tickets are now on sale at the subscription rate of \$6.00, and can be obtained from Mrs. Bober at 387 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, telephone GE. 6-6851.

If you remember last year's luncheon you certainly will want an encore. If you had the misfortune of not seeing the style world of 1951—then by all means you can't miss out on November 12th's afternoon of fun and fashion. See you all there.

Fall Issues Of National Magazines To Feature Mentally Retarded Children

Speaking from Philadelphia, Pa., Steven Spencer of the "Saturday Evening Post" staff read to us at AHRC headquarters a draft of an inspiring article titled, "Retarded Children Can Be Helped", scheduled for October 11th publication in the Post.

Beginning with the statement that no problem is greater than the one faced by parents of mentally retarded children, the piece thoroughly explains the story of unmet needs and how parents groups are organizing to solve them.

Pictures were taken in New Jersey and the story of the group in that state is stressed. But in every state, everywhere in the United States, this thorough and scholarly exposition will forward our cause.

Also "Look" magazine photographers and staff writers are still at work telling another aspect of our story; the greater employability and sociability which results from good training and opportunity to work and play with others for the children being helped through AHRC clinics and schools.

Quantity reprints of these articles may be ordered through the New York State Office, AHRC, 31 Madison Avenue, New York 10, New York, as they appear.

BOROUGH EVENTS...

The season opens with many plans for functions by the boroughs in New York City.

Brooklyn once more is planning to hold its fabulous annual card party. All will remember that this is the function at which more than \$2500 has been raised each year. It will be held on November 19, at the Menorah Temple, 5000 14th Avenue, Brooklyn. Members of all the borough are invited (for a price of \$1.00). The chairman is Ed Fliegel, of 1680 E. 22nd Street, Brooklyn, telephone—CL. 8-2005.

Not to be outdone, the Bronx is also holding a card party on November 6, at the Westover Ballroom, 1390 Jerome Avenue. Theresa Snyder, of 1371 Shakespeare Avenue, Bronx, is chairman. Telephone—CYpress 3-4543.

Both chairmen—Brooklyn and the Bronx—ask that all donations of saleable merchandise, raffle prizes, etc. be sent to them. Will be gratefully received, they say.

These are but the beginning and we anticipate that this will be one of the busiest years in the history of the AHRC.

RADIO AND TV INCREASES

During August and September the results of radio and TV appeals were noisily felt at AHRC headquarters which at times reminded callers of "Front Page".

People responded by telephone and in person. The mailman brought us hundreds of inquiries and good wishes from everywhere in the U. S. Thanks, many, many of them are due Walter Abel, Allen Prescott and Bernard Rosenberg of our Westchester Chapter.

Mr. Rosenberg, first president of the Westchester Chapter and vice-president of the Cameo Curtain Company, donated a filmed appeal (see Walter Abel story).

Walter Abel, a parent, is an outstanding personality as well as a sincere and ardent member of AHRC. He made a TV appearance on "Strike It Rich", August 20, in our behalf after which the mailman's bag was heavy indeed.

In the meantime, Allen Prescott (see AHRC LIGHT) has been devoting an average of eight hours a week to making radio and TV appeals for AHRC. He was heard and seen on "Quick on the Draw", August 5.

And when Barry Gray accepted a Public Education Citation from AHRC, Saturday, September 13 on this program, it was Allen who lost his sleep to be on hand at Chandler's Restaurant to bring about not only added recognition for our cause but to cement good relationships with Barry, who is very influential and steadily becoming more so.

On Luncheon at Sardi's", Bill Slater received a Public Education Citation, Monday, September 29. "Strike It Rich" with Warren Hull is to be similarly honored in October.

A special plaque will also be awarded to Bernard Rosenberg and Walter Abel for their great contribution in the making and distributing of the filmed appeal.

Our announcement to the New York City papers that we plan to continue a "School For Mothers" met with gratifying acceptance.

