



UNION

SETTLEMENT CELEBRATING 125 YEARS IN EAST HARLEM



UNION
SETTLEMENT

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UNION
SETTLEMENT



Union Settlement

Celebrating 125 Years of Empowering East Harlem

Dear Friends of Union Settlement:

As we prepare to celebrate our 125th Anniversary in 2020, we are delighted to present this pictorial history of Union Settlement, an organization that has been providing education, wellness and community-building programs to the underserved residents of East Harlem since 1895.

Few other organizations in New York City can match the depth, breadth, longevity or impact of Union Settlement's services. We have empowered hundreds of thousands of individuals with the skills they need to achieve their goals, and make better lives for themselves and their families.

We could not do this without you. We owe our success to your support, and hope you are as proud as we are of the transformational impact of our work.

On behalf of those we serve, we offer our deepest thanks, and we look forward to continuing this vital work for many years to come.

David M. Nocenti

David Nocenti
Executive Director

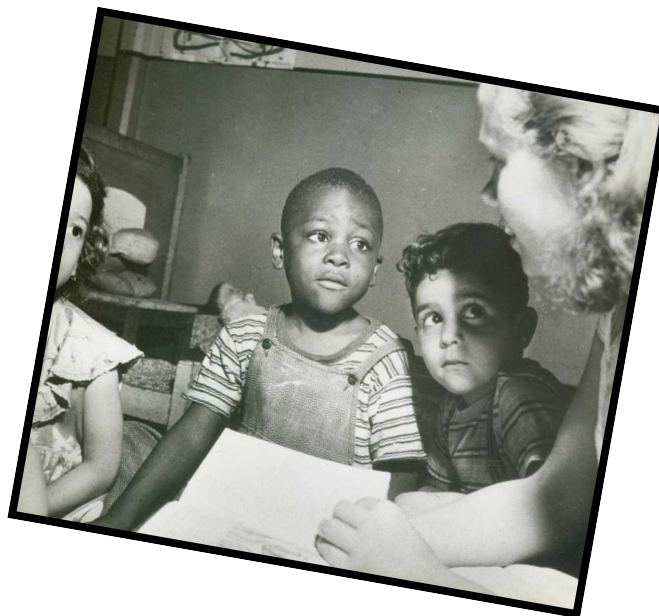


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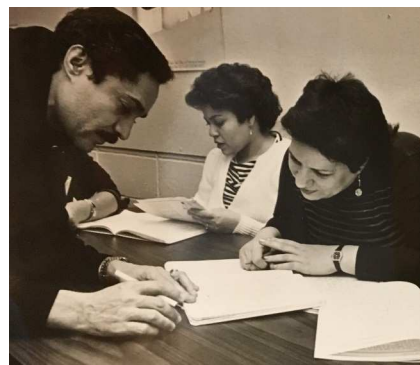
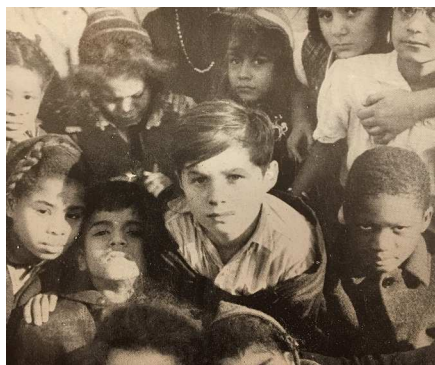
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UNION
SETTLEMENT

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

Union Settlement has served East Harlem since 1895. One of the largest settlement houses in New York, Union Settlement serves more than 10,000 East Harlem residents of all ages each year through a wide array of programs, including early childhood education, youth services, college and career readiness, mental health counseling, small business development, senior services, and policy advocacy.



- 1895:** Union Settlement begins serving the neighborhood of East Harlem.
- 1900:** Union Settlement grows to serve 3,000 East Harlem residents each year.
- 1915:** In response to an economic crisis, Union Settlement offers temporary work to 300 unemployed East Harlem residents.
- 1930:** Jobs are created to upgrade Union Settlement's building.
- 1932:** Family planning clinic opens at Union Settlement.
- 1942:** Union Settlement initiates one of the first "Old Age" programs in New York City.
- 1943:** Union Settlement opens school-age day care for children of working mothers.



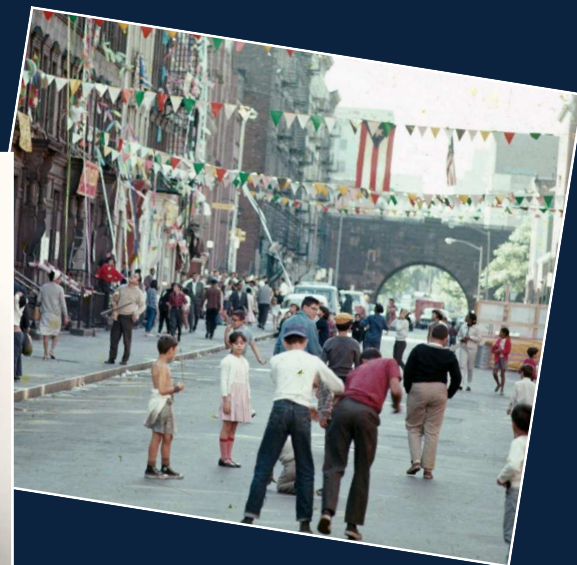
- 1955:** A community center and day care program open at Washington Houses, a large public housing project in East Harlem. Then and now, Washington Houses Community Center is the home to our Youth Services program.
- 1957:** Union Settlement Federal Credit Union opens its doors for business. The credit union, a financial cooperative, is East Harlem's first alternative banking system.
- 1964:** The Union Settlement building at 237 East 104 Street is demolished. Reconstruction begins at the same location on a new main building, Leggett Memorial Children's Center and Gaylord White House, which provides apartments for low-income older adults, and now houses our Gaylord White Senior Center.
- 1964:** Our College Readiness program is founded.
- 1965:** Union Settlement becomes the site of one of the country's first Head Start programs, the federally sponsored preschool initiative launched as one of the Great Society undertakings.



- 1972:** Adult Education classes, literacy and home management programs are established.
- 1982:** Union Settlement assumes responsibility for both James Weldon Johnson Counseling Center, which still operates today under our Mental Health Services program, and the East Harlem Council for Senior Centers, which is now part of our Senior Services program.
- 1992:** Union Settlement opens the community garden, El Sitio Feliz (“The Happy Place”) on East 104th Street.
- 1995:** Union Settlement celebrates its Centennial Anniversary. The Museum of the City of New York presents an exhibition featuring photographs, publications and memorabilia from Union Settlement's past and present.
- 2000:** In partnership with the New York Academy of Medicine, Union Settlement develops a preschool-based pediatric asthma monitoring and intervention program that becomes the model for all child care providers in New York City.



**UNION SETTLEMENT 1895–1995
IN WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**



- 2007:** Union Settlement Youth Services launches programs for disconnected youth and young fathers; both programs serve as models for other New York City social service providers.
- 2011:** The inaugural Joan H. Tisch Community Health Prize is awarded to Union Settlement.
- 2012:** Union Settlement establishes the East Harlem Community Alliance, a consortium that now includes over 200 local businesses, non-profits, religious congregations, and government agencies.
- 2014:** The Union Settlement Business Development Center is established.
- 2020:** Union Settlement celebrates 125 years of serving East Harlem. The 125th Anniversary Endowment Fund is established.



Dear Mr. Gillett: We want your co-operation in collecting the names of your classmates and friends in this enterprise. I am sending circulars to the undergraduates. The members of the Alumni Club, the Overseas and Faculty and the Secretaries of the Classes as given in the Catalogue. Would it be well to send it to others, and have your "classified list"? We want to get this before the best news and as soon as possible.

CIRCULAR No. II. Can you recall any suggestions?
 Yours truly
 H. S. Bliss

April 14/85

THE UNION SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION.

I.—OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

- President—Prof. FRANCIS BROWN, D. D.
 Vice-President—CLEVELAND H. DODGE, ESQ.
 Secretary—Rev. H. S. BLISS, Upper Montclair, N. J.
 Treasurer—Rev. J. W. HEGEMAN, Ph. D., Riverdale, N. Y.

COUNCIL.

- FROM THE UNION SEMINARY ALUMNI CLUB, NEW YORK,
 REV. WM. ADAMS BROWN.
 FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF UNION SEMINARY,
 JOHN CROSBY BROWN, ESQ.
 FROM THE FACULTY OF UNION SEMINARY,
 Prof. C. A. BRIGGS, D. D.
 FROM THE UNDERGRADUATES OF UNION SEMINARY,
 E. L. CHICHESTER, Senior,
 ROBERT A. ASHWORTH, Middle,
 WILLIAM T. HOLMES, Junior.

MEMBERS AT LARGE.

- REV. A. H. MCKINNEY, Ph. D.
 J. B. REYNOLDS, ESQ.
 REV. J. B. SHAW, D. D.
 REV. J. F. TALCOTT,
 REV. W. L. THATCHER,
 REV. GAYLORD S. WHITE.

II.—CONSTITUTION.

NAME.
 SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the Union Settlement Association.

OBJECT.
 SEC. 2. The object of this Association shall be the maintenance of Settlements in New York City for the assertion and application, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, of the principles of brotherhood along the lines of educational, social, civic and religious well-being.*

MEMBERS.
 SEC. 3. Any person may be elected to Life Membership in the Association on the payment of \$100.00. Any person may be elected to Active Membership by the vote of the Council upon paying annually the sum of \$5.00. Life and Active Members shall be entitled to vote and to receive all the reports and publications issued by the Association.
 Students in Theological Seminaries shall, upon election, be entitled to Associate Membership upon the payment of \$1.00 annually. Associate Members shall be entitled to receive the reports of the Association, but shall not vote.

OFFICERS.
 SEC. 4. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Council.

THE COUNCIL.
 SEC. 5. The Council shall consist of the Officers of the Association, a member of the Board of Directors of Union Theological Seminary, a member of the Faculty of Union Theological Seminary, a member of the Alumni Club of Union Theological Seminary, a representative from each of the Undergraduate Classes of Union Theological Seminary, and six others.
 All except the undergraduates and officers, who shall serve one year, shall be elected for a period of three years.

CONTROL.
 SEC. 6. The Council shall make their own by-laws and elect their own officers. They shall have general control of the interests of the Association.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.
 SEC. 7. A House Committee shall be appointed by the Council. It shall have immediate direction of the House, subject to the control of the Council. The Warden shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the House Committee.

*To avoid all misunderstanding, the Council has adopted this minute respecting the purpose of the Association: "The purpose of this Association is not to establish an institution which might compete with or rival existing organizations, but to afford to men the opportunity to make their home in crowded neighborhoods and live there, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, laboring intelligently for the needs of their locality, and co-operating in every possible way with the religious and philanthropic work already carried on there."

III.—PRESENT STATUS.

On January 22nd, 1894, at a meeting of the Alumni Club, of Union Seminary, the Union Settlement Association was founded. In February following, a preliminary circular was issued, setting forth the object and the constitution of the Society. Since that time, the Council has been actively engaged in studying the field, and preparing plans for active work. Correspondence has been had, in reference to warden, expenses, and methods of work, with residents in existing settlements, as well as with other persons who seemed to be in a position to afford information. A Committee of the Council have personally investigated the claims of needy districts, and under their direction, Mr. R. A. Ashworth, a member of the Council, and a former resident of the University Settlement, has made a careful canvass of special sections of the city, both on the East and West Sides. As a result of careful deliberation, both at stated meetings and through committees, the Council believes the time ripe for beginning active work, and accordingly has adopted the following plan.

1st.—*Site.* It is proposed that the Association establish its first Settlement on the East Side, in the district between 85th and 110th Streets, east of Third Avenue. This site is chosen, rather than others, almost if not altogether as needy, because it seems to offer conditions peculiarly favorable for Settlement work. These conditions are as follows:

- a.—A large and crowded population.
- b.—A poor and needy population.
- c.—A district ill supplied with religious, educational and remedial agencies.
- d.—Relative fixity of conditions. While it is true here as well as elsewhere in the city, that the population is rapidly increasing, and its personnel changing, the geographical conditions are such as to render the district likely to remain permanently the centre of a tenement house population.

2nd.—*Workers.* It is proposed that the work be begun by a band of Seminary students, under the direction of one of their own number. The reasons which lead the Council to recommend this action, rather than the engagement as head worker, of some person entirely unconnected with the Seminary, are the following:

- a.—The impossibility of obtaining at this time from without, a person in all respects suitable for the work.
- b.—The unwisdom of increasing our budget at the start by a heavy salary charge.

On the other hand, the conditions are particularly favorable for beginning work with a band of student workers.

a.—The Council is fortunate in being able to secure as head worker for the coming year, the services of Mr. William E. McCord, a member of the next senior class. Mr. McCord is a gentleman of unusual maturity, who has had practical experience in Settlement work, first as a resident in the University Settlement, more recently as head worker in the Phelps Settlement in East 35th Street.

b.—Beside Mr. McCord, a number of other men now in the Seminary, have had practical experience in Settlement Work under the direction of the Settlement Committee of the Union Seminary Society for Christian Work, (see Cat. for 1894-5, pp. 19-20). Many of these men are ready on the opening of the Union Settlement, either to go at once into residence, or to lend such non-resident aid as may be necessary. The number of such men, who can be placed in the field will depend largely upon the character of the response to this appeal.

c.—Our plan includes the co-operation, so far as practicable, both as residents and non-residents, of such volunteer workers, unconnected with the Seminary, as may be interested in practical Christian work along Settlement lines.

