

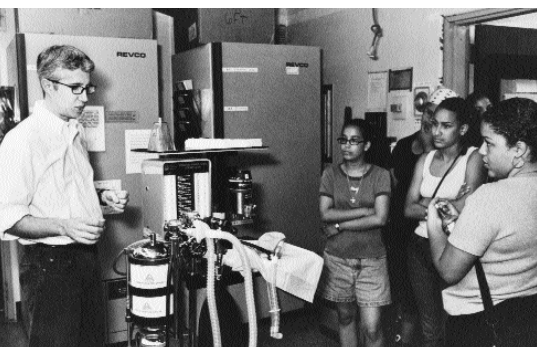
News from Henry Street

265 Henry Street, New York, NY 10002

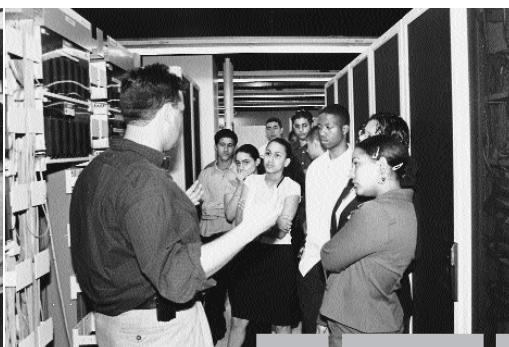
212.766.9200

Summer 2001

Preparing Young People for their Dream Jobs



George Hirose



photos: Ken Wittenberg



“If you have a dream, you owe it to yourself to do what it takes to accomplish it,” explains Jonathon, a high school sophomore. “I was surprised to find out how many years of school are necessary to become a lawyer, but it is what I have always wanted to be, so now I know what I need to do,” he concludes. Jonathon is a participant in Henry Street’s newest youth employment initiative, the Jobs for Youth Apprenticeship Program (JFYAP).

Begun in January 2001, JFYAP is funded by both the New York State Department of Labor and Department of Education. The program stems from a need to effectively prepare young people to enter and excel in the workforce. According to state records, New York lags in youth employment. While the national rate of employment for teens is 45%, only 19.9% of all teens in New York work. New York State also has the highest youth unemployment rate in the nation. “What researchers are finding is that teens are not prepared and have not developed the work

Jobs for Youth Apprenticeship Program

ethic to succeed in the workforce,” explains Christine Koenig, Henry Street’s Director of Youth Employment and Support Services.

Henry Street’s JFYAP is designed to help both in-school and out-of-school youth access the education and training they need to pursue their vocational aspirations. “We are working with young people who are old enough to have real dreams, and young enough not to have to settle,” says Koenig. The program combines internships/apprenticeships, educational workshops, group counseling, field trips, community service, and academic assistance for over 30 students, each of whom makes a two-year commitment to the program. More than half of the participants are public high school students, while the other young people are out of school and studying for a GED. To enter JFYAP, each teen writes an essay about what they dream

of becoming. Tina, a senior in high school, plans to be an interior designer; Ronisha, a sophomore, hopes JFYAP will give her a head start in computer technology, and Leo joined JFYAP to learn more about being an automotive technician.

At Henry Street, the high school students spend four afternoons a week in JFYAP and the out-of-school youth make a 30-hour a week commitment to the project. A core component of JFYAP is the Apprenticeship Careers Course, which introduces students to a range of workplace skills such as cover letter and resume writing, communication skills, interviewing, and conducting job searches. This coursework is coupled with real-life job experiences. Over the past year, most participants worked in Henry Street’s youth employment and entrepreneurship initiatives.

continued on page 4

above: JFYAP participants explore different careers by visiting a range of offices and work sites throughout New York City.

The Arts Center's Music School Hits High Notes

Music

Growing up in a rural town in Missouri's Ozark Mountains, Caroline Stoessinger traveled over three hours by train to Memphis to hear her first concert performed by piano great Arthur Rubinstein. So dazzled by his virtuosity, the ten-year-old Stoessinger begged her guardian to introduce her to the pianist. "There was only one nice hotel in Memphis at the time," recalls Stoessinger, who had already been playing the piano for six years, "so it was not hard to find him." Rubinstein requested that Stoessinger play for him on the lobby's piano. Eventually they played together, and afterward Rubinstein offered Stoessinger one piece of advice: "Don't just play. Do everything in music possible."

