

TALK AT NY OPEN CENTER

Three days after getting back from the trip to the Alternative Education Conference in Boulder, I was scheduled to speak at the New York Open Center, in New York City. This was set up at the suggestion of Center Director Ralph White, who had heard about my teacher education conferences in Russia, and wanted to share information about a new center they are setting up there. Although there were not many pre-registered, I was surprised to find an overflow audience at the Center, with great interest in educational alternatives. People who attended that presentation continue to contact us almost daily. The Open Center is a non-profit Holistic Learning Center, featuring a wide variety of presentations and workshops. 83 Spring St., NY, NY 10012. 212 219-2527.

FERNANDEZ, MEIER, AND RILEY AT EWA MEETING

At the Education Writers Conference in Boston, I got to meet the Secretary of Education, Richard W. Riley. After he talking about the possibility of new national standards, a quasi-national curriculum, I told him that there were hundreds of thousands of homeschoolers and thousands of alternative schools that did not want a curriculum imposed on them. I asked him how he would approach that fact. He responded that "When we establish these standards they will uplift us all." I did not find that reply comforting. On the other hand, I am pleased that Madelin Kunin, former governor of Vermont, is the new Deputy Secretary of Education. She once spoke at the graduation of Shaker Mountain School when I was Headmaster, and is quite familiar with educational alternatives. We're been in contact with her office. At the same conference, former New York City Chancellor Joseph Fernandez was the Buskin Memorial Speaker. He talked about his tenure there, and his "legacy" of 50 new alternative schools, scheduled to start opening this in New York. He also said that a quarter of the New York City schools now has school-based management. I had the opportunity to speak to him at length after the conference. He said that he hoped that the sponsorship system he had set up with the new schools would insure their continuation. I also talked with Debbie Meier, who helped created the alternative system in District 4. It will fall partly on her to keep those schools going. Fernandez says he does not think he'll take a superintendency again, and has no plans beyond returning to FL and doing consulting work. In Israel, Debbie Meier said that getting the new schools going and thriving will be a difficult task in the current situation. We hope that whoever becomes the new Chancellor will be supportive.

Clara Casanova is a teacher in the New York City school system. She was born in Spain, and when I mentioned Francisco Ferrer, Spanish-born founder of the Modern School Movement, she was floored. "I grew up with my parents talking about him all the time. That's why I'm so disappointed with the public school system." She later wrote, "It was a pleasure to talk to you. I felt so good, away from my authoritarian school. It is so oppressive

sometimes, but I enjoy working with the kids."

MAIL AND COMMUNICATION

Note: The next several sections were edited by AERO intern Lauren Most.

Harvey Lee Rosenberg published a book called Joey's Cabbage Patch, A "Read-Me, Draw-Me" Book. Children create their own illustrations while reading or listening to the story. Enclosed is a packet of seeds and instructions for children to grow their own cabbage patch. Copies are \$2 each and 10% s & h. P.O.B. 398, Graton, CA 95444. (707) 829-1264.

Morrie Greenberg wrote American Adventures, True Stories From America's Past 1770-1870. This is an enjoyable way to approach social studies. The stories include "Johnny Appleseed, Hero of the Wilderness," "The Gold Rush Days" and "The Men Who Built the Railroad Across America." In order for the reader to engage its contents, there are activities that accompany the stories. Mary Pride gave American Adventures a favorable review in the current issue of Practical Homeschooling. Brooke-Richards Press, 9420 Reseda Blvd., suite 511, Northridge, CA 91324.

Communities has revised the Directory of Intentional Communities. In the past 2 years they have sold 16,000 copies, making it the most widely sold directory of communities ever produced. For \$16 and \$2 s&h you can purchase this directory from AERO.

The Arthur Morgan School has welcomed homeschoolers as students. In particular an entire home schooling family came aboard. Sarah and Benoit Delcourt, parents of AMS graduate Alice Delcourt ('92) will come on staff as houseparents. The school is excited about getting started on the new year. 1901 Hannah Branch Road, Burnsville. NC 28714 (704) 67 5-4262.

Antioch-New England Graduate School has just purchased a 60,000 square foot former factory in Keene, NH, to create a new permanent home. This is the latest in a series of moves that have been made to accommodate its "meteoric growth." I graduated from Antioch New England with an MAT when it was in its first location in Putney, Vermont. Good luck to ANE in its new location. Roxbury St, Keene, NH 03431.

Dorothy Fadiman, who made the award-winning video, "Why do these kids Love School?" about public and private alternative schools. She was recently nominated for an academy award, as we mentioned in our last issue. She is now starting on another called "Crimes of Compassion and Revolutionary Acts." She is also looking into uses for some of the video work she did which wasn't used in "Why?" "Jerry, you and I are alike in the way we both will move heaven and earth for something in which we believe. And we won't

move on from any given task till what we envisioned has taken root.
Blessings on your work."

A new alternative private school in Conroe, Texas will open in Sept. 1994. The mentors will be from the retired community and the students will range from 7-16 years old. This is an innovative way to bridge the gap that exists between youth and elderly. The curriculum varies from secular, Christian and Socratic among other choices. Their goal is to provide an unpressured environment, where a student has the space to flourish in their intellectual and emotional development. Yette Davis, % ARAMCO Box 5895, Abqaiq 31311, Saudi Arabia.

The R & D Preview is a magazine that excerpts and summarizes "the best emerging educational R & D outcomes." In the last issue there were interesting segments on Charter Schools, and Alternative Assessment. Council for Educational Development and Research, Suite 601, 2000 L St, NW, Washington, DC 20036. PH: 202 223-1593.

Michael Mann used our services on behalf of the St. Paul Open School, where he is a parent/volunteer. He also helps edit a student poetry magazine. He was particularly interested in getting information on a new concept they are pursuing: not having a principal, but administrating their school in a cooperative fashion. If you have information about that for them, or experience with this, write to Michael at 1405 Fairmount, St. Paul, MN 55105.

For information on brain-compatible education, contact the Institute for Learning & Teaching, 449 Desnoyer, St. Paul, MN 55104 (Wayne Jennings), or Leslie Hart, at PO Box 427, New Rochelle, NY 10802. PH: 914 632-9029.

The Stonesoup School has grown with 6 students and 3 staff. Their school got blasted by the storm. About 30 pine trees came down and they put in much work to repair the area.

The New York Times printed an article entitled "Is Smaller Better? Educators Now Say Yes for High School(Wednesday, July 14, 1993)." Research has shown that the smaller school is a better learning atmosphere. The building of smaller schools is underway in Denver, Boulder, San Francisco, Chicago and Providence, RI. Educators argue that smaller schools are conducive for developing a rapport between the teachers and the students.

New Moon is a publication for "girls and their dreams." It is a new magazine created by girls and women. Their desire is to allow the girls to voice their ideas. 424 Lakeview Avenue, Duluth, MN 55812.

