

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

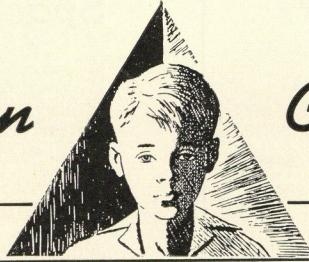
Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!

VOL. V — ISSUE NO 4

16

DECEMBER, 1953



AHRC Urges Education Law Changes

Bernard M. Fineson Elected President

The annual business meeting of the Association saw the election of Bernard M. Fineson as President. Originally elected to that office by the Board of Directors earlier this year, on the death of Alex Russotto, this was a confirmation of that choice by the members in the state.

Also chosen at the meeting were three new vice presidents, Augustus Jacobs, First V.P.; Julian Banner, Third V.P., and Sol Hulnick, Fourth V.P. Maxwell Schachter replaced his wife as Financial Secretary. Reelected were Margaret Riva, Rec. Sec.; Ann Greenberg, Corres. Sec., and Irving Shiller, Treasurer. Evald Gasstrom of Westchester retained the office of Second V.P.

The following were elected to the Board for a two-year term: Ruth Bennett (Sullivan County), Minna Bober, Edward Fliegel, George Hirsch, Irving Krakoff, Leonard Levin, James McConnell (Suffolk County), Rose Nussbaum, Alice Pearlstein, Robert Seaman (Nassau County), Lou Yonofsky and Joseph Tholl (Capitol District). Charles Campana was elected for a one-year term.

The meeting also heard the annual report of the president, outlined the progress of the Association and also listing the things yet remaining undone. The year was highlighted by the opening of the Training Center and Workshop, completing a great deal of the program of the AHRC. Another important step was the engaging of a psychiatric social worker as assistant to our executive director, offering a new counseling service to parents. Space does not permit the listing of other plans, but these may be seen in the Annual Report of the Executive Director in the office of the Association.

AHRC PARTICIPATES IN GREATER NEW YORK FUND

Once more this year the Association has shared in the funds donated by New Yorkers to voluntary agencies through the Greater New York Fund. This year we have received \$8,832, more than \$2,000 more than last year. This results from the growing budget of the Association used for services for the mentally retarded as well as the greater amount of money collected by the Fund in its last drive.

Expanded Legislative Program To Be Presented

An enlarged legislative program to make more adequate provision for the education of mentally retarded children both in the community and in institutions was announced by Augustus Jacobs, Chairman of the AHRC Legal and Legislative Committee.

As last year, the proposed amendments to the Education Law are designed to do the following:

1. Improve the existing special classes for children with I.Q.s from 50 to 75.
2. End discrimination practiced against mentally retarded minors under seven years of age and over 16.
3. Encourage the setting up of more special classes in rural areas and elsewhere.
4. Make provision for the so-called "trainable" mentally retarded children (I.Q.s under 50) not now eligible for special classes as set up under the law.
5. In general, give the mentally retarded child no less rights than those now afforded the physically handicapped under the law.

In addition, continued Mr. Jacobs, it is felt that the responsibility for the proper training and education of retarded children should not cease when they enter a state institution. The inadequacies of the education program in state institutions have long been recognized and are clearly pointed out by the Teachers College report made for the Advisory Committee to the Study of Mental Retardation. It is therefore proposed:

6. That classes for the mentally retarded in the state schools be set up in the same manner as in the communities under the regulations of the Commissioner of Education and under the supervision of the State Department of Education.

To help local school districts to carry out this program, said Mr. Jacobs, two further amendments are asked.

1. That a differential of \$480 per year be given to all teachers of handicapped in order to attract people to this difficult field.
2. State aid to special classes be increased from \$800. per class to \$1800. per class in addition to all other state aid.

Intimate experience with the programs for the educable child, continued Mr. Jacobs, clearly points out the inadequacies of the program and the wide gaps through which so many of the children entitled to services fall. In many school districts, children are not accepted under the age of seven (in fact, by regulations they are not eligible under that age) and even 10, although their I.Q.s

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OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

323 FOURTH 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

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: BERNARD M. FINESON

Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

Parents Of "Normal" Children Protest Use Of Public School Space By AHRC Classes

The Parents Association of P. S. 235, in Brooklyn, have opposed the passage of a resolution of the Board of Education to permit the AHRC to use three unused school rooms for the Association classes in Brooklyn. This resolution was introduced by Col. Arthur Levitt at the request of the AHRC and after clearance by the Superintendent of Schools.

The Parents Association protested that they now have four classes for "abnormal" children out of twenty-two in the school and the normal program is hurt by them. These classes are for the mentally retarded for whom classes are compulsory by law (I.Q. 50 to 75), the cerebral palsied, polio, and cardiac. The introduction of the three AHRC classes of more severely retarded children would constitute a danger to the normal, the parents added. These children should be segregated as a danger. Furthermore, their appearance would be most disquieting to the other children.

President Fineson of the AHRC declared, "The anxiety, hostility and antagonism of these parents is shocking but perhaps we should not be too harsh with them. It is based on misinformation and ignorance. Perhaps we have failed to do the educational job necessary. But I believe it goes deeper than that. The opposition of the parents to the presence of other handicapped children there as a matter of right by law is beyond understanding and not to be tolerated."

Our own program, he added, and that of other states such as California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota and others where the severely retarded are in public schools under the law, clearly demonstrates that there is no basis in fact for the attitude of these parents. On the contrary, the presence of these children in public schools has positive mental hygiene aspects, teaching tolerance and democracy to the normal child.

Director of the AHRC schools, Jane Patterson stated that although we feel that the Board of Education should sustain our request as a matter of principle, nevertheless we are thinking first of the children and the best program for them. "Let us not misuse them," she concluded, "By forcing them into this atmosphere of hostility and fear." At this writing the resolution is still before the Board.

the definition of a retarded minor be changed and clarified to make provision for children between the ages of 5 and 21 and include the "trainable" in the program.

We recognize, concluded Mr. Jacobs, that all the legislation in the world will not get what we want without the sympathetic cooperation of local communities. It is proposed therefore:

1. That the part of the program dealing with the "trainable" child not go into effect until July, 1955.
2. That only sufficient money be allocated for the first year to set up 30 classes, 20 in public school and 10 in state institutions under optimum conditions to find out NOT THE NEED AND VALUE OF SUCH CLASSES, but HOW THEY CAN BEST SERVE THE CHILDREN; that is, methods, teacher training, curriculum, etc.

An all out effort by the Chapters and all others interested in the retarded is urged to the end that these children will have equal rights under the law with all others. If no other reason exists for this support, this program will mean a saving of millions of dollars to the taxpayers in terms of salvaged human material.

No Room At The Inn (An Editorial)

In our moral history, these are the terrible words of rejection of those who need help.

They come as a startling shock each time we hear them; yet each denies having uttered them.

The parents of P. S. 235, who have protested the use of empty school space by the AHRC classes, profess a great sympathy for these "poor children," but not in "their school" are they welcome.

Some well known organizations for children say, "Too bad," cluck their tongues, but there are SO many problems of the "normal" children unsolved.

Some educators say, "Of course something should be done, but not by education — let Mental Hygiene handle it."

Other educators say, "This is a day care problem, not education. They belong, they belong . . ." WHERE?

Still others say, "Are the parents of mentally retarded children emotionally able to decide whether their children should remain at home?"