Said the "Herald Tribune" on August 29, 1952 as part of a long column: "A part of the parent-education program of the three-year-old Association for the Help of Retarded Children, the School for Mothers, is said to be the first of its kind in this country. Not only does it feature courses designed to teach the mother to teach her retarded child to care for himself, but it recognizes the existence of emotional problems in families of retarded children and utilizes group therapy techniques."

Statewide Fund Raising Reports Encouraging

Returns from the statewide fund raising campaign are not quite final and complete. But to date with over twenty thousand coin boxes collected and the counting chore almost finished predictions are that all and all, we did well.

Westchester distributed 2,500, Syracuse 800, metropolitan New York, 15,000 coin boxes.

True, cans in some areas seem to average rather low, and in others high.

Why?—is the \$64 question.

The Long Island Chapter which was outstandingly successful can perhaps give the clue.

The following account of what went on, given us by our ever-zealous, Mrs. Joseph Fay of Rockville Center, Long Island, certainly indicates that one reason for success is refusal to be discouraged.

"Well, after many disappointments we set up our coin box campaign headquarters here in Hempstead. Last month you know we were ready to move into an empty store. Then suddenly that store got rented. "Finally, we contacted a Mr. Kennedy, manager of King Kullen markets in Jamaica. He gave us permission to use a store formerly occupied by King Kullen.

"So—we prepared to move in. However, through a mix-up there was a rummage sale going on. Files had to be brought home again. Chairs sent back. Finally, a compromise was reached. AHRC would use the store. At the same time as another organization's rummage sale.

"One of our members rushed her young daughter, aged four, from home over to headquarters the other day. But alas, the young lady had failed to put on her panties. Our AHRC mother, then just walked across the room to where the rummage sale was. She bought her daughter a lovely pair of pink panties. Price, 10c.

People now know of AHRC in Hempstead. The Long Island Chapter is distributing their second thousand cans."

Also to be congratulated is Mrs. Anne Gitter, Chairman of the Wishing Well project at the New York Port of Authority Bus Terminal for her success in recruiting volunteers who collected over a \$1,000.

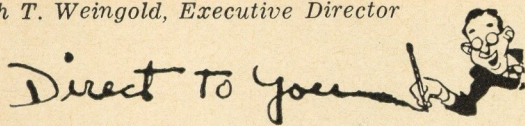
INTERESTED IN CRMD CLASSES IN QUEENS?

If you live in Forest Hills, Rego Park or Kew Gardens and are interested in a special class in the public schools, please call MAC KALLOR at ILlinois 9-9408 in the evening, or write to the office.

ERIE-NIAGARA'S UNIQUE FUND RAISING IDEA

The parents of Erie-Niagara Chapter have put what started out to be a hobby to very good fund-raising use.

Several of the parents have been engaged in making ceramics in their spare time and as a hobby. When several of them made ceramic banks of different designs, they decided to use them in a street solicitation drive for funds. The attractively colored banks arouse interest, and will, they hope, make the drive successful. The parents, furthermore, have a greater motive to make the banks as a contribution to the cause of retarded children.



A question that is frequently asked and must definitely be answered is: What is the use of doing anything for mentally retarded children of a lower grade? Isn't this a waste of effort and money?

It is surprising how often this question is asked, even by professionals in the field of social service and sociology, who should know better. Such a question presupposes that a child is a unit all by itself in the world and fails to understand that no person lives alone. A child is a member of a family, with a father and mother and perhaps sisters and brothers, and what happens to the child happens to the total family and vice versa. So what is done for a mentally retarded child cannot be considered in terms of return for the child alone, but must be thought of in the larger setting of the family, the community, and the country as a whole. In this respect it becomes very evident that the question of mental retardation presents the greatest single mental health problem in the nation, affecting the most people by far.

When we speak of retarded children, we must understand about whom we are talking. There are at least three types of such children. The lowest is of course a custodial case that presents a problem of care for the child for the rest of its life. No one says that this child can be integrated into the community. For such a child an institution is probably the only answer. What we say in this respect is that the institution should be made acceptable to parents and that the feelings of guilt which everybody has to have in such a situation should be mitigated by the fact that an institution is an attractive place rather than one that repels.