"I took his words very much to heart," notes Stoessinger, who has over 20 years of music production, teaching, performance, and management experience. In March 2000, Stoessinger came to Henry Street as the new Director of the Music School. She succeeds Paul West, who served as director for over 30 years.

Over the past year, the Music School has expanded its programming, attracted new teachers and artists, and created more performing opportunities. Today, more than 450 students come to the School for instrumental and voice lessons, to perform and produce, as well as to attend a diverse range of performances. "Every human being, every child, has a talent," says Stoessinger about her teaching philosophy, "and there is an obligation to educate that talent." Her ideas certainly echo Lillian Wald's initial beliefs when the Music School was founded: To provide enjoyment and enrichment for the community as well as the opportunity for people to realize the ultimate potential of their talent.

Last fall, the Music School began a Suzuki Violin Program for 17 students. This popular program now has a waiting list of more than 100 students. Directed by Hisako Resnick, who teaches at Juilliard and the School of Strings, the program takes a very structured approach to teaching violin. Parents first participate in lessons for six weeks before their children begin the eight-month program, so that they can assist their children as

Stoessinger at the piano with a student.

**below:
The Suzuki Violin Program**



courtesy of Henry Street Music School

they learn. Through a generous donation of 222 violins from Ideal Music, the program lends each family a violin. In September 2001, more teachers will be hired so that the Music School can accommodate the growing demand for the program. In addition, a Parents' Association will offer parents monthly concerts, lectures, and informative seminars on issues such as the importance of practicing. "Parents' understanding is key to the success of the program," notes Stoessinger.

This summer, the Music School debuted an intensive Summer Jazz Camp for talented teens. The Music School has also helped link other gifted young musicians to summer scholarships. Five Music School students earned highly competitive scholarships for the prestigious Usdan Center for the Creative & Performing Arts in Long Island. Each scholarship covers the cost of \$3,000 for seven weeks of musical instruction and other activities.

Over the past year, the Music School has launched two new choruses, which have already performed for numerous events. The Henry Street Children's Chorus (for children



Ken Wittenberg

Opera

George Mott



ages 7-14) has sung at a United States naturalization ceremony, an event honoring Eli Weisel and Václav Havel, and has participated in the Henry Street production of GianCarlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A new chorus of adult singers, the Voices of Henry Street, has been equally in demand, performing for the Westchester Holocaust Commission's Ceremony with former Governor Mario Cuomo, and at the United States Naval Annual Memorial Dinner.

The Music School's efforts to reach new audiences have expanded this year with the addition of Master Classes by Metropolitan Opera stars Paul Plishka, Martina Arroyo, Willi Waters, and Mark Rucker. In addition, Stoessinger has developed a professional concert series featuring internationally recognized artists. This season, the Shanghai

"Every human being, every child, has a talent, and there is an obligation to educate that talent."



courtesy of Henry Street Music School

and Corigilano String Quartets, Czech Chamber Orchestra, American Boychoir, Odetta, and the jazz legend Barry Harris all performed. Special daytime concerts were offered to thousands of schoolchildren who were able to meet and talk to the artists after performances. An equally impressive 2001-2002 season is planned and will include Tokyo, Shanghai and Orion String Quartets, Ensemble Lobkowitz, soprano Harolyn Blackwell, and flutist Paula Robison.

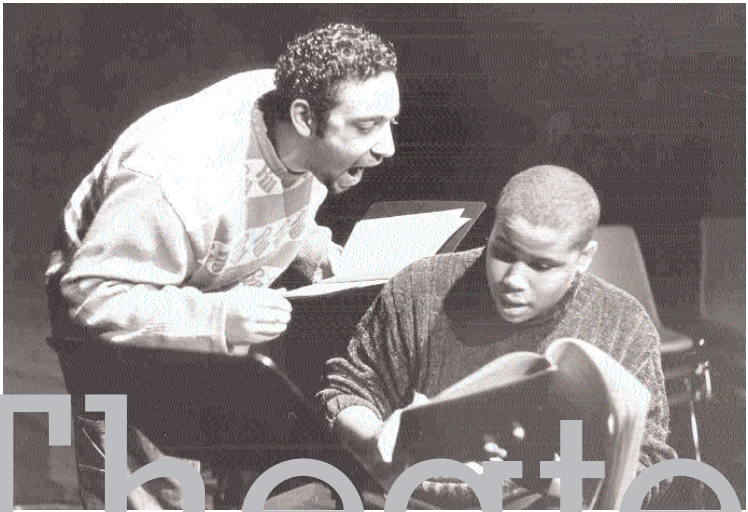
As Stoessinger reflects on her first year at Henry Street, she is elated. "Above all, I want to continue developing an exemplary music school that provides talent education in an inspiring and nurturing atmosphere and to create a greater sense of community through increasing everybody's access to the joy of music."