Each denies uttering the words, THERE IS NO ROOM AT THE INN; each insists there is room, there is room, but not at MY inn. In one form or another all say it, and each is a reflection of the other's denial. For the parents of P. S. 235 there is at least the excuse of ignorance, the threat of the unknown. What excuse for the others?

Yet all this will change as it has in the past. Across the country, in state after state, there is coming understanding and acceptance in the community and a changing philosophy of education, a philosophy that includes provision for those who need the most as well as those who can gain the most, a denial of the aristocracy of the normal, a recognition and acceptance of the needs of ALL the exceptional.

There shall be room at the inn, even at P. S. 235.

EXPANDED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 1)

are high enough. Rural areas find it difficult to get 10 children required by law. The regulations of the Commissioner of Education call for a mental age of five for admission, thus losing the young, malleable years.

In addition, of course, we all know that educational provisions for children with an I.Q. under 50 are not provided in the law although experience with the AHRC classes for these "trainable" children and the programs of other states where this is a function of Education clearly indicates that they are capable of instruction in groups and that the program can be successfully administered in public schools. It is proposed, therefore, that

Annual Dinner Plans Take Shape

Ad Blanks and Dinner Books Mailed

The Fifth Annual Dinner of the AHRC will take place on Saturday, May 22, in the Grand Ballroom of the Astor (The only ballroom big enough to hold the crowd).

This marks an important milestone in the progress of the organization and the affair this year promises to be the largest and best yet held. Important civic leaders have already promised to be present to share the enthusiasm of the AHRC membership and friends.

Tickets this year are again \$15.00 each, but of course you know how you can all earn tickets without purchasing them. You have received ad blanks for the Dinner Journal (do you remember that beautiful journal last year?) and also dinner books. All you have to do is to sell \$50.00 worth of ads or two books (each contains \$10.00 worth of tickets) to earn a ticket to the dinner.

"Last year," says Joe Gitter, chairman of the Dinner Committee, "was our biggest dinner yet. We netted more than \$30,000. This year must be even better. Let's make the Fifth Dinner a \$50,000 one."

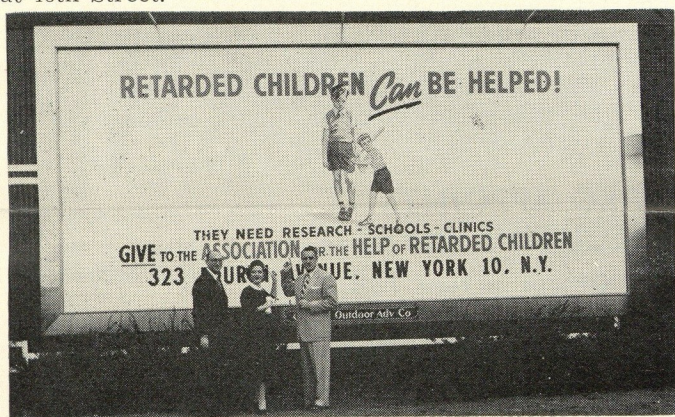
IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED THE AD BLANKS OR THE DINNER BOOKS, CALL THE OFFICE, GRAM-MERCY 3-4875. START EARLY TO DO MORE!

Can Campaign Under Way

Outdoor Posters and Subway Cards Placed

The 1953-1954 coin collection campaign of the AHRC got under full steam with the distribution of over 12,000 cans throughout the city. These cans were donated by American Can Company as a public service.

In connection with the campaign over 60 outdoor posters and 2500 car cards were placed in space donated by General Outdoor Advertising Company, Disosway and Fisher and Subway Advertising Company. Prominent among the outdoor posters placed is one at Times Square, at 46th Street.



Jerry Weingold, Miami Benzell, star of opera, television and screen, front of the poster outside the offices of General Outdoor Advertising Company.

Volunteers under the direction of Ann Gitter have demonstrated that they can make this drive a success. Over 65 volunteers manned the Port of New York Authority building for two weeks, from November 30th and collected over \$1100 in that time. It is planned to organize a much larger corps of helpers for indoor solicitation throughout the city. Every volunteer will be armed with a huge VOLUNTEER BUTTON and an identity card and will be asked to give up only a few hours each week until March 31st, the end of the campaign.

VOLUNTEERS: CALL ANN GITTER, BUCKMINSTER 2-7082. WE ARE DEPENDING ON YOU!

"Neighborhood Cruelty" Requests Pour In

All Media Interested in AHRC Projects

Since the publication of ARC's new pamphlet, "Neighborhood Cruelty," the State Office has received over 200 requests for copies. This current aid, designed as a general discussion of the elements in neighborhood cruelty as applied to many groups and specifically as it is seen directed to the mentally retarded, has been highly publicized through celebrity announcements made in the past months. On September 25 beautiful Anne Rutherford as the "Helping Hand" on the TV "Strike It Rich" program, announcing the issue of the booklet. Paul Stewart, the famed rough and tough actor, appeared on the Maxine Keith midnight WMCA program October 4th and discussed AHRC goals, emphasizing the booklet also. The same approach was made by the charming actress, Geraldine Fitzgerald, on the WJZ Maggie McNellis program October 16th. Since then the office has been flooded with requests for "Neighborhood Cruelty," available to all persons interested in neighborhood problems at \$25 a copy.

Mass interest in the problems arising out of mental retardation was demonstrated with the appearance of "A Miracle Grew Out of Their Hearts" by Joseph P. Blank (photographs by his wife, Naomi), in the November issue of "Redbook Magazine." Telling the story of one parent, the article uses the Onondaga County Chapter of the AHRC in Syracuse to set forth "one solution to the problem of how to care for the retarded youngsters humanely and intelligently." Reprints of the article are available at the AHRC state office.

Once again "Life Magazine" has shown a desire to tell the story of parents' approach to dealing with the lack of resources for mentally retarded children. The preparation of the article is still in the planning and research stage, but it is hoped that "Life" will continue with their investigation. AHRC staff is cooperating fully with their staff.

CUB SCOUT PACK RECEIVES CHARTER



Cub Scout Pack No. 529, Boy Scouts of America at the charter presentation on December 17, 1953. There are four packs, age ranges 8 to 14, the first for mentally retarded children east of the Mississippi not in a state or private school.

UNIVERSITY COURSE FOR PARENTS

We have been asked to repeat the announcement made in the last issue of OCV that N.Y.U. is offering a course for parents of mentally retarded children. All those interested may enroll by telephoning Professor William Gruen at New York University, SPring 7-2000 Extension 789.

N. Y. State Organizations Back AHRC Legislation

Conventions of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs and the New York State Teachers Association have adopted resolutions endorsing the legislation with regard to the education of retarded children proposed by the Association.

The Federation of Women's Clubs, with over 300 member organizations from New York City to the Canadian border, adopted the following resolution proposed by the Women's City and Country Club of Poughkeepsie and approved by Mrs. Ralph E. Van Kleeck, Chairman of the Division of Education of Handicapped and Retarded, Education Department of the Federation.

Education For Mentally Retarded Children

Whereas, the education law of the State of New York provides schooling for only a limited number of children with intelligence quotients below 75 and none whatever for children with I.Q.s below 50, and

Whereas all types of handicapped children have an equal right to special services and help they may need, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs in convention assembled November 1953, urges amendment of the State Education Law to provide daytime education and transportation for mentally handicapped children with intelligence quotients above 25, and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, and each member of the Legislature of the State of New York.

