Ridge Historical Society
RECORD
BEVERLY HILLS, MORGAN PARK, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & MT. GREENWOOD

Kindergarten: a unique program - part II of a series on education

By Carol Flynn and Linda Lamberty

Kindergarten, the first year of our formal education system, is well integrated into the modern school system. But this was not always the case. Designed as a very unique program, it evolved separately from the grade school model.

The origins of kindergarten date to the late 1700s. At the time, children were taught the basics of reading, writing and sums at home. Education was by lecture and memorization. Children were trained to be obedient, quiet and industrious, being prepared at an early age for the workforce.

Then along came Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827), a Swiss education reformer. He observed that children actually learned best through investigation, imagination and doing. He started experimental schools using activities such as drawing, writing, singing, physical exercise, model making, collecting, map making, and field trips. He allowed for individual differences, grouped students by ability rather than age, and encouraged formal teacher training. Although very radical for his time, his philosophy came to have a profound influence on all branches of education. Albert Einstein is a famous graduate of Pestalozzi's methods.

In 1837, Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852), a follower of Pestalozzi, opened an institute in Prussia/Germany to

Franz Xaver Hofer was forced to flee his native Germany after participating in the failed Republican Revolution in Baden in 1848-49. He served as a lieutenant in the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War. His passion for social justice and reform was passed down to his children. Shown here is a young Hofer family; photo user submitted on Ancestry.com.

See Kindergarten, page 2

WINTER 2013
Vol. 42, No. 3

RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10621 S. Seeley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643

773/881-1675

ridgehistoricalsociety.org
ridgehistory@hotmail.com

Open to the public
Tuesday 2 - 5 p.m.
Thursday 2 - 5 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.
or by appointment

Look for the Ridge Historical Society on Facebook.

Kindergarten, from page 1

help young children transition from home to school. He called the program "Kindergarten," or Child Garden, a word he created to express his vision that children should be nourished like flowers in a garden.

Froebel sought to teach children not what to think but how to think. Recognizing that young children learn differently than older children and adults, he built upon the natural play of children to enhance learning.

Using materials such as wooden blocks, he devised learning activities, then added songs, games and stories, to organize a series of experiences that he felt assisted in the physical, mental, and moral development of children. In essence, he created the first educational toys and teaching modules. He added projects such as paper folding and weaving to develop motor skills and creativity. Frank Lloyd Wright is a famous graduate of Froebel's methods.

The Chicago Commons was founded in 1894 by Graham Taylor, following the model of Hull House. This early building at Grand Ave. and Morgan St. still stands. Bertha Hofer had done graduate studies at the Pestalozzi Froebel Haus in Berlin, studying under a niece of Froebel. Taylor approached Bertha to help open the pioneer program in "an unknown school at very low salary ... for the neediest children." She promptly accepted, and her "motherly ways" led to such a following of young women and mothers the Commons opened a teachers' training school. Vintage postcard of Chicago Commons, ca. 1908.

Froebel chose women to staff his Kindergarten, believing that their nurturing instincts made them natural educators for the young. He set up an institute to train women as kindergarten teachers, creating the first real career opportunities in education for women.

Kindergarten was banned in Prussia in 1851 for being too unorthodox. This led to an exodus of trained kindergarten teachers and spread Froebel's ideas to other countries. In 1855, a student of Froebel's started the first kindergarten in the U.S., in German, in Wisconsin. A chance encounter with that program led educator Elizabeth Peabody to establish the first English-language kindergarten in Boston in 1860.

The American settlement and playground movements of the late 1800s were tied in with the establishment of kindergartens. Settlements were based on the idea that those who wanted to help the poor would live or "settle" in the neighbourhoods that they hoped to improve. Recreation was a means by which life in an urban industrial society could be made more tolerable; physical fitness was also considered important for creating "efficient citizens."