Henry Street Chamber Opera Receives Critical Acclaim

The premiere opera production, *Il Sogno di Scipione* (Scipio's Dream), performed by the Henry Street Chamber Opera in April delighted critics and audiences alike. A lesser-known opera composed by Mozart when he was just fifteen, the production was staged by director Christopher Alden. Opera critic Charles Michener of *The New York Observer* reported that "so much beauty of sound and intensity of projection brought opening night's largely uptown, opera-jaded audience to its feet." Anthony Tommasini of *The New York Times* also praised the debut production as a "fanciful and funny show."

The newly formed Henry Street Chamber Opera makes its home at the Harry De Jur Playhouse, a 350-seat theatre and national historical landmark building. The intimate space offers a welcome alternative to the much larger, elaborate stages of Metropolitan Opera House and the New York State Theatre, particularly for young talented singers looking for other opportunities before entering the competitive ranks of the world's renowned opera houses.

The Henry Street Chamber Opera was the brainchild of Caroline Stoessinger, Director of the Henry Street Music School, and Neal Goren, a young conductor with international experience who was recently hired as the Chamber Opera's Music Director. The company hopes to continue to interpret largely neglected works of chamber opera. The 2002 season will open on January 14th with a double-bill of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Darius Milhaud's *Les Malheures d'Orphee*.



Theater

Urban Youth Theater Triumphs

When Luis, Kim, and Daris signed up for Urban Youth Theater (UYT), little did they know they were on their way to a television debut. Yet in May 2001, they and their peers celebrated the WNET broadcast premiere of *Bones of Our Ancestors*, a documentary film that features a play written and produced by Urban Youth Theater troupe members.

Henry Street's Urban Youth Theater was established by Theater Program Director Jonathon Ward to nurture a new generation's voice in theater. Today, the program offers young people (ages 13-19) intensive instruction in voice, acting, playwriting and dance, and prepares them for further training at professional schools.

In 1997, UYT was one of only eight companies in the nation chosen to develop a play using primary historical material provided by the ground-breaking WGBH/Boston documentary series, *Africans in America*. UYT teens worked with Playwriting Workshop Director, Sandra McLain, to create and perform *Don't See My Bones and Think I'm Dead*. The play is a docudrama of early American slavery in New York City and follows the story of Lazarus, a homeless time-traveler, who takes a group of urban kids back in time. The youth fall into roles of African ancestors, tracing their journeys from freedom to slavery. With traditional African music, dance, and song, the ancestral spirits arise from within and enable the youth to learn about the past, which in turn empowers them for the future.

Under the direction of McLain, the young playwrights visited the African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan as a starting point to choose people to write about. In addition, the teens interviewed historians, called African embassies, searched the Internet, and read historical accounts of the scenes they wanted to recreate. *Don't See My Bones and Think I'm Dead* premiered in 1998 and received rave reviews. In February 2001, the production returned by popular demand. The documentary film, *Bones of Our Ancestors*, which is directed by Orlando Bagwell, features part of the play. Copies of the documentary are available on videotape. Call the Theater Program at 212-598-0400, x 204 for more information.

Jobs for Youth Apprentice Program

continued from front page

Some students restored and resold discarded bikes in the Recycle-a-Bicycle Project. Workers in the Furniture Restoration Project found and rejuvenated second-hand furniture for resale. Through a partnership with the South Manhattan Development Corporation, students helped to run the Vintage Thrift Shop. Finally, some participants gained administrative skills by interning in Henry Street offices. This summer, students are working in internships that are aligned with their career interests. For instance, Tina, the aspiring interior designer, will be a summer arts camp teacher; and Maurice, who wants to be a chef, will work as a trainee in the Gods Love We Deliver kitchen.

