

The Alternative Education Resource Organization Newsletter

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Autumn 1992

BULLETIN!

We have just received a FAX and phone call from Russia, inviting us to bring another group to their next Eureka Avant Garde seminar, which will be from December 20-25, 1992, in Moscow and Estonia, on the Baltic Sea. Those who are interested should contact us immediately. They would like to have students and/or teachers from three alternative schools in the United States represented, as well as homeschoolers. They will pay their expenses in Russia and Estonia. Several Russian alternative schools will also be represented by students and teachers, and there will be about 175 Russian teachers taking the seminar. Other interested students and teachers may attend the seminar for minimal additional cost. A second Avant Garde Seminar is scheduled for late April. See below for a description of the last seminar.

#### ALTERNATIVE TEACHER EDUCATION SEMINAR IN ESTONIA

In AERO-GRAMME #7, we told you about an up-coming teacher-education seminar in Russia in which AERO-GRAMME readers were invited to participate. Because of time constraints, that issue only went to paid subscribers. Ten teachers and students who responded to the announcement went with me to the most amazing seminar or conference I have ever attended. My compatriots included Ann Evans, founder of Cascade Canyon School in CA, her daughters Rana, 17, and Darya, 12, Chio Hickerson-Taylor, 12, from Cascade Canyon, Joanne Esser a teacher at Prairie Creek School, in MN, Andrew Endsley, 18, from OH, a graduate of Clonlara's Home Based Education Program, Heath Matysic, 14 of North Branch School, in VA, Gabe Prost, 15, from Canada, a former homeschoolers and currently a student at the Meeting School, in NH, Jason Tomasi, 12, a homeschooler from OK, and Marge Thornton, from AZ, an Editor of the Joyful Child Journal.

The seminar was sponsored by the Eureka Free University, the first private university in Russia. Alexander Adamski is the President. He has been honored as the Soviet Union's Journalist of the year. It's purpose was to introduce Russian teachers to methods of alternative education. Several alternative approaches in Russia were represented. This Seminar was an amazing and positive act of faith in the midst of the chaos of the new Commonwealth. Educators in the USSR are actively seeking new ways to teach democracy as a living experience. "If we are going to have a democratic society we must have democratic education," said Alexander Tubelski, who is principal of a 1000 student experimental school in Moscow. Our group visited his school in Moscow and stayed with families from the school.

Traveling by train from Moscow, we came together in Narva, Estonia, at a resort on the Baltic Sea. At this Seminar, each educational alternative had a "day" to organize the conference. What was particularly significant

was that the Russian alternative schools brought some of their students, so they could physically demonstrate their approaches. A total of 175 Russian teachers attended, along with 25 Russian students, in addition to the 7 we brought. We were given the responsibility of the whole youth program, for the two weeks that we were there. We organized a "school within the conference," and out of that developed a democratic meeting, in two languages, which ultimately organized our "day." Much to the surprise of the Russian teachers, the American students, ran many of our workshops. Andrew's hobby of Civil War reenactments has landed him roles in "Glory" and "Dances With Wolves," so he did a workshop on movie-making, which was so popular, he had to repeat it. Gabe did a workshop on new games, and Jason did a workshop on homeschooling for 45 Russian teachers. Our workshops also included the areas of youth problems, philosophy, art, poetry, and religion. The Russian teachers and students were astonished, not only by the American teachers and students democratic approach, but also by how easily the Russian students adopted it, and by the freedom and openness expressed by the group. As Valeara, a 12 year old Russian boy said, "The day the American free schools presented was wonderful for me. The American kids are more open than we are and that openness I acquired from them. It became easier to be open. The feeling of rushing disappeared in me, and I felt less stress." (See his story after this article)

In visiting St. Petersburg after the Seminar, we were met by Larissa Mironova, whose designation last year of Director of Alternative Education for St. Petersburg was something of a joke, because there were no alternative schools there at that time. Now there are ten, and we can only describe the situation as being something akin to the 60's here, but with one big difference: These rapid changes have the support of public school administrators and others in influential positions. For example, we visited one school in St. Petersburg that was given two floors of free meeting space in a public building, and we heard of other private alternative schools that were meeting in spaces provided in public school buildings. Also, Oleg Gazman, special advisor to the Minister of Education of Russia was a prominent participant in the meeting of the "Consortium of Avant-Garde Schools and Centers, Free Schools in a Free Society," which followed the Narva seminar. But Gazman, himself said that after another month, no one knows where they money will come from to keep going, including his own job.

I was named as a western representative to the Consortium. It is a responsibility that I am taking seriously. I was asked to find American support for the continuation of this movement in Russia and the other republics.

After St. Petersburg, we stopped in England, and spent a day visiting Summerhill School (see following letter) and another touring London.

INTERVIEW WITH VALEARA, AT THE NARVA CONFERENCE

My name is Valeara. I am twelve years old. I live in Krasniarsk. It is in Siberia, about 3600 kilometers from Moscow. My father repairs boots and my mother is a nurse in a kindergarten. I have one brother, 8 years old. We are friends in general, but sometimes we have conflict. I would like to be an actor or a dancer and go to a dancing college (he's studied dance for 6 years). On the other hand, maybe I'll be a writer and enter the literary college.

When my teacher, Sergei Kurganov, told me he was going to this conference and wanted to take us, he was allowed to take only five children. He said to the class that those who felt like going to the conference should raise their hands. Five people raised their hands, and they went to the conference. First he told us that we would go to Moscow. I was delighted when I found out that I'd not only see Moscow, but also Estonia. My mother didn't let me go on the previous trip.

At my school we sing songs, but more often we have discussions. We play very little. But I think I play enough. At my school we start the day asking our teacher a question for future lessons. Maybe we dislike some of his ideas and have some other ideas. In many cases he teaches the things we are interested in learning. I am fond of literature now. I enjoy reciting poems. I also write my own.

However, I usually feel a lot of pressure because of the society of our class. The children of our class are not like me. I feel pushed into a corner. They are pushing me to be just like them. There are three others like me who express themselves differently and are pushed to the corner like me. One of them is my friend. We help each other. We support ourselves in the way of our thinking. I think that the teacher doesn't realize that this is going on. For our teacher, it is like we are one student, with no differences between us. I feel that at your schools I'd be able to do something about it. But I can't trust the pupils in my class.

The day the American free schools presented was wonderful for me. The American kids are more open than we are and that openness I acquired from them. It became easier to be open. The feeling of rushing disappeared in me, and I felt less stress.

At this conference I learned to more openly express my feelings. I think it is bad to be too reserved. If you think something, you must say it. I made friends here and got acquainted with many interesting people. I'd like to go to the United States some time to share my experiences in life.

I've have lost all my concerns about Russia and the future because I'm living in a happy world here. But I am worried about how high prices are. We're saving every rouble and don't buy expensive food. What moves the

future? We realize that there is a future and we effect the future and vice-versa.

NOTE: Because we produced so much material and articles from the two trips to Russia, we cannot reproduce most of it in AERO-GRAMME. Therefore, we have produced a 60 page book of these, which include reports by Jason, Heath, Joanne, Marge, the Eureka Free University, etc. It is \$5 plus postage (\$1) through AERO.

One of the articles was written by Marge Thornton. It also appears in The Joyful Child Journal, which she helps to edit. Peggy Jenkins is the Editor. PO Box 5506, Scottsdale, AZ 85261.

#### RUSSIAN PEN PALS:

RUSSIA 141980

Moskovskaya obl./DUBNA

Stroitelei ul. -dom 6/kv. 17

DOLYA Galina Nikolaevna

Tel 4-51-21

Has 35 student alternative school in Dubna, age 14-16. Next year will be 8-16. New meeting in public school building, but will have their own building next year.

Polina Giblova

31, Nevkipelov Str Apt 101, Krasnodar, 350065 Russia

Principal of small private school, also entrepreneur, has consulting firm, radio show.

Sofia Barabasch, Principal, School of Global Consciousness, 5 Nevsky Prospect, St. Petersburg, Russia Office: 812 312-64-79 Home 812 311 90 04

FAX 812113-58-96 100 student private alternative school with 4-6 year olds, will eventually go to 8th grade. operates in donated building. 200 roubles a month tuition, sponsors. We stayed at their house. She had three daughters who go to a lycee, 8, 12, 14. The 14 year old speaks good English.

617055 Russia, Nytvenski Rayon, Posyolok Uralski,

Ulitsa Moskovskaya 21a-12

Sedayarov Vadim

13 year old father is Sediyarov Vyacheslav

School: 617055 Russia, Permskaya oblast, Nytvenski rayon, Posyolok Uralski School w8

693013 Russia

School 22

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

Students, all 14 : Rybalko Natalya, Bobrovikova Zhenya, Lee Alik,  
Yaroslavtseva Irena, Nam Victoria, Verkhomurov Dima, Rubtsova Ann

620012 Russia, Gordeyeva Yuliya, Iliche Street 38-52, Yekaterinburg  
14 year old neighbor

198207 Box 171

St. Petersburg

Mironova Fyodor (13)

Mother: Larissa Mironova Peace Through Family

PH: 812 157-68-36 Also coordinates alternative schools

617740

Chajkovsky town

Permskaya Region

Gorky Street 20-13

Tvanov Oleg (15 yr old)

Maslov Valeara

Street Partizanska-70A

Ap No 8

Krasniarsk

660028 Russia

12 year old who was an Narva Conf.