Anne Wheelock recently wrote a book Crossing The Tracks. She focuses in on

the underprivileged population and the ways we can make education equal for all students. Anne wrote to AERO. "I'm sorry we didn't have a chance to talk...but I feel as if we did since I've just read your AERO-GRAMME #10 which is like having a conversation."

Skipping Stones, A Multicultural Children's Quarterly Journal, received an EdPress achievement award for excellence in educational journalism. They are seeking submissions of original art, photos and writings in many languages with English translation. The magazine encourages youth from under-represented populations, homeschoolers and Alternative School pupils to submit themes previously mentioned. P.O.B. 3939, Eugene, OR 97403 (503)342-4956.

One subscriber, Dan Greifenberger, exclaims "your publication is the greatest! It's one of a kind, very interesting and to the point! I can't believe how good your newsletter is for hard to get information."

Christina Spence's bought our Code Crash tape for learning the Morse code in less than 45 minutes. "Your tape will be used for fun. My son had a rough time with one particular teacher this year...So let the group of kids learn Morse code--surely they can use pencils to communicate. Code Crash will be more than they have learned in her class all year."

A member of the Global Friend's School writes about her daughter's achievements. "Amara has been accepted at the Evergreen state college in Olympic, Washington, her dream come true. She also made the dean's list this semester and had a hand-coiled clay pot selected to be in the permanent collection at Warren Wilson college- hooray, especially because she went to her first school as a sophomore, after 15 years of homeschooling!" Box 429, Blairsville, GA30512 (304) 252-4227.(Note: They have just moved to John Woolman School, Nevada, CA)

Merriam Hill Geocommons Year is a program devoted to community, ecology and sustainable living. Their program encompasses science and spirit in a healthy academic setting. The student body consists of men and women 18 years and older. They offer courses associated with the University of NH. They are "building bridges" with their academic credit. Derbyshire Farm, Temple, NH 03084.

Lee Hoinacki sent us an article he wrote which describes childhood, from a cultural perspective, as a "parasitic dependency in which parents have the responsibility to provide the young person with packaged entertainment, activities, food, clothing and money. Under these conditions Hoinacki was deprived a "Childhood." He learned that through acquiring skills, one can earn one's own living and survive. He believes in the philosophy of John Holt: "Kids are naturally curious, eager to learn, will learn by

themselves, generally need no teaching until they ask for it." However, Hoinacki does not believe this is feasible for the modern child, who is adorned with cultural messages. He believes childhood is evil because it teaches a person to constantly consume from its environment rather than revel in its natural existence. Lee Hoinacki works with Ivan Illich, the author of Deschooling Society.

The second issue of Tomorrow's Child is now out. Its theme is "teaching peace." The third is in production. The magazine is inspired by the Montessori movement, but is trying to range beyond that, into more general fields in educational alternatives. Joyce St. Germaine is the editor. It is now being distributed to Montessori Schools, mostly for free, with many of the costs being covered by advertising. Other schools interested in receiving it should contact them at 4157 Mountain Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122. Phone/FAX 410 360 9674.

The California Institute of Integral Studies will have a new Interdisciplinary Studies Doctoral Program. There will be a six day seminar, followed by a choice of communication via computer on the "Electronic University Network," or 20 three day weekends seminars over a two year period. 765 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117. PH: 415 753 6100.

HOME EDUCATION NEWS Section Edited by AERO intern Lauren Most

Dan Endsley, who edits his own publication, Mentor (3208 Cahuenga Blvd, Suite 131, Los Angeles, CA 90068) makes an analogy between education and shopping for food. He comments on the separation of inner city and suburban school systems in an article found in the Homeward newsletter. It refers to the downfall of public education as an example of future government control. Homeward's address is 17020 Hamilton Drive, Lakeville, MN 55044.

Graduation is considered an integral part of the homeschooler's education. The Greenhouse Report supports graduation as a special occasion for the potential student. North Carolinians for Home Education, 204 North Person Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27601.

Konrad Cabanas-Brown (the 12, now 13 year old homeschooler who appeared in issue #10) has been lobbying important democrats in Austin, Texas. He has presented himself as an advocate for homeschooling. Konrad has attracted legislator's attention as well as the democratic party officials. Their interest stems from the fact that they have little knowledge in this area of education. In addition to Konrad's lobbying endeavors, he has become precinct coordinator for a Houston precinct.

Eureka is an innovative booklet for educational games. It is a good source to stimulate your child's interest in learning. For a copy send \$15 plus \$3 shipping and handling to Philications, Box 6002-18, Virginia Beach, VA 23456.

Richard Buxton and friends have opened a school/co-op based on a homeschooling curriculum from Laurel Springs in Ojai, California. The school is in Santa Barbara, CA.

Researcher Gary Knowles, of the University of Michigan School of Education, has explored adults who were home educated as students. His paper was presented at the 13th National Conference for education in New Zealand. Knowles found that there are beneficial effects for the home schooled student. He identified the adults as a heterogeneous group located in both rural and urban areas. They are employed in variety of professions and occupations, although they tend toward independent and creative lifestyles. Knowles measured whether or not the adults wish to be home educated if they had their lives over again. Ninety-six percent answered positively. For more info. write to Homeward, P.O. Box 403, Rontana, WI 53125-0403.

Jo Anne Beirne, whom we met last year at the HEI conference, is sending us her Australian Homeschool Journal. She wrote. "I love your publication. I think you are doing great work." Articles include "Children Writing Diaries," "Homeschooling in Our Family," "Opening up the Options (Reprinted from Time Magazine)" and "Homeschoolers in the News." For more information write to: Homeschoolers Australia Pty. Ltd. ACN 003 222 848, P.O.B 420 Kellyville 2153, Australia.

Seth Rockmuller, a founder of ALLPIE, has published a new reference book about education in the New York state entitled School Law. It is a useful manual for parents including chapters on Education in the Public Schools, Nonpublic Schools and Home Instruction, Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline and Beyond Legal Rights: The Role of the Parent. To order a copy send \$12.95 and \$2.50 for shipping and handling to : Longview Publishing, R>D> 1, Box 172E, East Chatham, NY 12060.

Anne Wasserman, along with other enthusiastic people, worked on the "Newsletter to Clinton" project. They gathered many homeschooling newsletters and sent them to President Clinton. In addition, cover letters were sent out to the President expressing their views on homeschooling and its need for acknowledgment. One letter in particular was written by a 16 year old. It read "I am writing to ask you to see us as EveryAmerican and to recognize that we are not fanatics advocating homeschooling for everyone. We want only for you, and indeed all Americans, to recognize that here is one more CHOICE, one more way for education to happen." Wasserman noted the remarks made by the president in ABC's kid's town

meeting concerning homeschooling. It has been suggested that this project had such positive results that it should become a biannual event.

ABAPA FREER summarizes Grace Llewellyn's book entitled 11 Teenagers Who Don't Go To School. One girl, Kyla, expresses her thoughts: "As long as school is mandatory... it is an inherently bad place." ABAPA FREER supports freedom. P.O.B. 759, Veneta, OR 97487.

