

ACIM Copyright Controversy Update
by Erwin Braker, *Fellowshipian*

In February 2000, four months before I wrote my first article for *Voyages* about *A Course in Miracles (ACIM)* copyright controversy, an organization was incorporated in Nebraska called the “Course in Miracles Society” (CIMS). To learn the history of the copyright drama over the last decade, go to www.jcim.net. A mountain of information is presented in an attractive and useful manner at this CIMS web site.

The web site was recently reorganized by John Lopez. He encourages Miracle students to submit comments or observations to him at john@thewebguy.org. He plans to post timely reports and photos from a historic trial scheduled to begin June 4th, 2002 in the courtroom of Judge Sweet of the U.S. Federal South New York District. This is not just the old Endeavor Trial coming to a head. The trial has taken off in a completely new direction. The judge will be considering the fact that the original copyright may have been obtained illegally and is therefore invalid.

Judith Skutch, in 1987, produced a video, and her husband Robert Skutch, in 1984, wrote the book *Journey Without Distance*—both documenting the fact that she Xeroxed and distributed hundreds of copies of ACIM months before the original copyright application was made. Law at that time did not allow a copyright to be obtained under those circumstances.

Regardless of how Judge Sweet rules, the game's not over. One weakness of our country's judicial system is that the side with the deepest pockets usually wins, even when they lose. CIMS, an international group dedicated to propagating the divine teachings of the *Course*, may have the talent, vision, and finances to bring this “noncontroversy” (as Ken Wapnick calls it) to a conclusion. If every serious student of the *Course* would donate what they could afford to CIMS, the current game would be over in months rather than decades and we could all again concentrate on speeding up spreading the good word of the “Voice” without being slowed down by the “FACIM Thought Police.” (FACIM is Foundation for *A Course In Miracles*, Wapnick's non profit organization which owns the copyright.)

PS. Ken, thanks for recently giving your approval to allow my friend to distribute his CD. You must have, as requested two years ago, asked your heart, and not your lawyers, what to do. (See page 11 for details on CD, *Song of Forgiveness!*)