

# HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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March - April, 1992

## MOSCOW ECONOMISTS STUDY AT NEW YORK HGS

Twenty-two Russian economists and business-people gathered for their farewell party in the New York HGS auditorium on Friday evening, April 3rd. The evening of celebration was well-earned. The group had just finished a three-week intensive seminar, conducted by the Henry George School in co-operation with the Institute for World Economy and International Relations in Moscow. HGS Director George Collins presented the seminar participants with certificates; group Leaders Nonna Ranneva and Galina Cherniavskaya surprised the director, staff, volunteers and trustees with Russian gifts for one and all, including an exquisite samovar for the school.

The delegation was made up of academic economists and business figures, including directors and board members of joint stock corporations, emerging stock markets, commodity exchanges, and banks. Most of these businesses are very young, struggling to gain a foothold in Russia's turbulent economic climate, and their representatives were eager for first-hand observation of the U.S. economy. A frequent comment was that no amount of textbook study could provide real understanding of the subtleties of a functioning market. So, the group appreciated tremendously the various field trips arranged as part of the seminar. They toured the Federal Reserve bank, the World Trade Center, and "COMEX," the office of the City Assessor, the New York Stock Exchange, and the NYC terminal market in the Bronx. (The Bronx visit was covered in the *New York Times* on Saturday, April 4th.)

The core of the three-week seminar was a study of Georgist political economy, as presented in the HGS courses in *Fundamental Economics* and *Applied Economics*. George Collins was the major presenter (as well as the organizer and point man for the whole affair) and he was aided in the classroom by HGS teachers Stan Rubenstein and Lindy Davies. A number of guest lecturers added their expertise in specific areas as well. Dr. Steven Cord (Center for the Study of Economics) spoke on the history and practice of land value taxation. Dr. Jack Schwartzman (on the occasion of his 80th birthday!) delivered a keynote speech on Henry George and Leo Tolstoy. Prof. William Vickrey of Columbia University (see our last issue) discussed rent-seeking and rent collection in public policy. Prof. Stephen Sussna of Baruch College detailed the role of tax policy and land value in urban planning. Prof. Nicolaus Tideman of the University of Virginia spoke on taxation and economic efficiency. Columbia's C. Lowell Harriss discussed the benefits of free trade. Dr. Michael Hudson, an international trade consultant and economic historian, delivered a provocative talk on the history of credit and economic disorder. Finally, HGS president Ed Dodson delivered a commencement address of sorts, entitled "The Practical Justice of Human Rights." There was plenty of food for thought. Day after day, our intrepid Russian students would

troop off to their lunch-break at a nearby restaurant, abuzz with spirited and earnest discussion.

A press conference was held on Tuesday, March 24th, after the delegation had been here for a week. Reporters were on hand from a number of foreign news agencies, including Radio Liberty (formerly Radio Free Europe,) the Russian-American Radio Station, the National Broadcast Satellite Corp., the Interpress News Service, and *Russian Life* magazine (a business-oriented reincarnation of *Soviet Life*).

When questioned by reporters on what they were getting from the seminar, the participants' replies differed according to their orientations, but all said they would profit from the venture. Like many first-time Russian visitors to the US, Vladimir Schelin, an aerospace engineer and executive in the newly-formed

Applied Research Co., stressed the importance of seeing the American economy firsthand. Valery Lazutkin, financial director of the securities firm S.A. & Co., agreed. "Personal contacts and discussion is the most effective way to learn," he said. "Textbook study can only go so far." Some of the participants, such as Vecheslau Kartashev, executive director of DOKA, yet another new joint-stock company, voiced the impatience with theoretical presentations that some of the group felt. "We have studied quite a bit about rent. We need to know how to apply the theories." Mr. Kartashev did agree, however, that this seminar "will influence further discussions." Mikhail Kobischanov stated the matter bluntly, saying that most Russian visitors today are interested in making business connections, not learning economic theory. "It would be more useful for western managers to visit Russia and see how things are."

