

IN MEMORY OF PHILIP FINKELSTEIN

We would like to thank all those who have expressed their condolences to trustees, staff and friends of the Henry George School in New York on the occasion of Philip Finkelstein's death. It has been comforting to us to know that Phil was respected and admired by a large group in the metropolitan area, across the country and overseas.

Phil Finkelstein was a dynamic presence whose energy, intellectual capacity, self-expression and future-oriented thinking enabled him to be at ease in many disciplines. Whether he was addressing a group, teaching a class, writing an article or debating an issue, he always gave his audience something substantive to ponder.

As editor of the Henry George Newsletter, he sought to provide subscribers with current, relevant and interesting news, articles, and features on the Henry George Schools and other affiliated organizations. His editorials covered a wide range of subjects, from Social Security to world hunger to current property tax legislation. Under his guidance, the Newsletter reached a diverse group of people, nationally and internationally, on a monthly basis.

Rather than tread lightly into our ever-changing world, Phil fully immersed himself in the tasks at hand, radiating an aura of optimism throughout the school. Fearless of the future, he had visions for the School and the movement that enabled us to move to plateaus unthought of several years ago. It was this reaching, extending ourselves and making us aware of our potential, that is Phil's legacy. The unreachable became reachable, the impossible became possible.

We are reminded of a comment by Goethe concerning teachers:

"A teacher who can arouse a feeling for one single good action, for one single good poem, accomplishes more than he who fills our memory with rows on rows of natural objects, classified with name and form."

Phil aroused such feelings. He will be missed by all those who worked with him, argued with him, supported his ideas, listened to his dreams and shared in his belief that a better system, with justice, fairness and liberty for all, can be attained.

Stan Rubenstein and Louise R. Pulini

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