Amalie Hofer's work as Chairman of the Playgrounds Committee of the Chicago Woman's Club influenced the city to invest over $9 million in the playground system, and led the Chicago Daily Tribune in 1910 to state, "Chicago possesses no benefactor more logical, and far sighted, and public spirited than Mrs. Amalia [sic] Hofer Jerome." Picture of an early Chicago playground from the Special Collections Department, Richard J. Daley Library, U of I-Chicago.

The Hofer Sisters

Educators from the Ridge were active in the kindergarten movement. One family, the Hofers, could boast of five daughters involved in pre-school education.

Franz Xaver Hofer emigrated to the U.S. from Germany in 1849. He and wife Mari Ruef, also from Germany, moved to Iowa where they farmed. Hofer also purchased a newspaper in Iowa which the family ran for some years. The family eventually moved to Chicago and settled at 1753 W. 96th Street, where their house still stands. The Hofer daughters, Mari, Bertha, Amelia or Amalie, Andrea and Elizabeth (called Elsa), were well educated, accomplished and "progressive."

Mari (1858 or 1859-1929) was a pioneer in

2013 RHS Board of Directors
Edris Hoover, President
Mary Quinn Olsson Vice President
Cathy Majeske Program Chair
Carol Macola Asst. Program Chair
Bill Sandstrom Treasurer
Larry Brown Asst. Treasurer
Paula Everett Secretary
Mary Ellen Cassidy Membership Secretary
Linda Lamberty Historian
[Vacant], Curator

Directors
Sarah Berkey
Anna-Marie Brodsky
Jeanne Carr
Sue Hendricks
Mati Maldre
Joel Morbito
Joseph O'Connor
Fran Oehmen
James Wognum

Emeritus
Julie DeHaan
Sue Delves
Lois Grayston
Linda Lane
Pat McGrail
Doris Moulton
Herman Schell

Editor
Carol Flynn

Newsletter committee
Sue Delves
Carol Flynn
Sue Hendricks
Linda Lamberty
Mary Quinn Olsson

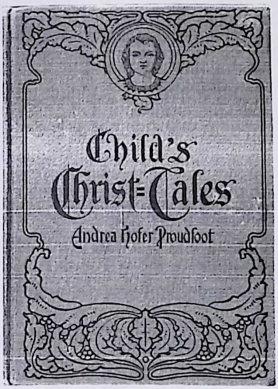
Designer
Greg Lochow

Membership
A newsletter subscription is a benefit of membership.

Annual dues
Student (<18) $10
Individual $25
Family $50
Contributor $100
Patron $150
Guarantor $500

music education, especially in relation to kindergarten work. Her career spanned teaching and supervision of music instruction in schools

The Hofer sisters were prolific writers. Mari became an expert in folk music and published this collection in addition to compilations of music for use in kindergartens. Besides this book of Christian tales for children, Andrea authored a book on "mother-play", a translation of and workbook for some of Froebel's play activities for mothers and children. Froebel strongly encouraged mothers' involvement in kindergartens. Photos from eBay.



from Wisconsin to New York to Tennessee to Chicago. Her interest in the playground movement led to arranging plays and games for festivals and settlement houses.

Bertha (1862-1937) achieved renown as the director of the first kindergarten at the Chicago Commons Social Settlement. She also started the Pestalozzi-Froebel Teachers College (PFTC) of Chicago. In 1927, PFTC acquired Columbia College and Bertha served as president of both colleges until 1936.

Bertha married the Rev. Herman Frederick Hegner of the Bethany Congregational Church. Hegner left the church to join Bertha in developing the PFTC. The Hegners had three children and son Herman took over the colleges when his mother retired.

In 1892, Amalie and Andrea purchased the Kindergarten Magazine, the premier publication of the movement. Andrea acted as president of their Kindergarten Literature Company and Amalie as editor and publisher. The sisters also jointly published The Child-Garden of Story, Song and Play, a periodical for children.