Our own Helen Kaplan, former President of Nassau Chapter and a member of the State Legal and Legislative Committee, was designated Fact Finder for the Resolution and did a wonderful community relations job both in convention and in the "smoke filled" rooms, explaining, persuading, educating.

A newer member of the AHRC, James Maroon of Rockland County did an equally outstanding job at the Syracuse Convention of the New York State Teachers Association. The House of Delegates of that Association adopted an even broader resolution, as follows:

Mentally Retarded Children

Whereas, the Constitution of the State of New York states that every child shall have the right to a free education, and

Whereas, this right is being denied to many retarded children in New York State who have the capacity and inclination to develop the capability for living satisfactorily, and

Whereas, under existing law full educational services are provided for other handicapped persons who can never become self-sufficient citizens, therefore, be it

Resolved, that proposed changes in the Education Law sponsored by the New York State Association for the Help of Retarded Children providing the same facilities for mentally retarded children as is now provided for the physically handicapped be supported by the New York State Teachers Association.

Schools Asked To Provide Education For Low I.Q. Child

Col. Levitt Seeks Action To Open City Schools To Thousands Now Excluded

In a dramatic plea for the thousands of children now excluded from public education in the schools because their I.Q.s are under 50, Col. Arthur Levitt, a member of the Board of Education from Brooklyn, introduced a resolution calling for the formation of a committee of experts to study the problem and make recommendations to the Board.

Under the laws of New York, free public school education for the mentally retarded is mandatory only when they have I.Q.s over 50 and under 75. Under 50, they are considered uneducable. Declaring that experiments with such children have shown that they can achieve a moderate degree of independence and considerable social adjustment, Col. Levitt declared, "I have no patience with an arbitrary classification of 'educable' and 'uneducable'; it does violence to the basic democratic concept that each child is a unique personality entitled to the kind of education best adapted to his capabilities and as much of that education as he can profitably use."

Declaring that this is a social problem of the greatest intensity, Col. Levitt continued that for the families who keep their children at home, and most do, the lack of training facilities has a disastrous effect. "The utter hopelessness of the situation plays havoc with the family unit and exacts a fearsome toll in wrecked homes and warped personalities," he added. "These children can profit from and must get this chance."

Dr. Jacob Greenberg, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, has been appointed chairman of the committee, other members of which will be representatives of the board's professional staff, the State Department of Mental Hygiene, Welfare and interested citizen groups.

At the office of the Association, Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold, said, "I have already had a preliminary conference with Dr. Greenberg and hope that affirmative action will be taken. I am pleased to see that representatives of citizen groups will be on the committee. I feel that these have much to contribute to make the whole community conscious of the problem and the public responsibility."

NARC APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Offices in New York Chosen

Dr. Salvatore George DiMichael has been appointed Executive Director of the National Association for Retarded Children. Offices of the NARC will be established at 129 East 52nd Street, in New York City, as of January 1, 1954.

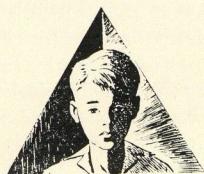
Dr. DiMichael comes from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D. C. where he was Consultant in Psychological Services since 1947. His duties there included providing leadership to state agencies for the development of psychological services for the rehabilitation of the physically and mentally handicapped, with special attention to the mentally retarded.

"Dr. DiMichael," stated Jerry Weingold, a member of the Board of Directors of the NARC, "through his wide professional experience and interest in mental retardation should be of enormous help in formulating, stimulating and strengthening programs for the mentally retarded throughout the country."

AHRC Slogan and Emblem Adopted by National Ass'n

Convention Indicates Enormous Growth Of Parents Movement

The slogan and emblem of the AHRC were unanimously adopted as the official slogan and emblem of the NARC at the 4th Annual Convention held in Chicago in October.



RETARDED CHILDREN CAN BE HELPED

The unprecedented growth of Parents Groups throughout the country was shown by the announced membership of almost 250 units in 47 states. The total membership is over 28,000. More than 700 persons registered for the convention, with 141 accredited delegates.

Space does not permit a detailed report of all that went on at this stimulating meeting. We can say that a number of important decisions, reported elsewhere in OCV were reached. For one, an Executive Director was chosen as well as the site of the National office, New York City. Also under consideration is a nationwide fund-raising drive from November 15 to November 23, 1954, culminating in a Parents' March, a door-to-door campaign. Whether or not we are ready for this kind of effort will be determined by a questionnaire to be answered by the member units.

Mr. Ray Graham, Director of Education of Exceptional Children, Illinois, in an address stated the important principle that the child is basic and any handicaps incidental. Dr. Samuel Kirk, Director, Institute for Research on Exceptional Children, University of Illinois, outlined a program of research to test the theory that mongoloid children can progress further than has been believed in the past. Most studies in the past, he stated, have been on mongoloids in institutions rather than a cross section of mongoloids everywhere. Both he and Dr. Grover Powers, Professor Emeritus Pediatrics, Yale Medical School, and Chairman, NARC Scientific Research Advisory Committee, urged basic research to find answers to the "whys" of mental retardation.

An important manifesto was adopted by the Board of Directors at their last meeting.

An Educational Bill of Rights for the Retarded Child

1. EVERY CHILD, including every retarded child, is important, and has the right to opportunities for the fullest realization of his potentialities, however limited, for physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth.
2. EVERY CHILD, including every retarded child, has the right to affection and understanding from those responsible for his care and guidance during his years of dependency.
3. EVERY AMERICAN CHILD, including every retarded child, has the right to a program of education and training suited to his particular needs and carried forward in the environment most favorable for him, whether that be the community public school, the state residential school or his home.
4. EVERY AMERICAN CHILD, including every retarded child, has the right to help, stimulation and guid-

Fulton County Latest Chapter

AHRC Continues Expansion

On November 23, 1953, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the application of the group of parents and friends in Fulton County for Chapter status. This brings the fully accredited chapters up to 13. The officers of Fulton County Chapter are President, Rev. Franklyn N. Wright ;Vice President, Barret Silverman; Treasurer, Mrs. Leona Shepard; Recording Secretary, Paul Herman, and Corres. Secretary, Mrs. George Madnick.

Community organization with the ultimate aim of creating new chapters of the association has accelerated in the last few months with numerous visits and talking engagements by Executive Director Jerry Weingold. On October 23 he addressed a new group in Rockland County. This meeting at the home of Mrs. Frieda Van Atta resulted in the election of a temporary president, Mrs. Laura S. Marron and plans for community action. A swing through the northern part of the state found Jerry talking to a group in Saratoga Springs, representing Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties. Mrs. Jean Cary is the president of what will be the Upper Hudson Chapter. Another meeting was held in Plattsburgh the following night, November 9. Mrs. Dorothy Merritt has been the sparkplug there. Mr. Carroll is the acting president.



Left to right : Mrs. Lucius Cary, Jr., president, Mrs. Walter Drcnerecki, treasurer of the Upper Hudson Chapter (in formation) of AHRC and Jerry Weingold who addressed the group at Saratoga Springs in November.

A visit to Utica (Oneida County) resulted from the efforts of Dominicia Staffler, Head of the Psychology Department at Utica College. This was a most stimulating meeting with many community people (non parents) participating. Mr. Elliott Hunt is Temporary Chairman and Mr. John P. Bucalo, Temporary Secretary.

