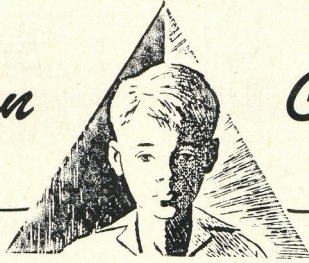


# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*



*Can Be Helped!*

VOL. VI. — ISSUE NO. 4

DEC. 1954 - JAN. 1955

## AHRC Presents Expanded Legislative Program

### Officials at First Manhattan Workshop Opening

#### Press Gives Wide Coverage

The official opening of the AHRC—operated Manhattan Sheltered Workshop and Training Center was held on the premises at 303 Fourth Avenue, New York City, on November 9, 1954.



Attorney General Jacob K. Javits examines a sample at the new Manhattan Sheltered Workshop while the Hon. Louis Cioffi and President Bernard Fineson look on.

On hand for the ceremony were the Hon. Jacob K. Javits, Attorney General of the State of New York and a longtime supporter of AHRC, and the Hon. Louis Cioffi, Commissioner of Borough Works, representing Manhattan Borough President Hulan Jack.

Full-time operation of the Manhattan Workshop makes New York the only city in the nation to have two installations of this kind which enable mentally retarded teenagers and young adults to lead productive lives turning out contract jobs for industry. Our Brooklyn Workshop at 724 Nostrand Avenue, was the first of its kind and has been in successful operation for nearly two years. There are now five such facilities in the entire country.

The event, which was covered by the press and wire services, was held in connection with the observance of NRC Week November 14-23. Representing the Association and its various projects were President Bernard M. Fineson and Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold; Rudolf P. Hor-

(Continued on page 6)

### Changes in Education and Mental Hygiene Laws Urged

The Association for the Help of Retarded Children is urging this year an even more extensive revision of the laws of the state dealing with the mentally retarded than was recommended last year, according to a statement by Augustus Jacobs, Chairman of the Legal and Legislative Committee. A study of the facilities available in the state clearly shows the inadequacies of the laws and the necessity to make changes if New York is to remain one of the leaders in the care, training and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded.

Six bills are to be introduced. Four of these are to amend the Education Law to widen the services for children with I.Q.s from 50 to 75, make provision that they be taken into school at the age of 5 and kept beyond 16 or 17, lower the number necessary to form a class from 10 to 8 in order to encourage rural school districts to provide this facility, broaden the scope of the law to provide education for the "trainable" children, I.Q.s under 50 who are now excluded, provide more adequate transportation and home teaching.

With its concern for children in institutions as well as at home, the AHRC asks that the 1949 recommendation of the Temporary State Commission on Coordination of State Activities be implemented to place the education of mentally retarded children in institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education as if the children were at home.

Once more a differential of pay of \$480 per year is asked for teachers of classes for the handicapped and increased state aid to special classes from \$800 to \$1800 per class.

Changes in the Mental Hygiene Law are proposed to provide 1. That every Board of Visitors of a State School shall include the parent of a mentally retarded person and 2. That the Director of a State School may be a qualified expert other than a physician. The present provision of the law makes it mandatory that the Director be a physician, thus excluding many persons who have spent their lives in this field from the eligible lists for this position. Experience in other states has clearly demonstrated that some of the best Directors of State Schools in the country are not physicians.

It is hoped that the legislation will receive bi-partisan support. Senator Earl Brydges, Republican, of Niagara Falls, champion of legislation for the retarded for a number of years, is eager to do battle in the Senate. Assemblywoman Genesta Strong, Republican of Nassau County, and Assembly-

(Continued on page 2)

## 6th ANNUAL DINNER, HOTEL ASTOR, MAY 21



## 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.  
GRamercy 3-4875

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

## THE LAST PILGRIMAGE?

(An Editorial)

Each year, in January, the duly elected representatives of the people convene in Albany to make laws for the general welfare of the people of the state. Each year, from 1950 on, the Association has presented a legislative program. For three years we urged the formation of a Joint Legislative Committee to study the problem of mental retardation and report a legislative and community program. This was never achieved, but the task was given to the Mental Health Commission. After three years, they have as yet publicly reported nothing.

Helped by leading educators, physicians and others, the AHRC drew up a comprehensive legislative program of its own that was presented in 1953 and 1954. This was ignored, but an experiment for trainable children was authorized last year. In the light of all the experiments that have already been done by the AHRC and in other states, we cannot but wonder whether this was a stalling action. Further doubt on the good faith of this program is cast by the inadequate appropriation of \$50,000, more than half of which may be used for transportation in New York City alone. (We asked for \$200,000).

Now, once more we make our annual pilgrimage. There is a new administration that spoke brave, heartening words about a "bold program," new thinking, etc. More and more professionals have become acquainted with the special problems of the mentally retarded; more and more people have learned of the inadequacies of the state program for this large segment of the population; articles in national magazines have stressed a positive, hopeful approach.

It now remains to be seen whether the brave, heartening words will be translated into action. It now remains to be seen whether the general welfare of the people includes the welfare of the mentally retarded. This must be a year for action. The small doses of placebos cannot begin to meet the deep-seated needs of the children. Studies, experiments, inquiries are the means for evading action. These are the heartless instruments to justify expending thousands of human lives by murderous inactivity disguised as the "long range view."

But we, the people, also have a responsibility. It is our duty to impress indelibly on the minds of our representatives that time is our enemy; that there are thousands and thousands of mentally retarded persons in and out of school who need help NOW; that our program is a reasonable one; that no legislative program for the general welfare is complete without at least these provisions for the mentally retarded.

They are YOUR representatives: tell them.

## HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR BOOK?

## AHRC SHARES IN GREATER NEW YORK FUND

For the first time in its history, the Greater New York Fund this year staged a public distribution of cheques to its member agencies. On behalf of AHRC, President Bernard M. Fineson received from Tex McCrary the amount of \$9,292 as our share of the monies collected by that Agency during 1954. The presentation took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on December 15 at 4 p.m.

## National Convention Makes Important Decisions

### Board of Directors Votes Research Survey

President Martin F. Papish greeted more than 800 parents, friends, and delegates at the Fifth Convention of the National Association in Boston, October 20-23, 1954. Visitors came from Canada, England, Uruguay and Turkey.

Many important decisions were reached, highlighted by the action of the Board to engage Dr. Richard Masland to make a survey of the research that is going on in the causes and treatment of mental retardation, in this country and abroad. The purpose of the review is to establish an intelligent basis for future research that the National Association will be asked to approve and finance. The survey will be under the general supervision of the National's Scientific Research Advisory Committee, of which Dr. Grover Powers was once more elected Chairman.

Preceded by a full-day educational workshop, attended by teachers, administrators and parents from all over the country, the convention reviewed the work of all committees and laid plans for activities during the year. First in priority was placed an all-out effort to establish a network of clinics across the country. The AHRC has been a pioneer in this field and the article on the establishment of community clinics for the mentally retarded written by Dr. Wortis, who heads up the Morris J. Solomon Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded Children at the Jewish Hospital in Brooklyn, is being widely used in this endeavor.

The AHRC delegation, headed by President Bernie Fineson, included Julian Banner, Mac Schachter, Charlie Campana, George Hirsch, Sidney Leviton, Alice Pearlstein, Rose Nussbaum and Jerry Weingold, who was reelected to the Board of Directors to represent the Northeast Region for another three years. Jerry also reported as Chairman of the National Legal and Legislative Committee and participated in the Workshop on Sheltered Workshops, speaking on their financing. The AHRC delegation headquarters came to be known as Club 328, their room number, and engendered good will, fellowship and understanding among all those present.

### Legislative Program

(Continued from page 1)

man Stanley Steingut, Democrat of Brooklyn, will sponsor the legislation in the Assembly.

A brochure, "Give them a Fair Chance" has been prepared by the Association in which the program is analyzed and costs examined. Frequently, the brochure states, the alternative to adequate community facilities is institutionalization. A comparison of costs of these demonstrates that the program, so far from being an additional financial burden to the state, will result in savings of millions of dollars.

As soon as the legislation is introduced, all will be asked to make their wishes known to their local legislative representatives.



## PLANS MADE FOR 6th ANNUAL DINNER

Following on the heels of our First National Campaign (National Retarded Children's Week, November 14-23 was endorsed by President Eisenhower—in case anyone has forgotten) the plans for our Sixth Annual Dinner are taking shape. This will take place in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Astor on Saturday, May 21, at 7 p.m.

Dinner Chairman Lennie Levin promises an evening of fun and entertainment, adding that a lot of public speaking will be eliminated this year.

Journal ad blanks and books are being distributed right now. Tickets, at \$15.00 each, can be obtained by selling two books, (each containing \$10.00 worth of tickets) or \$50.00 worth of ads for the Dinner Journal. The attractive ad blanks, designed by Sig Harris and entitled "Six Senseable reasons for each One of your helpful dollars!" featuring six photographs to drive the point home, should prove an effective tool to obtain ads. And in the words of the new Dinner Chairman "With our growing expansion of projects, a new Workshop in Manhattan, increased Social Groups and Boy Scout Troops, and new classes that will be formed this year in Queens, the Association and the children depend more than ever on everyone for help. This Dinner is the opportunity for all to pitch in."

IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED THE AD BLANKS OR THE DINNER BOOKS, OR, IF YOU HAVE SOLD SOME AND NEED MORE, CALL THE OFFICE, GRamercy 3-4875. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

## AT GERTRUDE VOS CHILDREN'S FUND DINNER



Minnie Schaefer, President of Gertrude Vos Children's Fund, handing a check to President Bernard Fineson to further the work of A.H.R.C. Donation took place during Fund's Annual Dinner at the Hotel Empire on December 5.

### SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS

Registration Still Open  
Contact the AHRC Office

## Fineson Reelected President

At the annual election of the AHRC which took place on October 25th, 1954 at the Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, Bernard M. Fineson was reelected President. Augustus Jacobs remains as First V.P.; Julian Banner, Sol Hulnick and Edward Fliegel became Second, Third and Fourth V.P. respectively. Charles Campana is the new Treasurer replacing Irving Shiller after more than five years' faithful service. Reelected were Max W. Schachter, Financial Secretary, Margaret Riva, Recording Secretary, and Ann Greenberg, Corresponding Secretary.

Elected to the Board for a two-year term were: Arlyne Bernstein; George D. Cameron, Clinton County; Deborah C. Cherey, Putnam County; William H. Childs, Westchester County; Anne Gitter; George Greene; Elliott W. Hunt, Oneida-Herkimer County; Leo M. Jacobs; Maxwell L. Kallor; Billie Kamen; Donald Levinger, Chemung County; Sidney Leviton; Burton Loewer; Harold W. Lucia, Upper Hudson; James D. Maroon, Rockland County; Frank C. McCarthy, Onondaga County; Arlyne H. Miller, Fulton County; Bertha K. Morehouse, Ontario County; Paul W. Reardon, Cayuga County; Seymour Rubin; Robert C. Sager, Erie-Niagara County; Irving Shiller; Sol Stich; Burage Stiles, Schenectady County; Joseph Stuckart, Broome County; Robert H. Wagner, Monroe County; and Sidney Werbin. Eugene Henn was elected to serve out the term of James McConnell of Suffolk County, which the latter is vacating because of a change in domicile.

