

TEACHERS, JOBS, INTERNSHIPS

Summer positions are now being filled for participants and staff of Legacy Internationals' Summer program. Program staff and ancillary program instructors are needed in a variety of subject and skill areas. Counseling, administrative, and support service staff people are also being sought. The program dates are from June 18 to August 20 and serves 11 to 18 year olds from many countries and cultures. Contact Leila Baz, Rte 4, Box 265-P, Bedford, VA 24523. Tel: 540-297-5982. Fax: 540-297-1860.

Meggan Towell wrote us: "Although you don't know me, I certainly feel like I know you after poring over The Almanac of Educational Choices, reading and savoring my first copy of Aerogramme, and just finishing your niece's book, My Life as a Traveling Home Schooler. WOW! All I can say is thank you for doing all you have for alternative education." Thank you, Meggan! Meggan is seeking a position in a progressive, child centered community as a student in a specialized teacher college, as an assistant, co-teacher, or intern in a school setting in the New York City area. She can be reached at 245 East 93rd St, Apt 6G, New York, NY 10128. Tel: 212-996-7477.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Edy Geraedts is looking for a job in an alternative school or program in France. She is also interested in locating a suitable school for her child. Please send information to her at 21 bis Angien Chemin De Paris, 60430 Tillard, France.

Hawthorn Press has announced the publication of a new book called Freeing Education: Towards Real Choice and Diversity. Directed at teachers, parents, pupils and communities, the book addresses the problems in education today and argues for greater choice and diversity and how this can be achieved. It includes articles from educational leaders. 1 Lansdown Lane, Lansdown, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 1BJ. Tel: Stroud 01453. Fax: 01453 751138.

We have learned about two Internet home pages which may interest our readers. The first is the Alternative Learning Exchange (<http://mcs.nl/ale/ale-3.html>) which is based in The Netherlands and was created to facilitate communication between people of different countries and cultures who are interested in alternative education. The second is called Educare (<http://mcs.nl/ale/educare.html>) which also publishes a magazine. It is a network of connections between the USA, Europe, former USSR, India and Australia. Educare encourages a holistic approach towards raising and educating children.

Kyoko Aizawa, of the Japanese home-based education support group, Otherwise

Japan, wrote to us explaining the difference between free schools for school refusers, such as Tokyo Shure, and home education. The free schools educate students in a manner which is adaptable to public school in order to receive diplomas. Homeschoolers, however, are considered truant and therefore cannot receive elementary school and junior high diplomas. They are then unable to attend high school or college. Otherwise Japan is fighting for the right of parents to homeschool their children if they so choose. Kyoko and Otherwise Japan can be e-mailed at JAB02521@niftyserve.or.jp

Issue 109 of Growing Without Schooling included a report on homeschooling in Spain. Bippan Norberg, who wrote the article, says that in 1989 a copy of GWS was translated into Spanish, after which many homeschooling families started to meet with one another. In 1993, the first national homeschoolers meeting was held and since then seven more conventions have been held. Homeschooling is legal in Spain only in special cases, although no homeschooling family has had serious legal problems to date. The Norberg family has lived in Spain for eight years and is originally from Sweden. GWS, 2269 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

The winter 1996 Feature Supplement of Education Now compared a list of what the school system assumes to a list of what the new learning system assumes. For instance, the school system assumes that "Learning is preparation for life so at some point learning stops and living starts." The new learning system assumes that "Learning is life, because humans are learning animals, and while we are alive, we are learning."

Adrian Munteanu is writing a study on L. A. Reid, appointed in 1947 as the first Professor of Philosophy of Education at the Institute of Education, University of London. Reid was a proponent of a holistic approach to an education of the whole person. Adrian would appreciate receiving information on Reid and his work. Write to him at 30 Newstead Walk, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 1AW, UK. Tel/fax: 0181-646-7449.

We recently heard from the students and teachers of the Moscow International Film School telling us that last November they participated in a seminar called, "Screen forms of communications in open society." Students of Germantown High School and of MIFS jointly shot and produced a film about their summer tour together.

PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

Volume 2 of the US Department of Education's idea book, Raising the Educational Achievement of Secondary School Students, includes a profile of New York's City-As-School High School. A study revealed that CAS students had a 77% graduation rate compared to only 27% of students in a control

group. Four-fifths of CAS graduates went on to college. The idea book is available from the US Dept. of Ed., 400 Maryland Ave.SW, Washington, DC 20202-0100.

The last regular publication of the Center on Organization and Restructuring of Schools was published in the fall 1995. This final issue focuses on "Another Look at High School Restructuring". It expands on the Center's earlier findings and analyzing data on the same students who were included in the 1994 study. For information on this and other publications and research, contact the Center at 1025 W. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53706. Tel: 608-263-7575.

HOME EDUCATION NEWS

Shad Sterling has asked for suggestions regarding possible internships or jobs this summer or fall. Areas of interest include dance, theater, musical theater, computers, and physics. He has had some training and experience.

The Christian Science Monitor printed an article called "Learning at Home" on Feb. 26. They subsequently printed homeschoolers' responses to that article, including a letter from Lyndia J. Musco, from Massachusetts. She has been homeschooled since first grade and argues that a parent need not have a college degree for their children to be educated at home. Whatever she wants to learn that her parents are unable to teach her, she teaches herself. In this way she learned block-carving and printing and had a children's book published. We thought she made some very valid points and we agree that "Homeschooling is not a one-sided endeavor."

