

## HENRY GEORGE DAY '93

*by David Domke*

On September 2nd the School celebrated, as it does every year, Henry George Day - commemorating the birthday of Henry George and Labor Day. This year was the 154th anniversary of his birth. Both Mayor David Dinkins and Speaker Peter Vallone of the New York City Council, issued proclamations naming September 2nd, 1993 Henry George Day in New York. This year gave us a particular reason to celebrate - the signing into law by Governor Cuomo on August 6th a bill allowing the city of Amsterdam, New York to adopt a two-rate tax system, a system enabling land to be taxed more heavily than improvements. Schalkenbach Foundation Board member Al Hartheimer, a catalyst behind the Amsterdam initiative, and Stan Rubenstein, School Board member and High School Program Director, were the co-featured speakers.

Al and Stan discussed the intricacies of getting such legislation approved and passed - and the opportunities for further progress. The problems that led Amsterdam to this move, Al Hartheimer explained, are endemic to most small cities in the Northeast. A revenue-raiser that provides incentives to bring business into a city would fit their *(continued on back page)*

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needs perfectly - and if success comes in Amsterdam, many other cities will give the two-rate tax a serious look. Stan Rubenstein, whose efforts on Long Island have acquainted many local officials with the persuasive arguments in favor of land value taxation, predicted that if we continue our efforts, our movement will have enough skilled advocates to capitalize on these opportunities as they arise.