Throughout the program year, JFYAP offers twenty career field trips. JFYAP participants have been to the deep basement of the Bellevue Hospital which houses its morgue, as well as to the high-rise offices of the A.W.Jones Investment Firm and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation. "We want students to develop as real a picture as possible of what daily life in their dream career would be like," comments Koenig. This summer, she and her staff will coordinate additional field trips to law firms, the New York Restaurant School, and television studios.

"We want students to develop as real a picture as possible of what daily life in their dream career would be like"

Case management and counseling have also been vital parts of JFYAP. Notes Tina, "We are not just learning about careers, but how to keep our lives together." To this end, the teens join in peer-led discussion workshops on topics such as: conflict resolution, sex and sexuality, relationships, gangs and violence, and peer pressure. In addition, JFYAP's staff includes a case manager who counsels students and families to overcome obstacles that might impede their progress. Over the past year, he has helped students to transfer to more appropriate schools, address academic hurdles, juggle family responsibilities, and access tutoring.

As the first project year comes to a close, all JFYAP teens are working intensively to complete their Career Research Projects. The projects represent students' year-long investigations of a specific occupational area and include information they have culled from interviews with professionals, site visits, and Internet research on appropriate schooling. The projects will be evaluated by the New York State Department of Education and, if they are accepted, students will earn academic credit for their participation in JFYAP. Yet, as students gather together in Henry Street's computer lab to begin compiling the reports, they see the projects as "just the beginning." As one student puts it, "these research reports are our personal guides to the future, they show us that there is a way to make it."

News Briefs

A Hero in our Midst

Verona Middleton-Jeter, Chief Administrator of Henry Street's Homeless Services, was honored with one of New York City's prized Robin Hood Foundation Heroes Awards in December 2000. Each year, the Robin Hood Foundation hails New York social workers, teachers, and community advocates who demonstrate not only commitment and compassion, but also the ability to successfully tackle poverty at its roots.

Middleton-Jeter started at Henry Street over 28 years ago as a founding social worker in the then newly-created Urban Family Center. She began her work with a clear conviction: homeless families could take control of their lives and achieve their goals if they were given the opportunity and the resources they needed to do it. This methodology has become credo at the Urban Family Center, as well as in Henry Street's other homeless shelters and support services which now serve more than 1,300 families each year. It is a philosophy that works: 95% of UFC families overcome homelessness and remain permanently housed. Over the years, Middleton-Jeter has worked herself up the ranks and developed effective programs such as: the Self-Help Group which employs formerly homeless adults as inspirational counselors; the Mailing Services Business, an employment readiness initiative; and a preschool for UFC children.

When receiving her award, Middleton-Jeter, recalled the men and women she has counseled who have pulled themselves up from lives of gripping dependency to lives of promising self-reliance. They are the real heroes, she noted.

The Robin Hood Heroes Award is a crowning accomplishment, and also comes with a \$50,000 award to support homeless services at Henry Street.



courtesy of the Robin Hood Foundation

Verona Middleton-Jeter (l) accepts the Robin Hood Heroes Award from Robin Hood Foundation founder, Paul Tudor Jones II (r).

For Senior Services, New Leadership

"We are trying to create a senior center where everyone can feel comfortable, find programs that are culturally appropriate, and get the counseling and services they need to lead full lives," notes Janet Fischer, who recently assumed the role of Chief Administrator of Senior Services. She is assisted by a new Director of Good Companions Senior Center, Rachel Sherrow. Their task is challenging since Good Companions reaches out to four distinct older adult populations—Jewish, Chinese, African American, and Latino—in which some seniors speak only their native language. "What is popular with one group may not be successful with another group," explains Fischer.

Fischer came to Henry Street in 1999 and has been instrumental in the successful expansion of the Vladeck Cares NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) Program. Now serving more than 200 residents of a local housing development, the NORC Program provides a network of services—from exercise classes, to flu shots, to visiting nurses—which enable seniors to live independently and stay in their homes.



Ken Wittenberg

Janet Fischer with a client.

