

1959

A study of the attitudes of Golden Age Club members towards their program, worker, and agency

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/19155>

Downloaded from DSpace Repository, DSpace Institution's institutional repository

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

A STUDY OF THE ATTITUDES OF GOLDEN AGE
CLUB MEMBERS, TOWARDS THEIR PROGRAM,
WORKER, AND AGENCY.

A thesis

Submitted by

Anschel Oscar Weiss

(B.A., Brooklyn College, 1957)

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Science in Social Service

1959

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
LIBRARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
Purpose of Study.....	2
Scope of Study and Source of Data.....	3
Method of Procedure.....	4
Limitations of the Study.....	5
Value of the Study.....	6
II. THE SENIOR ADULT.....	8
Who is the Aged Person?.....	8
Population Facts.....	8
Cultural Aspects.....	10
The Needs of Golden Agers.....	12
III. THE BROOKLINE, BRIGHTON, NEWTON, JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER.....	14
Agency Services.....	17
Administration.....	18
Staff.....	18
Physical Setting.....	19
Chart of Administration Responsibilities.....	20A
IIII. THE SENIOR ADULT CLUB AT THE BROOKLINE, BRIGHTON, NEWTON CENTER.....	21
Characteristics of the Club.....	25
Socio-Economic Background.....	28
Group Structure.....	30
Club Officers.....	32
Program.....	33
The Worker.....	35
V. PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA.....	39
Attitude towards Program.....	39
Analysis of Question One.....	39
Analysis of Question Four.....	42
Analysis of Question Two.....	44
Analysis of Question Three.....	46
Attitude towards Worker.....	49
Analysis of Question Five.....	50
Analysis of Question Six.....	52
Analysis of Question Seven.....	56
Analysis of Question Nine.....	57
Summary.....	59

CHAPTER	PAGE
Attitude towards Agency.....	60
Analysis of Question Eight.....	61
Analysis of Question Twelve.....	63
Analysis of Question Ten.....	65
Analysis of Question Eleven.....	66
Summary.....	68
VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	69
Conclusions.....	69
Program.....	70
The Worker.....	71
The Agency.....	73
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	76
APPENDICES	
Letter to Golden Age Club members.....	80
Schedule part (a) Face Sheet.....	81
Schedule part (b) Interview Schedule.....	83

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
I.	MARITAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE	26
II.	AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE	27
III.	LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SAMPLE	27
IIII.	ATTITUDES TOWARD PROGRAMS WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE	45
V.	SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTE FOR WORKER	51

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

With the growth of urbanization and automation many new and creative forces have entered the lives of the people in America. These factors have also been influential in creating problems that are both new and challenging to the structure and conception of our society as we see it today.

One of the obvious characteristics of our generation is the increased amount of leisure time given to us. What to do with ones' free hours is a problem for everyone and especially, the older people. Leisure can be used in ways degrading to the personality, and harmful to health and mental balance. Leisure can also be used to supply a social, cultural, or creative element that often is lacking in other areas of life. ¹

As we grow older, our forms of recreation which occupy our leisure time, frequently have to change to correspond with our physical and mental capabilities. Recreation is regarded as "Doing what a person finds pleasure in doing when he is not paid for it and does not feel any kind of obligation to do it." ²

Today we are faced with an ever increasing senior adult population that is living in a culture where the emphasis is on youth and productivity making very little

¹James H. Woods, Helping Older People Enjoy Life,
p. 6.

²Ibid.

allowance for the aging population. What has resulted is a cultural lag which has thus far failed to provide meaningful roles for many of the millions who are living beyond the traditional period of usefulness.

The consequent feelings of bewilderment and frustration are aggravated by the lack of need for older persons in the family economy, by loss of companionship of children, by widowhood, and by sharply reduced income.³

Senior adult clubs, or as they are more commonly called "Golden Age" clubs, have been created to serve as a way to help the older adults find a more meaningful and useful life in our society. The Jewish Community Center of Brookline, Brighton and Newton is one of the many agencies that have established such clubs for this purpose.

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to explore what the attitudes of the Golden Age club members are toward the program, the worker, and the agency at the B.B.N. What kind of programs do the members want? What are the qualities in the worker that the members are looking for? How do they feel about being part of an agency like the B.B.N.? The study also seeks to explore which, if any, of these three aspects, plays a more significant role in the eyes of the members and how these aspects are related to the club as a unit.

³Clark Tibbitts, "The Aging" Journal of Social Work vol. 2 (January 1957), p.41.

A two part schedule was constructed (which appears in the appendix pages 81) to obtain the necessary information for the study. Part A - (appendix pages 81-82), was designed to gather background information about the respondent in order to get a clearer understanding of his answers to the second part. Part B - (appendix pages 83-84), was a twelve question schedule divided into three portions dealing with program, worker and agency respectively. Each question had between two and four parts to it arranged, so that more specifics would be elicited with each succeeding part. The questions were set in generally positive tones so as to remove any of the respondents fears about appearing too critical or un-appreciative.

In order to better understand the possible attitudes of the golden agers, this study included a review of the club program, structure, and membership plus a survey of the agency's services.

Scope of Study and Source of Data

This study is based on the information received from interviews with Senior Adult club members at the B.B.N. A stratified random sampling was drawn, so that the total sample would be representative of the sex distribution in club. This sampling represents approximately one fifth of club's total membership. The source of data was an open

ended schedule which this writer administered separately to each of the nineteen people. Essential background information was also included in the schedule.

Method of Procedure

Letters were mailed to all the golden age members informing them of the study. Meanwhile, a stratified random sampling was drawn by a professional group worker at the B.B.N. The following week, part of the club meeting was set aside for further interpretation to the club, regarding the purpose of this study. Afterwards, appointments were scheduled for the actual interview, which took place at the B.B.N. or the interviewees' home. The writer found it impossible to interview seven people from the original sample because four of them were in Florida and the other three were ill. Therefore, a second sample of seven was drawn in order to complete the proposed sampling percentage.

Due to the language barrier the author conducted the interviews in English and Yiddish, and he took much leeway in interpreting the questions to the Senior Adults. An hour and fifteen minutes was allotted for each interview during which the author engaged in friendly conversation regarding the respondent's interests. This technique helped to create a positive tone for the interviewing that followed. The author's past associations as a volunteer with

the senior adult club aided his interviewing as he was already familiar with the general membership and the club's procedures.

Limitations of the Study

The most obvious limitation was the difficulties encountered in arranging interviews with the club members. Because of problems generally peculiar to older adults ie: illness, vacations, weather conditions, the author had to make cancellations and postponements of proposed interviews. This situation conflicted with the limited time available to the author in which to conduct this study. As a result the sample representation was revised from twenty five per cent of the club to twenty per cent.

The study itself, by the nature of its scope, is a restricted one in that it deals with a specific senior adult club of a specific type and setting. This must be kept in mind by the reader. For although general impressions can be gained from this study that are applicable to the other golden age clubs, the material should not be considered adaptable to all such club work. The limited setting, together with sociological, economic, and cultural factors, make this thesis a definitely restricted one.

The author's familiarity with the Senior Adult club at the B.B.N. may have influenced the respondent's comments --

although it is interesting to note that the author did not know any of the adults drawn in the sample.

Since the author followed a numerical order in using the schedule, information may have been lost by not following the interviewees' trend of thought. However, since older adults have a tendency to be very reminiscent of the past and somewhat repetitious -- a loosely structured schedule was not deemed applicable by the author.

Value of the Study

The value of this study lies in the information it seeks by studying a specific Golden Age Club. It is an attempt to gain a deeper understanding of what the attitudes of these golden agers are towards aspects of a service designed for them. With this knowledge, the quality of service could be adjusted to facilitate a harmonious relationship between the golden ager and his club.

It is also an attempt to become aware of the importance of these aspects of the club to the members. This information would enable the agency to take proper steps in strengthening or revising specific qualities of the club.

In general, the primary value of this study lies in the fact that it is an attempt to study a golden age club and how its members feel about it. Perhaps some of the points made in this study can be of value in relation to

other golden age clubs - although this is not the studys intention.

It is hoped that the material presented will help clarify the present situation, indicate future needs and areas of importance which should be considered by the B.B.N. in regard to their Senior Adult Club.

CHAPTER II
THE SENIOR ADULT

Who is the Aged Person?

According to the Social Security Act of 1935, the aged person is one who is over sixty five years of age. But the trouble with setting such an arbitrary age limit is that the aging process differs from individual to individual. This is evident physically and is even more pronounced psychologically. ¹

Old age is characterized by physical, intellectual and emotional changes which vary according to the individual. The degree of these changes and the degree of mental and emotional deterioration depend upon the conditions of the general environment in which the older person lives. Environmental factors have a great deal to do with the process of aging, and many traits ascribed to older people are culturally determined. ²

Generally speaking, members in Golden Age clubs usually are sixty years of age or older, or they are retired workers who are in a similar age range. This prerequisite for membership is subject to change depending upon the community served.

Population Facts

The aged population in this country is increasing both in number and percentage. The high birth rate of the late 1880's declining mortality, and a large number of immigrants coming to this country between 1875 and 1914 are factors responsible for the increase in numbers of the aged. ³

¹Jerome Kaplan, A Social Program For Older People.

p. 4.

²Louis Lowy, Adult Education in Group Work, p. 167.

³Joseph T. Drake, The Aged in American Society, p.59.

The actual number of aged in the United States has increased from 1.7 million in 1880 to more than 12 million in 1950, and to an estimated 14,404,000 in 1956. In regard to the total population the per cent of aged has increased steadily from 3.4 in 1880 to 8.2 in 1950 and 8.8 in 1956.⁴

The percentage increase has been due to a decrease in the percentage of those in the older age levels, particularly those under five years of age.⁵

It is estimated that there will be 20.6 million aged people in this country by 1975. Since the mortality rate of women is lower than that of men there are nearly a million more older women than men in this country. There is also a larger proportion of aged men who are married than of aged women because of the higher mortality rate among men, many of the aged women are widows.⁶

The opportunity to allow for self expression through employment is an integral part of our belief in the respect and dignity of the individual. Allowing one to have an equal right to earn commensurate with his ability to do so is a concrete expression of our belief. Yet the opportunities for older workers in our economy have steadily declined.⁷

⁴Ibid., p.47.

⁵Ibid., p.49.

⁶Ibid., p.54.

⁷Kaplan, op. cit., p.6.

