

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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HENRY GEORGE, LVT, LAND AWARENESS IN MEDIA

News articles, features and analysis dealing with Henry George and Georgist matters proliferated in recent months. What follows is a brief rundown of some that have come to our attention.

The Wall Street Journal, long a closet advocate (judging from the frequency with which it printed excerpts from George's work in its "Notable and Quotable" space), ran a November 26 column entitled, "Free Trade Is in Danger of Losing the War."

The article, by Lindley H. Clark, Jr., begins and ends with quotations from Protection or Free Trade. In between Mr. Lindley describes the thought behind a more recent publication, Trade Talks: America Better Listen, published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

"Protectionism still is mean-spirited, just as it was in Henry George's day," Mr. Lindley writes. He also imparts the Georgist message that "efforts need to be made not only to show the public and others that they have a major stake in the success of trade liberalization, but... to get out front and push for it."

From the "Retrospect" department of Sacramento magazine, a slick citymag from California, comes "Henry George: The Sacramento Years." This well-documented piece by historian Willard Thompson appears in the December issue. It combines a detailed biographical account of George's struggling years as a Sacramento typesetter with a brief rendering of his ideas. Especially fascinating is the author's attempt to tie particular events during George's Sacramento days to the formation of his philosophy.

A semi-weekly out of Raleigh, The Carolinian recently published a page one story on the plight of minority residents from the Shiloh community losing their land holdings. Gerry Schleicher, head of the Henry George School in North Carolina, explained the Shiloh phenomenon this way: "You have people who say they have owned that land for generations and don't want to be displaced... you probably have some that don't want to lose their roots, and... some that want to sit on the land until they get a better price. These people are using the roots issue as a smokescreen."

Schleicher went on to advocate "fair assessment and fair taxation" as the answer to the local displacement problem.

"Tax Reform for Business and Homeowners" was a recent feature in Long Island Business, a weekly newsmagazine. A homegrown report written by Stan Rubenstein and Michael Gavaghan of the New York School, it recounts the recent Center for Local Tax Research surveys on Long Island and presents the case for local option LVT.

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SCHOOL NOTES

NEW YORK

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Classes begin on Tuesday, February 4th.
The schedule is as follows:

The basic course, Progress and Poverty, will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 6 and Thursdays at 5:30. A basic video course, Understanding Economics, will be presented at noon on Wednesdays. And the popular offering Money and Banking returns this winter, every Tuesday at 5:30. There are no prerequisites for any of the above courses.

Advanced classes this winter include a new lunchtime video course, Issues and Alternatives, based on the newest cablevision series of the same name. This course is offered on Tuesdays at noon and covers such topics as protectionism, national debt, poverty and other contemporary social problems.

Another advanced course, The History of Economic Thought, will be presented on Wednesdays at 5:30. It traces the development of economic ideas from ancient times through the classicists. Included are Smith, Malthus, Ricardo, George, the mercantilists and the early socialists.

A third advanced class, Protection or Free Trade, will be offered in Spanish on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM.

Students wishing to attend Issues and Alternatives, History of Economic Thought or Protection or Free Trade must have completed a basic course. Additional information is available from registrar Elizabeth Reeves at 212 697-9880.

LONG ISLAND

"Understanding Economics" resumed on January 2nd on Cablevision Channel 21. It can be seen most Thursdays at 9 PM....

Al Fink spoke at the December meeting of the Oceanside Kiwanis Club on Henry George: The Man, His Writing and the Henry George Movement."

Contemporary Issues, an advanced course based on the books Social Problems and Protection or Free Trade, will be offered in the Bellmore - Merrick community on Thursday evenings beginning January 30th at Kennedy High School.

The same course will be offered in Levittown's MacArthur High School on Wednesdays beginning March 5th. Call 516 734-7543 for info.

SCHOOL NOTES

LOS ANGELES

Robert Tideman, long a HGS educator, former director of the Northern California school, was the guest speaker at 1985's final Final Friday meeting. The event took place at the LA Press Club on December 13th and was sponsored, as always, by the Alumni Group of the LA school. Bob's topic, "Doing the Right Thing," befit the holiday season and was an appropriate end-of-the-year opportunity for reflection.

Those interested in future Final Friday sessions may call 818-352-4141 for details.

SAN FRANCISCO

A revised basic course, four weeks in length, which showed great potential during a trial run in Berkeley last year, is being further refined based upon that experience.

"Revisioning Economics: A Path Toward Survival" is the name of the series. Session One asks "What is the economic problem?", examining scarcity, distribution and the labor - capital question. Session Two explores "Causes and effects of the economic problem," digging further into contemporary crises. Session Three, "What is to be done?", explores conventional solutions to the economic problems previously unearthed. And Session Four puts forth "Economic Democracy -- Toward a Solution."

PHILADELPHIA

Seventy people attended the 50th Anniversary celebration for the Philadelphia HGS at the Twelve Ceasars Restaurant on Saturday, December 14th.

Dr. Ella Bowen of Mayor Wilson Goode's office extended the official best wishes of the city in honor of the occasion.

Guest speakers included Dr. Keith Rose and former Councilman James Tayoun.

Dr. Rose is director of the Parkway Program, an alternative high school in Philadelphia. He stressed how helpful to high school students the Philadelphia HGS has been through the years.

Mr. Tayoun, who championed the land value taxation cause in the council for a number of years, emphasized the continued need to educate public officials, Philadelphia councilmembers especially.

Best wishes were also conveyed by Robert Clancy of the Henry George Institute and Paul Nix and Stan Rubenstein of the New York HGS.

From the Turnabout Is Fair Play Department: Director George Collins worked behind the scenes with other school members to arrange a surprise presentation to Lu Cippolini for her many years of service to the school. And Lu Cippolini worked behind the scenes with other school members to arrange a surprise presentation to George Collins for his many years of service to the school. To say each was surprised is to understate the case immeasurably.

David Zwanetz was the evening's master of ceremonies.

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From the LI Business article: "Four out of five homeowners gain. Needed development occurs where it is best suited. Business expansion is rewarded rather than penalized. Taxes on commerce are reduced or ultimately replaced. Advocates claim the impossible has happened: A tax reform businesses and homeowners can agree on."

The Montgomery County, Pa. Times Herald ran a page one article entitled, "Norristown Should Revolt, But Quietly, For Land Value Taxation, Expert Says." The expert, Jacob Himmelstein of the Incentive Tax League of Southeastern Pennsylvania, is quoted extensively in the piece, which details his recent presentation in the Norristown Public Library.

"With home rule in effect, Norristown can look to a broader spectrum of taxation than before," Himmelstein was quoted. "Our organization is interested in taxes that are equitable and will increase economic activity in southeastern Pennsylvania."

Other Georgist items of note in our nation's newspapers include a recent letter from Professor James L. Busey to the Colorado Springs Sun regarding urban sprawl and the land-value tax as its remedy. And Edward Miller, former board member of the Henry George Schools of Northern California, recently penned an op-ed piece entitled, "Protectionism Costs U.S. Consumers."

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