

NYC Department of Public Health To Honor HAI

HAI will be presented with a Mental Hygiene Award by the newly created City Department of Public Health on December 12, 2001, at an awards ceremony at the Museum of the City of New York.

The theme of this year's ceremony is "Excellence in Responding to Crisis." Honors are being extended to HAI to express the Department's appreciation of HAI's commitment to providing Hope And Inspiration through the arts, especially since the September 11th tragedies that struck New York City and our nation.

On Election Day, November 6, 2001, New York City voters approved a proposition on the ballot that merged the City Departments of Health and Mental Health, creating the City Department of Public Health. This award for outstanding service by a community-based organization is one of the first acts of the Department's Commissioner, Neal L. Cohen, M.D., and will be presented to Michael Jon Spencer, Founder and Executive Director of HAI.

Remembering Marie Rosenblum... Aged 95

At age 85 she flaunted her health by hopping over a fence at the Delacorte Theater where she was an HAI volunteer that evening. At age 90 she was still playing tennis. Marie Rosenblum, feisty, athletic and a very spirited woman, just passed away at age 95. She had been a dedicated volunteer in HAI's Community Events Program for decades. On a typical day Marie would stop by the office after her tennis game (5:30 A.M to the tennis courts !!) to pick up tickets that she would be distributing later that day. When asked for



the secret to her health and longevity, she answered, "ice cream every night, before bed... but just a small amount."

Marie was born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt, where French was spoken in her household. As a child she was brought to the United States and grew up in New York City. While raising her family, she ran a millinery store in Harlem for forty-six years.

Her active volunteering has served as an inspiration to people of all ages. We will miss our dear friend.

This December, HAI will give Hope And Inspiration to an audience of 30,500 people at more than 1,100 events by providing opportunities...

...to enjoy dance, theater, concerts and more

☑ The **Cultural Events Program** provides opportunities to attend cultural and other entertainment events. In December, more than 3,500 people will attend more than 40 events including:

<i>Big Apple Circus</i>	Damrosch Park
<i>What Goes Up</i>	New Victory Theatre
New York City Ballet's <i>The Nutcracker</i>	New York State Theatre
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	The Theatre at Madison Square Garden
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre	City Center

The Student Teacher Enrichment Program (**STEP**) is being launched this month with students attending an interactive workshop followed by a performance of *The Music Man* at the Neil Simon Theatre.

HAI's **Annual Holiday Show** is December 13th at 2 PM in Whitman Hall at Brooklyn College. This year's show will feature Darlene Love with special guests Ron Lucas and Baby Jane Dexter. For ticket information call (212) 575-7660.

The **Describe Program** provides audio descriptions of Broadway performances for the visually impaired. Featured this month: *The Music Man* (12/12 at the Neil Simon Theater), *Christmas Spectacular* (12/21 at the Radio City Music Hall) and *The Women* (12/26 at the American Airlines Theater).

☑ HAI's **Omni*Bus Program** utilizes two transit buses uniquely designed to accommodate disabled and frail elderly residents from local nursing homes, hospitals and other health-related facilities. This December, more than 1,300 individuals will attend holiday events through 59 Omni*Bus trips, including the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *A Christmas Carol* at Madison Square Garden and "city lights" tours.

☑ In December, the **On-Site Performance Program** will reach 12,500 people with more than 250 live performances. The featured artist this month is Daniel Pincus, who will evoke Chanukah cheer with concerts at Bialystoker Home in Manhattan, Creedmoor Psychiatric Center and New Horizons Continuing Treatment Center in Queens. In addition, magician Justin Style will perform at the Beacon of Hope Cooke Residence for an audience of mentally ill and hearing impaired individuals.

...to exhibit artistic expression

☑ In December, 700 hours of **Arts Workshops** will take place, achieving an attendance of 11,800. *Holiday Expressions for Our Times* is currently on exhibit at HAI headquarters through the end of the month. It features the works of participants in HAI workshops, all available as reasonably priced holiday gifts. The reception for *Bigger and Closer*, featuring the works of Ray Hamilton, Frances "Lady Shalimar" Montague, Irene Phillips, Rodney Thornblad and Melvin Way, is scheduled for January 24, from 6 to 8 PM. The exhibit will coincide with the *Outsider Art Fair* at the Puck Building.

...to acquire skills for supportive/independent living

☑ The **HAI Prevention Education Program** uses theatrical role-play to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, homelessness, youth leadership/violence prevention and Medicaid Managed Care. In December, more than 70 workshops will take place reaching more than 1,400 individuals. HIV prevention, violence prevention, and housing readiness workshops will take place at Park West H.S., Bronx and Manhattan Alternative to Detention Centers, the Convent Avenue Family Residence, and Beacon of Hope House. On December 18th, the Prevention Education Department will host its second annual Holiday Party for homeless families with children residing in Tier II Family Residences. Both parents and children will enjoy a dinner and receive gifts purchased by HAI staff and donated by local merchants.

...to gain access to information and learn more about our mission

☑ HAI has developed various publications designed to aid the disabled and elderly and to enlighten and stimulate the general public. A hard copy of *Access for All: A Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions* is available by writing to HAI. An updated version will soon be available on our web site. *Live Arts Experiences: Their Impact on Health and Wellness* is an ever-evolving monograph examining the benefits of attending concerts, plays, and museums, in contrast to experiencing cultural events at home through intermediary technologies such as the television, radio and computer. The third edition can currently be viewed at: www.hospitalaudiences.org.