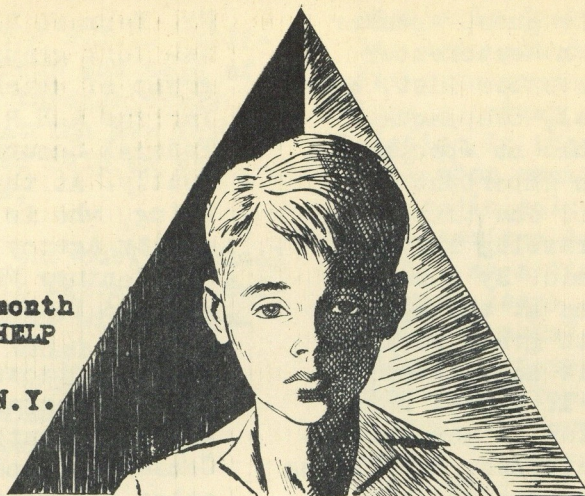


# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued approximately once a month  
by the ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP  
OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.  
1133 Broadway, New York 10, N.Y.

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New York, February, 1949



Volume 1, Issue #7  
December 27, 1949  
President,  
Joseph T. Weingold

## *Retarded Children Can Be Helped!*

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### JANUARY 4th MEETING OF THE A.H.R.C. TO BE MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL GET TO-GETHER

The next meeting of the A.H.R.C. will be held Wednesday, January 4th, 1950, in the Grand Ballroom of the Fraternal Club House, 110 West 48th St., New York City, at 8 P.M.

This is going to be a meeting for members only and in the nature of a social get-together. There will be no guest speakers - only brief reports from the Officers and Committee Heads to let you know what the Association is doing to achieve its objectives. There will be plenty of time to ask any questions you have, to air your views and tell each other what you think.

Refreshments will be served and there will be plenty of time to talk. We urge our members to come early and stay late.

### \*\*\*\*\* DR. CLEMENS A. BENDA ADDRESSES AHRC MEETING

On December 1st, Dr. Clemens A. Benda, world-famous authority, addressed an open meeting of the Association at the Central High School of Needle Trades, on the subject of "Mongolism and Cretinism".

Dr. Benda told an audience of about 1000 that this phase of mental retardation is one about which confusion has existed and its incidence is higher than supposed. A study of "mongoloids", a name Dr. Benda deplors, outside of the institutional milieu, points to the interesting and hopeful fact that these children "suffer from slower development than the normal child. The physical and mental growth is slowed down and every step takes much longer, but the child is, otherwise, not abnormal. He is full of affection and responds to love and

education". He went on to say that "from the medical viewpoint, the child needs stimulation of those glands which are known to regulate growth and development".

His lecture clearly indicated that the "mongoloid" child, so long considered hopeless, has potentials for development and learning which must be developed so that he may take his place with other children.

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BIG AHRC DINNER PLANS UNDER WAY. ANNOUNCEMENTS  
SOON FORTHCOMING FROM FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

The Fund Raising Committee, under its newly appointed chairman, Mr. Jack Max, will soon announce full details of the first annual AHRC dinner to be held at the Hotel Astor in 1950. All members interested in working on behalf of this affair should contact Mr. Max at our office.



Westchester Chapter:

Mr. Richard Hungerford was the guest speaker at the meeting of the Northern Westchester Principal's Association on November 21st, at the Horace Greeley High School, Chappaqua. Since this large rural area has no special education at all, this was an important event. Mr. Hungerford said that one third of our children are not progressing satisfactorily, and are non-academic. By non-academic is meant any child, who at the age of 16, is not able to do sixth grade work with profit and interest. This non-academic group is divided as follows: 1. Social handicapped 2. Socially maladjusted 3. Academically maladjusted 4. Mentally retarded, consisting of the mentally deficient and the feeble minded. This comprises 7% of the population, not 1%. This group needs special education, not remedial education or regular education. What the program for special education should be was discussed at length. It must be a meaningful program, always teaching reality, first mastering the home, then the neighborhood, the borough, and the city. Job areas are taught at 13. On the question of administration, Mr. Hungerford said that any school with an attendance of 100 individuals needs this program.

