

ESPERANTO LEAGUE for NORTH AMERICA

NEWSLETTER/1964:1

Published by the ELNA Information Center, 305 East 40 Street, New York 10016, New York. (212) 661-1666) Bernard Stollman, Director; Mary Murray, Associate Director.

WHAT IS THE ESPERANTO INFORMATION CENTER? It is the New York office of the Esperanto League for North America, maintained on a full time basis by a staff of volunteers who include Mrs. Mary Murray, a retired school teacher; Mark Starr, former educational director of the ILGWU; John Futran, former treasurer of ELNA and an Esperantist since 1921; and Bernard Stollman, a practising attorney. They are assisted by volunteers from the New York Esperanto Society. The Information Center was established in 1962 by Bernard Stollman. In April of 1964, ELNA assumed responsibility for supporting the Center, and it became part of ELNA.

WHAT ARE ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS? It has told several million Americans about Esperanto via the press, radio and television. Feature articles have appeared in the New York Times, the New York Herald Tribune, the Milwaukee Journal, and other big and little newspapers across America, partially as a result of a United Press International feature story which was sent, in Apr 1, 1964, to over 400 U.S. newspapers. Elsewhere in this issue we have reproduced some of these articles. Radio network shows have included the Betty Furness Show, Arthur Godfrey, CBS Dimension News with Richard C. Hotel and most recently, on September 23, 1964, the Mary Fickett CBS Dimension broadcast, with Bernard Stollman as her guest, was carried by over 200 local radio stations. In the week that followed this broadcast, over 600 letters and cards were received by CBS. They are all being answered by the staff of the Information Center. New York stations WOR, WBAI, WKCR and WEVD have been carrying our Esperanto broadcasts. Mark Starr is presently conducting a 13 week series of taped lessons over WEVD. E. L. M. Weasing, a Director of Philips Industries of Holland, founder with two associates of the INSTITUTO POR ESPERANTO EN KOMERCO KAJ INDUSTRIO, and vice president of the Universal Esperanto Association, appeared on Channel 13, New York's educational television station, and over WEVD.

THE NEW YORK CONVENTION BUREAU GUIDE TO VISITORS, a lavishly illustrated full color brochure published by the City of New York, appeared in Esperanto for the first time in 1964. Bernard Stollman sold New York on the project, which was partially financed by ELNA, which paid the production costs of the Esperanto version. ELNA's Joel Silverman toiled for days to provide an expert translation of the text. He was ably assisted by ELNA and JEN member Richard Kollin, who painstakingly and accurately transcribed and proofread the text, and supervised the production of the edition. Over 20,000 copies were printed. UEA purchased 5,000, for distribution at the Hago Kongreso and in Tokio. New York City kept 4,500, most of which were distributed to 4,000 newspapers and magazines throughout the world.

INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS CALL ON THE ESPERANTO INFORMATION CENTER for help. Drexel furniture company, Drexel, N.C., one of America's largest furniture makers, wanted to name their newest line "ESPERANTO". Bernard Stollman visited Drexel and provided data concerning the history and world status of Esperanto. An extensive nationwide newspaper program then sold the line in the following words: "As beautiful and versatile as the international language". The line proved to be the most successful in the long history of the company. Another inquiry, from American Cyanamid, sought an international trade name for their artificial sweetener, only to be informed by the Information Center that they are already using an international term: "SUCARYL", (SUKERIL' in Esperanto).

HOSPITALITY SERVICES TO VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD are an everyday occurrence at the Center. ELNA committee meetings, JEN (Junularo Esperantista de Nord-Ameriko) open houses, projects requiring a quiet, informal setting for their participants, have all used the Information Center's facilities.



# Cevalo Is Her Favorite Animal

Five - and - a - half - year-old Lisa Helmuth has just come back from the 49th International Esperanto Conference in Holland. She was the youngest delegate there.

Lisa discussed Esperanto between somersaults across the Statler Hilton lobby the other day.

"My favorite animal is the cevalo," she said, "that's horse." "And I can say a poem about a apple," she added. Taking a deep breath Lisa recited off:

"Pomo pomo dela nomo  
Dolca frukto vi  
Se mi estus rogo  
Mi sidus sur sego  
Kaj magnus pomojantri"

And just to prove that she knows what it all means, Lisa gave her free translation:

"Apple, apple, good fruit, if I was a king I'd sit on a chair and eat those apples." "I learned that from Mommy and Daddy," she explained.

Mommy and Daddy are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Helmuth, of

San Mateo, Calif., who were also delegates to the Esperanto conference. Mr. Helmuth, a builder and developer, learned Esperanto with his wife as a second language and has taught it at San Diego High School.