The latest issue of Learning Happens! printed an interesting article by Kathleen Kelley called "Home Made Religion." In it, she compares organized religion to institutional schooling. She argues convincingly that separating religion from life is much like separating learning from life and that there is a better way. Learning Happens!, 3135 Lakeland Dr., Nashville, TN 37214-3312.

An article about a homeschooler who recently became a Rhodes Scholar was printed in the Moore Report International (March/April 1996). Barnaby March was homeschooled from the time he was six years old and now attends Cornell University, majoring in ornithology. He attributes his accomplishments to his mother, Cheryl and the Moore formula of study-work-service. MRI, Box 1, Camas, WA 98360. Tel: 206-835-2736.

We enjoyed an e-mail message from Kyce, a homeschooler in Taos, New Mexico, explaining how he joined an alternative school "mostly because I wanted an excuse to spend time in town and away from my parents because ... I was

living in the real boonies." At first there was a director and between 5 and 8 students. After the director left, the remaining five students continued the school on their own. Sounds like they're doing a very good job and having fun, too! The school can be reached at 505-758-2364.

The 1996 Homeschooler's Travel Directory, a list of people who would like to meet other home-schoolers, is now available. It is organized by state and available from the National Homeschool Association, PO Box 157290, Cincinnati, OH 45215-7290.

Homeschoolers in North Carolina and elsewhere would be interested in reading The Greenhouse Report of January/February 1996. It published an article called "Why Home School Families Should Support House Bill 954" by Spencer Mason. This article explains the bill which would give a refundable tax credit to parents. For more information, contact North Carolinians for Home Education, 419 N. Boylan Ave., Raleigh, NC 27603-1211.

MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

A full-time wilderness therapeutic program called Camp Wilderness is for boys aged 10-17. It is run by Talisman Schools, Inc., which also has a summer camp for specially challenged learning problems. To learn more about these programs, contact Talisman at 601 Camp Elliot Rd., Black Mountain, NC 28711. Tel: 404-508-1036. Fax: 404-508-1514.

Preliminary applications for grants from the MacArthur/Spencer Professional Development Program to be awarded in the Spring, 1997, will be accepted through September, 1996. The Foundation supports research and documentation studies about effective professional development for adults working in schools. For further information, call or write Peggy Mueller or Lisa Kajdacsi, 900 N. Michigan, Suite 2800, Chicago, IL 60611-1542. Tel: 312-337-7000 ext. 604.

The global friends school has published "a pilgrimage journal" (they use lower case letters). The journal documents the Joy family's travels through North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. It includes dozens of photographs taken in various places. For more information about the journal and global friends school, write to 11044 Weeping Willow Way, Nevada City, CA 95959. Or call 1-916-477-1277.

The Critical Linkages II Newsletter's January 1996 issue published articles entitled "Positive Trendlines in Education," "Checklist for Quality Learning Environments," and "Promoting Self-Evaluation, Not Self-Defense." It is published by the Center for Essential Linkages & Learning, 21 Wallis Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167.

During the fall of 1995 Minsky Sadofsky and Daniel Greenberg spent much time studying schools similar to Sudbury Valley School in order to "discern factors that enhance or decrease the likelihood of success" of SVS-type schools. They studied schools from Maine to Oregon, and in Israel. Their activities are outlined in the January 1996 Sudbury Valley Press Newsletter.

Recently, New York State has intervened in the administration of the Roosevelt, Long Island, School District. The reasons cited were "financial mismanagement, lack of discipline, teacher absenteeism, and textbook shortages." This was reported in the 23rd Center for Education Reform's Monthly Letter. An idea they pose is to dismiss current board members and allow citizens to address the problem themselves. 1001 Connecticut Ave.NW, Suite 920, Washington, DC 20036. Tel: 202-822-9000. Fax: 202-822-5077.

According to the Education Reporter (Jan/Feb 1996), the popularity of magnet schools during the past 15 years has seen a great rise in popularity. The report states that magnet schools often get extra funding and, as a result, have more resources than regular schools. They generally spend more per pupil and have greater autonomy in hiring policies. However, some complain that magnet schools take the best students away from regular schools and that they favor white students over minorities. The report was written by Amy Stuart Wells. 1331 H St. NW, Suite 307, Washington, DC 20005.

A new Master of Arts degree is being introduced this summer at The Institute for Educational Studies and Norwich University. It will focus on Holistic, Transformative Education. The program will use a combination of two summer residencies and Internet mediated virtual classrooms. For more information contact Philip Snow Gand, Academic Dean and TIES Director, PO Box 21, Grafton, VT 05148. Tel: 800-386-7725. Fax: 802-843-2300. E-mail: InstEd@aol.com.

A law was recommended recently by a New York State child-abuse panel headed by Attorney General Dennis Vacco that would make the parents of truant children subject to up to seven years in prison under a new felony-level class of child endangerment. Presently, Vacco said, this type of "neglect" is considered a misdemeanor with a penalty of one year in jail. This recommendation was argued against by State School Boards Association Executive Director Lousi Grumet, who believes a direct link between truancy and abuse cannot be made; that Vacco's recommendation was harsh; and that deep reflection was needed with no rush to judgment.