Only four out of every ten elders are in the labor force today. These people are employed in occupations of declining significance in the overall labor picture. If older people lose their jobs they have more difficulty in re-entering the labor force than people of younger ages.⁸

If present employment practices continue, the older adult will spend at least six years of his life doing nothing. The longer he lives, the more years he will be dependent on public assistance - assuming the continued inadequacy of coverage and cash benefits accruing through private and public insurance systems. Such enforced idleness is debilitating both to the individual and to society.⁹

Americas unkindness toward the old has not been deliberate. It is a product of our former pioneer civilization that forced us to put a premium on youth and endurance. This preference for youth is strengthened by our present industrial world that stresses efficiency, speed and quantity output.¹⁰

Cultural Aspects

Most old people of today can be characterized as having had a rural oriented youth. Their educational level was relatively low. Many of them were reared on the Bible in families where the father was the undisputed leader. As children they probably had well fixed and relatively uniform ideas about filial responsibilities and regard for older people. ¹¹

⁸Drake, op. cit., p.77.

⁹Kaplan, op. cit., p.6.

¹⁰Woods, op. cit., p.4.

¹¹Drake, op. cit., pp. 38-39.

Many aged in modern society have not been able to retain any status or prestige through the age old religio-ancestral system of granting respect and favor to the elders. Children now also consider personal relations before deciding to accept support responsibility.¹²

The family in urban-industrial society is in a transitional state. It is changing from the extended type of three generations minimum to the small nuclear type, which consists of a couple with offspring -- only two generations. Each child, as he attains adulthood, is expected to and usually does establish his own family. This process leaves aged parents on their own after children leave the parental home.

The significance of the extension of the life span is that there is a longer period in which the father and mother have no positive functions to perform. Their primary objectives have been fulfilled. The status of grandparents as a rule has few if any role expectations which are socially significant.

The high degree of urbanization and industrialization found in this country could not have been developed without the dominance of small family arrangements which has greater mobility and independence. This small family, as we know it, could not have developed in any other type of society. The principle involved here is that when a change occurs in one part of culture, changes are brought about, often simultaneously, in other parts of culture. The folkways, and mores involved in the family relationships of past centuries and in other societies regarding the primacy of the

¹²Drake, op. cit., p. 42.

family as the ruling unit, are no longer applicable today. In America both generations often find themselves in a dilemma regarding their relationship to each other. None of the other institutions has to this time, formed an answer to the questions left unanswered by the shift from the large to the small family. ¹³

The Needs of Golden Agers

In both numbers and proportion, it is apparent that our country is no longer a youthful one, but really composed of adults and senior adults too, with the senior adults challenging the primacy of concentrated service for youth. The increasing numbers of this older group is forcing us to recognize that the needs of all age groups must be serviced. In general these needs include among many others: a) good medical and psychiatric service, b) adequate living arrangements, c) opportunities to work and earn according to ability to do the job, d) opportunities for emotional security and social usefulness. These are goals which we set for ourselves in all our other stages of life, but to the aged they each become matters of chief concern. ¹⁴

The happiness of any person depends not only on food, shelter, and clothing, but also on companionship, creative activity, and the employment of leisure in a socially useful manner.

¹³Drake, op. cit., p.45.

¹⁴Kaplan, op. cit., p.5.

The senior adults tucked away in lonely rooms, or weaven with their families have watched life pass them by. Time has become meaningless to them as one dreary day follows another. When the future holds no promise and today or tomorrow offers no incentive or reward, he seeks satisfaction through escape into his past. Thus thrown back upon himself he begins to live in a world of fantasy and gradually deteriorates both mentally and physically.¹⁵

Senior adult clubs have been established to help meet the social needs of the aged and to help solve some of the problems society has forced upon them. The role of the Jewish Center with regard to golden agers is best outlined by I. Bigford Krasner, Director of Golden Age Recreational Program for the Jewish Centers of Greater St. Louis.

Our primary area of function is to convert surplus time into useful activity, to help the individual to retire to something that will help meet his needs for emotional security. Our objectives are: first; the combatting of loneliness through the provision of facilities so that older people can meet and enjoy each others company; secondly, by helping these individuals do things for themselves and for others, thereby reinforcing their feelings of self respect and usefulness; and thirdly, through informal education providing further variety of satisfying experiences for the individual.¹⁶

¹⁵Woods, op. cit., pp. ix-x

¹⁶I. Bigford Krasner, "Present Trends in Older Adult Programming in Jewish Community Centers", paper presented at the National Conference of National Association of Jewish Center Workers, Chicago, Illinois, June 1952, p.8.

CHAPTER III

THE BROOKLINE, BRIGHTON, NEWTON, JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The Jewish Community Center movement is a hundred years old. It is a unique product of American Jewish life, indigenous to this country, that has evolved as the result of the interplay of American social, cultural and political forces with the strivings of Jews in America to preserve their Jewish spiritual and cultural heritage. The Jewish Community Center shares with the synagogue and the religious school the responsibility and the obligation to create and to build a meaningful Jewish life for those who come under its influence. Adhering to broad, basic principles, it retains flexibility of method. Devoted to the enrichment of personality, the program of the Center is no more limited than are the interests and needs of the individuals and groups that participate in its activities.¹

The B.B.N. is a Jewish Center situated in the city of Boston and it serves the three adjoining communities of Brookline, Brighton, and Newton. The population of Brookline and Brighton, represents an excellent cross section of economic classes in the United States. To all appearances these communities seem to have a middle class orientation although the occupations range from laborer's to doctor's and lawyer's. In regard to housing, the areas are saturated with apartment buildings that rent for modest sums. There is both a high income housing development and a simple veterans project, as well as a large number of private homes in the area.

¹Louis Kraft, Jewish Center Movement. Aspects of the Jewish Community Center, p.46.

In contrast, Newton is a predominantly middle to upper class community with few if any, apartment houses. Most of the residents live in private one family and two family homes, have one or two cars, and seem quite secure economically.

Within the past decade there has been a large influx of Jews to these communities. In 1947 a small center was established in a Brookline loft as a trial run in order to determine just what the needs of the community were. Within a short time the center was swamped and a survey conducted by the Jewish Welfare Board affirmed the obvious fact that a large center was needed to serve the communities. Through the combined efforts of the Associated Jewish Philanthropies and the Jewish Communities of the surrounding areas a large new building was constructed and opened to the public by 1956.

As a Jewish Community Center the B.B.N. is affiliated with the Jewish Welfare Board and the Jewish Centers Association of Greater Boston. The B.B.N. subscribes to the Jewish Centers' philosophy and goals and to the co-ordinative-supervisory role of the Jewish Welfare Board. As pointed out in the basic requirements of the Jewish Community Centers, the functions of the Jewish Center include:

A. Service as an agency of Jewish identification.

- B. Service as a common meeting ground for all Jews. Membership is open to the entire Jewish community, no one to be excluded by reason of Jewish doctrine or ritual or because of his political or social views.
- C. Service as an agency of personality development. The total needs of the individual, his interests and capacities for growth, and his needs for meaningful Jewish living, in particular, are basic to the method and content of the Jewish Center program.
- D. Furtherance of the democratic way of life.
- E. Assistance in the integration of the individual Jew, as well as of the Jewish group, into the total American community.

The Jewish Center fulfills these functions through (1) a dynamic flexible program of recreation and informal education for the entire Jewish community, and (2) the use of the group work method.²

Within the three communities served by the B.B.N., there are many temples that offer educational programs to the Jewish population. As a result, the B.B.N. has emphasized its health, education and gym programs along with fundamental group work -- and has let the educative role continue largely under the auspices of the temples.

The B.B.N. has a close working arrangement with the Jewish Family and Children's Service as well as some community psychiatric clinics and other social agencies. Selective use of the social service exchange of which the B.B.N. is a member, is followed.

²Ibid., p.24.

Agency Services

The B.B.N. serves all age groups from nursery school children to older adults. Its program includes special interest groups, day camp, health club, friendship groups and workshops.

The divisions of the center are as follows: (1) nursery (2) Juniors, age six to eleven (3) Tween teens, age twelve to fourteen (4) Intermediate, age fourteen to eighteen (5) Seniors, age eighteen to twenty-two (6) Young Adults, age twenty-two to twenty-nine (7) Twenty-nine plus, single adults (8) Adults (9) Senior Adults (10) Day Camp (11) Health Club. For each of the divisions from Juniors thru Senior Adults the choice of program includes a friendship group, a special interest group, use of the gym, and health club facilities for those that wish to use them. The health club is reserved for divisions six thru nine.

Officially, there are approximately three thousand members of the B.B.N. This includes the inactive membership. Actually there are about eighteen hundred active members with the bulk of the membership falling into the Intermediate Junior, and Adult divisions. The agency also supervises an extension program for Senior Adults at a Temple in Brookline. The membership involved in this extension program is the fourth largest grouping served by the center. The B.B.N.

is also sponsoring a detached worker program for the communities it serves.

Administration

The Center is run by a self maintaining board of adults interested in both the agency and community problems. Many of the board members are actively engaged in the center program and in their respective divisions. The board has standing committees that concern themselves with the center membership. Suggestions, criticisms, and the like, are voiced to the appropriate committee which then approaches the board with the matter if it is deemed important enough. The center staff has direct contact with the board and concerns itself with the board regarding many important issues. The agency's funds are supplied by the Associated Jewish Philanthropies, membership dues, community contributions, and occasional grants. Enclosed is a chart explaining the chain of administrative responsibilities, which, hopefully, can clarify some of the readers questions. (see p. 20A)

Staff

At present, there are five professionally trained group workers, one professional physical education and health director, and two trained nursery supervisors at the B.B.N. Each division is headed by a professionally trained worker, with the exception of the Junior division which has a

professionally experienced worker. Each division head receives close supervision from the program director who in turn is supervised by the executive director. Both of these last mentioned people are trained group workers.

Each division head hires and supervises part time leaders to work with the groups in the division. Presently, there are approximately fifty-five part time leaders at the B.B.N.

In addition to this staff coverage a social work student can usually be found fulfilling his field work requirements there. This student is supervised by the program director; and he also leads one or two groups as well as being a supervisor of some part time leaders.

This highly trained Social Work staff is supplemented by a skilled office and maintenance staff. Free and positive communications between the staff, and between the board and the staff, has been of immeasurable importance in the valuable services that the B.B.N. has thus far successfully promoted.