3d.—*Expenses.* The estimated expense for the first year is \$3500, divided as follows:

Rent,	\$1,000.
Furnishing,	500.
Salary,	500.
Running expenses,	1,000.
Sundries,	500.
TOTAL,	\$3500.

4th.—*Time of beginning.* It is proposed that the work begin on or about May 1st, 1895.
 5th.—*Support.* It is manifestly impossible for a few men, however interested, to carry to a successful issue, such a work as we contemplate. Success can be assured only by the hearty co-operation, financial as well as personal,

a.—Of a large number of the Alumni of the Seminary,
 b.—Of other friends of the movement.

Without such co-operation we shall not feel justified in beginning the work.
 6th.—*Appeal.* On the basis of the above facts, the Council, in behalf of the Association, makes an appeal to the Alumni of the Seminary and to all others who are in sympathy with our object, to join with us in making its speedy accomplishment possible.—The site is chosen; the workers are ready; nothing is needed but the funds to set them to work. We urge upon all, whether ministers or laymen, who are interested in our plan:

- a.—To join the Association. (Dues \$5.00 a year. Students in the Seminary \$1.00.)
 - b.—To circulate this appeal among their parishioners and friends.
- The membership dues are designedly placed low, so that all who are interested can afford to join. Larger subscriptions and individual gifts are, however, greatly needed. Hence we appeal to all who are able, not to limit their subscription to \$5.00, but to subscribe to the Association according to their means.
 One hundred dollars constitutes a life member, and entitles the giver to all reports and publications of the Society.
 Applications for membership should be made to the Secretary, Rev. Howard S. Bliss, Upper Montclair, N. J.

Signed in behalf of the Council,
 FRANCIS BROWN,
 JOHN CROSBY BROWN,
 CLEVELAND H. DODGE,
 J. W. HEGEMAN,
 WM. ADAMS BROWN,
 GAYLORD S. WHITE,
 J. FREDERICK TALCOTT,
 A. H. MCKINNEY,
 ROBERT A. ASHWORTH,
 HOWARD S. BLISS,

APRIL, 1895. Committee.

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Union Settlement's founding constitution, 1895.



Morris K. Jessup, donor of East 104th Street site, where Union Settlement has been centrally located since 1896.

RESIDENTS

From May, 1895, to April, 1902

1895

W. E. McCord, W. T. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Fairfield, Charles H. Warner, H. Willard Johnson.

1896

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Fish, James A. Lawrie, Jr., David B. Melick, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Smith, Miss M. Rosamond McCord.

1897

F. W. Barber, D. M. Steele, J. P. Clyde, Mr. and Mrs. Porter Paddock, Miss Paddock.

1898

Miss Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Irving, Miss May R. Jennings, Miss Abby Grace Cornell, F. Waldo Jones, James N. McCord, Fred S. Dole.

1899

*Mrs. Helen G. Moore, Mrs. F. S. Dole, *Miss Florence B. Bennett, Rev. L. C. Kirkes, Harry Rode, C. A. Mohr, Mrs. W. L. Thomson, Miss Ada L. Bell, Miss Agnes Helen Davis, *W. H. Matthews.

1900

Miss E. A. Schultz, Miss Ella Briggs Spencer, Charles L. Carhart, D. L. Peacock, *Miss Helen J. Moore, Miss Lucy P. Davis, Miss Mary R. Moore, Miss Lucia H. Fish, E. A. McAlpin, Jr., T. Jesse Jones, Samuel P. Hayes, W. M. Grafton, Dr. U. G. Weatherly, C. J. Allen, Henry Nelson Moore.

1901

Miss Geer, G. S. White, J. H. Lotz, *Miss Marion S. Morse, Miss Elizabeth D. Young, *Miss Lucy H. Humphrey, Miss Della J. Merchant, Theodore M. Shepherd, Miss Laura C. Smith.

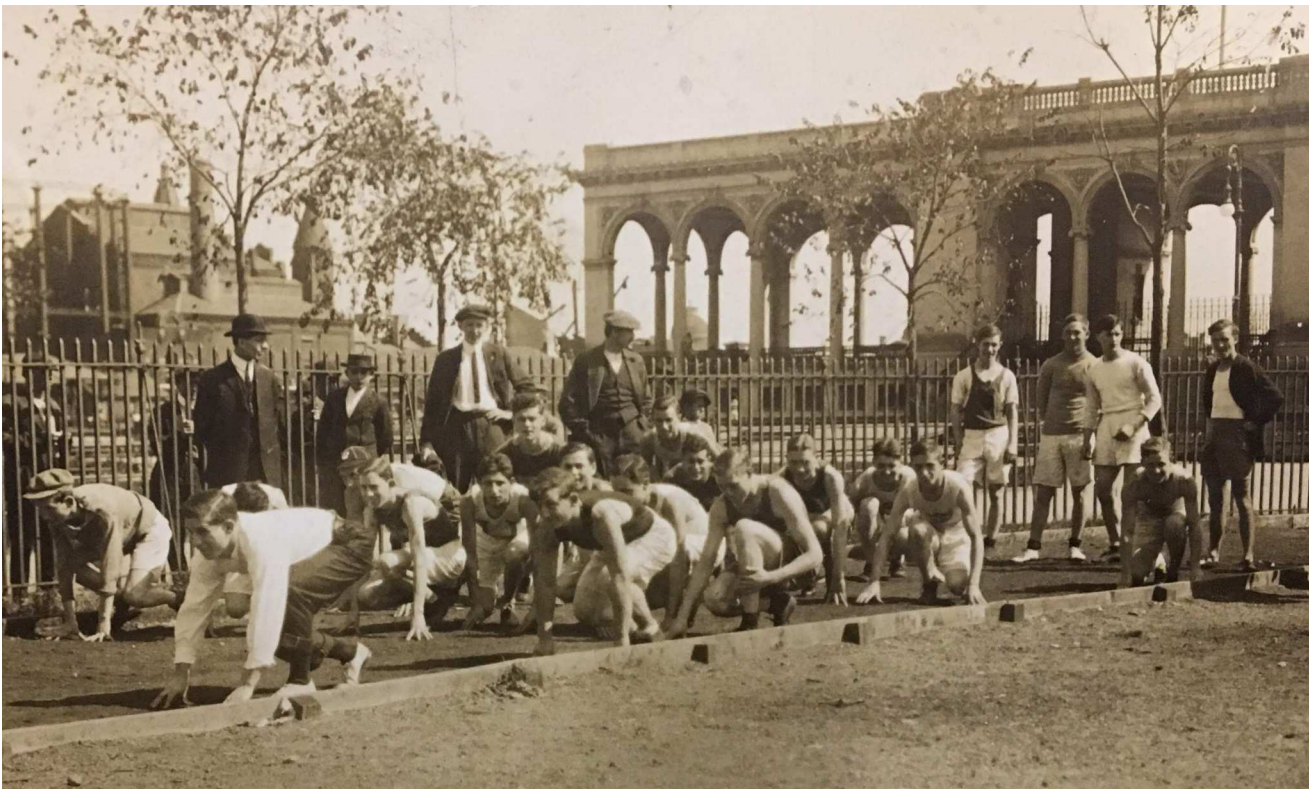
1902

*Miss Charlotte Hazen, *Andrew W. Warden, *Geo. L. Marsh.

*In residence April, 1902.



Union Settlement Athletic Club, 1898



Games of Union Settlement A. C.

One of the most interesting and important out-of-door athletic meets of the Summer season will be held by the Union Settlement Athletic Club on Saturday, Aug. 17, at Celtic Park. About 100 entries have been received already, these including most of the winners of the recent championships at Buffalo. A special event that promises exceedingly well is the two-mile bicycle race for members only, for which thirty entries have been received. The open events are as follows: 75-yard run, 220-yard run, 600-yard run, and 1,000-yard run, putting the twelve-pound shot and throwing discus, all handicap, and 600-yard run, novice, scratch. The prizes will be the most valuable given this season. They are on exhibition at 150 Nassau Street. Entries close Monday, Aug. 12, with Charles Sullivan, 2,031 Third Avenue, or Dieges & Clust, 23 John Street.

From the *The New York Times*
August 4, 1901



Union Settlement Reading Club, 1902



Union Settlement's "Kitchen Garden Class", 1902

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
UNION SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION
(Incorporated)

President

CHARLES CUTHBERT HALL

Vice-President

CLEVELAND H. DODGE

Treasurer

ROBERT C. OGDEN

784 Broadway

Secretary and Headworker

GAYLORD S. WHITE

237 East 104th Street

Class A. Term expires April, 1903

HARRIS E. ADRIANCE

FRANCIS BROWN

JOHN CROSBY BROWN

HENRY S. COFFIN

ROBERT E. ELY

CHARLES CUTHBERT HALL

HENRY M. SANDERS

Class B. Term expires April, 1904

THATCHER M. BROWN

WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN

HOWARD RUSSELL BUTLER

SAMUEL T. CARTER, JR.

EDMUND COFFIN

CLEVELAND H. DODGE

Vacancy

Class C. Term expires April, 1905

EDWARD S. HARKNESS

J. WINTHROP HEGEMAN

JAMES H. HOADLEY

D. HUNTER McALPIN, JR.

J. BALCOM SHAW

J. FREDERICK TALCOTT

THEODORE WENTZ

Class D. Term expires April, 1906

THOMAS C. HALL

RICHARD M. HODGE

ROBERT JAFFRAY

HENRY W. JESSUP

ROBERT C. OGDEN

CUMMINGS H. TUCKER

GAYLORD S. WHITE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN, *Chairman*

HARRIS E. ADRIANCE, *Secretary*

FRANCIS BROWN

THATCHER M. BROWN

EDMUND COFFIN

CHARLES CUTHBERT HALL

THOMAS C. HALL

HENRY W. JESSUP

THEODORE WENTZ

GAYLORD S. WHITE

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THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

OF THE

UNION SETTLEMENT

OFFICERS

President

MISS EMILY O. BUTLER, 78 Park Avenue

Vice-President

MRS. J. FREDERICK TALCOTT, 60 West 87th Street

Secretary

MRS. WINTHROP L. ROGERS, 121 East 70th Street

Treasurer

MRS. CHARLES B. FOOTE, 27 West 46th Street

Honorary Vice-Presidents

MRS. CORNELIUS R. AGNEW

MRS. HERMAN O. ARMOUR

MRS. JOHN CROSBY BROWN

MRS. WM. LANMAN BULL

MRS. EDMUND COFFIN

MRS. EUGENE DELANO

MRS. WILLIAM E. DODGE, JR.

MRS. CLEVELAND H. DODGE

MRS. J. WARREN GODDARD

MRS. D. WILLIS JAMES

MRS. MORRIS K. JESUP

MRS. JOHN S. KENNEDY

MRS. CHARLES H. LUDINGTON

MRS. E. PARMALEE PRENTICE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MISS EMILY O. BUTLER, *Chairman*

MRS. J. FREDERICK TALCOTT

MRS. WINTHROP L. ROGERS

MRS. CHAS. B. FOOTE

MRS. CHARLES CUTHBERT HALL

MRS. ROBERT C. OGDEN

MRS. JAMES A. BOORMAN

MRS. ROBERT IRVING JENKS

MRS. CHARLES A. BRIGGS

MRS. HARRIS ELY ADRIANCE

MISS LAURA N. AGNEW

MISS EMILY MEIER JAFFRAY

MISS ISABEL HASTINGS

MISS ELLEN S. MARVIN

MRS. WM. ADAMS BROWN

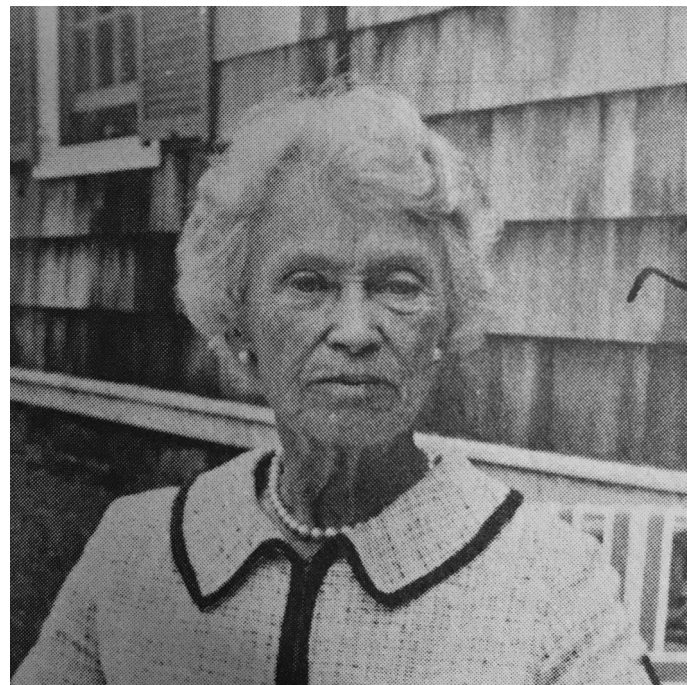
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From the 1902 Union Settlement Annual Report

Cleveland Hoadley Dodge was a trailblazer for Union Settlement. In 1895, he was one of the founding members, championing the cause of developing a settlement house and bringing new opportunities to the impoverished East Harlem neighborhood. During those early years, facilities including a library, clinic, gymnasium and playground were added, with Cleveland Dodge and his family helping to make it all possible.