Snakefoot, a homeschool resource center located in Lexington, VA rose to 21 children this year. The students, kindergarten through 8th grade, put together a play dealing with ecology. The school hopes to find a balance between those who support through money and those who give their time. In The Green Revolution, the publication of the School of Living, RD1 Box 185A Cochranville, PA. 19330.

Nancy Greer, who is in charge of her homeschooling group's resource library in Pasadena, MD, ordered our video on homeschool resource centers. She wrote that our newsletter is "terrific, and I especially enjoy hearing about your travels to Russia." Nancy would like to expand her library further and hopes to procure some free educational materials (microscopes, sports equipment). 1688 Belhaven Woods Court, Pasadena, MD 21122-3727.

The Creative Education Network sponsors meetings, workshops, field trips and activities for children and families. Their network bulletin features field trips such as canoeing down the Delaware, discussions on kinesiology and map making for children. They have members from Hunterdon County, NJ and Bucks County, PA. For more information write to: Creative Education Network c/o Mary Lounsbury, Star Route, Mechanicsville Rd., Carversville PA 18913.

Progressive Results Inc. found AERO through the Home Education Magazine. The company is promoting its new development in computer software. The Skills Bank - Home Tutor Edition in educational software contains the basic skill concepts tested on most U.S. National Achievement Tests. Home tutor includes reading, language, mathematics writing and study skills series. Each series cost \$87.50. For more information: Progressive Results, Inc., 160 Old State Road, Ballwin, MO 63021-5915.

Vincent Toney of the Florence, AL Times Daily conducted an interview with our office and wrote a long article about homeschooling, both in their area and in the United States. Send a SASE and \$2 if you'd like a copy.

TEACHERS JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS

There are positions available in the Minneapolis Public Schools. They currently have three full Montessori Schools that have various age ranges,

K-8, K-6 and a third K-3. The Hall Montessori School (K-6) is looking for an Elementary Principal. The schools are also looking for Montessori teachers for Level II and Level III. If interested, call (612) 627-2036 for application materials. The address is: Educational Service Center, 807 Northeast Broadway, Minneapolis, MN 55413-2398.

A new community school is forming in rural Maui modeled after Sudbury Valley School, Children ages 6 through 12 with addition of teens later. Needed: Dedicated teachers who are at ease with student-centered and project-focused learning. Write Liz at: 880 Hana Hwy. Haiku, HI 96708. (808) 572-9102.

Johanna Mathieson from the Harriet Eisman Community School is looking for a teacher. 165 E. Park Avenue, Long Beach, NY 11561. (516) 889-5575.

Caryn J. Gottcent, a graduate from Earlham College, is looking for a job/ internship possibility in the mid-west. She has a strong interest in alternative education. Drawer 542, Earlham College, Richmond, IN 47374.

Dan Wilson is a recent college graduate and avidly seeking a position regarding alternative education. He has decided that he just does not want "to do the corporate thing." 5650 Forbes Ave. #5, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Helen Armstrong is particularly interested in experience in alternative schools. P.O. BOX 8095, Durango, CO 81301.

Debi Clarkson otherwise known as "Doobie" would like to teach in a communal environment. 3988 N. Co. Rd. 00EW, Kokomo, In. 46901.

Valerie S. Duff is a graduate from St. John's College with a BA in Liberal Arts. She is interested particularly in teaching. St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Bailey Smith is a college graduate with a degree in sociology. She has had particular experience in teaching, tutoring and administration. Bailey was the student coordinator for the Teenage Mothers Writing Project. 359 H Western Dr. Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (408) 427-0608.

Tanya Murray is a student at Lewis & Clark in Portland Oregon. Currently she is looking for an intern position with an alternative organization. Tanya is in the process of self-designing a major in educational studies with a focus on alternative education. 9938 SW Terwilliger, Portland, OR 97219. (503) 768-4831.

Linda Geiger has an MA in Expressive Therapy and years of experience working and playing with children. She is seeking a job as a

therapist in an alternative preschool or elementary school. Her address is: 7 Kirby LN., Rye NY 10580.

Amy Huberman attended St. John's College based on alternative methods of teaching. She learned through primary sources such as the Great Books of Western Civilization. In Math class she read Euclid and Einstein amongst others. Beyond academia Amy has worked as a chambermaid in a hotel and produced good food on and organic farm. She is eager to help develop and work with new methods of education. 303 Highland Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222.

Pete Senderowitz is eagerly waiting for an alternative education opportunity as a teacher. 1122 High Street, Monroe, New York 10950. (914) 782-5920.

The Walden School is looking for a male teacher for the lower grades. The salary is around \$28,000. If you are interested contact Audrey Goodfriend at 2446 McKinley Ave., Berkeley, CA., 94703. (510) 841-7248.

Barbara Lott is seeking a position at an alternative school/college. She has a Ph.D. in geology and 9 years university teaching experience. Barbara is fluent in English, German and Portuguese. P.O.B. 5028 10 E Henderson St., Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.

Teacher Wanted: Highland is a small school (20 students) in a rural environment. Democratically run and ungraded, Highland has an interest based curriculum including voluntary classes. An active, outgoing person who enjoys both children and the outdoors is preferred. Contact: Candy Landvoigt (304;-869-3250/3252) The Highland School, Rt. 83, Box 56, Highland, WV, 26346. An equal opportunity educational institution.

Eikaiwa Visa is a small English conversation school in Japan. They teach kids and adults English one hour a week. Their lessons are quite structured, however they do take an alternative approach in that they are trying to teach kids to learn much faster than usual. They have developed a text and games for grammar, vocabulary, conversation, etc. They have also designed computer programs to accompany the text. Eikaiwa is seeking people who are really interested in this kind of work to join them full time. You can contact Joe Orr at Eikaiwa Visa, 1-14-3 Midorigaoka, Toyohashi 440, Japan. Phone (in Japan) 0532-64-0886. Fax: 0532-64-2967. Compu Serve(US)71420,1230. (We were pleased to meet Joe and, a Japanese mother and son, Leiko and Shintalo, on their recent visit to the United States-JM)

PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

The FairTest Examiner cited a universal boycott on national testing, which takes place in England and Wales. Teachers were outraged about the tests which provoke overwork and disruption to regular schooling. The teachers had strong support from the children's parents. Yet the Conservatives in the British government opposed the boycott and attempted to pass legislation making such actions illegal. The government spent 35 million(\$55 million) pounds to conduct these futile 1993 exams. These national tests were used as vehicles to enhance the hard working student, the teaching quality and more learning. On the contrary, these tests do nothing of the sort except cause greater anxiety for the seven and fourteen year olds. The tests are regarded as a poor assessment of the child's knowledge. Thus far, the government(The Labour and Liberal Democrat parties) and teachers are adamantly against using these methods for attaining the student's ability. Furthermore, by refusing these national tests the schools and government may look toward improving the curriculum and instruction. Fair Test, 342 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139-1802. (617) 864-4810.

