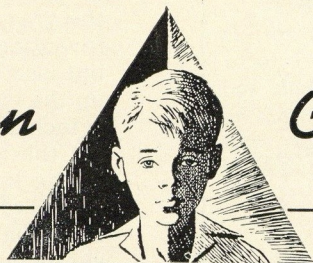


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children



Can Be Helped!

VOL. IV. — ISSUE NO. 4

DECEMBER, 1952

Alexander Russotto Re-elected President of AHRC

One New Vice-President and Nine New Directors Chosen in Annual Election

During the evening meeting of AHRC on October 29, at the Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, Lou Yonofsky, Chairman of the Election Committee announced an election victory which unlike the results of the national count a few days later surprised no one and pleased us all. Alexander Russotto, who has led us so outstanding during the past year, was all but unanimously re-elected president.

Newly-elected officers and members of the Board are Evald Gasstrom, President of the Westchester AHRC as 2nd Vice President; Ruth Bennett, President of the Sullivan Chapter; Frank C. McCarthy, President of Onondaga; William Weaver of Westchester; Robert Seaman of Long Island; Sidney Leviton, Burton Loewer, Edward Weyer, Sol Stich and Helen James of New York City, all to the Board of Directors.

Incumbent officers re-elected were: Bernard Fineson, 1st Vice President; Rose Nussbaum, 3rd Vice President; Joseph Kuhn, 4th Vice President; Sylvia Schachter, Financial Secretary; Margaret Riva, Recording Secretary; Irving Shiller, Treasurer, and Ann Greenberg, Correspondent Secretary.

The following were elected to the Board for a two-year term: Julian Banner, Woodhull Hay, Maxwell Herman, Gus Jacobs, Maxwell Kallor, Frederick Kleinberg and Evelyn Shulman; for a one-year term: Jack Jason. Board members not up for re-election are: Minna Bober, Ed Fliegel, George Hirsch, Sol Hulnick, Irving Krakoff, Rebecca Noble and Alice Pearlstein.

October 29th was also our Annual Business Meeting. It included a statement of the great need for membership in AHRC (incidentally, that would mean more subscriptions to OCV, "a consummation", as Shakespeare and this editor puts it, "devoutly to be wished for").

Volunteers for committees were recruited, and of course we need more of each committee and people to serve on them. Reports on our various projects were given from the financial, legal and human values points view. Future plans were outlined emphasizing the development of a CRMD committee, a play group for CRMD children in the Bronx school, general expansion of our services and hopes for a telethon program of fund raising.

In fact this report presented by President-elect Russotto, revealed a picture of gratifying progress all down the line plus of course indications of areas where we have not moved as fast nor gone as far as we must in the year to come.

AHRC Holds State Convention In Buffalo

Outlines Legislative Program for 1953

Representatives of nine AHRC Chapters met on October 4 and 5 at the Hotel Statler in Buffalo to discuss state and national policies. More than 30 delegates were present. The State Board was represented by President Russotto, Bernard Fineson, Gus Jacobs and Mac Kallor.

Reports indicated that the project receiving first priority in almost all the chapters is schooling for those children who are not acceptable under the present state education law in special classes or for children in districts where special classes have not yet been set up. Our Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, pointed out that this is but one phase of the AHRC program which has been designed to meet the problems of all retarded children. It is extremely important, therefore, to widen the scope of operations to include the younger children and, perhaps more important, the teen agers and the young adults in socialization and workshop projects.

A highlight of the convention was the discussion and decisions reached on legislation. It was felt that the focus should be the amendment of the education, mental hygiene laws and the regulations of the Department of Education to provide maximum public services to the mentally retarded. The Legal and Legislative Committee was instructed to examine these laws and draft legislation for the education of the retarded children for whom there are now no provisions in the community. Chapters pledged support of their local state representatives for such a program.

Resolutions adopted by the Convention included the following:

That the State Association submit a questionnaire on Chapter policies, procedures and projects to each chapter, which shall be promptly completed by each chapter, and that the results of the questionnaire be analyzed and the results submitted in summary form to each chapter.

That the Chapters discuss the matter of individual Chapter vs. State Association membership in the NARC and be prepared to submit recommendations at the next State Convention.

That the AHRC and its chapters propose that a home office of the NARC be established either in New York, N. Y. or in Los Angeles (Hollywood), California.

That the AHRC and its Chapters propose that the NARC be incorporated as soon as possible in any state recommended by its Legal Committee.

That the AHRC and its chapters promote changes in the regulations of the Department of Education and the Department of Mental Hygiene which will provide the maximum public services to retarded children.

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.

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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

Message From the President

It is my pleasure to speak to you once more through the columns of "OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE" and to express my own thanks and those of my fellow Board members for having selected us to guide the destinies of AHRC for the coming year. The Board will make every effort in the future, as it has in the past, to carry the cause of our children along whatever avenue of development that is or will become open to us.

In our existing projects we have given direct services to our children and to our parents, our philosophy being that the need of both groups for help, guidance and advice is equally great. The soundness of our planning has been dramatically demonstrated in some of our clinic cases, in the response of some of our school enrollees to the classroom situation, and in the increased employability of some of our older children.

Foremost in our minds, however, must remain the thought that all our projects must remain on a pilot basis, whether on the present or even on an expanded level of direct services. It would be impossible, even if our funds were much greater than they are, for us to build a plant which would give all the needed services to all the children who need them. A sad consequence of this situation is that some of our children who are eligible for existing services cannot get them because of the existing limitations of money and facilities.

Only by all of us working together to raise funds and urge legislation will we be able to expand the program against the time when the community and the authorities take up our projects as their own. On that happy day, facilities will exist for all children and that means, for everyone of you, that **your child** will be served.

We must dedicate ourselves to a determination to make every tomorrow rich with the realization of the promise of today!

VISITORS FROM ABROAD AT AHRC OFFICES

Recent visitors from abroad at the AHRC offices included Eeli E. Autti, head of the State School for Mentally Retarded Children in Hameelinna, Finland; Dr. P. C. S. Unwin, Christchurch, New Zealand, who is planning to set up programs for the mentally retarded in that country, and Mrs. C. Cordova of Mayamon, Puerto Rico, representing a parent group.

The problems are apparently the same everywhere and certainly we can learn from each other. All our conversations lead to the important fact that there should be a central clearing house for all that is being done.

The Stream of History

(Editorial)

The stream of history carries in its flow not only the great events of the world, the fates of nations, wars, inventions that revolutionize industries, atomic energy, but also the smaller things of the world that go to make up the continuing process of growing and living. In this is included what man does to man; what concern we have for the aged and the infirm; our regard for the dignity of the individual; our respect for differences; our recognition of man, all men, as creatures of God; our determination that each shall have opportunities commensurate with his abilities.

These are the small things, the things of everyday living that, in the last analysis, perhaps, determine the course of the great events and the flow of the stream of history. By our actions we either become part of the stream or we stand on the banks, contributing little and letting it flow by us.

