

TWENTY YEARS AFTER: HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE GOING STRONG

...the Henry George Institute holds that all persons have the right to the use of the earth and that all have a right to the fruits of their labor. To implement these rights it is proposed that the rent of land be taken by the community as public revenue, and that all taxes on labor and the fruits of labor be abolished.... The Institute pledges itself to bring this philosophy to the attention of the public by any suitable means.

In September 1970, a group of Georgists met in Freedom House, New York, to discuss the formation of a new organization to promote the Georgist philosophy. The outcome was the Henry George Institute, incorporated in New York State as a non profit organization on February 23, 1971.

The Institute was conceived as a democratic membership group. It has a rotating board of directors of twelve members, one-third of which is elected by the general membership each year for a three-year term. An office was secured at 55 West 42nd Street in Manhattan. Invitations to join the Institute were sent out and membership has gradually increased to nearly three hundred. Dues were set at \$10, and remain so today. Members sign a statement of agreement with basic Georgist principles.

Meetings and Dinners for HGI members have been held over the years, on an annual basis. Guest speakers over the years have included luminaries such as Perry Prentice, Mildred J. Loomis, David Hapgood, V. G. Peterson, Rev. Wylie Young, Fr. James Gilhooly, Roger Starr, Gurney Breckenfeld, Phil Finkelstein, Jack Schwartzman, Oscar B. Johannsen, C. Lowell Harriss, Richard Noyes, and several others.

The Institute depends upon active participation of its members for its operation. Although it is true that Bob Clancy does most of the work, he also depends upon the volunteer efforts of several HGI members. Joe Jespersen has served from the beginning as the Institute's Treasurer; Neva Bianco volunteers secretarial services; and Syd Mayers keeps up with membership renewals.

HGI's main teaching activity is a three-part correspondence course in the *Principles of Political Economy*, using the works of Henry George as texts updated with supplements. President Robert Clancy reports that over three hundred have completed the basic course in *Fundamental Economics* using George's *Progress and Poverty*. Of these, about 15 per cent go on to study the following two advanced courses. Mr. Clancy feels he has developed over the years a "sustainable program" for the correspondence course. Students find out

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Lucy De Silfa (4th from left) with graduates of the New York Hispanic Affairs Division

NEW YORK HGS FINISHES EVENTFUL SCHOOL YEAR

With its spring term graduation on June 22nd, the New York HGS completed a busy and eventful year of classes, seminars and programs. The evening represented the end of a long, rewarding effort for staff and students alike. New programs had been successfully instituted in 89-90, and old programs were revitalized. The tone of Director George Collins's address to the graduates was that of gathering momentum for the work of the School and the furthering of Henry George's message.

Revitalization: A group of fourteen students, for the first time in many years, has completed the three-part economics program based directly on the works of Henry George. George Collins taught the third class in the series, *Economic Science*, and proudly presented the students with certificates naming them graduates of *Principles of Political Economy*. Twenty-four students in the Spanish division completed the second course of the three-part study under Manuel Felix. And all told, one hundred thirty-five students completed the spring term, in ten courses.

New programs: On the initiative of the students themselves, a new alumni association has been formed for the Spanish Division. Called the *Centro Internacional de Alumnos y Exalumnos del Henry George School*, the group held its first program at the School on June 14th. The symposium on the economics of Latin America featured five speakers, including, as a special guest, Lucy de Silfa, Santo Domingo Henry George School Director.

So, students and staff gathered on the evening of June 22nd in a welcome sort of weariness. A great deal had been begun, and considerable steps had been taken. A surprising number of students, in fact, had taken three classes in one term! But that doesn't mean that they're finished with the school. The most frequent parting words that Friday night were, "See you in September!" 

SANTA FE IS HOT...

Georgists are converging on the right city for their annual conference, at which the nation's housing problem will receive much attention. West Side Spirit, a New York neighborhood newspaper, in a story called "Manhattan Monopoly," asked co-op converter Francis Greenburger, "What's working in Manhattan real estate?" Greenburger quipped, "Well, Santa Fe, New Mexico is really hot."