A program known as Teach For America is devoted to revitalizing public education. Its goal is to enrich the child's opportunity for a fair education. If you are interested in becoming a TFA teacher, write or call: TFA, P.O.B. 5114, New York, NY, 10185, (800) 832-1230.

Carol Meixner, who teaches "Schools Of Choice" at New Central Michigan University congratulated AERO on our "exceptional" work. She also mentioned that the Oasis High School, based in Michigan, received the Reader's Digest Heroes in Education award. "We are especially proud that a team of teachers was chosen. We feel that the team concept is essential to our success." Oasis High School, 310 W. Michigan, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

Brenda Nelson's family has been involved in alternative schools in Fullerton CA. The schools are affiliated with the public school system. The class her daughter attended was called Process Learning Classroom. Brenda describes it as a "self-paced" program. The children focus on creative writing and reading. Parents are a vital part of the program.

A public alternative school called Charquin is currently housed at a traditional elementary school. It has existed for 20 years. There are 90 students ranging from K-6 grade. Each family teaches 1 day a week. They use center based learning in small groups. Recently the children put together a play on Isis and Osiris given that their theme is Egypt. Charquin is going through a severe budget problem. As a result they have written a charter to attain school status.

Melodie Stubkjaer, from San BuenaVentura CA, writes about a charter school that could incorporate homeschoolers. She believes this way the children

"could create the ultimate OPEN Classroom."

We just heard from Bill Boyle, in Rochester Hills, MI. He received a grant to help develop educational alternatives in his public school class. He will be sending more information about his program and a Model High School in his district.

Gloria Fearn, the author of *Building the Good School: Participating Parents at Charquin*, said "From now on when my friends at Charquin complain about feeling isolated I'll suggest that they subscribe to AERO-GRAMME." Ohlone Press, PO Box 779, Hayward, CA 94543.

School Dropouts, The Tragedy of America's Undereducated Youth, written by Carlos A. Bonilla, MD.Ph.D., describes the correlation between dropouts and crime. It also points out the studies of alcohol and illegal drug abuse by the state's public school students. ICA Publishing, 1020 N. Commerce, Stockton, CA 95202.

A group of parents are interested in gathering information about non-traditional programs within a traditional school district, non-graded, developmentally appropriate programs; learning styles and individualized learning programs. C/o Signe Miller, P.O.B. 87, Wedderburn OR 97491.

Joan Barickman, the author of *Schoolwise*, writes about the plight of the public school's student. She demonstrates how teachers can make a major difference in their students' lives. She incorporated the broad topic of thinking and learning from an interdisciplinary perspective. The book takes a genuine perspective on "real teachers, real children, real schools, real pain and real success." For a copy write to: Heineman-Boynton/Cook, 361 Hanover Street, Portsmouth NH 03801-3912. 1-800-541-2086.

Seymour Fliegel and James MacGuire, the authors of *Miracle in East Harlem: the Fight for Choice in Public schools*, followed New York's District Four school system. The evolution in this inner city school district grew from failure of inefficient schools to a flourishing network of alternative schools. Students were considered the active participants in their "school choice," which made a difference in the role of the student-teacher relationship. District Four experienced a "miracle" in that it became the impetus for improving education. Newsday writes: "What Seymour Fliegel is discussing in this book is choice within a system not a choice to opt out of the system."

INTERNATIONAL MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

FRANCE

Patrice Creve, of Toulouse, France, communicated to us after a long gap.

Patrice, who worked for ANEN, an alternative schools organization, and has visited here, is now involved with the editing of a French ecology magazine, Les Realites Ecologie. He sent a copy to us, with an article in it about French educational alternatives which he had written. He also gave us the new address of the alternative school he helped to found, Theleme, 3 Rue des Chalets, 66280 Vernet, France. "We ready to have people come as students, or for a training course. We now specialize in ecology and language." 8 Chemin de Bagnolet, 31100 Toulouse. Fax: 61 41 50 52.

GERMANY, ENGLAND

Dr. Dorothea Fuckert read an article we wrote, which had appeared in the Summerhill Trust Journal, Vol. 7, 1992. She asked for permission to reprint the article in a German journal called Lebensenergie. She is the mother of a child now at Summerhill. "especially in Germany with its rigid school system, it's important to interest people in alternative education, e.g. Summerhill." I think the Trust Journal, which is now edited by Albert Lamb, is really excellent and important for people to read. The issue she mentioned had articles about Summerhill history, Dewey (by Candy Landvoigt), Homer Lane, etc. The most recent issue, Spring 1993, has articles by John Potter (see Japan), David Gribble of the Sands School, a letter I wrote to theWall Street Journal about Summerhill, and an article about the Modern School, by Jon Scott. Lamb has also edited The New Summerhill, more recent and relevant ideas from the writings of A.S. Neill. It is published by Penguin. The address for the FOS Journal is Summerhill School, Leiston, Suffolk, 1P16 4HY, UNITED KINGDOM.

Satish Kumar, a founder of small schools and the Human Scale Education Movement in England has sent us the announcement of the re-establishment of the Bristol Small School in the Greenway Community Centre in Southmead, "an area of Bristol which has a history of social depravation, high unemployment, school absenteeism, and juvenile crime." They hope to "provide a model for other small community schools in socially deprived urban areas. Also we hope top influence the thinking of those in mainstream schooling." 11 Alma Road Avenue Clifton Bristol BS8 2DH. PH:0272 738433.

Independently (isn't that appropriate?), we heard from Theresa West of the Human Scale Movement and the Small School in Hartland, Devon. She proposed a continuation of the exchange we have with their newsletter, Human Scale Education Newsletter. They also have a school newsletter, Smalltalk, which featured a visit to Japan by the school. Fore Street, Hartland, Bideford, Devon, ENGLAND EX39 6AB.

JAPAN

We very pleased that Hiroshi Ito of the Japanese Association for Humanistic Education has arranged to have a continuing subscription through that organization. He has long been associated with the alternative school

movement in Japan. PO Box 29 Tsunashima Post Office, Tsunashima-dai, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama, Japan 223.

John Potter is still working with the Kinokuni Children's Village, which has now successfully completed its first year. An article he wrote about Homer Lane recently appeared in Skole. He is also working on his Antioch MA thesis, which will be about the influence of A.S. Neill and John Dewey in Japan. I met Potter at the FOS conference at Summerhill, where he used to work. "You will be pleased to learn that the Summerhill video that I got from you is being put to good use." He said he has showed it to many people there, including some visiting Summerhillians. "The only problem is that when the Summerhill students see the video they are eager to get back to Summerhill again as they enjoy it so much there!" A third of Summerhill's students are Japanese! He mentioned that he also just got to meet Dayle Bethel (who organized the alternative education conference in Hawaii) and Kazu Kojima of the Global Free School. If you would like to order the Summerhill video, see the video list at the end of AERO-GRAMME.