Our own Frank McCarthy, President of Onondaga Chapter has since visited another Utica meeting and has also helped a group in Geneva (Ontario County). Over 60 persons attended this meeting led by Mrs. Maxine Abbey. This is growth, indeed, and we hope that soon there won't be a county in New York that is uncovered and actively working for the retarded.

ance from skilled teachers, provided by his community and state as part of a broadly conceived program of free public education.

5. THE PARENTS of every child, including every retarded child, have the right to determine for themselves, on the basis of competent advice, the course of care, training and treatment, among those open to them, which they believe best for the well being of their particular child and family—and to have their decisions respected by others.

Donor Doings . . .

Fresh from earlier triumphs, the THEODORA LEAGUE plans its Annual Luncheon for March 20th, at the Plaza. Those who have attended previous affairs of Theodora, know that this is something that cannot be missed. It occurs to us that March will mark the beginning of the fifth year of support for the Clinic at Flower Fifth that Theodora has given us. Remember how unquestioningly they came forward to make the clinic a reality? To the first Donor Group of the AHRC, THEODORA LEAGUE, salute!

And busier and more vital than ever, LADIES' AUXILIARY of the MORRIS J. SOLOMON SUNSHINE LEAGUE (Ladies, can we shorten the name?) had a luncheon at the Astor on October 17th, followed by a theatre party, "Late Love." All this time, too, preparations were going on for the Gala Bazaar on December 8th and 9th, at the Elite Club. October of 1954 marks their fifth year of support of their clinic at the Jewish Hospital, financially and with service. Can all this vigor mean that we are actually growing younger?

To judge by what GERTRUDE VOS CHILDREN'S FUND is doing this must be so. Rummage Sale, Dinner on December 6th, at the Governor Clinton; Installation on January 7th, etc., etc. Incidentally, Minnie Schaeffer (see "Meet Our Children"), one of the founders of AHRC, is being installed as President.

One of the most delightful dinners we have attended was that of the LENA INVALID AID, supporters of the Speech Clinic at Flower Fifth. Held at the Waldorf, December 5th, it was a pleasure to greet Mrs. Buxbaum, well again after her operation, and Lillian Segall, ever charming, ever young. And on December 21st, their wonderful Christmas Party at the Speech Clinic.

THE CUNNINGHAM WOMEN'S LEAGUE continues to grow and help. On September 22nd they installed new officers, with Mrs. Edythe Frank as President (see picture). And then, in rapid succession, a card party, a "Get Acquainted Dance", the wonderful Queens Christmas Party for the children and plans for the Spring Luncheon, May 15th, at the Waldorf. Can we keep up with this mad whirl?

We wish we had more news from the others, Sarah Starkman League, who sent 18 children to camp; Ruth Kirzon League, 100 League, Lenton Ladies, and the many others. **Please send us news.**

LADIES' AUXILIARY LOUIS FLEISCHMANN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY PRESENTS CHECK TO AHRC



Mrs. Edward J. Werner, president, and Dora Warshauer, chairman of Good Deeds, present check for \$1,000 to Jerry Weingold on December 7. The money pays for speech therapy at the schools.

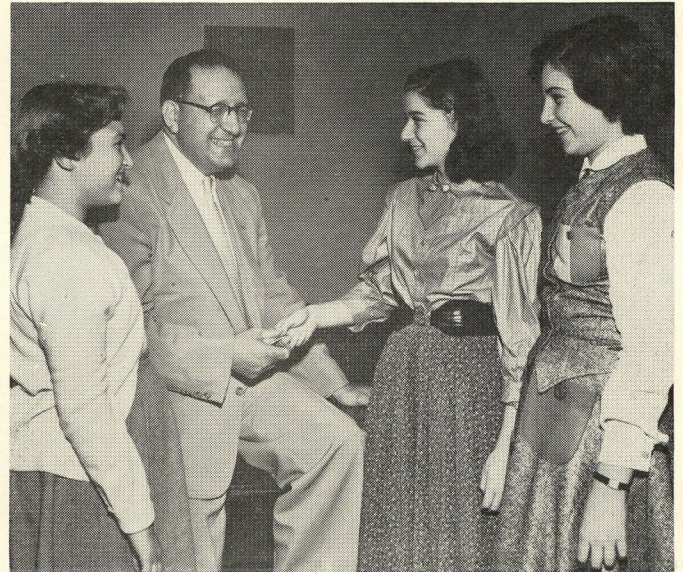
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells . . .

Once more the city dressed itself up in holiday clothes. Lights shone, bells began to ring, Santa Claus appeared like magic and a more kindly spirit pervaded all. Our children, too, were caught up in this wonderful time, felt the stirrings all around them, and looked forward with eager anticipation to some special happening.

Well, what they waited for came true, and we are just beginning to get the ring of Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells out of our ears. First there was the great, big, enormous and also large Christmas party given by the Cunningham Women's League of Queens for the retarded and the cerebral palsied in Queens. And then there was the smaller, but not quieter, party at the Brooklyn school where the A & S Santa Claus once more made his dramatic appearance. Lena Invalid Aid again had its party for the Flower Fifth Speech Clinic where Miss Nertz had more fun. And then, there were the two great, big, gigantic, and also large Christmas parties at the Brownsville Boys Club with Council President Abe Stark as host and at the North End Democratic Club in the Bronx. All with entertainment, food, toys, noise and happiness.

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells . . . oh, is it all over?

THE YOUNG HELP, TOO!



The Misses Gloria Fischer, Marna Rosenberg and Maxine Kreiner, Juniors of the Lenton Ladies, present the proceeds of the sale of craft pins they made to President Fineson.

WORKSHOP ATTRACTS MANY VISITORS

The program of the Association Training Center and Sheltered Workshop has attracted visitors from all over the country and some from abroad.

Among those who have recently made their way to Nostrana Avenue are Rev. Martin Fouts, Minister of Cresp Memorial Presbyterian Church in Baltimore and Chairman of the Sheltered Workshop Committee of the Baltimore Group; Dr. Rita Morgan, Metropolitan Vocational High School, N. Y.; Madam Fen Yu, U. N. exchange scholar from China; Dr. Wm. J. Wiest, Jr., Dept. of Pub. Instruction, Pa.; Dr. M. T. Hollinshead, T. C. and Newark Public Schools; Miss Lois Papa, Social Service, Mr. Leonard Neleson, Palestine Lighthouse, Israel, and Ann Bass, New York City, CRMD.

A Tale Of Two Cities

A continent-spanning human interest story ended in the happy embrace of a mother and son the night of December 1st, at Lindbergh Field, San Diego, on his arrival from Syracuse.

Mrs. Marie Gordon saw her son, Richard, for the first time in three years.

Richard, a resident at the State School in Syracuse, was separated from his loved ones when ill health forced them to move to California three years ago. Mrs. Gordon tried desperately to get her son transferred to California, but the state authorities insisted that some one accompany him.

News of the modest circumstances of the parents, who have two smaller boys, reached the National Association for Retarded Children six months ago, and through them the AHRC. Three Syracuse area residents took action. Frank C. McCarthy, President of the Onondaga Chapter went right to work. With Ray Wiley, Public Relations Director for the Chapter, the story was told to the fifty delegates to the AHRC State Convention in Binghamton in September. Money began coming in for this heart-warming cause, chiefly from members of Onondaga Chapter and the state AHRC delegates, but also from as far away as Chicago and California. And finally Hobart Miller, business associate of Frank McCarthy, accepted the task of escorting the boy, paying all additional costs for the trip.



