

## Group opens talk series on retardation

This year marks the eighth annual lecture series on mental retardation sponsored by the Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, a private agency that has been operating for the past 20 years.

Parents of the mentally retarded, as well as other parents, professionals and friends, are invited to attend the free evening programs held every second Friday of the month from 8:30 to 10 p.m. at the organization's headquarters at 1150 Castleton Ave. West Brighton, from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m.

"While our main focus is on the retarded, there are certain programs of general interest in the mental health area," according to Dr. Manny Sternlicht, in charge of public education and organization supervising psychologist. "We are responsive to suggestions as to what type of program to present."

The series consists of nine programs, the last of which will be held in June. Seven specialists in various fields of mental retardation will speak from the rostrum on aspects from sheltered workshops to summer camping.

### 3 LECTURES

Of the three lectures to be given by Dr. Sternlicht, a doctor of philosophy, the next is entitled "Moderate Retardation in Young Children," the subject of his forthcoming book to be published next spring. In January, the speaker, who also

serves as Willowbrook State School's assistant director, will talk on "A Case of Suicide" (in the mentally retarded) to be followed in March by a discussion on mongolism. "A Talk to Parents of Mongoloid Children" is now available at no cost to interested Islanders by the organization.

On Dec. 10, Alan Miller, assistant director of the Federation of Employment Guidance Services in Manhattan, will speak on the possibilities of a sheltered workshop on Staten Island.

Three Willowbrook State School staffers will give later lectures in their respective fields. In February, Louis S. Siegel, psychologist, will discuss behavior therapy of the mentally retarded, with examples of positive and negative conditioning.

### THERAPY TALKS

Miss Marianne Ultmann, chief occupational therapist, and Eric Shein, recreational department head, will delve into their areas in April and in May.

Alfred Abati, Staten Island regional retardation program chairman, will report on new development for the retarded in the community in June.

Mrs. Michael Longo, who heard social worker Gerard O'Regan speak on hostels last month, said that she has always found the lectures "very informative" in the years she has attended them.

A parent of a nine-year-old mongoloid child, Mrs. Longo shares her experiences with approximately 30 other parents of retarded children over coffee and cake. "As far as the speakers, you get different views every time. I am very glad that they are available to us," she said.

— ELAINE HESS