Russia 249020

Kaluzhskaya oblast

Obninsk

Ul. Engels Dom 3 Kv 50

Olga Tzotimova

(13 years old)

Principal of school that would like pen pals:

Roonin Vladimir, Narva, Estonia, 36 Partizani Street, School #5

USSR 614077 Perme

Ul. Startzeva 41-18

Naregin Ilia

16 years old, loves movies, theater, dance.

Russia 652680, Kemerovskaya region, Town Guryosk, Street Lenin, Home 91  
Room 124

Kudryashov Alyosha

About 15 years old Wants info on Ba'hai'.

443095 Samara  
Dimitrov Street 17  
Gymnasium n1  
Iranov Sergey

443008 Samara  
Pobeda Street 99a-30  
Kozyatinskaya Lidia

#### POSTSCRIPTS

Alla, who was the interpreter for the youth program at the Narva seminar, has emigrated here with her husband, Sergei, and her 13 year old son, Mischa. They are temporarily living in Harrisburg, PA. Sergai is a computer engineer, looking for a job. Alla was a language teacher at Tubelski's public alternative school in Moscow. They are looking for a place where they can both get jobs, and their son can go to school. Joanne Esser picked up Alla and Mischa, a former student of Alla's, and came to New York to visit us.

Anne Barar is trying to find Sergei a job in CA. She is also setting up a seminar for Alexander Adamski, President of Eureka Free University. Also, I have arranged for Adamski to be a featured speaker at the Democratic Education conference we will be attending in Israel, in June of 1993.

Friends World College, which has branches in 8 countries, including China, India, Kenya, England and Costa Rica, wants to set up a Russian branch, which Eureka would run. We drew up a budget of about \$40,000 to set it up, and the college is looking for funding. Any suggestions would be appreciated. FRC is now part of Long Island University and is located in Southampton, NY. It is also looking for students with homeschool and alternative school backgrounds.

In a recent phone call, Eleina Shepel said there is a possibility for a company to be given free land in Moscow if they will build a new building for the Eureka Free University on a part of the land. She also gave me more details about the December seminar.

#### SUMMERHILL ATTACKED AGAIN

Summerhill School, founded over 70 years ago by A.S. Neill, has always been controversial, and it is happening again. The school allowed an American film maker to spend an entire term at the school, but unfortunately, the resulting video that was aired on a major station in England was a

sensationalist piece. Someone said it was like doing a documentary of American highways and just filming the accidents. The British tabloids have jumped all over it, demanding the school be closed. Meanwhile, the school has been reinspected, with little result, except that they need to put in more bathrooms, etc. Somehow, someone at the Wall Street Journal saw this video and did an editorial (unsigned) about it. Having visited Summerhill three times in the past two years, and having seen a copy of the English video, I wrote the following letter, which the WSJ declined to print. Incidentally, I've been invited to spend a month at Summerhill this term or next, and may be able to bring some students. Again, contact us immediately if interested.

The Editors  
Wall Street Journal  
New York, New York

4/22/92

Dear Sirs:

Imagine that you had allowed a TV film crew into your house for three months, to film anything they wanted. I'm sure you would shudder to think what a shocking film they could put together if they made a "documentary" which only showed the arguments, accidents, and incidents that seemed bizarre out of context. This is what an American camera crew just did in producing a "documentary" on Summerhill School which just aired on Channel 4 in England. Yet your reviewer was able to report the findings of this program whole cloth, without checking on the reality. The real story is how, in this age, in order to get TV viewers and make a name for the film makers, Summerhill School could be maligned once again, and the Wall Street Journal would go along with it, unquestioningly.

Your reviewer referred nostalgically to how Summerhill once "inhabited the commanding heights for educational theorists," and how things had changed. Well, the establishment has never revered Summerhill, and always feared and maligned it. One of A.S. Neill's first books was called *That Dreadful School*, referring to the characterizations of that day, some sixty years ago. Summerhill is now 71 years old, and it is definitely not as it was depicted in the documentary, although, like any other school, it has its problems.

The "endless meetings" your reviewer referred to are the core of Summerhill, where democracy, moral education and responsibility are learned. It is because of that system of self government that Summerhill students do become very self expressive and articulate. When your reviewer refers to "inarticulateness" as a "cultivated virtue," I know he has never met a Summerhill student.

The biggest sensation stirred by the TV program was when "a student is shown taking advantage of his freedom to decapitate a rabbit." The fact is that the rabbit was suffering from myxomatosis, a disease common to the

area, which causes them to go blind and become totally immobile, and had to be put down. This was not clearly explained in the "documentary," but it was exploited by all the English tabloids, and the Wall Street Journal.

Hardly any American students now attend Summerhill, because most Americans think Summerhill closed when Neill died in 1973. But the Japanese, whose rigid system causes a student suicide a day, have discovered Summerhill. Now, over a third of Summerhill's students are Japanese.

I have visited Summerhill three times in the last two years, met the teachers and students, the school's Head, Zoe Redhead, and even met the film makers. The Summerhill that I saw did not resemble the sensationalist footage of the Channel 4 show. When I visited, I also met many Summerhill graduates, who were back for a reunion. I talked to a surgeon, businessmen, teachers, artists, and many others, all leading successful lives, and all full of praise for Summerhill. One former Summerhill student I talked to was 77 year old Brian Anscome. He has known the school for sixty seven years, since he became a student in 1925. He described himself then as "an extremely nervous little boy, no self-confidence at all. I should imagine, just about the shyest boy of ten you could possibly imagine. Summerhill didn't change that overnight, but over the years, the influence of Summerhill changed all that, and I had confidence in the end." He said he had been in radio and communications all his life, and had also worked for the Reuters News Agency. "I don't know what I would have done without Summerhill. You could almost say it was a life-saver, certainly in the emotional and intellectual sense. It changed my life."

The Summerhill of today differs little from that school which Brian Anscome experienced. With fair reporting perhaps it will survive and continue on for many more years, saving future lives.

#### NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

I attended the 22nd Annual National Alternative School Conference, in Williamsburg, VA, at the College of William and Mary. This group consists mostly but not exclusively of public alternative school educators. Several hundred came from all over the country. Our presentation was entitled "Democratic Education in Russia and the USA."

While I was there, I stayed with Katherine Granville and her daughter Kathleen, who homeschooled her two children last year. I met Katherine at a GATE conference. She has written several books, including a beautiful one called *Mind in Motion*. (9 Briarpatch Pl., Newport News, VA 23606). The organization of state alternative education associations passed a proposal to ask President Bush to declare a National Alternatives in Education day as part of the National Education Week. This is the third year it was brought up. Previously it didn't pass because of conflicting views about the characterization of alternative education. But the man from Michigan who proposed it, Dan Diedreich, had done his homework and came up with an



acceptable proposal. The public school "choice" advocates wanted to make sure that people were not given the impression that alternative education is just for "at risk" students.

At the NAEC I went to a workshop called "Alternatives: Unifying a Fragmented Movement, by Don Glines. He referred to the movement over a sweep of thirty years or more that he has been involved. He brought out several documents that were meant to unify the movement at various times. As a result of this workshop, it became clear to me that it may be impossible to create an ORGANIZATION to unify the movement. In fact, ORGANIZATIONS may be antithetical to unification. My ultimate realization was

that we should forget about organizations and work on COMMUNICATION and INFORMATION, both within the movement and to the mainstream. Hopefully, AERO-GRAMME can play a part in that process. I'm even thinking of organizing a conference on alternative education and the media, to find out why all these thousands of schools and hundreds of thousands of homeschoolers are mostly shut out of the mainstream. Most people never find out what their alternatives are.

GATE NATIONAL CONFERENCE, June 12-15

From: Lynn Stoddard, Salt Lake City,

Utah

At a recent conference of the Global Alliance for Transforming Education (GATE), held at Lake Eufala in Oklahoma, participants reaffirmed a mission to "proclaim and promote a vision of education that fosters personal greatness, social justice, peace and a sustainable environment."

With this mission in mind twenty one people met after the conference in a special focus session and developed the following goals to be accomplished in the next three years:

1. Resources available to carry out the mission - financial, human talents, and an effective communications system.
2. Wide distribution of the evolving Education 2000 vision statement locally, nationally, and internationally through personal contacts and media.
3. Provide a variety of services to aid educators, parents, students, and other community members in the development of projects/programs consistent with Education 2000.
4. A clear structure that is open, inclusive, gentle, and effective, and that is clearly communicated to all members so they own the process within the total process.

Anyone who would like to help accomplish these goals and the mission should write or call Dr. Phil Gang, GATE, 4202 Ashwoody Trail, Atlanta, GA 30319. Phone (404) 458-5678 Fax (404) 454-9749

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While I was at the GATE conference, I met with Charley Jones, a

Choctaw who is trying to preserve their language. He estimated that out of 80,000 Choctaws, there may be only 150 school age children who still speak the language. We talked about helping him start a school for that purpose.

#### CODE CRASH

One unusual project that we have been involved with has to do with teaching the Morse Code. Some homeschoolers who were interested in amateur radio discovered that I had developed a method of teaching the code in as little as 20 minutes. They asked me to put the process on tape, which I did. Then after successfully using it, they suggested that I contact Radio Shack, to see if they were interested. They are interested, but haven't reviewed the tape, yet. We've sent a few copies out, to a few people who found out about it. The following is a letter we recently received from someone on the GENie Network.

"Jerry,

Just wanted to drop you a line to tell you that I have watched the tape you sent me and it is a big help. I had my son and daughter watch it too, they are 18 and 19 years old, and do not have any interest in learning code. After seeing half of the tape, they both knew code. It has been a big help to me too. I still have to build up some speed, but at least I can hear dahs and dits now and know what letter they are. Thanks for a job well done. It does work!!!!