Larry Riley, American Airlines Official, poses with Richard (Mitirchko) and Hobart Miller, Onondago County AHRC escort, before the two boarded plane for trip to the coast and Richard's reunion with his mother in San Diego.

Ray wants us to be sure to thank Bernie Fineson, Rose Nussbaum, Betty Deyo (Endicott), Phil Cook (Liberty), George Cameron (Champlain), Mrs. Richard Reising (Delmar), Sanford W. Ots (for the Erie-Niagara Chapter), Burage Stiles (for the Schenectady Chapter), Glenn L. Young (for Broome County Chapter), Gilbert A. Hanke, President NARC (personal contribution), Frank C. McCarthy and Hobart Miller for their personal contributions and the members of the Onondaga County Chapter of AHRC as a group.

AHRC SHARES IN COLLEGE CHARITY DRIVES

In a special election nearly 300 students of CCNY selected eight organizations to benefit from this year's charity drive. AHRC was honored by being included. Funds will be raised by classroom coin box collections, a carnival fashion show and variety show.

The girls of Brooklyn College have also made the Association the recipient of the funds from their coin box drive and have already delivered over \$140.00 to the office.

President Fineson felt that these efforts deserve special mention. "These are the future leaders in the community," he said, "and we are gratified indeed that they feel our cause worthy of their help."

INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS OF SEVERELY RETARDED PLANNED

The AHRC plans to hold a two-day Institute for all the directors and teachers in the classes being conducted by the Association throughout the state. Although no date has been set, it will probably be held in New York City on a Friday and Saturday before spring.

The first day of the sessions will be taken up with demonstration classes at the Joshua School in the Bronx and the second day with discussion, and workshops led by specialists in the various disciplines dealing with mental retardation. Committees will be formed to develop methods, materials, curriculum, etc.

All who are interested in attending please write to Joseph T. Weingold at the AHRC office.

Supervisor to Direct State Schools Academic Program

The Department of Mental Hygiene has announced the appointment of Charles I. McAllister as Supervisor of Education.

For the past 17 years, Mr. McAllister has been connected with the New York City Board of Education bureau for children with retarded mental development. He taught classes for the retarded from 1936 to 1946 and since that time has been a supervisor. The appointment is the result of a survey of the state schools educational system made by the State Department of Education.

"The new supervisor will direct the further development of the academic program for children on state schools for mental defectives" reads the announcement in the MENTAL HYGIENE NEWS. *(It is unfortunate that the emphasis on the education of the mentally retarded is placed on the "academic." This seems to imply that no more attention will be paid to the more severely retarded than now. The Fouracre report clearly indicates that there is almost no educational program for the trainable children in the state schools. And yet that is where parents are told to send them as the best place for them. It raises the question: Is the Department of Mental Hygiene the one to oversee and direct the educational program in institutions? Editor.)*

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).

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

The regular payment of dues by members is necessary to help finance the projects of the Association. Don't forget, 50 cents of your dues goes to the National Association and you get "Children Limited."

**Dues Are \$5.00 Per Year Per Family.
Be In Good Standing.**

Chapter News

BROOME COUNTY

Has issued an annual President's Report that we recommend to their chapters as an example. We suggest you get a copy if you haven't yet gotten it. Broome is deep in their campaign for \$25,000 to support their school (in a public school building) and other activities. We'll report results as we get the news.

CAPITOL DISTRICT

We always admire their Newsletter. This is one of the few chapters that puts it out regularly, and with colors, too. They have started their fund drive with a goal of \$30,000. One of the events that has helped this, in addition to the Coin Drive, was "Howdy Doody Day" at the Washington Avenue Armory, for the benefit of the AHRC. \$3,000 collected in profit.

There are two items on which the chapter deserves congratulations. The first is the opening of an AHRC class in Troy in public school space, and the second is the Catechism Classes being held weekly for handicapped children at the College of St. Rose. These are being given by specially trained Sodalists, members of the Catechist of St. Francis de Sales.

CAYUGA COUNTY

Sends us news summary of the whole year, starting with the first meeting in November, 1952 addressed by the tireless Frank C. McCarthy of Syracuse (and points North, South, East and West). This small community (Auburn) started an AHRC class with six pupils in May and now has 20 with a paid director. It is housed in a building donated by St. Alphonsus Church. "This summarizes our year's activities and we feel proud of our achievements," writes Mrs. Harry Smith, Vice President and Corresponding Secretary. We are proud, too!

CHEMUNG COUNTY

We get their news via new clippings service. We must pass on to the rest their bright idea for fund-raising. Dimes are deposited in parking meters that don't register or buy parking space. These dimes are turned over to the AHRC by the city fathers after being separated from regular meter receipts. What do other organizations say about this, Chemung? Or shouldn't we ask.

ERIE-NIAGARA

Has had a series of five articles by Mrs. Margaret Fess in the "Courier Express." This tells a wonderful story. Congratulations to Clive Hodson, Publicity Chairman. How about getting this into a booklet for more general distribution? Erie-Niagara is doing a bang-up job of community relations. Just to mention two items, B'nai B'rith has contributed a Music Room to the Center on Humboldt Street, and the local chapter of the International Council for Exceptional Children gave a Hal-low'e'en party for the teen-age retardates. Their Speakers' Committee reads like a roster of the whole chapter.

MONROE COUNTY

Is deep in their Building Fund Drive in Rochester. An interesting way of raising money and spreading our story at the same time was the donation to the AHRC of fees paid for visiting a model home during National Home Week. The Soroptomists of Rochester collected about \$1,000 by this method.

The Day Care Center for Handicapped Children operated by the chapter has instituted a 10-week training

course for parents of children on the waiting list. Five sessions are devoted to informing the parents about mental retardation and there are five practice sessions with the children.

"Our aim is twofold," writes Mary Pulvino, "teaching children as much as they are able to learn and teaching the community that the children are able to learn." The proof, indeed, lies in the children and their parents.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

Has established a Psychological Clinic under Dr. Morris Weinstein, Clinical Psychologist at Albany Hospital and on the faculty of Albany Medical College. This clinic will give psychological evaluations of the children and consultation services to the parents.

An interesting and important development has been the formation of a special committee to contact parents of children in special classes in public schools to get them to join our work. We must see that this is all one problem with many facets.

SCHENECTADY MAILMEN AID RETARDED



The Mailmen of Schenectady counting some of the \$11,000 they recently collected for the Schenectady County Chapter of the AHRC.

SUFFOLK

Sends us a fast newsletter just after their first birthday party. They are now having a raffle on a new Plymouth, drawing at the February 25th dance. In the short period of its existence, Suffolk has probably stimulated the formation of more special classes in public schools than any other chapter. Can we expect less from the charming McConnells et al.?

WESTCHESTER

Reports that the AHRC Clinic Division of the New Rochelle Guidance Center was formally dedicated on September 30; that a visiting nurse of the Pelham Community Service give one hour each week to the school; and that the Junior League of Pelham act as receptionists. These are some of the ways in which the community is involved and how the community can be taught about our children, their problems, and some of the things that can be done to help solve them.

And incidentally (with much hard work), Westchester had a raffle of a mink stole and I am told raised about \$5,000. Raised or stole? Well, it's all for the children, isn't it?