One of these small things is the concern the world has felt for the "innocents", the mentally retarded. The stream has been broadened and cleared by much of what has been done until now. We, in New York State, have been abreast and even ahead of the rest of the country until now. Over 17,000 children are in the special classes in this State. It is the largest program in the world.

But if we rest in self-congratulating contemplation of our accomplishments, we shall only join those standing by on the banks. The flow of history will pass us by. Already this is taking place. The Empire State no longer leads in this work for the mentally retarded. We, the pioneers of the early part of the century, are becoming bogged down in our past. There are new pioneers. California, Wisconsin, Ohio and others are broadening their concepts of "education." The fetish of the 50 to 75 I.Q. is being discarded. Laws have been passed recognizing the more severely retarded as members of the community as a matter of right; as having differences to be respected, capabilities to be developed in the community.

This is the stream of history passing by the State of New York. It is not too late to contribute to it. Our education laws must be changed in tune with a more sensitive social consciousness. Our concepts of "education" must be changed to include these children, too, as our public concern in the community where parents have the right to keep them if they so desire.

The Association is proposing legislation to broaden the whole base of special public education for the mentally retarded. We urge all and the legislature to support this, pass it. New York must keep abreast of the stream of history and not become a passive bystander.

Dorothy Cleverdon Appointed Consultant to AHRC Schools

Miss Dorothy Cleverdon of the Play School Association has been appointed play consultant to the Joshua School and the Brooklyn School conducted by the AHRC.

The theory behind Miss Cleverdon's approach is that children of this type need materials and toys of a particularly realistic kind. Also, because of the physical disabilities and in some cases a mental development which causes the child to be physically too large for the type of toy he would most enjoy, it is believed that toys should be worked out which would fit the special needs of these children.

A recent graduate of Columbia University, a former nursery school teacher and instructor of teachers, Miss Cleverdon will work with the teachers.

DID YOU EARN YOUR DINNER TICKETS?

FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER OF AHRC

Committee Announce Plans

The Fourth Annual Dinner of the AHRC will be held Saturday, May 16, 1953, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Astor, announced the Dinner Chairman, Sol Hulnick.

First prize this year is a trip to Nassau for two. Splendid entertainment will be provided and a gala evening is planned to climax the season's efforts.

"Once more we are reaching high, a goal of \$100,000," stated Mr. Hulnick. "Prize books and Journal ad blanks have already been mailed and we are counting on everyone to do his share. If everyone will redouble his efforts the AHRC plans for the children will come nearer than ever before to realization. We want all of our plans to be a reality for them." More news later.

PRIZE BOOKS AND JOURNAL AD BLANKS FOR ANNUAL DINNER

Each of you has received two prize books and several Journal Ad Blanks. You can help by selling the books and obtaining ads for the Souvenir Journal. Here is how you can come to the dinner.

1. By purchasing a ticket (\$15.00 each).
2. By selling two prize books (you get one free ticket to the dinner).
3. By obtaining \$50.00 worth of ads for the Souvenir Journal (you get one free ticket to the dinner).

Earn a **FREE TICKET** and make the dinner a success.

Flower-Fifth Clinic Staff Report Progress at Meeting

After three years of operation under the auspices of the AHRC, Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of the Flower-Fifth Avenue Clinic, made a progress report to the parents assembled at the Central Needles Trade High School, Thursday, December 4.

Participants in the panel discussion of the work of this clinic, one of the two devoted to the needs of the mentally retarded in New York City were Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics; Dr. Margaret Giannini, pediatrician; Dr. Stella Chess, chief psychiatrist; Herbert Green, orthopedic consultant; H. Michal-Smith, chief clinical psychologist; Miss Doris Trepel, Director of Speech clinic, all of Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital, and Elkin Snyder, liaison with the Board of Education.

Dr. Slobody stated that during the last three years the clinic has serviced over 1500 children and their parents. By offering the children in New York City diagnostic facilities and a clinic specially devoted to the mentally retarded, it has been possible for parents of these children to discover what the extent of the youngster's true ability is and to be able to make a realistic plan for training the child in terms of this ability.

Hospitals all over the country have written to Flower-Fifth Avenue inquiring how to set up clinics similar to those in New York. To meet these many questions and as an inspiration to the rest of the country, the staff of Flower-Fifth Avenue Clinic has in preparation a Clinic Manual, which it is expected will make history for retarded children throughout the country and perhaps the world.

There was a most stimulating question and answer period following the panel presentation.

National Convention Highlights Growth of Movement

The Third Annual Convention of the National Association for Retarded Children, held in Los Angeles Oct. 9, 10 and 11, revealed that the membership of the NARC has more than doubled in the past year, now consisting of 118 unit members from 27 states. More than 900 persons registered in the three days and over 400 attended the final banquet. Alex Russotto, Anne Greenberg, Woodhull Hay and Jerry Weingold represented the AHRC.

In the three days packed full of activity the work of the various committees was reported and important decisions for the future of the NARC and its work were reached. Dorothy Moss of Cincinnati reported the completion of the first phase of an educational research project conducted jointly by the NARC and the University of Illinois, a survey of 107 training programs for children labeled "uneducable", usually because their I.Q. is below 50, in 315 classes enrolling over 4,000 children in public, private and parent group projects throughout the country.

Mrs. Sidney Davidson of New Haven, newly-appointed Chairman of the Research Committee, presented a plan for the establishment of a Scientific Research Advisory Board to promote research into the causes, prevention and treatment of mental retardation. This Board is to consist of 25 scientists from all over the country under the Chairmanship of Dr. Grover Powers, professor emeritus of Pediatrics at Yale University Medical School. This is the first step towards unifying and stimulating research on a national basis.

The reports of Legal, Organization and Standards, Membership and others showed a prodigious amount of work done under the great difficulty of the lack of a central office. The fund to establish this office has not yet been completed. To do this the week of February 1, 1953 has been set aside as NARC Projects Week and every local will be urged to engage in a fund raising event proceeds to go to the NARC for this purpose.

The last day of the Convention saw the unanimous election of our own Bill Hay as President (his sudden death is reported elsewhere in OCV). On assuming the presidency, he expressed the philosophy that the welfare of the retarded child is tied in with the welfare of our whole society.

Chicago was chosen as the site for the next convention in October, 1953.

WISCONSIN PARENT GROUP RECEIVES 1951 LANE BRYANT AWARD

The Wisconsin Association for the Help of the Mentally Retarded Children, a parents group, was the recipient of the 1951 Lane Bryant Award "for outstanding service to the community" presented at the Fourth Annual Award Luncheon, November 17, at the Hotel Plaza, New York.

Mrs. William F. King, corresponding secretary and past president of the Association, whose state office is in Milwaukee, accepted the \$1,000 check in behalf of the group. Mrs. Jane Patterson, Director of the New York City AHRC Schools, represented the Association at the luncheon.

The organization was cited for their successful three-fold attack upon the problem in their state—special education provisions, parent guidance projects and participation in national groups for the mentally retarded. Congratulations!