*Priscilla Lockwood (Loomis), back right,
and sister Eleanor, front right, 1909*



Priscilla Loomis, 1973

Priscilla Loomis was a teenage volunteer, giving piano lessons at Union Settlement. She became active in the day-care program and was a director for five decades.

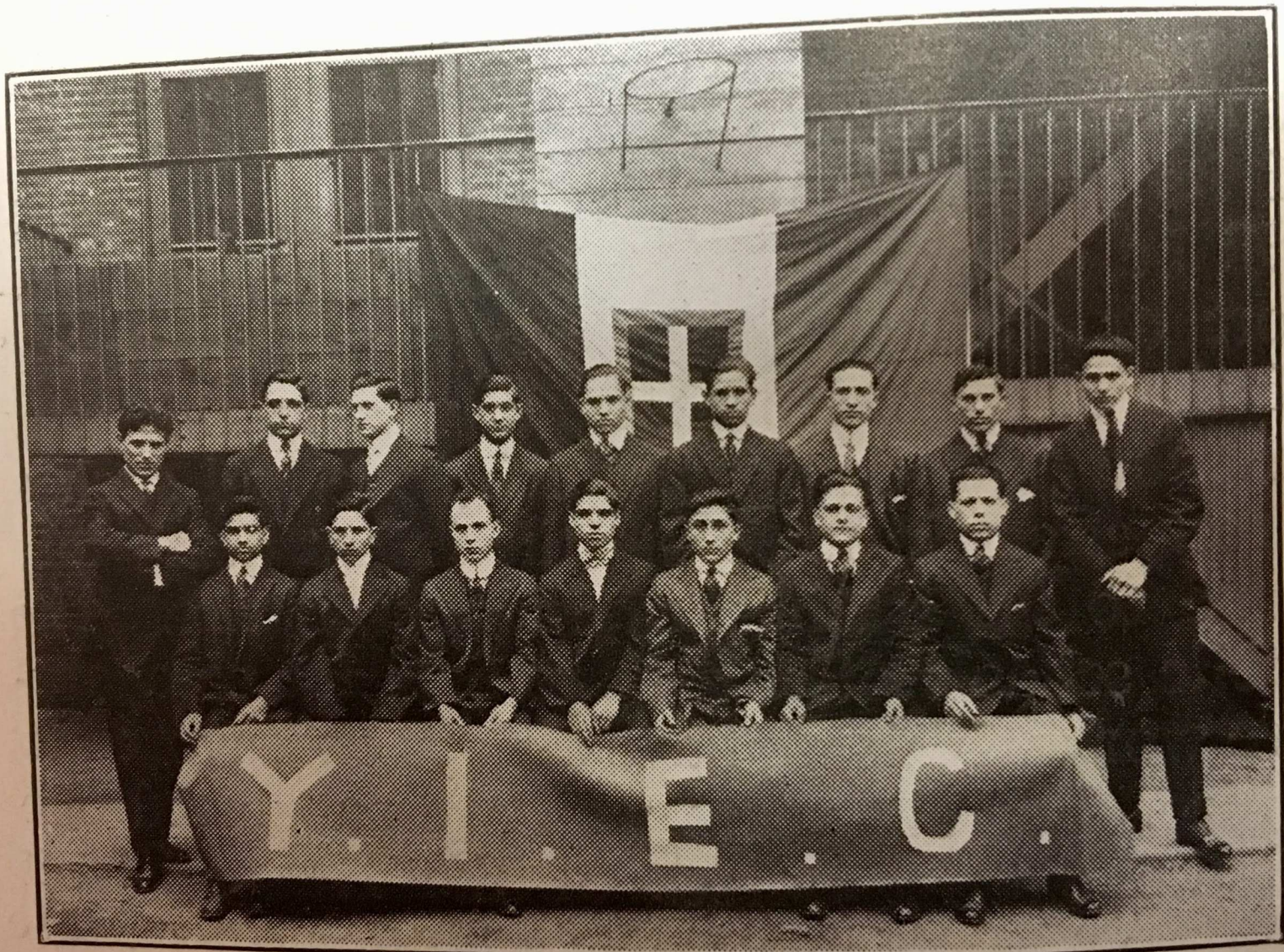
In the 1940s, she was a founding member of the Day Care Council of New York City.

**THE UNION
SETTLEMENT**

**TWENTY YEARS
IN
SOUTH HARLEM**

1895

1915

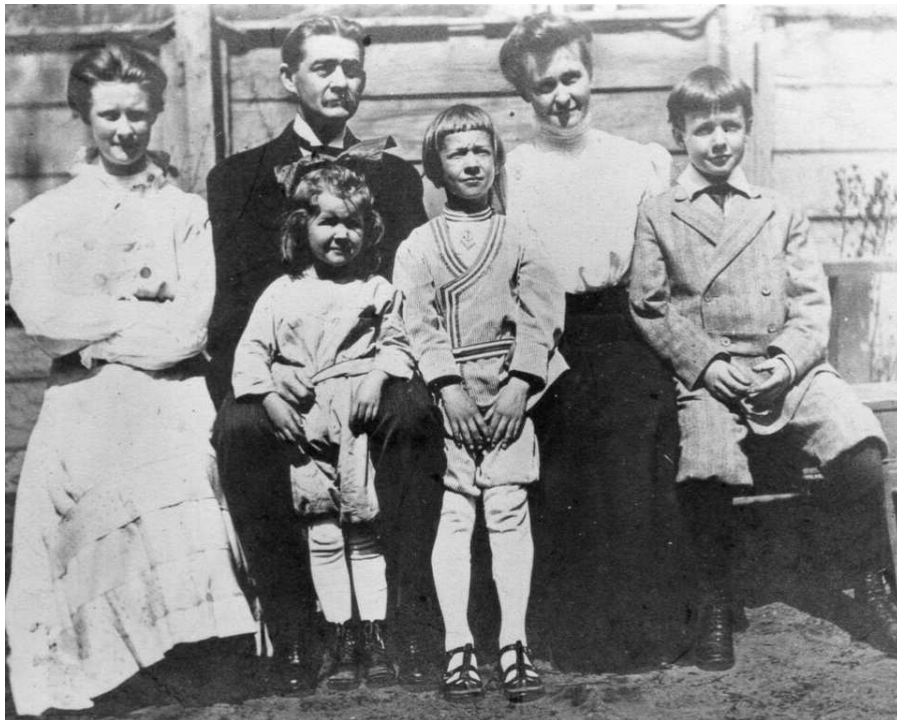


Italians are coming to the Settlement in increasing numbers. The Young Italian Educational Club is a representative group.



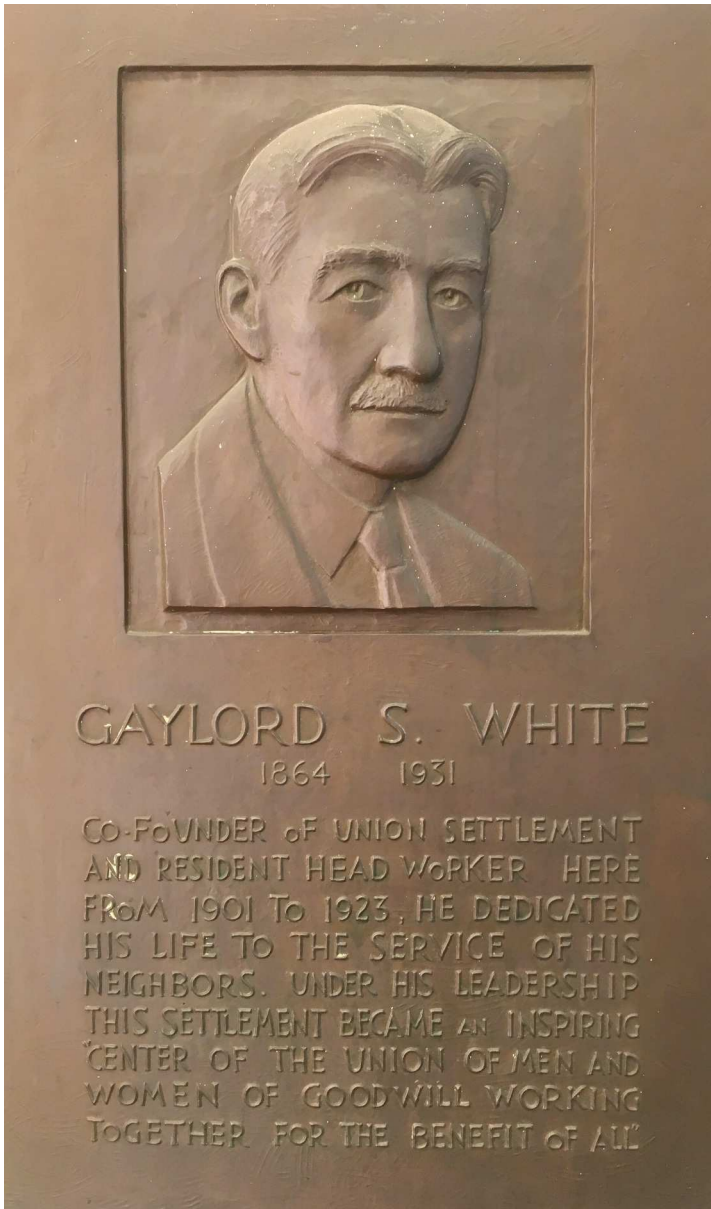
**Gaylord S. White, Resident
Headworker from 1901-1923.**

"From the beginning, social action was an essential part of the settlement movement. The ideal resident is simply the ideal of the Good Neighbor! I learned to think of the Settlement as a home and residents as members of a "family", resolved to be good neighbors in promoting the welfare of the neighborhood." - Gaylord S. White, 1912



Left: Gaylord White and family

Above: Gaylord White and Program staff, 1912



Sophie White Wells (daughter of Gaylord White) and Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, Director, at the Gaylord White plaque dedication.

November 11, 1931

OFFICE OF THE
DEAN OF STUDENTS

LETTER OF APPEAL
TO THE BOARD DURING
THE DEPRESSION

(DIED NOV 24, 1931)

The Settlement is serving as one of the registration centers of the Emergency Work Bureau, registering all heads of families living between 86th and 116th Streets East of Fifth Avenue - a big district, with the largest number of unemployed in the City, that it will take some weeks yet to handle. Already about 3,000 have been registered. At first about 1,000 men were in line waiting in the street for their turn. The third night the first man arrived with a chair at 9:30 in the evening to be the first admitted when the doors should open at 9 A.M. He was absolutely without funds and had had no supper. Others in similar cases soon joined him and by midnight and in spite of a steady rain about fifty were lined up with nine hours still to go. This was too much for the residents of the Settlement, and about midnight they decided that something must be done. Some scoured the neighborhood for rolls and at 5 A.M. they opened the doors and served hot coffee and rolls to about 200 tired, wet and hungry men.

As the crowds continued to assemble outside in far greater numbers than could be registered in a day (although two and more of the Settlement family volunteered to help with the registering) a plan was devised to give out numbers only to as many as could be attended to in the day and admit these to the assembly room, serving them with hot coffee and rolls and cheering the waiting crowd with occasional music by some of the residents or turning on the radio, and at least providing a place to sit in a warm room as a substitute for standing eleven or twelve hours outside in the cold. As one of the men remarked, after standing three days outside, "NOW WE'RE HUMAN BEINGS AGAIN. OUTSIDE WE FELT LIKE ANIMALS".

Later the house was open 24 hours a day, as the Emergency Work Bureau provided a "night shift" of interviewers who worked from 10 P.M. till 6 A.M. and some of the residents went on duty early and late to help; but a larger "day shift" now renders this unnecessary and the work is better organized.

I have seen with my own eyes these crowds of wretched, despairing human beings---all of them men with wives and children dependent on them (no others are registered), their resources exhausted, and grasping at this one chance for help. Pitiful cases come constantly to the attention of the members of the Settlement staff---cases of immediate and desperate need which in common humanity must be met. The residents do what you would do in the same circumstances. They help out of their own pockets, for the Settlement has no money for

Letter from Gaylord White to the
Union Settlement Board of
Directors shortly before his death.

EMERGENCY RELIEF---a dollar or two here and there to meet a present, pressing need.

It is hard enough for the Settlement residents to live with this problem day and night, let alone having to help out of slender means. Not a word of complaint has come from a single member of the staff. I am writing this letter entirely on my own motion, because I think that we, of the Board, should know what is taking place at the Settlement. I am sending it only to members of our Board with the approval of Dr. Coffin, president of the Settlement Association, Mr. Dwight, chairman of the Board and our treasurer, Mr. Peck.