Amalie (1863-1941) was principal of her sister's PFTC for a number of years. She married Frank Jerome, a furniture merchant, and then lived as head resident, or social worker, at Fellowship House Social Settlement in Chicago. She was a founder of the International Kindergarten Union and the Playground Association of America.

Around 1895, Andrea (1866-1949) started the League of American Mothers, a national organization centered in Beverly, which offered programs and publications for mothers. She married Frederick Proudfoot, a lawyer, and they lived at 94th and Prospect Sts. with their six children. With the purchase of a large house at 93rd and Prospect called Oakhurst, Andrea and Elsa started The Froebellian School at Longwood, a boarding school for female kindergarten teacher trainees. In the summers, they ran the school as the Longwood Summer School.

Youngest daughter Elsa (1869-1940 or later) was principal of the school in Beverly. She married George Lawrence Schreiber, an artist known for his landscapes and portraits. Schreiber taught classes and gave lectures at the sisters' schools and programs. The Schreibers with their six children relocated to the west coast where they were active in the California artists' community.

The Howe Family

In 1855, Charles Oliver and Mary Howe relocated from Brookline, MA, to Illinois, eventually settling on Prospect Ave. in Washington Heights. Their business interests included real estate and a garden and greenhouse which supplied vegetables to markets in Englewood. The family was deeply religious and was active in the Bethany Union Church. Three of their children left their mark on kindergarten education.

Son Edward Gardiner (1849-1931) was a science teacher, tutor to the sons of prominent families, and an author of books on science education. He initiated the idea of field trips as part of classroom science education. He served as Principal of the U. of I. Preparatory School in Champaign-Urbana. The Chicago Froebel Kindergarten Association, a charitable organization formed to establish kindergartens and teacher training schools, whose membership included Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. McCormick, and Mrs. Armour, recognized that Edward's "nature lessons for little

See Kindergarten, page 4

Kindergarten, from page 3

children have opened many a door of delight."

Edward's wife was Mary Elizabeth Barnard of another pioneering family, and they built a large house at 10233 Wood St. which became the center for Howe and Barnard family gatherings. A relative, Alice L. Barnard was the first woman principal of a Chicago public school, and Barnard School at 103rd and Charles Sts. is named for her.

Daughter Annie Lyon (1852-1943) was both a teacher and a missionary. In 1887 she answered a call for a Christian kindergarten teacher in Japan. This was a real challenge, with Japanese customs and ways of thinking about life differing from Western ideals; indeed, Christianity had been banned in Japan until 1873. When Christian Japanese women in Kobe raised money for a kindergarten, Annie founded the "Glory Kindergarten" and training school for teachers in 1889. She spent the next 40 years in Japan, establishing Froebel's principles, training teachers, and translating important Froebel texts and songs into Japanese. The Shoei (Glory) Junior College still exists and produces graduates in child education and nursing.

Daughter Mary Deming (1854-1935) was a kindergarten teacher in Chicago until her marriage to Samuel Shepard Rogers in 1882. Rogers was the business manager at the Chicago Daily News.

Bessie Sutherland

Elizabeth Huntington Sutherland (1851-1924), known as Bessie, was a Ridge native and pioneering educator. As principal of the Barnard School, she was Cook County's first woman principal. The Sutherland School at 100th and Leavitt Sts. is named for her. Bessie was profiled in the last issue of the RHS Record.

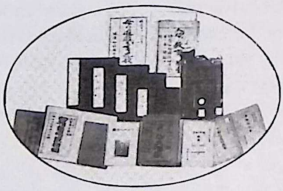
As a progressive educator, Bessie was a proponent of kindergarten. She is quoted in Education in the United States, published in 1900:

"Having been seventeen years in this school, I have had many large families begin and complete their work with me. The older three or four children of said families were in school before our kindergarten was established; the younger three or four since. Invariably there is a marked contrast in the ability of the two groups. The younger ones are brighter in every way, and often seem hardly to belong to the same stock. Much of this difference I believe to be due to the early wholesome awakening brought about by the training in the kindergarten."