That this meeting was one of the most meaningful they have had, was the general opinion of the supervising principals present. Most of them always discarded the idea of special classes because of the so called stigma attached to them. As Mr. Hungerford pointed out, it is much worse to be a complete failure in a regular class than to be successful in a special class, even if it has a stigma attached to it.

Election of officers was held on December 14th at the Mt. Vernon Public Library. The following were elected: President: Bernard Rosenberg, 1st Vice-President: Wm. E. Weaver, 2nd Vice-President: Wm. H. Childs, Recording Secretary: Mrs. R. Devens, Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Bernard Rosenberg, Treasurer: Mrs. Wm. H. Childs, Financial Secretary: Robert Cremins.

Mrs. Fred Elgeizer, teacher of retarded children in a special class in the Mamaroneck Public School, described her highly successful practical method of teaching her children. It is a meaningful program which will better enable these children to enter adulthood as a contributing member of society.

A party for our children is planned for January 14th. More about this later. The place is as yet unselected.

Mr. Bernard Rosenberg was instructed by the New York group as well as the Westchester group of which he is President, to speak for the A.H.R.C. when he called upon the Federal Security Agency in Washington recently. At that time he spoke to Mr. Oscar Ewing, who is Director of the Federal Security Agency and discussed with him the Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth.

He also discussed our possible participation in this conference with Mr. Marvin A. Glasser who is Executive Director of the White House Conference and Miss Phillipson who is Director for participation of national organizations. Mr. Glasser suggested that we contact Mr. Robert T. Lansdale who is now in the process of forming the New York State Committee that will work with the White House Conference. He believed that we might be able to participate in the Conference through this committee because we could not as an organization participate since we are not as yet recognized as a national organization. There were several suggestions that were made which will be brought before the Executive Board of the A.H.R.C. for further discussion.

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NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES REPORT

The Long Island Chapter of the Association met at Kennedy Memorial Park, Hempstead, L.I. on December 14th. There were approximately 60 people present, including parents, doctors, student nurses, and friends.

Mr. George Hirsch, 2nd Vice-President of the New York City chapter was a guest. He gave a resume of how the Association started with but a few people; outlined the rapid growth which has taken place in the past year; the great need to bring about the best in every field in such matters as diagnosis, treatment, etc.; to educate the public with our problems so that they may help our cause.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Dr. H.S. Barshal, Clinical Director at Pilgrim State Hospital and for a number of years prominent in Child Guidance Clinics. Dr. Barshal's talk centered around the school system of 25 years ago and the school today. Throughout his talk, the doctor pointed out the fact that it is not a high I.Q. that makes a person a happy and well-adjusted



citizen but the individual's own capacity for adjusting to a job suitable to his own personality.

Mr. David Weiss, a member of the N.Y.C. Publicity Committee spoke to the group and told of the importance of publicizing through every available channel, stating that the New York Association would be willing to help on any phase of publicity at any time.

There are very few classes in the public school system for retarded children in Nassau and Suffolk County. The reasons for this will be determined at our next meeting, which will be held either the 2nd Monday or Wednesday of January. Plans are being formulated to meet with all the district Superintendents and School Principals.

Although we have only scratched the surface, we are looking forward to definite accomplishments for our children and parents in the very near future.

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NEW CHAPTERS-SULLIVAN AND ULSTER COUNTIES BEING FORMED.

Chapter formation in Sullivan and Ulster Counties continues, according to Mr. Carl Rappaport Chairman of the Membership Committee. Mrs. Frank Riva, also of the Membership Committee has been particularly active in this work. Those interested in the Sullivan County group should contact Mr. Martin Bennett, Box 249, Monticello, N.Y. And those interested in the Ulster County Chapter should contact Dr. Swerdloff, Saugerties, N.Y. or Mrs. Frank Riva, 8776-113th St., Richmond Hill, N. Y.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO AHRC DURING DECEMBER INCLUDE GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM NEW FRIENDS.