I got a big packet of material from Elizabeth Wertheim about the conference of Pacific Rim alternative educators which was held in late March in Hawaii. It was called the Global Revolution in Education, a Trans-Pacific Symposium on Educational Change. Although I helped in the planning, I was not able to attend the conference because of scheduling conflicts. There were people there representing alternatives in Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, and the United States, among others. Dale Bethel was a prime mover of the conference. It sounds like there was a lot of cross-cultural communication. Liz wrote that she got a lot out of the conference personally, and it has helped her in the planning of the new alternative school which they are creating in Hawaii to start this year. For more information, contact, AERO, Ron Miller, or Liz at 888 Hana Highway, Haiku, HI 96788.

RUSSIA

Lena Lubnina, was studying at Hofstra University this summer on an exchange program. Lena was the person who met us at the airport on our last trip to Russia, in December. She has worked at Tubelsky's experimental public alternative, in Moscow. She has also been working at the Ministry of Education. Lena is an insightful and multi-talented person. We worked on several projects while she was here. She will be an important contact person for schools which are interested in exchange programs, etc. Lena and I recently went to Boston to visit Alla Denisenko (they are best friends), who had directed the Language department at Tubelsky's School in Moscow, and had helped us run the youth program at the Eureka Avant Garde in Estonia. She has now emigrated. Her husband is working as a computer software engineer, and her son, Mischa, has helped as an intern at the AERO office. She is still hoping to connect with an alternative program in the

Boston area. She is a wonderful teacher. If you have any ideas, call Alla at 617 739-5403.

While at Alla's, Bob Friel came over to visit. He teaches in the Boston schools, but had met Lena in Russia while serving as the first even Fulbright Scholar to be placed in a Russian public high school. He gave me articles in the Globe and New York Times about his work there at School 11, a school for gifted and talented children, in Kalinin. In a note he sent he said, "There were many agendas going on in one room...Keep up the good work. My good friend Lena is one of the special people we meet-just happens to live in Russia."

In a recent FAX from Alexander Adamsky of the Eureka Free University he said "We were granted a license by the Ministry of Education for educational activity. I consider this to be an important step forward and a real victory for alternative education in Russia. Also, we had our first graduates this year. Although we are completely moneyless, we look forward with optimism." Adamsky mentioned that they will have a conference on famed Russian educational philosopher Vigotsky to be held in January 5-9 and 10-14. The Eureka Avant Garde, which we attended last Christmas, will be held from October 8-12. We were invited again, but doubt we can go to this session because of our commitments to do the Alternative Education Handbook. We understand that members of Sudbury Valley School have been invited. The total cost for a person to attend the conference is \$250 (not including transportation. If you are interested in attending, we could arrange it from AERO, if this gets to you early enough. Also, we can arrange for college students interested in spending a semester in Russia, working with Eureka and attending their seminars.

I first met Tim Monomaryou as a 15 year old two years ago at the First New Schools Festival, in the Crimea. He is a student at the Humanity Center School in Obninsk. He said he learned English by listening to Voice of America. He wrote us a long, well written, and interesting letter about his school, which specializes in teaching English to Russians and Russian to English speakers. "Having read your bulletin I found myself really interested in alternative education. So if I can help you here in Russia in any way, all you have to do is drop me a line." I hope he got the fax I sent him. Zhukovskiy R-ON, UL Guryahova 1/2 Kv 79, 249021 Kaluzhskaya OB1, Russia.

FRANCE

Jacques Levi asked us to mention that a student of his late brother, Jean Levi, has written a book about the democratic school which he started and directed from 1977-1984: Ecole Du IIIeme Type, Marly-Le-Roi. Arcane-Beaunieux, 16 rue du Luc, 14750 Lion/MER, France.

INDIA

Dr. A.N. Malpani, Director of the Community Health Research Programme in Bombay wrote to thank us for mentioning their need for help in creating a homeschooling program there. "We find AERO-GRAMME very useful as a source of information and ideas as to what programmes the world over are doing in the field of alternative education--and it makes us feel a little less alone! However, no one has contacted us yet offering to help with homeschooling!" They would like to set up a program to train people in their community to help parents homeschool. Ashish, Tardeo, Bombay, 400 034 INDIA.

CANADA

The latest issue of Our Schools/Ourselves, a Magazine for Canadian Education Activists, has a story about teaching the Mi'kmaq language to Native American children in Cape Bretton. It was written by George Martel, magazine founder. It features an interview with Marie Battiste, who said that a whole language approach is used in teaching Mi'kmaq at their band-operated school, Mi'kmawey School, on the Chapel Island Reserve. 1698 Gerrard St East, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M4L 2B2.

GERMANY

Jeannette Wilke wrote to us that "within the German free school association we have started to publish a quarterly newsletter. We want to bring our schools more into public discussion, and also to unite the movement. Also, as members of the European Forum for Freedom in Education, we want to network the European movement." She offered an exchange with AERO-GRAMME. Ironically, she got to make the offer in person before I got her letter, because I saw Jeanette in Prague at the EFFE conference!. Frieschule Untertaunus, Am Berg 7, 5429 Herold, Germany.

uyIn a fax, Roger Auffrand congratulated us on our "international (cosmic?)" Alternative Education Handbook. He said his new directory of alternative schools in France should be coming out in October. Agence Informations Enfance, 29 Rue Davy, F 75011 Paris, France. "nditions Hoinacki was deprived of "c(We have a copy of his paper)
Section Edited by AERO intern Lauren Most Section Edited by AERO intern Lauren Most

VIOLENCE ON TV

response to all the debate about violence on TV I scribbled the following note: "American kids like watching violence on TV and in the movies because violence is being done to them, both at school and at home, and in builds up a tremendous amount of anger. It's my bet that kids who have grown up in alternative schools and homeschooling are less interested in seeing

violence, and are far less prone to be violent. The problem is not violence on TV. That's a symptom. Violent material is on TV because it connects with the feelings the children have, thus they want to see it. The real problem is the violence of anti-life, unaffectionate, disempowered and punitive compulsory schooling and home life, all meted out with an uncomprehending smile.

th at school and at home. It punitive compulsory homes, and ing, deadening presented with an uncomprehending smile."After watching a report on TV violence, I wrote the following note:

ee days after getting back from My talk education conferences in Russia we are setting up there. Although his on He talked about his tenure year he New York City schools now have H In Israel I saw again. She as things stand riving will be a difficult task Later she Also e plus, by history plus order ithave joined staff as house parents. the school's Jerryedis the producer of video uses for some of the video work the school video. She recently wrote, A opening next year promises to

@T Retirees will serve as mentors for students .will cover secular, Christian, and other areas of study. They hope research and development contacted AERO He welcomes your input. Wayne Jennings at to Hurricane Andrew They are looking for more boarding students, and families interested in living there. Star Rt 1 Box 127, Crescent City, FL 32112. rls and their dreams." It is a, and is quickly growing by :populations, homeschoolers and alternative s

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Supporting contribution to AERO_____ (Make checks payable to AERO/School of Living) \$25_____ \$50_____ \$100_____ Other \$_____

We'd also like to call your attention to materials available through AERO:

My Life As a Traveling Homeschooler by Jenifer Goldman, Solomon Press
An 11 year old describes her adventures visiting homeschoolers and helping her uncle start new alternative schools around the USA and Canada. Kids everywhere are reading this book and deciding to write their own books!