In 1883, upon receiving gifts from students to honor her late husband's birthday, Louise Froebel wrote a thank you note to their kindergarten teacher in Chicago.

"Mr. Froebel was always overjoyed with gifts from the dear little ones," his widow wrote. "Mr. Froebel

See Kindergarten, page 7



The Glory Kindergarten in Kobe became the model for kindergartens throughout Japan. Annie Lyon Howe received many awards and recognitions for her service as a missionary and teacher and is revered by educators in Japan to this day. Early postcard from the collection at the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Facing page

The Hofer sisters ran a kindergarten training school in Beverly. This ad appeared in Kindergarten Magazine, Vol. XII, No. 9, May 1900, and illustrates the ideals of the Progressive education and kindergarten movements at the turn of the twentieth century.

The Longwood Summer School,

On account of its location in a pleasant Nature environment, offers
the unusual combination of a Restful Summer Outing and
Opportunities for Social Contact, and Conference
with other Workers from the Field

The courses of study have been planned to meet the growing requirements of education.

An important feature will be the study of Kindergarten and School Program Work as evolved from the Child's Impulses and Interests, with a view to giving these intelligent direction. In connection with this will be considered the Propositions of Froebel and their present-day values, viz: Anthropological Parallels. Industrial and Economic Requirements, The Significance of Nature, The New Social Consciousness, The Interests of the Home, Music and Art in Relation to Education and Industry.

An Out-of-door Kindergarten, demonstrating the use of nature materials, will be in session each morning.

A workshop under the auspices of the UNIVERSITY GUILD will be open for practical work in wood, iron and construction work.

A country Vacation School of city children is being planned to hold in Longwood during the Summer, offering opportunity for observation and study of this new social and educational movement.

Special Lectures on leading Educators, Music in the Sunday-School, Child's Literature and Art History to be announced.

Type-written syllabi and outlines of all lectures and courses of study are furnished those taking the full course.

A symposium on each of the first six gifts conducted by a leader, followed by a discussion and presentation of model plays, will give opportunity for individual expression and exchange of ideas.

Practice Courses

THE ARTS AND CRAFTS — Mr. George L. Schreiber (Medalist at Parisi, Director of the "University Guild" of Chicago, will have charge of the Fine and Applied Arts, the Handling and Principle of Color, Perspective, Sketching. Landscape Paper Cutting. Story Illustrating, Water Colors, Colored Crayons. The Workshop offers opportunity for carrying out individual ideas in wood, iron and construction work.

MUSIC AND PHYSICAL CULTURE - Miss Mari Ruef Hofer will give especial attention to the Beginnings of Music with Children. Song Interpretation, Piano Music, Music Programs. Breathing. Vitalizing and Reconstructive Exercises, Rhythm, Marching. Games.

OCCUPATIONS AND HANDWORK — Miss Margaret W. Arnold presents Primitive Occupations. The Use of Nature Materials, Gardening. Basket Weaving. Clay Work, Loom Weaving.

PROGRAM WORK — Kindergarten and School Programs will be considered in relation to the needs of the child, developed upon the educational and social bases. Each subject will be handled in lecture form by a specialist, supplemented by daily practice and handwork.

Special Evening Lectures

At St. Paul's Chapel, 8.15 P.M. Tuesday, August 7. Reception and Social Gathering.

Thursday, August 9. Ethics in Education	*To be announced.*
Tuesday, Augu-t 14. Song Recital	*Miss Mari R. Hofer.*
Thursday, August 16. The Kindergarten as a Social Factor	*Miss Mary E. McDowell, U. of C. Social Settlement.*
Tuesday, August 21. The Substance of Life and the Spirit of Art	*Mr. George L. Schreiber.*
Thursday, August 23. Practical Sociology	*Mr.J.Stitt Wilson, Editor "The Social Crusader."*

Visits to the Art Institute and Field Museum in connection with the Art and Anthropological classes will be a feature of each week's program.