## LENTON LADIES CONTRIBUTE TO CAMPAIGN



President Gertrude Belgrair of Lenton Ladies Auxiliary, K of P presents a donation to President Bernard Fineson.

## WESTCHESTER EXPANDS SERVICES

Embarking on a program of decentralization of services, Westchester Chapter, AHRC, announces the formation of a nursery class in Port Chester. The class opened on Monday, November 22, during National Retarded Children's Week in the Elks Club Building.

"Such services," stated John O'Connor, President of the Chapter, "can only come about when the public has been sufficiently educated to support them. We feel that other areas in Westchester are now ready and we can look for further expansion."

## HOW MANY ADS?



# League For AHRC Launched at Luncheon



Hildegard greets the New York League for A.H.R.C. at Opening Luncheon at Waldorf-Astoria, November 15, 1954.



Arlene Francis gets the point from Ben Grauer at New York League Luncheon. With them is Luncheon Chairman Mrs. Jacques Kreisler.

More than 500 civic-minded women saw the birth of a new organization, the New York League for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, at a brilliant luncheon and style show that filled the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf to capacity on November 15, 1954. Originally planned for the Hotel Pierre, the affair was so oversubscribed that it had to be moved to the larger Starlight Roof.

The League has pledged itself to gather civic-minded women (and men, we hope) to aid in the work of the Association through fund raising, public education and volunteer services.

Honorary Chairman of the Luncheon was Mrs. Robert F. Wagner, wife of the Mayor. It was emceed'd by Ben Grauer, well known radio and TV commentator. Guest speakers were Arlene Francis, star of radio and television, Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of the Theodora Clinic for Retarded Children sponsored by the Association at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital, and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the AHRC. The fashion show was staged by Lester Gaba and coordinated by Eleanor Lambert.

The Chairman of the Luncheon was Mrs. Jacques Kreisler, and committee members included the Mrs. Julian Banner, Harry Bengelsdorf, Herman Bober, Henry Fried, Isador Goldberg, Harry Gometz, Arthur R. Herske, Harry Levine, Emanuel Mangel, Bernard Metzger, Dan Parger, Harry M. Pimstein, Barnett Robinson, Sol Schneiderman, Louis Silberberg, Arthur Streim and Milton Zaidenberg.

The success of this Luncheon augurs well for the future efforts of the League and the expansion of the Association's program. Learning of the work of the Association, dozens of women joined the League right then and there. We are sure that all came away with a feeling of community acceptance of the mentally retarded, without which we cannot succeed.

## LIFE FEATURES A. H. R. C. PROJECTS

After years of preparation, Life Magazine came out with its long-awaited article on retarded children in its issues of October 18 and 25. Nicely timed for the November campaign, the 15-page picture layout in the nation's best-known publication presents to the public at large the story of the mentally retarded and the organizations that have sprung up to help them.

The October 18 issue bears emblazoned on the cover these prophetic words "Retarded Children—Progress on a Problem for a Million Families." The photographs by Cornell Capa take the reader through typical scenes at Letchworth Village, the A.H.R.C. Clinic at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital, shows him the retarded child at home and concludes with Nassau County's Community Master Plan for the retarded child's future.

The second installment in the October 25 issue features the Southbury Training School and our Brooklyn Sheltered Workshop. Entitled "A Future for the Retarded," it stresses community acceptance and integration.

But over and above the inestimable gain of reaching

out and touching untold millions with our message, we consider these words of the utmost importance:

"Banded together in the National Association for Retarded Children, parents have set up clinics and organized sheltered workshops where their children can learn simple skills to make them self-sufficient. They have prodded states into providing special public-school classes. More important still is the fact that parents are overcoming their needless shame at having a retarded child. The new freedom to speak frankly about their unfortunate children is producing a climate encouraging to research, which now is almost non-existent. This change of attitude also makes it possible for LIFE to present, this week and next, a two-part series using real names and cases, describing the affliction which burdens a million American homes and examining ways by which the burden can be lightened."

### TEACHER FOR BLIND RETARDED ENGAGED

Taking the lead in a particularly difficult problem, Erie-Niagara Chapter has engaged Miss Betty White, herself blind, to teach a class of four blind retarded children at the AHRC school in Buffalo. We watch this development with a great deal of interest and hope that Miss Perry will report on it to all of us.

## DID YOU EARN YOUR TICKETS?



# National Retarded Children's Week Features Public Ed.

## Parents and Friends Join in March

The most momentous happening for retarded children, their families and their friends anywhere in the world took place last November when President Eisenhower turned the attention of the nation to the plight of the victims of the world's greatest childhood affliction by designating the period of November 14-23 as "National Retarded Children's Week." This, the first of what will henceforth become an annual event, provided the signal for civic and government officials all over the country, urged on by the 350 local chapters of the National Association for Retarded Children, to follow suit. In our own State and City of New York, Governor Thomas E. Dewey and Mayor Robert F. Wagner issued statements and proclamations in support of our campaign.