DON'T FORGET THE CHILDREN

Woodhull Hay Dies in Car Crash

Elizabeth Ludeman, Chicago, also Killed In Accident

The AHRC and parents groups throughout the country were shocked by the sudden death of Bill Hay, newly elected president of the NARC and member of the AHRC Board, and Elizabeth Ludeman, president of the Illinois Council for Mentally Retarded Children, in an automobile accident in Chicago on Tuesday, November 19, 1952.

In Chicago on business for the "Weekly Underwriter" of which he was associate editor, Bill Hay, as always, was working for the retarded. He was returning from a conference at Beth Ludeman's house about the next National convention in Chicago when the fatal accident occurred.

A man of many attainments, Bill Hay graduated from Princeton University with the degree of B.A., magna cum laude, and from the Law School of Columbia University. Later he attended the Ecole des Sciences Politiques, Paris, and was awarded its diploma. After practicing law for several years in New York, he represented the Ford Motor Co. for four years in India, Burma and Ceylon. Author of articles in the Encyclopedia Americana, the American Journal of Mental Deficiency, and Asia Magazine, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Society, The American Association on Mental Deficiency, and the American Association of University Teachers of Insurance.

The sentiments of all are expressed in the words of President Russotto, "Bill Hay was small of stature but he made himself a giant in the National movement. Though he will no longer walk among us or wield his pen to disseminate his message, the mark he had made in the history of the NARC will indelibly remain."

Gilbert A. Hanke Assumes Presidency of NARC

Gilbert A. Hanke of Grand Rapids, Mich., 1st VP of the NARC assumed the presidency on the death of Woodhull Hay at a meeting of the Eastern Directors and representatives of parents groups on Sunday, November 30, at the offices of the AHRC.

Lee Marino, treasurer, and directors, Elizabeth Boggs, N. J.; Samuel Goldman, Pa.; Lenore Davidson, Conn., and Joseph T. Weingold, of New York, joined some 65 representatives of the Eastern Seaboard in pledging complete support to Gil Hanke.

In outlining plans for the immediate future, President Hanke stated, "The void created by the tragic death of Woodhull Hay and Beth Ludeman will be extremely difficult to fill, and will require additional sacrifice and the full-hearted support of all the leaders of our groups throughout the country. Let us in unison keep advancing forward."

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

All parents who wish to apply for camp scholarships are requested to do so immediately by writing to AHRC, 31 Madison Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Attention: **Camp Scholarships.**

Last year 33 children were sent to camp for three-week periods through the generosity of several of our donor groups. It is hoped that this number can be increased this year. Please cooperate by sending in requests early.

New Name Sought For NARC Newspaper

Directors Also Ask For Slogan And Letterhead Design

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the NARC at the convention in California, a motion to seek a new name for the National newspaper was unanimously passed.

The first issue of the paper appeared under the title "Children Limited". This title met with less than unanimous support and the considerable opposition to the name expressed by the delegates of many states resulted in the action by the Board. It was felt that the name "Children Limited" was objectionable because the negative implications are contrary to the purpose of the NARC which is to expand the horizons of our children.

It was also decided at the meeting to seek a slogan for the NARC and a design for the letterhead. The slogan should be short, easily understandable and hopeful in tone. The letterhead must also be simple, dignified and eye-catching.

Please send all suggestions to AHRC, **Attention: Name Contest**, 31 Madison Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. They will be forwarded to the President of the National.

AHRC Appoints Assistant Director

Psychiatric Social Worker Engaged



Rudolf P. Hormuth

A realistic picture of the expansion of AHRC services is noted by the recent appointment of Rudolf P. Hormuth as Assistant to Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold.

Mr. Hormuth comes prepared to provide new and extended services to our parents. One of his foremost duties is to integrate the parents and relatives of mentally retarded children into the AHRC programs to alleviate the family

tensions stemming from mental retardation.

Mr. Hormuth, a psychiatric social worker, formerly with the Morris J. Solomon Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Retarded Children at the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn, brings to the Association a valuable background of professional experience in the children's field.

He is a graduate of St. Francis College in Brooklyn and the N. Y. School for Social Work. While at the Psychiatric Division of Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, he worked in the children's ward and in the Mental Hygiene Clinic conducting child and parent projects.

Particularly valuable to the families of mentally retarded children is his training in preparing families for the daily management of their children.

Mr. Hormuth is the father of two children, Rosemarie, two and one-half, and Michael, 17 months, and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

ANOTHER LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. Delia A. Gruenstein is the latest life member of the AHRC. Just applied her annual donation to a life membership.

This is really an excellent way of saving money. It is only \$100 and you never again have to pay dues. Just figure it out.

Two New Chapters Added To AHRC

Rochester and Elmira Groups Affiliate

Our Board of Directors has unanimously voted to accept the applications of groups from Rochester (Monroe County) and Elmira (Chemung County) to affiliate as chapters of the AHRC.

Our friendship with the Rochester parents began with a visit to New York early last year of Mr. and Mrs. Karl A. Schmidt. Then known as the Parents Committee for Handicapped Children, they had a school in space donated by the Eagles Club of Rochester whose President, William H. Mostyn, is Chairman of the Board of the Rochester Chapter and a wonderful friend of the retarded. The group started through the efforts of Mary A. Pulvino, a non-parent who had worked with the cerebral palsied until she realized how much had to be done that was being neglected for the mentally retarded with cerebral palsy. The school came into being with a class for the cerebral palsied and another for the mentally retarded without this additional handicap. Achieving community acceptance, they were given space in a public school and taken in as members of the Community Chest.

The Chemung Chapter received its impetus from the visit of some Elmira parents to the Syracuse convention. A series of panels on the needs of the mentally retarded child were organized and community interest aroused. Our own Frank McCarthy of Syracuse visited with the Elmira parents and helped them organize. Affiliation with the AHRC became a fact after a visit from our Executive Director to Elmira and a complete explanation of our program. They already have a class going in the Jewish Community Center with Annie Bosner, a volunteer teacher. President of the Chapter is Mrs. J. Henry Brown; Vice-President, Louis Pirozzi; Treasurer, Mrs. Erwin Rounds, and Secretary, Miss Elizabeth McCarthy.

Welcome to our growing family!

School For Mothers Ends Fall Season

New Registration Open

The Fall session of the School for Mothers, with eighteen mothers attending, closed November 29. The school, begun last year, is one of the special services offered by AHRC, designed to help mothers of mentally retarded children to train them at home in the practical skills of everyday living.

Wilfred Quaytman, Group Therapist of the School and Clinical Psychologist of the Morris J. Solomon Clinic, Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn, declared that the mothers have reported marked gains in their children's development as a result of training techniques learned at the school, and because of more accepting attitudes on the part of the parents.

An unusual feature of this season was an evening meeting held December 30 with the fathers of the children whose mothers attended the school. This proved to be a most stimulating evening.

Registration for the Spring session, starting in February, is now being accepted for mothers of children two to five years of age. Send names into the AHRC office.

Joseph T. Weingold and Jane Patterson Heard Over NBC

Bill Hayes and Walter Abel Also Speak Over TV for AHRC

On November 15, AHRC's Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, Jane Patterson of AHRC's N. Y. City Schools and the ever-faithful Allen Prescott were participants in a fifteen minute radio discussion of mental retardation and our cause.