However, all agree that the post-Soviet world desperately needs a new economics curriculum. This endeavor is one of the most important goals today of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations. Group Leaders Nonna Ranneva and Galina Cherniavskaya see this seminar as an important step in the right direction. "The main point of this seminar, land values and land value taxation," said Dr. Ranneva, "is absolutely vital to us now." All the economists stressed the need for translations of western economic studies, and for the writing of

(continued on back page)



L to R: Vecheslau Kartashev, Alexandre Khamukhov, Galina Cherniavskaya, Sergei Nikolenko, Pavel Murashkin, Tatiana Dikker, (Rep. of SOROS Corp. of NY) Igor Voron, Nonna Ranneva, Vladimir Schelin, Tamara Kargolkina, Leonid Cherepanov, Leonid Belov, Elena Semikova, Vladimir Galanov, Valery Lazutkin

A number of friends and students gave volunteer help during our "big push" of the Russian seminar. We wish to convey our heartfelt thanks to these good people:

Pat Aller, Ken Glassman, Jacqui Kelly-Martin, Nikhel Paul, George Jackson, Yi Ming Shi, Kathleen Barton, J. R. Mitchell, Lois Silk, Lynn Yost, Bill Brown, Leslie Campbell, Tanya Teitler, Roger McCord, Peter Prodis, José Molina, Evelyn Samuels, Vandana Chak, Erik Baard, Doug Salters.

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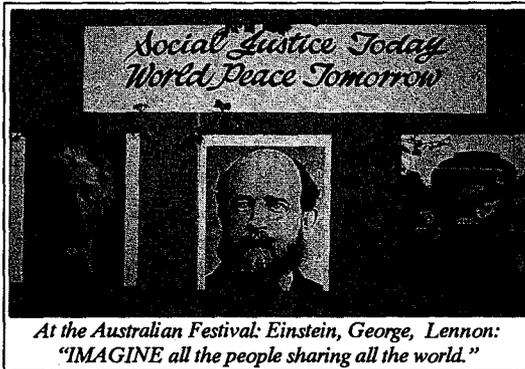
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## EDITOR'S NOTES

*This issue* fittingly features a cover story on the three-week New York City seminar for twenty-two economists from Moscow, and a center section dedicated to the memory of E. Robert Scrofani. I say "fittingly" because Bob Scrofani was involved from the beginning with outreach efforts to the former Soviet Union, such as the 1990 Robert Schalkenbach Foundation seminar in New York. As one who embodied the "think globally, act locally" slogan, Bob was both a world-traveller and actively involved in San Francisco Bay Area concerns (e.g., see our May-June & Sept. Oct. '91 issues.) We attempt, in our tribute to Bob, to measure that which cannot be measured - the loss of a dear and true friend. We trust you'll find this issue worth the time and care it took to prepare.



Paul Johnson, Vice-President of the San Francisco HGS, was the speaker on the "Green Relationship to the Land" at The 3rd Australian Mind-Body-Spirit Festival in Sydney. Mr. Johnson spoke on Sunday November 17th, the fourth and last day of the Festival (which was held the previous week in Melbourne). Johnson is the principle writer of a US Green policy statement on land use. A number of other speaking arrangements were made for him by Stephen Cantor of The Association for Good Government, a Georgist organization at 143 Lawson St., Redfern, New South Wales 2016.

*Sharing the Wealth:* The Winter 1992 issue of *Community Economics*, the quarterly journal published by the Institute for Community Economics, includes a focus on New Hampshire housing problems, and the Cheshire Housing Trust solution. Also in this issue is an interview with ICE activist Chuck Collins on his decision to give away his inherited wealth: "It was clear to me that this wealth, although I owned it, really came from the workers at Oscar Mayer who were paid but not as much as they should have been paid, and who weren't sharing in the profits of the

business.... Between the ages of ten and twenty-one, my assets increased from \$180,000 to \$300,000 through no sweat of my own." The full story is in Collins's new book, *We Gave Away a Fortune: Stories of People Who have Devoted Themselves and Their Wealth to Peace, Justice and the Environment*: New Society Publishers and available @ \$14.95 from ICE, 57 School St., Springfield, MA 01105-1331.

*Science, Spirituality, and the Global Crisis:* Toward a World with a Future, The Twelfth International Transpersonal Conference, will be held "Under the auspices of President Vaclav Havel, in Prague, Czechoslovakia, June 20-25, 1992. (*"Without a global revolution in the sphere of human consciousness a more humane society will not emerge"*, Havel told the US Congress in 1990.) Themes to be explored range from aboriginal spiritual traditions to transpersonal politics. The speakers, from several disciplines and countries, are well known in their fields. One speaker, Matthew Fox, popular exponent of Creation Spirituality, has written favorably of Henry George's "compassionate economics." (Perhaps the "transpersonal" nature of land, its rent and value, also figures in here). Registration: by telephone 800-533-3641; or by fax 415-383-0985; or by mail ITA, 20 Sunnyside Ave., Suite A-257, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