The Spring 1996 issue of the Public School Montessorian included a review of The Almanac of Educational Choices, edited by Jerry Mintz and recently published by MacMillan. We thank PSM for their favorable review which

noted that "Mintz has long been the leading chronicler of nontraditional educational options." Jola Publications, 2933 N. 2nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55411.

A helpful article for parents of children with ADD/ADHD was printed in the February 1996 issue of Educational Leadership: Students with Special Needs. Written by Thomas Armstrong, "A Holistic Approach to Attention Deficit Disorder" emphasis is on the importance of a holistic approach to the child in place of traditional methods. He touches upon ways of creating "a wellness paradigm, rather than a deficit perspective rooted in a ... disease-based model." Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 1250 N. Pitt St., Alexandria, VA 22314-9718.

The National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools is in serious financial crisis. At the present time, dues, directory sales, and conference surpluses fall short of funding NCACs basic functions. They are embarking on a grass-roots campaign to help keep the Coalition afloat. Please contact Ed Nagel, Nat'l Office Manager, POB 15036, Santa Fe, NM 87506. Tel: 505-474-4312.

A 1995 homeschool graduate, Angelina Sylvester, is the illustrator of the recently released Home School, High School, & Beyond. The book was written by Beverly L. Adams-Gordon and provides goal setting, career exploration, college planning, and home school record keeping information. For more information, contact Castlemoyle Books, 15436 42nd Ave S., Seattle, WA 98188. Tel: 202-439-0248.

The Center for Life Studies of Sunbridge College is sponsoring the second annual conference with the theme of Families: Meeting the Needs of Changing Forms. It will take place April 19 & 20 and will feature six workshop groups. Sunbridge College, 260 Hungry Hollow Rd., Spring Valley, NY 10977.

Internship opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, high school students and others are listed in the 1996-97 edition of The National Directory of Internships. It is published by the National Society for Experiential Education, which has also introduced The Internship as Partnership: A Handbook for Campus-Based Coordinators & Advisors. This book is a guide to planning, monitoring, and evaluating internship programs and includes sample forms from some campus-based programs adaptable to your program. NSEE, 3509 Haworth Dr., Suite 207, Raleigh, NC 26709. Tel: 919-787-3263. Fax: 919-787-3381.

Educational Resources Unlimited is a company which offers information, materials, and programs related to entertainment and education. They also publish a newsletter called E.L.F. News. At the present time, they are looking for a site for their resource center. PO Box 67, Shewsbury, PA

17361.

The January 1996 issue of the American Association for Gifted Children Newsletter printed an article by Julie Stewart called "Homeschooling the Gifted Child -- Try It!" and one by Julie Blackwell called "Home Education: A Growing Trend." Also included in this issue is a fairly comprehensive list of homeschool resources and books. AAGC, 1121 W. Main St., Suite 100, Durham, NC 27701.

Bill Ellis, founder and editor of Tranet, has decided to take a three-year sabbatical to write a book on the transition from the Industrial Culture to a Gaian Culture. In the meantime, he is searching for a replacement publisher/editor and raising funds to keep the newsletter going. For more information, contact Bill at PO Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970. Tel: 864-2252. E-mail: tranet@lgc.apc.org.

A new video, "Internet for Educators" is now available from White Rain Films, Ltd. It is a step-by-step guide demonstrating effective techniques for using the World Wide Web, e-mail, file transfer protocol, and others. Also included is a booklet with detailed information on getting connected and navigating the Internet immediately. Joel S. Bacher, 111 South Lander, Suite 301, Seattle, WA 98134. Tel: 206-682-5417. Fax: 206-682-3038. E-mail: witerain@speakeasy.org.

Nat Needle of Clonlara School recently wrote us: "For a school which annually travels across the country, depending on the hospitality of other alternative schools, your directory has proven a real blessing these past two years. It has enabled us to find generous and kind people in places that otherwise might have proved tough nuts for us to crack: Oklahoma, Idaho, South Dakota; places where people, let alone alternative schools, are sparsely scattered." Thank you for those kind words, Nat, we appreciate it very much. 1289 Jewett St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Our apologies to Billy Greer of F.U.N. News for listing their address incorrectly in Issue #17. For a free issue of the newsletter, please write to 1688 Belhaven Woods CT., Pasadena, MD 21122-3727. E-mail: 619-3098@MCImail.com.

The Winter 1995/96 issue of Great Ideas in Education included The Almanac of Education Choices as one of their "New and Recommended by the Editor" feature titles. Ron Miller writes: "it is a valuable tool for all educators interested in learning about a wide range of innovative and dynamic programs and making contact with the people who develop and run them." Great Ideas in Education is a publication of the Resource Center for Redesigning Education which reviews and makes available hard-to-find books and videos drawn from more than forty catalogs of academic and trade

publishers, small presses, professional associations, and individual educational programs. PO Box 298, Brandon, VT 05733-0298.

The Puget Sound Community School Newsletter also reviewed The Almanac of Education Choices in its January issue. Andy Smallman states that the Almanac is "an important addition to any alternative education library." This issue also listed their Top 10 On-Line Educational Resources for January, including AERO. For the complete list, contact the school at: 1715 112th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004.

The International Montessori Society will be holding the following conferences this spring: April 13-14 in Minneapolis, MN; May 4-5 in Houston, TX; and May 18-19 in New York, NY. The theme of these conferences will be "Creating the New Education." For more information, contact IMS at 912 Thayer Ave #207, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Tel: 301-589-1127.

