

## INTRODUCTION

The 6th Annual Nach Weekend brought Humanists from the United States and Canada together at the New York Society for Ethical Culture to explore the theme *Humanism and New Age Thinking*.

On Friday evening keynote speakers Sherwin Wine and Beverley Earles examined the appeal of the New Age philosophy, agreeing that the New Age movement is essentially an anti-rational response to the modern world. On Saturday, interchange leaders Michael Werner, Bette Chambers, Judith Goren and Joseph Chuman further expanded on this topic, prompting a variety of perspectives and challenges for promoting Humanism as the preferred philosophy for those who espouse New Age thinking. Other workshops - such as "Doing Humanism in a Religious Community," "Humanism and the Freethought Tradition," and "Assault on Public Education - What does it mean for Humanist Principles?" - were led by NACH members Suzanne Paul, Roger Greeley, and Carol Wintermute. Saturday's events included a tribute to Suzanne Paul for her 9 years of outstanding work as Executive Director of NACH.

Saturday evening featured a delightful banquet followed by "A Celebration of the Humanist Institute." Instrumental to the success of the celebration were Sherwin Wine and Roger Greeley who reminded us of the continual financial support the Humanist Institute requires to provide effective professional training for our future Humanist leaders. Following, the "Third Wave" - the third graduating class of the Institute launched its commencement exercises with an entertaining, with a message, "musical" graduation ceremony. And the "Torch" was passed to the "Fourth Dimension" - the next graduating class.

Festivities continued Sunday morning, when Fred Edwards addressed the conference attendees and members of the New York Society with his lighthearted but reflective presentation, "Can There be a New Age Humanism?" John Hoad closed the joyful weekend with the final plenary "Beyond New Age Thinking. "

Oma Hankins

NACH Administrator

## III