Ron Bassman In 1969, at the age of 25, Ron was admitted to a psychiatric hospital for the second time in three years. The first diagnosis, schizophrenia, paranoid type was followed by a second hospitalization and the diagnosis schizophrenia, chronic type. His treatments included electro-shock, insulin comas and massive doses of medication. After he recovered from his "treatments" and began addressing the identity issues that had triggered his excursion into "madness," he entered graduate school, earned his doctorate and worked as a licensed psychologist in a state hospital, in private practice, been a consultant to schools and state agencies and have been the executive director of a 7-county comprehensive mental health center. During that time he worked as a clinician and an advocate and did not reveal his psychiatric history for twenty years. Currently he works as a psychotherapist with Behavioral Health Specialists (BHS), a private psychotherapy group. Ron is a former two-term president of the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA) and continues to serve on the Board of Directors. Currently he is chair of The Community Consortium, an organization created to promote the civil and human rights of people with psychiatric disabilities, and to provide the tools to facilitate genuine community integration for people who use mental health services. In July, 2007, Ron published A Fight to Be: A Psychologist's Experience from Both Sides of the Locked Door.