-----\$7.95 , \$5.55 for orders of 5 or more
\$_____

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Reprinted materials from our three trips to Russia, and articles written by participants of the teacher-training seminar in Moscow and Narva, Estonia.-----\$5_____

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION IN THE SOVIET UNION:

An hour and a half documentary of our trip to the First New Schools Festival, in the Crimea, USSR, concluding one day before the coup. Includes excerpts from the train trip from London to Moscow, a tour of Moscow, meetings in the Ministry of Education and Yeltsin's White House, the conference in the Crimea, with a demonstration of democratic decision-making with Russian students, detailed descriptions and demonstrations by the Stork Family School, a parent cooperative in the Ukrain.

-----\$25-----

TEACHER TRAINING SEMINARS IN RUSSIA AND ESTONIA, 1992

This is the video of one of the most amazing seminars we have ever experienced, with involvement of 7 American students, including 3 homeschoolers, 4 alternative school teachers, 25 Russian children, 125 Russian teachers, our presentations of democratic decision-making, workshops given by our students, trips to Tallin, the capital of Estonia, and St. Petersburg, Russia, and a bit of Summerhill at the end. Also available is new tape of the Polajaiky Avant Garde Seminar, Christmas, 1992.

-----\$25 each-----

SUMMERHILL VIDEO:

Two videos in one: the 1990 International Alternative School Conference at Summerhill, with interviews of Summerhill students and alumni, as well as vivid footage of the Summerhill end of term celebration. Also, Summerhill's 70th anniversary celebration in August, 1991, featuring more alumni interviews, and a Summerhill democratic meeting. -----
\$25-----

Nellie Dick and the Modern School Movement:

A two hour interview with a 96 year old pioneer in the alternative education movement. Born in the Ukrain of Jewish anarchist parents in 1893, she started anarchist schools in England back in 1908, went to the United States in 1917 to teach at the Modern School, in New Jersey, based on the work of Francisco Ferrer, and taught at and ran Modern Schools until 1958. Her son Jim, who was a student at the Modern Schools and is now a 70 year old pediatrician is also interviewed. There are also excerpts from the Modern School reunion in 1989 which featured the Spanish Modern Schools.-----
\$25-----

The 1990 Modern School Reunion:

Features a 45 minute talk by Nellie Dick, at 97, and a talk by author Professor Paul Avrich, who wrote The Modern School Movement.-----
\$25-----

The 1991 Modern School Reunion:

Features a slide show/talk by Edgar Taffel, a Modern School alumni who apprenticed with Frank Lloyd Wright, and wrote a book about his work. Also, a talk by octogenarian Zack Shaw, a former Modern School student and teacher, who now teaches at Peninsula School, in California.

-----\$25-----

The 1993 Modern School Reunion

Commemorates Nellie Dick's 100th birthday celebration, with talks by many former Modern School Students, songs sung by former students and Nellie, herself----\$20

Nellie Dick's 100th Birthday Party,

Held at her son, Dr. Jim Dick's house in Oyster Bay, features excerpts and interviews with people who attended her birthday party in May.....\$20

Two WPIX TV shows about Homeschooling and Alternative Education

Two WPIX TV shows about Homeschooling and Alternative Education In the first, Jerry Mintz introduces alternatives in the tri-state area, with on site visitation of the Long Island Homeschoolers, and Manhattan Country School. In the second, Jerry and two homeschoolers are grilled by WPIX interviewer in the studio. One homeschooler started because her son had cancer, and the schools refused to teach him. She homeschooled, and when he was cured, returned to find he had passed his class. If you want, we'll ad a five minute interview with 12 year old Jenifer Goldman on Cable 12, in which she discusses her book.-----\$25_____

The National Alternative School Directory:

A list and description of hundreds of alternative schools, in the United States and other countries, as well as homeschool resources, alternative boarding schools and colleges, etc.

-----\$15_____

DEMOCRATIC MEETINGS:

A two hour tape of demonstrations of various democratic meetings, including one at Summerhill, a meeting of Russian students at the New Schools Festival in the Crimea (translated into English), a demonstration meeting with Long Island homeschoolers, age 4-13, a meeting setting up a democratic system for an "at risk" public high school alternative, and a democratic meeting at a public "choice" high school.

-----\$25_____

CODE CRASH--For quickly learning the Morse Code.

This is a tape two 12 year old homeschoolers, a boy and a girl, each learn the Morse code by our unique method, in less than 20 minutes each. People interested in getting their amateur radio license will be amazed. It works.

-----\$20_____

BACK ISSUES of AERO-GRAMME 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 \$5 each.

\$_____

HOMESCHOOL RESOURCE CENTERS

A video of a homeschool resource center, featuring the Snakefoot Education Center, at Common Ground Community. This is a group of families that created a center in which 15 homeschooled children meet three times a week. They also hired a resource person.

-----\$20-----

Add \$2 for postage for books and videos.

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In this issue we are making the most important announcement we have made to you, loyal readers of AERO-GRAMME. Most of you are pioneers in alternative education. As you know, our underlying philosophy is to promote communication among the educational alternatives and to work toward making the movement more cohesive, and ultimately, available to all learners. Toward that goal, for several years I have been working on a comprehensive directory of all educational alternatives. Along the way we have had great help and encouragement from members of the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools (NCACS), the Global Alliance for Transforming Education (GATE), the International Affiliation of Alternative Schools and Personnel, and many other organizations and individuals.

The pursuit of this dream took a fortuitous turn when I met publishers Sidney and Raymond Solomon at one of the reunions of the Modern School Movement. Sidney's wife, Clara, was a student at the Stelton Modern School many years ago. Sid and Raymond liked the idea of doing a comprehensive alternative education directory, and began looking for a major co-publisher. I have been working with them on this for the past three years, gathering information and creating a prototype directory of the educational alternatives in New York State. At last, after much work, Sidney Solomon was able to land a contract for us with the world renowned Macmillan Publishing Company! Sidney was the design director for Macmillan for many years, and is now co-director of the Solomon Press along with his son, Raymond. The Solomon Press and Macmillan will co-publish the book.

The Alternative Education Handbook will list over 5000 educational alternatives, with as many descriptions as possible. These will include independent alternatives, public "choice" and "at risk" schools, Montessori and Waldorf schools, home-based educational resources and groups, and alternatives in higher education. There will also be chapters by some of the major educators and writers in this field. They will write about the history of the alternative education movement, explain how to start an alternative school or change an existing one, as well as chapters on public alternatives, Montessori, Waldorf, and homeschooling approaches.

