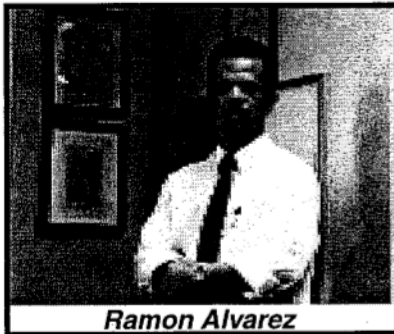


Graduation Program



Ramon Alvarez

The Henry George School says goodbye and good luck to Ramon Alvarez, who moved with his family to Florida this past August. Ramon, wore many hats - including official photographer, database wizard, assistant coordinator of the Spanish Affairs Department, and many others. Ramon, originally from the Dominican Republic, worked at the School for 7 years, helping and guiding in almost all aspects of the School's day to day activities. Good luck Ramon!

Henry George News

The Henry George News is published four times a year and is available free to contributors. The opinions expressed herein are the sole responsibility of the Henry George School, a non-profit institution of adult education.

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Springing Forward: The Class of '99

At the end of the Spring 1999 semester, a graduation ceremony was held for those students who completed the three-course curriculum of Principles of Political Economy. The celebration of the completion of the program, which consists of *Progress & Poverty*, *Applied Economics* and *Economic Science*, was attended by nearly 50 students - some with family members. This year's graduation theme was *The 21st Century: Freeing the Land*.

Presiding over the graduation were Sydney Mayers, Henry George School President, and Tom Smith, the School's Director of Education. Some of the speakers at the event included Dr. Drew Harris, President of the Council of Georgist Organizations and Mr. George DeShields, a popular instructor.



Henry George School President Sydney Mayers addresses the audience at the opening of the evening's program. (photo by Ramon Alvarez)

The ceremony lasted about an hour, with refreshments following. The evenings entertainment was supplied by musicians Guillermo Cardenas and Shani Andrews, who donated their talents in appreciation for the service the School has been performing.

When notified of their having qualified for graduation honors, students were encouraged to say a few words after receiving their diplomas. The sentiments ranged from "sincere appreciation for the School's work" to "It is my desire to take these ideas back to my country." We sold that last person a copy of *Progress and Poverty* in French. His intent is to explore the prospect of opening a School in French-speaking Africa. The work of the School knows no geographical boundaries.

Memo

From: The Director of Education

When decisions were made to upgrade the physical structure of the School, no one foresaw just how lengthy and disruptive the process would necessarily become.

To create a more comfortable and efficient environment for working and learning, walls were opened and ceilings removed as the staff continued to work around the clamorous activity of carpenters, window replacers and heating and air conditioning installers. During the winter months space heaters barely warmed a few scattered work areas as the staff prepared materials for classes being held off-site, first at Washington Irving High School and then in the Con Ed building.

But difficult times often clear the way to new beginnings!

It is encouraging to report that the first year of activity in the renovated building at 121 E. 30th Street saw numbers of students participating in the School's curriculum which compare very favorably with the all-time high numbers of previous years. Beyond quantitative measurement there was an observable broadening of interest in the School by geographically and ethnically diverse populations.

More students live in boroughs other than Manhattan and some reside in New Jersey and Westchester and Rockland counties. They have made a considerable commitment to the social and economic ideas of Henry George.

Too, we have expanded course offerings with more historical analysis. *The Genesis of Modern Economics* fills a void in the teaching of global economic development and offers a fresh and stimulating insight into the deception of treating land as if it were capital.

Friday night seminars and film offerings have attracted a wonderfully diverse cross-section of New Yorkers with many more young people than previous years. We'll work to continue that trend and encourage you to offer ideas which you think would be appropriate for examination and discussion in a Friday or Saturday session in the School's auditorium. The brochure identifies the School as a "Meeting Place for Interested . . . and Interesting People!" And it is!

While this publication has been resting, the School and its advocates have not. Your interest in the Henry George School of Social Science is always appreciated. And we will endeavor to bring the *News* to you on a regular basis to keep you close to a place, idea and commitment which can, and someday will, be totally transformative in the name of social justice.