Titled "Once in Every Family", written and arranged by Gladys P. Thomas, the material is highly adaptable to other participants. Copies of the program are available on the receipt of a written request.

Bill Hayes, the young singer on N.B.C.-TV's "Show of Shows" who is a comet rather than merely a star, has proven again how well he deserves the good will which is abundantly his. On "Strike It Rich" (Nov. 12th), the popular morning CBS-TV and radio program, Bill made a stirring appeal for AHRC and mentally retarded children. He also appeared again with the same stirring and heartfelt appeal on the DuMont Network's "Quick on the Draw", Tuesday night, December 2.

Allen Prescott presented "Strike It Rich" with an AHRC Public Information Citation November 25 when he took the opportunity, as always, to make an appeal for us. He did the same on "Luncheon at Sardi's" November 6.

"Quick on the Draw" already has received an AHRC Citation, October 7, presented by Walter Abel. Claire Mann in person and on her program of course gave us her usual consideration and opportunity to be heard again this year, not only in connection with the Claire Mann Luncheon, November 12, but she also gave Jane Patterson a nice interview to describe the aims and needs of the AHRC Schools (November 10).

The magazine "True Love Stories" will feature an article on mental retardation in a mid-winter feature in which there will be a box giving our location and the part that we play in helping children and parents.

Remember, other publicity aids are still available to all who need them: The Speaker's Manual and the Radio Kit which answers the frequently asked questions about mental retardation can be obtained from this office at \$1.50 a packet.

With the starting of the Parent Education courses the "New York Times" announced the first few lectures and quoted part of Dr. Harold Michal-Smith's lecture statements. The re-election of President Russotto was reported both in the "New York Times" and "Herald Tribune"—and with his picture, too! We were fortunate, on such short notice, to have received coverage of the special meeting of the Eastern Chapter heads of NARC and Mr. Hanke's appointment. This was covered both in the "New York Times" and "World-Telegram and Sun". In the meantime the appointment of Rudolf Hormth appeared (with picture) in the Brooklyn Eagle and in the "World-Telegram and Sun" in November and December.

After agreements were completed between the AHRC and the Play School Association, releases were sent to all the papers announcing the appointment of Dorothy Cleverdon as Play School Consultant to the AHRC schools. The "World-Telegram and Sun", together with the "Journal-American" treated the story quite well in November and December, explaining the function of the Association's schools. Reports of the general meeting featuring the Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital Clinic disciplines were sent to all New York City papers and at this point the clipping service has not caught up with OCV.

MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST YEAR YET

Chapter News

BROOME

Immediately on organizing, the chapter made plans for establishing schools for the excluded children. Three classes are now going: (1) Children 3-7, Saturday mornings; (2) Boys 13 and up, and (3) Girls 13 and up. A full-time school is now almost ready to be started, awaiting the results of the fund raising drive for \$25,000. Last reports are that the drive has netted almost \$10,000 to date. Quite a showing for a newly-organized group. Proceeding with excellent professional guidance and participation, this program promises to be one of the best in the state.

CAPITOL DISTRICT

The October elections resulted in the election of Joseph Tholl, President; Eleanor Closson, Troy, Vice-President; Phyllis N. Hotaling, Clarksville, secretary, and Daniel Greene, Albany, treasurer. Expanding their organizational activities, the November meeting was held in Troy and was addressed by Chester Anthony, treasurer of the United Cerebral Palsy Association, Capitol District Chapter. Their newest recruit is Assemblyman Thomas Brown of Renesselaer County. We are told that the AHRC teacher is Gurdrunn Blaaq, Swedish (how can we tell?) and that soon the children will know the correct pronunciation of smorgesbord.

Did you know that their classes are in space given by Albany Public School No. 18?

ERIE-NIAGARA

Still fund raising for Happiness House, the school building. This project is very near realization. The Erie County Bank has granted a mortgage loan and closing is expected in a few weeks. All this is being made possible by the success of a letter campaign by the members resulting in the raising of over \$7,000 and more coming in.

Under professional guidance, group programs are being substituted for the tutoring program. They are under the supervision of Miss Masami Kaye who has the help of two undergraduates from State Teachers College in Buffalo.

The community has become very interested in the program and efforts are now being made to coordinate all activities to achieve maximum results on a community level. Much can be done if we all understand what each can and should contribute.

ONONDAGA

The chapter has been doing real missionary work for the AHRC, with speakers spreading the word in Elmira (now a chapter), Oswego and Auburn (soon to be a chapter). No one can tell the story to parents like a parent. Activities seem to be centered mostly on Christmas parties (as everywhere), but plans for expansion are

proceeding. Special effort is being made to convince the public schools to give the chapter space for classes. No success so far, but the precedent of other communities might eventually do it. Thirty-six children are registered in the school. An interesting activity is the organization of a Women's Auxiliary. Putting the men on their metal, as it were.

SULLIVAN

The chapter under the dynamic Ruth Bennett continues to grow and offer facilities for the children. A teacher has been engaged and classes are being conducted in space donated by Monticello Hospital. Furthermore, the clinic at the same hospital is now a reality. (Other chapters take notice.) To support these and other activities a number of functions have been held. Outstanding of these was the Entertainment and Dance at the Grossinger Hotel, November 20. Net result, \$3,000. And this is not during the holiday season up yonder. It all shows that it can be done.

WESTCHESTER

The big news is the \$100,000 fund drive recently begun. Mel Allen, Honorary Chairman of the drive which is being directed by George Tiplady. Our news clipping service floods us with items from Westchester—news, feature stories and, yes, editorials all over the place.

George tells us that 33 huge billboards are going up in strategic places on the roads of Westchester; that the mayors of 12 cities and towns in the county have publicly endorsed the AHRC program and joined the Board of Sponsors and that the Westchester Commuter Time Tables tell the story of the AHRC and the mentally retarded.

Here is something new in fund raising. A series of affairs called "Bridge of Understanding" are being planned, the first having been held November 14 in Larchmont. You guessed it, bridge is played (non-stop).

LONG ISLAND

The size of the Nassau group in no way reduces the extent of their fund raising projects. On Nov. 20 the group's Third Anniversary was celebrated by an all-day Cake Sale in Franklin Simons, Garden City store, whose assistance was obtained by Mrs. Margaret Reiss of Carle Place. The women outdid themselves—cakes of all sizes and shapes were sold for the benefit of retarded children. The day proved a financial success plus bringing our cause before the public.

A Third Anniversary cake, donated by a local bakery, was kept in a borrowed freezer and served a dual purpose. At their Annual Card Party held December 2, at Steven's Steak House, Baldwin, Mrs. Nicholas Smith, Chairman of the affair, cut the cake in celebration. That Nassau group really knows how to make the most of a good idea.

SCHENECTADY

No news from Schenectady (too much Christmas). And Christmas parties held everywhere, everywhere. We wonder whether the children will ever get back to normal. (You see everything is relative.)