Locally, Col. Arthur Levitt, then the President of the New York City Board of Education and now Comptroller of New York State, and a longtime and effective friend of retarded children, headed the drive. The City's more than 20 radio and the 6 TV stations gave us time on the air to spread our message via recorded and filmed spot announcements. In addition, the town's newscasters, disc jockeys and women broadcasters, as well as many of the husband-and-wife teams received and made use of our specialized material. On November 17, Walter Abel made an eloquent appeal for A.H.R.C. on the Barry Gray program. On November 12, Claire Mann interviewed teacher Alice Maram and Kenny Gabel, a student at the Joshua School, on her Channel 5 show. Morey Amsterdam gave us a pitch on the Ted Steele program over WOR-TV on November 19, and Virginia Graham discussed a mother's problem with a panel consisting of psychologist David Steinberg, teacher Marilyn Small and mother Estelle Klinger on her DuMont program on November 23. Such personalities as John Vandercook, Nancy Craig and Skitch Henderson were variously heard giving voice to our cause, and of course our indefatigable John Henry Faulk ran a 1-man campaign for us on his daily CBS show.

However, in the field of radio and TV as in all others, National Retarded Children's Week here in New York served mainly as an entering wedge. Since that time, station WEVD gave us a half-hour panel discussion "Retarded Children—an Overlooked Minority" held in cooperation with the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and featuring Jerry Weingold. Again Mr. Weingold and speech therapist Phyllis Rooder appeared on the Bon Tempis Show over WABC-TV on December 18 and Lucille Freidenreich, the newest member of our office staff, told her reasons for working for A.H.R.C. on the TV program "Sentimental You" (Channel 4). To round out the year, Walter Abel was heard nationally via the CBS Radio Network on "Make Up Your Mind" and over the Mutual System on "Luncheon at Sardi's." And it can now be told that John Henry Faulk will devote a little portion of time every week for the next year to the A.H.R.C.

The door-to-door Thanksgiving March of November 23 was run on a borough basis. Over-all chairman for the whole City and in charge of all volunteers was Anne Gitter, who did a stupendous job in the face of nearly insurmountable difficulties. Serving as her co-chairman in Brooklyn was Leo Jacobs. Other Brooklyn members who did outstanding jobs on the Thanksgiving March were Emil and Frances Goldstein, Lydia Hershkowitz, Harriet Bakshy, Syd Safier, Francies Sager, Miriam Jacobs, Sylvia Jacobs, Sylvia Cohen, Ruth Platt and Lily Isaacson. Bernice Hoffeld organized the

Glenwood Housing Project and Anne Golden the Linden Housing Project, with good results.

In the Bronx, Irving Krakoff was chairman of the fund-drive. Serving with him, and under the over-all supervision of Sylvia Schachter, were Sol Hulnick, Charles Campana, Sam Issacs, Moe Bloom and George and Rose Silver. Jean Katz and her sister worked three days on the outdoor drive and scoured buildings. Result: 7-8 bulging kits! Sy Chicquor worked over Parkchester and Henry LaPorta "The Knolls." The entire membership of Gertrude Vos Children's Fund got behind us and turned in a tremendous piece of work. B'nai B'rith member Mrs. Segal not only got her organization to cooperate, but brought in several hundred dollars as well.

## MAYOR WAGNER STARTS CAMPAIGN



Jimmie Modeste Tells Hizzoner

Our stalwart Queens members not only devoted themselves to the Thanksgiving March, but also manned La Guardia Airport for a 2-week period, and Idlewild—because of a scarcity of volunteers—for one. These territories employed the talents of George and Mina Hirsch, Josephine De Rubertis, Alice Pol, Mrs. Theodore Grunwald, Anne Krauss, Maria Santana, Marion Scalzo, Margaret Orlachio, Minnie Lichtenstein, Katherine Travers, Hansi Roman, Leon and Edith Gray, Lillian Begun, Gertrude Mandel, Muriel Poling, Rita Harris, Pearl Kornbluh and Alyn Eckstein, who is George and Frances Greene's daughter.

Under the Greene's able chairmanship several Long Island housing projects were organized by our members. Playing a key-role in the Thanksgiving March were Ruth Oloff, Katherine Travers, Minnie Lihctenstein, Dorothy Shapins, Billie Kamen, Henrietta Margolis, Arlyne Bernstein, the Hirsches, Blanche Gordon, Mildred Rudges and

(Continued on page 9)

## AMERICAN CAN COMPANY CONTINUES SUPPORT

Once more the American Can Company has donated the canisters for the AHRC drive. This year they made over 20,000 canisters for us.

We are most grateful to Mr. S. D. Arms, Vice-President, Atlantic Division, for his sympathy and understanding, Mr. W. F. Nickell, Mr. C. A. Robeson, Plant Manager, and Mr. E. Blyskal, Supervisor, Quality Control.

**OUR BIGGEST YET --- MAY 21, 1955**



## Schenectady Host To State Convention In October

Delegates from 19 Chapters meeting October 2nd and 3rd, 1954 attended the AHRC State Convention at the Van Curler Hotel in Schenectady.



Delegates at State Convention

The reports of the delegates showed great progress in the education of the public in the local communities and the continuing development of projects and facilities for the children. One of the highlights of the meeting was the discussion of how to get local school districts to set up more classes for the educable mentally retarded. It was clearly demonstrated that the growth of the number of such classes, especially in rural areas, has been the result of intelligent work by the AHRC Chapters. Nothing could have demonstrated more clearly the concern of the AHRC for "educable" as well as other retarded children.

A number of important resolutions were passed. These included the following: 1. The adoption of an official prayer (more fully reported elsewhere), 2. That future institutions be planned to house not more than a total of 1500 patients in cottages and not more than 50 patients to a cottage, 3. That Chapters form and activate an Institution Committee to provide services for children in State Institutions, 4. That the possibility of establishing scholarships for future teachers be explored, 5. That a 27-minute film be prepared subject to obtaining financing, and 6. That each Chapter undertake one new project during the coming year in addition to existing projects.

