

# RSF'S NEXT CHAPTER

BY JOSIE FAASS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With new leadership come new ideas and directions, and together with the Board of Directors, I've spent the first few months of my tenure as Executive Director identifying our priority areas and activities for the next three years. Some are brand new, others are an extension of efforts begun long ago, but all represent a continued commitment to creating a world of liberty and equality of opportunity arising from economic, social, and environmental justice.

Those familiar with RSF know that we've been involved in publishing and book distribution for a long time. In the next few years we'll focus on supporting the creation of even more scholarly and popular content, digitizing our existing collections into a free online database, and converting all of our titles to e-book and print on demand formats for ease of distribution.

Another major area of activity in RSF's future will be outreach – outreach to outreach to the Georgist community and to those who don't (yet) consider



Photo Credit: Matthew Brown/Joan's Foundation

themselves Georgist, but who share our ideals, priorities, and the belief that everyone will benefit from the implementation of more sound tax and trade policies at the local, national, and global levels. Key to our success in these efforts will be the formation of partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals who can help us amplify and propagate our ideas into new spheres of influence, and we look forward to strengthening existing ties, and to creating many new ones.

RSF will also be more actively communicating with individuals and groups interested in exploring

whether and how the adoption of a land value tax (LVT) might benefit their communities. We recognize that access to expert analytical resources and individuals able to answer location-specific questions can mean the difference between sticking with a familiar (albeit potentially inferior) approach to local taxes and trying a new and better solution.

Education is an area in which the Foundation has long been active, and one on which we will remain focused. By providing support to educators and students of all ages, we will continue to share the wisdom of Henry George and like-minded thinkers.

Finally, and perhaps less visibly to the outside world, we'll work to optimize our own operations and grow our resources, thereby enhancing our efficiency and impact.

At RSF, we know that once you "see the cat," you realize "it's all cat," and are committed to facilitating this fundamental shift in the way people view the world and our place in it.

**Land Value Tax (LVT): a tax imposed on land as a way of recapturing the portion of its value that results from the community-generated amenities to which it gives its owners unique access.**

**LVT can discourage land speculation and sprawl, and create a stable, progressive local revenue stream without discouraging private investment.**

## Directors' Perspectives

WHERE RSF'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPLORES CURRENT APPLICATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF HENRY GEORGE'S TEACHINGS.

### THE HENRY GEORGE THEOREM

BY NIC TIDEMAN

"The Henry George Theorem" is the name that economists have given to the postulate that, under certain circumstances, a public service will increase land rent[1] enough that, if the increase in land rent is collected as public revenue, this revenue will sufficient to pay for the service. This idea is important because it maintains that public services can be financed not by sales taxes, income taxes or other taxes that burden the economy, but simply by collecting the increase in land rents that result from the public services provided.

The main premise of the Henry

George Theorem is simple. For many public services, such as parks and libraries, their benefit is greater to the people who are closer to the place where the service itself is provided. Therefore, people bid up the rental value of land that is closer to provision of such desirable services. If all of the benefits from proximity to a new public service are reflected in increased rents, and if the service is worth at least as much as it costs to provide, then public collection of the increase in rents will suffice to pay for the service. (Cont'd pg. 4)

### SEGREGATION

BY RICH NYMOEN

My kids recently started back to their high school, as did millions of other kids across the country. I'm fortunate that they attend public school in a district that is academically strong and fairly well integrated along racial lines.

That's unfortunately increasingly rare these days and it is due in large part to the country's segregated housing patterns.

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(A) GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL REFORMERS THAT INCLUDED ALBERT EINSTEIN, HELEN KELLER, LEO TOLSTOY, AND EMMA LAZARUS WERE PUSHING A REFORM THAT WOULD HAVE HELPED...

If you start learning about housing segregation—meaning the patterns in which whites predominantly live in areas apart from areas in which people of color predominantly live—and how it developed, you learn that concern with "property values" played a big part. It drove both individual and institutional behavior by having what experts call "push and pull" effects. Push refers to the reasons whites leave integrating neighborhoods and pull refers to the reasons why whites... (Cont'd pg. 4)