

5-1-1991

## From the Editor, Issue 6, 1991

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### Recommended Citation

White, Alvin (1991) "From the Editor, Issue 6, 1991," *Humanistic Mathematics Network Journal*: Iss. 6, Article 2.  
Available at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/hmnj/vol1/iss6/2>

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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Humanistic Mathematics is alive and flourishing. The CUNY Mathematics Discussion Group chose Humanistic Mathematics as the theme of their first meeting of 1989-90. Guest panelists were Anneli Lax (NYU Courant Institute), Richard Schwartz (College of Staten Island, CUNY), and Leonard Saremsky (La Guardia Community College, CUNY).

Mathematics: A Humanistic Discipline was the title of a conference organized by Mary Sapienza (Newton North High School) at Emmanuel and Simmons Colleges, Boston 26 April 1990. The second conference — Mathematics: A Humanistic Perspective was held 25 April 1991. Philip Davis (Brown University) was the keynote speaker.

The Fall-Winter 1990 issue of *Mathematics in College* published by the CUNY Mathematics Discussion Group devoted its Forum section to Humanistic Mathematics. Authors are Alvin White, Reuben Hersh, Alan Schoenfeld, Deborah Hughes Hallet, Solomon Garfunkel, Anneli Lax, Dorothy Buerk and Jorge Perez. Copies are available by writing to Editor, *Mathematics in College*, Instructional Resource Center, CUNY, 535 E. 80th Street, New York, NY 10021.

Contributed paper sessions on Humanistic Mathematics in Phoenix 1989 and San Francisco 1991 at the MAA-AMS meetings each lasted over eight hours. The panel presentation on Humanistic Mathematics in Louisville 1990 attracted a standing room crowd.

The Humanistic Mathematics Network-Movement is sponsoring a Poetry Reading at the annual meetings in Baltimore 1992. Dan Kalman, Elena Marchisotto and JoAnne Growney are organizing these sessions. See *FOCUS* for details.

As part of the poetic-artistic celebration, calculus text author Louis Leithold and his friend, artist-poet d'Arcy Hayman will present "The Calculus Virgin." As indicated in the short note in this newsletter, Leithold and Hayman each had a peak experience in the encounter with the other mode of thinking and perceiving.

Fewer people are still asking, "What is Humanistic Mathematics?" More people are doing Humanistic Mathematics in their research, writing, teaching and organizing (conferences, seminars, etc.). Phil Davis gives a description of Humanistic Mathematics in Newsletter #5.

In her recollections of Hassler Whitney (1907-1989) in Newsletter #4, Anneli Lax mentioned the report by L.P. Benezet of an educational experiment on the formal teaching of arithmetic that Hassler distributed widely. With permission from the Journal of the National Educational Association, Benezet's report is reprinted here in response to several requests and as a memorial to Hassler Whitney.

The variety of essays in this issue indicates the scope of Humanistic Mathematics. History, philosophy, poetry, hermeneutics, integrity, teaching, . . . , are all part of the movement. This number of the newsletter is a double issue. Please send letters, essays, reviews, etc. for inclusion in a future issue.