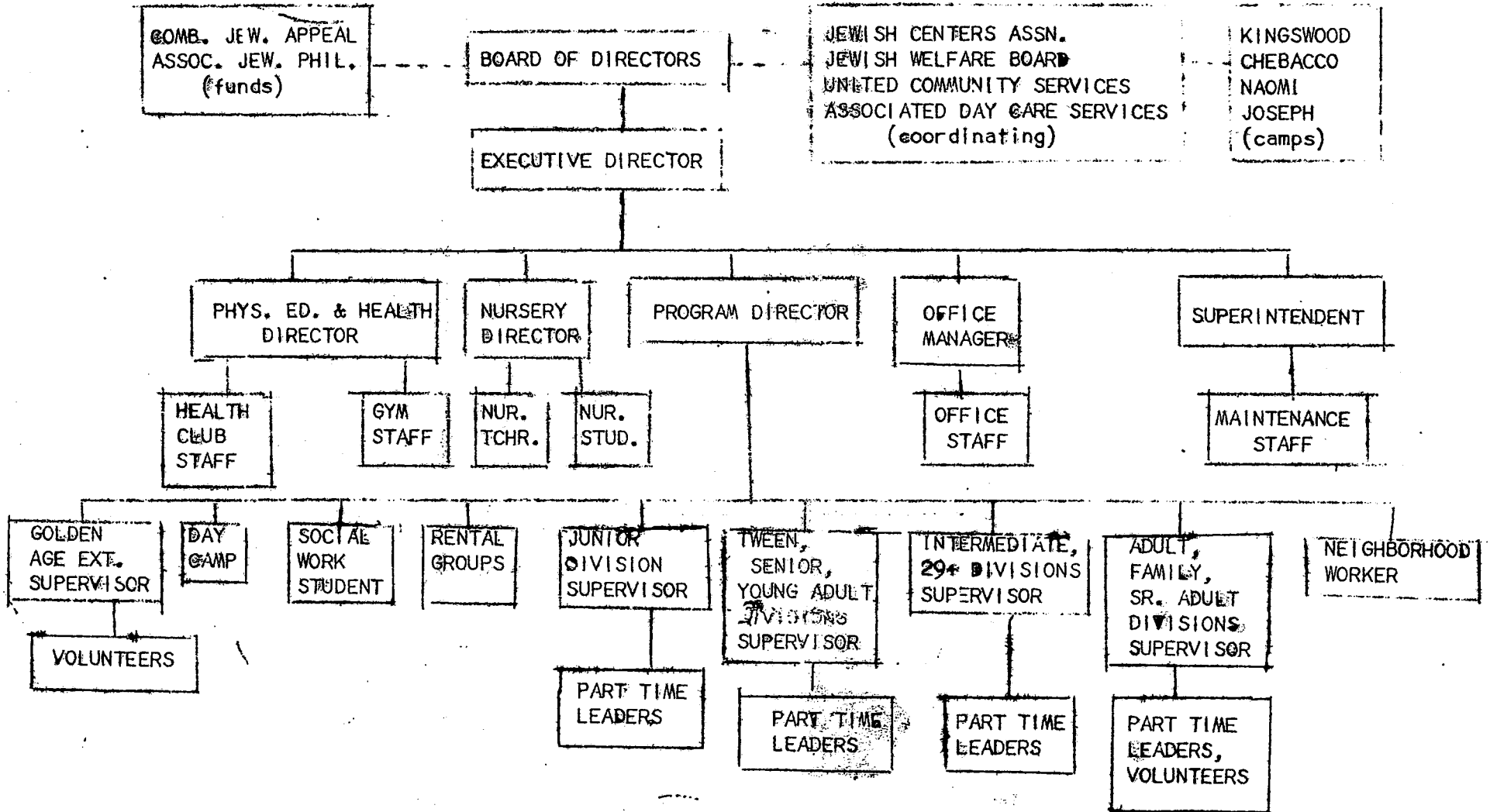
Physical Setting

The Center is a large modern building occupying half a city block. Within its walls there are six class rooms, a large nursery, a large meeting room, six offices for staff, two lounges, specialty shops, and a large spacious gym with

health club facilities. A canteen and a playground area outside the building, round out the facilities that are available for group-club programs.

It is within this setting that the Senior Adult club is situated.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, BROOKLINE-BRIGHTON-NEWTON



2005

CHAPTER IIII

THE SENIOR ADULT CLUB AT THE BRIGHTON, BROOKLINE, NEWTON CENTER.

The Senior Adult club at the B.B.N., was started in the fall of 1956 with the following goals in mind:

To help the members cope with their problems of overdependency (2) To counteract their apathy towards life. (3) To set up relationships where personal problems could be handled. (4) To establish a place where people could come and enjoy themselves. (5) To bring new experiences and horizons into the lives of the golden agers.¹

Although a golden age program was already in operation in the Brookline community (which was being supervised by the B.B.N.) the agency felt a second club was called for to, a)serve the unserved senior adult in the Brighton and Newton communities, and b), to emphasize small group activities in contra-distinction to the general mass programming that was followed in the other senior adult club. Thus, this second club was designed to avoid duplication of activities, with the other golden age club.

The club was established through the joint sponsorship of the National Council of Jewish Women and the B.B.N. The former organization provided part of the funds to support the club and volunteer workers to help out with the program. The Center contributed the professional staff, housing, and a major part of the funds.

¹ Donald L. Feldstein, Program Director, Jewish Community Center of Brookline, Brighton, Newton, Personal Communication.

In the first year of the groups existence the goals were to attract a general membership, and to establish an active nucleus of these members, from the surrounding community. The meeting dates were arranged to conflict with the other golden age club in order to foster an allegiance to the club at the B.B.N. A female professional group worker was assigned to the club and she worked with them until April, 1957, when, pregnancy forced her to leave. This worker helped establish a nucleus and built up a membership of one hundred golden agers.

However, of the total membership, there were only approximately thirty five active participants, the rest were on the lists, but seldom there in person. About half of the club were members of the other golden age group in the community and they tended to divide their time between both clubs. The other half were new to golden age clubs and they made up a major part of the active membership. There was a large proportion of American born golden agers in the club during the first year. Surprisingly, there was also a large percentage of male members who made up about forty five per cent of the total membership for the year.

The program of the club was small group oriented emphasizing such activities as a dance class, discussion group, and an English class. The activities were spread

out, so that there was some program each day of the week. This arrangement proved impractical because of the poor attendance and the program was cut to two regular meetings per week for the beginning of the next year.

In place of the worker, two other women took over leadership of the senior adults until the season's end. During the season the group developed very little structure and they were greatly dependent on the worker to do everything.

With the start of the second year, a new male worker was hired. Starting with the small active nucleus this worker concentrated on developing a structure of committees and officers in the group. Many of the inactive first year members dropped out of the club by neglecting to pay their dues and other interested, more active people took their place. This new membership was composed of a majority of European immigrants - making a more characteristic group membership - as would be found in other Jewish golden age groups. Thus, there was a growth in the active membership of the club but the total number of members remained approximately the same. The worker found that he was the key member - he had to be the jack of all trades who kept things going. It took most of the year before the group finally elected officers, set up a Happy Day Fund, and a few permanent committees. The worker shared responsibilities

with the volunteers and officers (when they were elected) in an effort to have the members become more involved and responsible for the club. However, the worker generally was the one who arranged and ran the programs due to the passive participating attitude of the club members. This attitude had been reinforced by their other associations with golden age clubs, where the worker did all the work while the members sat back and waited to be served.

In addition to the regular Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening programs, the club had a monthly birthday party social, and an arts and crafts class. The average attendance at these programs, had increased considerably over the first year totals.

As in the first year, the club had broad use of the agency facilities which included a large meeting room, the agency lounge, small classrooms, and other areas as the need manifested itself.

With the influx of more European members the sex distribution changed and the women had a large majority. The worker was respected by the group but at the same time he had difficulty in establishing meaningful relationships with the women, due to the influence of cultural mores, whereby close relationships between the sexes is limited to spouses or close relatives. Outsiders are treated formally and are not involved in personal problems.

Thus, by the end of the second year the active membership almost doubled, the sex distribution became more unbalanced, and some definite group structure had been formed.

At the end of this second year, the Senior Adult Steering Committee (one of the permanent committees which will eventually be composed of staff, volunteers and club officers but which at that time and even today has no club officer in attendance), recommended that there be no conflict to meeting dates with the other Golden Age club. It was agreed that the Senior Adult club at the B.B.N. would meet on Monday afternoon and Wednesday evenings. The monthly birthday party socials were not affected by this change.

With the start of this season a different staff person was assigned to work with the Senior Adult club. She became familiar with the club during the summer, observing the program, getting to know members, and raising questions with the worker. Thus when she took charge she was able to move quickly to the main issues affecting the club. The following is a description of the club as it stands today:

Characteristics of the Club

There are ninety-five active members in the club out of a total membership of one hundred and thirteen. There are no residence requirements. Membership is open to people over sixty or retired workers who are near the age of sixty.

Members are required to pay a five dollar membership fee per year. This money goes to the agency treasury.

The club has approximately seventy per cent females and thirty per cent males. Due to this distribution, a stratified random sampling was drawn for this study in order to insure a truly representative sample.

TABLE 1
MARITAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE

Marital Status	Number of Women	Number of Men
Single	1	0
Married	1	4
Widow(er)	11	1
Divorced	1	0
Total	14	5

As can be seen from the above table, there are proportionately at least as many married men as there are widows in the club. This prevalence of widowhood amongst senior adult women can be traced to the fact that they outlive the men.

TABLE 2
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE

Age	Number of Women	Number of Men
60-64	1	0
65-70	3	2
71-75	4	2
76-80	5	1
81-85	1	0
Total	14	5

It is interesting to note that as the age increases, the proportion of women to men also increases.

Many of the women in the club tend to live alone as the following table points out:

TABLE 3
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SAMPLE

Living Arrangements	Number of Women	Number of Men
Alone	8	0
With Spouse	1	3
With Children	4	1
With Friend	1	0
With Spouse and Children	0	1
Total	14	5

This situation would undoubtedly add to the loneliness of the women who belong to the club. Thus they eagerly look forward to the club meetings where they can be amongst friends and not feel lonely. Even those women who live with their children, expressed the feeling that they too look forward to club meetings to be among friends, and to escape tense family relationships at home.

These circumstances can be taken as contributing to the fact that there are more women than men in Senior Adult clubs. Because of the large majority of women, some men may shy away from joining the club, since it is perceived as a "womens club".