I'll keep you posted, I hope to go take the code test soon.

Rick Mace"

The following came in from a Prodigy Network subscriber:

"Hi Jerry,

Really enjoyed the video. We dropped everything when it came in the mail and watched it. It really works! We have all learned the code and are sending messages to each other through the day. Even my three year old walks around saying "did dit dah dit!"

Sheila Hunt, TX"

#### NEW ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ALMANAC

For several years we have been working on creating a comprehensive Alternative Education Almanac, listing all known schools considering themselves to be alternative, as well as containing descriptive articles, with philosophical and "how to" information. The first volume of the Almanac is now complete. It is the New York State Alternative Education Almanac and will be released by the Solomon Press this fall. It contains over 400 listings and descriptions, including public "choice" and "at risk" schools, independent alternatives, homeschool resources and groups, Montessori and Waldorf schools, and higher education alternatives. There are introductory articles by Ron Miller, founder of Holistic Education Review, Dave Lehman, Principal of Alternative Community School, in Ithaca, Rachel Smith, of the NY State Department of Education, Pat Farenga,

President of Holt Associates, in Cambridge, MA, and an article about Waldorf and Montessori education. The book will sell for \$14.95. The print run may be limited, so if you are interested, reserve your copy now, but send no money. We'll let you know when it is ready. Solomon is now negotiating with three publishers to fund the research and co-publish the national volume. If you are interested in helping with gathering information from your state, let us know.

#### AERO FUNDRAISING DRIVE

So, how did our first fundraising letter go? We raised a total of about \$6000, from about 100 readers, which helped pay for this newsletter. The biggest contribution was from a Canadian, Molly Phibbs, "an 85 year old woman being rejuvenated." She had wanted to go to Russia with us, but knew it wasn't practical. Her fantastic gift translated into \$4000 for AERO. The AERO mailing list has grown to nearly 2000, so unfortunately, we had to begin eliminating some people from the list who had not communicated, even though we suspected they were still working actively in alternative education. We'd like to have the funds to send it free, but that's not possible now. With continuous costs for printing, mailing, big phone bills, etc., we now have only enough funds to go for one or two more months, as we wait for grant proposal results, contributions, subscriptions, video orders, etc. If you have not sent in your subscription, please do so now, while you are still on the list. YOUR EXPIRATION DATE IS PRINTED ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. You will note that we have not enclosed an envelope with this issue, since it is wasteful, and we have sent them recently to most of our readers. Contributions beyond the subscription rate are tax deductible. Huge checks should be made out to the School of Living!

#### MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Elizabeth Wertheim writes, "It's so good to keep hearing of your activities. I appreciate your energy and your work. Our little school has been grand this year- happy, active children." They are looking for a teacher for four days a week to work with first and second graders. Housing is available and salary negotiable. The Hui School, 880 Hana Hwy., Haiku, HI 96708. (808) 572-9102. Elizabeth has also been instrumental in finding a site for a meeting of Pacific Rim alternative educators, to be held from March 26-29th at Akahi Farm, Haiku, Hawaii. Dayle Bethel of the International University, in Osaka, Japan, is organizing it (see JAPAN in International News).

Connie Toller, of Kopperston, WV called to tell us that their local public school was being forced to close in a move to "consolidate" schools and save money. But it happened that the school building is owned by the mine, so she wanted to explore possibilities for alternative uses of the building. She hired us to come down there to make a presentation about

alternative schools, homeschool resource centers, etc. We spoke to two groups, as well as to students in the 6th-8th grades in the public school. It was startling to me how well the 6th graders understood the potential of educational alternatives (the 7th-8th graders already seemed jaded). At last word, the suit to prevent the closure had failed. Connie planned to homeschool her own child, and was making arrangements to use some of the space in the building for a homeschool center.

The National Coalition of Education Activists puts out a newsletter called Action for Better Schools. They consist most of people working within the public school system to make change, and are a truly multicultural group. They receive funding from several foundations, including the Aaron Diamond, New World, Edward Hazen, and Veatch Foundations. They recently had their annual meeting in Milwaukee. PO Box 405, Rosendale, NY 12472.

The Folk School Association of America has a journal called Option. In their latest issue, there is a fascinating history of Black Mountain College (1933-1957) written by Mary Parker. John Dewey, himself was involved in the creation of Black Mountain, and Buckminster Fuller and Paul Goodman were among its staff. The Association will have an International Folk Education Resource Exchange Conference in Washington, DC, from October 20-25. Contact Chris Spicer, 107 Vernon St., Northampton, MA 01060.

I "met" Jonathan Bender on the communities bulletin board. He sent me a copy of the newsletter he edits, "Tekiah, the Newsletter of the Institute for Sustainable Living." Route 1 Box 35, Check, VA 24072. It describes itself as "dedicated to the development and support of sustainable lifeways for communities and individuals." In the summer issue there is an interesting article entitled "Why we must educate for freedom--and why we don't; politics and education in America," by Julie Meltzer.

The Fellowship for Intentional Communities plans to have an International Gathering on Cooperative Living from August 26-31, 1993, at Evergreen College, in Olympia, WA. For more information: 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47712 The Directory of Intentional Communities has sold many thousands of copies. To list your community or order a copy, write to Sandhill Farm, Rt. 1 Box 155, Rutledge, MO 63563.

The Daily Report Card is a "National Update on America's Education Goals." Barbara Pape wrote, "We are writing to you because of your role as a champion of education reform in this country." They distribute 5000 of these capsule accounts, organized around the six National Education Goals of President Bush. It is free, supported by the Annie Casey Foundation. To get one, call Rick Hough at 703 237-5130. 282 North Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046.

Fred Bay, of the Bay and Bay Paul Foundations writes, "It is not too much or too silly to say that my professional identity and even my level of hope depends significantly on your work." The Josephine Bay-Paul Foundation made two grants of \$2500 each to AERO this year.

Danial Huston has written a college thesis on Summerhill, and thanked us for some materials AERO supplied, including the video. "I ended up visiting Stonesoup School in Florida for one week. They welcomed me into their community. It was a highlight of my research and made a strong addition to my thesis." 167 Spur Rd, Dover, NH 03820.

Pioneer Christian School has got to be one of the most unusual alternative schools in the world, combining a religious orientation with educational freedom. Based on ideas ranging from Sudbury Valley School, the Lancaster Model (where each child teaches another), and Deming's quality control, among others, Marshal Fritz has created something unique. Their Pioneer Magazine features students talking about their experiences. 4665 N. First, Fresno, CA 93726.

The Network of Progressive Educators has released a series of statements, based on several task forces at its conference. One of them, spearheaded by Herb Kohl, opposes the implementation of a national student testing program. For the whole package, write to Lee Fabel, 15017 Cherry Lane, Minnetonka, MN 55345.

Alexander Webb is the Director of Shelburne Farms, in Shelburne, VT. They serve thousands of school children each year who come to the Farms to participate in their programs. His family also created the Shelburne Museum. I first met Alec when he was a 17 year old teen-ager, temporarily out of school, and looking for direction. We made him a combination student-teacher aide at our school. Since that time he has continued to work in the field of education. I got to see him for the first time in many years on a recent trip to Vermont. He subsequently became a supporter of AERO.

I don't know how we got on their list, but a new vegetarian newsletter for teens called How on Earth! was sent here. It is subtitled "Teens supporting compassionate, ecologically sound living." Contact is Sally Clinton, Director of Vegetarian Education Network, PO Box 3347, West Chester, PA 19381

Dick Zaychowski heard about AERO from Zoe Ostrow, a friend of my mother's. He is head of Touchstone Community School, in Grafton, MA. "We are a ten year old elementary school, founded by parents, not as radical as Sudbury Valley, but hardly a traditional school either.

Robert Lefkowitz, who teaches at a Yeshiva in Brooklyn, is always sending me useful information. He sent the card of Alric Jones who runs a business called Higher Education Resource Systems which gets information for students seeking college scholarships. 1 800 USA 1221 ext, 4168. 126-16 Hawtree Creek Rd, Queens, NY 11420-1513.

A Voice For Children is a new publication, edited by Edward Jones (PO Box 4143, Santa Fe, NM 87502). It is partly supported by the Fifteenth Street Foundation, which was created after Orson Bean's school closed. The latest issue has reprints from A.S. Neill, and points out that the latest "reform" movement still forget to be "on the side of the child" as Neill put it. By the way, the Fifteenth Street Foundation also gave AERO funds to put an ad in the New York Times Magazine for Summerhill. There is only one American student at Summerhill now. Many people think it closed when Neill died in 1973. We have referred students too old for Summerhill (13+) to other alternative boarding schools in the US.

Dorothy Fadiman's video, "Why do These Kids Love School?" had a story done about it's success in Phi Delta Kappan. In a recent phone call, she said that the film has been the #1 video of Pyramid Distributors for three years. Her latest project, just completed, is a video entitled, "When Abortion was Illegal." 1070 Colby Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

In the latest issue of The Green Revolution, the newsletter of the School of Living, a long awaited book about Ralph Borsodi, Reshaping Modern Culture, was announced. It is written by Mildred Loomis, and has been edited since her death a few years ago. Borsodi founded the School of Living, of which AERO is a part. He was known as the Father of Decentralism, and pioneered work in alternative education, land trust, consumer protection, and environmentalism. The book is \$17.50 from SOL, RD 1 Box 185A Cochranville, PA 19330. AERO readers can still get membership in the SOL and a subscription to Green Revolution for \$10, half price, through AERO. At the last board meeting, we discussed the possibility of an internship program at intentional communities. We may combine this with our teacher-education internship program at alternative schools.