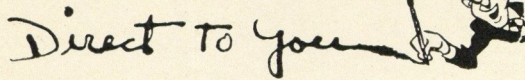
The clinic which opened on September 13, was given its initial start by Dr. Cyrille R. Halkin and Dr. Harold Michal-Smith of the Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital. Ably assisting were Miss Elizabeth Haines, Mr. Robert Landsman, Mrs. Mary Jane Laxer and Mrs. Thelma Crane.

This is a wonderful example of what can be done by a rural community if the job of public education is well done.

Clinic Set Up By Sullivan Chapter

The Sullivan County Chapter of the AHRC has set up a permanent diagnostic clinic at the Monticello Hospital, N. Y., it was announced recently by Ruth Bennett Chapter President.

With the aid of Mr. Robert Selbst, director of the hospital, two rooms have been equipped for the clinic. Dr. Julius Eisenberg and Mr. Julius Holzman are conducting the laboratory and X-ray tests. Dr. Hyman Immerman and Dr. Daniel Schwartz will head the clinic and Mr. Nat Gainen, psychologist, will test the children.



Almost invariably, the first projects started by parents groups are classes for the children who are not in school. This is understandable and represents the fulfillment of a most vital need. The ultimate goal of all our plans, however, must clearly be borne in mind: the integration of the mentally retarded into the community wherever possible.

The final demonstration of this must involve the teenager and adult and I feel that all programs must include facilities for them at the earliest possible time.

Vocational training centers and sheltered workshops may not be too easy to achieve, but there is a most important program for this age group that is fairly simple to carry out and will be a most productive investment. I refer to SOCIAL GROUPS FOR THE TEEN-AGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

The purpose of our social groups is to teach the participants how to live with others, the give and take of everyday life. AHRC programs in existence have had some very significant results. Before, almost all of our young people found themselves without friends and a social life. Now in these units all have found friends and some hold jobs. They have learned how to live with others; they have become socially more mature and acceptable.

Following, is a general outline for such a program:

SOCIAL CLUBS FOR OLDER RETARDATES

I. Purpose

- A. 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.

II. Need for Establishing Clubs for Retardates

- A. Due to the fact that many of these young people do not adjust socially or do not have friends their own age, a club to meet their particular needs should be established.

III. Suggested Membership

- A. Number
 1. At least twenty, to insure fifteen or eighteen in attendance.
- B. Grouping
 1. Race
 - a. Inter-racial
 2. Sex
 - a. To separate the sexes is unrealistic. Boys and girls will belong to the same clubs.
 3. Age
 - a. 11-25
 4. Screening
 - a. To be done by professionally qualified workers, i.e., social workers or psychologists.
 - b. No one to be admitted whose presence will militate against the growth and welfare of the group.

IV. Location

- A. To be housed in community centers, public or private, i.e. 1—Y's, 2—Jewish Centers, 3—Community Centers, 4—Evening School Centers, etc.
 1. It is suggested that these clubs be held in centers that have other operating clubs so that integration may be possible.

V. Administration and Operation

- A. Leadership
 1. Administration

AHRC BOARD

AHRC CLUB COMMITTEE

ADVISORY
(Ment. Ret.)

ADVISORY
(Agencies)

CLUB LEADER

2. Paid worker trained to work with mentally retarded. Cost \$5.00 per leader per evening.
3. Social Worker for parents and children. Cost \$5.00 to \$7.50 per worker per evening.

AHRC Plans Completed For Recreation Groups At Joshua School

Recreation groups for:

1. CRMD CHILDREN, 7-16
2. OTHERS, 12-16

are now being set up under competent group leadership. All parents residing anywhere and willing to transport their children to 2438 DeVoe Terrace, Bronx, please register with the office, 31 Madison Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Although it is planned to expand these groups to weekday afternoons, the first groups will be for Saturdays. The school has a large outdoor play area and an equipped arts and crafts room. This is a need that has been felt for some time. We hope that the success of the program will induce the Public School system to provide this service for CRMD children.

B. Qualifications of Leaders

1. Men
 - a. Knowledge of big muscle and small muscle games.
 - b. Training in group work.
 - c. Knowledge of craft work applicable to boys.
 - d. Knowledge of dancing.
 - e. Playing musical instrument, folk, square, social.
2. Women
 - a. Knowledge of craft work applicable to girls.
 - b. Ability to play piano.
 - c. Ability to lead group games.
 - d. Knowledge of dancing, social, square, folk.
 - e. Ability to lead singing.
 - f. Training in group work.

C. Supplies

1. Fund for carfare.
2. Amounts to meet club needs.

D. Club Meetings

1. Elected officers.
2. Paid membership dues (5 to 10c per meeting).
3. Fixed responsibilities i.e., for 1—poster, 2—postcards, 3—parties.
4. Membership cards of \$1.00 if workable in neighborhood and advisable for group.
5. At least one formal meeting a week.

VI. Suggested Activities

A. Types of Activities

1. Craft work
2. Athletics
3. Dancing: 1—social, 2—square, 3—folk.
4. Invited speakers.
5. Appropriate films.
6. Community singing.
7. Group games.
8. Parties: a—birthday, b—special occasions.
9. Trips.
10. Sewing.
11. Dramatics.
12. Inter-club activities within centers.
13. Sewing and knitting (for girls).
14. Parents night.
15. Social Service activities.
16. Social and vocational guidance.

- B. Activities should be planned at least one month in advance; major functions should be planned for the season.

VII. Suggested possible coordination with Board of Education Recreational facilities and community agencies.

VIII. Parent-Club Relationship

- A. Initial interview—parent and club leader.
- B. Written authorization by parent for minors.
- C. Parent nights.
 1. Special nights set aside for parent visitations.
- D. Parent education.
 1. Special courses provided by paid specialists or club leaders to acquaint parents with aims, objectives and hoped for outcomes of clubs.

DANGERS INHERENT IN SOCIAL CLUBS FOR OLDER RETARDATES

A. POLICY

1. Interference by individual parents with supervision and administration of clubs.
2. Loose membership qualifications.
 - a. Inclusion of those who would not be accepted by other members.
3. Lack of careful planning.
4. Lack of continuous supervision at each club meeting or other activity in order to prevent any unacceptable social practices.
5. Irresponsibility on part of members to go directly home after evening meetings.
6. Picking up strangers on way.
7. Regular meeting of clubs in other than established social centers.
8. Lack of closest cooperation with social agencies that will sponsor or aid the clubs.

AHRC Feature In Look Magazine

Throughout the country January 27 over 20 million readers of "Look" Magazine can read about AHRC and the nation's neglect of our children in a feature, titled "OUT OF THE SHADOW". Don't miss it!

Reprints will be available.

Fun and Fashion Mark Claire Mann Luncheon



For the second year the Claire Mann Glamour Fashion Luncheon at the Savoy-Plaza Hotel, November 12, proved to be an afternoon of fun for the fashion-minded gals whose attendance meant dollars and cents for our children—approximately \$1,000 in total.