Expenses, etc.

Tuition for Full Course of Three Weeks, ... $15.00
Any Single Course (excepting Music and Art) 5.00
Music or Art, each, ... 7.00
Full Course for One Week, ... 6.00

For information concerning board and expenses correspond. Living unusually reasonable. Longwood is thirty minutes ride, on the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad, from Van Buren Street Station. Send for special circular and detailed program.

Address LONGWOOD SUMMER SCHOOL,
9333 Prospect Avenue, Longwood, Chicago.

A tribute to artist Jack Simmerling

By Sue Delves

When Jack Simmerling (1935-2013) died this summer, I wondered how many persons felt, as I did, that they had lost their best friend.

Who was Jack, and how did we observe him? How did he affect us?

"Let me count the ways": as kind -- incredibly talented -- generous -- talented musician -- warm host -- avid historian -- world class talent -- loyal son of Notre Dame and also of Blue Island, where he grew up.

He spun original stories to his children and took them fishing.

As a teenager, he saved Victorian artifacts from many of Chicago's historic homes as they were being demolished -- and later he painted the houses from memory.

People In Beverly - Morgan Park seem to rate their belongings by the number of Simmerlings they own, and often, their special gift-of-choice is a work by Jack.

At Smith Village there is an entire wall canvas featuring his sketches of every school, church, train station and other landmarks. Look around: Jack's everywhere. Even Top Notch has a wall of his reproductions of neighborhood houses.

Always featured in our home has been a large painting of the Morgan Park Rock Island station, dated 1965. Jack's parents opened his first small shop on 111th, just across from the station.

One sunny fall day, moved by the brilliant yellow, orange and green hues of Bohn Park and the depot, 29-year-old Jack put his easel and chair in the shop window and painted what he saw. I get to look at it every day the rest of my life.

How well I remember the time, perhaps in the '60s, when Jack took us and several other couples to visit the newly restored Glessner House and take a historic walk down Prairie Ave. En route home, he abruptly asked us to stop because the P.C. Hanford mansion at 2008 Calumet was being torn down.

We entered briefly, and Jack vowed to return the next day, with police escort, to remove what he could. Years later he gave me an aqua colored Hanford fireplace tile, to thank me for all I had done for RHS and BH/MP.

How humbling! He told me that he had read somewhere that those aqua tiles are the work of Tiffany Studios.

We miss you, Jack. Good night, sweet prince.

A young Jack Simmerling works with students on art projects. Photo from the RHS collection.

RHS wishes to thank...

Garage sale volunteers

Cathy Majeske
Carol Macola
Char Martin
Joan Sheehey
Bill Hopper
Helen Boyle
Paula Everett
Fran Oehmen
Joe O'Connor
Lois Schell
Nancy Majeske
Pat McGrail
Herman Schell
Jeanne Carr
Sue Delves
Doris Moulton
Allison Moulton
Edris Hoover

Collection volunteers

Jeanne Hokens
Patti Graber
Mary Brandt
Peggy Gannon
Jennifer Kenny
Joe O'Connor
Patrick Graber
Steve Zang
Dave Daruszka
John Baily
Leah Spolarich
Peg Kapustiak
Karen Goodridge
Lisa Walsh
Maureen Gilligan
Linda Lane
Marlene Prendergast
Linda Lamberty
Paula Everett
Marcia Thomas
Edris Hoover
Cathy Majeske
Pat McGrail
Jane Nicoll

Sutherland exhibit contributors

Marilyn Stone, sponsor
Linda Lamberty, curator
Pat McGrail, co-curator
Cathy Majeske, co-curator
Edris Hoover, co-curator
Carol Flynn
Alan Wax
Jeff Thiede
Sutherland School & students
Pat McGill Gillespie
Ron and Marsha Francis
Bob Konen
Sue Hendricks
Lois Schell
Herman Schell
Greg Lochow & Franklin Framing
Suzanne Smith
Dewalt Mechlin Chapter, NSDAR
Mary Tiegreen
Carol Macola
Peg Kapustiak
Grace Kuikman
John Baily
Arbie Hendricks
Patricia Carroll