Lynn Veach Sadler has been a college president, and is now head of Human Technology Interface. She is trying to combine Deming's Total Quality Management with holistic educational approaches, and has written about this in journals with which she is associated. She is soliciting submissions to the journal which she founded, the Computer Assisted Composition Journal. 163 Wood Wedge Way, Sanford, NC 27330. (919) 499-9216.

If you are interested in Waldorf education, send for information: The Waldorf Institute of Sunbridge College, 260 Hungry Hollow Rd., Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977. They will have an open day on October 16th. Call 914

425-0055.

Holistic Education Review informs us that they could still honor subscriptions at the rate of \$25 a year for AERO readers. The regular rate is \$29. Send to us, or directly to HER, mentioning AERO, at 39 Pearl St., Brandon, VT 05733-1007.

For the first time in 10 years, I missed the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools national meeting, in Indiana. It conflicted with the Home Education International meeting in MA. I understand that Mary Leue worked out her differences concerning SKOLE, with the organization at a board meeting. SKOLE was previously the NCACS journal. Mary decided to keep it as an independent journal. There will be an Eastern Regional meeting of the NCACS at the Meeting School, in Rindge, NH, October 8-11.

Ed Grala, of Check, VA writes: "We hope you are well and that your experiences will contribute to CHANGE in education for everyone. Randye and I are trying to work through the public school funding (75% of the county's income) to help support all approved situations in the county, including homeschool and private."

Lee Havis of the International Montessori Society is proposing to Americans for Choice in Education that the federal government "withdraw federal recognition regulations over accreditation agencies," because of their tendency to "discourage and restrict competition, free market enterprise and individual choice in the field of education." The IMS accredits Montessori Schools. 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

William van Zyverden wrote to us describing his Holistic Justice Center, PO Box 26, Middlebury, VT 05753. He said, "I created the Alliance out of the overwhelming need to evolve both the way society resolves conflict and the way which lawyers, in particular, practice their profession. All professionals in conflict resolution are invited to join and support our cause."

Mary Leue, founder of the Free School, in Albany, and editor of SKOLE, the Journal of Alternative Education (now an independent journal), has released a book of reprints of the best of SKOLE. It is called Challenging the Giant, and contains articles not ordinarily seen in typical educational journals. There is an article by Dave Lehman challenging Gardiner's ideas on multiple intelligences, and others on the work of Wilhelm Reich, for example. For information on the book or SKOLE, 72 Phillip St., Albany, NY 12202. Mary and I will be the featured speakers at this year's Modern School Movement Reunion, which is on September 19th, in New Brunswick NJ. We'll let you know how it went in the next issue.

Bob Knipe sent us a reprint of an out of print book called The Learning Community, subtitled "The story of a successful mini-school." It is the story of an alternative school which was part of Mater Christi High School, which Knipe attended. The school profoundly affected his life, as did its sudden closing in 1976. Knipe continues to be a passionate supporter of alternative education and educational change. If you write to him, he can make a copy of the book available. 40-18 21st Ave, Astoria, NY 11105.

The Eagle Connection is an amazing networking publication which lists several dozen counter-culture conferences in environment, education, travel, etc., as well as ideas for funding sources. It is put out by John Broomfield, whom I met on PEACENET. He got the idea for it after visiting transformative organizations here and abroad for two years. email <igc:eagle> or write 457 Scenic Rd, Fairfax, CA 94930.

Alice Gerard, who ran an alternative school in Westchester for many years, told us about Blue Rock School, an alternative day school for grades k-6 in West Nyack, NY, founded in 1987. We discovered several other new independent alternatives while we were research our new Alternative Education Almanac. We hope to get to visit Blue Rock some time soon.

Tim Souers, of the Highland Community School in Milwaukee writes that "things in Milwaukee are tense. The city is under the stress of poverty and racism, yet our school is hanging in, working to ease stress and educate."

D. Leighton wrote to us about a new Camphill Village they have created in MN. Camphill Centers were created by Dr. Karl Koenig, an Austrian. There are over 80 such social-therapeutic schools and villages worldwide. Their approach is based on the work of Rudolf Steiner, from whom Waldorf education has evolved. "Children with special needs or those who are disabled could especially benefit and would be encouraged to attend." Rt 3 Box 249, Sauk Centre, Minnesota 56378.

Dr. Liz Rantz passed on to us the latest flyer from Shining Mountain School. More than two years ago, Jenifer and I were brought to Missoula to meet with people who wanted to start a new school there. In three days of meetings, Shining Mountain was created. It now starts its third year. Another school, Avalon, is a spin-off of Shining Mountain, and we understand that the public schools have also developed alternative schools based upon the meetings we had. PO Box 4402, Missoula, MT 59806.

It may be too late, but Petrolia High School is seeking a houseparent and teaching staff for this school year. Petrolia has 22 students on a 300 acre ranch. They will be looking for a new director in in the spring. I visited Petrolia several years ago. It is in a beautiful area on the Humboldt Peninsula, so far from the nearest public school that they had to create



this one. It has room for at least 10 boarding students. The public funding had just been cut when I visited, and I suggested they have a "trashathon," getting sponsors to clean the road to the nearest public school, to dramatize their plight. It worked, and they have had one every year since. Jeff Westergaard, the Director, said, "Our Trashathon was the best ever this year, netting over \$7000 for the school." This year the school plans to take an extended trip to Mexico. Westergaard continued, "You crazy, undauntable fool--keep it up. AERO-GRAMME is turning out to be some of the best reading around. I found myself reading more per inch..than even the\_\_\_Newsletter." Box 197 Petrolia, CA 95558 PH: 707 629-3509.

I saw Bruce Kantner on a recent trip to Vermont. His Geo Commons College had a successful first year, but 13 students successfully traveling 25,000 miles to England, Findhorn in Scotland, France, Russia, and two months of service work in India. He is taking a break, but will be open for more students next year. Derbyshire Farm, Temple, NH 03084. 603 878 1818.

Carolyn and Rodney Adams are planning to start a small, parent-cooperative school in Northampton, MA. "We were delighted by our first issue of AERO-GRAMME ! It's exciting to know that we're not alone in our passionate drive to see alternative forms of education come into being. The time is ripe for an alternative school to be created here, and if anyone has suggestions or wants to join us in this endeavor, please get in touch." 35 New South St. #408, Northampton, MA 01060. (413) 586-6012.

The National Center for Fair & Open Testing (Fairtest), has announced a new k-12 standardized testing guide for parents and teachers. It is called Standardized Tests and our Children: A Guide to Testing Reform. 342 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139. (617) 864-4810.

Livia Strauss of Chappaqua, NY, has been working on promoting bias-reduction education. She nearly had a major conference organized that was to meet in Poland. Funding fell through, but she still feels the idea is viable, and is seeking funding sources.

Arun Narayan Toke, Editor of Skipping Stones, a multicultural magazine of children's writings, tell us that his next issue will feature Native American societies of the Americas. He also offered to send 25 issues to Russia. We provided him with addresses. Previously, they have done a special issue Russia and the other Former Soviet Republics. PO Box 3939, Eugene, OR 97403-0939.

Derek Peterson, formerly of Prescott College and Sheldon Jackson College in AK, is going to chuck it all and ride a tandem bike, along with his wife, From Fairbanks, AK to the Southern tip of South America, over the next three years. "Our journey's name is 'Crossing boundaries-shifting gears.'

We named it this because we believe that people are bound by barriers (most unreal, few real) and each person needs to be a competent learner in order to prevail..We want to incite people to move, to change, to grow, to love, to live." 200 4th St., Moose Lake, MN 55767.

Regretfully, Lanny Cottler of Willets, CA, wrote that Curiosity High School, which he founded, only lasted two years. "Teaching all subjects, not enough students, no help, little appreciation of what we were doing from the community. Interesting experiment. Everyone said I was nuts. They were right!" He's now on commission to write a dramatic story on an Native American theme for PBS, in Sant Fe. He'll write until December, make some money "Then maybe I can get back to alternative education again." He also has an idea about a national student high school publication. "I'm very grateful for the work you do. Important. One day the world will know!"

Futurist and author Robert Theobald wrote to tell us that he has nearly completed his newest book, Turning the Century. He will now be working with the Northwest Regional Facilitators, and will be putting out a limited circulation monthly mailing about his work. For more information, 330 Morgan St., New Orleans, LA 70114.

#### TEACHERS, JOBS, INTERNSHIPS

Jermey Kaplan has been involved with Ted Sizer's classes at Brown University, and will be looking for a job in an alternative school after he graduates this year. He also attended a northeast regional GATE meeting. He is majoring in American History, and would like to teach at the junior high or high school level. Home: 15 Fountain St., W. Newton, MA 02165. (617) 244-0317. School: PO Box 3326 Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. (401) 863-6941.

Katie Stewart writes: "Thank you so much for keeping the fire burning within me..I get so excited when I hear about alternative education organizations and the idea of transforming education." She is a Modern Language major, minoring in Progressive American Social Movements, and is about to graduate from Trinity College. She is interested in working in an alternative school. Box 1942, Hartford, CT 06106.