*The Washington Spectator* is a four-page journal of well-written critical analyses of political issues. Cover stories this year include politicians and sexual harassment; the CIA and George Bush "Acting like a King"; War and Peace in the Middle East; US economic decline; Gorbachev, Yeltsin and the changes in Russia; and world population growth as "The Avoided Issue." We think students and teachers of political economy will find this unassuming periodical of great educational value. Each issue is packed with data, observations and judgements you won't easily find elsewhere: what the mainstream media is not telling you on vital social issues. Edited by Tristram Coffin, its editorial advisors are Gloria Emerson, Phillip Frazer, John Leonard, and Kurt Vonnegut. As this list of names suggests, *The Washington Spectator* looks at the Washington spectacle and sees through the Emperor's new clothes. Single copies are \$.50, and an annual subscription of twenty-two issues is \$10. The publisher is The Public Concern Foundation, Inc. PO Box 20065, London Terrace Station, NY, NY 10011. □

# E. Robert Scrofani, 1931 - 1992

It was in January 1992, I had accompanied Lindy Davies to a Friday evening service at a small, socially-concerned synagogue in the uptown Washington Heights section of Manhattan. Lindy was to give a presentation on the justice and practicality of Henry George's economic ideas. I was invited to read a selection during the service. The reading was about how those who die live on in our memory - and in our carrying out of the noble work they have left behind for us to take up. As I read before the congregation, I thought of Bob Scrofani, or "Manny" (short for Emmanuel) as I came to know him. He had already let me know about his HIV-positive condition, and the various opportunistic diseases he was coping with. Yet I thought there was still more time for him here on this earth - the earth he loved so much.

When Wendell Fitzgerald, President of the Northern California HGS, told us in New York that Bob had only a few more weeks to live, I decided to visit him - to say farewell to the person in the Georgist world that I perhaps felt closest to. We shared the fact that we were a sexual minority within a movement dedicated to economic freedom and social justice. And we shared some happy times at Georgist conferences, including Cambridge, England in '84, and the back-to-back Pittsburgh/Holland conferences in '82. We explored Amsterdam from our base of operations at the old-fashioned Hotel Brouwer on Singelgracht.

Manny introduced me to San Francisco in '83 - and it seemed everyone in the city both knew and loved him. And so I saw San Francisco and Manny as virtually identical. His beautiful house and garden, complete with California hot tub, became my home away from home during my visits in '83 and '87. We would share morning coffee and breakfast, talking about personal and Georgist issues. Manny treated me and other younger people with the respect others reserve for equals or colleagues. For example, rather than criticize my extravagance in buying an expensive gift in Utrecht, Manny simply asked how important to me was the person for whom the gift was intended. I also saw an older brother quality in his concern for my welfare and the welfare of younger people in general. I remember the high school student, painting Manny's house, calling to him from the ladder, "Hey, Scro!"

At the Atlanta conference in '88, there was that evening out, dancing with Manny, Susan Klingelhofer, Gib Halverson, and two friends of mine from Atlanta. It seemed Manny was celebrating life that night with an energy that us younger ones could not equal. When I missed my flight back to New York, Manny invited me to dinner with him and Jake Himmelstein, and put me up in his deluxe hotel room. We had the great swimming pool to enjoy early next morning, swimming and, as always, talking. Manny certainly knew how to enjoy and love life, and I certainly knew how very much alive I felt when I was in his company. Next year at the Philadelphia conference, Manny told me that he had tested HIV+, he had the AIDS antibodies in his system. I thought if anyone had the energy and spirit to live a long life with HIV, it was Manny Scrofani.

In the wake of Wendell's call, I phoned Manny's companion for eight years, Christopher Komater. Chris told me to waste no time in getting to San Francisco - so I went that weekend,

arriving two days before Manny's death.

At Manny's home, situated high on 20th Street overlooking the city, I showed up with written and floral messages from Georgist friends in New York and Philadelphia. Friends around Manny's bedside cried as I read from the cards and letters I brought with me. I told Manny, reading my message from the card, that he was the one who, more than anyone else, taught me how to "practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty."