The second type of child, or rather the higher type of child is a child who is so-called "educable". For this child facilities can be set up in public schools and are set up in many communities. Most of these children, with proper training, can become totally or partially self-supporting members of a community. Much can and must be done for them, but some recognition of this group as a community and state problem exists. We must press for more and better facilities at all turns.

The child that presents the greatest problem, perhaps, is the middle grade child. About him the question is most frequently asked, "What is the good of helping this child? Couldn't this money be used to better advantage elsewhere?" Now at the upper level of this group, and we have seen it, many can become partially self-sustaining members of the community; others we believe with training can become members of the communities by working in sheltered workshops. But even if this were not true, most of these children can be **trained**, trained to become members of a family unit. self-sustaining members, if you will. They can be taught how to eat, how to dress, how to talk, how to go out into the community to get their own needs attended to, etc., so that they are not a custodial burden on anyone and the parents are helped, therefore, to keep them in the community, saving the state millions of dollars that it would otherwise have to spend on institutionalization. Even more important, by helping them the whole mental health climate of the family is improved so that many members of this unit can become good contributing members of society instead of being burdened with the emo-

DONOR DOINGS...

Fall sees the increased activities of all our Donor groups. Volunteers come back to the clinics, fund raising projects are planned and the retarded child once more is the focus of attention and action.

The Theodora League scheduled a theater party for the evening of November 1. The attraction is Margaret Sullivan in "Deep Blue Sea."

The Sarah Starkman League for Children elected a new slate of officers. We wish them the best of luck under the leadership of their new president, Saul Spencer Bloom. They conducted a very successful luncheon this past summer. One of the most ardent workers of this group is an AHRC member, Gert Davis. The League is running a rummage sale in March. Any rummage will be gratefully accepted.

Berdie Hass, the busy secretary of the **Gertrude Voss Children's Fund**, also plans a rummage sale in November. Mrs. S. Voss, of 115 Gilbert Place, Bronx, will accept all contributions. On December 7 the Donor Dinner is taking place at the Empire Hotel at 64th Street and Broadway and in the latter part of December a Bazaar. All new merchandise to be sent to Mrs. J. Schuffman, 1001 Jerome Avenue, Bronx. (Please, please Berdie, leave something for the others. Ed.)

Annette Levy, of the **Lena Invalid Aid Society**, writes they are holding their Dinner Dance this year at the Hotel Pierre Roof, on Saturday, Nov. 1. All are invited (not gratis, of course).

Too busy with the summer hangover are **Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund, Joshua Orphan Aid, 100 League, Cunningham Women's League, Ruth Kirzon League, Esther Baila** and the others from whom we always want to get news about their plans and doings. We know they have taken our children to their hearts and what they do is of vital interest to all our parents and friends. Please send us the news.

tional problems which otherwise would beset them and impair their living and earning capacity.

To say that money spent on these children is not well spent and that the money should be spent on those who can gain more, leads us down a blind road which will make us prisoners in the end to a Hitlerian philosophy. Let us see the implications of this statement. Where are we going to draw the line? If it is said that money should be spent for those who can gain the most, then of course, we should do nothing for the handicapped because normal children can gain the most for the money spent. Even more, we should do nothing for the normal because the brilliant can gain the most if given expert training and perhaps could contribute most to society. If carried to its logical conclusion we may be led into that bog of immortality—doing away with the disabled.

In a progressive educational psychology and in a Christian society this, of course, is unthinkable. We must judge, our civilization not by how much we do for those who can get the most, but for how much we do for those who need the most.

Chapter News

ERIE-NIAGARA

The Board of Advisors of the Chapter is expanding rapidly. The following have joined as Advisors: Mrs. Ellen Thiel, Supervisor of Teachers Training and Coordinator of the Cooperative Pre-Schools Center, Cerebral Palsy Association of Western New York; Anne Hogan of Niagara Falls; Sister M. Benedict, long associated with our problem as a teacher; Dr. Kalinowski and John Avery.

