

Alumni Nights

This Spring semester the Henry George School begins a series of Alumni Nights. These special nights will offer a chance for advanced students to meet, discuss and debate a wide range of topics relevant to the ideas of Henry George.

Anyone who has completed *Progress and Poverty* is welcome to attend our Alumni Nights; the two remaining nights will be June 5 and, a specially added night of June 21 which will focus on alumni research projects with School Trustee Steve Cord. The meetings begin at 6 p.m. and run until 8 p.m. The meetings are held in the first floor lounge, where food and drink are permitted.

The meetings will be led by a staff person and/or HGS instructor and each evening will be dedicated to a special topic under this semester's general theme: Owning & Controlling the Natural World. For example, the meeting of May 8 focused on the natural rights of indigenous peoples in the face of increasing corporate and international encroachment on their lands and natural resources. Issues discussed: is it possible for developing peoples to establish a bill of rights which will guarantee their autonomy and rights to their own land? How can nations and corporations be made to respect indigenous rights? To what extent can native peoples control access to and exploitation of their natural resources?


Alumni Nights will not be an end in them-

selves, however. The School hopes to gather from these nights a core group of interested and dedicated people who will form an Alumni Association. This association of Alumni will be comprised of advanced students volunteering their time and services and becoming further involved in the services and activities of the Henry George School. Such a group might in the future assist in School promotions, the creation of School seminars and the organizing of field trips and special projects appropriate to the School's goals.

So, please join us! - get involved and help the Henry George School carry on its mission.

YOU'RE INVITED!

TUESDAY NIGHTS, SPRING SEMESTER



ALUMNI NIGHTS
analyze
discuss
and debate contemporary economic and social issues

Henry George School
1215 E. 9th St. #200
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 688-4023

Graduates of Progress & Poverty are invited to join us for analysis, discussion and debate on contemporary economic and social issues. Alumni Nights will be open 6-8pm and will be held April 24, May 8, and June 5 in English; May 22 (in Spanish).

Meet Our New Director of Education

Alumni Nights will also give students a chance to meet the School's new Education Director - Mike Curtis. Longtime Director of the Henry George School of Philadelphia, the birthplace of Henry George, Mike has taught the philosophy of Henry George for 30 years.

In fact, Georgism runs in the family. Mike's grandfather and great uncle worked on Henry George's 1897 mayoral campaign.

Both his grandparents were very involved in the early development of the town of Arden, Delaware, a single-tax community that is thriving to this day.



Mike Curtis

to study what the man really had to say."

Such was his quick grasp of the main tenets of Georgist philosophy that in 1971 he began teaching classes in Arden as an extension of the Philadelphia School.

In his professional life at this time, Mike

maintained close ties to the land. "For about 20 years, I was an arborist for the Winthur Museum & Gardens outside Willington, Delaware."

Mike became Director of the Henry George School's Philadelphia Extension in 1989. Not only did he teach classes there, he frequently

went into the community and beyond. "I've taught in community centers, in prisons and the slums of northern Philly."

Mike also developed a unique program for the teaching of political economy to grade school children. "I was amazed at how quickly many of them caught on," Mike says.

Mike sees his new mission at the New York School "as making sure the quality of education is as good as we can make it."

I see my mission as making sure the quality of education is as good as we can make it.

Despite his family's history, Mike says "I didn't really take George's teachings to heart until I was elected to the assessor's board in Arden." Mike felt it his duty to study George's ideas intensely, so "I went to Philadelphia, which had the nearest Henry George School,

Henry George News

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