### 1st Manhattan Workshop Opening

(Continued from page 1)

...muth, Assistant to the Director; Dan Daniels, Supervisor of the new Workshop; Julia M. Long, Director of AHRC Schools; Eve Mayer, Psychiatric Social Worker; Dr. Arthur Meisel, Physician-in-Charge of the Morris J. Solomon Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Retarded Children at the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn; and Alice Pearlstein, parent-member acting in a liaison capacity for the Workshop.

As reported in the New York Times of Sunday, November 14, Jacob K. Javits, who is one of our original sponsors, said on this occasion:

"Conservation and reclamation of human resources is one of the most important projects in which all citizens should become actively interested. Self help is the greatest therapy."

The New York Daily News of Sunday, November 28, ran a picture of Dan Daniels explaining the use of equipment to two employees at the Workshop, and headed the accompanying story "Retarded Kids' Center Hums Like a Factory."

The New York Times article, concluded by pointing out that the new Workshop has a waiting list of 75 persons.

## ORANGE COUNTY NEWEST AHRC CHAPTER

To the growing family of AHRC Chapters, Orange County was added by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors on December 6, 1954.

Following a pattern set in many communities who have joined the Association, many letters were received from parents and professions in Newburgh, Middletown, Goshen and other parts of Orange County. Nothing was done, however, until the sparkplugs, the people with the necessary drive, came forward to spearhead the movement. These were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest F. Nohle of Middletown.

Following an initial meeting attended by Jim Maroon of Rockland, another meeting was called for October 25 when Jerry Weingold addressed a group of some 75 persons in Goshen. That evening they voted to affiliate with the State AHRC. A most gratifying aspect was the participation of members from Rockland, Putnam and Westchester County Chapters who spoke of AHRC from their point of view. Thanks to Jim Maroon, Mr. and Mrs. Russ Mahar and Mrs. Cherey, Putnam, and Bill Weaver of Westchester.

Just for something for other chapters to shoot at, one of the first donations to the new group was \$200 from the Middletown Teachers Association.

## BASKETBALL GAME NETS ONONDAGA \$7,500



Very Rev. Robert F. Grewen, S. J., President of LeMoyne College, Syracuse, N. Y., poses with Frank C. McCarthy, President of the Onondaga County Chapter of the A.H.R.C. before the benefit basketball game between LeMoyne and Western Kentucky State College held in Syracuse on December 11. With well over 4,000 attending, the benefit netted the Retarded Children's School nearly \$7,500. Victory of home team "Dolphins" over famed Western Kentucky "Hill-toppers" by a score of 77-75 topped the evening.

## OFFICIAL PRAYER ADOPTED AT STATE CONVENTION

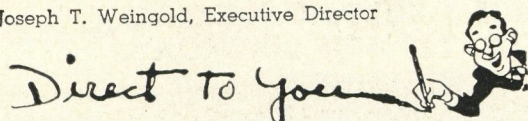
Frank C. McCarthy, Author

The following prayer was adopted by the Convention at Schenectady as the official prayer of the AHRC.:

"Almighty and merciful God, we who are the parents and friends of the least of Your little ones, ask for guidance and help in our efforts to brighten their lives; that we will become reconciled to their affliction. Grant that we may not despair as those who have no hope—but rather give us the grace to know Your wisdom and the courage to accept it nobly. Help this Association and the National Association of which we are a member to thrive and prosper—so that we may bring into the lives of these children and their parents happiness in peace in saying. 'Thy will be done.'"

**SEE YOU AT THE ASTOR !**





So many things happen in the Association that I sometimes wish we were very rich and could afford much more space so that I could share with our readers discussion of much that is going on and that must be omitted or postponed.

For instance, I should very much like to write now about the many inquiries I am receiving about volunteers for the various projects for retarded children being operated by parents groups. And these inquiries are coming from many parts of the country. Or I should like to write about the attempts of dubious motivation to relegate the parents groups to a concern for children under I.Q. 50. The passage of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act (Public Law 566) by the Congress last year, however, opens such possibilities that I cannot resist giving that priority in this column.

Recently I had the pleasure of discussing with Len Rockower of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation a possible conference of Rehabilitation workers to highlight the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded. Among the agencies to be invited to send representatives were the State Institutions for the retarded and this led to some interesting conversation, because the whole Rehabilitation Act seems to be focussed on rehabilitation in the community. Why, we asked, does it have to be limited to that? At a recent meeting at a state school I heard the statement made that 59% of the patients (if a state school, why are they called patients?) would be able to return to the community. Isn't the state school, therefore, an important area for rehabilitation? And let us use the technical definition of preparing them for gainful employment in the community.

If this is so, shouldn't every agency involved in rehabilitation be used? Shouldn't the federal funds be used in the state schools, too? This seems so obvious that we wondered why it had not been done before. There is even more reason to feel that it can be done profitably now, because Public Law 566 makes some interesting provisions for sheltered workshops.

I believe that there should be a reexamination of the vocational rehabilitation process in state schools to the end that all community resources be used. Shouldn't the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation be involved at the age of, say, 13 or 14, in the planning of programs for the individual under consideration in the state school? Should not this planning be on a realistic basis, taking into consideration the labor market and where the youngster is going to go when and if he gets out of the state school?

Doesn't it seem reasonable to involve other rehabilitation and placement agencies in the planning and program for the retarded in the institutions? Public Law 566, for example, opens up a whole new area in its provisions for sheltered workshops. I suggest that some intensive explorations and planning might be started to explore sheltered workshops, in the very real sense of the term, not only in the institution, but even operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene in the community as part of its rehabilitation program.