This summer a school was run for the children for nine weeks. The teachers were junior year college students specializing in teaching handicapped children and the supervisor was head of the College Department.

They are now planning to buy a building as a center for the school and other activities. Contracts will be signed soon, the State Board of Directors having approved. Funds will be raised by letters, ceramic banks (see story), social functions, etc. Go to it, Erie-Niagara.

ONONDAGA

Not to be outdone by Erie-Niagara, Onondaga Chapter, too, is in the process of negotiating for the purchase of a building. This may be underwritten by public-spirited citizens of Syracuse. The building will house the newly organized classes.

The coin can collection has gone very well, indeed, and the last report is that over \$2,000 has been counted. Volunteers have also solicited funds with the cans on the streets of Syracuse, with very gratifying results monetarily and publicity-wise.

WESTCHESTER

Continues its struggles for the existence of the school in Pelham Manor. Closed by order of the court, it was reopened by a temporary stay of the Appellate Division. Argument on a permanent stay will be held September 26.

A committee has been appointed for the establishment of a clinic for the mentally retarded and this project is being studied under the chairmanship of Leonard Peyser.

George Tiplady, a parent, has been engaged as Public Relations representative by Westchester. He will also direct fund raising. George brings to his work years of experience with major radio networks.

They report that the Teen-Age Social Groups in Peekskill and Mt. Vernon concluded their first season with much success and will start again this fall.

A number of camp scholarships were given through the cooperation of the Police Fresh Air Fund of the Police Anchor Club No. 22 of the Knights of Columbus. The grant was for about \$1,000.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Plans a clinic in Monticello. There is many a slip, etc., but two doctors from the staff of the Monticello Hospital have volunteered to study the set up at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital for the purpose of setting up one in

Monticello. They also plan to hold a one-day clinic, similar to the one held last winter in Monticello with personnel led by Dr. Halkin and Dr. Michal-Smith of the Flower Clinic.

The coin drive is still going on and we are eagerly awaiting reports.

Chapter activities are numerous and varied, with a splendid public relations job being done personally. It is an example of what can be done to coordinate a rural community (no slurs on Liberty or Monticello intended).

CAPITOL DISTRICT

Has participated in the can campaign and hopes that the money raised will help greatly in their new project: a school for the children. Taking in so much territory, this is a terrific organizational job they are doing. Community acceptance is becoming greater and greater. It is a reality at P. S. 18.

Being right there in Albany, the seat of the state government, the parents are most active in influencing officials and spreading the word about what we are doing.

Their Advisory Board is started with an impressive list of persons: Rev. Clayton G. VanDeusen, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Albany; Rev. Joseph P. Varden, Asst. Editor, The Evangelist, Albany Diocese Catholic Newspaper; Dr. Lenore Sportsman, Director, Albany Child Guidance Center; Mrs. Harold Segal, attorney, legal counsel, and Forrest Willis, Station WTRY publicity and public relations.

LONG ISLAND

Again ran a day camp this past summer, this time at the Woodfield Avenue School in Malverne. The classes at Kennedy Memorial Park in Hempstead opened again.

There are several interesting developments in Long Island to which other chapters should pay attention. For example, the AHRC classes in Hempstead receive tuition from the Woodmere-Hewlett school district since they have no special class. Several other school districts pay for transportation. Another important activity has been the stimulating of school districts to set up special classes. Among these are Bayville and Garden City. The Chapter has been most fortunate to have the help of our friend and state advisor, Chris DeProspero, in this work. At present there are some 40 special classes in Nassau and we feel that the AHRC had more than a little to do with this expansion.

The Chapter plans facilities for the older children, starting with a Saturday group.

SCHENECTADY

We had written WELCOME to Schenectady as the latest of the AHRC chapters, but that is no longer true (see article on Broome County). They have adopted a charter and plans are proceeding for the formation of a school. How about a newsletter, Schenectady?