Borough Activities Stepped Up

The last few months saw borough activities at their peak before everyone buckles down to making our Fifth Annual Dinner the greatest success yet.

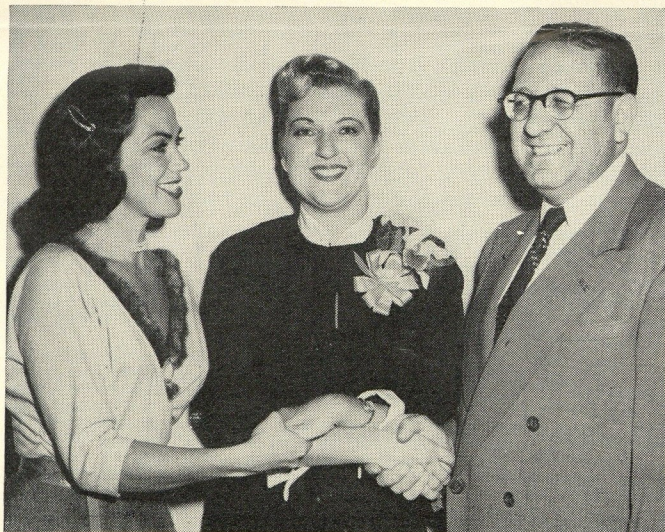
QUEENS is mentioned, first because this was their first borough-wide attempt at a fund-raising function. And what a success it was! "THE BAZAAR" was held on December 4 and 5, at the Triangle Ballroom in Richmond Hill and resulted in a net profit of almost \$2500. Bouquets to Billie Kamen, Chairman, whose committee did such an outstanding job. Since this group is practically in its infancy, we think it is pretty terrific. In fact, we think it is terrific, period.

BRONX this year held a card party at Elsmere Hall, on October 29, under the chairmanship of Jean Katz and Dorothy Watskins. Almost \$600 was raised with four hundred people attending. Members of the Committee included Margaret Rosenberg, Mrs. Katzenstein, Sara Raynor, Fanya Kuris, Rose Ossin, Sylvia Schachter, Peggy Holzman, Elaine Blau and Joe Shupp. (If we have left out any one, we surrender quietly). Bronx Fund-Raising Chairman, Sy Chicquor, had the pleasure of introducing newly-elected President Bernie Fineson and soon to be elected Justice of the Municipal Court, Hon. Bertha Schwartz.

And **BROOKLYN**, that stalwart of many campaigns, held their fabulous card party on November 18, at Menora Temple, with almost 1,000 people attending. Net result, over \$2500 net. We asked Ed Fliegel to give us the dope but he hasn't until now, so if we don't mention names you'll know why. To all of you, however, thanks and orchids (big ones).

Over across the bay, there is another borough, **RICHMOND**, known to us as **Staten Island**. On November 20, President Fineson journeyed out to a meeting at the Elks' Club, St. George to help activate the group. Mrs. Maureen Miner of West Brighton, and Jerome Otis Ellis of Dongan Hills, were named co-chairmen of a steering committee. Dr. Harold Berman, Director of Willowbrook, offered the use of diagnostic facilities at the school. Staten Islanders interested in getting more active, contact the office.

CUNNINGHAM INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS



Left to right: Kitty Kallen, popular star of stage and television; Edythe Frank, newly-elected president, and Bernie Fineson, president of AHRC, at installation of officers of Cunningham Women's League on September 22.

DONOR COUNCIL MEETING HELD

An important meeting of the members of the AHRC Donor Council was held at the offices of the Association on December 8, 1953. The Donor Council consists of organizations who have made the AHRC the sole beneficiaries of their fund-raising efforts or who donate to our cause on a regular basis.

The meeting, several of which are held during the year, discussed the total program of the Association. President Fineson outlined what we are doing and our plans for future expansion, including the new Training Center and Workshop for Manhattan and the Bronx and also a Queens project for next fall.

Many of the groups represented earmark their contributions for specific projects or services and were most interested to hear the overall story. Every one present left with renewed faith in what we are doing and a firm resolve to continue and expand their efforts.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR COIN BOX CAMPAIGN

OVER 12,000 CANNISTERS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

THESE CANS IN STORES ALONE WILL NOT MAKE THE DRIVE A SUCCESS.

WE NEED HELP FROM HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL PERSONALLY STAND IN ONE OF THE LOCATIONS.

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO HELP DIRECTLY. IT WILL TAKE ONLY A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME.

IS IT WORTH IT TO HELP
THE CHILDREN?

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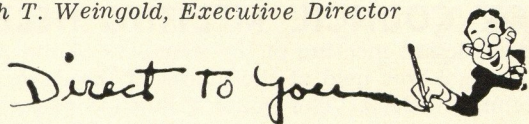
DO IT NOW!

Plans For A New State School

With the allocation of \$1,400,000 for a site and planning of a new state school in Western New York, the form of this institution becomes of more and more concern to all parents of mentally retarded children, not only in this state but throughout the country.

In an interview by a Buffalo newspaper, Dr. Arthur Pense, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, stated that the state proposes to build an institution with at least 3,000 beds. He further stated that the cost of such a "school" would be about \$8,000 per bed.

Since the institution will probably be in Erie County, The Council of Social Agencies of Buffalo is deeply interested in the plans of the state. The parents, of course, are also concerned and a meeting is being held with Dr. Newton Bigelow, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, on January 6, to present to him the views of the AHRC and the other parents groups in the State. Stated Irving Krakoff, Chairman of the Institutions Committee, "We hope that Dr. Pense was misquoted about an institution for 3,000 beds. We know that this will soon mean 5,000 beds. I believe that this is not in accord with the most advanced thinking. We are sure that due consideration will be given to the views of the parents and experiences in other states."



Everywhere there is clamor among the parents for legislation for the education and training for the mentally retarded. Why legislation? Why shouldn't the parents groups do this themselves?

Shouldn't the parents do this themselves is rather a startling question put that boldly. And yet, isn't that the only alternative to legislation and community action? Perhaps it would be well to state some first principles first. I can do no better than to quote from the December, 1953, REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY RELATIVE TO TRAINING FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR RETARDED CHILDREN.

"For children, the rights and duties of American democracy are synonymous with education . . . Traditionally and historically, education in Massachusetts has been the function of the local community . . . In an age when many functions of society are being allocated to state and federal agencies, it is well to emphasize the peculiarly local and democratic principles of education."

"The mentally retarded child, IS FIRST OF ALL A CHILD (capital ours) entitled to the same consideration as every other child. Secondly, he is a handicapped child and as such is entitled with all handicapped children to every aid we can give him to function, within his handicap, as a child. . . ."

"It is for EVERY child that we crave security—not only for the hale and hearty, the capable ones, and those of stable personality. The challenge is even greater for those who must be helped to BECOME hale and hearty, capable and stable; or, failing that, to function at the least to the limits of their possibilities. This is the right of all children. It is also the duty of society, since whatever profits the children will ultimately rebound to the good of the community in which they will live and work as adults."

If we recognize these principles, then the legislative program of the AHRC follows almost inevitably. What do we ask? First, that the mentally retarded have the same rights and privileges under the law as the physically handicapped now enjoy. For example, the physically handicapped may now receive home teaching, but not the mentally retarded. Why not? We have but to look at the New Jersey program of home teaching, small as it is, to see the enormous benefits derived by the children and the families (HOME TRAINING FOR MENTALLY DEFICIENT CHILDREN IN NEW JERSEY, by Lloyd N. Yepsen and Vincentz Cianci, Training School (Vineland) of April, 1946).

