

NEW YORK LECTURES REACH DIVERSE AUDIENCES

The New York HGS was even busier than usual around the last weekend of February. On Friday the 23rd the School offered *Perestroika in Russia and Hungary*, the second of three Friday night forums scheduled for its winter term. And on Monday the 26th, a lecture in memory of longtime HGS faculty member Cyril Harvey (see last month's *Newsletter*) was given by George Collins, with Richard Barbuto and HGS teacher Nan Braman.

Speakers for the *Perestroika* forum were Arnold Bratov, a Russian playwright who has been living in the United States for only one year, and Professor George Schmidt, a physicist at Stevens Institute of Technology. Dr. Schmidt, originally from Budapest, was a member of the 1956 Hungarian pro-democracy movement, and fled the country when the movement was defeated. Both speakers were able to provide a personal view of the momentous changes in Eastern Europe. Mr. Bratov, who has a play now running in Moscow, compared the concerns of writers and artists in the two societies. Dr. Schmidt summarized Hungarian history, and suggested that, for the countries of Eastern Europe, democratic national self-determination is often more important than economics. The program was moderated by Prof. Norman Horing, also of the Stevens Institute, who has written an *Open Letter to the Communist World* (see the December '89 issue of the *Newsletter*).

After their presentations the speakers fielded questions left and right. The chief areas of concern were the potential for a reunified Germany, and the preservation of socialist-style economic rights (i.e. the right to housing and medical care) should Eastern European nations fully embrace capitalism. A cordially dissenting view (to that of her husband) was presented by Mrs. Schmidt, who, while conceding that "full employment" policies in Hungary led to massive stagnation, held that the political structures emerging in Eastern Europe must provide for people's basic needs if they are to succeed. Discussion continued as everyone was treated to a selection of delicious Hungarian pastries.



Prof. George Schmidt



Prof. Norman Horing



Mr. Arnold Bratov

The selection of Harlem's Touro College as the site for the Cyril Harvey Memorial Lecture was suggested by Richard Barbuto, who worked with Cyril Harvey on the Harlem Land Value Tax Project in the early 80's. This was the neighborhood where Mr. Harvey lived and worked, established the Harlem House of Commons, and tirelessly promoted, as George Collins put it in the title of his address, "the philosophy of social justice".

The lecture was the concluding event of Touro's Black History Month schedule. After a brief welcome to the college and the series by Jamal Joseph, Touro's Director of Student Affairs, Richard Barbuto introduced the work of the Henry George School. Then, Nan Braman spoke on the life and work of her friend and fellow teacher, using biographical material on Mr. Harvey's early life, which was provided by Sydney Bridgeman Harvey. She remembered a man who was too honest to be a pool shark and too gentle to be a boxer, yet was skilled at both -- big, energetic, magnetic, and passionate about justice.

George Collins's lecture followed: a stirring description of the justice and practicality of Henry George's vision, using examples from around the world, and down the street; a newly-modeled subway station opened out onto an entire block of rubble-strewn vacant land, along a busy thoroughfare. The audience had not far to look to see the applicability of George's ideas, and they received the speech with enthusiasm. A reception followed.

The final Friday night forum of the spring term, *Muckrakers and Reformers* with Stan Rubenstein, is scheduled for March 23rd at the New York School.

"HARD DRUGS & HARD DECISIONS" IN L.A.

On February 23rd, in the second of its Final Friday dinners devoted to "Internal Pollution", The Alumni Group of the Los Angeles HGS examined "Crack in the Window: Supplying the Retail Market in the Age of Cocaine." Invited speakers were Craig Peters and John Myner of the LAPD, and John Vernon, entrepreneur in the food business and State Chair of the Libertarian Party.

Some of the issues covered included: the corrupting influence of the drug trade by which "a policeman offered more cash than he's likely to earn the rest of his life is facing intolerable and unfair temptation" (one Mexican policeman was offered \$35,000 to simply go to the other side of town while planes landed and unloaded); the violation of due-process under the new anti-racketeering law (the moment you are charged with a crime, the government seizes all your assets) which is being extended beyond drug-related cases; the high cost of financing the war on drugs (e.g., many more prisons will need to be built); and the fact that anti-drug laws are creating a large new class of criminals.

According to The Alumni Group's flyer: "Former addicts... can go to McDonald's for \$5 an hour, or... get \$5 a minute continuing the illegal activity that supported their habit. What are they likely to do? What would you be likely to do? The question remains. Do social rights transcend individual rights? Does individual freedom include the right to choose hard drugs? Does society have the right to... abridge the Bill of Rights...?"