Weather conditions have a great influence on the club attendance. Due to the many physical difficulties and health problems that affect the senior adult, inclement or threatening weather generally forces him to stay at home. With good weather prevailing, an average attendance of sixty-five can be expected on Monday afternoon and an attendance of fifty on Wednesday evenings. It is worthwhile noting that the members who live within walking distance of the center, attend the club meetings more often and on a more consistent basis than those who use other means of transportation.

Socio-Economic Background

A majority of the club members fall below the middle income

bracket. Most of them live off their Social Security payments, money they saved, and contributions from their children. Because of their economic status, they are not pressured to pay the five dollar membership dues. However, most of the members pay their dues either by installments or in one lump sum.

A large proportion of the club members live in their own homes or apartments. These people are able to maintain their independent abodes through their children's financial help. Of the nineteen people interviewed, only six live in someone else's home -- their children's.

A majority of the members were born in Eastern Europe, especially in Russia. There are also a large number of American born members plus a few Hungarian immigrants. Their place of origin seems to have little influence regarding their choice of friends or activities.

There is a good cross section of the different levels of religious affiliation among the club members. No difficulties have arisen because of religious affiliation; rather there seems to be an acceptance of all the club members by other club members because "After all, we are all Jewish."

Most of the members have had little secular schooling, since they went to work when they were quite young. Comparitively in education they seem to have had more religious than secular schooling; especially the men.

Using the twenty per cent sample as a measure, most of the members had been employed as unskilled laborers during their working days. The women usually gave up their jobs when they were married and became housewives. Only a few returned to the working force after their marriage.

A large number of the members' children are trained professionals and they live in the higher income communities in the Boston area, and in other similar communities in the United States.

Group Structure

When the present season began, the club had elected officers but none of the committees were functioning. Because of the club's size, and the desire to have the senior adults become responsible for the functioning of their club, it was very important to establish permanent working committees. During the year, the following committees were set up:

A. Sick Persons Visiting Committee

The function of this group is to report to the club about the illness and/or progress in recuperation from an illness, of any club member. The chairman and group members visit the ill people as representatives of the club. Occasionally the chairman gives a gift from the club for the ill members.

B. Better Health Committee

This committees' job is to contact informational and educational resources regarding how to achieve better health for the club members. At times, this involves bringing in professional speakers, and health films.

C. Executive Committee

This committee meets once a month to review problems that are facing the club and to divide the job responsibilities among the club members. The committee members are elected by the club. Some committee chairmen are appointed to this group by the worker, after consultation with the President.

D. Program Committee

This group meets once a month to plan programs for the club. The chairman was appointed by the worker, and interested people, with program ideas are asked to serve on this committee including volunteers. The worker plans programs for the club in conjunction with this group.

In addition to these permanent committees, there are a number of individuals who are in charge of specific aspects of the program. One of the women members, with the help of club volunteers, takes care of purchasing preparing, and serving refreshments at the meeting.

The treasurer acts as the Happy Day Fund chairman and

she goes about collecting nickles and dimes from the members. This money is put into the Happy Day Fund which is used to help defray the cost of trips, shows, and special functions that the club has.

The club sends four delegates and two alternates to the Golden Age Council - a co-ordinating body of all the Jewish Golden Age clubs in the Boston area.

There are also a number of ad-hoc committees that are organized around a specific program after which, the committees break up. These groups are formed by the worker, or by the officers with the workers help, when the need arises.

Club Officers

The club elects a President, Vice-President and Treasurer. The President presides at the meetings, reports to the club about decisions of the Executive Committee, and of the Golden Age Council. The Vice-President co-ordinates the various committee functions and informs the club of their progress.

The Treasurer collects money for the Happy Day Fund, and handles the club expenses.

On paper the clubs' structure appears to be strong and sound; actually this is not so. Many of the club members go away for long vacations during the fall and winter months thus leaving the club without officers and with sorely depleted committees. Illness and physical ailments also take their toll in affecting the work of the committees

and officers. As a result of these circumstances the worker finds herself in the position where she has to carry the major work load for the club. The creation of ad-hoc committees, by the worker, has helped to alleviate some of the load in addition to helping some of the senior adults to accept responsibility in working for their club. The problems of the senior adults' dependency upon the worker and their passivity regarding activity undoubtedly add to the ineffectiveness of the clubs' structure.

Program

The club meets regularly twice a week. Monday afternoons from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. are devoted to business meetings and programs such as speakers, movies, entertainers, readers of Jewish literature and book reviews. The President acts as the host and introduces the various parts of the program. For this meeting the club uses the large meeting room on the second floor. The room is set up with bridge tables and chairs so that the members can play cards, dominoes or other similar games before the actual program starts.

On Wednesday evenings, from 7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. the club meets in the large guest lounge on the street floor. Bridge tables and chairs are set up for them and the members spend most of the evening playing table games such as checkers, cards and dominoes. During certain times of the season

the worker leads a small discussion group in one corner of the lounge. Occasionally the members themselves discuss issues pertaining to their personal lives. In short, these meetings, are of a free lounge type with the members free to do as they choose.

Refreshments make up an integral part of both meetings as they are eagerly anticipated by members during the latter part of the meeting.

In addition to these mass - passive activities, there are small special interest groups which meet on Thursday mornings. These groups include arts and crafts, discussion, and sewing. However, there is poor attendance at these functions. For a few months, the men had a special gym club which met on Friday mornings, but this activity was dropped by the agency due to poor attendance. On the first Saturday night of each month the club holds its monthly birthday party social. All the members dress formally and come to a social affair which includes dancing, group singing and occasionally entertainers. Members whose birthday fall in that particular month are presented with cards, flowers and the good wishes of the club. This function tends to be very well attended.

Other activities engaged in by the club on a less frequent basis included: sight-seeing trips, going out to shows, and

visiting museums. Members are also eligible to attend the Golden Age Summer Camp run by the Jewish Centers Association for a period of two weeks in the summer.

The Worker

The present senior adult worker is a graduate social worker of approximately thirty years of age. This is her first year as a member of the center staff. The worker's goal in working with the club, is to help the members assume responsibilities that they are capable of - through her role as enabler.

To help the members assume responsibility was and is a difficult task especially when the prevailing attitude seemed to be "We have already done enough in our lives, - now you do for us." Initially the worker went along with this attitude and assumed the major work load. She was aided to some extent by the president, the volunteers and a few interested members.

The worker's technique was to proceed with the pace of the club and look for areas where she could move in and help the members to expand their interests. One of the first opportunities to present itself was the members' interest in health problems of Senior Adults. The worker brought in outside resources to speak to the club and she involved some of the more interested members in these efforts.

With the success of these programs, and the subsequent demand for more, the worker fostered the establishment of the Better Health Committee - chaired by a member who is a college graduate and is well versed in matters of health.

Following this procedure, the worker established the program committee, activated the Sick Persons Visiting committee and the executive committee. The worker still found that she was greatly depended upon but a start had been made towards more active involvement by the members.

Illness and vacations threw a wrench into the budding system, so that the worker had to resort to establishing ad-hoc committees that functioned in regard to a specific program. These committees did very well but they dispersed after their job was done leaving the club without a definite system.

In appointing committee chairmen and establishing committees, the worker cleared these matters with the president and executive committee.

Simultaneously, the worker conducted individual 'intake' conferences with the club members, thus establishing a closer relationship with them, and learning more about them. Another goal that the worker hoped to achieve through these sessions was to refer members to other (social) services such as case work, and the Boston Guild for the Hard of Hearing. Three referrals have been made but the clients

have not followed through on them.

The worker found that generally the members did not approach her in their free time about their problems or questions. There were a few who did, but they were the exceptions. Lately, however, many members would approach the worker during the meetings, blurt out some criticisms, ideas, and the like, and then walk away leaving the worker hanging; or they would listen to what the worker had to say, but refuse to take any initiative in following through on their own ideas.

In general, most of the initiative in the club has come from the worker, the committees are quite dependent on her and she has to always be ready to fill in when the members or officers, are out sick or on vacation. However, as time goes by and the worker's relationship with the club grows stronger and goes deeper, the members' initiative and activity seem to be increasing. The worker's goals at present are: 1. to get the members to voice their opinions about the program; 2. to involve more members in working for the club; 3. to help the club recognize the importance and need for functioning committees; 4. and to support, with the help of the Executive committee, members to assume responsible functions in the club.

The worker believes that much of this can be accomplished as the club becomes more active and their interests and desire for new experiences expand.

Teaching these people to plan and run programs and showing them that they can have fun doing it is very important. Getting them to attend the small group activities on Thursday mornings where they can create and do original things is also very important. These goals are based on the principle that Senior Adults can learn new things and gain new skills which is one of the basic reasons we have the Senior Adult Club. ²

²Discussion with Jean Levinson, Senior Adult Worker
Jewish Community Center of Brookline, Brighton, Newton,
February, 1959.

CHAPTER V

PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Attitude towards Program

There have been many statements regarding the importance of program in group activities. One which seems to be appropriate for senior adults states:

Program is a means for improving relations among people - it is the meat which provides nourishment for healthy, happy group living. It is the stimulus which helps bind the group together in a satisfying social climate. It is the medium whereby the individual is assisted to maintain his status and to grow in stature. Thus, it is never an end in itself, but is only a means toward a broader, richer life. ¹

As such, it would be of great value to be aware of what the attitudes of the Senior Adults are towards their program. "Simply stated, program in Social Group Work has come to mean anything and everything the group does to satisfy its interests."²

The first four questions of the schedule were concerned with the Senior Adult attitude towards the present club program, and towards new program suggestions.

Analysis of Question One

This question was designed to reveal what the members personal taste was in regard to present or new activities

¹Kaplan, op. cit., p.79.

²Kaplan, op. cit., p. 79.

on an individual basis.

1. "What activities (games, discussions, meetings) that the club offers, do you take part in?
 - a. Which of these activities do you enjoy the most?
 - b. Do you have any suggestions for another activity that you and the club would enjoy?
 - c. Are there any activities that the club should change, or not have? What are they and why would you change them"?

In their answers the respondents favored card playing and educational talks as their most enjoyable activities. These answers were freely given without any hesitancy. However, in regard to parts b. and c. a majority of the people seemed reluctant, at first, to offer their ideas.

The typical answer was "Everything we have is okay" or "I have no criticism." Only five people answered the question directly, stating that there should be more educational content at the meetings such as talks about Jewish traditions, current events, and book reviews. Later on during the interview, the fourteen people who were reluctant to voice their opinions, made comments similar to those stated by the above mentioned five respondents.