Lisa's part of the conference was held in an old mansion outside of Rotterdam, where there were ducks and geese for the younger Esperantists to play with. But it's a side trip to Finland that she remembers most vividly:

"In Europe we went to Finland. I ran in a little lake and talked with an uncle, a Esperanto uncle."

Lisa is very proud of a snapshot of herself in Finland, talking with two little Finnish girls in Esperanto as they all make mudpies in a birch grove.

The littlest Esperantist of them all has blonde hair, brown eyes, and a lot of poise in either of the two languages she speaks. She's been learning both since she was two months old; her mother

talked Esperanto to her in the mornings, English in the afternoon. Fresh from her first conference and a tour of Europe in Esperanto, she's more at home in that language right now than in English.

Lisa just happened to have with her two of her favorite stories right now: "La Marvirineto"—Hans Christian Andersen's "Little Mermaid" and Ali Babo. ("Lots of things end in o in Esperanto," she says. Mr. and Mrs. Helmuth add that most children's stories done in Esperanto are published in Europe, as these are.

When she can tear herself away from Ali Babo, Lisa has some strictly non-Esperanto interests: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, Marshall Dillon, and a special version of Monopoly played with gingerbread men. When she grows up, she says in either English or Esperanto, she wants to be a children's nurse.

— New York Herald Tribune  
September 25, 1964

# Esperanto Lauded As Aid to World Peace

By MYRON FEINSILBER  
United Press International

NEW YORK (UPI) — Intrigued by the sound of the unfamiliar language, attorney Bernard Stollman sat at the lunch counter and eavesdropped.

Suddenly the man wearing a beret turned from the pretty girl he had been speaking to and challenged Stollman: "You don't know what language we're using, do you?"

"Croatian?" guessed Stollman. "Turkish? Yugoslav?"

"None of them," said the man. "And all of them."

And linguist Julius Balbin set about winning another convert for Esperanto, the artificial, international language.

TODAY BALBIN and his eavesdropper, Stollman, are leaders of the Esperanto Information Center, an organization trying to get everybody to learn Esperanto.

The language was invented by a Pole, Dr. Ludoviko. Zamenhof, 11 years after the end of the American Civil War. It is comprised of elements common to many languages.

Most Americans who have heard of it think of Esperanto as a utopian idea that flopped after the turn of the century.

Not so. Esperanto is spoken in 82 countries. Its supporters claim between 7 and 7 million persons know and use it. It is difficult to get an exact count because Esperanto's fans need not belong to any organization.

About 30,000 books have been published in Esperanto. Last year, an Esperanto conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, brought together 3,400 delegates from 45 countries.

MANY AMERICANS use Esperanto to correspond with persons overseas, including Russians. They report the Soviet

their exchanges of letters and records.

Esperantists want the language adopted universally as everybody's second tongue, but no one's first language.

They argue that only by speaking a common language, free of the need for interpreters and free of the chance for misinterpretations, can the people of the world understand each other. And they argue that no language is as easy to learn.

English has made great strides since the end of World War II, but it is difficult to learn and even more difficult to use fluently and idiomatically. English, too, is resented by some countries once ruled by Britain; they consider it the language of colonialism.

On the other hand, Esperanto is endorsed by the Vatican, Peking and UNESCO. It is simply learned because it has no irregularities, is composed of 3,500 root words common to many languages, uses phonetic spelling, is easy to pronounce because each letter has only one possible sound and can be learned in a few weeks.

THE ESPERANTO dictionary is only one-tenth the size of the average one but, Esperantists say, the language can be used to express fine degrees of shading. They say it is equally adept for expressing complex scientific thoughts, writing poetry or weeping.

Esperanto words are formed by grouping together word roots. In Esperanto, "sama" means same, "pensi" means think, "ano" means member and "aro" means group. Thus to say "a group of people sharing the same viewpoint" the roots are grouped to form a word: "sampsensanaro." Esperanto is economical.

Esperantists say any one who knows English can recognize three-quarters of the Esperanto vocabulary.

Americans traveling to Europe find Esperanto useful. Many hotel and railroad clerks and policemen in Europe know it.

New York City, getting ready to welcome foreign visitors to the World's Fair, recently published a guide in Esperanto.

This delighted Stollman and Balbin. They felt it was official recognition for the language. Stollman, who runs the Esperanto Information Center from his Manhattan apartment, is puzzled about Esperanto's relative lack of popularity in the United States.

"We pride ourselves on our superiority in technical matters," he says, "but unfortunately in some areas it is a misconception. We are an insular nation."

"There's a barrier in our minds toward foreign languages because we don't have many opportunities to use them. But the world desperately needs a common language as a tool toward greater international understanding and Esperanto is the best tool available."