Jennifer Wiest is with the Audubon Expedition Institute through Leslie College. She needs to set up an internship in an alternative school for the Spring of 1993. She already has a Bachelor od Science in Elementary Education and has completed student teaching. "I am interested in alternative schools because my experience in public schools was disheartening and uninspirational." 57 Choate St., Newark, DE 19711

Blanche Brown is looking for an internship in alternative education for

her Spring semester, 1993. She is also at the Audubon Expedition Institute. She graduated from West Chester University with a B.S. She has been an environmental education specialist. 2842 Blacksmith Way, Lancaster, PA 17601. 717 560-0399.

Edward Orem has produced a series of instructional videos on non competitive martial arts training, emphasizing body-mind education for children. His Sandhill Crane School offers training in the ancient Chinese art of Wu-Shu. He is also looking for a teaching job in an alternative school. He has 25 years experience in Chinese Karate Shaolin Kung-Fu and T'ai Chi, and has written 5 books on marshal arts. PO Box 160, Fall River, CA 96028.

Hal Studholme is "looking for an opportunity to teach and/or intern at an alternative school at the high school level." He has an MA from Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. He has worked as an instructor for autistic children, and has worked with developmentally delayed children as a therapist. 2414 Clinton Ave South, Apt F 11, Minneapolis, MN 55404 (^12) 874-8672.

Linda Jilk has worked with inner city people in adult basic education and GED instruction, working to empower them to achieve their goals. She would like to teach at an alternative school that shares her philosophy of meaningful learning. 778 Triangle St., #471, Blacksburg, VA 24060. (703) 951-2469.

Kim Goody writes that "before I go for my Masters I'd like to teach at an alternative school at any age level, in ME, NH, or VT." She is an experiential/outdoor educator and graduate of UNH. RFD#2 W. Franklin, NH 03235

Karen McCabe graduated from Hamilton College in May, specializing in Foreign languages. She might like to intern at an alternative school, teaching languages while she gets her MA. 1 Priscilla Ave., Scituate, MA 02066.

Sue (Mann) Kuches, a graduate of Shaker Mountain School, is preparing to run a n education workshop at the Bahai' World Congress in November. She went to an intense course for trainers of teachers in MI last May. She will now be training more than 20 teachers on new methods of teaching children 6-12. "It's all through the Bahais'. It's been a wonderful opportunity for me." 4913 Vista Pl., Everett, WA 98203.

Norman Rose is a teacher and computer expert who is interested in setting up an educational resource center. I met him on Prodigy. He has many ideas about the uses of computers for children, and will send you an article he

wrote. 277 East Ave., Chico, CA 95926.

Rick Miller has been a business entrepreneur, CPA, broadcaster, and sales marketer after graduating with an MBA from Harvard University Graduate School of business. The good news for alternative education is that he's now interested in teaching at an alternative school. We met him at the GATE conference in OK. "I am inclined to pursue public school certification to broaden my employment options. While I wrestle with where, my decision to pursue a teaching career employing democratic, open, child focused principles feels better and better." 173 Harding Boulevard, Oregon City, OR 97045. (503) 650-1882.

Harris Sussman, founder of Workways, is looking for opportunities to teach and give workshops on how people learn and change; also on "White Males: the Last Frontier" and on Education in an Age of Diversity. He went to Antioch (when I was there), has a Ph.D., and was Dean at Prescott College in AZ, was a public school teacher, does corporate training, and is an expert on Workforce 2000 issues. He also would do in-service programs, especially on multicultural issues and women. 57 Henry St., Cambridge, MA 02139. (617) 876-3599.

Larry Shirk is "weary of working in schools that seem destructive of children...I see the education of children as something both intensely serious and intensely joyful, in which the adults are more experienced, but the children may be wiser." He is looking for a job in an alternative school. He is currently living and working at Noonday Farm, a Catholic Worker Community in MA. He had a Ph.D. in Chemistry was an engineer for 10 years and a teacher for 12. PO Box 71, Winchendon Springs, MA 01477. (508) 297-3226.

Kenyon College is interested in providing its students with information about alternative ways of teaching. Career Development Center, 105 Park St, Gambier, OH 43022. (614) 427-5165.

#### PUBLIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

In early May I got a call from Mary Ellen Sweeney. She said that the Denver School Board was still intending to shut down High School Redirection, a very effective public alternative school which Arnie Langberg had organized. They said they had to sell the building which housed the school, but it was obvious that politics and philosophy were involved. Earlier in the year, John Gatto had possibly helped to stave off the closing of the school by threatening to make it the main issue of his Carnegie Hall presentation on educational alternatives. They told him they'd keep the school open for the rest of the year. Mary Ellen asked me if I knew who to

contact at the New York Times to do a story about the impending closing. I gave her the contact, but suggested that she not mention my name, since I had already tried to get a story in. It worked, and the Times did a good story on May 20th. A bit later I got a call from the producer of NBC's Nightly News, who was doing a story about the closing, based on the Times article. I still don't know how he got my name. Both the article and TV story were good, but I don't know the latest results. I last saw Arnie Langberg he said that the decision could still be reversed, but if it wasn't, he might organize the school with private support.

The New York State Alternative Education Association had its annual conference on April 5th and 6th, at SUNY Cortland. Dave Lehman is the current President, and this conference was difficult to pull off because of state cutbacks. They shared meeting space with Ted Sizer's Coalition of Essential Schools, and Sizer was the Keynote Speaker. One workshop which I particularly enjoyed was presented by Lehman. It applied the concept of "flow" to learning, the main point being that if we properly balance interest level with a level of difficulty that is challenging, but not impossible, we experience "flow." The Association also honored an "Alternative Educator of the Year", which they do annually. (NYSAEA, Sue Marino, Optional School, 5 West Hartsdale Ave, Hartsdale, NY 10530)

I received a press release about a new book, written by Dr. John Murphy, who has recently been appointed superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District, in North Carolina. It caught my attention, because that district has always been a pioneer in public alternatives. I visited two of them as far back as the 1970's. His book is called Transforming America's Schools. I sent a copy of AERO-GRAMME and requested a review copy. Not only did the book arrive almost immediately, but also an order for a subscription of AERO-GRAMME! More information: Open Court Publishing Company, 315 Fifth St, Peru, IL 61354.

Teaching-Principal John Johnson handed us the following note at the NAE Conference: "Irwin High School, in Hilmar, CA, has just completed its second year of existence. It is a CA Continuation High School with an enrollment of 50 students. In its two years, 30 students have earned their high school degree...If ever are in the San Joaquin Valley, stop by and visit us." PH: 209 667-0276.

The Florida Association of Alternative School Educators will have its annual conference on Oct. 2-4, at Walt Disney World Village, Orlando, FL. For info, Sara Timinsky, 445 West Amelia St., Orlando, FL 32801. 407 849-3287. In their newsletter there was an article about Fran Winfrey, who also went to Russia this year. In it, they mentioned that if you would like to apply to become a sister school with a k-12 alternative, call 305-621-6818 (I'd like to get their list, if they have one).

The US Department of Education puts out a newsletter about America 2000. To receive it, contact Barbara Gleason, U.S. D of E, room 2089, Washington, DC 20202, or call 202 401-0765.

Elizabeth Quigley has organized a Pennsylvania Alternative Educators' Association, which also has a newsletter. Their address is Middle Earth, 299 Jacksonville Rd., Warminster, PA 18974. PH: 215 443-0280.

Mary Ellen Sweeney, editor of Changing Schools, came out with a special issue this year, celebrating 20 years of reporting on alternative education. Changing Schools continues to be one of the most important publications in the field. The May issue featured the a story on the Community School, in ME, and an article by Don Glines of the CA Department of Education entitled "Educational Alternatives: Unifying a Fragmented Movement." @Colorado Options in Education, 98 N. Wadsworth Blvd., Box 191, Lakewood, CO 80226.

I heard about Don Thomas through my Russian connections, but he is an American public educator. Recently, he participated in a workshop on alternative education in England that featured Alexander Adamsky of the Eureka Free University. He said it was very well done, and plans to bring Adamsky here for a workshop some time this year. Thomas is a prime mover in something called the Effective School Movement, and is the Director of the Network for Effective Schools. They had a conference in Hawaii this year, noting that since 1989, schools in Hawaii have had the option of adopting school-community based structure of governance, and 86 of the 232 schools in Hawaii have joined the program. They have a newsletter called the Effective School Report, a nuts and bolts, as well as theoretical journal. Grand Central Station, PO Box 1637, NY, NY 10163.

The National Society for Experiential Education will have its 21st annual conference in Newport, RI, Nov. 4-7. They bring together a spectrum of professionals who practice education based on "hands on" experience. These include internships, service learning, cooperative education, field studies, etc. 3509 Haworth Dr, Suite 207, Raleigh, NC 27609-7229.

The National Coalition of Advocates for Students produces a newsletter called The Good Common School. It is subtitled "Making the Vision Work for all Children, a comprehensive guide to elementary school restructuring.." They have also produced a 317 page guide to such restructuring for "groups and individuals interested in advocacy-driven school reform." 100 Boylston St., Suite 737, Boston, MA 02116-4610.

HOME EDUCATION NEWS

Donn Reed, of Brook Farm Books, who wrote the Home School Source Book, has made arrangements with AERO to make it available to our readers. It is one of the best books for general information on homeschooling. If interested, send \$10.50 plus \$1.50 for postage to AERO.

Homeschoolers (or alternative schools) interested in getting science kits for biology or chemistry can order them from John Malia of Aves Science Kit Co., PO Box 229, Peru, ME 04290. 207 562-7033.

I've now received a few interesting copies of Kids Lib News, which deals with a variety of issues involving parenting, homeschooling, peace games, children's rights, etc. POB 28, Naalehu, HI 96772.