Craig Peters and his partner John Myner agreed to disagree over the legalization issue. Peters pointed out that while the discussion may be philosophical, hundreds of thousands of babies are being born in American already addicted to hard drugs. Peters, who had done 14 of his 18 years of police work in drug enforcement, also reported that high schoolers can earn \$200 to \$300 a week selling drugs to schoolmates.

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**1990 Conference in
Santa Fe - see inside**

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"BY GEORGE" PRESS COVERAGE UPDATE

The merits of Georgist property tax reform are making further inroads on the public dialogue, and an even more encouraging sign is that this month's coverage includes three op-ed pieces that eschew the usual habit of damning Henry George's ideas with faint praise.

A piece entitled "Revitalized Cities Require Property Tax Reforms", by Seymour Rauch, appeared in the *Buffalo News* on January 17. Rauch's article argues for a two-rate property tax as a powerful tool in the fight against urban decay--particularly if the tax is gradually shifted to fall completely on land. Buffalo, Rauch writes, is an ideal city to exploit the virtues of this tax reform, because it is blessed with many natural and locational advantages, and waits only for the proper incentive to develop them.

The Chicago HGS is reprinting an article by William S. Pierce, "Make Tax Abatement General", which appeared in the February 15 edition of *A Heartland Perspective*, issued by the Heartland Institute. Pierce's article observes that while tax abatements for real estate developers serve some useful purposes, they also serve to reward existing privilege and encourage corruption. Why not, Pierce ar-

HARD DECISIONS

(continued from page one)

The sentiments of the meeting were with John Vernon who argued for decriminalization. Removing exorbitant profit from the drug trade is the only way to roll it back and cut down on related crime; the only way to lower the profit is to allow a free market to replace monopoly.

Two volunteers served as "designated hitters" to open the discussion period with hard questions: libertarian Michael Green and printing firm owner David Byrnes. Also, copies were distributed of a correspondence on the pros and cons of Prohibition from *Science* (Journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science).

Next Final Friday will be on March 23rd (not the last Friday, due to Michael's Restaurant closing for two weeks) and the topic will be the first of three on the external, rather than internal, environment: "Local Pollution (and urban sprawl)." Speakers will be Margil Wadley, an associate of LA-HGS, and Jeff Smith, Green activist. April's theme deals with electric power and ecology, and May's Final Friday will be on global warming and other possible catastrophes.

Errata: Our February 1990 article on "To

gues, let everyone in the the community share in the benefits of tax abatements, and institute a permanent tax abatement--by removing the tax on all improvements?

Also on February 15th, W. Philip Cotton, Jr., an architect and the treasurer of the Public Revenue Education Council in St. Louis, Missouri, published a piece in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* called "Property-Tax System Promotes Slums". Cotton's article argues for site-value tax, and hints at the beginning of a movement in Missouri for constitutional change allowing the adoption of local two-rate property taxes, as Pennsylvania's constitution now does.

Mr. Cotton has also been active in the public dialogue abroad, corresponding with Mayor Manfred Rommel of Stuttgart, West Germany, regarding the usefulness of land value taxation against housing shortages. Mayor Rommel was quoted, in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on Nov. 4, 1989, as saying that the West German government would have to spend many times the \$1 billion figure it has projected for new housing, to keep up with the skyrocketing demand.



Smoke, To Drink, To Die in L.A." contained two errors: Fred Allen should read Steve Allen (*the* Steve Allen); and David Byrne should read Byrnes. Apologies to Mssrs. Byrnes and Allen!

- Editor.

SECOND L.A. ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

In addition to the college undergraduate essay contest reported in our last issue, the LA school has announced a high school essay contest on the same theme: "Managing the Earth's Limited Resources: Henry George's Policies as Tools." Prizes are \$1000 for first, \$500 for second, and \$250 for third place. Deadline for submissions is April 15th, and is open to high school students in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Prize money and copies of *Progress and Poverty* for the contests are being provided by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. For more information, please contact the LA school in Tujunga.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Winter term graduation festivities in New York will be held on Friday evening, April 6th. Contact the New York School for the exact time and location.