A good resource for all kinds of books at very reasonable prices is Dover Publications, Inc. They print several bulletins during the year, each listing dozens of selections. For a free catalog, write to Dover at 31 East 2nd St., Mineola, NY 11501.

Deschooling Our Lives is a collection of 24 insightful essays written by leaders in the alternative education field, including John Taylor Gatto, John Holt, Grace Llewellyn, Seth Rockmuller and Katharine Houk among others. It covers the roots of modern deschooling, analyses of the public school system, homeschooling, alternative schools, and a reading and resource list. Edited by Matt Hern, the book is available from New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada V0R 1X0. Tel: 604-247-9737. Fax: 604-247-7471.

Newly revised and updated, All the Best Contests for Kids 5th Edition contains everything kids need to know to enter over 175 contests. It includes a wide variety of national and local competitions in many different categories. It was written by Joan Bergstron, Ed.D. and her son, Craig who wrote the first edition of this book with his mother while he was a senior in high school. Tricycle Press, PO Box 7123, Berkeley, CA 94707. Tel: 510-559-1600 ext. 3072. Fax: 510-559-1637.

The Winter 1996 edition of Solos featured an article by Stanley C. Whitehead called "The Summerhill Legacy," and one by Jerry Mintz called "Summerhill Then ... and Now." Jerry points out in his article that there are no American children at Summerhill, which is located in England, but there are many students from Japan, France and Germany. 927 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94710.

The mission of Link Community School, founded in 1969, is to combat Newark,

New Jersey's devastating 50% drop-out rate by intervening early, working with students and turning them around. Newark's drop-out rate is still very high, but Link has made a difference; 90 to 95% of its students go on to graduate high school and 80% continue their education after graduating. For more information, contact James Verrilli, Link Community School, 139 Livingston St., Newark, NJ 07103. Tel: 201-642-0529.

Teacher and tutor Heidi Spietz reviews products and services offered to anyone wishing to use the Montessori method in *Montessori Resources for the 1990s: A Complete Guide to Finding Montessori Materials for Parents and Teachers*. It is available from American Montessori Consulting, PO Box 5062, Rossmore, CA 90721. Tel: 310-598-2321. E-mail: amonco@aol.com (or) AMontessoriC@eWorld.com.

The Hadera Conference this year will be held from April 14th to the 19th. Over 200 participants are expected from 20 countries. Accommodations will be at the Givat Haviva Institute which is located near the school. The goal of the conference is to provide a forum for the exchange of Democratic School ideas and further the integration of democracy and democratic values in schools. David Gribble, West Aish, Morchard Bishop, Crediton, Devon EX17 6RX, UK. Tel: 00 44 1803 877233.

fiThank you. I tell you what i think as soon as i receive the aerogramme. one quick question...hopefully its quick. its hard for me to see if there is

any continuity between the 60s free schools, the ferrer schools and the sudbury valley schools. did they each develop independently or are they all based on one another in some way? where could i find the best bibliographies for these different experiences, in your opinion--noting that ive already looked at the directory you edited with sid and raymond solomon? granted some of the stuff going on now has been working at it for awhile---sudbury valley, william glasser,etc. but i dont see any evidence that they really are part of the same movement that allen graubard describes in *free the children*. or they even part of what avrich talks about in his book on the modern school.

stuart.

Dear Stuart:

No, it's not a quick question, but a good one! The free school movement in the US started as a result of the publication of *Summerhill* in 1962. The last Modern School closed in 1958. There seems to be little connection, EXCEPT that A.S. Neill was aware of the Modern School Movement and corresponded with Modern School people like James and Nellie Dick. Jimmy Dick (son) was a founder of the Summerhill Society in the early 60's. Sudbury grew out of the Free School Movement and

was certainly influenced by Summerhill.

Jerry

AERO-GRAMME #17

The Alternative Education Resource Organization Newsletter

417 Roslyn Rd., Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 * ISSN # 10679219

516 621-2195 FAX 516 625-3257 E mail: jmintz@igc.apc.org Spring 1996

AN EXAMPLE OF E MAIL EXCHANGES

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FRANCE

ENGLAND

NETHERLANDS

JAPAN

SPAIN

RUSSIA

global friends srmation contact Philip Snow Gang

CONFERENCES

June 28th - July 18th

Kathleen Kesson sent us the following note about their summer conferences and courses on alternative, progressive, holistic education

*popular and folk education *emotional intelligence *spirituality and education

*holistic education *and more. Offerings available for graduate credit...For more information, call 1-800-468-4888, email

davidf@earth.goddard.edu or write Goddard College, Plainfield, VT 05667

July 12-13 Midwest Homeschool and Family Learning Conference, Royce Hotel, Romulus, MI, sponsored by Homeschool Support Network, PO Box 1056, Gray, ME 04039

July 14-18 World Future Society, Washington, DC, 7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 450, Bethesda, MD 20814

August 1-3, EDVentures '96, Milwaukee, WI, American Association of

Educators in Private Practice, N7425 Switzke Rd, Watertown, WI 53094 (800 252-3280)

AERO BOOKS, VIDEOS, SUBSCRIPTION, ORDERING INFORMATION:

AERO-GRAMME SUBSCRIPTION -----\$15/Yr_____ \$20 Out of US_____
Check the expiration date of your label.