The Greenhouse Report is a newsletter for North Carolina homeschoolers. Their last issue went to 5000 homes! This issue mentioned a teen ager who has published a Civil War novel, a business started by homeschool kids, etc. North Carolinians for Home Education, 204 North Person St., Raleigh, NC 27601.

Shaser Everqar is a tutor who has been working for homeschooling families. Of late, he has been working with a family with four children from two families on a farm in rural AR. He has also developed some computer programs for them. He is working on a complete, holistic system to continue this work. Also, "having spent two years at this extremely remote location, I am currently seeking a new position teaching one or two children on a live-in basis." HC 68 Box 40, Green Forest, AR 72638. PH: 501 553-2282.

Looking for an alternative candidate to vote for? Asiba Tupahache, a Native American from Great Neck, NY, has been named as Vice Presidential candidate to run with Ron Danials, an independent candidate for President. Danials was formerly the Executive Director of the Rainbow Coalition. Tupahache is a homeschooling parent who also publishes her own newsletter, the Spirit of January, 4162 Old Village Station, Great Neck, NY 11027.

The Grapevine is a homeschool magazine that goes primarily to 500 MT homeschoolers (PO Box 960, Seeley Lake, MT 59868). Earlier this year they bought 40 copies to Jenifer Goldman's book to distribute to their readers. Actually some of Jenifer's book takes place in Montana. A recent issue of the Grapevine mentioned a number of children who won prizes and athletic contests. This reminded me of an idea which I floated on the Prodigy Network: One homeschooler I know is a top tennis player in MT. Another is in the same position in NC. How about if we had a national homeschool or alternative school sports-meet or Olympics? We could even expand it to other areas beyond sports. Anyone interested in the idea?

The Colfax family is famous for their book, Homeschooling for Excellence,

about how they homeschooled their sons, three of who eventually were admitted into Harvard University. David Colfax gave a rave review to Jenifer's book, and has recently sent me a review copy of his new book, *Hard Times in Paradise*. It is the story of how they carved a live on a rural homestead in CA, and goes beyond the previous book to describe in detail the live they lived. David Colfax wrote, "I'm operating at about 10% right now, having badly broken my ankle last month. I thought you might be interested in our new book, so I've asked Warners to send you a copy." 246 Redwood Ridge Rd, Boonville, CA 95415.

More and more homeschoolers are getting on Prodigy and Genie Networks. I met several who came to the ALLPIE conference. Also, I've been helping one 12 year old homeschooler who has a Commodore 64 get the software he needs to get on GENIE. For anyone else interested, send \$2 to Parsec, Inc, PO box 111, Salem, MA 01970-0111.

A homeschool conference sponsored by Home Associates of New England attracted over 1000 people to the Sheraton Tara, in Framingham, MA. 36 workshops were offered. After the conference, the second annual meeting of Home Education International was held. Dr. Raymond Moore is a prime mover in this organization, intended to be inclusive of homeschoolers of all philosophies and religious backgrounds. Steve Moitoso, Director of HANE was named President of HEI. Moitoso is the father of two teenagers who have been homeschooled for 8 years. He also has a regular radio show on homeschooling heard all over Maine. He says he now has 178,000 families on the HANE mailing list. At the HEI conference, I was asked to become of board member, to help the organization with networking. Individual membership in HEI is \$15. Next year's conference and HEI meeting will be May 14-16 in Danvers, MA. 24 Madison St., Auburn, ME 04210.

John Gatto seems to be everywhere, lately. His new book, *Dumbing Us Down, the Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling*, is must reading for everyone interested in changing education. Most recently, he was the featured speaker at the Alliance for Parental Involvement in Education (ALLPIE)'s Second Annual Conference, at Colgate University, in Hamilton, NY. His talk was so good, I bought the tape! Several hundred homeschoolers showed up, mostly parents with their children (the HANE conference discouraged homeschoolers from bringing their children). I participated in a workshop on learning by traveling, and gave a slide show and discussion of AERO's activities. It was organized by ALLPIE's directors, Seth Rockmuller and Katherine Houk. They also put out a newsletter, *Options in Learning*. PO Box 59, E. Chatham, NY 12060-0059.

Wayne Jennings newsletter, the Brain Based Education Newsletter, featured an article by homeschool pioneer, Raymond Moore. Brain research has shown that the brain is naturally aggressive, and wants to learn. Some of



alternative educational and "unschooling" homeschooling approaches have been vindicated by these discoveries. The Institute for Learning and Teaching, 449 Desnoyer Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-4946.

Jason Tofani is a 12 year old homeschooler who went with us on the trip to Russia and Estonia. We helped him raise the funds for the trip by giving him suggestions via the GENIE network, through which we communicated. Jason and his mother, Carol, have put together a newsletter called Learning All Ways. 7 Canyon Oaks Dr., McCloud, OK 74851.

We received a letter from R. Carroll of Les Enfants d'Abord, a homeschool organization in France. They provide information, promote exchanges, and promote home education as an alternative in France. They have relations with Education Otherwise, a homeschool group in England, and are interested in connecting with American homeschool organizations. Le Cours Est, 84410 Flassan, FRANCE.

Sally Vittum, a homeschooler who went with us to the NHA conference in CA along with her son Alex writes: "Whenever I get the AERO-GRAMME I sit in the post office parking lot for about a half hour, totally absorbed in its pages."

Dawn Zeitlin is actively involved with a homeschool association called the Atlanta Alternative Education Network. A recent meeting "was really hopping with families and activities galore. I wrote about AERO and your Russian trip in our newsletter." She is also taking Montessori training and will be doing an internship with a Montessori school. 603A Seminole Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307.

Jackie Iglehart, a Long Island homeschooler, has started a newspaper called the Penny Pincher for people interested in saving money. It is a family project she hopes will help support her family. PO Box 809, Kings Park, NY 11754. This reminds me that at the ALLPIE conference, I met Anthony Cardo, who specializes in helping people start home businesses. His address: Kew Resources, 79-12 154th St, Kew Gardens, NY 11367. PH: 718 969-3454.

As we did our New York State Alternative Education Almanac, the following is an example of the resources we discovered: Greene/Albany Learning at Home (GALAH). c/o Charlotte Carter, Rt 4, Hannacroix, NY 12087. "We are an eclectic group of families mostly interested in home education. We organize workshops to give our children the opportunity to learn with their peers, and publish a newsletter which describes our events, and is becoming a forum for the children's work."

Nancy Sherr, a Prodigy network subscriber, wrote, "Got your newsletter today. It's like a door opening. I've always suspected that there were

homeschoolers out there with views that were more like mine..Your info is wonderful..The article on resource centers was right on point for what we are trying to do.."

We had an extensive discussion on Prodigy about homeschooling and media. Donna Shackel wrote: Our homeschool group wanted to learn about producing videos. A lady who works with one of the local cable companies is putting on a workshop for us. The kids decided they wanted to do a documentary on homeschooling. We hope to show this on local cable and loan it to those interested in homeschooling." Cafi Cohen of CO wrote: "Maybe we should brainstorm ideas to acquaint people with educational options. How about: 1. Picketing the public schools and handing out flyers.2. Offering homeschooled teens services as tutors at elementary schools. 4. Direct mailings to all parents of 4 year olds. It's not enough to me a successful fringe group." Another homeschooler continued: "Have homeschoolers call all the talk shows at once. Have homeschoolers offer to take over the administration of local public schools, since we educate so economically!"

Ame Vanoria has organized a national network of single parents who have chosen to educate their children at home. It is called SPECIAL (Single Parents Educating Children in Alternative Learning) Their newsletter is called Special Friends. They also publish a resource directory. 2 Pineview Dr. #5, Amelia, OH 45102.

Snakefoot, a homeschool resource center which is located at the Common Ground Community, in Lexington, VA, is now in its fourth year. Last year they expanded their building. They run a three day a week program for homeschoolers, and have hired two teachers as resource people to work along with the parents. They have almost doubled in size this year, to over 25 students. They also produce a newsletter, Snakefoot Gazette. We visited them this year and made a video of their activities, with interviews of parents and students. It can be ordered from AERO for \$20, plus \$1.50 postage.

We've been working with Kay Crowley and Ann Cabanas-Brown, both of Houston, to help them set up a non-sectarian homeschool resource center there. I connected them with some of my contacts there, and they are finding a lot of interest in their community. It seems like a great need, since we don't even know of an independent alternative school in Houston, and we've had many inquiries from there. Recently, Kay sent an enthusiastic, detailed report on a talk that John Gatto gave in Austin to a new group called Texas Advocates for Freedom. The contact for that group is Tam Voynick, 6502 Bradley, Austin, TX 78723. Kay's Prodigy ID is SNVC69B. Houston Alternative Education Alliance, 11702-B Grant Rd., Suite 112, Cypress, TX 77429.Ph: 713 370-3756.

The Shalvoys, of Cheshire, CT. have organized a directory of homeschoolers on the Prodigy Network, some 175 of them. Their ID is JNHN58A.

We've been receiving information from the Rutherford Institute, founded by John Whitehead, which provides legal services for homeschoolers. Their address is PO Box 7482, Charlottesville, VA 22906-7482. Ph: 804 978-3888.

There has been much discussion of homeschool groups that exclude people because of religious beliefs. In response to that, Jim and Diane Lytle wrote: "Our local group does not require any doctrinal statement welcomes anyone who is homeschooling...I didn't take my kids out of school to keep them away from different kinds of people...Feel free to steer homeschoolers in northeast PA to our group: Harmony Home Educators, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411."