Seven of the respondents felt that educational material should be substituted for card playing -- an activity, which in their eyes, was too dominant in the club.

There were five suggestions made regarding other activities of which only two were new to the club, these were, doing auxillary hospital work (rolling bandages and making floral decorations), and establishing a Yiddish and English library for club members.

In mentioning 'educational talks' the people referred to having a speaker present his thoughts and ideas -- after which, those who were interested would discuss the presentation.

They expressed great interest in having more 'educational content' via educational talks, seems to indicate a desire to have more authoritarian oriented activities, where those involved can sit back and pick the brains of a speaker without exposing themselves to criticism. This reaction points to an attitude of non-involvement or inaction in regard to activities. There seems to be a prevailing dependent tone which says "Give me" with very little wish to give in return.

The feelings aired about card playing are indicative of the cultural backgrounds of many golden agers who were led to believe that playing cards is not a nice thing for a 'good Jew' to do. "It is more important to learn, to educate ones' self about important things."

The initial reluctance of many respondents to 'criticize' the program appears to be indicative of a fear that they

would be regarded as ungrateful or unappreciative of what has been done for them. This fear was expressed by most of the respondents during the interview. The criticisms that were stated came in answer to questions three and four where there was an indirect approach in contrast to the directness of question one. It is important to note that perhaps it was too early in the interview to ask such a direct question, since a warm rapport may not have yet developed.

Analysis of Question Four

This question had the same purpose as question one a) except that here the club aspect was stressed in contrast to the individual desires expressed in question one. "Which events, do you, as a part of the club, find to be your favorites." might have been a better way to state the question.

Is there a difference in their individual and group choices? What does the difference, if any, signify?

Part b brought in the aspect of training the worker for golden age programming. Do they regard their programs as important enough to make demands on the worker?

4. "The club has many kinds of events at the meetings such as:

1. discussions, 2. singing, 3. relaxing games,
4. entertainment, 5. educational speakers, 6. music appreciation, 7. sewing and knitting, 8. readers.

- a. Which two events have you found to be your favorite?
- b. For which two events would you advise the school and agency to give special training for the staff (aide) person.?"?

An overwhelming majority of the sample stated that their favorite club events were singing, listening to educational speakers, and listening to 'readers' of literature. (the events are listed in the order of preference.)

In answer to part b seventy-four per cent were of the opinion that the worker does not need any special training in the meeting 'events'. Four of the remaining five respondents wished the worker to have special training in the favorite club events stated above.

The popularity of singing can be traced to its reminiscent value, in that it enables the people to relive some of their youthful days as they sing the songs of their youth. The songs, sung by the club are mainly Yiddish or Hebrew.

What was said about the desire for educational talks in Question one, is also applicable to the choices made in answer to this question regarding the choices other than singing. (This is in reference to the authoritarian oriented activities.)

The reactions to part b seem to point out that there is a desire not to be too demanding of the worker "Because the worker is really trying her best." The majority of the respondents would sacrifice the possible enhancement of their

Program - for fear the worker would be alienated. The need for the worker seems to be more dominant than the need for program.

Analysis of Question Two

This question introduced a new type of possible program for the senior adults. How would they accept the idea? What would be their suggestions? Would they be prepared to face the issues involved in this situation?

2. "If there were a chance to do so, would you advise that the Senior Adult club have occasional meetings with younger age groups in the center?

- a. What kind of program would you suggest, to have at these meetings?
- b. If yes - what possible benefit can result from the meetings?
- c. If no - why not?

The sample was divided whether or not to have programs with younger people. Nine respondents favored the idea because of the positive value of having an exchange of ideas with younger groups. "We can learn from each other - we can get new ideas from them and they could learn from our experience." Lectures and discussions about current events and community problems were the types of activities suggested for this program.

Eight respondents were against the suggested idea claiming that "young people and golden agers don't mix." "The

younger people would only be pitying us - and this would hurt us even more." Four people cited examples of difficulties they were having with their own families regarding the conflicts of the older and younger generations. The other two respondents were undecided about having the program. They felt that the meetings could be beneficial for all concerned but "Older people and younger people don't get along well with each other."

TABLE 4
ATTITUDES TOWARD PROGRAMS WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE

	Number For	Number Undecided	Number Against
Men	5	0	0
Women	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	9	2	8

It is interesting to note that a significant majority of the women were against or hesitant about having programs with younger people while all of the men were willing to try it.

The split between the men and the women may be traced to greater confidence and security of the male golden age as contrasted with the female. Generally, in the past, it was the man who went out to work, made new and different contacts, from which he learned and gained self confidence. "He was a man of the world." In contrast, the woman remain-

ed home, in the familiar neighborhood rarely venturing forth to become involved with new problems. "She was a good housewife and mother."

As a result of these circumstances, the male seems to be more accepting and understanding of the problems between the older and younger generations. The woman may feel deserted and hurt by the younger peoples' desire for independence because of its denial of her role in life. Thus, she generally would not care to mix with them - as was evidenced by the four respondents who cited family difficulties to back up their contention that "young people and older people don't mix."

Regarding the program suggestions, once again the desire for talks and discussions came forth, but in this instance a real give and take was involved 'learning from each other.'

The issue which seemed paramount to the sample was 'is the learning and exchange with younger people, worth the possible hurt we may receive if we try it.' "Should we take a chance;" the men appeared more willing to do so than the women.

Analysis of Question Three

This question was designed to ascertain how the people felt about having morning programs. If the club would like to have additional activities, mornings would be the best time for the agency to have them established. What kind

of activities would they choose for the mornings? This question was asked indirectly by referring to 'materials.' How aware are they of the procedure and channels for requesting another activity?

3. "If the center was to be available an additional morning for Senior Adult activities, what materials would you advise the center to prepare for the Senior Adult?

- a. Suppose the center was available, how would you approach the center about obtaining materials, for the activity?

The entire sample seemed to be taken aback by the question of morning activities. "How early - do you mean morning?" The general feeling was "Older people can't go places in the mornings - they get up late, do their household chores, so they can be free for the afternoon." Fifty-seven per cent felt that the 'morning activities' should start no earlier than 10:45 A.M. or 11:00 A.M., so that the Senior Adult could get there in time for the start of the activity. Eleven suggestions were made regarding possible activities. Five of the suggestions were copies of the present morning program that the club has. Another five suggestions were for educational activities such as lectures, english classes, and book reviews. The eleventh suggestion was for a religious program of praying and singing.

Eight respondents were against having morning activities

even if they started later. "For morning activities we would have to get up earlier; and the days are long enough for us, as it is." None of these people made suggestion for a morning activity.

In asking part (a) of the question, the interviewer found that the interviewees had difficulty understanding what was being asked. Their answers had very little connection with the question. Therefore, this section of question three was dropped in the analysis of the data.

The great concern about getting up early to attend club activities, can be attributed to the general problem of adjusting to reality - a problem which is generally present in the golden agers life. When his day is shorter, the senior adult figures he will have less time in which to feel lonely, rejected, and useless in society. Sleep has become an mechanism of denial and a means of escape from reality. Getting up early, would involve a breakdown of these defenses a break which many golden agers are not prepared to face.

The activity suggestions were repetitious of activities that the club has already had. This lack of originality represents a danger that the people may be falling into the rut of repeating familiar activities because they are familiar, and not because they offer more enjoyment.

Summary

In general, there seemed to be a desire for more educat-

ional programs. This was the only request which stood out in an otherwise general attitude of acceptance of the present program. There was a definite reluctance to change the scope of the program because of the various problems that face the senior adult in our society. The problem of repetition of activities stood out sharply. This lack of willingness to suggest, or knowledge of, new and different activities, presents a problem which needs to be handled immediately, if program is to have meaning for these people.

Attitude Towards Worker

The worker has come to be recognized as the essential ingredient in the growth and development of groups in the practice of social group work.

The group worker enables various types of groups to function in such a way, that both group interaction and program activities contribute to the growth of the individual, and the achievement of desirable social goals. The group worker makes conscious use of his relation to the group, his knowledge of program as a tool, and his understanding of the individual and of the group process³

How the worker is regarded by those who he is serving, and how they interpret his role, plays a significant part in determining the quality of his work with them.

Questions five, six, seven, and nine were designed to explore the Golden Agers' attitudes towards their present

³Harleigh. B. Trecker, Social Group Work Principles and Practices, pp. 24, 25.

worker, and their concept of her job with the Senior Adult Club.

Analysis of Question Five

What does the Senior Adult recognize as the workers job? How dependent is he or she on the worker? What are the priorities, if any, regarding the golden agers' interpretation of the worker's job? These are the points that this question seeks an answer to

5. In what ways have you found that the Staff aide has been helpful to the club?

- a. If the staff aide was unavailable to attend one or two meetings, who would you suggest as a substitute?
- b. In which specific activities have you found the staff aide to be needed, more than in others?

There were four views of how the worker has been helpful to the club; they were, a) through showing leadership, b) having insight into the problems of elderly people and giving them individual attention, c) being friendly and accepting of everyone, d) having knowledge of available resources, and planning for the Golden Agers.

Regarding part b, a majority of the sample stated that the club needs the worker for everything, "A ship can't run without a captain." Those who did state specific activities, repeated the four views mentioned above.

In answer to part a, nine respondents suggested that some

other staff member or the volunteer workers act as leader substitutes. Seven people were unable to suggest any substitute at all, while only four people thought that the club officers should take charge of the meeting. In referring to the president of the club as a substitute, four respondents equated the president with the staff and did not recognize him as a club officer. This may be related to the personality of the particular individual and necessarily because of their concept of his role.

A comparison of officers and non-officers with their suggestion as to who should substitute for the worker revealed the members dependence upon the worker. Results of this comparison are shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5
SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTE FOR WORKER

Respondents Position in Club	Other Staff	Volunteer Workers	Club Officers	President	Don't know
Officer	3	2	3	1	2
Non Officer	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	9	4	5	1	6

Six of the respondents listed two choices. Thus, out of twenty-five suggested substitutes, club officers and the president were mentioned six times. There were eight officers in the sample and they made eleven suggestions

and voting for themselves only four times. Proportionately, the non officers had more confidence in the club officers than the officers themselves.