We are under time pressure. We need to have the bulk of the data back and edited before the end of the calendar year and we need your help in this process. First, if you represent an alternative school or program, or homeschool support group, we'd like you to fill in the questionnaire in this issue and return it to us as soon as possible. We also need your suggestions about schools, programs, and homeschool groups we might not know of. Feel free to make copies of the questionnaire and cover letter to send to other educational alternatives. That would save us a step, as long as you let us to whom you've sent them; or else just send us the addresses, and we'll mail them a questionnaire. We can also take data on fax, disk, or e mail. We have a Mac Centris 610, and are using FileMaker Pro. We've already done a special mailing to those publications with which we have exchanges, asking them to reprint the questionnaire, or at least, to tell people about it. We also have representatives in 42 states. Over twenty are from state alternative education organizations that have agreed to help with this project at the Alternative Education Conference in Boulder, Colorado. It is possible that additional state alternative education organizations could be created as a result of this project and the information that it generates. We'd certainly be happy to help in any way. Please let us know if you would be willing to help us gather more information in your state. We'll let you know how things stand, and what you can do.

THE EUROPEAN FORUM FOR FREEDOM IN EDUCATION, PRAGUE, THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Paralleling the dramatic changes which have taken place in Eastern Europe in the last four years has been the creation and development of the European Forum for Freedom in Education. Much of this is the result of work by 60 year old Eginhard Fuchs, a Waldorf educator and co-founder of the Waldorfpädagogic, a teacher training program in Witten-Annen, Germany.

As Fuchs says in his book, *Toward Freedom in Education*, "Today western Europeans sometimes find it difficult to remember what their continent looked like in autumn 1989. For us, confronted by the sober realities of the present, it is still more difficult to recapture the feelings of hope and excitement of those heady days in the middle of November." In the Fall

of 1989 the first forum on educational alternatives in Western and Eastern Europe took place.

Though I had been in regular communication with Fuchs and the EFFE for more than two years, I was unable to attend any of their meetings until this past June. Since I was going to be a presenter at the Democratic Education conference in Jerusalem which was scheduled to take place just after the EFFE, they covered the extra costs for making the stop in Prague.

There were 250 alternative educators attending, from 34 countries and they were from as far away as Armenia. I was the first to attend from the United States. Although organized by Waldorf educators, the EFFE membership includes a broad spectrum of approaches. There were several there whom I had met before, including Eleine Sheppel and Tanya Kavalova of Russia's Eureka Free University, and Martin Naf, with whom I have communicated extensively. Martin has organized the alternatives in Switzerland. His Swiss group will host the next full EFFE meeting. Naf, speaks perfect English with an American accent, from the time he worked with alternative programs in the United States.

The meeting site was awesome, set in the middle of Prague, at Charles University. The President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel was supposed to greet us, but was ill. The president of Charles University spoke, and there was special music written for the event.

Still it was very much a working conference, with groups working on collaborative teacher training, minorities in education, freedom and individuality in teaching, and alternative teaching methods in state (public) schools. I participated in the groups and showed AERO videos, as well as "Why do these Kids Love School?" Martin Naf introduced me to Ehrenhard Skiera of Germany who has written a Handbook of Educational Reform and Alternative Schools in Europe. He has sent me a copy.

We also visited alternative schools in Prague. Eleine, Tanya, and I visited První Obnovene Reálné Gymnázium (PORG), a private alternative which receives 70% of the public school tuition for each student enrolled. We were very impressed, and I have a list of students who would like pen pals (as well as a list of Israeli students). I also discovered that there is little homeschooling in Prague, but one family which wanted to homeschool had to apply to be a school. For doing so, they receive 70% of the public school tuition to educate their own children! Contact AERO if you would like the pen pal list.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, JUNE 6-10, 1993

For several powerful reasons, my first trip to Israel, was one I will never

forget.

There were 450 participants at this conference, from 40 countries. A man from Hungary has attended the Prague conference as well.

With great pomp, the opening ceremony at the Binyaney Ha'ooma Convention Center featured important officials such as Amnon Rubenstein, the new Israeli Minister of Education and Teddy Kollek, long-time Mayor of Jerusalem. But I had no idea that the keynote speaker for the conference would be the new President of Israel, Ezer Weizmann, the nephew of Chaim Weizmann. He is intelligent and straight-forward, and his speech was enthusiastically received. After he spoke I was thrilled to be able to interview him personally. In our conversation, he went beyond what he had said publicly. When I told him about a process of protecting minorities in a democracy that we learned from the Iroquois Indians he said, "Fine! I didn't want to say it in my speech, but you are from one of the great Western democracies. How well are you protecting the minority rights in Bosnia?" Speaking of democracy, he said "Soon I will have to meet with Assad of Syria. What am I supposed to say to him, 'Go home and get elected' ? No, I have to meet him where he is."

There is no question that this conference was steeped with a political agenda to promote dialogue between Jews and Arabs. In light of more recent events, it is likely that some participants in this conference played a role in the communications that have led to the new agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. Many of the participants were already actively involved in that dialogue. For example, one of the members of the roundtable I chaired was an Arab man who is working with 500 Bedouin children to teach them democratic approaches. The roundtable was entitled "Is Democratization of a School a Condition for Education for Democracy?"

The next day I chaired a symposium, "Democratization of Schools: Types and Ways." Presenters included Lois Holzman of the Barbara Taylor School in New York, David Gribble, of the Sands School in England, and students and teachers from the Democratic School of Hadera, Israel. Dan Greenberg of Sudbury Valley School, in MA, participated from the audience. Later, Dan gave several talks, including one entitled "Education for Democracy Demands Democratic Schools" which was very compelling. At my request he has graciously sent me a copy of that talk. Despite all this, we found that we practitioners of democratic education were in the minority among the many academics in attendance.

One of the sponsors of the conference was the Adam Institute, which is dedicated to promoting democracy in education. I bought one of their books entitled There is no Such Thing as Some Democracy. Their address is Jerusalem Forest, POB 3353, 91033 Jerusalem, Israel.

There were many more presenters, including Alexander Adamski of the Eureka Free University in Russia, Deborah Meier of Central Park East Alternative School, NY, Yakov Hecht of the Democratic School of Hadera, Howard Gardner of Harvard University, Michael Apple of the University of Wisconsin, and even Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former President of Poland.

After the conference there was a "Mini-conference" at the Democratic School of Hadera. Participants included Greenberg, Hecht, Gribble, and Fred Bay of the Bay-Paul Foundation, which had funded significant improvements at the school in its library and computer systems. The school of 300 students, K-12, runs as a parliamentary democracy, with non-compulsory class attendance. Some aspects of the school are startling, such as its setting in a eucalyptus grove, its computerized Lego room, its high powered drama program, and the enthusiasm of its students. Equally startling and distressing to me is the 2500 student waiting list for this public alternative. I met several of these students who were not able to get in. Since it is a public school, however, it is up to the Ministry of Education to create more like it. I did visit a small one, the Democratic School of Jaffa. Also distressing to me is the fact that homeschooling is not legal in Israel. "We don't always enforce it," the Ministry told me. Of course, that isn't good enough. As someone suggested, it is ironic that a student looking for an Orthodox religious school would not face such a waiting list, yet the philosophy of Hadera must certainly be more in tune with the ideas of the current administration.

