

PROFESSOR YURI BOCHAROV: *The Chaos of Urban Planning in the USSR*

Cities in the Soviet Union grew in size and character according to the needs of industry, not in response to the needs of people. So said Professor Yuri Bocharov at a specially scheduled slide lecture at the New York school on Monday, April 29th. Prof. Bocharov is an expert in the theory and practice of urban planning in the Soviet Union, holding the positions of Research Director of the Central Research and Design Institute for Town Planning, and Secretary of the Board of the USSR Union of Architects.

The professor's slide presentation focused on the over-riding goal of industrialization in Soviet society. All the cities, he said, are built around industries. About 30% of the land in the country is devoted to industry; so, the cities are very densely built. Thousands of prefabricated, high-rise apartment dwellings were built; this was seen as the most efficient use of building materials -- but, the cities became extremely crowded. Bocharov reported that as of last year, some twenty-eight million households have inadequate living conditions, officially defined as less than nine square meters of apartment space per person. Urban overcrowding has led to the widespread phenomenon of second dwellings, separate small houses outside of the cities where families may spend weekends or vacations. Some twenty million of these second dwellings have been built, and another ten million are planned in the next ten years. Although the supplying of country houses is a potent medicine for worker unrest, it is doubted that the Soviet economy in its current state will be able to finance such an ambitious project.

Many other aspects of the Soviet urban landscape show the effects of central planning. Architectural styles reflect the different ideological thrusts of various periods of Soviet history. Under Stalin, for example, over ten thousand churches were destroyed across the country. Later, some of those left partially standing, or which had

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Prof. Yuri Bocharov

TEACHING HENRY GEORGE IN ONE DAY -- *the Alanna Hartzok Way*

Alanna Hartzok conducted a one-day seminar for thirty-four people on Saturday, March 2nd, at the New York HGS. *Economic Justice and Land Rights*, the title of the seminar, uses a mix of video, lecture and slide presentations. Land ownership and the struggle to survive was explored in the contexts of Latin America, Appalachia, Japan and New York City. The perspective of women, often not presented, in the struggle for land rights was movingly depicted in a videotape about Guatemala.

While the morning session dealt with the problem, the afternoon session looked at solutions. Once the participants had grasped the Law of Rent, community land trusts, community heritage funds, and land value taxation were explained and compared, and their relative strengths and weaknesses discussed.

Economic Justice and Land Rights has been developed by Alanna in recent years, in response to difficulties in getting people, particularly social/ecology activists, to sit through a ten-week course in economic principles. Alanna has presented the seminar in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she lived for many years. Alanna now lives in Scotland, PA, close enough for a weekend trip to New York City. In addition to her work for the Henry George School, Alanna has been active in the community land trust movement, the Peoples' Assembly for the United Nations, and humanistic/transpersonal psychology.

Building on Alanna's work, Wendell Fitzgerald will present a variation of the one-day seminar on June 15th at the Annual North American Georgist Conference at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. His presentation will include text and presentational materials which will be distributed to groups who wish to present the seminar. Wendell is Alanna's successor as Education Director of the Northern California HGS.

SCROFANIFEST

E. Robert Scrofani celebrated more than 30 years (32 to be exact) as a high school teacher on Sunday, May 5th, in Freestone, California (about an hour north of Golden Gate Bridge). The party was held at the home of Carol Khadjenouri, a longtime friend and colleague. The celebration included a barbeque, walks, swimming and sunning. Music was provided by Linn Nelson, sax player, and a trio of strolling musicians. Formal words from colleagues were presented as part of the festivities.

Here are two opinions from Bob's teaching colleagues: "Bob is absolutely committed to expanding his knowledge and enriching his classroom. This leads to a lively up-to-date classroom where students are exposed to world events and their links to the historical past. We in the department shake our heads in awe of him, but we inevitably benefit from his curiosity, generosity and his willingness to share" (Sue Groves). "Bob's commitment to excellence and to identifying and stimulating the unique talents of a wide range of students



Bob at the 1989 Phila. Conference

has made him an invaluable asset to BHS, but most significant are the innumerable ways he has touched the lives of teachers and students to truly make a positive difference in their lives" (Steve Teel).

Of his 32 years teaching, Bob, or Manny (as he's also known to his friends), has spent 25 of them at Berkeley High

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