Can we not raise a small fund for EMERGENCY RELIEF--- food, shelter, babies' milk, medicine, etc.---even \$300 or \$400? Any contribution that is made should not reduce whatever you may be planning to give to the General Fund. Our need there is great. We must not cut down at that point. But if you care to send \$5, \$10, or \$25, or more to Mr. Peck for this EMERGENCY RELIEF, I can assure it will be carefully used. I did not quite realize all that "unemployment" means until I saw these crowds of well-nigh hopeless men---and not all of them will get even the \$15 a week jobs! It is planned to give them only to the most needy.

Yours sincerely,

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Checks should be drawn to the order of E. Stuart Peck, Treasurer, and mailed to Miss Harris at the Settlement.

February 9, 1943

Dear Mrs. Auchincloss,

Thank you so very much for your very much for your very generous check of \$1200 for the health work at the Union Settlement. We are so glad that this vital work which is so badly needed can continue due to your continued support.

We are most grateful to you for all you have done for the Union Settlement.

Most sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Barclay

(Mrs. George C. Barclay)

Mrs. Reginald Auchincloss

16 East 89 Street

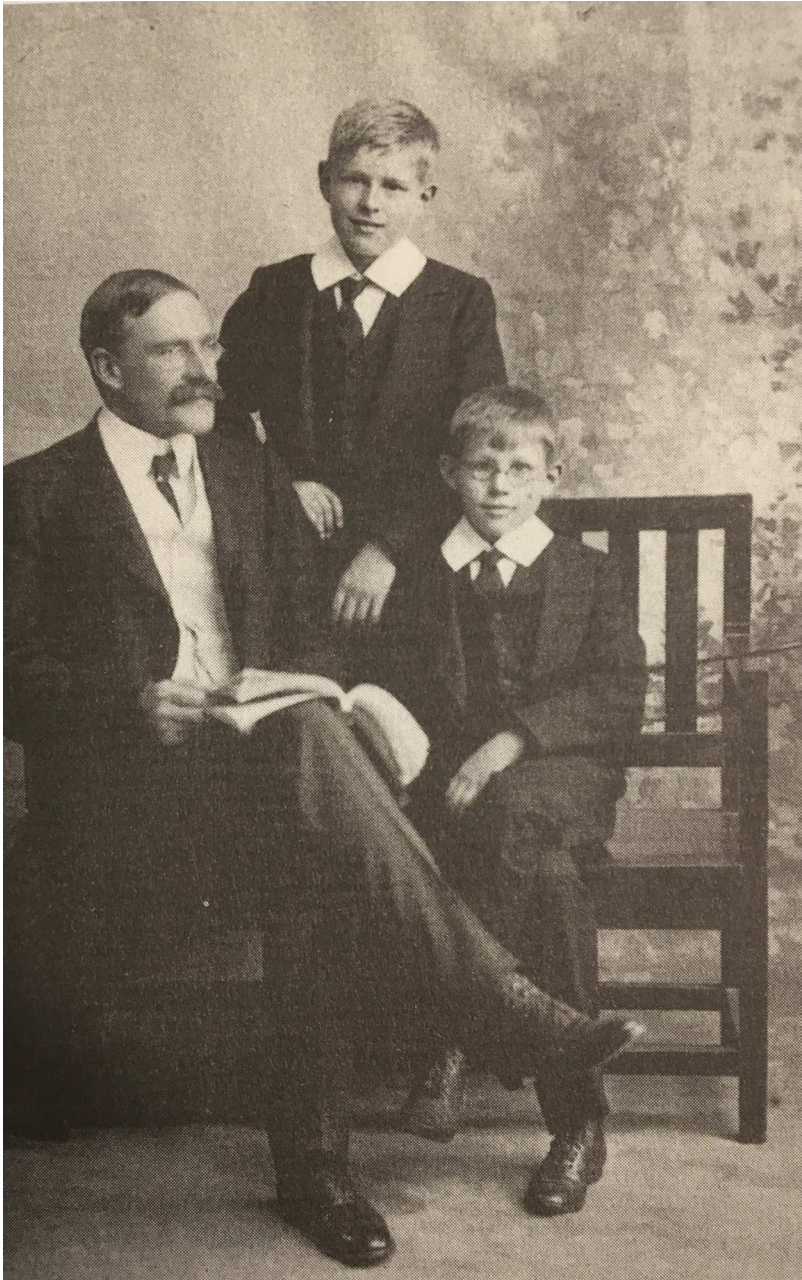
New York City

The Auchincloss Family has a remarkable legacy of service to Union Settlement.

Reginald and Ruth Cutting Auchincloss were instrumental in the early years of the organization.

Ruth Collard Auchincloss served on the Women's Auxiliary Board in 1944.

Joanna Auchincloss was on the Board of Directors in the 1960s.

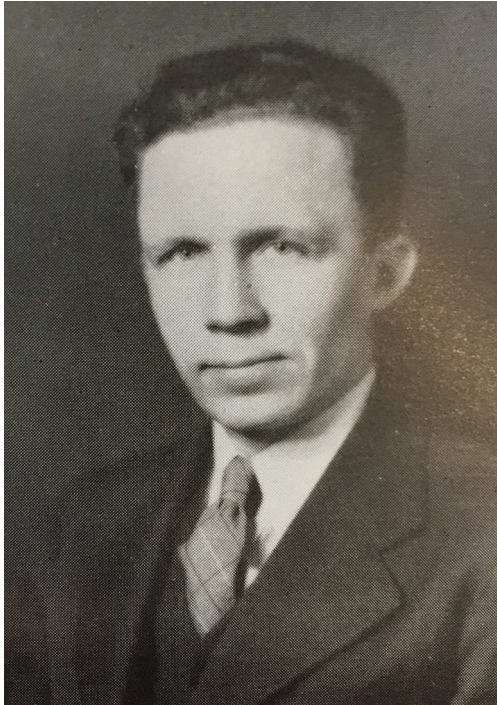


"During my years of study as Fellow of the (Union Theological) Seminary, I accompanied my friend and classmate, Gaylord Starin White, to London and there visited Toynbee Hall and made the acquaintance of Canon Barnett...When, at a meeting of the Union Seminary Alumni Club, on April 3, 1895, **the suggestion was made that Union Seminary, as a mark of its interest in social problems should establish a settlement of its own**, I approved the plan and became of member of the committee appointed to choose the site.

(We chose East Harlem because) the region was sparsely settled and was at that time entirely destitute of any civic center. It seemed to us that, as early settlers, **we had a chance to grow up with the community and affect its development.**"

- **William Adams Brown**, *President of Union Settlement 1915-1919. His son, John (pictured in the middle on the left) was chairman of Union Settlement 1949-1950.*

Many other Brown family members served Union Settlement through the years, including Thacher M. Brown, Jr. who served as Assistant Treasurer and was a skilled fund raiser for the organization from 1950 to 1970.



Clyde E. Murray
Headworker
1940 - 1949

A Message . . .

OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY is a very important occasion to thousands of men and women, who in their childhood and youth were active in the program of the Settlement, and to the many boys and girls, young people, and adults of the present membership.

The Settlement has never been a static organization. During its 50 years, through wars, periods of unemployment, and changing populations, the Settlement has been a creative and dynamic force, knowing the neighbors and developing services to meet their needs. Its history is one of which all of us can be proud.

One of the most active groups in the first twenty-five years of the Settlement was the Athletic Club. The members of the Club were leaders in neighborhood life, and at the same time gained city wide and national recognition in athletics. I am glad that the Club has been reorganized and is again an integral part of the Settlement. Even though the men are scattered throughout the greater New York area, they are taking an active interest in the Settlement, helping to provide for the present crop of youngsters opportunities which the Old Timers enjoyed in their youth.

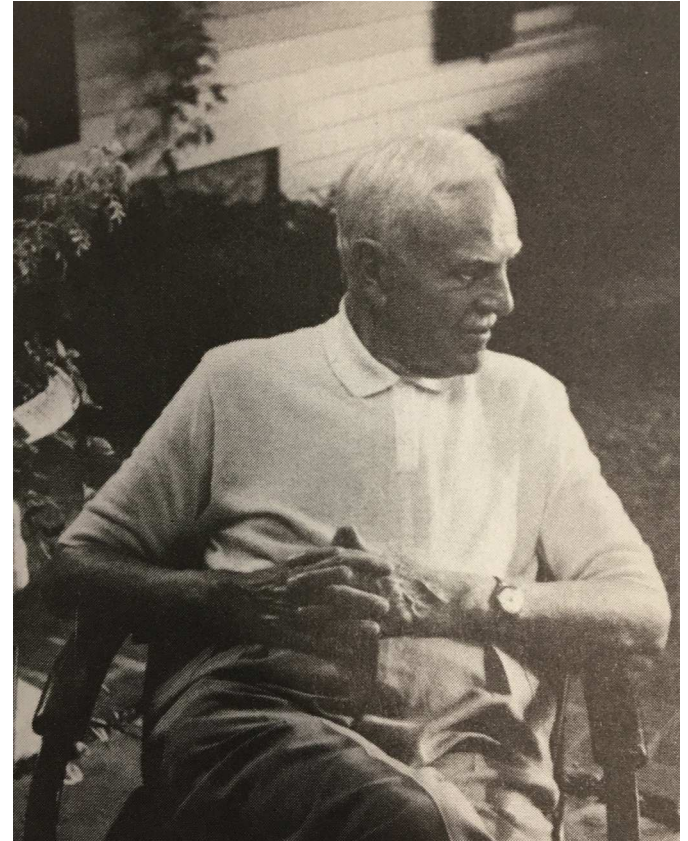
Our goal for the future of the Settlement was most ably stated by Gaylord White in 1923: "May Union Settlement more and more fulfill the implications of its name and bring about a genuine union of men and women of good will in our neighborhood for the service of all, and thus become a symbol of and a preparation for, that higher union when the nations of the world shall learn to live together like peaceable decent neighbors on the same block."

CLYDE E. MURRAY
Headworker

**Chosen to Be Chairman
Of Union Settlement Board**



John Sloane
The New York Times
November 1, 1946



John Sloane in 1962

John Sloane Jr. (nephew of Edmund Coffin Jr., one of Union Settlement's first board members) was a significant supporter of Union Settlement with over 40 years of board leadership. He served as Chair from 1946 to 1949.

Letter sent to non-board members
in Jan.

HENRY SLOANE COFFIN

PRESIDENT
UNION SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION
237 EAST 104TH STREET, N. Y. C.

January 20, 1943

Dear Mrs. Schwarz,

A year ago in December you most kindly contributed \$5.00 to the Union Settlement. It is with the hope that you will be willing to renew this gift that I am writing to you.

The problem of caring for children in East Harlem has been intensified due to the war. Not only is there an increased need for the day care of small children, but someone must come to the aid of the "latch key" children (those who have nowhere to go after school as both parents are working).

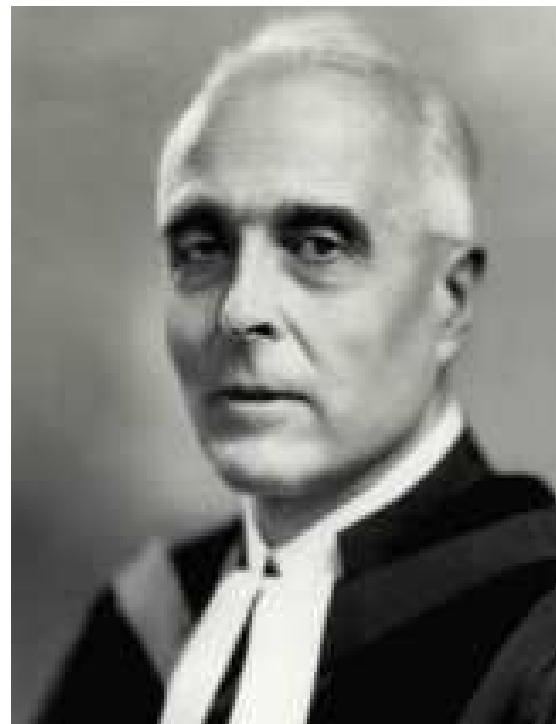
This situation is fast becoming serious. Only yesterday one of our workers on a home visit reported finding a 9 year old boy trying to care for his 2 year old sister. Their parents do not return until 10 every night. What a responsibility to give a child!

The burden of helping these families rests upon the Union Settlement which for 47 years has been doctor, nurse, counsellor, teacher and good neighbor to these people.

Won't you, in turn, please help us with your financial support? Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Henry S. Coffin



Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin

Edmund Coffin and his son **Henry Sloane Coffin** led the way for the family in support for Union Settlement, and in philanthropy and theology, with Henry Sloane Coffin becoming one of the best known and most influential ministers in America.

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin served on the Board through the late 1950s. He and his wife, Dorothy, assisted in hosting and planning Union Settlement's 50th anniversary exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York.