Pat Farenga of Holt Associates referred Mary Foley to us. She's been homeschooling for many years but she has never filed with the local superintendent. Her oldest child homeschooled until the age of 13, went to public school and became a National Honor Society member, and got a full scholarship to U Mass. Her twin boys homeschooled until 10, are now sophomores in high school, taking advanced placement classes. She is now homeschooling her youngest boy. All of this came to the public's attention when a local paper called her up to do a story. Now she has a date in court. She has been unsuccessfully searching for a lawyer. I gave her some suggestions. The Home School Legal Defense Association hasn't responded to contact. In a letter to a local paper she wrote, "I would seem a foolish accommodation on my part to abandon my successful method in favor of a system that graduates 1.5 million functionally illiterates each year...The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently ruled that while the state may demand that all children be educated, it may not demand that they be educated in the same way. The state does not have the power to standardize children. Parents have a right to choice in matters of significance." In a previous statement she said that the government does not presume to tell her what to feed her children, and unless they can prove negligence, they should not presume to tell her how to teach them.

Wendy Priesnitz has been in homeschooling since 1979. She is the National Coordinator of the Canadian Alliance of Home Schoolers, and Editor/Publisher of Child's Play Magazine. They also publish School Free, a how-to-homeschool book for Canadians, and a profile of Canadian homeschoolers. In their latest issue, their daughter, Heidi, profiled Jenifer Goldman's book, My Life as a Traveling Homeschooler. She said, "The book is about how Jenifer has taken control of her own education..It is easy to read and includes many photographs taken by both Jenifer and her uncle. Jenifer's words are for both kids and parents. Her two page conclusion highlights some of the best reasons for home education."

Because one librerie wouldn't stock Jenifer's book, because they thought it wasn't fair to public schools, some Prodigy homescoolers have started a campaign to order it by inter-library loan. Here are some other recent reviews of the book: Aur Beck, a homeschooler and student at the Farm School, in TN wrote: "Everything Jenifer says in the book is true! It is a simple and yet very enlightening book which is very good for your pre-teen and teen kids who want to know about homeschooling and its aspects. It made me wish I was back on the road, traveling as a homeschooler." Dorothy Binder, a homeschooling mother in Florida said: "I'd recommend it to any homeschooler as an inspiration for writing. Kids think that writing books is for adults, not something that kids do. Jenifer's book is a revelation to them." Bob Knipe, of Queens wrote: "I liked it very much. It makes a wonderful companion to John Gatto's Dumbing us Down.. I was very moved by the last line of chapter three, 'After that I went back to public school, because I had no place else to go.' I can relate to that." Marian Galvin, of Santa Barbara, CA, wrote: "I enjoyed your book because I am homeschooling my four kids and I enjoy traveling with them. Your book was an inspiration!" Sabrina Ostling, 12, from Santa Rosa, CA wrote: "We have a lot in common. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. I really enjoyed reading your book. I'm now trying to get my own book published!" Susanah Sheffer, in a review in GWS, said, "Jenifer demonstrates very clearly that homeschooling doesn't have to go on in the home. Maybe this will help more families feel that homeschooling is a real option."

Homeschooler Bobbi Raynor's daughter, Sherri is the Editor of To Kids For Kids By Kids Newsletter (11,119 Pucket Pl, Midlothian, VA 23112). It is specifically from homeschool kids to homeschool kids. It is \$4/yr. Starting with 25 subscribers, they are now up to 200. I met them on the Prodigy network.

Publicly sponsored homeschool programs in CA could be very significant and are controversial within homeschool circles. On the one hand, Donna Shackel writes about a program which she likes very much: "the parents have total control over curriculum. The children are carried on the rolls of the neighborhood school and the school is allowed to keep the textbook and lottery money. The homeschool program gets the ADA money." This provides a teacher who visits every one to three weeks, according to family choice. "The teacher will suggest or help, but never insists. I choose everything my kids do. Monthly workshops are provided for kids and parents. Field trips are twice a month...There is a newspaper put out by the kids..The man who started the program is himself a homeschooler. That's how it's done in Placer, CA." On the other hand, Michelle Russell writes that "At first I was thrilled with the program..., and we were provided with a \$100 per student reimbursement for materials purchased. My enthusiasm waned, though...My concern for the parents who join Public School Independent

Study Programs is that they be sure to "count the Cost." They should consider whether they will be forced to teach topics and perspectives that are radically different from what their beliefs are...This year we decided to go it on our own." For some well organized information on a CA public homeschool program, send to Red Balfour and ask for the Parent Handbook. Community Home Education Program, 1901 E. St. Andrew Pl., Santa Anna, CA 92705. PH:714 258 1513.

Mrs. C. Hayes, of Bath, England wrote, "I have just read your article on homeschool resource centers...I have just started to home educate my 8 year old son, and wish to start a resource center with a small group of home educators. Any information you have would be very helpful, as none of us has any experience." 5 Oakfield Close, Bath, Avon BA1 2XR, ENGLAND.

Stewart Wilson will homeschool his 4 year old who has been "categorised as gifted by an educational psychologist. we are frequent visitors to the US and are interested in meeting other families in the same situation." 73 Harburn Rd., West Calder, West Lothian EH55 8AT, SCOTLAND, UK.

#### INTERNATIONAL MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

##### GERMANY

Eginhard Fuchs, Speaker of the European Forum for Freedom in Education, sent us a two spiral bound editions describing the history, philosophy, and membership of his organization, one in German, one in English. It also lists representatives from Germany, Hungary, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Switzerland, and Slovenia. They recently had a meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Other members are from Russia, Estonia, France, Croatia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, and Finland. We were invited, but did not have the funds to make the trip. Eginhard wrote in a FAX that they might have funding for their meeting next May in Prague. He estimates that "there are over 2000 independent or alternative schools" in Germany alone! Eleina Shapel of the Eureka Free University attended, and said it was a good meeting. Contact Eginhard at Annener Berg 15, D-5810 Witten, Germany.

##### AUSTRALIA

In the latest issue of Connect, there is an article by Virginia Estrochio about a public alternative school that she heads in Portugal. Connect writes extensively about student government in public alternatives in Australia. Roger Holdsworth has been putting it out for 13 years. They are also very involved with Foxfire materials. 12 Brooke St., Northcote 3070 Victoria, Australia.

##### SWITZERLAND

Martin Naf is interested in material about educational vouchers in the US. I referred him to Joe Nathan. "There are some people who want to promote the idea here in Switzerland, where the state monopoly in education is yet quite unchallenged and not recognized as a problem. It would be great if we'd meet this year, in Russia or wherever!" Landskronstr. 36, CH-4056 Basel, SWITZERLAND

## ENGLAND

Lib Ed, an English magazine dedicated to freedom in education, has produced a book called Freedom in Education: A do it yourself guide to the liberation of learning. It has ideas for liberating lessons, alternatives to formal education, and "how to contact schools where freedom is taken seriously." A recent issue of their magazine featured an analysis to the Channel 4 video of Summerhill by students who watched it. 170 Wells Rd., Bristol, BS4 2AG, ENGLAND, UK.

David Gribble of the Sands School wrote: "You really ought to come and visit Sands, because in some ways it is further out than Summerhill--the school meeting appoints the staff and admits new pupils. It handles all big discipline issues and it has absolutely all the authority held by a head teacher. As you can see from the newsletter, I have just retired (just before my 60th birthday). I have not decided what I am going to do next--have you got any ideas?" He enclosed information about a World Conference on Research and Practice in Children's Rights which he was about to attend. This information was passed on to Albert Lamb of Summerhill, who was visiting here and about to return to England. Sands has also had exchanges with Sudbury Valley School and the Democratic School of Hadera. West Aish, Morchard Bishop, Crediton Devon EX17 6RY, ENGLAND.

Speaking of Albert Lamb, he is now the editor of the Friends of Summerhill Trust Journal. The January, 1992 issue is terrific, having articles about the history of Summerhill, A Summerhill in Japan, the Free School, in Albany, an article about John Dewey by Candy Landvoigt, of Highland School, in WV, and one by Lamb about the First New Schools Festival which we attended in the Crimea. In an earlier note, we mentioned Lamb's newly edited book of Neill's writings. FOS Trust, Summerhill School, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4HY, ENGLAND, UK.

I met John Papworth at the Fourth World conferences in NC and Toronto (co-sponsored by the School of Living). He puts out a quarterly called the Fourth World Review: For Small Nations, Small Communities & the Human Spirit. In recent issues there have been articles about Leopold Kohr, who was Schumacher (small is beautiful) and Ivan Illich's teacher. He also spoke at the Toronto Conference. In an article by John McClaughery of Vermont, a 50 year old speech of Kohr's is quoted, which predicted and

promoted the splitting off into small states which is becoming a phenomenon today. 24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP, ENGLAND

Nick Zienau is an able educational consultant who helped analyze the seminar in Estonia, and has been working with the International Consortium formed there. He has FAXed information to us on the work that he does. 2 priory Lodge, Priory Park, London SE3 9UY. ENGLAND FAX 081 297-8902.

#### SCOTLAND

Julian Romanes of the Edradour School wrote, "We are a small independent school in Scotland, interested in finding out more about other alternative schools, their background, growth and situation in the USA." The Cottage, Edradour House, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5JW SCOTLAND.