The four views presented by the respondents on how the worker has been helpful to the club seem to represent qualities attributed to the worker by the club members. It appears that the respondents were unable to divorce the personality characteristics of the worker from the performance of her job. It is the giving, warm personality and leadership ability that is recognized as the worker's primary function in the club - the specific activity is not important.

The fact of the members' dependence upon the worker was clearly shown in the answers to parts a and b. Even the club officers had little confidence in their ability to function without the worker. The general reaction to the choice of a substitute, or substitutes, seems to indicate that the club officers have little status, or prestige in the club. The exception to this point, is the president of the club. He seems to occupy a unique position in that the members tend to regard him as a staff person, while the staff regards him as a club member.

Analysis of Question Six

What specific attributes do the members regard as important for the worker to have? Will these requirements

match the qualities of the present worker? This question seeks to pin point the members' attitude towards the worker.

6. In choosing a person to work with the Senior Adults, what qualities should the school and the Center look for:

age, (how old); sex, (M. or F.); educational background; personality; religious; background; family man; special skills.

There was general agreement amongst the respondents what the necessary qualities of the worker should be. Fifty-two per cent felt that the worker should not be more than about forty-five years old. The other forty-eight per cent did not specify an age limit. There was unanimous agreement that the worker should be at least in the late twenties because if he/she was too young he would be inexperienced and not capable of handling the difficult problems of leading a golden age group. "Many of the members are like children and they have to be treated with understanding and by experienced hands. A youngster would not know what to do as well as an older person who already has experience in working with people."

Although forty-eight per cent set no age limit they expressed similar opinions to the fifty-two per cent who felt that the worker should not be 'too old' because then he would be more like a golden ager and would not command the respect of the club.

A majority of the sample were of the opinion that it

is the workers' personality that should be the determining factor whether or not he would work with golden agers. The virtues of patience, understanding, acceptance, warmth, pleasantness, good naturedness, and helpfulness were the qualities that were listed regarding the workers' personality. It was readily accepted that education was important and that the worker should be trained to work with golden agers. "If he is a social worker then he has to go to college and have the training for it."

Only four respondents believed that an extensive religious background should be one of the worker's necessary attributes. The rest of the sample felt that to be knowledgeable in religious matters would be valuable, but a lack of such knowledge, should not be a discriminating factor.

Whether or not the worker should not be a family person (be married and be with or without children.) was regarded as immaterial by eighty-nine per cent of the sample. Two respondents stated that the worker should be single. "If the worker would be a 'family man' then he would not be free to devote more time to the golden agers." Sixty-three per cent did not state any preference regarding the sex of the worker. Five respondents believed the worker should be a woman. "Since there are more women in the club you need a woman worker because she would understand

things better." One respondent, saw a need for both a male and female worker to be with the club - "The man to help the men and the woman for the women." The remaining respondent felt the worker should be a man. "A man would have more respect." Interestingly, the five respondents who favored a female worker, gave an actual description of the present worker in listing the worker's qualities.

There were but few suggestions regarding any special skills that the worker need have. Fourteen people felt that no special skills were necessary, except, to know how to handle the problems of golden agers. Four people wished the worker to be well versed in the history of foreign countries. One person stressed the need for the worker to be able to speak and understand Yiddish. "So she would be able to 'communicate' better with us."

The three requirements which were the most significant to the respondents were age, sex, and personality. All three of these areas seemed to affect the underlying question "Will this worker be able to understand and cater to us and our problems?" Age, (experience), is most important in this matter. Sex is important as well, when we consider that a majority of the club is female - and that females tend to relate better to females; especially amongst people who have cultural values regarding the development of relationships with members of the opposite sex. Person-

ality is most important since this is what the people relate to. The significance of the worker's personality once again stood out. The majority of the sample was not particular in regard to the other attributes - except in the areas of age and sex, where the requests generally fit a description of the worker. Interestingly, in regard to religious background, special skills, family man, and educational background, most of the respondents answers were descriptive of the present worker. In general, there seemed to be a complete acceptance of the worker, indeed, perhaps identification as well.

Even the specifically suggested special skills that the worker should have seemed to be constructive hints as to how the worker could improve her work with the club and not criticisms of her.

Analysis of Question Seven

This question asks, do the members feel free to approach the worker with ideas, and questions? or, are they just passive and accepting - taking it all in and not voicing their opinions?

7. Suppose you wanted to get some things done in the club. How would you communicate to the staff aide what your feelings are: (So the staff-aide would be able to help you and the club gain what is wanted.)

Seventy-four per cent stated that they felt free to

approach and talk to the worker about the club if they had something on their mind. Many respondents said that they have already done so. The remaining five respondents were divided between seeking group approval before speaking to the worker, and feeling that they would not care to criticize the club or what is going on.

This freedom to speak to the worker is somewhat misleading. In the previous chapter on the golden age club it was pointed out that most of the members, if they wished to tell the worker something, approached the worker at a moments notice and blurt out a few sentences and then walked away. However, the fact remains that the members do approach the worker and this is a step along the way in getting the people to become more actively concerned about their club. This freedom can be taken as a sign of the members' acceptance of the worker - they feel secure in their relationship with her.

Those who were reluctant to 'speak' to the worker, typify many golden agers who seem to be fearful of 'criticizing' less they be regarded as ungrateful for what is being done for them. According to the first and second year workers, this behavioral pattern was dominant among the club members.

Analysis of Question Nine

What do the members recognize as the workers' role in

regard to planning club programs? How dependent or independent are they of the worker in this area? Three planning arrangements are suggested, leaving an obvious fourth one out - "worker and members planning together." Will the respondents pick up on this point or will they just go along with the given suggestions?

9. In some clubs the members get together to plan club programs. In some clubs the staff aide plans the programs alone; while in other clubs (senior adults), the worker plans the club program with the help of the club officers.

- a. What kind of planning arrangement would you suggest a Senior Adult Club have?
- b. Why do you feel this way?

In lieu of the three suggested planning arrangements, sixty-three per cent favored having the worker and the club members plan the programs together. The other seven respondents were equally divided between having the worker and club officers, or the worker alone plan the programs. Those who felt that the worker should plan in conjunction with others, unanimously agreed that it should be a small committee that planned the programs with the worker. This would lead to less confusion and squabbling - factors which would be present in large groups.

Sixty-three per cent who favored having the worker and club members plan the programs together said that "We would

feel more a part of the club, and be more interested in the club, if we had a responsible share in program planning."

Those who favored the worker and officers arrangement believed that these people were chosen to do this job because they are qualified for it. "The average golden ager does not know how to program." The rest of the sample felt the worker should plan alone because she is trained for it and has been hired to do this for the golden agers.

It is significant that a considerable majority agreed that the club should share the responsibility of program planning with the worker. The emphasis on the small committee arrangement seemed to be based on mature, realistic, considerations.

The dependence on the worker is still present, however, as was the case regarding their ability to approach the worker, there is the recognition and beginning involvement in the workings of the club. The workers efforts to have the members become more involved in this aspect of planning, seems to be bearing fruit. This is most noticeable in the reaction of the sixty-three per cent who suggested that both the worker and members should plan together. They took the initiative in including themselves and did not just repeat the given suggestions.

Summary

The reactions of the respondents seem to indicate that

there is a complete acceptance of the worker and what she has to offer. The primary job of the worker is to give of herself to the club. The significance of the worker's personality was clearly shown in questions five and six.

The club seems to be very dependent on the worker - they have little confidence in themselves or their officers. However, one can detect the growth of responsibility, and involvement in the reactions to questions seven and nine. This growth would not be possible if there were not the complete acceptance of the worker and the resultant security with what the worker has to offer them.

The club appears to be functioning through the worker and for the worker. However, the recognition, that "We have to do things for ourselves if the club is to mean anything" and the subsequent involvement, seems to indicate that the future holds good prospects for the development of an aware, active, and responsible senior adult club.

Attitude Towards Agency

The center should be a place where older people can turn for help and guidance, for friendship and understanding, and, for many, an attractive home substitute to which they may repair for personal enjoyment and the enrichment of life.

"The center should be a place that will generate throughout the community an enthusiasm and interest in the well being of older people.⁴

How the golden ager views the agency is of great significance in determining if the center is fulfilling its goals

⁴Woods, op. cit., p. 97.

to be of meaningful and helpful service to the golden agers.

Questions eight, ten, eleven and twelve dealt with the attitudes these people have towards the agency.

Analysis of Question Eight

How does the Senior Adult feel about the center's membership policies regarding his club? Does he feel the agency is acting wisely? Question eight poses these questions in a cloaked manner.

8. Should the Center be selective in accepting members for the Senior Adult club?

- a. Should there be a limit on the number of members?
- b. What could be the positives or drawbacks to these ideas?

The Senior Adults were quite emphatic in their answers to this question. Ninety-four per cent said that there should not be any limitation on the size of the group as long as there is available space in the agency to accommodate them. The one person who favored limiting the size believed that "One hundred people in the club was plenty to have at one time." Regarding the question of selectivity sixty-eight per cent stated that there should not be any because "This would be defeating the agency's purpose," and "How would the agency be choosey; on what grounds would they exclude certain people. We are all golden agers who need the club. The fact that someone is interested enough to

join should be reason enough to accept him."

Five respondents believed that although generally there should not be any selectivity, there should be some check made on the membership in order to keep out the mentally ill and those who would not be able to fit into the club because of serious personal problems. These people felt that this procedure was essential to the health and welfare of the club and of the individual members. The one person who favored limiting the size of the club, was the only person who stated that there should be a strict policy of selectivity - because "Some people can't get along with others and they would only disrupt the club if they were allowed to join."

The respondents resisted the idea that the center should change its present policies. The attitude that this is the way the center has to be seemed to support their desire for the present agency procedure. The minority expressed a feeling that would seem representative of the whole sample if they were approached about accepting a person who could not fit into the club because of mental illness etc. This awareness can be taken as a sign of their recognition that the club is a place where they can belong to something and have some status and recognition. It is not a refuge for all senior adults seeking shelter, it is a club. One can detect a feeling of pride in belong-

ing in this reaction.

Analysis of Question Twelve

What does the club signify to the members? Where does the agency fit in the senior adults view of his club? What does he think is the centers motives in having the senior adult club and what does he think of these motives?

12. What qualities of the club, would you say, were the reason for the continued growth of the Senior Adult Club.

- a. How does the fact that the club meets in the center influence this growth?
- b. In your opinion, why did the center deem it important to have a Senior Adult program?