Fisher hopes to link all the seniors in the NORC Program to the Good Companions Senior Center where they can go five days a week for a hot, nutritious lunch, educational programs, and to meet friends. Until now, the membership of Good Companions and the participants of the NORC Program have been fairly separate. "There is no reason why we cannot help seniors get the most out of the resources that are literally next door to them," states Fischer.

Already, new programs such as a Chinese current events group and a nutrition club at Good Companions are bringing in new neighborhood seniors. "I am looking forward to seeing Good Companions reach its potential. We are creating Senior World here, soon there will be something for everyone!" concludes Fischer.

CCC is Honored for its Outstanding Work

Staff from the Community Consultation Center (CCC) was recently honored with the William A. Charet Award. This prestigious distinction is granted by the New York City Department of Mental Health

to the agency it considers is providing outstanding community based mental health care. "We are particularly proud to be so honored because the clinic was chosen from all the agencies funded by the Department including not only mental health agencies, but also mental retardation and alcoholism services. That is truly a large group of providers from which to be selected," noted Lorraine Ahto, Chief Administrator of the CCC.

The CCC, a New York State certified mental health facility, works with more than 500 individuals each year, many of whom are coping with chronic mental illness. Although modest in size, the clinic offers a broad continuum of care, including clinical therapy, specialized Asian bicultural services, vocational rehabilitation, employment training and placement assistance, and supported housing. In addition, the CCC will soon open a new shelter, which will provide services to families coping with AIDS and other immunological illnesses.

"We are particularly proud to be so honored because the clinic was chosen from all the agencies funded by the Department..."

Galas



photos: Ken Wittenberg

Henry Street Settlement's Art Show (above and above right), held in February 2001, was a sterling success. The event, which is organized by the Art Dealers Association of America to benefit Henry Street Settlement, helped raise critical funds for the Settlement's social service and arts programs.

In April 2001, hundreds gathered for an Evening in Casablanca, a Moroccan fantasy which honored the philanthropic leadership of New Yorkers Lisa Schiff, Robert Hurst, and Muffie Potter Aston (right, r to l) photographed here with Henry Street's Executive Director, Daniel Kronenfeld.



Officers

Mrs. Audrey Rosenman
Chairman

Christopher C. Angell
President

Richard S. Abrons
Vice Chairman

Vice Presidents:
Mrs. Edgar D. Aronson
Mrs. Dale J. Burch
Richard H. Nelman
John C. Nelson

Frederic S. Papert
Mrs. Frances Primus
Ms. Stephanie L. Wise

Julio Colon
Secretary

Walter Maynard, Jr.
Treasurer

John Morning
Honorary Chairman
Herbert L. Abrons
Honorary President

Directors

Gilbert E. Ahye
Mrs. Lorraine Albritton
Ms. Emily H. Altschul
Mrs. E. H. Bayne
Nicholas P. Brountas
Mrs. Tory R. Burch
Mrs. Dorothy Calloway
Douglas Durst
Mr. Alan D. Glatt
Robert S. Harrison
Laura Hunt
Mrs. Donald Jackson
Anthony Winslow Jones

Roy M. Korins
Jane R. Lockshin
Elizabeth P. McCreery
Mrs. Kate Medina
Bernard W. Nussbaum
Ms. Anne K. O'Neil
David Paget
Douglas L. Paul
Max Pine
Mrs. Robert S. Potter
William P. Rayner
Mrs. Ogden Reid
Mrs. Pilar Crespi Robert
Dr. Andrew N. Schiff

Mrs. Harry Slatkin
Lawrence I. Sosnow
Michael A. Steinberg
Ms. Nan Swid
Jeffrey Tucker
Michael Wolkowitz

Honorary Directors

Mrs. Edward R. Dudley
Mrs. Leona Gold
Mrs. Gabriel Hauge
Mr. George B. Munroe
Samuel Schneeweiss
Daniel Kronenfeld
Executive Director



Henry Street Settlement
265 Henry Street
New York, NY 10002

Address Service Requested

Henry Street Settlement is a member agency of



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York, NY
Permit No. 65

*News from Henry Street is published by
Henry Street Settlement Development Office.
Writers: Jane Donahue and Kirk Walsh*