in Auschwitz when she was 13 years old. As a victim of a child labor camp, she was forced to work in the factories of the Nazi concentration camps. Mrs. Leitner survived.

The book, "Fragments of Isabella," will be published next Wednesday. The pre-publication copies of the book will be an induction ceremony for new scouts in the troop. Mrs. Leitner will be an induction ceremony speaker.

Mrs. Leitner recalls that her husband Irving Leitner and himself were forced to return to what was Auschwitz. They were determined to escape the Nazis.

"You must survive. You must write about what happened. We are not saying it happened for the sake of us. We are not saying it happened for the sake of our children. We are not saying it happened for the sake of the world. We are not saying it happened for the sake of our grandchildren. We are saying it happened for the sake of history. We have a responsibility to history. We are the only ones who can tell the story of what happened."

The story of how "Fragments of Isabella" came to be written really began at an early age in the Riverton School. Mrs. Leitner spent years learning to live. On each page she carved "I will live," along with a photo. "Whatever finds itself in my hands," she wrote, "will keep liveing it forever unless the element of Liger." 

The book contains a number of personal letters, interviews, and radio and television programs. 

Isabella Leitner will be at the Bookshop Plus, 272 Riverton Avenue, at the autograph party of her book "Fragments of Isabella: A Memoir of Auschwitz," which will be a Book of the Month Club selection. "Fragments of Isabella" is an alternate Book of the Month Club selection. The pre-publication copies of the book will be an induction ceremony for new scouts in the troop. Mrs. Leitner will be an induction ceremony speaker.

High School Prep Is New Course

Two very special courses recommended for high school juniors and seniors are available at the Riverton Community Center. The courses are "Disk Jockey" and "Special Effects in TV and Film." These courses are specifically designed for high school students interested in exploring careers in the entertainment industry. One more popular course will be offered in "Blues, Rock, and Jazz." These courses are open to the general public and have been very popular and organized in limited quantities.

A highlight of the evening will be a river cruise on the Tidewater in Riverdale, providing an opportunity for couples to make their own romantic candlelit dinner. In addition, the evening will feature live entertainment and a delicious dinner.

Enrollment is limited to eight participants. The Riverton Community Center is located at 60 W. 60. For more information, please call 397-9900. "Join the Fun for the Community," says. "Have fun and enjoy the evening."

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MEMBERS OF the Riverdale Neighborhood House benefit committee met at the home of Mrs. Charles Cohn and Mrs. Felice L. Zambezi to plan the annual "Ballroom," to be followed by a champagne buffet at the Harlem Club. They are left to right: Mrs. Elliott Handler, Mrs. David Breit, Mrs. George Delaney, Mrs. Eric Singer, Mrs. Janny Babock, Mrs. Zanbick, Mrs. Allina, Mrs. Robert Babcock, Mrs. Richard Crosby, and Mrs. J. Player Crowley. Photo by Audrey Zambezi.

**Friends of Van Cortlandt Evaluate Initial Campaign**

By TOM PEDULLA

As summer green yields to autumn gold, the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park turned to evaluating and planning the results of the first year of efforts to preserve and rehabilitate the famed urban park.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park Association, started last October and composed of a few community residents brought together to save the park, is now a fully functional group with 10 members. "The Friends," as they have been known, will continue to exert more and more influence over the course of Van Cortlandt Park's history.

As of Oct. 18, the Friends are observing the 10th anniversary of their founding with a meeting of the board of directors at their headquarters in the Van Cortlandt Home. The meeting will include a discussion of the current state of the park and plans for future development.

The Friends, who have already made a significant impact on the park's future, hope to continue their efforts to preserve and improve the park for future generations.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park are a group of volunteers who have come together to save and protect the park from further deterioration. Their efforts have included organizing community events, raising awareness about the park's condition, and petitioning local officials to take action to preserve the park.

By working together, the Friends hope to ensure that Van Cortlandt Park remains a valuable community resource for years to come.

**Broadway Musical to Benefit Neighborhood House Programs**

"Ballroom," the new Broadway musical, has been selected for the annual Riverdale Neighborhood House theater benefit on Thursday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. at the Vanderbilt Arts Theatre. The benefit is sponsored by the members of the board of directors and Mr. Bennett, who is the musical director of "A Chorus Line."

A champagne buffet will be served immediately before the performance of "Ballroom."

The benefit will be held at the Vanderbilt Arts Theatre, 5646 Riverdale Ave., from 5 to 9 p.m. For reservations, please call 553-2083.

The proceeds will go to benefit the Riverdale Neighborhood House and its services and community programs for the Riverdale Community. Anyone interested in attending the benefit should contact Carol Davis or the Neighborhood House, 5646 Riverdale Ave., 553-2083.

**Prices Here Fall Below National Index**

For the first time in a decade, the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Consumer Price Index is below the national rate, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The report, based on a survey of consumers' spending habits, has been released. As of August, 1978, the area's index was 107.6 compared to 110.8 nationally.

In other words, since the 1971 base period, prices have risen 9.0 per cent in the area and 12.3 per cent nationally. Manhattan pointed out that this is the first time in 10 years that the area's index has been below the national index.

The trend is expected to continue in the future, asman pointed out, because the area's prices could remain lower than national averages.