The sample was in general agreement about the qualities of the club which have been responsible for the clubs growth. The most common factors mentioned were, (a) the need for friends, (b) the warmth and acceptance of the club members, (c) the chance to do things with others and not be left alone, (d) the sense of belonging to a family where they care about you.

Seventy-four per cent believed that meeting in the center influenced people to join and attend the club. They referred to the facilities that they had as being better than any other clubs' facilities that they have seen. The status and prestige of being a part of a highly regarded community agency was also mentioned by twelve of the above mentioned fourteen respondents as being influential in the

club's growth.

Five respondents felt that it was the quality of the club which attracted and kept the membership. "The fact that we meet in the center is not influential although, it is nice to meet in the center."

Three reasons were cited why the center started and is maintaining a golden age program. Everyone mentioned at least one and sometimes two of these points.

- a. The center had to keep up with the times and have a golden age program like other agencies in the Boston area.
- b. The center is a community agency. Since we live in the community and we also contributed funds towards the building of the center, we are entitled to be involved in the agency program.
- c. The center was and is concerned about the senior adults who live in the community. They started the program because they saw we needed to have it.

The four factors cited as reasons for the continued growth, seems to give a clear picture of what the club means to the members. These 'factors' are basic needs that golden agers seek to satisfy in their daily life, but unfortunately their environments are lacking.

The need for status and recognition was emphasized in the respondents answers to part a. The center is being used

as a vehicle to satisfy this need. As a result the Center appears to play an important role in making the club attractive and meaningful to the members. The quality of the facilities was undoubtedly also important in their consideration of the center - but the underlying important attribute seems to be the status and recognition that is gained.

For the most part the respondents felt that the agency is positively inclined towards them and they in turn are positively oriented towards the agency. Point (a) which states that the center formed the club to keep up with the times, can be interpreted to be a proud person's way of saying I need help.

Analysis of Question Ten

How does the senior adult feel about the facilities that the center offers the club? Does he feel he is receiving fair consideration from the agency - regarding the use of the center.

10. What kinds of meeting places would you suggest that the center make available for the senior adults?

- a. Where should they be located - on what floor, close to which facilities?
- b. Should the meeting places alone, have any special qualities?
- c. What would be gained or lost as a result of the arrangement you have suggested?

The comments made about the meeting places at the center

were most positive. Nine respondents felt that "Everything is wonderful." The other fifty-three per cent who had some reservation about the facilities felt that everything at the center was also wonderful but with a little addition it could even be better. The additions referred to were, more convenient facilities for the making of refreshments, and more use of the first floor, preferably a large room, so that the people would not have to climb the stairs. There were complementary remarks made by many respondents regarding a comparison of the center and other agencies that have senior adult programs.

The sample seemed quite pleased with the agency facilities. Many of the respondents compared the center with other agency facilities for a Golden Age club and they found the latter lacking. Their concern about the convenience of some facilities is realistic in view of the difficulties some senior adults have in climbing stairs, and the problems they have encountered regarding the serving of refreshments. Their requests can be fulfilled with little difficulty.

Analysis of Question Eleven

What is their opinion of the agencies' procedure regarding dues payments? Is it too much, or too little? What do they see their dues going for; is it good to pay dues for this?

11. Some Senior Adult clubs have their members pay a membership fee which goes to the center. Other clubs have membership fees which goes to the club treasury.

- a. What benefits or drawbacks, do you feel results from either one or both of these methods?

Sixty-eight per cent believed that the dues should be paid to the center and they cited two reasons why this should be so.

- a. We should help pay our way since we receive everything from the center. If we were to keep the money in the club we would only wind up paying the center for its services. By paying the center directly we save alot of bother.
- b. The center is a charitable institution which has alot of expenses from serving the community. By paying dues to the center we are contributing money to help the center defray expenses.

The latter reason was the most prevalent one.

Four respondents were of the opinion that the money should go to the club treasury, so that the golden agers would be in control of where and how their money should be spent. The remaining two respondents were unable to answer the question as they did not wish to commit themselves to any set procedure.

Interestingly, the popular reason stated by the majority

of those favoring payment to the center falls into a pattern which most of these people are familiar with. All of these people belong to organizations and clubs where they contribute or donate money - since it is a worthy cause. The dues were not regarded as payment for their use of the center, but as a contribution which they were expected to make for a worthy cause.

The concept of "Paying our way" is a significant sign of a growing independence - of caring that the senior adult club should not be regarded as a losing proposition but as an equal part of the center ready and willing to pay their share.

Summary

In general, the respondents approved of the agency policies and seemed to feel a part of the center. Their regard for the center as a worthy institution seems to indicate their attitude. They wished to be recognized as a club, they seek no charity and they are thankful for what they have been able to gain from the center.

The center is important to the senior adults because of the many significant needs that are satisfied there. Here they 'belong' they are a recognized entity with a voice as a club in relation to other clubs in the B.B.N. There is a real sense of club pride.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study has been to explore the attitudes of the Senior Adults at the B.B.N., in regard to the program, worker and agency. This was done in order to get a better understanding of how the Senior Adult club members feel about these aspects as they affect their club. In order to gain this knowledge, the author approached a twenty per cent sample with an open ended structured schedule that was administered in individual private conferences.

Throughout the study the author has attempted to summarize and draw conclusions relative to the materials presented. Subheadings show an exposition of the data and in most cases comments concerning the data. In this final chapter an attempt will be made to cover, from an overall perspective of the club, those broader and more embracing features to be found throughout the study. These final conclusions are by no means startling or new, but for the most part are a stronger re-affirmation of the authors' beliefs concerning the Senior Adult at the B.B.N. and the Golden Age picture.

Conclusions

Based on all of the presented data the main conclusion reached by the author is that the Senior Adult club members' attitudes towards the worker and the agency are positive and

accepting. A positive attitude is also present towards the program but there is some reservation about accepting certain parts of it.

Program

In regard to program, the senior adults seem to have begun to voice their opinions about what they would like more and less of. Their lack of willingness to have morning activities and become involved with younger age groups above the age of twenty-two, can be resolved as they become more secure and active in the club. The club Pride and the status and prestige that can be gained from membership can be used as activators in getting the senior adults to make more constructive and positive use of their time.

Their attitude towards the program appears to be positive but, they are beginning to search for more. This quest should be encouraged by the worker who seems to hold the key to the clubs movement. However, care should be taken in expanding the program lest the senior adults fall into a pattern of repetition and seeking to receive without giving in return. They need support to move and this has to come from the main source of the club - the worker.

The author recommends that more educational programs be arranged for the club. In line with the principle of involvement, the activities should emphasize the membership

contributions. Such programs as small discussions groups, educational talks given or arranged by members, and the establishment of a club newspaper, can be used toward accomplishing these goals. The suggestion for a Yiddish and English library can also be used as an active program idea - having the members establish one and maintain it.

The Worker

It appears, without a doubt, that the worker has been accepted and internalized in the members minds. This positive attitude toward the worker is significant because the members do things for the worker and to increase the strength of their relationship with her. The success of the Ad-Hoc Committees can be traced to this factor. Their recognition of their role in program planning and what they can gain from it, appears based on internalized values that the worker has expressed to them.

The worker seems to be using her role as the ego supporter very well. Understandably, to be an enabler with senior adults takes great patience, and giving of self. But, this appears to be one of the few methods that will be effective with them precisely because many of them are starved for it. One must be fed before we can expect him to continue working on the road to better and healthier living.

The members dependence on the worker generally stems from this need to be fed. As they fill up and regain some

of their confidence, and security, they can be expected to go on with their 'work'. This growth seems to be taking place now in the senior adult club. The author recommends that the present worker be retained at least for another year and possibly more. In the past, the people have always had a change in staff leadership. This was detrimental to the establishment of a meaningful relationship between the worker and the members.

The members justifiably felt that it would not pay to give of themselves to the worker because "We will be deserted anyhow." Now that the present worker has reached the level where her relationships with the club have been firmly established, it would be a crushing blow to the senior adults to have her leave. Instead of having a new worker starting from scratch, the present worker can continue in an upward climb towards the summit, giving the members the security of continuity and gratification for their efforts to establish meaningful relationships. The author also recommends that the worker become familiar with the history of the members countries of origin as this would help her to relate to them and understand many of their mannerisms. The knowledge of Yiddish is of great importance in being able to relate to and understand many of the members. If the worker can improve her linguistic ability it would help overcome the language barrier that may have blocked the

expressions of the club members.

The Agency

The agency plays a significant role in relation to the senior adult club, because it offers the members a place where they can achieve status and recognition and feel wanted. They are recognized and treated as equals in relation to the other 'clubs' in the center. They have equal use of the facilities, a club leader, they pay dues like the other members and they have had some representation on agency committees. The club seems grateful for having these rights in this small society. Their positive attitude and acceptance of the agency was quite obvious in their reactions. Their requests of the agency were realistic and capable of being fulfilled. This attitude towards the center, would not be of a positive nature to such a high degree were it not for the worker - who is in effect the agency representative.

The author recommends that the agency alleviate the refreshment problem by setting up cooking facilities in the senior adult meeting room on Wednesday nights.

One of the most striking aspects of this study was the general consistency with which all of the respondents treated the material. There was very little significant difference in the reactions of the males and females, or between the first generation immigrants and the American born citizens,

or between the older members both in age and membership, and the younger members. This circumstance leads the author to believe that perhaps the sample reacted to the study the way senior adults are suppose to, and not the way they would feel in a different cultural milieu than we have today. The cultural concept of how senior adults should behave and think, seems to have been internalized by the respondents.

It is the cultural concept regarding the abilities and status of the golden agers which needs re-interpretation both to society as a whole and to senior adults in particular, if the efforts of the center and other social agencies, to help make golden agers feel useful, wanted, and lead meaningful lives, is to be of lasting value. One cannot cure a patients' ailments by treating one limb and forgetting about his general well being. So too, in regard to the senior adults in our society.

