

Ground rent...is the tribute which natural laws levy upon every occupant of land, as the market price of all the social as well as natural advantages appertaining to that land, including, necessarily, his just share of the cost of government....Those who actually receive ground rent, or who could receive it if they would, form the class which we call "landlords." ...Year by year they assess the value of the privilege of occupying the land.... Everyone runs after the landlord, to tell him what his land is worth....The landlord...is Nature's elected tax-gatherer. But Nature does not compel him...to pay over to the state what he collects. This must be done by the state itself.

*-Thomas Shearman,
Natural Taxation (1895)*

ALANNA HARTZOK CAMPAIGNS FOR LOCAL & GLOBAL REFORMS

Alanna Hartzok continues her personal campaign for peace and social justice. As staff writer for the newspaper *Public Opinion* in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, she had a recent feature on the front page of the Home section of the February 19, 1992 issue. "Municipalities seek fair tax rates" explains how some seventeen Pennsylvania communities are taxing land values higher than building values, to the benefit of most homeowners.

Ms. Hartzok opens the article by taking on the Franklin County commissioners who think a local income tax is fairer than a real estate and property taxes because "they have no bearing on a person's ability to pay." The commissioners said they were not familiar with the two-tier property tax that eases the burden on most homeowners (and almost all tenants). In response, Ms. Hartzok marshals the evidence presented by Dr. Steven Cord of the Center for the Study of Economics.

Another concern dear to Alanna's heart is *Building a More Democratic United Nations*, which happens to be the title of a new book to which Ms. Hartzok contributes a chapter. Her chapter and the others are the proceedings of the first international Conference on a More Democratic U.N. (CAMDUN). Her fellow contributors include George-supporters Dr. Harry Lerner (Convener of the Peoples Assembly, a UN NGO, non-

As reported in our last newsletter, our guest economists from Moscow learned a lot about how Americans make a living. In turn, we learned how Muscovites have fun. Our bon voyage reception featured a delicious spread of food donated and prepared by trustee Fryda Ossias. Wonderful gifts, such as a Russian samovar, were presented by our guests to show thanks to the many volunteers and staff persons who welcomed them. A surprise birthday cake was presented to Prof. Jack Schwartzman in honor of his 80th birthday. As spirits rose, so did voices, Jack's included, in Russian song. The celebrating and farewells continued into the night at volunteer Lynn Yost's apartment, where Muscovites and New Yorkers joined in playing and singing American as well as Russian favorites -- quite an ending to an unforgettable three weeks.



governmental organization), and the late Elizabeth R. (Betsy) Dana (a World Federalist and founder of The Georgist Registry).

Addressing the proposed Second Assembly of the UN (representing people rather than governments), Alanna suggests that it be based on fairly sharing the earth. She suggests that revenues for the Second Assembly programs come from a "common heritage fund" rather than adding any more burdens upon labor and productive capital. To begin with, writes Alanna, the 500 population regions, from which the proposed 500 representatives are to be drawn, need to be delineated. These boundaries, then, would not be based on existing nation-state territorial monopolies.

Connecting global public finance with the problems (such as war) associated with inequitable control of land, Ms. Hartzok cites colleague Susan (not Henry) George's book, *How the Other Half Dies*: "The most pressing cause of the abject poverty which millions of people in this world endure is that a mere 2.5% of landowners with more than 100 hectares control nearly three quarters of all the land in the world - with the top 0.23% controlling over half" (Penguin Books, 1976, pg. 24).

Building a More Democratic United Nations, which is over 300 pages, was published in 1991 by Frank Cass, c/o International Specialized Book Services, Inc., 5602 N.E. Hassalo St., Portland, OR 97213.