Secondly, we must attack the specific law dealing with the education of the mentally retarded. This law, in existence in some form since 1910, was amended in 1950 with two important changes. The word "minors" was substituted for children and a definition of a mentally retarded minor was introduced. Both of these changes are most significant.

The definition as it now stands is as follows: "As referred to in this section 'a minor with retarded mental development' means a minor who, because of retarded intellectual development as determined by an examination by an approved psychologist or psychiatrist, is incapable of benefitting through ordinary classroom instruction but who may be expected to profit from special educational facilities DESIGNED TO MAKE HIM SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY COMPETENT."

Few people, indeed, seem to take the trouble to read this law because there isn't a professional in any of the disciplines connected with mental retardation to whom I have shown this, who has not been shocked by this definition. Indeed, if this definition of being expected to profit from educational facilities designed to make him socially and economically competent were applied to the normal child, how many would have to be excluded from school. We know that over 50% of initial high school entrants leave before the four years are completed, not to mention the many social and economic misfits in our society.

Contrast this with the definition of a physically handicapped child: "As referred to in this article a physically handicapped child means a person under 21 years of age who by reason of a physical defect or infirmity, whether congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease, is or may be expected to be totally or partially incapacitated for education or for remunerative occupation."

Note that a physically handicapped child who is "TOTALLY INCAPACITATED for education or for remunerative occupation" is entitled to education and training under the laws of this state. Why the exceptionally restrictive definition for the mentally retarded?

We propose that the new definition be "As referred to in this section 'mentally retarded minors' means all children between the age of five and 21 who, because of retarded intellectual development, as determined by individual psychological examination, are incapable of being educated profitably and efficiently through ordinary classroom instruction."

With this definition we can then go on to implement the philosophy first stated and which seems inescapable in our democracy and civilization.

We propose first that the following provisions be in the law: "The Board of Education of each school district where there are eight or more mentally retarded minors who may be expected to profit from special educational facilities designed to make them economically useful and socially adjusted, shall establish such special classes as may be necessary to provide instruction adapted to the mental attainments of such minors from their fifth birthday as pro-

vided by section thirty—two hundred two of this chapter and when they have reached a mental age of three, until the end of the term during which they attain their 21st birthday under regulations to be established by the commissioner of education."

This lowers the number of children necessary to form a class from 10 to eight and definitely states the ages at which compulsory education must be made available to them.

It is quite well known that many school districts evade the responsibilities for setting up special classes because they say they cannot find 10 or more in the district, so that in 1948-49 we find only 13 out of 358 central school districts maintaining special classes for mentally retarded children. It may be argued that they may well escape responsibility even where there are eight, but we think it would be harder to do in the first place, and in the second place, provision for this is made later in the amendment. The sentence delimiting the ages is to avoid a situation where there is no secondary school education for these children or where this responsibility is being avoided.

It is to close the gap which permits boards of education to state that a mentally retarded child of 16 or 17 is "uneducable" when in fact what is missing is the facility. We must not forget that the public school is TERMINAL EDUCATION FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED, and there is no reason why they should not get within the public school system training similar to that offered to the physically handicapped where provision is made for scholarships in non residential schools and maintenance and tuition in "elementary, secondary, higher, special, and technical schools for physically handicapped children." Where shall the mentally retarded get the "higher, special, technical training" if not in public school?

Furthermore, under the present regulations where a child has to have a mental age of five to be admitted to public school there are many children who are obliged to remain at home until the age of 10 even though their I.Q.s meet the requirements. That is the reason for stating in the law that a mentally retarded child shall be eligible for school with a mental age of three, so that a youngster with a chronological age of six will be admitted and his formative years not lost.

The definition further permits us to make provision for the thousands of children now in limbo, neither in institutions nor provided for in the community. This section will read "The Board of Education of each school district where there are eight or more mentally retarded minors who cannot profit from ordinary classroom instruction and who do not qualify under subdivision two of this section but who may be expected to benefit from special educational facilities designed to educate and train them to further their individual acceptance, social adjustment and economic usefulness in their homes and within a sheltered environment shall establish such special classes as may be necessary to provide instruction adapted to the mental attainment of such minors from their fifth birthday and upon their attaining a mental age of two until the end of the term during which they attain their 21st birthday under regulations to be established by the commissioner of education."

Here indeed some of our professional friends find themselves full of arguments of why it should not be done and before these arguments can be answered, again we must revert to first principles. I quote from the Massachusetts Commission once more, "It is the feeling of this commission that the law for special education should be extended unequivocally to include the severely retarded but trainable group . . . First of all, it is the inalienable right of parents, if they wish, to keep their severely retarded children at home . . . We are gradually becoming aware that some of these children who have been assigned to institutions may also be trained to live an acceptable life in their families and local communities. . . . It is no longer felt by specialists that a mongoloid, for instance, should be placed in an institution from birth on, but rather that he should have whatever good fortune the fates have allowed him of good family life in a community which makes an effort to accept him. He may very well have to spend some of his days in an institution—why all of them? Some of the severely retarded, with less marked anomalies, may be able to spend all their lives within the shelter of their families if the community makes some effort to accept them. Thirdly, that one never can tell until one tries how well a program will work . . . To experiment with small groups . . . gives no answer to such phases of the problem as how the project works when a school district assumes responsibility for its own children; or how public thinking and acceptance change as these children make adjustments in their own community. Fourthly, from a practical point of view, however costly a public school program for the trainable retarded may be, it is still cheaper than placing him in an institution with total maintenance."

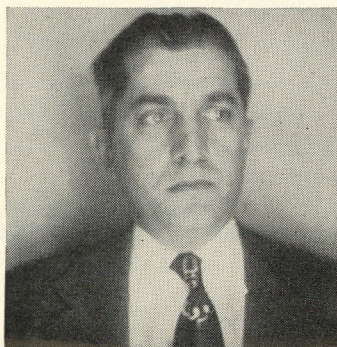
We in the Association go even further than this. The total responsibility for the education of all retarded children must not cease when they enter institutions and we propose the same conditions and supervision shall obtain for classes in institutions and that such education be compulsory.

Much talk is made of experimentation. It is ungracious, to say the least, to ignore the work in California, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois and even the Association classes. Is the truth to be found in New York State only? We recognize, however, that you cannot legislate sympathy, understanding and spirit. We propose, therefore, that the part of the law dealing with the more severely retarded go into effect July 1955 to give the local school districts and boards of education plenty of time to study other programs. We go even further; we ask that enough money be approved for only 30 such classes, 20 in the community and 10 in institutions for the first year.

Much argument will be made against any or all of this. We may not succeed this year, but those who oppose this are trying to turn back a tidal wave with their hands. If they are true professionals, they should be seeking arguments to do this, not ways of escaping their just responsibilities to this large class of handicapped children, the mentally retarded.

IN THE AHRC LIGHT

CHRIS DE PROSPO



Born in Brooklyn July 29, 1910. Educated in the public schools of Brooklyn. Received his B.S. and M.A. in Special Education from Teachers College, Columbia. Served in the Navy for two and one-half years. Married, wife's name is Ann, and has one child, Richard, four years old.

