

An Annotated Inventory of the Murray Schneps Papers, 1972-2015.

Archives & Special Collections

College of Staten Island Library, CUNY

2800 Victory Blvd., 1L-216

Staten Island, NY 10314

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Collection No. : WSSM-9

Title: The Murray Schneps Papers

Creator: Murray Schneps

Dates: 1972-2015

Extent: .9 cubic feet

Abstract: Murray B. Schneps was born in New York City and grew up in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. A graduate of Brooklyn College and Brooklyn Law School, he worked as an attorney. When his first child, Lara, was born profoundly mentally retarded and multiply handicapped, he became involved in the struggle for civil rights for the developmentally disabled. Lara lived at the Willowbrook State School for approximately three years and Schneps was a named plaintiff in the lawsuit brought against New York State. He was also a Vice Chairman of the Willowbrook Review Panel, which was charged with implementing the Willowbrook Consent Decree. He is the author of, *I See Your Face Before Me: A Father's Promise*. NY: Murray B. Schneps, 2014.

Several books that came with the papers have been cataloged and placed in the book collection; in addition to *I See Your Face Before Me*:

Burton Blatt and Fred Kaplan. *Christmas in Purgatory, Photographic Essay on Mental Retardation*. Syracuse, NY: Human Policy Press, 1974.

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. *Report of the Secretary's Special Federal Team, The New York State Mental Retardation Program*. 1972.

Jean Reiss. *They learned to do without. Untold Stories From Willowbrook State School 1958-1970*. 1994.

Biographical Sketch

Murray Bernard Schneps

26 December 1937 Born in Brownsville (Brooklyn), New York City to Sam Rubin and Hannah Kandel Schneps

1940s	Schneps grows up in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. His father eventually owns a kosher butcher shop.
Education	Elementary School, P.S. 225 Abraham Lincoln High School Brooklyn College Brooklyn Law School
3 August 1963	Marries (Pearl) Vicki Adler
23 May 1968	Daughter Lara Rebecca Schneps is born blind with microcephaly and profound mental retardation
31 July 1969	Lara is admitted to the Willowbrook State School
1971	Successfully argues for an injunction against the closure of Gouverneur Hospital in lower Manhattan and transfer of residents to Willowbrook (a cost-saving attempt by New York State that would have increased over-crowding at Willowbrook)
21 February 1972	Removes Lara from Willowbrook due to inadequate staffing levels
1972	Becomes a plaintiff on behalf of Lara in the Willowbrook Class Action suit that sought closure of Willowbrook and placement of its residents in small community residences
May 5, 1975	Willowbrook Consent Judgment executed
1975	Begins serving as Vice Chairman of the Willowbrook Review Panel
25 May 1975	Receives the Institutes of Applied Human Dynamics Humanitarian Award
1978	Becomes attorney for the plaintiffs seeking community placement for all the mentally retarded residents of the Suffolk County Developmental Center who did not require hospitalization
21 February 1979	Judge Jack B. Weinstein denies defendants' motion to disqualify and remove Schneps as either the attorney for the plaintiffs in the Suffolk case or as member of the Willowbrook Review Panel
1 April 1979	Lara moves into the first apartment for profoundly retarded multiply handicapped children operated by the State of New York in Bayside, Queens
1980	Willowbrook Review Panel is defunded by New York State
23 May 1981	Lara's thirteenth birthday is observed with a Bat Mizvah ceremony
21 February 1986	Lara dies
1986	New York State closes the Willowbrook State School

Box/Folder Inventory

(The following box/folder inventory is in the form of a table. If you are visually impaired and using a pdf reader you may need assistance and should contact the Archives at 718-982-4128)

Box 1

Correspondence

- 1 Correspondence. 1972; 1973.
- 2 Correspondence. 1974-1975.
- 3 Correspondence. 1976.
- 4 Correspondence. 1977-1980.
- 5 Correspondence. 2011.
- 6 Correspondence. 2014.

Literary Productions

- 7 Affidavit. 1972.
- 8 Testimony. NYC Hearing on Inspector General of Children and Family Services. 10/7/1974.
- 9 Letter to the Editor (*The New York Times*). 10/30/1974.
- 10 Letter to the Editor (*The New York Times*). 11/18/1974.
- 11 Notes. Re: Jerry Weingold and Letter to Bruce Ennis. 11/29/1974.
- 12 Letter to the Editor (*The New York Times*). 2/5/1975.
- 13 Speech. Acceptance Address, Institute of Applied Human Dynamics Humanitarian Award. 5/10/1975.
- 14 Letter to the Editor (*The New York Times*). 11/13/1975.
- 15 Speech. Schneps' Remarks at 2nd Annual Legislative Conference of the Rose F. Kennedy Center and Bronx Mental Retardation Council. 1/23/1976.
- 16 Speech. WORC Man of the Year. 6/18/1976.
- 17 Draft. Subject: Services of the WORC. 1976?
- 18 Notes. Re: Personal Threats. 10/14/1978.
- 19 Speech. Bat Mitzvah of Lara Schneps. 1981.
- 20 Notes. Re: Robert Hodgson. n.d.

Willowbrook Review Panel

- 21 Willowbrook Consent Judgement. 1975.

- 22 Circular Letters. 1975.
- 23 Circular Letters. 1976.
- 24 Circular Letters. 1977.
- 25 Bronx Developmental Center Case. Memorandum and Decision Order. 1977.
- 26 Bronx Developmental Center Case. Hearing. 1977.
- 27 Bronx Developmental Center Case. Cohen Cross Examination. 1977.
- 28 Bronx Developmental Center Case. Decision. 1977.
- 29 Circular Letters. 1978.
- 30 Meeting Minutes. Thirty-Fifth Meeting. 2/11/1978.
- 31 Schneps Affidavit in NYSARC & Parisi vs. New York. 1978.
- 32 Re: Gouveneur Transferees. 1979.
- 33 Surrogates Court Ruling Concerning United Cerebral Palsy Guardianship for Willowbrook Class Members. 1981.qwewwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww

Box 2

Suffolk Developmental Center Case

- 1 Decisions. 1975; 1976; 1978.
- 2 Disqualification Decision. 1979.
- 3 Decisions. 1982.
- 4 Fee Decision. 1983.
- 5 Decisions. 1983.
- 6 Helen Kaplan Testimony. 1984?
- 7 Judy Walker Testimony. 1984?
- 8 Phillip Feibush Testimony. 1984?
- 9 Suffolk Developmental Center Case. Decision. 1987.
- 10 Suffolk Developmental Center Case. Appeal. 1989.
- 11 Suffolk Developmental Center Case. Decisions. 1990.
- 12 Court Order. Special Master Ronnie Cohn. 1990.

Research Materials for *I See Your Face Before Me*

- 13 Notes. Willowbrook Review Panel. 2010.
- 14 Computer Print Outs from Various Sources. 2010-2014.

15 Editorial Notes by Mike Lottman. 2015?

Ephemera

16 Sign. Willowbrook State School Visiting Hours. n.d.