I am fully aware that much thought must be given to this before anything can be done, and suggest that preliminary conferences are very much in order. I am sure that there are many problems in a state institution with which we are not too familiar, but we are not doing all we could or should when, as I know, there are youngsters in institu-

## First Girl Scout Troop



At Investiture ceremonies of Scout Troop 2-493 (Brooklyn) on November 10, Scout Leader Estelle Halpern hands the Charter to Chairman Alice Pearlstein. Watching the proceedings with interest are (seated) Financial Member Mary Blyn, (standing) Co-leaders Hilda Dickoff and Charlotte Butler.

The Scouting movement within the AHRC is assuming such major proportions that it's getting difficult to keep up with its development. Latest achievement is the formation of Girl Scout Troop 2-493 (Brooklyn), meeting every Wednesday between 7:30-9 p.m. at 525 East 95th Street. Under the guidance of Scout Leader Estelle Halpern and Co-leaders Charlotte Butler and Hilda Dickoff, fifteen of our girls, aged 10 to 16, are carrying out projectis like entertaining the folks at the Mohilev-on-Dniepr Home for the Aged, where they have adopted a 'grandfather', and making stuffed animals and scribblebooks for the patients at St. Giles and Beth-El Hospitals.

Our girls are being helped by Scout Troop 2-295, whose service project for the year is to assist the AHRC group. Chairman for this pioneer venture is the indefatigable Alice Pearlstein. Mary Blyn and Jeanette Schaber respectively are the financial member and the cookie chairman. Since the investiture, which took place November 10, 1954, our Troop has been working for their Second Class Badge. If we know our Scouts, they'll have it before long!

On the masculine side, it gives us great pleasure to report that Scout Troop 421 Brooklyn will shortly receive its charter. Formed by the oldest den of our Brooklyn Cub Pack 529, it numbers about twelve boys ranging between the ages of 12 to 16. They meet Wednesdays at the Brooklyn High School for Homemaking, 901 Classon Avenue. Mel Benefield is Scoutmaster, Ben Krakowsky Assistant Scoutmaster, and Emil Goldstein Institutional Representative. Ivan Stegloff is the Committee Chairman, J. Patrick the Treasurer, and Charles Rashe the Activity Chairman.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL SPACE IN GLOVERSVILLE

As a further indication of the widening influence of the AHRC public education program, Gloversville has given the Fulton County Chapter space for the AHRC classes. There are now two classes, with two teachers and volunteers to help.

tions who come from large urban areas whose preparation for return to the city community is training in raking twigs and leaves.

## HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR BOOK?



## BORO BUZZINGS

Card Parties this year held special significance as they heralded in the local fundraising campaign.

First to start the ball rolling was the Bronx Card and Mah-jong Party held for the two boroughs through the cooperation of Manhattan Fundraising Committee Co-chairmen, Merle Friedman and Annette Karson, at Elsmere Hall on October 28th. Thanks to the mammoth task performed by Treasurer Jean Katz and her husband Louis, they scored their greatest financial success to date — over \$1000. Chair-ed by Sarah Raynor and Fanya Kuris, the Committee functioned beautifully. It was composed of Shirley and Sol Hulnick, Dotty and Murray Watskin, Carol and Seymour Goldstein, Sy and Sadie Chicquor, Rose Ossin, Rose Silver, Pearl Pelletiere, Irene Magliacane, Margaret Rosenberg, Peggy Holzman, Eve Isaacs, Mrs. Selma Levensohn, Bertha Bressler, Jean Serebin, Bea Bolts, Sylvia Percell and Rose Lieberman. Managing the kitchen, as always, was the quietly efficient Joe Shupp, without whose help no Bronx function would be complete. While all this was going on, however, Bronx Fundraising Chairman Sylvia Schachter gave us all some anxious days by going to the hospital — where she still kept on top of all details. A well-run borough, that Bronx!



**Brooklyn Card Party Committee Posing for its Picture.** From left to right, front: Chairman Lee Frank, Sylvia Jacobs, Fundraising Chairman Florence Dash. Back: Jack Frank, Fundraising Chairman Emil Goldstein, Treasurer Leo Jacobs, Walter Dash, Co-chairman Eddie Fliegel.

Brooklyn held its Fifth Annual Card Party and Bazaar at the Menora Temple on November 17th, 1954. Attendance was clocked at 1326, resulting in a take of \$2500. Due to the generosity of many Brooklyn firms, much desirable merchandise was snapped up at real bargain prices — without a single instance of hair pulling. (According to confidential reports, this is some kind of a record . . .) Chairman Lee Frank and Co-chairman Esther Fliegel wish to thank all Committee members — numbering close to a hundred — and especially Fundraising Chairmen Emil Goldstein and Florence Dash and Program Chairmen Seymour and Ida Rubin, as well as all parents and friends for their magnificent efforts.

And for the future: — the Bronx is gearing itself for its Annual 2-day Bazaar, planned for the weekend of February 26 at Pilgrim Hall, with an announced goal of \$5000. All offers of services can be phoned to Sylvia Schachter, TA 9-0626, or to Murray Watskin, TR 2-3704, or Jean Katz, UN 3-3531.

## MORRIS J. SOLOMON CLINIC CELEBRATES 4TH BIRTHDAY



**Cutting the cake for the Clinic named in his honor at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital is the Hon. Morris J. Solomon.** Wellwishers surrounding him are, from left to right: Dr. Joseph Wortis, Director of the Clinic, Sidney Leviton, A.H.R.C. Board Member, Mrs. Ann Elias, Chairman of the Clinic Board, Mrs. Gussie Leviton, Clinic Secretary, Mrs. Lillian Jacoby, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund, Mrs. Ruth Rosen, Co-chairman of the Clinic Board, and Arnold Tanzer, President of the Elite Club.

### CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications now being accepted  
Write to: AHRC, Camp Committee  
323 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

## UPPER HUDSON GAINS COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH RETARDED CHILDREN'S WEEK

In addition to raising some \$3000 in a very rural area, Upper Hudson Chapter also reports that National Retarded Children's Week gained them the support of the Superintendent of Schools in Mechanicsville, who got the school board to give them a school room; the Mechanicsville City Judge and former Mayor who may get the Rotary Club to support next year's drive; and Judge Charles A. Ringwood, Warren County Children's Court Judge from Glen Falls, who wants to see facilities created in Glen Falls.

## NASSAU DEVELOPS AUXILIARIES

Through the efforts of a committee headed by Mary Smith, Nassau has helped thirteen auxiliaries of non-parents form to help the Chapter in its work. Over 1000 non-parent, non-family friends of AHRC are working for their projects.

Mrs. Smith has written a pamphlet, "How To Organize An AHRC Auxiliary" that is a must for all Chapters of AHRC. Yes, and for all parents groups. Copies may be obtained from the AHRC office or from the Nassau Chapter, 194 Old Country Road, Mineola, N. Y.

Through the efforts of Mrs. John Nicholas, Ray Heatherton (The Merry Mailman) and A. Holly Patterson, County Executive, made a two-minute movie trailer that was exhibited in thirty nine theatres in Nassau during Retarded Children's Week. The studio donated time and space and the unions gave their labor to this undertaking.

**FLASH:** — Queens is having a Theatre Party, "Girl Crazy" put on by the Cunningham Women's League at the Andrew Jackson High School, St. Albans, February 26-27. Call Arlyne Bernstein, BA 5-1627, for tickets.

## HOW MANY ADS?



## HOLIDAY FUN

The holiday spirit reached out to our children as it did to all others of this great city. Our numerous and wonderful Donor Groups gave Christmas Parties. Reports that reached us specifically were of the ones given by the Cunningham Women's League for Handicapped Children in Queens and by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund for the children attending the Clinic at the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

Our own Borough groups joined the tide. BRONX took over (but literally!) the headquarters of Congressman Buckley on Sunday, December 12 for 250 of our kids and their families. Joe LaRue was in charge of entertainment. Knocking themselves out, as usual, were chairmen Jean Katz, Joe Shupp and Eve Isaacs, working with Manhattan chairman Carole Goldstein and committee-members Fanya Kuris, Rose Ossin, Irene Magliacane, Rose Silver, Sylvia Percell, Pearl Pelletierre, Margaret Rosenberg and Claire Cane. But, such a huge affair depends for its success on the efficient performance of many unsung tasks, and to those whom lack of space prevents us from mentioning, including the indispensable Sylvia Schachter, we want to say a heartfelt "Thank you."



At the Brooklyn Party

The BROOKLYN Christmas and Chanukah Party and Toy Fair was staged at the Brownsville Boys' Club on Sunday, December 19th. Emcee'd by Seymour Rubin, who was aided in his task by Clown Bill Neumeroff and Santa Hotopp Claus, it had our own kids providing entertainment for the assembled throngs. Chairman Lily Pasternack's committee-list ran into the hundreds, with everyone adding their valued bit. Most of the burden, however, fell on the shoulders of co-chairmen Florence Alpert, Emil and Frances Goldstein, secretary Rhea Lipshitz, Leo and Sylvia Jacobs, who were everywhere, Ida Rubin, Anne Greenstein and Evelyn Benefield. Lee Frank, who had also pressed her charming daughter Sandra into service, was in charge of food tickets, together with Flo Alpert. Joe Gitter was seen briefly before he disappeared under an avalanche of toys, and Ruth Seinfeld was left in charge of the Toy Fair concession. Syd Safier and Ann Gitter were the stalwarts at the door, and Minnie Bober was busy welcoming donors and other guests. Alice Pearlstein headed up the arrangements for entertainment, and Jack Bakshy, aided by saladman Mel Benefield, and Ann Golden and Lily Isaacs among many others, ruled the food department.

## National Retarded Children's Week

(Continued from page 5)

Betty Mastoras. Record amounts were collected by Anne Krauss, Mary McInerney and Abe Kornbluh, who attained the peak of \$185. Invaluable help was rendered the Queens section by the members of the Cunningham Women's League for Handicapped Children, whose enthusiasm and devotion can hardly be equalled.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL SPACE GRANTED AHRC IN QUEENS

P. S. 72, Maspeth, Designated

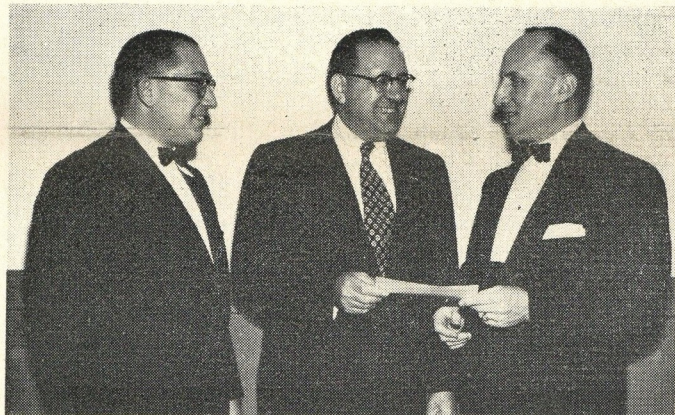
The petition of the Association for the use of public school space in Queens for the formation of additional AHRC classes in that Borough was granted by the Board of Education at a meeting held December 23.