National Convention In California

Delegates Meet October 9, 10, 11

The annual convention of the National Association for Retarded Children will be held this year in Los Angeles at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Delegates from all over the country are expected to attend representing the more than 10,000 members of the NARC.

A most interesting program, including such speakers as Dr. Clarence E. Benda, author of "Mongolism and Cretinism", and Dr. E. Kost Sheldon, of Los Angeles, is planned.

This convention will be one of the most important in the history of the parent movement involving important organizational decisions. The AHRC plans to send at least two delegates and many more will attend at their own expense.

IN THE AHRC LIGHT



ALLEN PRESCOTT
Ace AHRC "Trouper"

Geographically speaking, Allen Prescott is from Missouri. But when it came to helping us in AHRC this summer and early fall he was far from hard to convince. Because in his family there is a mentally retarded child.

Come rain or come shine, come bursitis or opportunities to escape those steaming TV studios by going to his place on Fire Island, Allen dauntlessly sticks to his plan, to help the AHRC all he possibly can during the weeks before he resumes his own daily TV program on DuMont.

So whatever the hour, the day or the program in the grand tradition of "The Trouper", Allen is on the spot to make a plea for AHRC whenever a show offers the opportunity.

Starting with an appearance on "Quick on the Draw", August 5, he continued to "Luncheon at Sardi's", August 13, "Strike it Rich" on August 22, to "Quick on the Draw" again on August 27th and to "Barry Gray" making his appearance at 2:30 A. M. With hundreds of letters pouring in to AHRC, he also appeared on George Hamilton Combs, WJZ; "The Strawhatter", DuMont; "The Merry Mailman", September 8th, WOR, then doubled back on the night of September 13th to present Barry Gray, WMCA, with our Public Education Citation. Other appearance dates are still being set up. Allen plans to go right on helping to publicize our cause even after his schedule calls for a daily program of his own on Channel 5.

How lucky for us that Allen left Missouri and started our way some twenty years ago when he was thirteen. He came by way of Hollywood where as a child actor he played with glamour girls like Gloria Swanson, Lillian Gish and Mabel Normand.

The studios were very unashamedly naughties in those days, Allen relates. Gloria used to invite him to lunch to make sure he didn't succumb to temptations.

He didn't. He's a hard-working, level-headed, compassionate member of a profession that allows only the strongest timber to stand.

For many, many years his program, "The Wife Saver", has been a radio perennial. Long may it wave, say we.

God speed you, Allen, on your valiant trouper's way. We in AHRC will be listening and watching, pulling for you whenever and wherever you appear.



CHARLOTTE MANDEL, president of the Joshua Orphan Aid Society, presents the deed to 2438 DeVoe Terrace to our executive director, on August 18, at the closing for the purchase of the property.

AHRC Classes Re-open

New Building in Use in Bronx

On September 8 the AHRC classes opened for the term and the children enrolled, many of them going to school for the first time, beginning the fall season like their normal brothers and sisters.

The work of remodeling the Bronx school at 2438 DeVoe Terrace was rushed to make a few classrooms ready for that date. Much remains to be done and formal opening of this building, purchased by Joshua Orphan Aid for the AHRC, will not take place until some time in October.

The busses drew up and the children came out with the usual amount of crying, unwillingness, wonder and trepidation on the part of the parents who could not stay home away from their little darlings. Rounded up by the teachers, they were shepherded into the buildings, the doors closed and the rest was silence—we would like to say.

Brooklyn space was obtained in the Brownsville Housing Project Community Center at 320 Blake Avenue.

Our roster now consists of 60 children and a waiting list is building up. We must remember that these pilot or demonstration projects and that we must do all we can as an Association to have these classes financed by the state a part of the public schools. If your child has not been admitted, remember that we are all working to get him into school, too.

Letters From the People...

Batavia, New York

Dear Mr. Weingold:

This is a letter to the people; to the people of a democracy; to free people; to the people of Genesee County. This is a letter from the heart and not one of the mind. This is a letter of feelings and not one of facts. This is a letter about education and the minorities.

