

# Henry George Newsletter



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past year was characterized by considerable change at the Henry George School, change that brought both excitement and expansion. Our product is knowledge, and the School provides important opportunities for individuals to acquire new knowledge by engaging in the public dialogue. George Collins, Stan Rubenstein and the School's staff have proven this to be so by the successes they achieve daily in reaching and affecting people near and far.

Personally I am increasingly optimistic that the insights the School offers into human behavior and our socio-political arrangements are finding their way into mainstream thought after a long period of absence. Not in a very long time has the socio-political thinking of people everywhere been focused so intensely on the guiding principles of *democracy*—not merely as a mechanistic system of participatory government, but as part of a value system that secures the dignity and *liberty* of the individual. Events within and outside the social democratic societies suggest that people recognize the futility and danger of delegating too much responsibility for individual or collective wellbeing to government.

As students of the *great ideas*, masterfully presented to us by Henry George and others of similar vision, we have acquired what our reason tells us is certain knowledge about human behavior. We see in history and in contemporary society how the quest for monopoly privilege (by individuals, corporate entities or the State) has eroded individual liberty from our socio-political arrangements. Unfortunately, this perspective is still shared by only us few and is not among the truths emerging as self-evident even to scholars working in history, law, political science or economics. People of all ethnic origins, religious and educational backgrounds, and socio-economic levels *do* recognize that things are not as they should be; and, many devote their lives to helping others or to working for changes they believe will pull us toward a more *just society*. Their efforts are largely unproductive or counterproductive, because they function without the benefit of the perspective provided in the works of Henry George and in the School's discussion courses.

What Georgists have to offer others is knowledge that lifts the just society from the realm of the abstract and brings it into the realm of experience. Henry George explained and substantiated historically that privilege dominated the socio-political arrangements of virtually every society, and that the form of privilege most destructive to the human experience was contained within the existing system of private titleholdings to nature. Similar, though secondary, privilege has flourished in the form of monopoly licenses, restraints on trade and the displacement by nation-states of sound money with a monetary system built on *legal tender* and the self-creation of credit. We bring this message to people by means of discussion courses, seminars, workshops, videos and written materials.

For now, we Georgists and the various organizations with which we are associated, remain only minor players in the public dialogue. Nevertheless, our message is spreading, and an understanding of the principles we espouse is finding an increasingly receptive audience. The work has been going on now for over a century (and for over fifty years under the auspices of the School). Our commitment continues. History's lesson is that liberty, seldom secured, is never secure. Our challenge in 1990 and beyond is before us. We know our cause is just and our reasoning sound. We need your support. We need your involvement. Help us expand the public dialogue to include the Georgist perspective.

—Edward J. Dodson  
President, Henry George School



Cyril Keene Harvey

## CYRIL HARVEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

A program to honor the life and work of Cyril Keene Harvey, sponsored by the New York Henry George School, is being held on Monday, February 26th, 6:00 PM, at the Taino Center for the Performing Arts, Touro College, 240 East 123rd Street, Manhattan. Featured speaker will be HGS Executive Director George L. Collins.

Cyril Harvey (8/2/15 - 4/17/89) was a faculty member at the New York Henry George School where he taught *Classical Analysis* until December, 1988. In addition, Mr. Harvey was a Harlem community activist for jobs and housing, Chairman of the Harlem House of Commons, member of the National Committee for Independent Political Action, and member of the National Tenants Organization.

The lecture by Mr. Collins will introduce the audience to the economic philosophy which Mr. Harvey taught so well at the School, and brought to his work for social justice outside the School. The program is presented in conjunction with Touro College Black History Month Series.