Spearheading this move was the Queensborough Federation of Mothers Clubs whose Mrs. James McGuire did a tremendous job. Our own Betty Mastoras was also invaluable in getting this accomplished. The Association received the most courteous cooperation from Associate Superintendents David Moskowitz, Dr. Frank J. O'Brien, Florence S. Beaumont, Diedrich F. Lehnert, Superintendent Plant Operation and Maintenance, Assistant Superintendent of the School District Benedict Fox, Law Secretary Nicholas Bucci and Frances E. Coloraffi, Principal of P.S. 72.

The project has received the active support of the Cunningham Women's League for Handicapped Children for several years. The prospect of this Queens service has also stimulated other support, notably that of the Hollis and Kew Gardens Sections of the National Council for Jewish Women.

Children are now being screened for these classes.

## COUNCIL LODGE 979 F, & A. M. CONTINUES SUPPORT



Bernard Fineson accepts on behalf of A.H.R.C. the donation of the Council Lodge Foundation of Council Lodge No. 979 F and A. M., Richmond Hill from Murray E. Greenberg, Master of the Lodge. Watching is Milton Goldman, Master-Elect.

Active in Manhattan were Merle Friedman and Seymour and Carol Goldstein. The Port of Authority Bus Terminal was manned by our faithful for two weeks. Proof that A.H.R.C. is reaching out beyond our parents was furnished us when can collections were taken up by the members of Local No. 2, Department Store Workers (Gimbels) through the courtesy of Mr. John Meeghan, and by the students belonging to the Caduceus Society, a pre-med organization at City College. And our deep appreciation goes to Mrs. Edward Marton, who labored mightily in our behalf for the organization of Peter Cooper Village.

It is inevitable that in an undertaking of this size, many faithful works should go unmentioned. To the myriads whom lack of space prevents us from listing, to all those who spared neither heart, head, hand and—especially—feet, in the service for our children, to all those we wish to say: "Give us leave to put into words for them what they feel and cannot express—Thank YOU."

**6TH ANNUAL DINNER, HOTEL ASTOR, MAY 21**



## Book Review

Emery I. Gondor: Art and Play Therapy 61 pp. Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1954. \$.95.

This brochure is one of the series known as the Doubleday Papers in Psychology. Drawing upon his experience in working with more than 900 cases, while serving as Research Assistant and Art and Play Therapist at the New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, Mr. Gondor presents art and play therapy as an important tool to help children who cannot relate properly to their environment or who cannot function at their innate capacity because of emotional or other difficulties.

It deals with the theory and practice of this form of therapy, its clinical application, and is illustrated with selected case histories. The theory is that play situations and art materials used by a therapist provide a "medium of communication that may make it easier for the child to reveal his difficulties." Of particular interest to us, is the work that Mr. Gondor has done with mentally retarded children at the clinic in the hospital. He starts with the premise that most retarded children suffer from emotional difficulties brought about by their inability to meet the expectations of their environment. These expectations may come from the parents or the community. The first thing necessary is a good diagnosis, as in many cases it will be found that we are dealing with organic factors on which emotional factors are superimposed.

Starting with scribbling, the child begins to learn graphic expression of reality. "They learn to perceive, observe, reproduce in a graphic symbol." The therapist gains insight into the child's difficulties and the child acquires a new outlet for a better adjustment to reality.

Mr. Gondor does not claim that this method is the only one that may be helpful. His experience has shown that it deserves careful consideration by those dealing with the mentally retarded. He says, "It is a touching experience to watch a child who never, in all his life has done more than seemingly senseless scribbles . . . in a few weeks learn to draw a circle and associate the shape . . . with an orange."

It seems most important to us to examine our methodologies in teaching the retarded to consider carefully Mr. Gondor's statement, "We have seen children learn in a sequence of months what they could not grasp in many years."

## "Swing Your Partners"

(Reprinted from PARENTS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN, P. S. 7, Manhattan)

A good time was had by all when Mrs. Lustbader invited Mr. Cyrus Grossman, a professional square dance caller, to give instructions in square and folk dancing to her Industrial class and Mrs. Lowenstein's Health class.

The knowledges and skills that were integrated in these sessions were many and varied and the children certainly learned while doing. "May I have this dance" and "Thank you for the dance," "May I take you to your seat" were some of the social graces the boys acquired. Counting the steps, right and left, forward and back, first couple second couple, etc., were just a few of the arithmetic concepts put to work. A new language, such as "honor your partner, dozy do and promenade waltz" were cheerfully and quickly absorbed by the group. The children showed their appreciation by wildly applauding Mr. Grossman when he left and asking when he would be back.

So, if in the future you hear clapping of hands, stamping of feet and the sound of fun and laughter from Room 124, it's only classes Industrial and Health, Squaring it off.

In P.S. 75, the Industrial and Health classes come together not only for dancing, but for parties, trips, etc., so that the often-heard criticism of isolating handicapped children is non-existent in our school.

(We welcome news from other CRMD classes and the Bureau. We feel that people should know what the public schools are doing for handicapped children. Editor.)

### ERIE-NIAGARA IN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

A long-sought aim of the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area was realized in November when the Chapter was accepted as a member of the Council of Social Agencies of Buffalo and Erie County. Miss Natalie Perry, director of the school, and Bob Sager, President, are the delegates to the Delegate Board of the Council.

## Flash . . .

### A. H. R. C. Wins Westchester School Case in Court of Appeals

As we go to press, we have learned that the Court of Appeals has decided, 4 to 3, that the A.H.R.C. School in Pelham Manor does not violate the zoning law and may continue.

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.**

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