Manny died in his sleep early Monday morning, February

3rd, Chris told me later the same day at noon, when I came by for a lunchtime visit we had previously arranged. "It was so peaceful. His breath just faded away." Then the first rays of

dawn appeared over Oakland Bay. I had been saving my final farewell for Monday afternoon. I remember sitting in an empty room with Manny's seventeen-year old pet - "Kitty," an old friend. Spending the week in San Francisco, until the Saturday funeral, gave me the time to deal with the profound sense of loss I felt, reminiscing with my own friends and Manny's, including Augustine who told of the smile of recognition he got from Manny just before he closed his eyes for the last time.

Since Manny was well-loved as a teacher at Berkeley High School, the funeral was held that next Saturday so his students could attend. There were many in the church that morning, and several went to the cemetery south of the city for the burial. At the church I also got to say hello to Bay Area Georgist stalwarts Otto Grimm, Clay Berling, Kathe Smeland, and Wendell. The reception that followed, back at Manny and Chris's house, gave us all an opportunity to say a few words about Manny. The living-

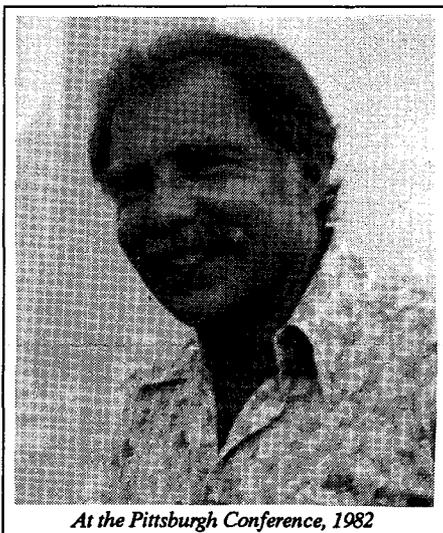
room, the room Manny spent his last days in, was packed. I had known that this house was the scene of many a delightful social gathering, and some of us shared the feeling that it was like a second home, that Manny made all of them feel personally welcomed there. Everyone who spoke conveyed how Manny brought out the best in them. If he had accomplished nothing more, this was the sign of a good life well-lived. Yet he did accomplish more, so much more that I wondered how many Mannys there really were!

Manny was a devout Roman Catholic, and I was glad to see his parish dealing with AIDS and sexuality in a manner more enlightened than in other parts of the country. Manny's devotion to the good of others, in his local community as well as in

the global one, is a tribute to his spiritual gifts. I knew Manny for ten years. I knew him as one who would charm us all at conference banquets by honoring with gifts conference organizers like Barbara Sobrielo, Jose Mernane, Mary Davis, Lu Cipolloni - calling to the front young Adam Monroe, Jr. with old Woodrow Williams - honoring Joe Jespersen as eldest member of our band. And there were his witty banquet tales of Archangel Gabriel in heaven reporting to God on the mess down on earth and the remnant of good Georgist folk who are trying to clean it up each in their own way - and he would mention as many of us as he could think of. I can imagine Manny is now joining directly in the celestial conversation on our behalf, as he did when he was here with us. All that remains is to say "Thank you, Manny" - and take up the work he has left for us to do.

## A Good Life

by Mark A. Sullivan



At the Pittsburgh Conference, 1982

**Wendell Fitzgerald, President, Henry George School of Northern California:**

Bob's participation in the Henry George movement goes back to the fifties or early sixties.\* Bob had been working in an effort to help a group of people who were unhappy with the fact that as soon as they made improvements on their property their tax assessments went up. That naturally led him to make contact with the San Francisco School.

From that time on he was an active HGS participant serving on various committees and board of directors, and as its president. In the late '70s Bob took on the job of co-executive director and later executive director. He held this position during the 100th Anniversary *Progress & Poverty* Conference in San Francisco in 1979, and until his passing.

Bob's passion was education. In 1988 the State of California mandated that economics be taught in high school, and since then Bob had actively pursued the development of Georgist-infused curricula. During the last two years of his life he worked with a group of teachers to produce a curriculum



*Susan Klingelhofer, Gib Halverson, Bob, & Pat Aller at the '91 Easton Conf.*

entitled *Ethics in Economics*, which ties Georgist analysis with a range of issues having broad appeal and relevance to teachers and students alike.

At a reception at his home after his funeral, it soon became evident that Bob, Manny, had touched the lives of an enormous number of people in many different arenas of his life in a very loving, inspiring and powerful way. When a Georgist asked if many of those present knew of the work Bob did with the Georgist movement, a great laugh went up as if to say, "Are you kidding, he talked to us all about it from the beginning."