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:

BACK ISSUES of AERO-GRAMME 1 through 16 \$5 each. \$_____

NEW!! The Almanac of Education Choices, with over 6000 entries and new informative essays. AERO subscribers-we pay the postage. Send only \$20

New!! SUMMERHILL SCHOOL, A New View of Childhood, A.S. Neill, Edited by Albert Lamb, released in November.....\$15, including postage

The HANDBOOK OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

With over 7300 educational alternatives described, chapters by Ron Miller, Mary Ann Raywid, Jerry Mintz, Pat Farenga, Dave Lehman, Tim Seldin, and others, many indexes. Hard cover reference book, published by Macmillan and Solomon press.....\$75_____ (prepaid)

Contact AERO for sets of labels from the Handbook database. Entire list is \$60 per thousand names. Subsets can be custom-created

My Life As a Traveling Homeschooler by Jenifer Goldman, Solomon Press
An 11 year old describes her adventures visiting homeschoolers and helping her uncle Jerry Mintz 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
\$_____

GREEN REVOLUTION, the newsletter of the School of Living
AERO-GRAMME readers can become a member of the School of living and get a subscription to the Green Revolution for half price. The SOL is a 60 year old organization which pioneered the environmental protection movement, consumer protection, and is involved with land trust and communities movements, as well as the sponsor of AERO-----\$10_____

VIDEOS:

NEW!! 33 minute video of our April, 1995 7 Country trip to Europe and Russia, including EFFE Conference, Democratic Schools Conference in Vienna, Eureka Avant Garde, in Ijevsk, Russia, plus 5 alternative schools \$20_____

CONTACT AERO FOR VIDEOS ON OUR OTHER RUSSIAN TRIPS

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 fascinating two hour interview with a 96 year old pioneer in the alternative education movement. Born in the Ukraine 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_____

NEW!! Transcript of Nellie Dick and the Modern School! \$5_____

CONTACT AERO FOR OTHER MODERN SCHOOL VIDEOS

NEW! Video of Gabrielle Show (Described in this issue).....\$20

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.

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

it. You'll learn it. Show to a whole class. Recently glowingly reviewed in Growing Without schooling " We were all amazed and impressed with ourselves that we suddenly knew the whole Morse code in an hour."-----\$20_____

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_____

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 the interview with Jerry Mintz and Jenifer Goldman on CBS Up to the Minute, in which they discusses their books.-----\$25_____

Add \$3 for postage for books and videos.

TOTAL ORDER, AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____

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Postage
417 Roslyn Rd.
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Gaia Education Outreach Institute offers life education-travel-service programs including a summer Institute in Eco-Village Design, a fall Foundation Semester, and a winter/spring International Semester. Credits are through the University of new Hampshire. They also publish a newsletter called GEOletter and are now on the Internet. RR2 Box 793, Derbyshire Farm, Temple, NH 03084. Tel: 603-654-6705. E-mail: geo@igc.org (or) [http://www.well.com/ user/cmtty/geo](http://www.well.com/user/cmtty/geo).

Andy Smallman of the Puget Sound Community School is maintaining a link of

top education-related web sites, including brief descriptions of each of them. The School's newsletter also recounted students Aaron Faber and Sean Yapp's trip to New York where Jerry Mintz showed them around the city for a week. To visit online, <http://www.pscs.org/sites-misc.html>. PSCS, 1715 112th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004.

Paradigm Alternative Centers (PAC) training is available to school districts to assist them in training staff to implement the PAC system in their alternative education programs. Telephone PAC for more information at 817-445-4844.

A thirteen-month course for educators is offered by the The Institute for Educational Studies and Vermont College of Norwich University. It begins with a ten-day residency on campus, and continues "on-line." Curriculum areas include Transformative Education and Learning Communities; Social and Philosophical Foundations; Critical Dimensions of Learning Theory; Holistic Education Theory and others. TIES, PO Box 223, Grafton, VT 05146.

Birds Fly Free - Unschooling for Higher Consciousness is a newsletter created and produced by unschoolers. The "Humble Editor," Kyce Bello, writes: "This is a grass roots production if I ever saw one, and the people behind it are just really cool kids that like snowflakes and kittens and just so happen to be completely brilliant and open minded." The first issue is full of original artwork, poetry, and essays by some of these same "really cool kids." Contact Kyce at PO Box 1041, Questa, NM 87556. Tel: 505-586-1166. E-mail: SkyDrum@aol.com.

A Free School Reunion will be held on June 7 - 9, 1996 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the alternative school movement in Madison, WI. It will reunite people involved in Alternative High, Madison Community School, Malcolm Shabazz, Thoreau, Freedom House, City School, Humanity Tech and Milwaukee Independent School. For more information, contact Vision Works, PO Box 92, Greenfield, MA 01302.

The winter 1996 issue of the Journal of Family Life included a delightful Interview with Grandmother Twylah Nitsch, conducted by Chris and Betsy Mercogliano. The granddaughter of Moses Shongo, a Seneca medicine man, Twylah at "eighty-something" years of age still welcomes students to her home near Buffalo, NY. Down to Earth Books/The Free School, 72 Philip St., Albany, NY 12202.

