

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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NEW YORK GRAD COMMITTEE BRINGS LVT MESSAGE TO HARLEM, OTHER COMMUNITIES

Some 50 Harlem residents attended a day-long program examining the implications of land value taxation in that community and other inner city areas last month.

"Progress Without Poverty for the People of Harlem" was an attempt to "spark an awareness among the people of this city of what incentive taxation has to offer," according to Richard Barbuto, one of the sponsors of the session.

"We tried to bring the school to the people, instead of just bringing people into the school," added Cyril Harvey, another sponsor.

The day began with a bus tour of Harlem, led by Dr. Rita Webb Smith. In addition to leading the fight to rid Harlem of drugs and to foster community development, Dr. Smith is a Georgist of long standing—a fact which was reflected in the tour.

The panel took place in the Harlem State Office Building. It began with a viewing of the documentary, *"A Tale of Five Cities"* which provides background on the LVT story as practiced in Pennsylvania. Barbuto then proposed that the New York City Council undertake a study similar to the one underway in Albany to determine if LVT would be an appropriate means for the city to collect revenues.

Joining him on the proposal panel were Edward Dodson, a mortgage officer and HGS board member, and Assemblyman Daniel Feldman, sponsor of the bill which authorized the New York State study.

The probe panel, made up of non-Georgists, consisted of the following people:

LeRoy Bowser, of the New York Urban League; Kathryn S. Wylde, executive vice president of the New York City Housing Partnership; Horace Carter, president of the Emmanuel Peterson Historical Society of Harlem; and Stephanie Pinto, from Assemblyman Jerrold Nadler's office.

In addition, Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, who was originally scheduled to participate in the panel segment before announcing his candidacy for mayor, spoke briefly during the panel, but did not specifically address property tax reform.

The panels debated the relative merits of the proposal and answered questions from the audience. George Collins, director of the Henry George School of Philadelphia, was the moderator.

According to Elizabeth Reeves, graduate research committee coordinator, the Harlem program was the first in a series designed to focus on specific neighborhoods. Plans are underway to bring the panel format to the South Bronx and, later, Brooklyn. In addition, Manuel Felix, a HGS teacher, will sponsor a similar presentation at the United Nations in May.

For further information on GRC programs, call Ms. Reeves at 212 697-9880

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NEW YORK

The February 14th board meeting elected Richard Barbuto as a new trustee. He replaces the Honorable Jerome S. Medowar, who resigned because of increasing time demands imposed by his judgeship.

Barbuto has been an active member of the school for a number of years. He is a bank attorney who also serves as executive secretary of the Guild of Catholic Lawyers and is on the Manhattanville College faculty in the para-legal studies program.

Re-elected to the board were Paul S. Nix., Jr., president; Oscar B. Johannsen, vice president; Lancaster M. Greene, Treasurer; George L. Collins, secretary; Patricia Aller; Steven Cord; William P. Davidson; Edward J. Dodson; Mitchell S. Lurio; R. Dean Meredith; Sydney A. Mayers; Fryda L. Ossias; Constance Weinstein; and Si N. Winters....

The Graduate Research Committee announces Springfest '85, to be held at the school on Sunday, April 21st at 2 PM.

This unique program will blend economics and the piano and will include a buffet supper. The afternoon will feature a piano concert by Estelle Parnas Oringer, playing the music of Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn and others. In addition, it will explore international competition in the piano-making industry, with an eye on questions of protectionism. A ten dollar donation will cover the entire program. A limited number of tickets are available and must be purchased in advance. Call (212) 697-9880 for more information....

ALBANY

Al Hartheimer shared the podium with Laurence Farbstein, executive director of the Temporary Commission on the Real Property Tax (which is conducting the New York LVT study) at the 1985 Legislative Conference and Training Seminar for County Directors of Real Property Tax Services on March 12th. The "Tale of Five Cities" film was also shown....

SCHOOL NOTES

PHILADELPHIA

The second of three annual dinner presentations co-sponsored by the Delaware Valley Incentive Tax League and the HGS Alumni Association was held on March 15th. The topic was "The Military Budget and You". It focused on how the defense budget affects our lives and the economy and whether either would benefit from slashes in the budget. Michael Curtis, director of Arden Activities, and Donald Hurford, vice president of the Incentive Tax League, were the discussion leaders....

The final program in the series will be held on Friday, March 29th, from 6:30 to 9:30 PM at the Philadelphia School. The topic will be, "Banking at the Brink: A Doomsday Scenario". Edward Dodson, a mortgage consultant for FANNIE MAE, will discuss the financial crisis facing western banks as they grapple with Third World debt. A film will be shown. For more information, contact the school at (215) 922-4278....

NEW ENGLAND

Mitch Chanelis, director of the Center for Economic Justice, responded to a WNEV-TV editorial recently, and presented a convincing argument for higher land taxes and lower taxes on improvements. The response aired several times over Boston's Channel 7, which reaches about 350,000 people throughout the metropolitan area....

The appearance was part of a continuing effort to bring Henry George's philosophy to the media. Spearheaded by Anne Sayre, this project has included the preparation of attractive media kits which have been sent to news directors, talk show producers and the like. The recent Christian Science Monitor article was an early result of Anne's efforts.

LONG ISLAND

The LI extension will make a presentation at the annual convention of the NYS Council for the Social Studies at the Long Island Marriott on March 28th. "Infusing Land Economics into American History" will make use of the *Land and Freedom* series of 20 self-contained lessons designed for high school educators....

That same evening, the Executive Committee will hold its second meeting of the year at the home of Dave Norflus. Members elected to the executive committee are Tom Birmingham, Lou DeMott, Dave Norflus, Harrison Davis, Stan Rubenstein, Elizabeth Winokur and Vera Sidhwa.

LOS ANGELES

"Government's Battle to Save Us From Ourselves" was the first meeting of the new year held at the Los Angeles Press Club. George Nony, assistant city manager of Burbank, joined Georgists Bob New, Jon Myhre and Floyd Morrow from San Diego in an enthusiastic discussion of the limits of government power....

Two new members joined the Los Angeles board. Roberta Woods and Frank Tilton are both 1984 advanced graduates and 1984 teachers. They join Los Angeles board members Hank Greenberger, Margil Wadley, John Wiggins, Ray Kornfeld, Mason Gaffney, Dave O'Brien, Morgan Harris, Jack Ferris, and Chairman Carl Boode. Stepping down after many supportive years was Bill Pereira, who will remain actively involved in Georgist causes....

SCHOOL NOTES

SAN FRANCISCO

Director Bob Scrofani presented a session on Fighting Economic Illiteracy at the annual conference of the California Council for the Social Studies on March 9th. His presentation was one of six singled out as a showcase during the four-day event....

In response to the recent mandate by the State Department of Education to include economics in the curriculum of all secondary schools, the San Francisco School has launched a vigorous effort to make Georgist materials available. A recent letter from president Wendell Fitzgerald outlines this approach: "Department chairmen must be contacted, courses prepared to meet individual needs of schools and teachers, media developed, sample lesson plans prepared." Those with school contacts and those interested in helping prepare materials or assisting on workshop teams are invited to contact the school at (415) 864-1014....

An advanced class in Protection or Free Trade began in Sacramento on March 7th. It is being held at the Unitarian Church...

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