However, by their own acceptance and example, if the aged are convinced of their own worth as individuals with contributions to society, the community will be more prone to accept them as contributing citizens. It is the responsibility of both agencies and other groups to help them achieve this role and interpret their achievements to the community. Positive attitudes must be based on sound programs, conviction of the positives of older people, an understanding of dynamics of the individual older persons, research, and professional skill. Planning for interpretation programs requires the best efforts of all interested groups in the community, both lay and professional. There is no simple answer to counter-acting negative attitudes toward the aged and all

sound media of interpretation must be utilized. My thesis, however, is that the success of the interpretation program will be based on the quality of service rendered to the community of the aged. ¹

*Accepted June 1959
Barbara Ayles*

¹Joseph S. Winston, "Interpreting Aging to the Public," Journal of Jewish Communal Service. vol. 33 (Fall 1956), p.72.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS

1. Drake, Joseph T, The Aged in American Society.
New York: The Ronald Press Co., 1958.
2. Jahoda, Marie, Deutsch Morton, Cook Stuart W.
Research Methods in Social Relations.
2 Vols. New York: The Dryden Press, 1958.
3. Kaplan, Jerome. A Social Program for Older People.
Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota
Press, 1953.
4. Kraft, Louis. (Editor) Aspects of the Jewish Community
Center. Penn.: Press of Maurice Jacobs Inc.,
1954.
5. Kubie, S., Landau, G., Group Work with the Aged.
New York: International Universities Press
Inc., 1953.
6. Lowy, Louis, Adult Education and Group Work.
New York: Whiteside, Morrow and Co., 1955.
7. Pollak, Otto, Social Adjustment in Old Age.
New York: Social Science Research Council,
1948.
8. Trecker, Harleigh B. Social Group Work Principles and
Practices. New York: Whiteside Inc, 1955.
9. Woods, James H., Helping Older People Enjoy Life.
New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers. 1953.

ARTICLES

10. Dowing, Joseph. Factors Affecting the Selective Use of
a Social Club for the Aged, Journal of Gerontol-
ogy, Vol. 2 (Jan. 1957)
11. Engel, Sophie, The Adult in Older Adult Programming,
Journal of Jewish Communal Service, Vol. 35 -
Number 2. (winter 1958) pp. 183-192.
12. Goldfarb, Alvin, The Dynamics of Diagnosis in/ Emotional
Problems. Journal of Jewish Communal Service,
Vol. 34 - Number 4. (summer 1958) pp 396-406.

13. Posner, William, Adapting and Sharpening Social Work Knowledge and Skills in Serving the Aging. New York. Journal of the National Association of Social Workers. Vol. 2- Number 4 (Oct. 1957) pp. 37-42.
14. Tibbitts, Clark, The Aging: Excerpt from Social Work Year Book 1957. New York: Journal of the National Association of Social Workers, Vol. 2 - Number 1 Jan. 1957, p. 41.
15. Winston, Joseph S., Interpreting Aging to the Public. Journal of Jewish Communal Service, Vol. 33 - Number 1 (fall 1956) pp. 67-72.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL

16. Eisenberg, Arthur, "A Study of Greater Boston Jewish Golden Age Clubs", Unpublished Master's thesis, School of Social Work, Boston University, 1957.

APPENDIX

The JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

of Brookline - Brighton and Newton

50 SUTHERLAND ROAD, BRIGHTON 35, MASS.

REgent 4-0800

TERS

plan

in Bell

er

Landers

idents

Polatin

ecretary

nson

Secretary

January 27, 1959

Director

bers

rafe

B. Barron

M. Baumstein

I Belkin

witz

as

anner

. Cohen

. D. Cohon

man

n

ancuil

, Fields

iedman

anak

I B. Goldberg

man Goldberg

Goldsmith

smith

Gordon

nan

aver

a Kallen

les Kasdon

Kingsley

nsohn

renthal

f

rtinson

gstar

ison

el

I. Rosenfield

el Saltzman

e Sapers

cheffreen

artz

ib

Seligson

. Shapiro

. Singal

l Tye

erman,

traub

Feintraub

eiss

nan

nan

r

iseman

lfe

Dear Senior Adult Member:

I am writing this letter to introduce myself to you and to inform you about some of my future plans.

My name is Anschel Weiss. Perhaps you would best remember me as the young man who helped lead the singing one Wednesday evening, or as the Gym leader of the Senior Adults' Gym Program for the men.

Because of my interest in Senior Adults, I have chosen to write a paper about what the Senior Adults like to have in their programs, in the Center, and of the Center's staff supervisor. The purpose of this scientific paper is to make the school and its students more aware of how they can train for and improve their work with Senior Adults.

I would like to have your help in writing this paper. Because of scientific reasons and limited time, I have to choose a limited number of people to help me. In order to give everyone an equal chance to be called on for this important work, I will place each member's name on a separate piece of paper, drop it into a hat, and then draw out twenty-five names. If your name is drawn, I will contact you and arrange a time when we can get together so that you can help me by answering some questions that I have in mind about the subjects of this paper. I intend to be at the Wednesday evening meeting on February 4, 1959 when I will tell you more about my work.

I hope this letter find you in good spirit and good health. I am looking forward to seeing you on February 4th at the Center, God willing. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Anschel Weiss

Anschel Weiss



AFFILIATED WITH

Associated Jewish Philanthropies, Jewish Centers Association of Greater Boston

National Jewish Welfare Board



PART A

FACE SHEET

1. AGE:

- 1. 60-64
- 2. 65-69
- 3. 70-74
- 4. 75-79
- 5. 80-84
- 6. 85-90
- 7. 90-?

2. SEX:

- 1. male
- 2. female

3. MARITAL STATUS:

- 1. married
- 2. single
- 3. widow
- 4. widower
- 5. divorced
- 6. other?

4. Is your spouse also a club member.

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

5. Place of Birth.

- 1. United States
- 2. Western Europe
- 3. Eastern Europe
- 4. Other

6. Arrived in the U.S. in

- 1. 1900-1909
- 2. 1910-1919
- 3. 1920-1929
- 4. 1930-1939
- 5. 1940-1945
- 6. 1946-1950
- 7. 1951-1958

7. Vocation

- 1. Skilled Laborer
- 2. Self Employed
- 3. Professiona Skill
- 4. Housewife
- 5. White Collar
- 6. Unskilled Labor
- 7. Other

8. How many children.

9. Ages of the children.

10. Schooling

Secular Education

- 1. None
- 2. Grammar School
- 3. High School
- 4. College
- 5. Post Graduate School
- 6. Vocational School
- 7. Other

11. Schooling

Religious Education

- 1. None
- 2. One day a week.
- 3. Two days a week.
- 4. Three days a week.
- 5. Day School
- 6. High School
- 7. Seminary
- 8. Bar mitzva lessons.

12. With whom are you living.

- 1. Alone
- 2. With spouse
- 3. With spouse and children.
- 4. With children.
- 5. With friends.
- 6. With relatives.

13. Where do you live.

- 1. Own home or apt.
- 2. Someone elses home.
- 3. Rooming house.
- 4. Hotel.
- 5. ~~Old Age Home.~~

14. To the Center. main Transportation.

- 1. Walk
- 2. Taxi
- 3. Drive a car.
- 4. Get a car ride.
- 5. ~~Public conveyer.~~

Part A

15. Function or job in the club.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. None | 6. Information resource |
| 2. Officer | 7. In charge of activity. |
| 3. Delegate | 8. Other |
| 4. Committee member. | |
| 5. Skilled Aide. | |

16. Job you can perform well if you had the chance:

18. Attendance at Center and club.

1. One a week.
2. Twice a week.
3. Thrice a week.
4. Four-five times a week.
5. Less than once a week.

Club

17. How long are you a member:

1. Less than one year.
2. One year.
3. Two years
4. Three years.
5. ? years.

19. Other club memberships. 20. Type of club

- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| 1. Yes | 1. Social |
| 2. No | 2. Religious |
| | 3. Professional |
| | 4. Other |

21. Length of membership in other club(s).

1. Less than one year.
2. One year.
3. Two years.
4. Three years.
5. Four-Seven years.
6. Seven - ? years.

22. What was your role in these clubs.

23. Has your health limited your participation.

1. Yes - severely
2. Partially.
3. No - not limited.

24. How has your health limited your participation:

1. Physical exertion.
2. Absence.
3. Other

1. What activities (games, discussions, meetings) that the club offers, do you take part in.
 - a. Which of these activities do you enjoy the most.
 - b. Do you have any suggestions for another activity that you and the club would enjoy.
 - c. Are there any activities that the club should change, or not have. What are they and why.

2. If there were a chance to do so, would you advise that the Senior Adult club to have occasional meetings with younger age groups in the Center.
 - a. What kind of program would you suggest, to have at this meetings.
 - b. If yes: What possible benefit can there result from the meeting.
 - c. If no: Why not.

3. If the Center was to be available on an additional morning for Senior Adult activity What materials would you advise the Center to prepare for the Senior Adults.
 - a. Suppose the Center was available, how would you approach the Center about obtaining materials, for the activity.

4. The club has many kinds of events at the meetings such as: 1. discussion, 2. singing, 3. relaxing games, 4. entertainment, 5. educational speakers, 6. music appreciation, 7. sewing and knitting.
 - a. Which two events have you found to be your favorites.
 - b. For which two events would you advise the school and agency to give special training for the staff (aide) person.

5. In what ways have you found that the staff aide has been helpful to the club.
 - a. If the staff aide was unavailible who would you suggest as a substitute. (One or more people).
 - b. In which specific activities have you found the staff aide to be needed.

6. In choosing a person to work with the Senior Adults, what qualities should the school and the Center look for.

age, (how old); sex, (M. or F.); educational background; personality; religious; background; family man; special skills.

7. Suppose you wanted to get some things done in the club. How would you communicate to the staff aide, what your feelings are? (So the staff-aide would be able to help you and the club gain what is wanted.)

8. Should the Center be selective in accepting members for the Senior Adult club?
 - a. Should there be a limit on the number of members.
 - b. What could be the positives or drawbacks to these ideas.

9. In some clubs the members get together to plan club programs. In some clubs the staff aid plans the programs alone; while in other clubs (Senior Adults), the worker plans the club program with the help of the club officers.
 - a. What kind of planning arrangement would you suggest a Senior Adult Club have.
 - b. Why do you feel this way.

10. What kinds of meeting places would you suggest that the center make available for the Senior Adults.
 - a. Where should they be located - on what floor, close to which facilities.
 - b. Should the meeting places alone, have any special qualities.
 - c. What would be gained or lost as a result of the arrangement you have suggested.

11. Some Senior Adult clubs have their members pay a membership fee which goes to the Center. Other clubs have membership fees which goes to the club treasury.
 - a. What benefits or drawbacks, do you feel, results from either one or both of these methods?

12. What qualities of the club, would you say, were the reasons for the continued growth of the Senior Adult Club?
- a. How does the fact that the club meets in the Center influence this growth.
 - b. In your opinion, why did the Center deem it important to have a Senior Adult program.