I am very thankful to the people of the Democratic School of Hadera for making all arrangements for the conferences. I don't have the time or space to talk about my experiences in Israel after the conferences. I did get to see long-lost relatives, including four cousins. One, Bernice Singer, is doing important networking with a newsletter on autism, called Mifgash-Nisi (Box 71066, Jerusalem 91079). I am very thankful to Arik and Shula Rimmerman, my second cousin, with whom I stayed after the conferences. Arik is doing extensive research on cerebral palsy and pre-natal care. I'm glad he insisted that I travel to Masada, the Dead Sea, and the Golan Heights. I also saw the Dead Sea Scrolls, and visited the Bah'ai Shrine in Haifa. As I said, I won't forget the experience of Israel.

INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CONFERENCE, BOULDER, CO, JUNE 24-27
We had only one day in New York after the conference in Israel before boarding a train for the 23rd Annual Alternative Education Conference in Boulder. There were over 400 participants, from 35 states. My niece Jenifer Goldman and homeschooler Shiloh Moates joined me. One of our purposes was to get the help and support of the State Alternative Education Associations with production of the Alternative Education Handbook. All 22 in attendance signed up to help. We have since added 20 state representatives who have

been actively working with us. Perhaps this will lead to the creation of more state organizations.

There were workshops on everything from charter schools to self-schooling. Tom Williams, head of LEARN in CA demonstrated a computer system that is used by 20,000 students in alternative schools that he supervises. Maurice Gibbons, creator of the Walkabout Curriculum, also presented.

One day featured a barbecue at the site of the new Eagle Rock School, in Estes Park, a boarding school for disadvantaged inner city children who have high potential. It is funded by Honda. The architect, Barrett Steele, has done a magnificent job of blending the school into the mountain environment.

MODERN SCHOOL CELEBRATES NELLIE DICK'S 100th BIRTHDAY

AERO-GRAMME readers are probably quite aware of the Modern School Movement, based on the work of Francisco Ferrer, which started at the turn of the century. Nellie Dick, born Naomi Ploschasky in the Ukraine in 1893, of Jewish Anarchist parents, was an important pioneer in the movement. After having started anarchist schools in England as far back as 1907, when she was 13, she came to the United States with her husband, Jim Dick, in 1917. They worked at and founded several Modern Schools. Nellie continued to work until 1958, when she retired, closing the last known Modern School, in Lakewood, NJ. Yet such is the commitment of former Modern School students that they have a reunion every year! In May of this year, Nellie Dick celebrated her 100th birthday at the home of her son, also named Jim Dick, now a well known pediatrician, in Oyster Bay, NY. Hundreds of former students, parents and teachers in the Modern Schools attended, including her younger sister, from Florida, age 99!

On September 11th, the Modern School reunion also celebrated Nellie's 100th birthday, with talks by many of the participants. We now have a series of 5 videos documenting the Modern School and Nellie. Ron Miller said in a review of the first tape, "As we listen to this remarkable woman describe her experiences in anarchist schools of the 1910's and 1920's, we realize that many of the issues we struggle with today are perennial educational questions. They believed that people learn from the time of birth, irrespective of our efforts to teach them what we think they should know-- and their faith in the learning process was borne out by the creativity and joyful learning of their students.."

Shiloh Moates, a 14 year old homeschooler from Floyd, VA, attended this year's Modern School reunion, and reported about his experience:

"One of the former Modern School students, Leonard Scheer, lives in Huntington, on Long Island, near our office. So we gave him a ride to the

reunion."

"He is an 85 years old, well known architect. On the ride over, Leonard told us many stories about his childhood and experiences with the Modern School. What I found particularly interesting was how he began his experience as an architect. He did this by interning with a couple of different architectural firms, starting at the age of 15 and a half as a messenger boy. 'Then they found out I could draw.' "

"The fact that many of the Modern School graduates became prosperous and well known in their field of expertise put my mind to ease: It made me feel that I was doing the right thing by educating myself through homeschooling."

-----\$20_____a . "Ehighly recommendeda collection of ed urban areas. Also we hope toalso had starting in HawaiiElizabeth,ast trip to Russia, in December, ies summer on an exchange program. public alternative, in Moscow and is now in exchange programs, etc. Lena and Iher best friend, mefirstever Later he wrote recently faxed us saying throughage Tim, did you get the fax I sent you? , of ToulouseAEROUs a copyof hisFrench educational alternatives

,P 1: In AERO office, working on Handbook, standing, l to r: Ouida Mintz, Jerry Mintz, Sidney Solomon. Seated: Lauren Most, Alan MuscatP 3: Hot air balloon takes off from open square in Prague

P 4: Site of Prague EFFE conferenceP 5: Eginhard Fuchs, Speaker of EFFEP 6: Opening talk by President of Charles UniversityP 7: EFFE working groupwas one I will never forget.

P 7B: Jerry Mintz (disguised in black suit) at conference receptionhadP 8: Israeli President Ezzar Weizmann speaking at opening ceremonies

P 9: President Ezzar Weizmann (l) after talkP 10: L-R Lois Holzman, David Gribble, Lotte Kreissler, Austria in JerusalemP 11: Jerry Mintz and

Alexander Adamsky in JerusalemP 12 Fred Bay (l) and Yakov Hecht at Hadera

P 13: The mini-conference at HaderaP 14: Students at Democratic School of Hadera

P 15: 2000 year old house at Golan HightsP 16: Jenifer Goldman on mountaintop in Colorado

P 17: Pat Edwards of Tarariki School, New Zealand, at Boulder Conference

P 18: Participants at Boulder ConferenceP 19: Nellie Dick at her 100th birthday celebration in Oyster Bay

P 20: Jerry with Nellie Dick at Modern School reunion, New JerseyP 21:

Nellie Dick speaking at Modern School reunionA related note:

P 22: Debbie Meier at EWA Conference in Boston

P 23: Secretary of Education Richard Riley at EWA Conference

BERKSHIRE LIVE OUT!

From July 25-31 there was a "live out" organized by Free School founder Mary Leue at her farm in the Berkshires. Organized around speakers including writer and educator John Gatto, Holt Associates's Pat Farenga, ALLPIE's Katherine Houk and Seth Rockmuller, Holistic Education Review founder Ron Miller, Friends of the Modern School organizer Jon Scott, Leue and myself, participants of all ages lived and worked and played together throughout the week. P 24: Mary Leue and John Gatto get travel expenses paid by Mary Leue at Live Out.

P 24 B: Orrt visit to the United States P 25: Lena Lubnina (1), Marge Thornton, Alla Denisenko, Mischa Denisenko, Serge Denisenko in back!