In his new book, How to Establish an Alternative School, John Kellmayer provides a comprehensive plan for creating truly alternative programs and schools that can dramatically redirect the lives of at-risk youth. He covers key characteristics of successful programs, describes different models and provides strategies for empowering teachers and involving

students. Corwin Press, Inc., 2455 Teller Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91320-2218. Tel: 805-499-9774. Fax: 805-499-0871.

The first volume in the Practitioner Inquiry Series has been published; it's called *Creating Democratic Classrooms: The Struggle to Integrate Theory and Practice*. Edited by Landon E. Beyer, the book contains contributions from seven teachers who analyze their own efforts to integrate social, moral, and political questions and issues into the public school classroom. Beyer also analyzes the teacher education programs from which each of these teachers graduated and the political and ideological contexts in which the programs are located. Teachers College Press, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

The Kids' Issue of SKOLE - The Journal of Alternative Education has just been published.

The Journal includes poetry and stories from various schools, book reviews, and an adult section. It is available from Down-to-Earth Books, 8 Elm St., Albany, NY 12202.

A teacher with 8 years experience, Jude Vachon is interested in working in an alternative school next fall. Jude will receive Pennsylvania secondary certification in June, 1996. 64 S. 19th St. #3, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Sequoiah School is accepting applications for the position of Junior High head teacher to commence September 1, 1996. It is a full-time position in a multi-age classroom of 7th and 8th graders. Contact Carol Ouimette, 535 S. Pasadena Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105. Fax: 818-795-8773.

N. Lardas is a special education teacher seeking a position in an atmosphere of mutual respect and support. East coast preferred, but willing to relocate. PO Box 38, Willington, CT 06279. Tel: 860-429-8528. Dave Lehman wrote to say he is enjoying *The Almanac of Education Choices*, which he has also ordered for his school library. He says he has been asked by Ithaca's commissioner to be on the Teacher Certification Mandate Relief Advisory Committee which will develop recommendations for regulatory reform. He welcomes others' ideas and thoughts on the subject. His school, Alternative Community School, will graduate its first class this spring under their own graduation requirements "free of Carnegie units and regents exams." Congratulations to you all! ACS, 111 Chestnut, Ithaca, NY 14850.

In April, The Center for Education Reform reported in its newsletter on the various bills and other activity regarding new charter schools around the country. They say that more than 60,000 students currently attend charter

schools nationwide, according to the National Charter School Directory.
1001 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste. 204, Washington, DC 20036.

The Iowa Association of Alternative Educators has named Diana Paulina the 1996 Educator of the Year. Diana has been teaching in the Iowa City Community School District for the past 12 years. We join the IAAE in extending our congratulations to Diana. 509 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA. Tel: 319-339-5702.

CANADA

The Institute for Bioregional Studies is offering summer courses which teach practical skills and knowledge to design and implement sustainable systems that are in harmony with the natural world.Ä~a ah,~~~Edita

Courses will include Permaculture Design, Eco-Cities Design, and Affordable Housing. For more information, contact the Institute at 449 University Ave, Suite 126, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8K3. Tel: 902-892-9578. E-mail: pferraro@cycor.ca.

JAPAN

Sandy Hurst wrote about her speaking engagement in Japan at an alternative education conference last summer. The article appeared in the National Coalition News, Spring 1996.

She says that she began to become aware of the power of communication without understanding the language. NCACS, PO Box 15036, Santa Fe, NM 87506.