FIFTIETH YEAR OBSERVED

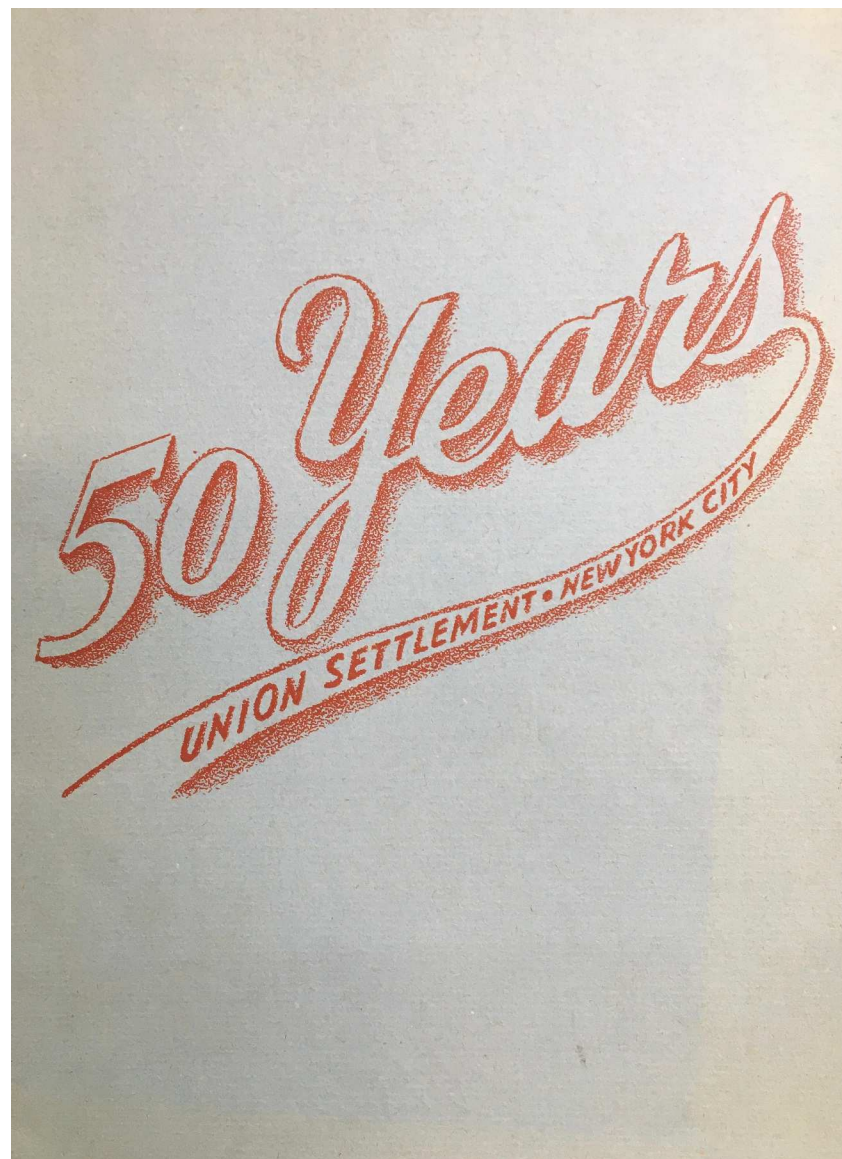
Union Settlement Reviews Its Work in Harlem Area

Union Settlement, located in a block of houses around the assembly hall at 237 East 110th Street, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary yesterday.

Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, president of Union Theological Seminary, said the problems to be met by the settlement "were never more complex, with our changes in races and religions."

Clyde E. Murray, head worker at the settlement, said there was less mobility today on the part of Puerto Rican and Negro families living in the neighborhood than ever before, because there is no other place to go. He described the area as "more and more blighted."

The settlement announced it is operating an extension service at 1555 Lexington Avenue, and that \$71,000 had been realized from a special drive for \$175,000. The auditorium has been repaired and redecorated at a cost of \$30,000, and plans for the future include the acquisition of properties in East 105th Street for adult and children's work, it was announced.



The New York Times, April 16, 1946



In his youth, Hollywood movie star Burt Lancaster played sports, acted in theater productions and learned circus arts at Union Settlement. He credited Union Settlement for “saving him from the streets,” and supported the organization all his life.



In 1948, Burt Lancaster visited the neighborhood he grew up in and came to Union Settlement's sites to meet staff and participants.

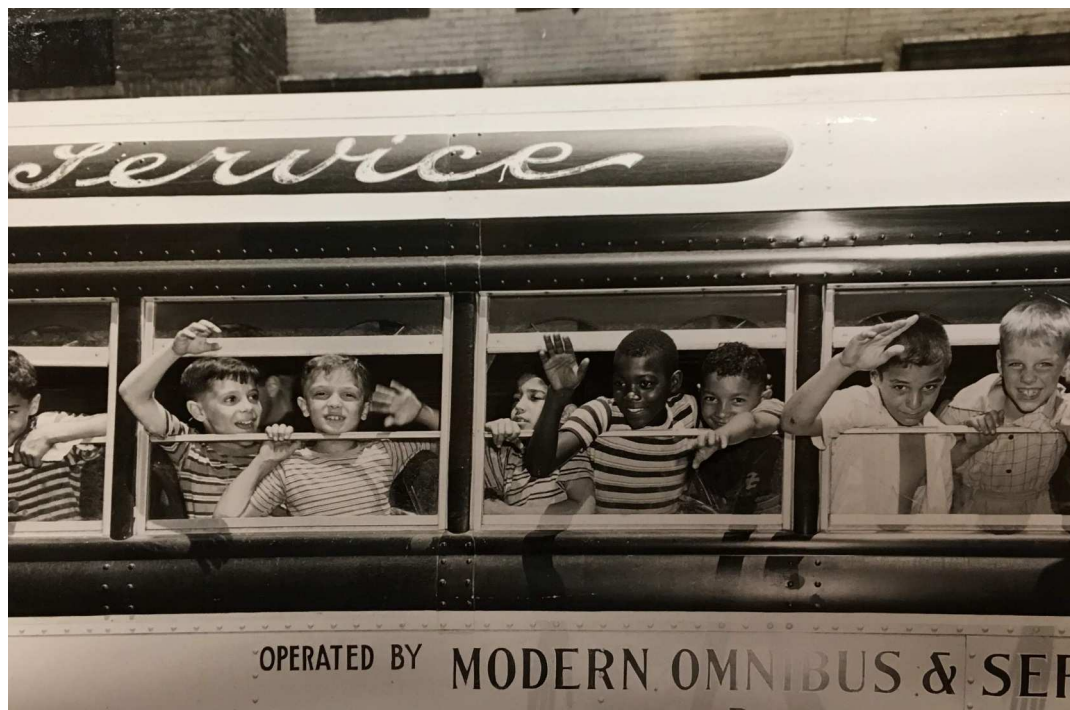
"Of course, Burt Lancaster was one of the most difficult youngsters we ever had at the Settlement. (Laughs.) He is now very famous and we are all very proud of him."

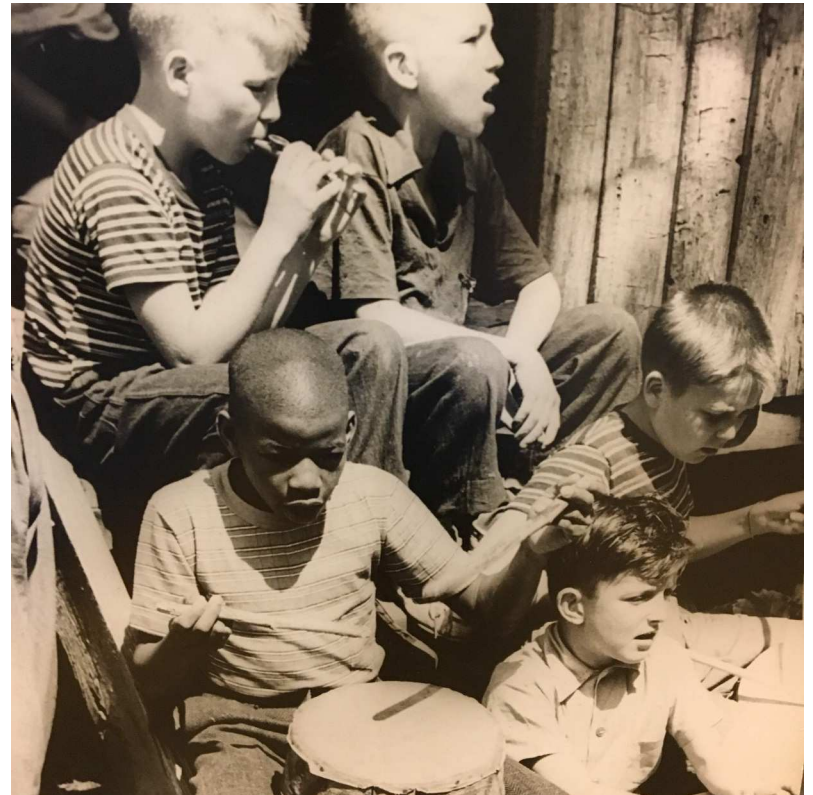
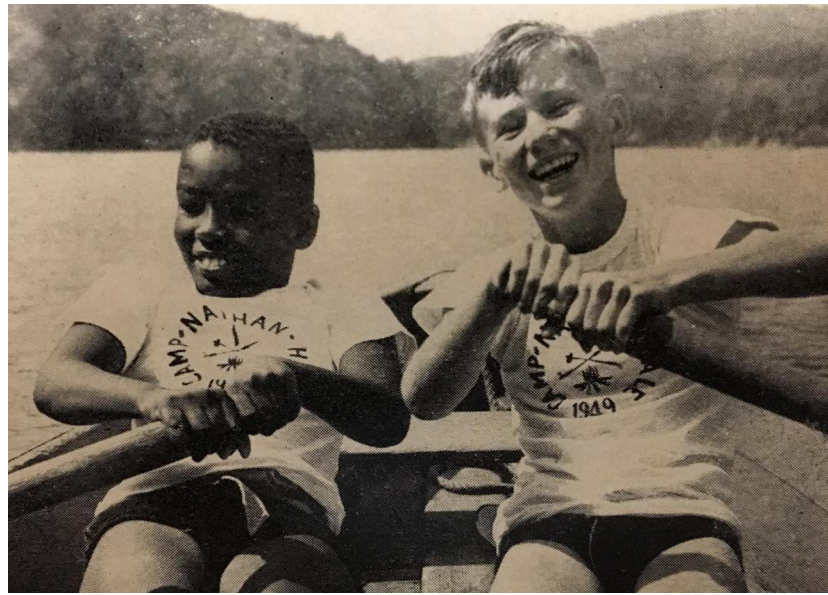
*- Helen M. Harris (in 1973),
headworker of Union Settlement
1930-1940.*



Union Settlement's **summer camps** served as an indispensable service to East Harlem youth for much of the 20th century.

The camps provided an opportunity to spend educational and recreational time out of the city and in nature.







GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 30, 1962

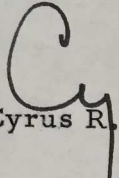
Dear Bill:

Thanks ever so much for your kind letters. It was most thoughtful of you to write me and I do appreciate it.

I was interested to have the news about the election on May 10 and am glad to know that the Settlement continues to be in extremely capable hands.

With warmest regards to you and Mary and hoping to see you very soon,

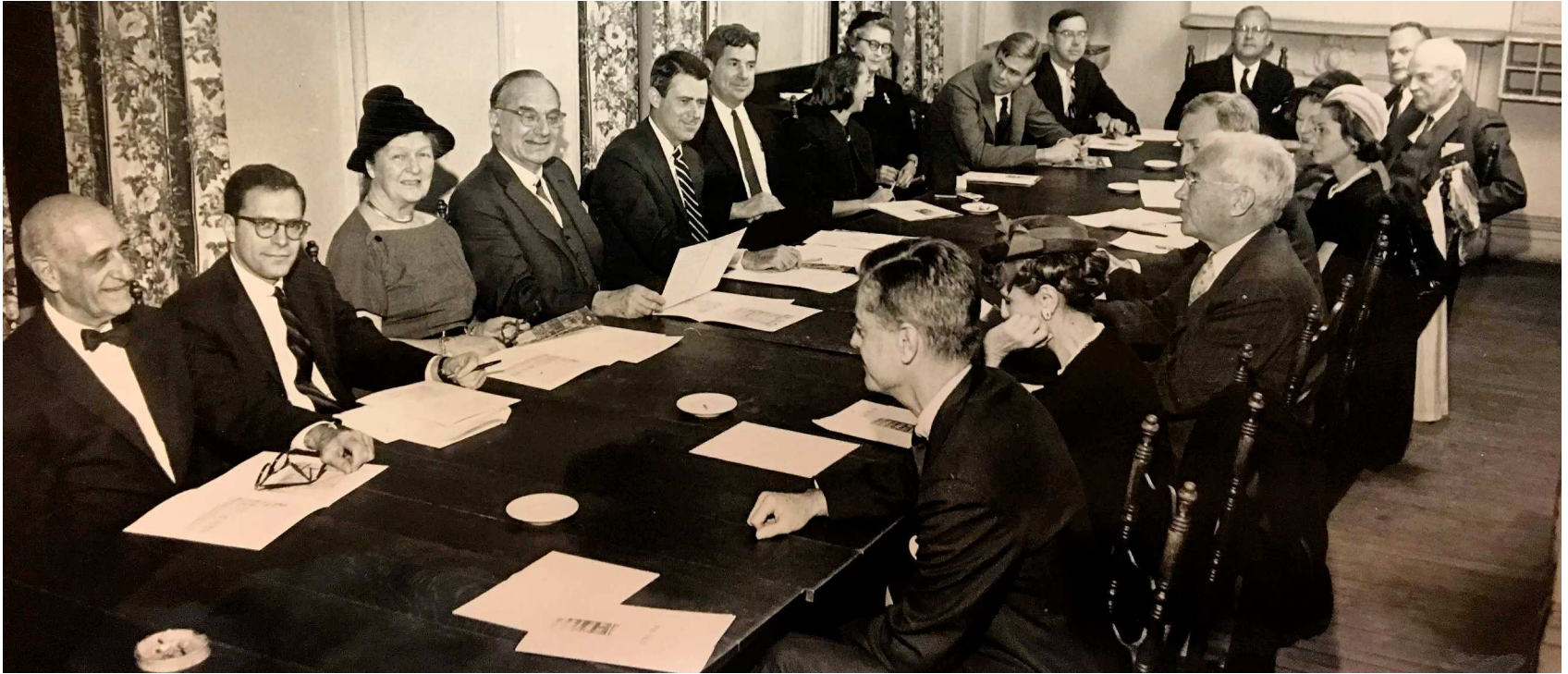
Sincerely,


Cyrus R. Vance

Mr. William Kirk
Headworker, Union Settlement
237 East 104th Street
New York 29, New York



Cyrus R. Vance



Cyrus Vance Sr., served on our Board of Directors for many years, including joining the Executive Committee in 1957, becoming the Vice Chairman in 1959 and serving as Chairman from 1960-1961. He would later serve as the United States Secretary of State from 1977 to 1980.