The News Desk

By Edris Hoover

RHS exchanges newsletters and journals with other associations whose missions and interests are similar to ours. These include *Journal of Illinois History*, *Landmarks Illinois*, *History News* (AASLH) and *CAPabilities* (Conservation Assessment Program). Newsletters come from Arlington Heights, Blue Island, DesPlaines, Frankfort, Homewood, LaSalle County, Lockport, Park Forest, Southeast Chicago/Calumet Park, Oak Park/ River Forest, Tinley Moraine Genealogists and the Walter Burley Griffin Society. These are available in our office for your perusal. If you are considering a visit to one of these communities, come in and browse their newsletter.

Froebel encouraged hands-on experiences for children and included a garden as an integral part of the original Kindergarten. Nurturing flowers, fruits and vegetables was a typical activity, whether the kindergarten was in Germany, America, or Japan. Picture of Glory Kindergarten students from the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Kindergarten, from page 3

had great confidence in the success of his endeavors in America and thought seriously of making a journey thither. Unfortunately, this was not carried out, his departure from this life came so unexpectedly."

Froebel predicted that in America, the land of freedom, his plan for little children would find its "true soil." In this he was correct. In 2008, according to the U.S. Census, 4.1 million children were enrolled in kindergarten. As of 2010, there were about 175,000 kindergarten teachers in the U.S., and 98% of these were women.

Volunteer projects

I would like to acknowledge our volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to many accomplishments this year. The October Garage Sale was one of the most successful ever with proceeds of more than $2500.

Our dedicated Board of Directors has been active in many roles. Fran Oehmen looks after the Paver Program, from ordering and installation to sending out pictures of the completed bricks to the purchasers. Actually, now is a good time to think of ***giving a paver for Christmas.*** Contact the RHS office at 773/881-1675 for more information.

Mary Quinn Olsson, RHS Vice-President, who has a distinguished background in landmarking our neighborhood, has represented the community at preservation hearings and has plans to bring Open House Chicago, a program of the Chicago Architecture Foundation, to Beverly/ Morgan Park next year. This looks "behind the scenes" at various locations and offers greater access to our diverse and interesting city.

Exhibits and programs

Cathy Majeske and Carol Macola, Program Committee co-chairs, have kept things moving along.

Looking forward to the holiday season, when our gallery and dining room will be decorated for Victorian Christmas, we will be hosting a High Tea and a Champagne and Sweets Evening. See the calendar at the end of this newsletter for more information.

The theme of upcoming exhibits and programs going into the New Year will focus on the Annexation of Morgan Park to Chicago and VOTES FOR WOMEN. The RHS Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on February 9, 2014 so put that date on your calendar now. I will summarize our accomplishments for the year. One of the most important announcements I plan to make is the revitalization of the RHS Web Site.

Looking forward to March, the House Doctor Series will again bring a presentation devoted to maintenance and preservation of historic buildings. This series is arranged by Director Joe O'Connor.

Thanks for listening.

Mark your calendar for these exciting events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2013

Victorian High Tea

At RHS, 10621 S. Seeley Ave., 2:00 p.m.; reservations required - ages 8-16, $10; ages 17 and up, $20. Call 773/881-1675 or email ridgehistory@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2014

Champagne and Sweets Evening

At RHS, 10621 S. Seeley Ave., 7:00 p.m.; reservations required. Cost $25/person. Call 773/881-1675 or email ridgehistory@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014

Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Program

At RHS, 10621 S. Seeley Ave., 2:00 p.m.; free. Light refreshments.

Ridge Historical Society

RECORD

BEVERLY HILLS, MORGAN PARK, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & MT. GREENWOOD

10621 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, IL 60643

WINTER 2013 ISSUE