NEW YORK TIMES  
March 15, 1964

## ESPERANTISTS GET A BID TO THE FAIR

Invitation to the 'Novjorkan Mond Foiron' Is Sent Out

By RICHARD F. SHEPARD

"Vizitu la Novjorkan Mond Foiron!"

This injunction to visit the New York World's Fair, in nobody's native tongue, is being distributed in 15,000 copies around the world in the hope of luring Esperanto speakers to Flushing Meadows, which they can reach by investing a token in the subterfervojo turnstilo, or by autobuso, boato, helikoptero or automobilo.

The pamphlet is a joint project of the Universal Esperanto Association and its North American league, which initiated it, and of the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau. The bureau is distributing identical brochures in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, Japanese and Russian.

A spokesman for the bureau explained that much of the printing cost had been paid by the Esperantists, who, he said, were "very travel-prone people."

A world Esperantist congress is held each year. This year's will be at The Hague and the next in Tokyo. There is a feeling that it would be nice to have such meetings to New York.

Bernard Stollman, director of the Esperanto Information Center, 305 East 40th Street, said organizations devoted to the spread of the artificial language would distribute 10,000 pamphlets while the convention bureau would dispose of 5,000. It is said that one million to seven million people in the world can pass the time of day in Esperanto.

Language Aids Tourism

Esperanto, it was explained, has been increasingly employed in stimulating tourism. The state railways of Germany and Austria and the Netherlands information services, to name a few, promote themselves in Esperanto.

The New York pamphlet contains an illustrated guide to New York with descriptions of its main tourist attractions.

"La pramo al Staten-Insulo, la sola veturilo inter Manhattan kaj Staten Island, obligas la guon de ravaj vidaloj al la plej multtrafika haveno en la mondo kaj al la fama arbore de numskrapidoj en la Suda Manhattan," the pamphlet says enthusiastically.

In translation, that means: "The Staten Island ferry, the only direct transportation link between Manhattan and Staten Island, provides excellent views of the world's busiest harbor and the famous south Manhattan skyscrapers."

That thought, perhaps, many start the International Esperantist Chess League, the International Association of Esperantist Jurists and the International Federation of Esperantist Railwaymen packing their bags for New York. After all, the pramo fare is sola a nickel.



CLASSES FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS have been started at two Veterans Administration hospitals in the New York area. Mark Starr is teaching one group at the Kingsbridge VA Hospital, while Mrs. Thea Kohn will shortly begin classes at the 1st Avenue VA Hospital. Educational therapy staffs of both hospitals have extended their enthusiastic support to this program. Esperantists desiring to start programs in their communities are invited to write to the Information Center for further details and teaching materials.

THE UNITED NATIONS SINGERS will include an original Esperanto choral work in their repertoire as quickly as a suitable one can be found. Your suggestions are urgently needed in this most important, dramatic opening for Esperanto within the walls of the United Nations.

THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS is the title of a 12 page talk by E. L. M. Wensing, which has been reproduced by the Information Center for distribution to industrial management. Printing was contributed by the Philips Company, while our volunteers collated, stapled and mailed out several hundred copies of the talk.

A SURVEY OF WORLD ESPERANTO PUBLICATIONS was recently conducted by Bernard Stollman. Questionnaires were sent to 105 publications, requesting data concerning circulation, advertising rates, technical requirements, policy concerning news and photographs, etc. 39 publications sent replies. The project was undertaken by the Esperanto Publishing Company of North America at the request of the Parker Pen Company and its People to People Program.

A CATALOGUE OF AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL AND LITERARY WORKS IN ESPERANTO has been prepared by the Esperanto Publishing Company of North America and mailed to 2,000 college libraries throughout the United States. Duncan Charters, the young, exuberant and brilliant Cambridge scholar who has been an editor of the British Esperantist youth publication, KIAL NI! engaged in exhaustive research and correspondence this summer while compiling the catalogue. The elan of the Information Center was greatly enhanced by Mr. Charters.

Before leaving us to undertake teaching and graduate study at the University of Indiana, he contributed hundreds of hours of day and night effort to establishing strong, cordial relations for ELNA with Esperantist organizations in Great Britain and other countries. We are all deeply appreciative of his unselfishness.

A LOW COST BASIC INSTRUCTION COURSE IN ESPERANTO combining an instruction booklet with a 7" LP is being completed by Duncan Charters and should be published shortly by the Esperanto Publishing Company of North America.

ESPERANTISTS MARY MURRAY AND HER HUSBAND CONN MURRAY manned a booth at the recent World Peace Fair at Fairless Hills, Pa., and distributed hundreds of leaflets and brochures.

The ELNA INFORMATION CENTER gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions that have been made to its programs by the following people:

MR. MARK STARR, the earnest, kindly and unassuming statesman of the North American movement maintains a heavy schedule of activity which spurs us to greater efforts. Who would believe that he is approaching 70?

