

# Dr. Kaplan retires after long career; pediatrician to continue as well-child volunteer



DIAGNOSING AN INFECTION with the aid of her microscope, Dr. Kaplan conducted business as usual on her final day of practice.

By Victoria Levitt  
Dr. Deborah Kaplan, known to many of her young patients as Dr. Debbie, has retired from active practice. She spent her last two days in her office treating patients and saying goodbye to many of the families she has served since she came to Potsdam in 1949.

Her office, in a comfortable house on Bay Street, won't be offering aid and comfort to those in need after September 3, but Dr. Kaplan doesn't plan on fading away in retirement. Instead she will work as an active volunteer with the Well-Child Clinics now conducted in Canton.

"I think it's possible to do more on a volunteer basis anyway," she said. "The volunteer is an important ingredient in our society."

What she hopes to do in her work with the clinics is to provide help with "parenting, as well as medical advice." The medical aspects of child care are well provided for she says, but she recognizes a need for help with the problems of being a parent. By focusing a great deal on the emotional and social needs of the family in our present society, she feels that doctors can add another dimension to the practice of pediatrics.

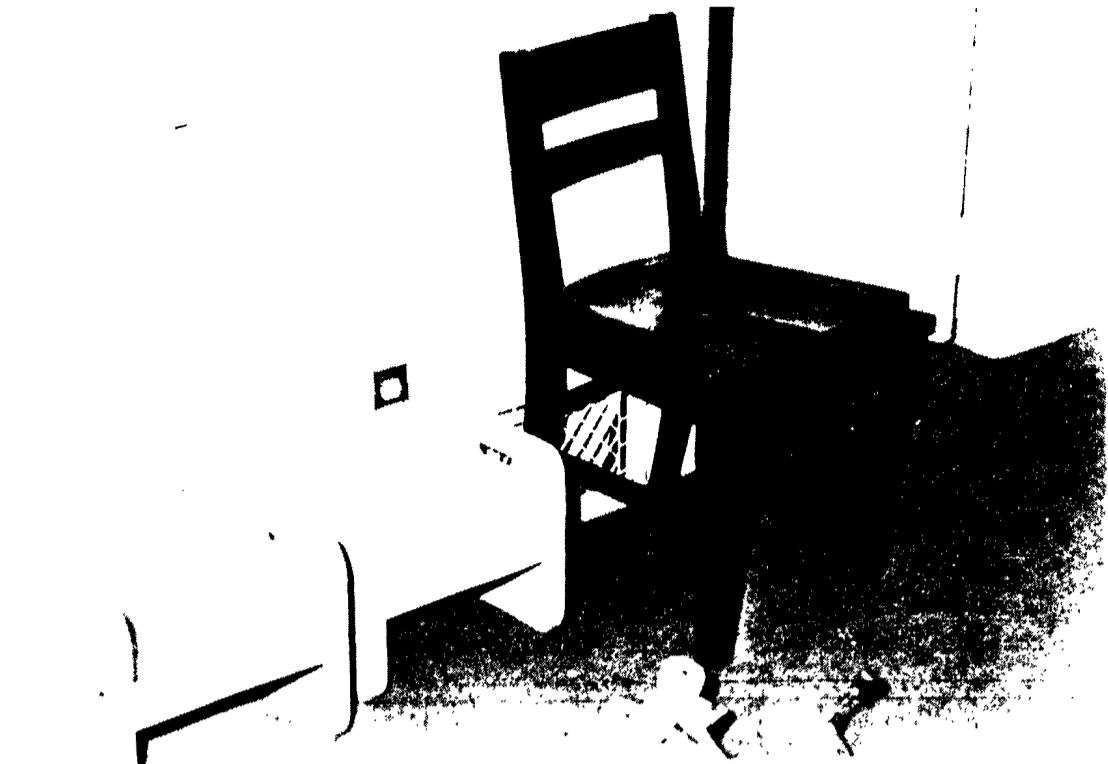
As the doctor continued to treat youngsters and give away mementos such as paperweights and colorful mobiles—"Everybody has contributed to the decor," she said—many of the parents she has helped over the years took time to comment on her availability as "someone to talk to."

"That was the good part about coming to Dr. Kaplan," one woman said. "She was always willing to listen, and all of her staff were as helpful and thoughtful as they could be. Even in the worst of times, her office was a friendly and comfortable place to be."

Dr. Kaplan spent her early years in Fairbanks, Alaska, and was educated in Dublin. She received her MD degree from Trinity College there, and also studied at John's Hopkins University in Baltimore where she had a graduate fellowship.

She has resided in Potsdam since 1949, when her husband, Israel Kaplan, PhD, was appointed to the English Department at State University College at Potsdam.

Dr. Kaplan is referring her patients to Dr. John Kay who has shared her office for the past two years, or to doctors of the families' own choosing.



EMPTY CHAIRS and discarded toys mark the end of a long medical practice for Dr. Deborah Kaplan. But the ever-active doctor plans more years of volunteer services to the

Well-Child-Clinic, in keeping with her feelings that "I think it's possible to do more on a volunteer basis anyway."

## Mayfield news

By Goldena Hazelton  
The first meeting for Easter Seals will be held at the home of Mrs. Gordon Daby at Apartment 4-2-A on October 25 at 1:30 p.m. Future meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month. Sigrid Ouder Kirk and Daby are seeking help to make 48 recreational kits for the Easter Seal monthly gifts for children. The next coffee hour will be held on October 15 at 10 a.m. Susan Davis will handle arrangements.

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SAYING GOODBYE, three-year-old Michelle Miller accepts a souvenir poster from her pediatrician. She was among several children to visit Dr. Kaplan during her last day before retirement.



IT WON'T HURT Much 'Dr. Debbie' explains to Paul Miller as she prepares to take a blood sample from his finger. Young Miller was stoic throughout.



READY TO LEAVE, Daniel Waldo puts on his jacket with some help from his mother. He and his sisters, Misty and Priscilla, have been patients of Dr. Kaplan for many years.



Dictating a letter over the counter, "Dr. Debbie" is caught in a typical pose.



WOMAN OF THE YEAR FOR 1971, Dr. Deborah Kaplan acknowledges applause at the Business and Professional Women's banquet when she received the honor. It was one of many honors she earned during the years she has practiced pediatrics in Potsdam. (Staff photo).

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