

# HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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## RELIGIOUS LEADERS DISCUSS ECONOMICS, HENRY GEORGE, LVT

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Six religious leaders participated in an ecumenical dialogue on economic themes which was conducted at the New York School last month.

The recent Pastoral Letter by the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the economy and the Henry George speech "The Crime of Poverty" served as starting points for the two-hour session, but they "did not restrict the free flow of ideas," according to Fryda L. Ossias, who organized the meeting as part of the Graduate Research Committee's series of spring events.

"The program was loosely-structured throughout," she said. "The only direction we agreed upon was to shift the focus back to economics whenever it seemed to move astray."

The participants included:

Monsignor Howard Basler, chairman of the Social Action Committee of Catholic Charities, Brooklyn;

Dr. Algenon Black, founder of the Society for Ethical Culture;

Rabbi Robert Gordis, editor of "Judaism", a philosophical quarterly;

Lancaster Greene, representing the Society of Friends;

Fr. Morton A. Hill, Morality in Media;

Rev. Wylie Young, moderator of the session.

Among the conclusions drawn by the clergymen in attendance was that the link between economics and religion was indeed strong, but that too few clerics were aware of the importance of the dismal science.

Father Hill saw larger implications. He proposed that a large-scale media campaign be undertaken to introduce land economics into the traditional labor-vs.-capital argument which informed the Pastoral Letter.

Algenon Black also looked toward the Big Picture. He proposed that the March meeting serve only as the first in a series of sessions which would unite young theologians with economists.

Mrs. Ossias: "What was especially rewarding was that Algenon Black formulated the very plan I would have advanced: A series of monthly colloquies linking priests, ministers and rabbis with theologians. Of course, there would ideally be different participants each month and, perhaps, we could open the sessions up to observers."

## 'PERSPECTIVES ON THE PROPERTY TAX' THE FOCUS OF HENRY GEORGE LECTURE AT ST. JOHN'S

While the eyes of most students were riveted on St. John's march through the NCAA basketball tournament last month, a good many of them took time out to attend the Spring '85 Conference in the Henry George Lecture Series on March 18.

"Perspectives on the Property Tax" was the topic of the two-hour program.

William K. Block, New York City's deputy commissioner of finance, shared the podium with David H. Gaskell, executive director of the State's Division of Equalization and Assessment and Professor Steven Cord.

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# SCHOOL NOTES

## NEW YORK

Due to the favorable response to their high school program last fall, the New York School has teamed up with the New York City Council on Economic Education to present a second urban workshop for high school students on May 2.

"The Changing New York City Job Scene: Issues and Outlook" will be the first half of the program. Samuel M. Ehrenhalt of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics will lead this section.

The second panel will look at "Problem Areas in the City". These urban experts will participate: Housing -- Seymour B. Durst, president of the Durst Organization; Transportation -- Jannette Barth, chief economist of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Theatre Arts -- Will Maitland Weiss, director of City Stage Center....

A mailing to 375 U.S. Catholic Bishops urged them to consider the vitally-important factor of land ownership in subsequent drafts of their Pastoral Letter on the economy (see page one).

The letter, signed by Director Stan Rubenstein and eight college professors, pointed out the "economic distinctions between the man-made factor of capital and the God-made factor of land."

Enclosed were two speeches: "The Land for the People" by Henry George and "The Earth is the Lord's" by Dr. Robert V. Andelson....

The school will make two presentations at the Middle States Council for the Social Studies conference in Atlantic City on April 19.

HGS teacher Dave Norflus will speak on "The Economics of Poverty -- An American Solution". George Collins will present "Infusing 'Land Economics' Into American Studies"....

The Henry George Media Network was at it again last month, sending a press release on the various proposals for a flat federal income tax to 192 journalists in ten states.

The release praised the call for efficiency and fairness on the federal level and urged local officials to inject those traits into the property tax system via LVT.

These Georgists served as contact people: Anne Sayre -- Boston; George Collins -- Philadelphia; Michael Gavaghan -- New York City; Stan Rubenstein -- Long Island; Mary Davis -- Atlanta; Earl Hanson -- Utah; Homer Fox -- Detroit; Stan Frederiksen -- Missouri; Bob Scrofani -- California; William Ranky -- Chicago; Richard Barbuto -- Westchester County; Steve Cord -- Pittsburgh; and Frank Nelson -- Delaware.

# SCHOOL NOTES

## SACRAMENTO

A series of round table discussions is the setting for a six-week course in Protection or Free Trade.

The course explores how protectionism affects even those Americans who won't be buying a car in the near future.

The classes are being held at the Unitarian Universalist Association, 2425 Sierra Blvd. through mid-April....

Thirty-three people attended a recent school dinner at Sacramento's Candlerock Restaurant. Guest speaker was John Harvey Carter, president of the Beautify Interstate 5 Association. Mr. Harvey's presentation, "North Natomas -- Another Viewpoint", included a slide show. The program was the latest in a series of dinners which feature qualified speakers dealing with economic and other social issues.

For information on the series, contact Evelyn Friend at 331-1490....

## NEW ENGLAND

A recent meeting of the board of trustees elected the following persons:

Ernie Kahn, president of the Henry George School;

Laurence Clark, president of the Incentive Tax League;

Mitch Chanelis, director of activities;

Sherry Tucker, coordinator of the high school and public relations efforts.

(These activities include Arnold Levine's work to get Georgist materials into Massachusetts high schools. Also, Anne Sayre will continue leading the P.R. program, which is focusing now on local talk shows.)

## LONG ISLAND

A half-day seminar will be held on the morning of Saturday, May 4th, at the Plainview / Old Bethpage Library. The agenda for this program follows.

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| 9:45 - 10:15  | Coffee and doughnuts  |
| 10:15 - 11:15 | Film: "A Tale of Five Cities -- Tax Revolt, Pennsylvania Style". Viewing and discussion. Presenter: Tom Birmingham.                 |
| 11:15 - 12:00 | "More or Less Government". Deals with the Georgist perspective on the proper functions of government. Presenter: Albert Fink.       |
| 12:00 - 12:45 | "The Flat Tax: Much Ado About Nothing?" Explores the various flat tax proposals and their implications. Presenter: Stan Rubenstein. |
| 12:45 - 1:00  | Wrap-up of program. Presenter: Harris Davis.  |

All sessions will include question and answer periods. For further information, call (516) 734-7543.

# SCHOOL NOTES

## LOS ANGELES

The LA school has undertaken an ambitious series of mailings dealing with "The Use of Advertising Principles to Sell the Henry George Philosophy and Program". These emphasize downplaying the concept of land value taxation and focusing instead on tax relief.

At press time, five of the mailings had been made, urging Georgists nationwide to "emphasize the positive" -- the elimination of taxes on labor and commerce -- and then, after a favorable emotional reaction, explain further. For information on this series, call (818) 352-4141....

## CABLE TELEVISION

"Understanding Economics" is appearing in six areas this spring (Connecticut, Westchester, Long Island, suburban Philadelphia, Indiana, PA, and San Diego). Basic Economic Education has sponsored its appearance in the San Diego area.

UE is also slated to appear this fall on Long Island's Cablevision and on two New Jersey outlets -- U.A. Columbia Cablevision and Vision Cable, Inc.). Details on the fall schedule will appear in later issues.

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