Mrs. CATHY SCHULZE, who has galvanized everyone within reach of her letters, and conceived, planned and implemented a flood of projects of paramount importance, has personally enlisted a singularly talented roster of devoted coworkers; and count among her numerous achievements the establishment of effective communications within the ranks of the far-flung individual Esperantists, the first breakthrough in teacher credit and elementary school programs, the discovery of a mysterious source of boundless energy, and enthusiasm enough for ten girls. Let us mention too,

JOHN FUTRAN, the former treasurer of ELNA, who fights tenaciously to keep up our morale which tends to slump when we consider how lofty are our goals, how enormous our task, and how limited our finances. He keeps our books in balance and our perspectives realistic. He has been an ardent Esperantist for only 40 years, and his youthfulness and vigor put us to shame.

MARGOT GERSON, a student in a class given by Bernard Stollman at the Center, has contributed generously of her time and resources, and continues to explore for new techniques, enlisting new supporters, recognizing no inherent limitations in the possibilities open to us for bringing ESPERANTO into use



in all of the sectors of American life in which language communication is meaningful.

IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MENTION EVERYONE who is making a contribution to the Esperanto movement in the United States. Perhaps everyone in ELNA is aware of the many years of quiet and vitally needed services contributed by CONRAD FISHER as Secretary of ELNA; the charm and perseverance of Mr. and Mrs. ARM N' DONEIS; the exuberant vitality and responsible "helmsmanship" of Mr. and Mrs. Esperanto, FRANCIS HELMUTH and daughter LISA.. What of DORIS VALLON, whose dedication to her profession as a teacher has brought her into a key role in our fight to get Esperanto into the school curriculum ; and ROY and DOROTHY HOLLAND, who have mobilized Esperanto teachers into a well coordinated organization, introducing a badly needed system for evaluating language skills and awarding diplomas for proficiency. In later issues, we shall attempt to report on the contributions being made by Esperantists whose activities should be made known to the membership of ELNA. In this effort, and in the effort to make this LIGILO worthy of your interest, we shall need your assistance in sending to us the facts about your own local programs and projects, problems and needs. We will duly notify the membership of all matters of general interest , as space permits.

HEROLDO DE ESPERANTO in its issue of September 1, 1964, reports in great detail and with its customary complement of interesting photographs, the 49th Universal Congress of Esperantists, an exhaustive and illuminating report, full of surprising facts. You are urged to subscribe to HEROLDO, if you are not already a devoted reader, by sending \$4. to D. E. Parrish, 328 W. 46 St., Los Angeles 37, California, asking that your subscription begin with the Congress issue.

THE ELNA REVUO, whose appearance is long overdue, has been the victim of an important and unavoidable housemoving of the Washington Esperanto Domo. The offset press recently purchased by Editor BOB DAVIS, aside from delays in receiving necessary parts, has had to undergo certain adjustments attendant to the shift in its location. It is hoped that the REVUO will go to press soon.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BEING PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH for several reasons, among them the expectation that it may be utilized to acquaint non-Esperantists with the broad spectrum of Esperanto activity in the United States. Since our movement is a truly international one, and the stage of our playing is the world, the functions of a national newsletter should, in our opinion, be utilitarian, serving only those needs which cannot be filled by such excellent publications as: HEROLDO, ESPERANTO, MONDA KULTURO, KONTAKTO, LA PRAKTIKO, etc. If the name of the editor appears in this issue with annoying frequency, it is because you have had the services of a full time, unpaid professional publicist, who hopes to become more effectual through better coordination of the superb human resources available within the movement, & the underwriting of ambitious "seed" programs to swing the "influentials" into our orbit, i.e., editors, educators, authors, industrialists, statesmen; together with the general public .

SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST: Esp-o supersigns for your typewriter are available for \$1.50 from ACE TYPEWRITER SERVICE, 1127 6th Avenue, New York City. Please enclose sample of typing from your machine. Your local mechanic will install the signs, and make a "dead" key for you. You type the supersigned dead key, and then the letter which falls under it. ADDITIONAL COPIES of this newsletter may be obtained for distribution to language teachers, newspaper editors, potential Esperantists, etc., at a cost of 10¢ per copy. NI KANTU EN ESPERANTO, the first sing-along LP in Esp-o, was recently issued by ESPERANTO-DISK, with 12 favorite songs, poetry, and a humorous monologue. Special price to Esperantists is \$3.40 postpaid. Makes an excellent gift, classroom aid, or play it for your own pleasure. Comes with 8 page booklet containing the entire text of the record.

ESPERANTO LEAGUE FOR NORTH AMERICA  
808 Stewart Street  
Meadville, Pa.

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