Listed below are some of the contributions received by the AHRC this month. Lack of space prevents us from printing a complete list here, but our thanks to all!

Womens Welfare League	\$100.00
New York Sisterhood, Inc.	30.00
Samuel Berkowitz	25.00
DuBarry Frocks, Inc.	15.00
Cohen & Drimmer	10.00
Nelson Karson	10.00
Theodora League, Inc.	300.00
Riverview Garage	25.00
Merle Proctor	50.00
Mrs. H. Jacobson	21.00
Estelle Rogers	30.00
Maxwell Wolfson	25.00
Rexall Ladies Auxiliary	25.00
Baer Kramer Relief Society	15.00
Recording Machine from Mr. Allen Strauss	

PUBLICITY FOR THE AHRC CONTINUES TO GROW.

To the impressive list of publications which regularly feature news of the AHRC meetings has been added The Daily News. CBS continues its announcements. Parents Magazine will feature a column on the activities of this Association in its January, 1950 issue. Nick Kenn will soon mention the AHRC in his Daily Mirror radio column. The official newspaper of the American Association on Mental Deficiency has an article on the Association in its current issue, and plans to run another soon. Other "breaks" have appeared in a Pythian Lodge newspaper, "The Conqueror", in the Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper dwellings' newspaper "Town and Village", in the Parents & Teachers newspaper of P. S. 105, in the official bulletin of the Assembly of Brooklyn Jewish Women's Organizations, Letters to the Editor of the N. Y. Times and N. Y. Post, and other publications.

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PROBLEMS OF MENTAL RETARDATION PUBLICIZED IN TWO LEADING MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS.

As an indication of the ever-increasing national interest in the problems and needs of the mentally handicapped, two leading magazines have run articles on this subject in their December issues. They are: The Woman's Home Companion, and the American Mercury. A.H.R.C. members are urged to read these articles and to write to the magazines to encourage future articles. Mention of the A.H.R.C. should be included in the letters.

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BROOKLYN CARD PARTY IS HUGE SUCCESS, CHAIRMAN BEN DROUTMAN REPORTS.

The AHRC party held at the Aperia, in Brooklyn on December 14th, has been reported to have been a tremendous success, according to the Chairman of this affair, Mr. Ben Droutman. Attendance was estimated at 1,500 with many additional subscribers contributing, but not appearing. So overwhelming was the response to this affair, that an additional hall had to be hired to handle the overflow. "A vote of thanks from the entire Association is owed to the ladies and gentlemen who worked so enthusiastically and tirelessly with me to make this function a success", Mr. Droutman stated.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE PREPARES LONG RANGE PLAN

The Education Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. George Hirsch, met on Monday, December 12th. Details of a comprehensive program will appear in a later issue.



On Friday, December 9th, a committee from the Association had an interview with Mr. Maximilian Moss, President of the Board of Education, in Mr. Moss' office at 110 Livingston St., Bklyn.

At the interview, our committee presented a memorandum of the "Immediate Needs of the Mentally Handicapped Children and What the Board of Education can do to Improve and Augment the Facilities of Their Education". This memorandum included seven chief points.

1. Implementation of classes for children, 4 to 6.
2. Implementation of the plan for at least one Occupational High School. Money has been appropriated in each budget for several years, but no suitable building has been found. This school should have a program for vocational training and retraining for children who obtain jobs and cannot adjust at first.
3. A testing and guidance bureau for the CRMD alone, where there will not be the great wait now necessary for testing, etc.
4. Pay differential for CRMD teachers. We feel that the teachers of CRMD classes deserve more pay for this arduous work, to attract teachers to this important field. The "600" class teachers have it now. We feel that the work of the CRMD teachers is equally important.
5. Transportation for these children should be under the control of the CRMD who shall decide which children shall have transportation. Above certain distances, this should be mandatory.
6. An increase in the Guidance and Placement Personnel to enable the older children to obtain jobs, adjust, etc.
7. More autonomy for the CRMD in the school system. We feel that this problem is so important and widespread that it deserves special consideration. The placement of the retarded child in a general situation tends to find the retarded child neglected in favor of the normal.