Glamorous Claire Mann added charm and wit to her emcee chore during the parade of glittering sequins and white bouffant presented by Goethe Fashions. Words of welcome by our able leaders, President Alexander Russotto and Director Joseph T. Weingold included the introduction of the noted personality, Allen Prescott, whose sympathy for our cause was heartfelt.

The presence of many outstanding personalities, whose interest were aroused by Mrs. L. Buitoni of the Buitoni Food Corp., added prestige to the affair.

Behind all this success were familiar AHRC members—Minna Bober, Luncheon Chairman; Barbara Weingold and Florence Zaidenberg. The familiar cliché, "without them this wasn't possible" is ever true. Miss Mann, the Savoy-Plaza Hotel staff, the many, many donations and the more than 300 tickets that were sold resulted from their tireless efforts.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to: Phaff Sewing Machine Corp., Buitoni Foods Corp., Perugina Chocolates, Gouband of Paris, Evyan Parfum, Benson and Hedges, Wm. Wrigley, Jr. Co., Lenthéric Parfums, Chanel, Inc., Monet Costume Jewelry, Helena Rubenstein, The Borden Co.; and to Mrs. Margaret Rosenberg, Mrs. Ruth Gould, and Mrs. Lee Frank for their individual donations of door prizes.

The models of course deserve our gratitude for the giving of their time and talents in their display of the lovely Goethe creations.



Barry Gray, widely-known "jabber jockey", on his WMCA radio program accepts a Public Education Citation from Allen Prescott, our most friendly celebrity. Mr. Gray has many, many times urged his listeners to support the association and its goals.

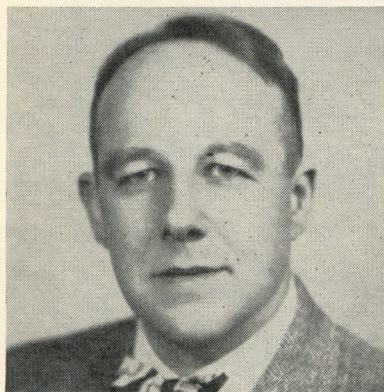
NBC MUSIC FOUNDATION DONATES RECORDERS TO AHRC SCHOOLS

Phyllis Adams, plucky producer of N.B.C.'s "It's A Problem" (a program which told our story last year through Pearl Buck, and at several other times when Mr. Weingold, Dr. Harold Michal-Smith, William Auden and others were guest speakers), has not forgotten AHRC while she waits for the re-instatement of her program.

In charge of the Jackie Robinson Music Foundation, an N.B.C. sponsored idea to raise money to furnish record players and music to worthy causes, Phyllis has promised us not only some players and records for our classes but a share in the publicity surrounding the project.

According to Mrs. Patterson our children receive a great benefit and enjoyment from music and the staff more than welcomes these gifts.

IN THE **AHRC** LIGHT



**CLEMENS E. BENDA,
M.D.**

Advisor to AHRC

Born in Germany, son of a professor of pathology. Early trained to remain as "quiet as a mouse" while listening to his father explain a difficult diagnosis to a colleague. Says he remembers the newly invented huge telephone. Does that date him?

After the first World War, he studied medicine in Berlin and Heidelberg, working at a children's hospital after graduation under the great pediatrician, Czerny, in Berlin, and in Heidelberg joined the staff of the psychiatric clinic. Also became a pupil of the philosopher, Carl Jaspers, leading European existentialist.

From 1923 to 1928, Dr. Benda worked at different institutions in Switzerland where he became closely acquainted with the problem of cretinism, which has held his interest throughout the years.

In 1929, on his return to Germany, he became the editor-in-chief of a medical journal and consultant neurologist to one of the Red Cross hospitals in Berlin. When the Nazis took over it was only natural that Dr. Benda's sense of liberty and deep concern with humanity should lead him to disagree with the stand of the regime on sterilization and the general welfare of troubled patients. Fortunately, his American friends made it possible for him to come to this country where in 1935 he was appointed Research Fellow at the Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital. He has been connected with them ever since.

In 1936 the Wrentham State School of Massachusetts opened an entirely new research institute for the study of mental deficiency, the first in this country, and it was only natural that Dr. Benda became its first director. The ten years experience there in research on all forms of mental retardation found its first scientific expression in his book, "Mongolism and Cretinism" published in 1946. (Second edition in 1949.)

In the fall of 1947, Dr. Benda was appointed Director of Research and Clinical Psychiatry at the Walter E. Fernald State School, the oldest state school in this country, as successor to Dr. Paul Yakovlev. With the unequalled opportunities at the Walter E. Fernald State School, he continued his work on a much larger scale and developed new research along pathological as well as clinical lines. Out of this work came the new comprehensive book, "Developmental Disorders of Mentation and Cerebral Palsies", published in 1952, which gives a survey of the whole field of disorders of development of the mind with the exclusion of mongolism previously covered.

The AHRC Light shines on Dr. Benda because from

MEET OUR CHILDREN....



FRANCIS MARSH

Voluminous material is written daily by our editorial and administrative departments to plead the principles and goals of our cause. But, as you will read below, the thoughts, doubts and desires of a mother can sometimes express simply and effectively what we want for our children.

Read Mrs. Marsh's letter and meet her son, Francis, and his loyal friend, King. You will be touched, as we were, by her love and understanding of this little boy.

Dear Sir:

I hand you herewith, a picture of my little boy, and would like very much for you to publish it in the "Meet the Children" column.

Let me tell you a little about him. His name is Francis Marsh and he will be nine years old on November 18. He is a happy lovable little boy, but he is also a lonely little boy. He has no playmates as the children shun him because he cannot speak very much. I am sorry to say that there are some adults that seem to feel the same way. His best friend is shown here with him—it is his 10 months old collie, King. King was Francis' Easter gift and they have wonderful times together. Francis just started school this week—he is in a CRMD class in the public school here in Queens. We hope and pray he will get the needed help he needs so much and the companionship of other children like himself.

Both my husband and myself enjoy reading OCV, and the "Meet the Children" column.

ALICE M. MARSH.

P. S.—I just found out my son's CRMD teacher is an OCV subscriber.

Thanks, Mrs. Marsh for letting us meet Francis.

**Let Us Hear from You and Meet
Your Children . . .
SEND US PICTURES—
WE NEED LOTS OF THEM!!**

the very beginning of his research activities, he became aware of the huge scope of the problems involved in mental retardation. Because, stunned by the almost complete neglect of this field by neuropsychiatry as well as pediatrics, he has made it his main concern not only to lay the foundation for a better knowledge of the different types of retardation, but to make the medical profession as well as the general public aware of this great problem and grapple with it. Because of his willingness to help at all times and his continued championing of our children's cause in private, in public and in the halls of science.

WITHOUT YOU IT WILL NOT BE COMPLETE

DONOR DOINGS...

This, of course, is the season of the year when social activities are at their peak, although our Donor groups always seem to be planning and doing things that will benefit the children, directly and indirectly.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine League, starting with September 9 night baseball outing (at Ebbett's Field, where else?), successively held a once a month matinee show, a theatre party in November for "My Darling Aida" and on December 1 and 2 their Annual Bazaar. All this in addition to the volunteer work being done at the Morris J. Solomon Clinic at the Jewish Hospital, and the motor corps to transport the children to the clinic.