Union Settlement Board Leaders

Board Presidents

Rev. Francis Brown - *1895 to 1897*

Rev. Charles Cuthbert Hall - *1897 to 1908*

Rev. Francis Brown - *1908 to 1915*

Rev. William Adams Brown - *1915 to 1919*

Rev. Arthur C. McGiffert - *1920 to 1926*

Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin - *1926 to 1945*

Rev. Henry P. Van Dusen - *1945 to 1963*

Rev. John C. Bennett - *1963 to 1968*

Orville H. Schell, Jr. - *1968 to 1970s*

Board Chairs

Edmund Coffin - *1904 to 1926*

Maitland Dwight - *1926 to 1938*

James M. Nicely - *1938 to 1945*

John Sloane - *1946 to 1949*

John Crosby Brown - *1949 to 1950*

S. Hazard Gillespie - *1950 to 1957*

Orville H. Schell, Jr. - *1957 to 1960*

Cyrus R. Vance - *1960 to 1961*

Stanley Resor - *1961 to 1962*

Walter Lord - *1962 to 1964*

Edward C. Brewster - *1964 to 1966*

Bevis Longstreth - *1966 to 1968*

Mrs. Edwin B. Brooks - *1968 to 1970*

Arthur W. Einstein, Jr. - *1970 to 1972*

Amory Bradford - *1972 to 1974*

Harriet L. Warm - *1973 to 1974*

John H.T. Wilson - *1974 to 1975*

James N. Lodwick - *1976 to 1978*

Hugh Rowland, Jr. - *1978 to 1979*

Jeremy Biggs - *1980 to 1984*

Arthur W. Einstein, Jr. - *1984 to 1986*

Edwin H. Brooks - *1986 to 1988*

Daniel P. Paduano - *1988 to 1990*

Stuart Meiklejohn - *1990 to 2004*

Robert F. Quaintance, Jr. - *2004 to 2008*

Maxine Rockoff - *2008 to 2012*

Reginald E. Harwell - *2012 to 2015*

Ruth E. Pachman - *2015 to 2019*

Amy Sherman - *2019 to present*



The Rev. Dr. Francis Brown



S. Hazard Gillespie



John H.T. Wilson



Amy Sherman

Union Settlement Headworkers/Executive Directors

William E. McCord - *1895 to 1901*

Gaylord S. White - *1901 to 1923*

Max Nelson - *1923 to 1930*

Helen Harris - *1930 to 1940*

Clyde Murray - *1940 to 1949*

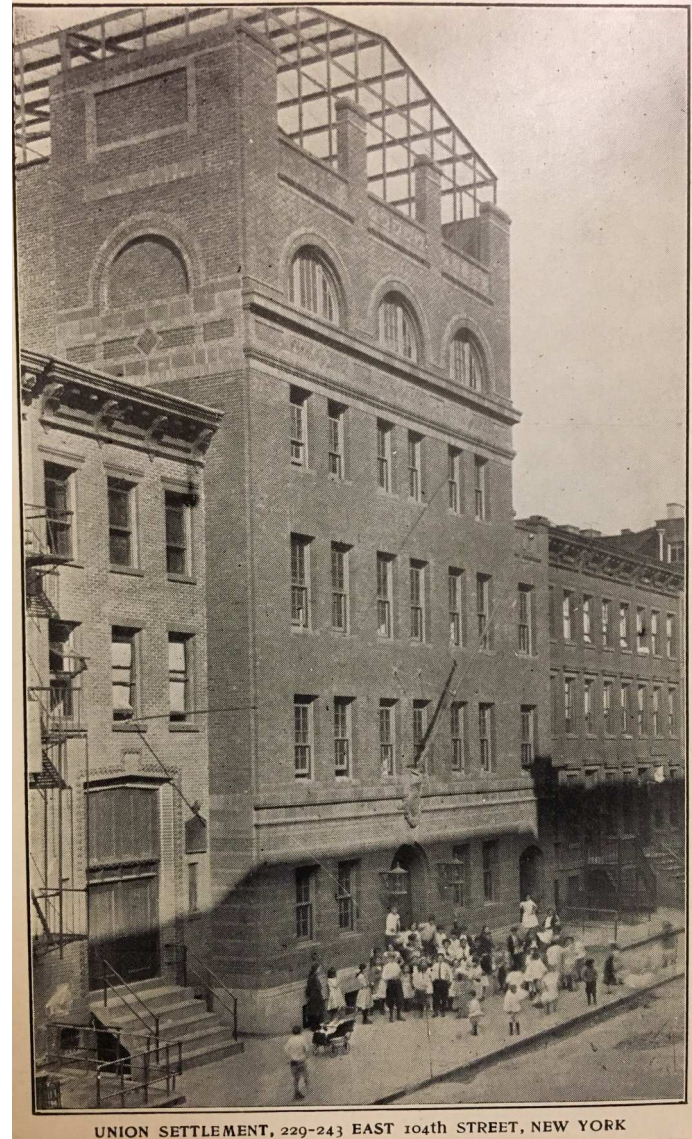
William Kirk - *1949 to 1971*

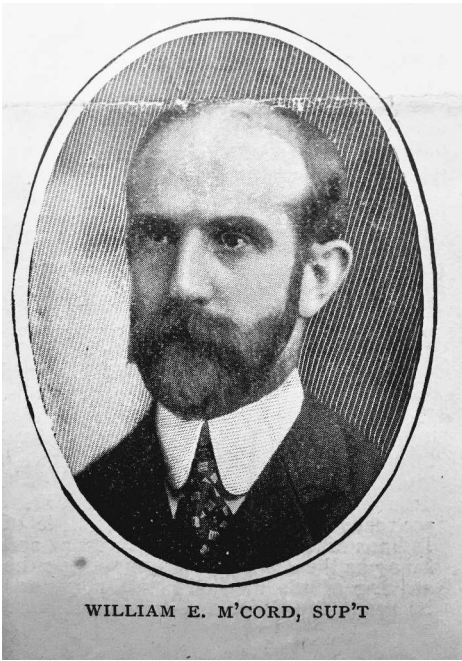
James Soler - *1971 to 1979*

Eugene Sklar - *1980 to*

Ellen Simon - *1995 to 2008*

David Nocenti - *2009 to present*





WILLIAM E. M'CORD, SUP'T

William E. McCord



Helen Harris



William Kirk



David Nocenti



COMMUNITY

WELLNESS

EDUCATION

Current Programs

Adult Education

Union Settlement has served wave after wave of immigrants who have made East Harlem one of New York's "portal communities," from the Irish, Eastern European and Italian populations of a century ago, to large numbers of individuals from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Mexico, and the latest arrivals from Central and South America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Currently in East Harlem, 12% of adults have less than a ninth grade education, 29% of adults did not graduate from high school and only 28% have a four-year college degree.

We now assist around 400 students through a menu of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency (ABE/HSE) classes (in English and in Spanish), and Health Career Pathways classes.



Early Childhood Education

Providing a caring educational environment to young children has been a cornerstone of Union Settlement since our founding.

We are now the seventh largest provider of early childhood education services in New York City, serving around 700 infants, toddlers and preschoolers each year with a well-rounded program focused on cognitive, social, emotional, creative and physical development.

We are a trusted provider of the highest quality early childhood education, enabling families to work, seek employment or care for loved ones.



Mental Health Services

For more than 60 years, Union Settlement has provided mental health counseling services to keep families together, minimize psychiatric hospitalizations, help clients maintain sobriety and literally save lives.

East Harlem has the city's highest rate of hospitalizations due to mental illness. Poverty substantially increases the emotional burdens many of our residents shoulder, as do the high rates of violence, substance abuse, child abuse, trauma, mental illness, and HIV/AIDS. Union Settlement's Mental Health Services program addresses these disparities by providing a range of counseling and care management services.

We now serve approximately 1,300 individuals through our Johnson Counseling Center, where we offer individual, family, group and couples therapy, crisis intervention, psychological and psychiatric evaluation, medication management, advocacy and many other services.



Senior Services

Services for seniors have always been a priority for Union Settlement. We have been providing services for older East Harlem residents for over a century, and Meals on Wheels for over 40 years. Economically struggling and often living alone, our community's senior population relies on Union Settlement to help meet their everyday needs and ward off feelings of isolation.

Over 750 older adults attend our four Senior Centers where they enjoy daily group meals, exercise activities, benefits assistance counseling, nutrition classes, health and wellness programs, computer classes, games, and arts and cultural activities.



Community and Small Business Development

Union Settlement's mission to empower the East Harlem community extends to nurturing and developing small businesses and entrepreneurs. We seek to connect businesses with each other, as well as help incubate businesses of all sizes, thereby keeping employers and employees in the neighborhood.

Our Business Development Center provides business education, technology training and technical assistance to new and existing small business owners in the community.



Youth Services

We provide robust afterschool and summer programs for in-school youth, including education, and arts and recreation, for children from kindergarten through high school. Every year, through our programs, more than 2,250 eager and energetic children, teens and young adults actively seek and create opportunities to forge brighter futures.

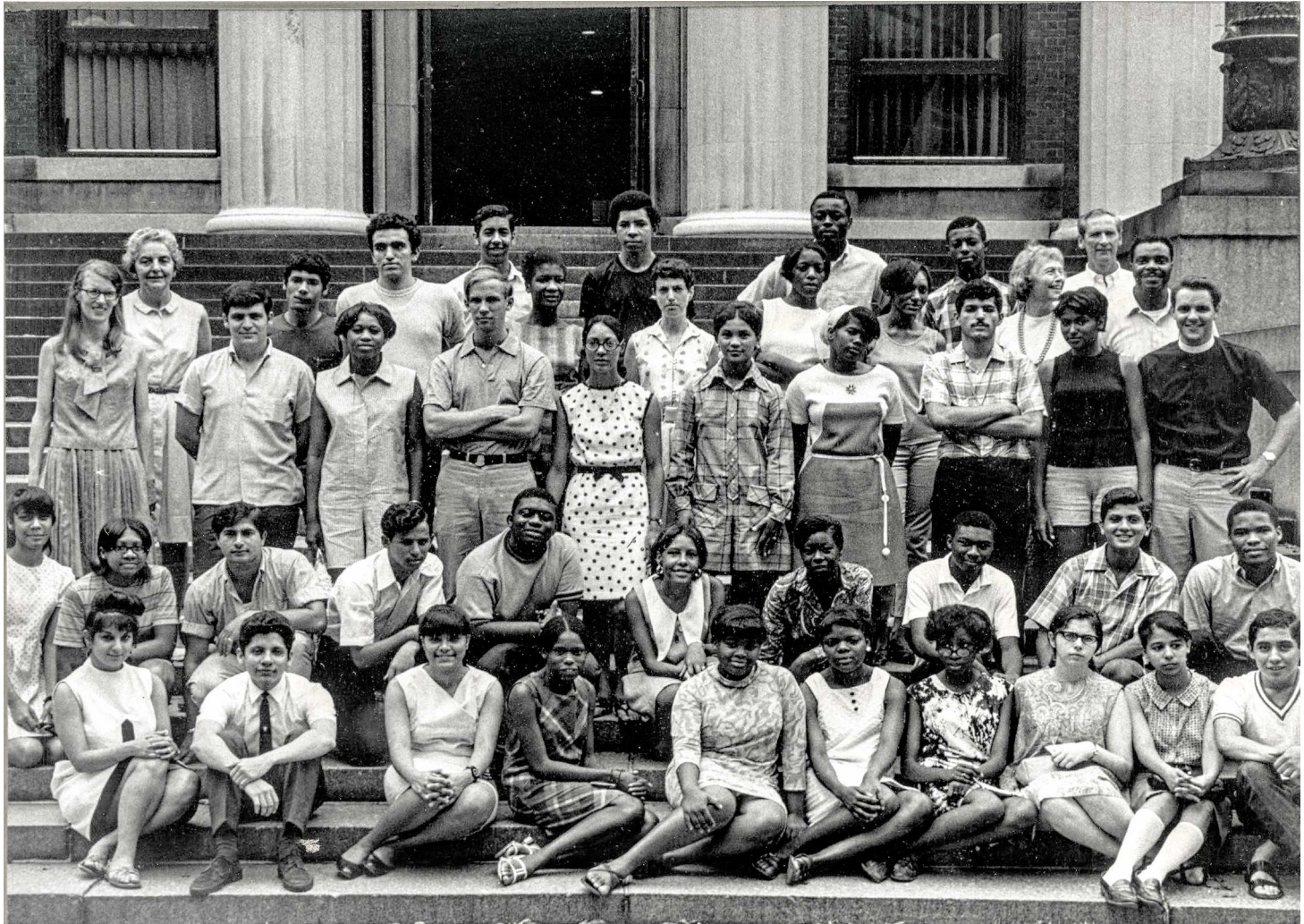
Union Settlement also currently serves approximately 650 older youth, mostly African American and Latino, who are neither attending school nor participating in the labor force. These young people face daunting challenges, including poverty, early parenthood, criminal justice system involvement, low educational levels and lack of employment opportunities. Our programs provide targeted services to these at-risk and court-involved youth to help them build successful futures.