These were the main points presented at the meeting. Mr. Moss promised to give this memorandum his consideration and expressed a desire to meet with our committee after studying the points that were brought out.

This program is also being submitted to Dr. Wm. Janssen, Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Frank J. O'Brien, Associate Superintendent of Schools, in charge of the CRMD program.

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AHRC WINS NEW SPONSORS, INCLUDING BKLYN. BOROUGH PRESIDENT CASHMORE.

Mr. Jack Max, one of the AHRC's most active new members, and newly appointed Fund Raising Chairman, has succeeded in winning the official sponsorship of the following well known public figures,

with the help of Albert M. Leavitt, Deputy Commissioner of Markets. Mr. Leavitt stands ready to give us help at all times.

1. John Cashmore, President of Borough of Bklyn
2. Rabbi Israel Herbert Leventhal (Rabbi of Brooklyn Jewish Center)
3. Edward A. Richards (President of the East New York Savings Bank of Brooklyn, N.Y.)
4. Emanuel Celler, N.Y. Chairman of the 81st Congress, House of Representatives, Committee of the Judiciary.
5. Albert M. Leavitt, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Markets.
6. Justice Daniel Gutman, Municipal Court.
7. Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias, State of N.Y., Leonard M. Eisenberg, Grand Chancellor.
8. Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias, State of N.Y., Colonel Sidney G. Harnett, P.G.C., Grand Secretary.
9. Anthony Masciarelli, Commissioner of Markets of the City of New York.

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#### DR. O'BRIEN ANSWERS PARENTS QUESTION ABOUT CRMD CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 6.

In the October issue of Our Children's Voice, a parent asked the question: "What happened to the idea of CRMD classes for children aged 4 to 6?" Your editors answered that the program has been approved by the CRMD and needed only the ok of Dr. Frank J. O'Brien, Associate Superintendent of Schools to get started.

We are in receipt of a letter from Dr. O'Brien asking us to amplify and correct this statement. He writes:

"I am also taking steps toward the establishment of nursery school classes for mentally retarded children." "However, I would like to point out that the establishment of such classes requires a great deal more than my approval, as stated in your answer to a question contained in Issue #5 under date of October 17, 1949 in the Children's Voice."

"Before the resolution is prepared it will be necessary to determine whether a new type of license must be set up for the teachers who will be assigned to such classes. The location of the classes is another item that will have to be worked out. When all of these situations have been settled, it will then be necessary to prepare the resolution establishing the classes. This resolution must be considered by the Board of Superintendents, and if approved by them, the Board of Education."

"However, I am hoping that these classes will be established in the near future," Dr. O'Brien goes on to say.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I send the Seasons Greetings to all our members, friends and other readers of "Our Children's Voice".

This is the time of the year that belongs to children, particularly. It is their holiday, their time of anticipation, hope and joy. This is right. But this Holiday, commemorating the birth of One who loved all children, belongs even to "the least of these".

Anticipation, hope and joy are the birthright of the normal child. For the halt, the blind, the handicapped, physically and mentally, there can be no anticipation, hope or joy, without the help of others. Without our unflagging love, our never failing support, our planning and work, there will be despair only for them.

Now, the first Christmas, I do not choose to think that their lot is hopeless. I have been made to feel, in the months since we started, that the heart of the world is not closed; it needs but a reminder. Sometimes this reminder has to be loud and insistent, but a response can and has been evoked. Much remains to be done, but the start has been made; the cause of these children is being put before the world and there can be but one answer. They can and must be helped.

God bless all of you and give you the strength to continue our work as long as needed.



Dr. Benda speaks to AHRC  
(see Page 1)



Theodora League presents check  
to AHRC (see Page 3)



MRS. MARGARET RIVA OF AHRC SPEAKS AT KINGSTON,  
N.Y. IN SPECIAL EDUCATION MEETING.