#### INDIA

Dr. Aniruddha Malpana runs a non-profit health care clinic, mostly for poor women and children in the slums of Bombay. He proposes that the best way to "ensure a fair start for children in the developing world is to introduce homeschooling." He thinks that homeschooling would have a big impact in such countries, "where the public school system is practically non-existent. Unfortunately, no effort has ever been made to introduce home schooling in India. Do you know of any US organization who would be interested in funding and exploring this? Maybe UNESCO would be interested. Perhaps one woman in each slum could be trained to teach a number of neighbor's children at her house. The schooling would be related to reality and less disruptive of children's lives, since they would not have to go to 'school.' As things stand now, educating children is given a low priority by illiterate mothers, with the result that few children can ever get out from their vicious cycle of poverty and unemployment." How about it, homeschoolers? Let's get involved with this. The Community Health Research Foundation, Ashish, Tardeo, Bombay -400 034.

#### JAPAN

There will be a meeting of Pacific Rim alternative educators, to be held from March 26-29th at Akahi Farm, Haiku, Hawaii. Dayle Bethel of the International University, in Osaka, Japan, is organizing it (see JAPAN in International News). They are planning to "Explore ways in which a cross-cultural network of progressive educators may advance all of our separate efforts." More in the next AERO-GRAMME, but space is limited, so if you are interested, contact us right away, or write directly to Dayle at 18-5-703 Mii-Minami-cho, Neyagawa-shi, Osaka, Japan 572.

John Potter is an ex-Summerhill teacher who has been in Japan for 7 years.

I met him at the International Summerhill Conference. He is teaching at a woman's college there, and getting an external MA from Antioch, centering on "Alternative Education and Literature." He will be working at and studying "Hori Shinichiro's new school, Kinokuni, which opens here soon. Also, perhaps some study of a Japanese student at Summerhill. If you know of any case studies of a similar kind," please let him know. 6-18, 1-chome, Kitano-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe, JAPAN.

#### AUSTRIA

Heidrun Schultz is at an elementary school for 30 children 6-10 years old. There is no director, with staff members working as a team. All important decisions are discussed in meetings together with parents. "Our school is not improved by the government. That's the reason why the children have to pass an examination every year. After that they are able to go to every governmental school. The school was founded in the 70's during the student revolt. You asked me if I am connected with Uli Hagg and Lotte Kreissler (from the Summerhill conference). Uli is now teaching at a free school in Herzogenburg, and Lotte works at a free high school. Last year the first free school for girls was founded in Vienna. I'll send information. I'd like more information on the Akwasasne Freedom School." Geibelgasse 12118, 1150 Wien, AUSTRIA.

#### FRANCE

There are now two major directories of alternative schools in France. Roger Auffrand has had a comprehensive directory, plus a magazine, Possible. He is sending us a copy of his latest directory, and will have a new one out by October. We recently exchanged a series of FAXes discussing the differences between US and French alternatives. To order, contact Agence Informations Enfrance, 29 Rue Davy, 75017, Paris, FRANCE. FAX 42 26 60 12. The other directory is now put out by Jacques Levi. It is called Des Ecoles Differentes and is dedicated to his brother, Jean Levi, who founded a public experimental high school in Paris. 85 rue Eugene Labiche, 78290 Croissy-sur-Seine, FRANCE.

Autre Chose is about to send another group to travel around the United States this year. Last year they traveled with a group of about ten for 7 months, visiting several alternative schools, through Florida, Mexico, California, and back to the east. Another traveling school, L'Arbre Voyageur often sends us materials about their trips around Europe. One of their former students contacted us while he was an exchange student in Kansas. Their address is Le Mas du Caladon, 30770 Aumessas, FRANCE

#### CANADA



Our Schools/Our Selves is an unusual combination of magazines and books on education, alternating eight times a year. The latest book, Stacking the Deck, centers upon the idea of abolishing ability groupings in schools. It was written by Bruce Curtis, D.W. Livingstone and Harry Smaller, at the urging of George Martel. 1698 Gerrard St. East, Toronto, Ontario, M4L 2B2. CANADA.

Future Builders is a forum for people involved in the development of community-based, integrated learning models. They are about to acquire their own land and building, to be called Future Builders Integrative Learning Centre. They will also hold an International Forum on Learning in October, 1994. Preparing for that, they will host a series of ShareFairs, with exhibits, workshops, and presentations. 60 Normandy Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M4L 3K3. 416 691-7743.

In the Homeschool section we mentioned Wendy Priesnitz and her homeschooled daughter, Heidi. They are publisher and editor, respectively, of a newspaper called Natural Life, which has articles about sustainable communities, children's gardens, "organic" traveling, etc. The Alternate Press, 195 Markville Rd., Unionville, ON L3R 4V8.

#### UKRAINE

I was surprised to get a phone call from Sandovskaya Asya, whose children went to the Stork Family School, in Vinnitsa, Ukraine. But the call was from Brooklyn, because she, her husband, and children Sasha, 9 and Dima, 7, had emigrated to the United States. I went to see them in Brooklyn because they wanted help in finding an alternative school like the Stork Family School! The father is a neuropathologist, who needs to get recertified here. They are open to going anywhere. They brought a package of letters and pictures with them. Some were for us, and some were from the Lamborn Valley School, in CO, which had been corresponding with them. They hadn't been able to mail the package, because their town had no stamps, according to Oleg Belin, the teacher who I had met in the Crimea at the New Schools Festival. And they hadn't been able to send the audio tape back to Lamborn Valley because "our economy is now so in such a poor state that no goods can be sent out of the country. So they sent the package with this family that was emigrating. Belin said his children often asked about their "Rabbit Businessman (the role I had in their play)." I have several letters from their students. Leon, 11, "dreams to become a doctor." Cyril says Vinnitsa is a beautiful green town, situated on the banks of the Boog, one of the longest rivers in the Ukraine. Veronika, 11, likes to "compose small music pieces." Mail to Ukraine, Vinnitsa, U. Stakhurskogo 62 KV.40, Oleg Belin.

#### RUSSIA

Elena Antonova of the Siberia School of Human Policy said they "were glad to receive AERO-GRAMME #8. She heads its Center of International Relations, and are inviting students and teachers to come there to take part in their activities, including a festival of arts in January. They would like students from 12-15. They would also be open to people who want to teach. Unfortunately, their address is in Russian, so if you are interested, I'll photocopy their address and send it to you.

Natalye and Victor Latynov are teachers at the Humanity Centre School in Obninsk. They go from grades 1-11. They have organized a course in Global Ecology. "If you are interested in problems of ecologic education in schools we can work together to solve them." They send a long description of their school and course, which we could copy. Latynov Victor, PCO HC 28 Pionersky Projezd, Obninsk, 243020 Kaluzhskaya Oblasi USSR.

When we went to Russia, we brought with us 100 packages of seeds that were donated by the garden club members, on the GENie Network, and several hundred dollars worth of software which was donated by Autodesk, through Randal Newman, who is also on GENie. We gave it to Alexander Uvarov, of the Russian Academy of Science, and to Alexander Tubelsky's School of Self-Determination, and to the Eureka Free University. Uvarov is also on PEACENET, and we communicate regularly.

## ISRAEL

For several months I have been communicating with Daniel Bar-Tal, a professor at Tel Aviv University. He is organizing one of the most ambitious and perhaps one of the most important educational conferences. it is called the International Conference on Education for Democracy in a Multicultural Society, and will take place in Jerusalem, from June 6-10, 1993. They expect many hundreds of participants from all over the world. The gathering is sponsored by The Berteismann Foundation, the Jerusalem Foundation, the Adam Institute for Democracy, and the New Israel Fund. Some featured speakers will include Alexander Adamski (Russia), Michael Apple, Howard Gardner, Daniel Greenburg, and Deborah Meier (USA), Bar Tal, Uki Maroshek-Klarman, and Itzhak Galnoor (Israel), Theodore Hanf and Hartmut Von Hentig (Germany) among others. In one of his letters, he said, "I am happy that we established contact..because of our mutual deep interest in democratizing schools. We will all be very pleased if you could come and organize a symposium on how to implement education for democracy in schools." He asked if I could "organize a group of educators who will combine a tour of Israel, visits to Israeli schools, and participation in the conference." I will be working with Yaakov Hecht, the Director of the Democratic School of Hadera. They will cover the cost of my participation, and it will be my first visit to Israel. In a more recent letter, he wrote,

"Alexander Adamsky agreed to come to Israel, and I thank you for your help. At present the list of participants is steadily growing and the conference is raising a lot of attention in Europe and the USA. We have brochures with detailed information for those interested. They indicate that the conference will attempt to answer several key questions, including, "How should education for democracy in a multicultural society cope with various political, societal, economic, and technological problems in the 1990's? What forms and directions should education for democracy take, and what are the conditions that facilitate or inhibit it? What are the strategies and methods that schools can/should take?" For more information, contact AERO. We will organize a small group of students and teachers to participate in the conference.

AERO-GRAMME SUBSCRIPTION -----\$15\_\_\_\_\_

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 two trips to Russia, and articles written by participants of the most recent 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 SEMINAR 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.

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

#### 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 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-----

#### 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-----

#### 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 add 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----- (For NYS

Directory, reserve now)

#### 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\_\_\_\_\_

CROP CIRCLES:

A 25 minute tape of a close-up inspection of one of the mysterious "crop circles" or "corn circles" which we encountered in England, after our visit to Summerhill. Includes fascinating interviews with the farmers who own the land.

-----\$15\_\_\_\_\_

CODE CRASH--For quickly learning the Morse Code.

This is a tape we made at a homeschool learning center with an 11 year old homeschooler, learning the Morse code by our unique method, in less than 20 minutes, People interested in getting their amateur radio license will be amazed.

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

BACK ISSUES of AERO-GRAMME 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, \$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\_\_\_\_\_

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