ISRAEL

The Adam Institute's KOLADAM, Newsletter of the Institute for Democracy and Peace printed an article by Gilad Goldschmidt. The article, Open Society, Closed Education, briefly describes the Waldorf philosophy of education. Also in the issue is A Conversation with Yoad Eliaz of the Democratic School in Hadera, Doing Democracy Instead of Talking About It. Yoad Eliaz speaks about the characteristics of the school's democratic community. Adam Institute, PO Box 3353, Jerusalem Forest 91033, Jerusalem, Israel. Tel: 972-2-752933. Fax: 972-2-752932.

~~~~~ Body Text ~~~~~ÜÜ^fiA DRAMATIC TIME  
IN ISRAEL

We went to Israel on April 11th for the Hadera Conference, the Fourth International Conference of Democratic Schools. It was a very dramatic time. Some participants had canceled because of the suicide bombs of previous weeks. As I arrived at my relatives' house two days before the conference, all eyes were glued to the TV news as missiles were hitting Northern Israel, and Israel was counter-attacking by trying to pinpoint hazballah positions in Lebanon. That night as I tried to sleep off the jet



lag I was awakened by a "Boom, boom" in the distance. It grew louder. I went upstairs where my cousin was watching TV. Three years ago I remember her as a school-girl who played good tennis for her team. Now, at 19, she trains Israeli boys for the army and was home for the weekend. "BOOM!" It was getting closer. "What is that?" I asked her. Rolling the letter R she responded, "Ghrain." "What?" I asked. "Ghrain. It is ghraining. It is a thunder storm!" I wasn't expecting a thunder storm in Israel.

While in Israel I rode public busses five times, sometimes scanning the passengers to look for overdressed Arabs. But the Israelis themselves seemed to be used to this sort of tension. In fact, after the conference we went on a bus tour around Israel, and of course, they went NORTH! I asked if that wasn't dangerous and they said, "We know the range of the missiles. We won't go within their range!" Yet on Independence Day, with fireworks displays in the distance in every direction, I was at a multi-family bon-fire/barbecue. They had the bon-fire because they felt it was dangerous to take their families where there were crowds. One of the families had come down from the north after a missile had come within a kilometer of their house. After they left, one had come within 50 yards. "I'm so glad we left," the father said to me. "The kids would never recover from such a trauma as a bomb falling nearby."

The conference itself began on April 14th, and it had its own share of drama and excitement. There were hundreds of participants, and over 125 from out of Israel. About half of those were there through connections with AERO. Many of the participants were children.

The AERO-connected attendees included Liz Wertheim of Hawaii, Jim Hoeppner of the Alternative School in Calgary Canada, with a group of about ten from his school, Oleg Belen of the Stork Family School in the Ukraine, later joined by a graduate, George, who is studying in Israel, Jim Murphy of West Side Alternative School in New York and a group of ten, Patrice Creve with two others from Theleme School in France, Stan Kantner, who now directs Clonlara's Compuhigh from Israel, David Gribble, Sean Bellamy and 7 others from Sands School, in England, Justin Baron of Summerhill, Barry Lamb, which is trying to start a school in Australia, and Fred Bay of the Bay-Paul Foundation in New York, with whom I flew over.

In addition there were participants from Hungary, Germany, Austria, Denmark, and many Israeli Schools. The Ministry of Education was a sponsor of the conference and will reimburse Hadera for many of the expenses. They are encouraging the development of more democratic schools. The Minister, Amnon Rubinstein, was scheduled to speak, as was Leah Rabin, but they were forced to cancel because of the crisis in the north. I had hoped to ask Rubinstein why homeschooling is illegal in Israel. I think it is an issue they must deal with.

We were housed at a conference center called Givat Haviva, which is run by a kibbutz specializing in Israeli-Arab relations. The food included wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables. The mornings were spent at the Democratic School of Hadera, a public alternative school which organized the conference. The students there had voted to cancel classes for the week so they could participate in the conference. The k-12 school is run by a democratic parliament and has non-compulsory class attendance. Yacov Hecht is the director.

Many of the workshops dealt with various aspects of democratic education such as the role of the adult, the decision-making process, "When Ideology Meets Reality," etc. I think it was difficult for students to participate in these.

One of the workshops I did was on table tennis, but I was disappointed that it was not until the next to last day of the conference that they got a table. People sometimes do not understand why I consider it so important to have a ping pong table. I did a workshop on this last year in Russia which I called "Ping Pong and Pedagogy." Here are two reasons: At a conference such as this one it presents an opportunity for people of a variety of ages and languages to take part in a common activity. Second, it is non-academic. But because my teacher was perhaps the best in the United States, I can show people how to improve their game spectacularly in a brief time span. Through this process students can learn that they are quick learners, and thus gain confidence in themselves as learners. After the table appeared, it became very popular. I was able to teach about 25 people. The school will keep the table.

There were also presentations by schools. Two of the most dramatic were by a democratic school on the Golan Heights, which is fighting for full approval by the Ministry of Education, and a democratic school in Bethlehem in the West Bank, the Hope Flowers School. The latter presentation was by its director, Hussein Issa, a Moslem Arab, who had barely received a 12 hour pass to come over to make his presentation. As he said, "It is sometimes harder to fight for peace than for war." He lost his mother and son in the process. The school is co-educational, as has Jewish volunteers who teach music and Hebrew. His school makes a variety of crafts to support itself, and he is looking for places in which they can market their wares. PO Box 732, Bethlehem/ West Bank, Via Israel.

Two unusual homeschool groups came over from Austria. One is a circus family, which supports itself by performances of unicycles and juggling, including spectacular flaming torches, which they demonstrated for us. Another group I had met at last year's Vienna conference. Fourteen of them, with children as young as 7, DROVE to Israel in two vehicles, through

Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan! It took them ten days and many bribes at the borders. I negotiated with a ferry company to reduce their price in hopes that the family's trip back could be expedited by a ride to Greece. The two groups were planning to visit the West Bank school on the day I left Israel.

There was general agreement to create a computer network centered around democratic education, and to keep in touch electronically. We plan to meet for chat sessions on Puget Sound Community Schools VEE. Send me e mail at [jmintz@acl.nyit.edu](mailto:jmintz@acl.nyit.edu) if you would like to join us. To get to the VEE, telnet [moo.speakeasy.org](http://moo.speakeasy.org) 7777 . PSCS usually has a meeting at 8:30 PM Pacific Time on Wednesdays.

We have about 5 hours of video shot in Israel. Let us know if you want the edited version for AERO's usual \$25.

We returned from Israel to find over 300 e mail messages waiting for us. We get so much e mail that it doesn't usually make it into AERO-GRAMME. Some e mail was generated through our www site, which has alread had over 2000 "hits." If you haven't seen it, check it out and add your name to the guest book:

HTTP://www.speakeasy.org/~aero     A good e mail address for me in addition  
to the one in the masthead is jmintz@acl.nyit.edu

Send plus \$3 postage. -----NOW ONLY \$7 each, a one  
hour show on homeschooling

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You may remember in the last issue that Alfred Levitt was a bit angry at me for not responding to his letter inviting me to visit him. I did finally

stop by at his Greenwich Village apartment and discovered that what he would like to do is start a new Modern School in Greenwich Village. At one point he said to me "I guess I should have started this about five years ago."

Leavitt was an early Modern School student in New York. His teacher was Will Durant. Ariel Durant was a classmate, in 1911. He first got involved with the school when he came to visit and discovered they needed a nude model for art classes, but couldn't afford one. He volunteered, and became a Modern School student. He later went on to become a world-renowned artist, with twenty paintings in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

He said he can make a contribution toward the creation of a school, but would need much more help, and a core of interested people. Finding a good space would be a key. But at present, as far as we know, there is no democratic school in Manhattan with non-compulsory class attendance and offering real freedom.

In a recent letter, Levitt wrote, "I read your AERO-GRAMME #17 with a feeling of deep interest. It surprises me to know that you can cover, with such apparent ease, the breadth of contact with people who seek alternative education. I admire your youthfulness of vision and your constructive advocacy of a brighter world. I am unalterably with you in this search and passionate hope for the human race."

In conclusion, Levitt appealed again for our help and the help of our readers in the creation of a new school in New York. "I fully know that we cannot be too hasty about it, but a beginning is never too early." Jon Scott of the Modern School will schedule a discussion about the proposed school at this year's reunion. Contact us at the AERO office if you have any ideas about this project. alreadyym (or) AMontessoriC@eWorld.com.

Stephen and Suzanne Tomb are looking for employment at an alternative school. She is a certified social worker with a Masters and four years experience as a therapist with children and families. Stephen has a BA in English literature and an MS in Outdoor Education with three years experience as an instructor in experiential/outdoor education for North Carolina Outward Bound School

College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Over the years there have been several attempts to create an association of alternative colleges, but none have lasted. What was different about this conference is that it was organized primarily by students at alternative colleges, rather than administration. The organizers included Ted Helms, Rebecca Saunders, and Chris Kawecki of Hampshire. Others represented St. Olaf's of MN, Prescott, of AZ, and

Johnston, U of Redlands, of CA. Jerry Mintz was asked to facilitate their organizational meeting.

Next year's conference will take place at the CA campus. There is new a web site listing the alternative colleges which has a link to the AERO site. It is <http://hampshire.edu/html/cs/ahen/ahen.html>. The Network has four main goals: "to provide a forum for the discussion of alternative education, to provide tools for collaborative assessment of existing programs, to provide a tool for the creation of new programs, and to help individuals meet their own networking needs."

In March, Jerry Mintz traveled to Vermont to speak at Ron Millers class on educational alternatives at Goddard College. He also went to a board meeting of Shaker Mountain School. While he was in Vermont he visited two schools which evolved from his Goddard College Thesis in 1965, The New School and Maple Hill. He has continued to work with the New School on fundraising projects and hopes to attend their 30th year celebration in August.