College Readiness

Since its inception in 1964, our College Readiness Program has helped over 22,000 young people gain admission to college.

Many of these students were the first in their family to achieve that goal.



Union Settlement College Readiness Summer Workshop, 1968

Meals on Wheels

Each year, we deliver over 200,000 meals to 550 homebound seniors through our Meals on Wheels program.

In addition to relying on our meals, our senior population depends on Union Settlement to help meet their everyday needs, including mitigating feelings of isolation.



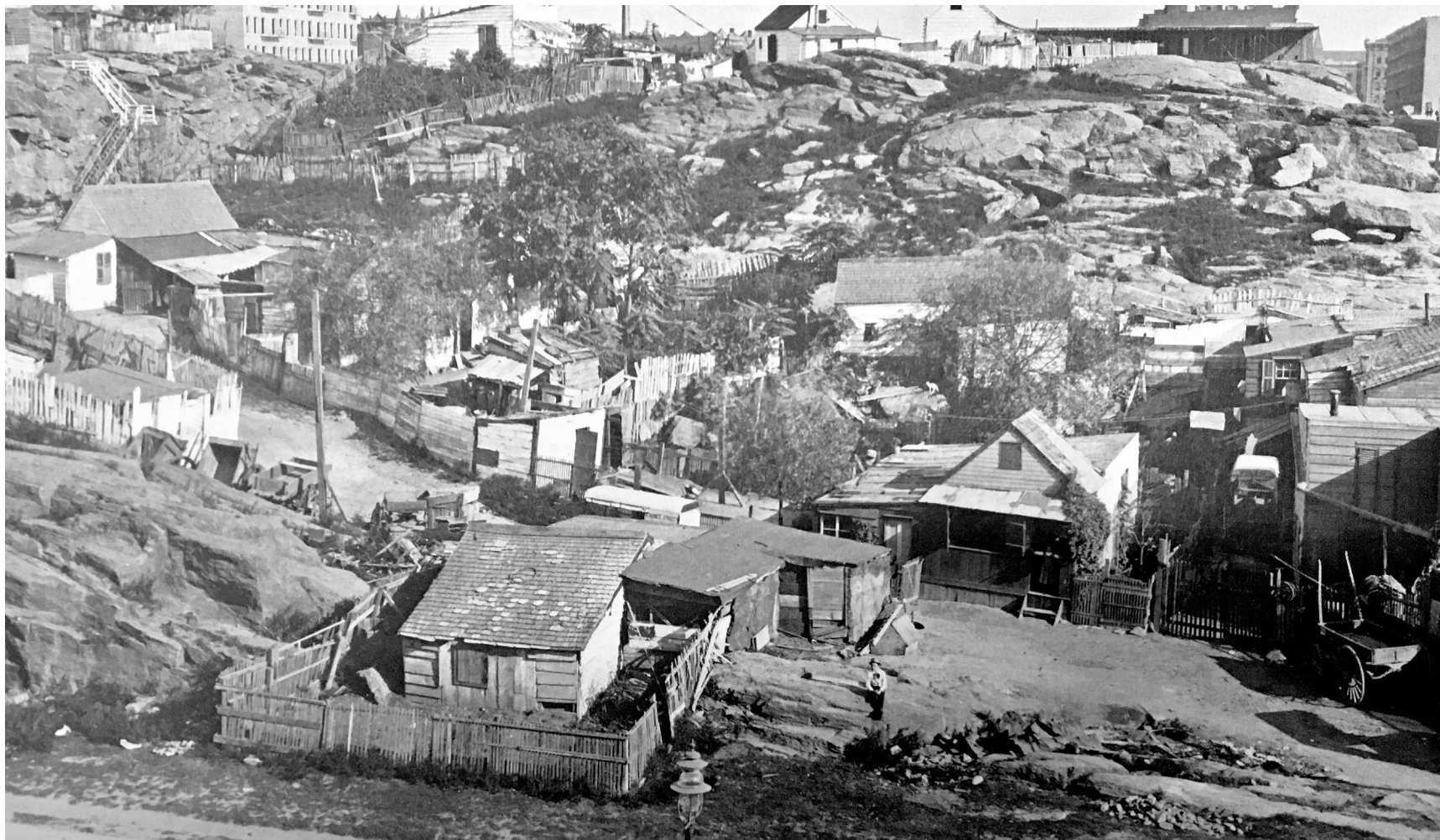
East Harlem Neighborhood and Needs in 2020

With over 120,000 residents, East Harlem is home to many of the neediest New Yorkers.

- 44% of households survive on less than \$25,000 per year.
- 12% of adults have less than a ninth grade education.
- 28% of adults did not graduate from high school.
- 33% of housing units are public housing (NYCHA) units.
- East Harlem's unemployment rate is nearly twice the national average.
- Only 28% of third through eighth graders meet state math standards, with 32% meeting English standards.
- Teen pregnancy and STD rates in East Harlem are among the highest in New York City.



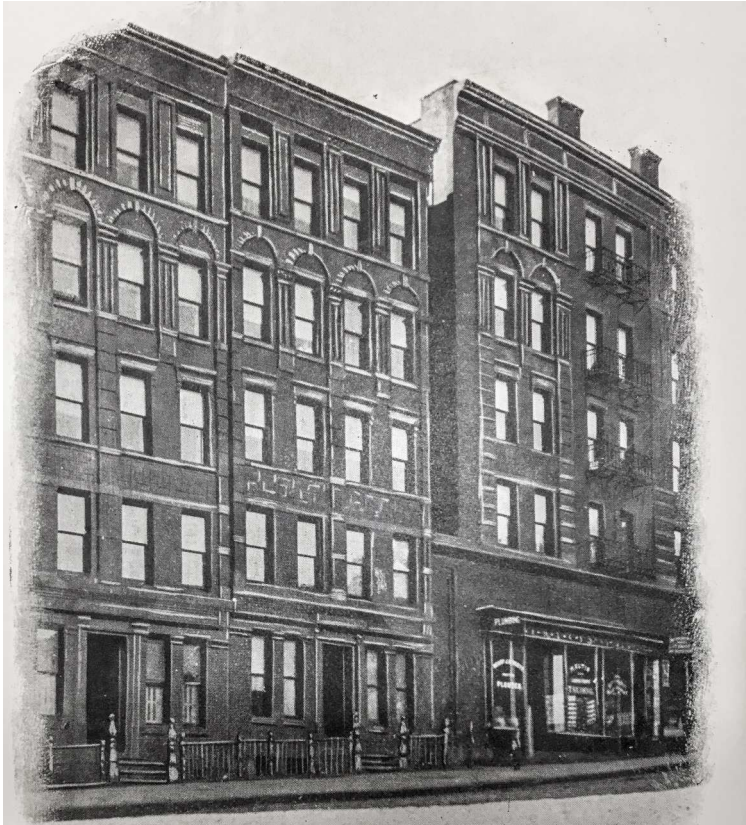
PHOTO: OLIVIER KPOGNON



East 116th Street, near Fifth Ave., 1893



East 116th Street, 2017 Mexican Independence Day Festival



THE FIRST HOME OF THE UNION SETTLEMENT

The work began in the right hand flat on the second floor of the tenement house in the centre, where two young men took up residence in May, 1895

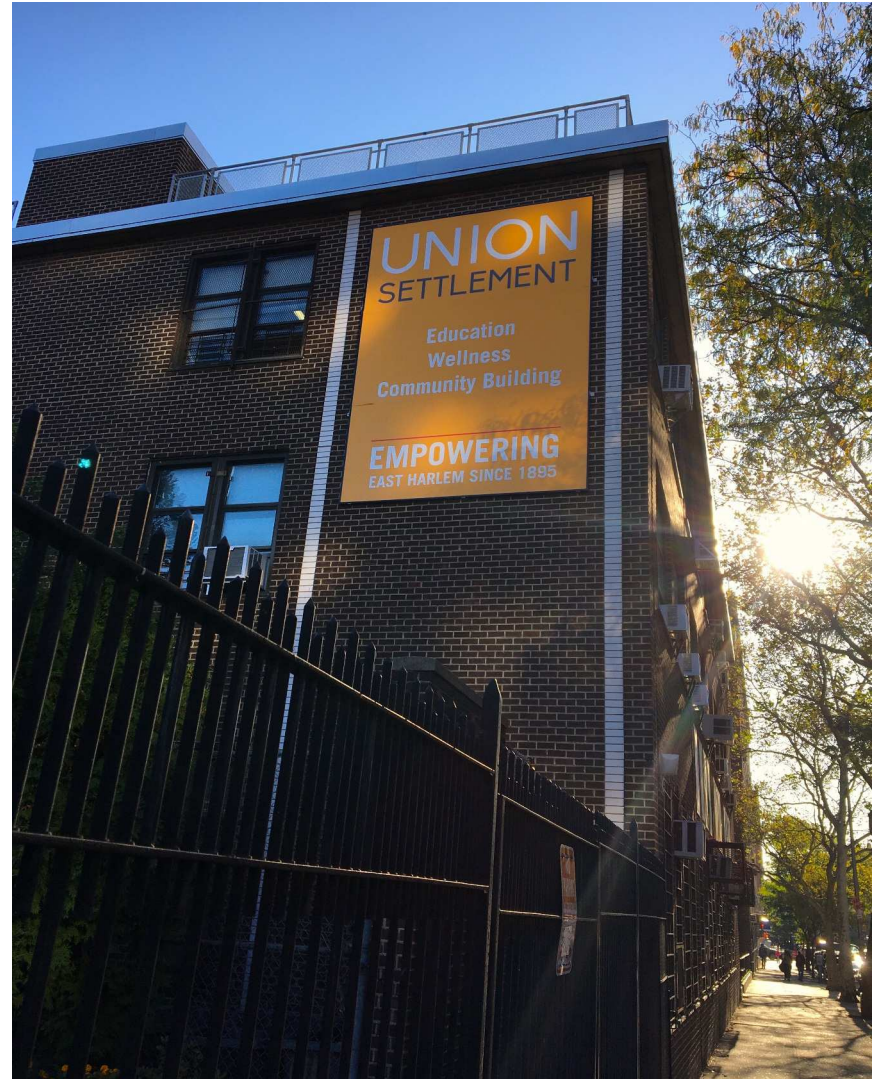


THE SECOND HOME OF UNION SETTLEMENT

formal opening of the building . . . November 7, 1913



THE THIRD HOME OF UNION SETTLEMENT
and the
LEGGETT MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S CENTER
to be completed
1962













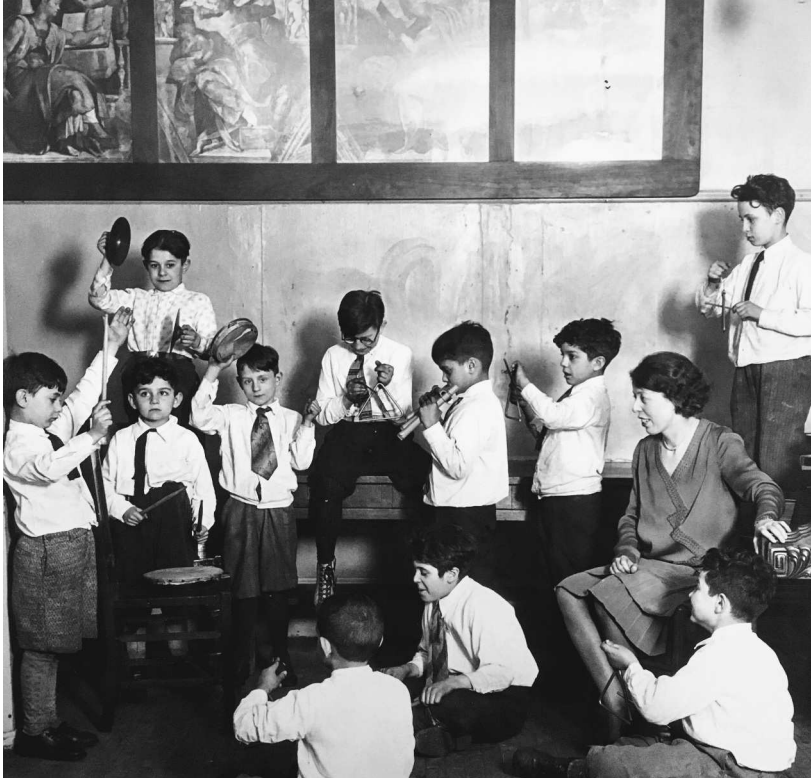
















Union Settlement's Activities Council is awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Community Service Citation, 1951.
From left to right: Mrs. Roosevelt, Robert Vinter, Jr., Assistant Director, Recreation and Education Department
and Hazel Harris, President of Union Settlement's Activities Council.