Mrs. Margaret Riva, an active liaison member of the Association, spoke on behalf of the AHRC before a meeting of teachers and administrators interested in Special Education at the First Dutch Reformed Church in Kingston, N.Y. Among the communities represented at the gathering were Beacon, Middletown, Oneonta, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, N.Tarrytown, Saugerties, Walden, Delhi, New Paltz, Hillburn, Monticello, Walton and Kingston. Mrs. Riva's remarks were reported in the Kingston Daily Freeman. Mrs. Riva is also engaged in the preliminary activities of establishing a new AHRC chapter in the Kingston area.

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PINE GROVE CAMP FOR THE NON-ACADEMIC CHILD.

Last year Pine Grove Camp was established for the non-academic child whose needs too often are not met by the average camp. This camp was formed and is directed by two teachers of mentally retarded children in the public school system of New York City. They have evolved a camp program that is geared to meet the needs of the retarded child.

Pine Grove offers a full recreational program that is integrated with the philosophy of Occupational Education as put forth by the New York City Board of Education. It is a small camp. It is a camp policy to limit the number of children so that the maximum of individual attention may be given to each child. It is also a policy of the camp to make its rates low enough so that it is within the reach of people of medium income.

As members of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, the camp subscribes to the policy of aid to the mentally retarded, "regardless of race, color, creed, or age".

Because of the great interest shown by parents last year, and at their suggestion, the camp is presently considering a transformation into a limited cooperative; wherein individual parents may buy shares, and, in the capacity of stockholders, receive dividends, and aid in policy formation in an advisory capacity. A canvassing of parent opinion so far has resulted in making this plan seem feasible. However, this aspect of the camp is still uncertain and we would welcome suggestions from interested parents.

Contact Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Weinman, 2623 E. 22nd Street, Bklyn. Telephone # De 2-0698

BASKETBALL GAME-BENEFIT FOR AHRC.  
CITY COLLEGE VS NYU. TICKETS ON SALE.

The Esther Baila League is running a benefit basketball game on March 26, 1950, at St. Nicholas Arena. The game will be between NYU and City College Stars. The League has given us 1000 tickets. These tickets are priced at \$1.00, \$2.50, and \$3.50. Our Association will receive \$.40 on each \$1.00 ticket, \$.70 on each \$2.50 ticket and \$1.10 on each \$3.50 ticket. In addition to the foregoing monies, the League will donate a great part of the profits they make to our Association. The tickets are obtainable by calling or writing the office of our Association, and also by direct sale at any of the regular meetings.

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BRONX HOUSE OFFERS CLASSROOMS TO AHRC. COOP SCHOOLING AND THERAPY PROPOSED.

The Bronx House, under the direction of Mr. Sol Raphael, has offered the AHRC the use of a classroom for five mornings a week, to be used as a Pilot Cooperative Class for retarded children who do not meet the age and I.Q. requirements of the CRMD. Also offered was the free use of a crafts therapy class directed by Mr. Charles Atzbach, formerly of the Edenwald School. This was announced last week by Mr. Nat Feder, Vice-President of our Association, who has been negotiating with the Bronx House in this connection. "The class would be supported financially by the parents of the children, on a purely cooperative basis", Mr. Feder said. Interested parents are advised to write to Mr. Feder at the AHRC office, 1133 Broadway, N.Y.C.10,N.Y.

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THEODORA LEAGUE RUNS CARD PARTY FOR AHRC

The Theodora League, Inc. of the Bronx ran a card party at the Park Terrace on Wednesday, December 14th. Entire proceeds of the evening will be presented to the Association. Two members of the Association, Mr. Nat Feder 1st Vice-President, and Mrs. Rebecca Noble, of the Board of Directors, addressed a meeting of the Theodora League, last month. Following their appeals, the Theodora League, deeply moved by the poignant accounts of the problem of mental retardation, voted to present the Association with \$300.00 (See picture on Page 5). The card party followed the presentation.