On Sunday, December 14, **The 100 League** held their annual cocktail party at Gogi's LaRue. Jerry Weingold called up Irving Horlick, president, who said casually, "Drop down." He did and when he got there he thought a riot was taking place. Hundreds of people were milling around and even many who had tickets had to wait until the fire department inspector would allow them to go in. Jerry never got in. And don't forget people were **paying** to get in.

Esther Baila League elected Mollie Weiss as their new president. Congratulations! Their rummage sale was held in October and their luncheon on November 22, at the Belmont Plaza.

The Ruth Kirzon Group For Handicapped Children have many varied activities. Their Donor Luncheon was held in October and a big card party is planned for February. Probably the most important aspect of their work is the direct service they give to handicapped children. An interesting project of theirs is the Teen-Age project. Ten youngsters, calling themselves the Ruth Teens, have formed a group to visit handicapped children at home.

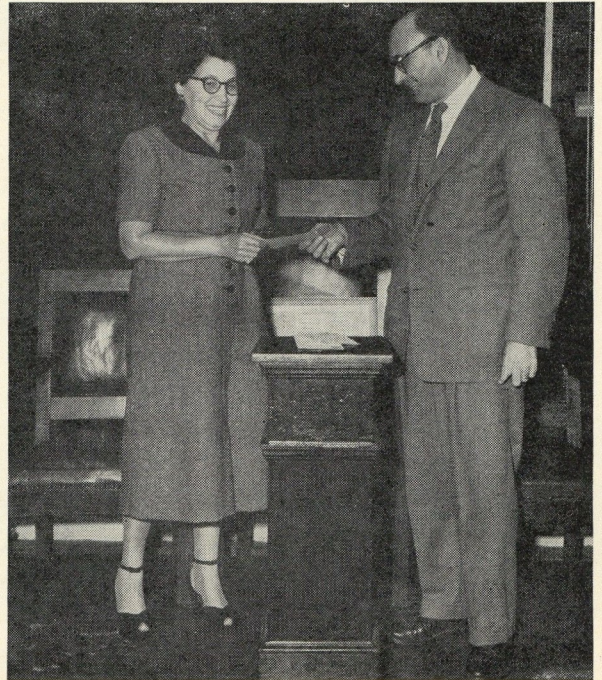
Joshua Orphan Aid has just begun recovering from the effects of their \$50.00 a plate dinner which about 1,000 people attended on Tuesday, December 16, in honor of Daniel Arnstein. In just mentioning this, we are too exhausted to go any further. But we spring up with renewed strength when we realize that this is being done for the help of our children.

Cunningham Women's League For Handicapped Children got off with a grand start at their October card party and are going on to a theatre party and an enormous bazaar. On Dec. 18 they ran a Christmas party for about 70 Queens children. Helping the cerebral palsied as well as the mentally retarded, they maintain a motor corps of 50 women to transport the children to the school for the cerebral palsied at P. S. 7 in Queens. On December 16 they showed the film, "Forget Not These Children" at a general meeting and our executive director was there to answer questions. More than 200 attended the meeting.

Gertrude Vos Children's Fund activities were reported so fully in the last issue of OCV we can find nothing to add. So, too, for the wonderful friends of the retarded in the **Sarah Starkman League**.

The Theodora League has just finished a card party and are deep in plans for their style show and luncheon. If for no other reason it is always a pleasure to visit the Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital Clinic just to see the good looking volunteers. I think some of the papas will begin taking up too much space soon in the clinic. Move over.

Louis Fleischmann Benevolent Society Joins AHRC Donors



On November 3, 1952, Mrs. Julia E. Fischell, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Louis Fleischmann Benevolent Society, presented a check for \$2,800 to AHRC Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold for use in speech therapy at the Joshua School and AHRC School in Brooklyn.

This grant was brought about through the efforts of Shirley Hulnick, Rebecca Noble and Evelyn Leckart who addressed the group and enlisted the sympathies of Mrs. Ben Thropp and others.

The Christmas Calendar

The month of December proved to be a gala Christmas season for our children throughout New York.

The Cunningham Women's League, one of our active donor groups, again gave our Queens children a Christmas party on the 18th at the American Legion Post in Queens. For the second year all of the youngsters went away with a warm feeling for Santa and a remembered afternoon of Xmas fun.

On Friday, December 19, Abraham and Straus also gave our children at the AHRC Brooklyn School, a memorable afternoon. (See "Santa Claus' Whiskers")

Lots and lots of children enjoyed Christmas parties on December 21—given in the Bronx and in Brooklyn by AHRC members. A combined Christmas and Chanukah party—supplemented by a bazaar for the adults, was held at the Tropic Isles in Brooklyn. Through the plans of Mrs. Alice Pearlstein and David Gimbel (whose heartfelt plea for toys to the N. Y. Post put our name in print on Dec. 2), more than 300 children and parents attended.

The Bronx Second Annual Christmas Party and Toy Fair held at the North End Democratic Club the same day proved to have a twofold purpose. Under the chairmanship of Sy Chicquor, they not only gave the children an entertaining and full afternoon, but succeeded in raising funds for AHRC at the Fair.

On December 22 the Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital Speech Clinic for Retarded Children gave a Christmas party equipped with Santa, tree, gifts and goodies galore.

AND all the Chapters report parties, parties, parties.

BOROUGH EVENTS...

Over 1500 Attend Brooklyn Card Party

The not-so-little borough of Brooklyn once more presented a successful mammoth card party and bazaar attended by over 1500 card and mahjong devotees on November 15, at the Menorah Temple, Brooklyn.

The success of the evening's affair was almost too much for our Brooklyn workers—at the witching hour of midnight the committee literally had to ask the many remaining players to leave since the time period for use of the Temple was well-over.

Over 40 prizes and 40 gifts were given out during the evening, obtained from generous donors interested in our cause. And of course refreshments were served by the Young Folks League, who did a splendid job of acting as hostesses and hosts all night.

Bouquets to Ed Fliegel, Chairman; Florence Dash, Joe Gitter and Leo Jacobs and all the others who contributed to turning up a trump card for the AHRC—over \$2500.

BRONX ANNUAL CARD PARTY



The usual draw of over 300 people crowded the halls of the Westover Ballroom in the Bronx on November 6 to attend the Annual Card Party sponsored by the Bronx AHRC members. This first social event of the fall by our up-town group started off the season with registered cash—showing over \$600 in profit.

The hard work put in by the above committee and many others insured its success: Left to right, Margaret Rosenberg, Jerry Righ, Sid Werbin and Cy Chicquor, Chairman.

Rummage Time Is Here Again!

The theme "Rummage Time is Here Again" is the cry of both Brooklyn and the Bronx.

In the Bronx, under the chairmanship of Sy Chicquor, organizational plans have already been started for a Rummage Sale during the week of January 19, at 1585 Second Avenue, Manhattan.