~~~~~ Body Text ~~~~~  
Marc Werner-Gavrin of Red Cedar School in Vermont,  
Jackie Werner-Gavrin of The Red Cedar School, Box 393, Bristol, VT 05443,  
wrote to tell us that beginning in September 1996 they are expanding to high school age.

Sarah Chapin will graduate from Brown University in May with an A.B. in biology. She has had a variety of experiences and training which have interested her in working in alternative education. 12 East George St., Providence, RI 02906.

~~~~~ Body Text ~~~~~  
Barbara Leeds, of Middlesex, wrote her thesis on Nellie Nick and received a 1st for her work, with the suggestion that it be published. "You cannot believe the immense sadness I felt when I read (in AERO-GRAMME #17) that our Nellie had passed away. The conversations I had with Nellie on the phone will be memories I will treasure always....I feel it is even more important now that the dissertation, which not only records her life-story but also her thoughts and hopes for the future of education...be recorded for a wider audience." Barbara is considering post-graduate studies in the field of libertarian education. 3 Brentside, Brentford, Middlesex, England TW8 *BS.

~~~~~ Body Text ~~~~~  
THAILAND  
Prasart Pasiri of the Foundation for Children in Bangkok order the Almanac, a Summerhill tape and amembership in the Friends of Summerhill Trust (now called the Summerhill Foundation). They are responsible for a boarding school based on Summerhillian ideas, in Thailand. We hope they send us more information on the school.

University and Editor of Holistic Education Review'æ((U(¢\*È+++zó≤√ÿ€hila≠¿¿E  
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Q ~~~~~ Body Text ~~~~~ UÜ^ffi, for his new  
position as Dean of Education at C.W. Post of Long Island University.

## GREECE

Voulis Christos of Athens, Greece is a teacher of primary education., and very interested in the idea of alternative education. He was interested in ordering the Almanac. Gavriilidov 6, 11141 Athens.

~~~~~ Body Text ~~~~~

CAMP IN THE FRENCH PYRENEES IN JULY

From July 9-31 there will be an amazing program for 25 American and French students aged 10-15, sponsored by AERO and Theleme School. Activities at the camp will include exploring the Cathar Castles, going to the Dali Museum in Spain, going to the Mediterranean Seacoast, visiting the medieval city, Carcassonne, the Empuries Roman ruins and the town of Girona with its Jewish Inner City, the city of Perpignan, and watching the Tour de France. The students will also learn eachother's languages.

Theleme is an environmentally oriented boarding alternative school. The program will also involve exploring the four nature reserves near the school. The staff are teachers at the school, which is ten years old and runs as a democracy. The food will be traditional and vegetarian. We can take up to 12 students and have six confirmed as of this date. Contact AERO

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