1990 NORTH AMERICAN GEORGIST CONFERENCE JULY 25-30, COLLEGE OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The College of Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico will be the locale for the 10th Annual North American Conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations (CGO). The conference begins with registration on Wednesday evening July 25th and concludes Monday morning July 30th. Members of Common Ground USA will meet in pre-conference from Sunday evening July 22nd to Wednesday afternoon July 25th. The conference is also the 5th Annual Conference of the Intermountain Single Tax Association (ISTA) which is serving as local host to the continental conference.

Those who regularly attend the annual conferences value them not only as a way to keep up with progress in Georgist education and reform, but also as a way to renew old friendships and make new ones. For some, it's their annual vacation. Students of the Henry George School are especially encouraged to attend.

Special features of this conference include a New Mexico style reception on Thursday evening; a daytrip to Taos, known for its historic American Indian Pueblo architecture, on Friday; and the annual banquet on Saturday evening.

Speakers will include Richard Noyes, Deputy Chair of the CGO and President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation & Free Trade; Steven Cord (Henry George Foundation of America) and Colin Bonner (P.E.P. League of Voters) debating the merits of the capital gains tax (as a way to socialize unearned increments in land values); Stan Rubenstein on How the Southwest Was Won (by the US from Mexico); Ian Lambert (from the Cayman Islands) on Georgian philosophy; speakers on the Spanish

land grant system and on American Indian land tenure, and several others including public officials from the Southwest supportive of land value tax. In addition to speakers there will be workshops on a variety of topics such as the Green movement and perestroika in Eastern Europe. A screening of *The Milagro Beanfield War* is also planned.

Festivities will feature singing by George Collins and Mary Ann Fellows (of the College of Santa Fe) accompanied by Stan Frederiksen (Public Revenue Education Council, St. Louis), as well as a "Geocratic" sing-along. An ecumenical gathering will be led on Sunday morning by David O'Brien of Common Ground, on the theme of "Our God-given Property."

Several organizations plan to hold business meetings during the course of the conference. In addition to the Common Ground pre-conference meetings, the CGO will hold its annual meeting on Saturday as well as a conference evaluation/wrap-up on Sunday. ISTA has scheduled its annual meeting for Sunday evening July 29th; and the Henry George Foundation will meet earlier that same day.

There are several choices regarding registration: (1) **Full Conference Package** (all eight nights) for \$325 if you pay in full before May 31st, \$345 after May 31st; (2) **Core Conference Package** (Wednesday evening to Monday morning) for \$210 before 5/31, \$225 after 5/31; and (3) **Daily Package** @ \$45/day before 5/31, \$50 after 5/31, with reception and banquet an extra \$8 each. The bus-trip to Taos, complete with luncheon program at the Sagebrush Inn, costs \$20 (\$25 after 5/31) and is the only item not included in the package deals. All bedrooms are double rooms. Those

GEORGIST TO VISIT EASTERN EUROPE

Jeffery J. Smith, President of the Institute for Geonomic Transformation, is planning to make a tour of Eastern Europe beginning April 21st this year. Jeff is in contact with Zygmunt Fura, a leading East European Green in Poland. Mr. Fura is arranging Jeff's itinerary to include meetings with Greens, professors and officials in several East European countries including Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia and Russia. Jeff needs to raise \$2000 to finance his trip. He also invites essays, letters and other material which he will convey to those he will meet with on his tour. Contact: Institute for Geonomic Transformation, Jeffery J. Smith, President, PO Box 157, Santa Barbara, CA 93102 (Tel: 805-969-7024).

staying off-campus but wishing to attend sessions may pay a \$15/day conference fee (or \$10 if you remit before 5/31). The reception and the banquet for those not staying on campus are each \$15 before 5/31, and \$20 after 5/31. Other meals for those not on-campus add up to \$15 per day (or \$6 per meal). The package and pro-rata prices include the appropriate conference fees (\$60 for full conference, \$40 for core conference). A \$40 per person minimum deposit is required for all on-campus registrations (non-refundable except in dire circumstances).

To register, or for more information, use the form below: fill it in, cut it out and send it to the Council of Georgist Organizations. You may also telephone the Council in the afternoons and evenings at 212-889-8020.

To COUNCIL OF GEORGIST ORGANIZATIONS, 121 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016

Please send me/us more information on the 1990 Georgist Conference in Santa Fe. _____ OR:

Please register me/us in the 1990 Conference, & send more information on Santa Fe, the Conference, & how to get there.