In our public schools of today we have two groups of children. They are the majority and the minority. These two groups are not based on and have no connection with race, creed or color. They are divided solely by mental ability. The group I am concerned with are those we call retarded children.

To me a retarded child is one who cannot keep pace with the average due to their diminished mental capacities. These are the children whom we must be concerned about. Is there no place in our communities for the simple abilities of these children if they were properly educated? I say there is, and it is criminal negligence to continue on with our present system of education and allow these children to fall by the wayside. These children are entitled to and by all justification should receive the same opportunities as the majority. This is what we have fought and died for; equal opportunities for all.

It is the time for the parents of these children to band together and demand adequate educational facilities for their children to prepare them as future citizens of their communities, self-supporting and contributing and not as future tenants of our over-crowded mental and penal institutes.

LOREN BECKWITH.

Bronx, New York

Dear Mr. Weingold:

Thank you for your letter of August 4 informing me of the name and address of the Sarah Starkman League and I have sent them a letter of thanks for the great good they did for my son, Donald, and our entire family sending my child to camp for three wonderful weeks.

I wish to thank you and the AHRC for making this possible.

He came back a much better adjusted person, quieter, happier, brown as a berry and over-flowing with talk of the songs, the swimming, and he has really learned to swim well, the delicious food, the exercises, the counselors and the recreation.

At home my other five children missed him and started to think and speak more kindly of him and for the first time in many months my husband and I were also able to relax that nervous tension knowing he was being well cared for and happy.

This that you have accomplished cannot be measured, it is so far reaching and tremendous and I shall always be,

Gratefully yours,

GLORIA BERNSTEIN.

P. S. 69, Queens

Jackson Heights, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

We are sending you a check for five dollars and fifty cents. Our class had a white elephant sale and then voted to send the money to you to be used for other children.

Very truly yours,

SUSAN SILVERMAN,

Teacher of Class 3-2

MRS. ANNA M. BAKER.

MEET OUR CHILDREN....

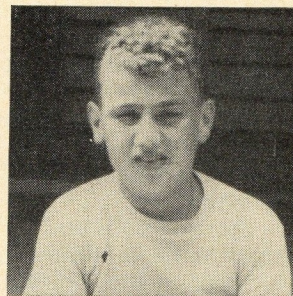
Stop a moment! We know your eyes will immediately fix upon the two sparkling youngsters below—but be patient a moment and read on. The OCV staff wants to use a bit of space to extend a word of apology to our readers for waiting this long to show off the kids. After our first MEET THE CHILDREN column we learned parents needed no persuasion to send in pictures of their children. So—once more we invite you to MEET THE CHILDREN.



With ladies first comes cute and pudgy Barbara Orawiec, seven-year-old from the hills of Brooklyn, New York. Barbara's mom, after seeing the picture of Jimmy Stevens in OCV, proudly sent this snap to us with a small request, "I saw a picture of a retarded child and would like very much to have my Barbara's picture in too."

Barbara is now at the Wharton Memorial Institute in Port Jefferson, New York. Mrs. Orawiec tells us this picture was taken August 10th and added, "My daughter is happy and I'm contented." A nice thought for both Barbara and her mom.

The second introduction to be made is 13½-year-old Irwin Rubin, another representative from the Dodgers' home — Brooklyn, New York. It wasn't hard to agree with his mother that "he is happy and always with a smile." Mrs. Rubin sent in two photos of Irwin showing him with a glowing



grin from ear to ear—and we are sorry lack of space did not allow us to show you the other. Mrs. Rubin's letter did not tell us more about Irwin's funs and fancies, but we are all certain of one thing—the happy smiling face of this youngster can only reflect the surroundings of a bright and pleasant family and home. Thanks, Mrs. Rubin for letting everyone see Irwin. We know you find joy in your boy.

WON'T YOU LET US KNOW YOUR FAMILY TOO?
SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND LETTERS
TO THE OCV.