And in Brooklyn, from January 19 to 31, Rummage Chairman, Syd Safier, announces a Rummage Sale to be held at 303 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn (between Greene and Lexington Avenues).

Cooperation is requested for any saleable merchandise—from pots to dresses—old or new—but saleable. Send whatever you can to:

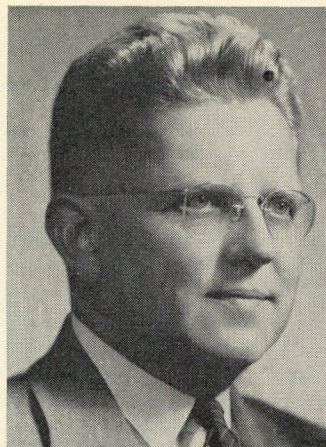
BRONX:

Sid Werbin, 115 West 172nd St., JE. 7-9332
Max Schachter, 2123 Holland Ave., TE. 9-0626
Sy Chicquor, 1594 Metropolitan Ave., TA. 9-5592
Stanley Lang, 2271 Cincinnatus Ave., TA. 3-1293

BROOKLYN:

Mrs. Syd Safier, 1313 - 42nd St., UL. 3-9396
Mrs. Helen Schneider, 5119 - 18th Ave., GE. 5-3274

AHRC PROFILE . . .



EVALD H. GASSTROM
2nd Vice-President

Born December 29, 1912, a belated Christmas present, in New York City. Parents were born in Finland (just look at the name).

Educated in the New York City public schools until 1918 when he became one of the early settlers of Mt. Vernon. Continued in the Mt. Vernon schools through Mt. Vernon High School. Received his A.B. from Columbia in 1934, his B.S. in 1935, and his M.S. in Industrial Engineering in 1936 from the Columbia School of Engineering.

Started with Eagle Rule Mfg. Corp. when their doors first opened in 1930, working there part-time while attending college. Became Vice-President in 1938 and as he says, "Not much progress, still only a V.P. there."

During World War II served as a Lieutenant at the Navy Department in Washington and filled the post of Assistant to the Director of Research and Development Division of the Bureau of Ordinance in Charge of Contracts and Finances (handled big money, too, I hear). After discharge, was consultant to the General Tire and Rubber Co. and to the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University. Organized Gasstrom-White & Co., Inc., manufacturer's representatives in the hardware field, in 1951. Is President (at last) of the firm.

Was a member of the Westchester Chapter of the AHRC since its inception and participated actively in its program which resulted in the purchase of the building at 975 Split Rock in Pelham Manor. Succeeded Bernie Rosenberg as President of the Westchester Chapter, just re-elected. Became 2nd VP of the State AHRC in October. Working hard at the local level, Evald's horizon has always encompassed the whole state. Firmly convinced that a strong organization throughout the state will help the cause of all the children everywhere, he has helped plan the state conventions, stimulated state programs, and fostered continued growth. His is the combination that has made AHRC grow: broad vision, but always remembering that our goal is to help the child.

Married Valma Nylund in 1942 (just to keep it Scandinavian). He has one child, John, aged nine, attending the Kolburne School. Lives in a ranch-type house in White Plains with water in the cellar.

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.

Letters From the People...

• Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Weingold:

After two years of planning we have finally opened our own little class for pre-school age retarded children here in Maryland. We received some fifty applications from all over the State, but being limited on space and finances we opened with ten pupils. We've named the class the "Searchlight Training Center" after our own little monthly newspaper. Mrs. Jordens and Miss Jackson, our instructors, are emphasizing toilet and eating habits, the biggest problem to having your child entered in private day or residential schools for the retarded.

Best of luck in your present drive and congratulations on your very fine bulletin, "Our Children's Voice". I certainly look forward to receiving it every quarter.

MAURICE I. PAPER, Chairman
Public Relations
Maryland Society for Mentally Retarded Children.

Brooklyn, New York

To the Editor:

I have been asked many times by friends what is the AHRC? This is a very good question indeed but I believe that my answer to this question is equally as good. The AHRC is our "Seeing Eye Dog". For just as the dog leads his blind master safely through his darkness so, the AHRC is leading our children out of their mental darkness toward a better and a happier life. It is without question becoming the tool that is breaking the shackles that has entwined this problem for generations. We cannot condemn and imprison a problem. Rather it must be brought before society and proven that it merits the consideration and help which these "innocent children" so desperately need. Instead of keeping it locked behind a curtain of ignorance. The cries that you have been hearing are the parents of these children asking not for mercy but only for justice. It can only be through the unselfish devotion and effort of the AHRC that someday will bring our children the justice they do deserve. Under their guidance, patience and leadership, this curtain of ignorance will finally be lifted and then we will be able to take these "hidden" and "forgotten children" out, into the sun.

DAVID GIMBEL.

Santa Claus' Whiskers

—(Courtesy of Abraham & Straus)

Once upon a time there were children who never had the opportunity to appreciate the significance of a big, roly-poly laughing, whiskered person named Santa Klaus, Kris Kringle, or what have you.

Like a fairy tale the story ended with all of the youngsters having a wonderful time—our kids from the AHRC school in Brooklyn.

The fairy godmother of this story is the Brooklyn department store, Abraham and Straus. Wanting to give a Christmas party for our children they put their heads together with Mrs. Patterson, our Educational Director and came up with surprises galore for them on December 5 and 19. Since our children tend to lack a concept of Santa Claus, Christmas and the reasons behind the festive occasion, they needed extra preparation to get the most possible enjoyment from it.

So—a Santa Claus, one of Equity's fine character actors, played a special "get acquainted visit" to the school on December 5 so that the children could feel his whiskers, hear about him and what he intended to do on December 19.

Between December 5 and December 19 the children discussed the party, Santa, the lollipops and all the rest of the wonder and the fun that is Christmas to all children, everywhere.

Upon Mrs. Patterson's requests no gifts were given to the children individually. Instead A. & S. presented the school with four life-size dolls which figure prominently and usefully in the teaching program and which are greatly needed.

Isn't this a lovely story?

And to all we say—to A. & S., the versatile Santa, Jane Patterson and all involved in this party which was in its way a great educational event—thanks, for giving our kids a chance they deserve.

Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Weingold:

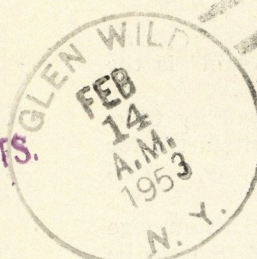
We deeply appreciate your heartfelt sympathy for the loss of our beloved Arline.

As parents of a retarded child, we want to say "God Bless" the wonderful people who make up the Association. We will do everything within our power to help you so that other children will have a chance to live a normal life.

THE MAISELS.

A. H. R. C., Inc.
31 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

POSTAGE DUE 2 CTS.



*Mr. Weingold
Glen Wild, N.Y.*



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Unclaimed ☐ Unknown ☐
Deceased ☐ For better address ☐
Moved, Let no one ☐ Refused ☐
No such post office in state named ☐