Hillary Rodham Clinton visits Union Settlement's Corsi Senior Center, 2016.



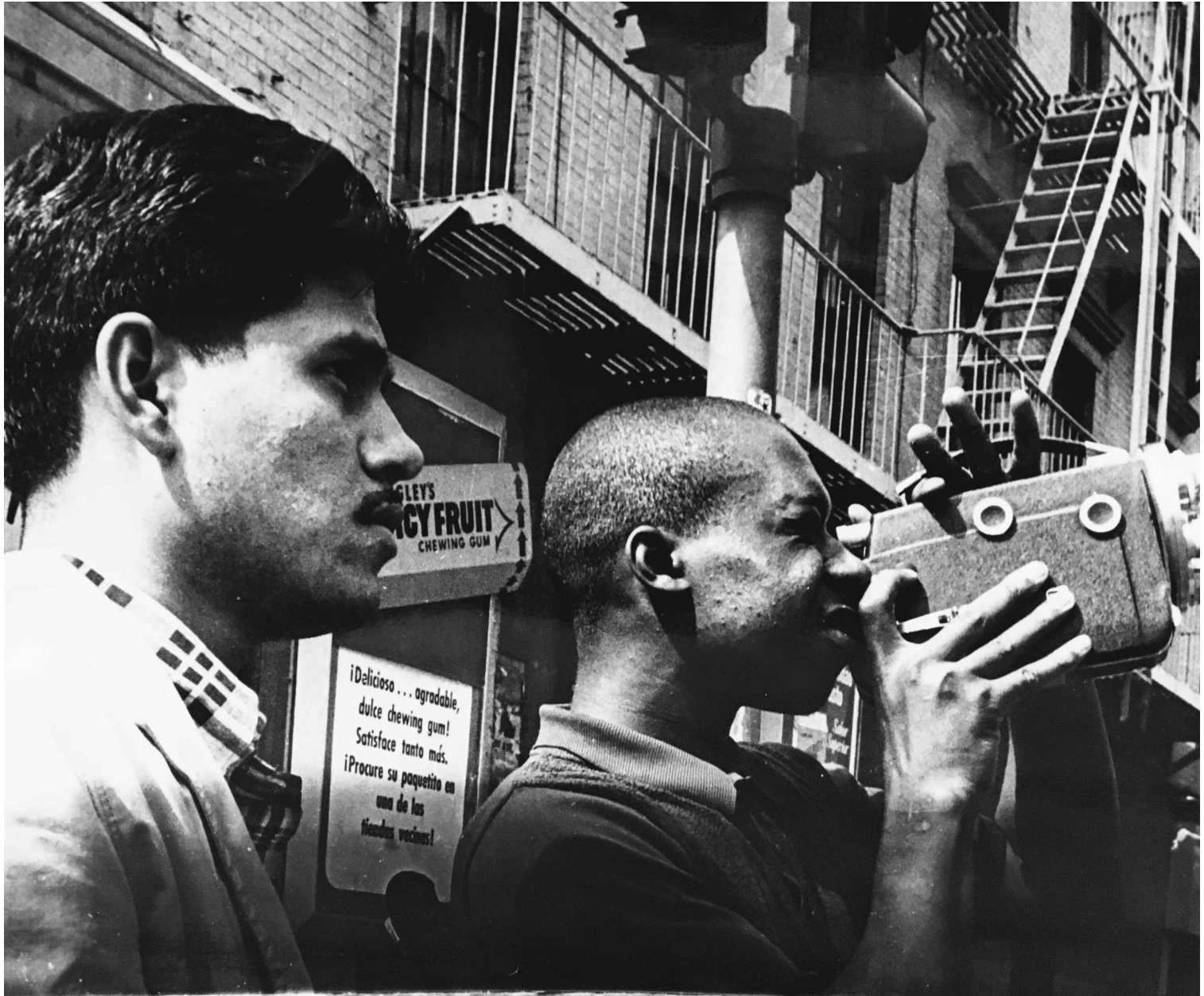




















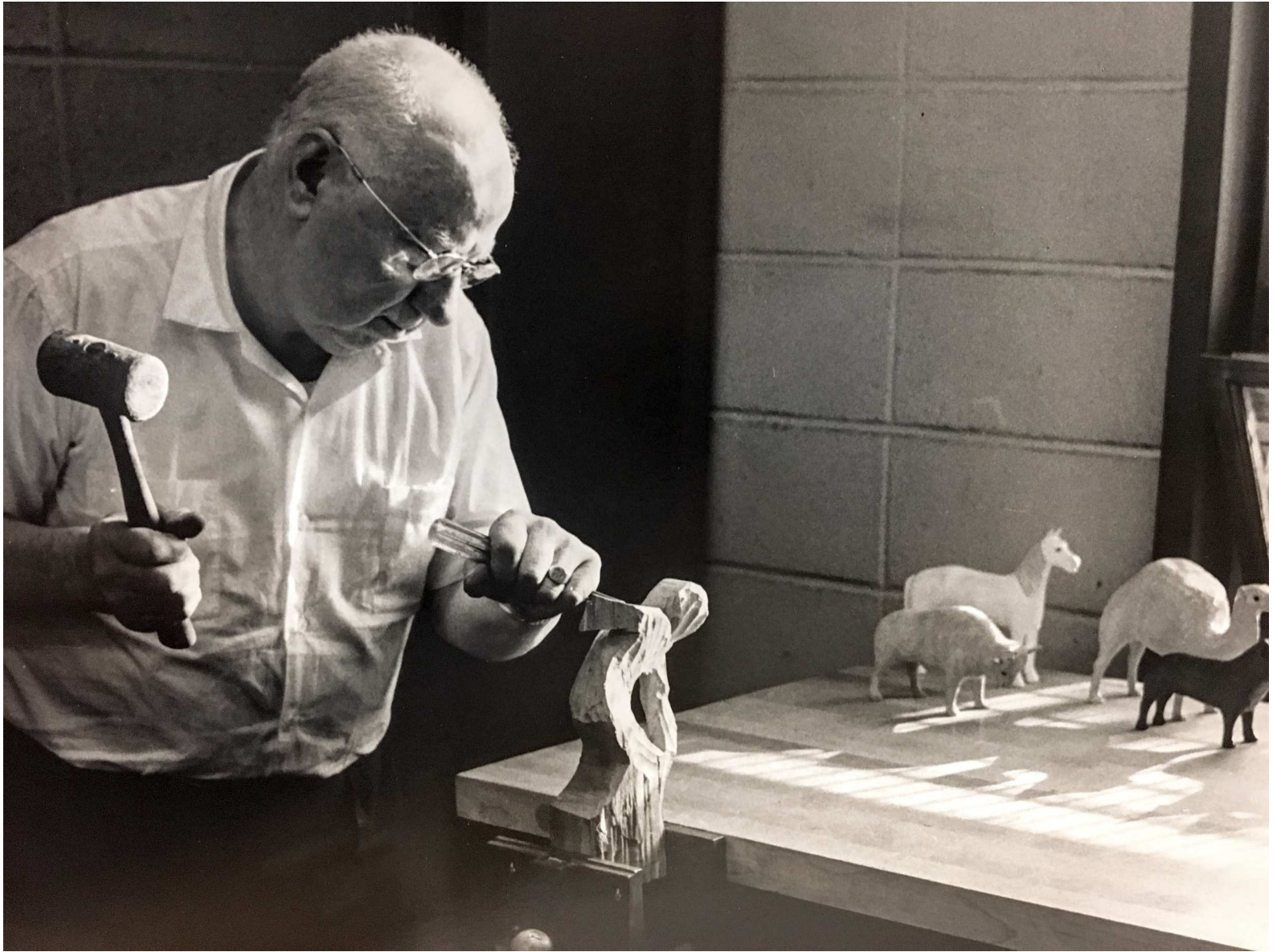
NINTH ANNUAL
OUTDOOR GAMES
INTER-SETTLEMENT
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
PASTIME OVAL
HOLDING THE PRIZE
FOR THE
UNION SETTLEMENT
ATHLETIC CLUB

ELEVENTH ANNUAL
INDOOR GAMES
INTER-SETTLEMENT
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
7th REGIMENT ARMOY
HOLDING THE PRIZE
FOR THE
UNION SETTLEMENT
ATHLETIC CLUB

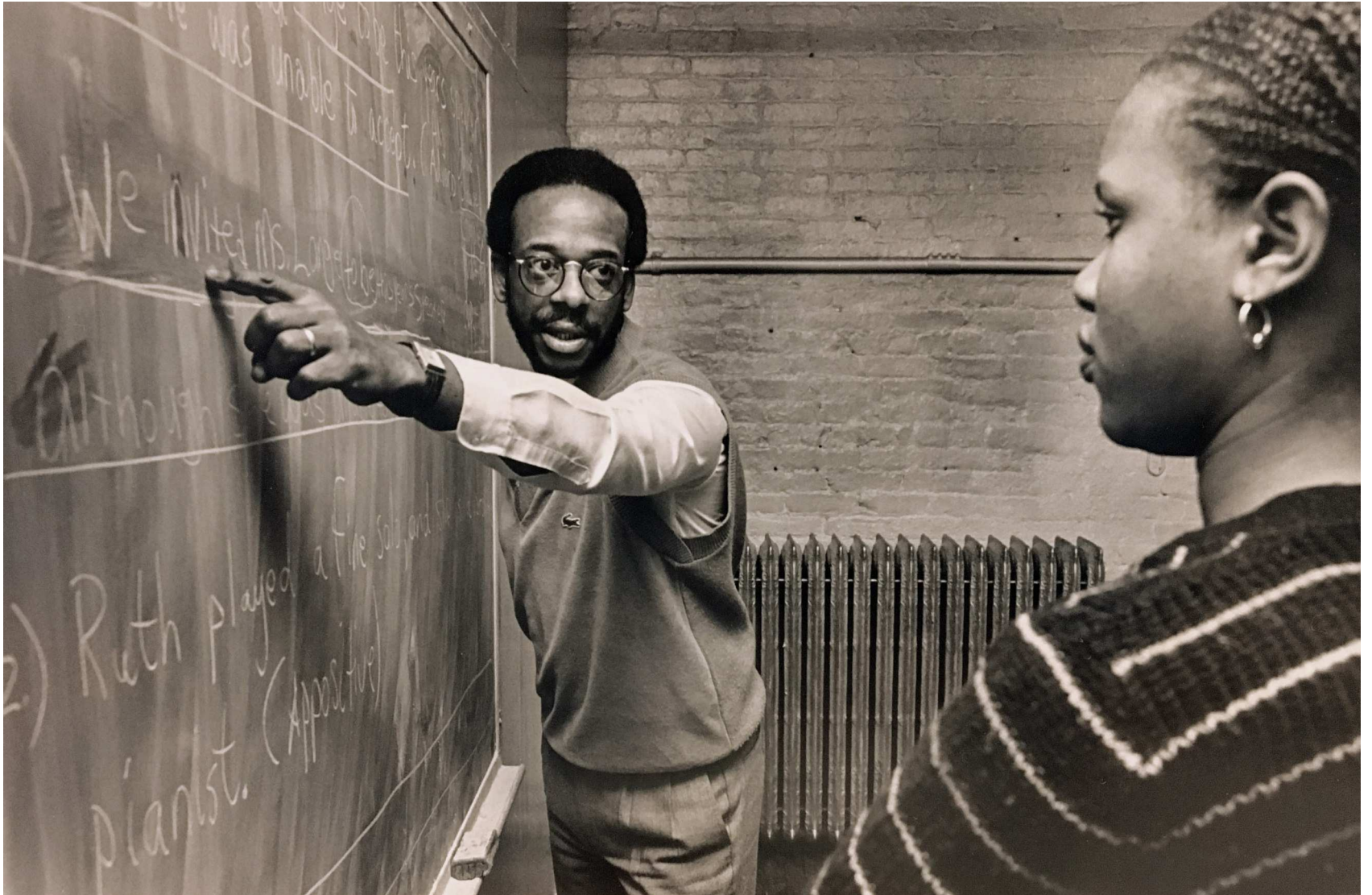
































Union Settlement's Spring Playground Festival
East 104th Street, early 1900s



Union Settlement's Spring Ethnic Festival
East 104th Street, 2019









2020 Board of Directors

Amy Sherman, *Chair*

Eli Gross, *Vice Chair*

Dawn M. Zappetti, *Vice Chair*

William Arnold, *Treasurer*

Gina Rusch, *Secretary*

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Maxine L. Rockoff, Ph.D.

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Robin Sparkman

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Drew Warshaw



UNION SETTLEMENT

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New York, NY 10029

www.unionsettlement.org