WORK OF AHRC ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP DISPLAYED

The work of the teen-agers in the Arts and Crafts group in Brooklyn was displayed at the Mineola Fair, September 9 to 13. Another display is planned for the public library in the Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn from October 10 to 17.

In connection with this display there will be newspaper and radio publicity bringing the work of our children to the public and continuing our strong efforts at public education.

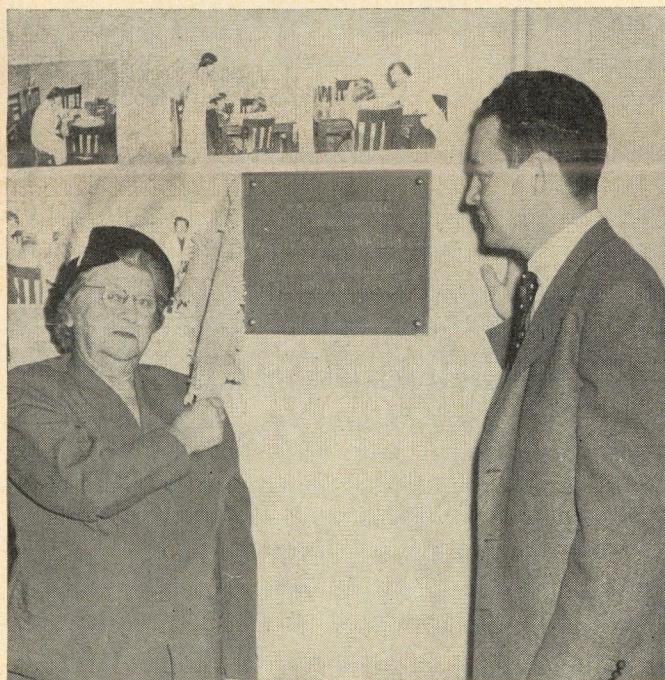
There is a group of teen-agers meeting on Saturday mornings part of the Social Groups program.

THEODORA LEAGUE CONTINUES GRANT TO CLINIC

Helen Meyerson, dynamic friend of the AHRC, who has been called back to serve as president of the Theodora League, announced that the League will continue the clinic at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital at the beginning of 1950.

Since that day, this pioneer venture has seen hundreds of children and pointed up the need for many more clinics. It is serving as the inspiration for planning all over the country for facilities of this kind. Welcome back, Helen!

MRS. LILLIAN SEGALL AND DR. SLOBODY



MRS. LILLIAN SEGALL, president of the Lena Invalid Aid Society, sponsor of the speech clinic at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital, standing at the plaque with Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics and the Clinic.

AHRC CLINIC NEWS

The Clinic at Flower-Fifth Avenue sent in statistics to this office which point up the enormous demand for services of this kind for mentally retarded children. In the period from July 1951 to June 30, 1952, there were 271 admissions, 1,243 revisits, making a total of 1,514. The speech clinic in the same period admitted 158, had 644 revisits for a total of 802. The psychology clinic from January 1952 to June 30, 1952 admitted 455 children, had 87 revisits for a total of 542. This does not include play therapy group visits, Children's Center of Pediatric Ward referrals. The waiting list is still almost two years. **No comment.**

The Morris J. Solomon Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Retarded Children at the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn is implementing the plan previously reported for teams of workers to go into the community to work with parent groups on the waiting list, to give whatever counseling help possible pending admission of the child into the clinic.

It is hoped that more grants can be obtained to increase the facilities we now have and open new ones.

AHRC PROFILE . . .

ALEXANDER C. RUSSOTTO President



One of the few native New Yorkers in existence, he was born, bred and is a life-long resident of the City of New York.

Educated in the city public schools from the age of eight. (An ill-timed trip to Europe with his mother in April, 1914, resulted in their being kept there until November 1915. Even then he rushed in where angels fear to tread, preparing himself for the presidency of the AHRC.) Attended Townsend Harris High School, City College of the City of New York and Brooklyn Law School. Admitted to the New York State Bar in March, 1931. Member of the firm of Butler and Silverman.