All his adult professional career has been devoted to the mentally retarded. Starting as a teacher in the CRMD (1933-1943), he then became a Supervisor in the same Bureau and finally, in 1952, assistant professor in the School of Education in City College. Author of more than a dozen significant articles on mental retardation, many have become landmarks in this field.

His affiliations and honors include Vice-President in Education, American Association on Mental Deficiency, 1951-1953, Fellow of the A.A.M.D., Book Review Editor, American Journal on Mental Deficiency, Member International Council for Exceptional Children, Experimental Society for the Study of Education, New York State Planning Council for the Exceptional and Educational Consultant, Clinic for Retarded Children, Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital, New York.

Significant of Chris is that he lists among his professional affiliations, Board of Advisors, Association for the Help of Retarded Children, General Advisor, Long Island Chapter of the AHRC and Member, Education Committee of the New Jersey Association for Retarded Children.

His great training, educational background, publications and affiliations have made him a person indispensable to the growth and development of a well grounded parents movement in this city. There has never been a time when he wasn't ready to attend a meeting, address a group, edit a paper, plan a conference, counsel a parent who needed educational guidance and, above all, share his human warmth and optimism.

The AHRC Light shines on Chris De Prosopo for giving so much of himself to others, for his unswerving devotion to the retarded, for his calm and reasoned counsel to parents groups when they need help most, and above all, for his qualities as a human being.

I should end here, but Chris begged me not to fail to mention, even if I leave out some of his professional honors, that he LOVES gefuekte fish with horseradish. The kind made with beets.

Summer Workshop For Teachers Of Trainable Mentally Retarded

The Association for the Help of Retarded Children and the Department of Special Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, are co-sponsoring a workshop for teachers of trainable mentally retarded children during the Summer Session, 1954.

AHRC PROFILE . . .

ALICE PEARLSTEIN

Member
Board of Directors



Little Alice doesn't say so, but I think she was born in Brooklyn. Graduated from Eastern District High School and then moved to Massachusetts. Attended college there, majoring in English. Naturally moved back to Brooklyn.

Joining the AHRC soon after its formation in 1949, she became secretary of Brooklyn Fund Raising that year and soon thereafter chairman of the Social Activities Project. She sparked the teaching of mailing operations to retarded teen-agers at the office, the Alexander C. Russotto Canteen, and the formation of the Cub Scout Pack for retarded boys in Brooklyn. In addition her efforts brought about the cooperation of a social agency to set up a teen-age recreation program in Manhattan. Spends most of her time as the indispensable volunteer and general factotum at the Training Center and Workshop. In her spare time on Saturday she is the advisor and mentor of another recreation group. All this in addition to Board meetings, helping at the office and taking dancing lessons with her daughter.

Married to Samuel Eli, formerly an accountant and now in the liquor business. (Is this a natural progression?) Has two children, son, Don Michael, 21, who studied engineering and is now at Officers Candidate School, and daughter, Linda Jay, 14, retarded and attending a Low I.Q. class. Alice says, "The biggest thrill I got was when she taught my Mom how to write her address and telephone number. Linda Joy is just what her name implies."

Alice also says she married her childhood sweetheart and is still going strong (she says).

Adds rather superfluously, "A busy little bee aren't I?"

Oh, yes, the hat she is wearing was made in the AHRC workshop.

Growing awareness of the responsibility of the local communities to provide educational facilities for these children generally excluded from special education programs because of lower intelligence (generally based on I.Q.s under 50) and the need for teachers of these children prompted this move.

The Workshop will center around a group of trainable mentally retarded children for whom an education program is planned on campus. Students will have the opportunity to work directly with the children. In conjunction with this participation a special course will be offered in methods and materials.

The Summer Session starts on Tuesday, July 6 and concludes on Friday, August 13. Students planning to work with the mentally retarded are asked to write for information as soon as possible to Professor M. H. Fouracre, Head Department of Special Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: Some time ago your editor appeared on the program "Second Chance" This resulted in our receiving many letters, but the one reproduced below is so typical of the brave heart-break and courage of many parents of the retarded that we print it for all to read and think about.

* * *

Dear Johnny (It is addressed to Johnny Olson, M.C. of the program):

After listening to your wonderful program for some time over WLW Cincinnati, I have decided to write you about my second chance or chances. It's hard to put it in actual words.

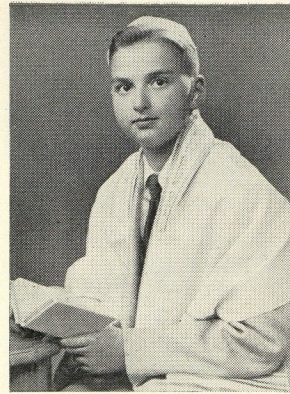
When I was 35 years old, after being married nine years, I had a second chance for happiness when a tiny, red-headed boy was born to me. But when he was a few weeks old I realized that he didn't move about like other babies.

After examination by many doctors in and out of hospitals, all I could find out was that Michael didn't have any muscle on one side of his back, that one arm was partly paralyzed and that although he wasn't crippled in his bones he may never walk or talk well.

I decided not to give up. I was determined to give this little guy a second chance somehow.

I massaged, carried, fed him special foods . . . I took him on rides in a special folding buggy . . . I amused him, lifted, taught him and loved him, oh so very much. But because of the cost of things for him I haven't minded wearing used clothing or not going to shows or having nice furniture. All I wanted to do was to give him a second chance by caring for him, overcoming his slowness, but letting him know always that I love every moment I've spent with this brave little fellow, whose sunny disposition, own efforts to walk, talk and learn things have made me almost humble to think I can't help more quickly . . . Finally he sat up at two years. At four he finally walked. He can talk now. He has learned many things—how to count, some words by sight reading. How to tune any station he wants . . . He loves books and draws colors. But he couldn't go up and down stairs and walking tired him so much. So until he could do this I didn't enter him in school which was a mile away and no bus ride at that time.

Now a school bus passes our door. He is so small for his age but because he wanted so much to go to school, I tried to enter him. I felt since my family lived here for four generations in spite of his being nine, he had a place in our new school building waiting for him



SHELDON SCHAEFFER

Sheldon, the son of Minnie and Nat Schaeffer, is just 13 years old, was Bar Mitzvah this past summer and attends a CRMD class at P. S. 75 Bronx. We just couldn't resist printing his picture in his ceremonial robes.

Minnie, incidentally, was the first presiding officer of the AHRC (even before it had a name). How many remember that first meeting on January 7, 1949 at the National Foundation for Speech Disorders? Now very active in Gertrude Vos Children's Fund, one of the Association's important donor groups, she will be inducted as president of the group on January 7, 1954, exactly five years after our first meeting.

The whole family, Nat, Minnie and Iris proudly showed me the picture at the Bronx Christmas party. Sheldon merely looked on in dignified silence. I, too, was proud of the achievements of this retarded boy and here he is for all to share his triumphs.

. . . But there was none for Michael. He is so desolate. He feels unwanted again. The neighbor children gave him that feeling that he is different. He needs other children now. He . . . is kind, gentle with pets and toys, never moody or sullen. But I want to wipe out that hurt look when the School Super said in front of him, "We can't take him, he's retarded." Without a test how do they know what is in this bright little mind? He has overcome so much. So I'm writing different people. I'm trying to give him a second chance to go to school. Reading my letter would help so much. . . .

From his Mom,

MRS. JULIA DU VALL

119 E. Eycamore Road, Oxford, Ohio.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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