

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

Volume 49, Number 3

March 1985

STATE COORDINATORS CARRY GEORGIST MESSAGE INTO NEW AREAS

The New York School has embarked on a plan to spread the Georgist message into states in which there has been no coordinated activity.

The program uses individuals working part-time to bring Georgist materials into the high schools, perform research on property tax data and get the series "Understanding Economics" on public access cable stations throughout their respective states.

These coordinators are already at work in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Delaware. However, they are not intended to duplicate or usurp the work of Georgists already active in those states. Rather, they can, as professionals, provide the hours needed to perform the extensive leg-work and follow-up which does so much in promoting the Georgist concept.

Among the areas in which state coordinators are working are:

—**High schools.** The Land and Freedom series of 20 self-contained themes dealing with the importance of land in American history is being offered to educators free of charge in each state.

—**Legislatures.** Political education is always a concern. The coordinators have been keeping legislators aware of the present inadequacies of the property tax system.

—**Property tax research.** Obtaining data from the assessor's office in several districts in each state. These are then compiled in New York, where appropriate press releases are written and mailed with the coordinator as the contact person.

—**Cable television.** Searching out the various cable companies in each state and securing public access time for the 12-part series "Understanding Economics." Also researches cost-effective means of advertising the series in the viewing area.

—**Public Relations.** Assembling lists of journalists from each state to be added to the national Georgist press network which debuted last November.

—**Religious networking.** Searching out churches and religious organizations active in each state who share our concerns for social justice or our views on land use/ownership. Getting the names of contact people for each such group and following up on any mail sent from New York to these groups.

—**Adult education.** Still being explored is the possibility that the cable series might be offered as a course in various adult education programs around the country.

Many of these programs have already brought good results. Robert Tortorella, the New Jersey coordinator, has dug extensively into that state's social studies organization files and provided hundreds of instructors' names. Frank Nelson of Delaware, a long-time Georgist, has continued sending materials to public officials. Sheldon Neal of Connecticut has completed a survey of property tax rates in Hartford. And cable stations in all three states have signed on to carry UE. It can be seen in Connecticut and Delaware this winter, and will be shown in New Jersey later in the year.

SCHOOL NOTES

Henry George Newsletter
published by
Henry George School
of Social Science

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NEW YORK

The New York School made a one-hour presentation on poverty during the Greater New York Metropolitan Social Studies Conference at the Sheraton Centre.

"Is There a Solution to the Poverty Problem?" was the topic of the presentation. HGS instructors Barry Smith and Dave Norflus explored the question and handed out Georgist materials, including the tabloid on hunger in Appalachia.

Another instructor, Dave Redman, provided a demonstration of the Land and Freedom lessons, which were available at the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation booth. Pat Aller, assistant director of the RSF, staffed the conference booth.

LOS ANGELES

"Government's Battle To Save Us From Ourselves" was the topic of 1985's first Final Friday debate at the Los Angeles Press Club.

Under the spotlight were a Los Angeles planning director and a citizen who challenged the constitutionality of his city's beautification policies.

LONG ISLAND

The all-day conference in November elicited an unprecedented number of requests for papers on the speeches presented. As a result, the Long Island extension has mailed summaries of the program to more than 300 area Georgists.

These included Al Fink's paper on the New York State study bill; a presentation by Tom Birmingham on the pope, the bishops and economic justice; an investigation into Henry George's 1886 Mayoralty campaign and the subsequent charges of election fraud, by Stan Rubenstein; and an inquiry by Dave Norflus into whether the Supreme Court is edging toward support of land reform.

Georgists who would like to receive the 5-page summary of these papers can contact the Long Island extension at (516) 734-7543.

SCHOOL NOTES

ALBANY—EDUCATING THOSE “IN THE KNOW”

Al Hartheimer continues to educate those who can make things happen. Armed with a copy of the new documentary film, “A Tale of Five Cities: Tax Revolt, Pennsylvania Style”, Al has presented the case for land value taxation before assessors associations, state and county officials, and other tax experts.

Al’s recent work included showing the film to the Rensselaer County Assessors Association and the county supervisor; a viewing for the mayor of Albany, Tom Whelan, who brought along the city assessor and an official from the Office of Economic Development; a presentation to the executives of the State Board of Equalization and Assessment; and scheduled appearances before the County Directors of Real Property Tax Services and a conference of assessors from the North-eastern U.S. and Eastern Canada.

Al reports that the response has been generally favorable, but that most New York State officials have taken a wait-and-see posture on the issue, pending the report due later in the year from the study commission.

SAN FRANCISCO—“EXTINCTION OR EVOLUTION?”

An ambitious ten-week seminar is the focus this spring as the San Francisco School presents “After 1984—Extinction or Evolution?”

The community education series is based on ideas and activities emerging in the field of cultural evolution—including innovative economic, political and social action approaches aimed at creating a more fulfilling life for all.

The aim, according to Director Bob Scrofani, is to bring together people representing alternative points of view on varied subjects concerning our collective welfare, to explore how different issues interrelate with each other, and to contribute to right action.

The Tuesday evening series kicks off on **March 12th** with a program on American Democratic Values in Economics, featuring Frances Moore Lappe. Ms. Lappe is the co-founder of the Institute for Food and Development Policy and the author of a number of books on hunger. She will examine the effect on our lives of traditional American values such as freedom, fairness and security.

March 19th: Communications and the Future: The Myth of the Media. Michael Toms, host of the nationally-acclaimed “New Dimensions” radio program, will explore how the media can be transformed into a positive force for social change.

March 26th: The Enemy. Michael Murphy reports on the cognitive attitudes and social bias in and out of the Soviet Union, where he has travelled extensively for 14 years. The author will draw on parapsychology while looking closely into the fabric of Soviet life.

April 2nd: Green Politics. This movement for social change emphasizes ecological wisdom, social responsibility, grassroots democracy, decentralization of political and economic power, and respect for spiritual values. Charlene Spretnak is the author of *Green Politics: The Global Promise*, and the founder of a national Green political organization.

April 9th: Education for Social Transformation. George Leonard, a former senior editor of *Look* magazine and author of books on education, sports and lifestyles, will explore the future of education in America, focusing on how education can be made into a vehicle for personal and social transformation.

(continued on page 4)

AFTER 1984 (continued)

April 16th: The Power in the Land: Toward a Joyful Science of Economics for Plenty. Architect, musician and Georgist Roger Somers will explore the philosophy of Henry George, why his ideas are not widespread today, and how they can help us attain freedom.

April 23rd: Actualizing the Activists. Francis Macy, executive director of the Association for Humanistic Psychology, will explore the connection between personal development and social and political activism.

April 30th: The Politics of the Biological Revolution. We have emerged from the Industrial Revolution and are about to leave the Information Revolution behind. Each has had profound impact on our political perspectives. Walter Anderson, a political scientist whose books include *A Place of Power* and *Rethinking Liberalism*, will speak on the probable effects of the Biological Revolution he believes we are about to enter.

May 7th: Fighting With Gandhi. Professor Mark Juergensmeyer, who coordinates the Program in Religious Studies at Berkeley, will explore how Gandhian methods can be used to resolve conflicts in one's personal life as well as in effecting social change.

May 14th: Synthesis and Integration. Group discussions of the ideas set forth led by Americ Azevedo, board member of the San Francisco school and a student of Socratic dialogue.

DATE: Every Tuesday at 7:30 - 9:30 PM

PLACE: Cultural Integration Fellowship, 2650 Fulton St., San Francisco

COST: \$75 for the entire series; \$10 for single sessions

FOR INFORMATION: Call (415) 864-1014

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