Has engaged in the practice of the law since then, except for a hiatus during World War II when he served (in a civilian capacity) in the Contract Section of the United States Army Air Forces, negotiating and renegotiating contracts with aircraft and parts manufacturers all through the Eastern part of the United States.

Joined the AHRC very soon after its formation and quietly engaged in Manhattan activities, becoming a leader through his calmness, understanding and grasp of our organization problems. Was elected President of the AHRC in October, 1951 by an overwhelming write-in vote and immediately demonstrated his qualities and caliber by knitting the organization into a unified whole, by his attentiveness to all, his fine stage presence, his speaking ability and his democratic procedures. Under him our public education program has expanded many times over, and the mail to the office now runs to hundreds of letters a week. Aware that our strength lies in numbers and unity, he championed the expansion of chapters throughout the State with many additions this past year. He inspired all committees to the fine work done and we stand on the threshold of even more and better things to come. The granting of the \$25,000 for a study of mental retardation to be done in this state is a monument to his leadership and ability.

He is the son of Henry A. Russotto, composer of Hebrew liturgical music, and Louisa Russotto who was, in her youth, an opera singer. Musical heritage has left him with the love of music as a hobby.

Married to Jeanne A. Russotto, nee Rosenfeld, and has two children, Gail, 14½, about to enter the third term of the Country School of Julia Richman High School and Isabel, six and one-half, who has just entered a vestibule class of the CRMD.

Renominated for President this year.

Plans For State Office Aid To Chapter Publicity Chairmen

Mrs. Gladys P. Thomas, AHRC Public Relations Advisor announces two aids to AHRC Chapter Publicity Chairmen.

The first of these is an AHRC Speaker's Manual to aid in the preparation of talks, forums, panel, discussions, etc.

As was the case with similar manuals prepared by Mrs. Thomas for such organizations as the U.S.O. and the American Cancer Society, the material is organized with the idea clearly in mind, that every occasion, every town, every speaker constitutes a special and different problem.

No speech written in New York could presume to be the right one or anywhere near as good as a member can deliver from his heart, in his own words, in terms of the places and the people he and his listeners understand and have in common. The Speaker's Manual is therefore meant to offer guidance, suggestions, ideas, to anticipate to some degree questions that might be asked and to indicate what can be said in reply.

Contents include commonly asked questions about the Association and the problem of mental retardation and three outlined suggested speeches of varying lengths about some of the most pertinent aspects of AHRC, our aims and the unmet needs of mentally retarded children.

A radio and TV kit in preparation will contain a suggested 15-minute discussion between a professional worker and a parent, plus sample 20 second, 30 second and full minute fund raising appeals as well as a fifteen minute dramatic sequence for adaptation to radio, TV or on stage presentation.

Suggested materials to acquaint physicians of the community with AHRC, prepared news releases, fund raising letters or additional radio and TV ideas will be supplied according to needs expressed by publicity chairmen throughout the state.

And all suggestions for publicity and fund raising aids which the state office might supply to the Chapters are earnestly solicited.

AHRC Contributes To National Association

Directors Vote Additional Funds

In order to help the NARC to build up its treasury to the point where it can have a central office and staff, the Board of Directors of the AHRC voted to contribute \$500 in addition to the regular dues from New York City.

Some of the chapters of the Association voted to contribute as much as \$1.00 per member.

"A strong national Association is vital for the complete success of our program of public education," said President Russotto. "In order to achieve such a strong organization we must have a central point from which to work, and staff under an executive director who will do it. As one of our chapters has so well put it: 'we need warm, warm cash'. Every parent should realize that the NARC is an indispensable link in the chain we are forging."

TO OUR NON-MEMBER READERS:

To help us defray the 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 (\$1.00). (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.)

A. H. R. C., Inc.

31 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Sec. 34.65 (e) P.L.&R.
U. S. POSTAGE

Paid

New York, N. Y.
Permit No. 12411

Etta J. Pines
330 5th Ave.
N. Y. C.



NOT AT ADDRESS GIVEN
NEW YORK-NEW YORK