_____ Full Conference Package for _____ person(s) @ \$325 (or \$345 after 5/31)

_____ Taos daytrip for _____ persons
@ \$20 each (\$25 after 5/31)

_____ Core Conference Package for _____ person(s) @ \$210 (or \$225 after 5/31)

_____ Daily Package for _____ person(s) @ \$45/day room & board (or \$50 after 5/31) for the following dates:

First Meal: _____ to Last Meal: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Enclosed: \$ _____
(minimum \$40/person;
Or # _____ Off Campus
see rates above)

BIBLICAL ECONOMICS LINKED TO TODAY'S CONCERNS

Ethical Land Tenure - Interreligious Resource Directory has just come off the press. This is an 8-page (letter size) booklet published by the New York school for use by Jewish and Christian groups concerned with issues of economic justice.

Religious groups are now going beyond traditional charity, the booklet points out in its explanatory essay, to ask "Why do those who are not helpless find themselves homeless, hungry, and needy?" The Jubilee proclamation of Leviticus (25:23) is cited: "The land must not be sold beyond reclaim, for the land is mine; and you are but strangers resident with me." Further, the booklet points out, modern theologians now interpret one of the goals of the mission of Jesus was to restore the original intent of the Jubilee, as in Luke 4:18 (by way of Isaiah 61:1-3): "He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor... to proclaim the release of captives... to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

The *Directory* contains an extensive bibliography of books, pamphlets, and magazine articles written by Henry George and Georgists on religion and economics, as well as related videotapes. A list of Georgist and other organizations concerned with ethical economics and land tenure is also provided.

Ethical Land Tenure is the result of the socially engaged fieldwork of Alanna Hartzok who started the Interreligious Georgist Network a few years ago. It is a most welcome addition to our stock of useful "outreach" material. Copies of the booklet may be ordered @ 50 cents each from the New York school.

Church Ecology - The Earth Is the Lord's is a recently completed ten-week course, for which twenty-two enrolled, at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California (the TV headquarters of Robert Schuller). The course, giving a Georgian perspective on land ethics and economics, was presented by Margil Wadley, Ph.D., with guest lecturers Professor Mason Gaffney (University of California at Riverside) and LA-HGS Director Harry Pollard.

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN H. POELKER 1914 - 1990

It is with deep sadness that we, of the Public Revenue Education Council of St. Louis, must announce the passing, on February 9, 1990, of our dedicated and esteemed Honorary Director, the Hon. John H. Poelker, who served us well over many years.

A native St. Louisan, John was almost revered by political friends and foes alike. His contributions to Metro-St. Louis were numerous. He became St. Louis's City Assessor in 1953 -- Comptroller in 1957 -- and Mayor of St. Louis in 1973. His dedication to the site value concept was carried out in subtle fashion over the years, in many ways. John helped us conduct seminars, and was a witness for the cause of site value based public revenue in our state capital, lending his dignity and quiet persuasion to our efforts to make Missouri the "next" site value state.

John will be sorely missed. We'll always remember the keen wisdom and great advice John gave us over the years.

To you, John, from wherever you may be "looking over our shoulders", we promise to move forward as you would have us do. You've been a monumental leader and inspiration to all of us.

--Stanley A. Frederiksen

NY CLASSROOM BECOMES MINI-MARKETPLACE

The New York School conducted a new kind of Saturday Seminar on February 10: *The Real Monopoly Game*, an economic simulation game designed by assistant director Lindy Davies. The game was first introduced as a classroom exercise in *Understanding Economics* during the fall '89 term, and student response was deemed enthusiastic enough to warrant a fuller development of the game in a three-hour seminar format. Although it borrowed the name of the popular board game, this game was altogether different in design. However, press reprints were available on *Monopoly's* original purpose as a Single Tax teaching tool.

Participants in the game chose classroom seats endowed with various natural resources (crayons, paper towels, pencils, paper pads, sharpeners, and a wastebasket) and produced wealth (sentences on paper) and capital (sharpened pencils, etc.) for exchange. The game was surprisingly realistic, and saw the evolution of industrialists, employers, a woman who made a living selling her poetry, and even a welfare cheat. After the game was played for more than two hours, a lively discussion ensued on how it embodied and illustrated the principles of political economy, and how it could be made still more realistic. Two high school teachers in attendance made plans to use the game in their classes.

More information on the simulation game, or on the origins of the *Monopoly* board game, can be had by writing to Lindy Davies at the New York School.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Spring Term Classes will begin the week of April 16th at the New York School. Details in next issue.

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