"The entire Association for the Help of Retarded Children are more deeply grateful than words can express", stated Mrs. Noble.



With all due deference to our journalistic colleagues, THE NEW YORK TIMES (another N.Y. newspaper, somewhat larger than OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE), and with sincere respect for their very worthy and humanitarian "100 Neediest Cases" annual drive, parents of mentally retarded children cannot help but pause questioningly upon that grim superlative: "neediest". If our wishes had any influence with heaven, we would gladly surrender that distinction, but in the light of harsh reality, we must confess that the mentally handicapped, and their families, constitute New York's severest social problem and neediest social group, bar none.

Seven vitally important and highly commendable social agencies certify the cases of the "100 Neediest". But it is worth noting that none of these agencies is presently affiliated with a tangible program for mentally handicapped children. Heartbreaking stories are recounted of the sufferings of families of these "100 Neediest". But that these families have the hope of ultimate succor is indicated by the very existence of the TIMES campaign. But what of the families of the mentally retarded? Where is the newspaper campaign which finally shall reveal the incredible suffering they know?

It is ironic to note that when one of the "100 Neediest Cases" does, indeed touch upon the circumstances of a mentally retarded child, the plea is not made for clinical, educational, recreational or day-care facilities, but rather for psychological help in getting the parents to place the child in question in a state institution. We are not taking issue here with the particulars of that case, but rather with the underlying principle which it points up: namely, that when society thinks in terms of helping the mental defective, it almost invariably thinks in terms of how quickly and expeditiously said child can be spirited away into a state institution. And it should be noted here that state institutions are still crucially overcrowded. And how about a newspaper campaign on that needy problem? As one of our parent-members once put it: "The mentally retarded are New York's under-underprivileged". Their's is not just a material poverty, but a poverty of the spirit. A daily death. And there are 80,000 of them in New York City, colleagues!

E.G.

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE AHRC

(As our president sagely remarked "We're working for the kids, not the kudos". Nevertheless, "Our Children's Voice" believes that some of our members deserve an occasional salute for their efforts, and we herewith inaugurate a new feature)

Dr. and Mrs. Emil Posner...for their important leads which have led us to valuable radio and newspaper contacts...Dave Weiss, the new dynamo on Publicity who has taken over a lion's share of publicity work...Nat Feder an AHRC VEEP who, in his quiet way manages to be in the thick of every important development of advantage to the org...Jack Max a newcomer who knows everything except the definition of the word: "impossible"..... George Hirsch, another behind-the-scenes V.E. Very Powerful assistance to our work. Maxwell Herman, who is our one-man production-staff. Ann Greenberg, our Corresponding Secretary who works a 25 hour day...The Hulsicks (Sol and Shirley) who have labored so fruitfully for us fund-wise, legislation-wise, and otherwise...and many, many, many more which we must reserve for future issues.

#### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Mrs. C.T. asks: What's being done for Aphasic Children?

Answer: Jack Raynor reports: a special experimental class for Aphasic Children has been created at P.S. 47, Manhattan by the Board of Education. Thanks for this project should go to Dr. Frank O'Brien, Asst. Supt. and Miss Minnie Obermier, Asst. Supt., Dr. Wm. Calvin Barger, Psychiatrist of Child Guidance, and Dr. Paul Dozier, consultant to the Bd. of Education for Aphasia.

Mr. E.J. asks: Where can I find training which may enable my retarded daughter, who is 18, obtain work?

Answer: Suggest you try Division of Rehabilitation of the N.Y. State Dept. of Education, or contact Mr. Woodhull Hay, 116 John St., N.Y.C. (He is one of our members, and has full particulars).

DON'T FORGET OUR SOCIAL GET TOGETHER  
ON JANUARY FOURTH  
FRATERNAL CLUB HOUSE, 110 W. 49th St.  
N.Y.C.

All questions and contributions for this newspaper should be addressed to Our Children's Voice, Association for the Help of Retarded Children, Inc., 1133 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

Eugene J. Gramm, Editor  
Joseph T. Weingold, Co-Editor