\* *Editor's note: Robert Clancy remembers that Bob Scrofani took the correspondence course from the New York HGS when he was about 17 years old, which would be 1949.*

**Pat Aller, retired Assistant Director, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York:**

Bob Scrofani was a noble citizen, knowledgeable, always learning, and one who acted on his principles. Indeed, he ennobled all the groups he worked with.

As a teacher, he shared his knowledge and views with adolescents whom he regarded as responsible individuals.

As a Georgist, he applied the same high standards he showed in his profession. His letters to newspapers, public figures, and friends were passionate yet always logical and precise. For example, one of the many projects he pioneered for the Henry George School is a study of Appalachia's tragic land tenure history.

Bob loved people. He showed this by various acts of kindness, often remembering something personal to praise, and by frequent humor - but also by gentle insistence that friends examine their beliefs and act on them.

**Stan Rubenstein, Director, Henry George School of Long Island:**

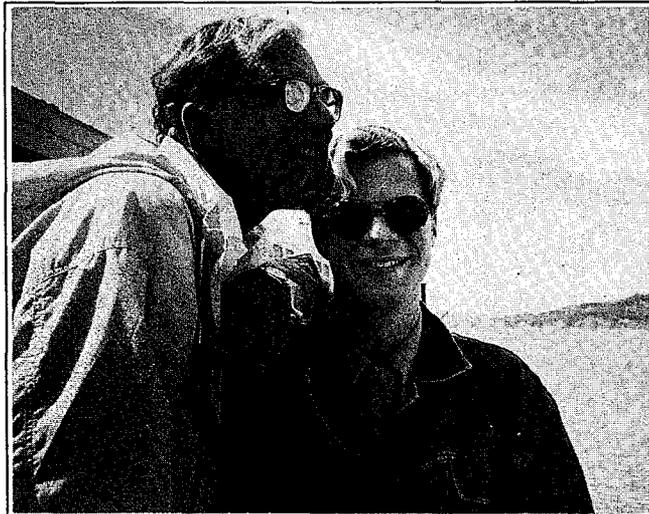
It was about mid November and the phone rang. On the other end was this hoarse, low-pitched voice. "Scrofani talking." That was his customary way of beginning a phone conversation. "Want to go over several items with you." Thus we entered into the world of

Henry George in the high school. For the past number of years we had worked closely together and we were now involved in using extracts from his sixty-five page booklet, *Jamestown and Disneyland*, an historical approach to economic geography. Bob was always involved in creating such materials for the classroom. His participation extended beyond writing - he was active in the California Council for the Social Studies.

At the end of the conversation I asked him how he was feeling. "Okay, getting along." Typical of Bob, never dwelling upon any of his maladies. Then a so-long. It should have been a good-bye, for that was our last conversation.

**Lucia M. Cipolloni, Secretary, Henry George School of Philadelphia:**

I remember Bob Scrofani mostly from attending the annual conferences - his presentations were always first rate. I was especially pleased with the tributes he accorded women active in the movement, particularly at the 100th anniversary celebration of *Progress and Poverty* in 1979 in San Fran-



*With Chris Komater at Fort Mason, San Francisco, 1990*

cisco. Bob was a most gracious host to the Philadelphia HGS attendees at his restaurant, Fanny's.

The Georgist movement lives on buoyed by the contributions of people like Bob Scrofani.

**Fred E. Foldvary, economist & author, Alexandria, VA:**

During the mid 1980s, when I served as a teacher and Board member at the San Francisco HGS, Bob's good cheer in carrying out the mission of the School helped inspire an optimistic attitude among us.

My last memory of Bob was riding in a car with him and economist Mason Gaffney to the airport after the 1991 Lafayette College conference, where he presented a paper on the Wright Act, "The Greening of the California Desert." He avidly questioned Mase about California land and water policy.



We all like to receive gifts, and Manny does, too... But this year, in your usual generous manner, please contribute a gift in his honor to one of the following charities:

**Coming Home Hospice**  
**Irving Street Youth Center**  
**St. Anthony's Dining Room**  
**Washington Neighborhood**  
**Development Corporation**  
(making safe and affordable housing in the Central City)

Bring your gift to the dinner party or send it in care of Christopher Komater

4301 Twentieth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

All gifts are tax-deductible.  
Thank you!

*Manny's last birthday champagne reception/dinner. These were gala annual affairs, held at Fanny's, later Ryans Restaurant, 18th Street, San Francisco.*

# A Good Death by E. Robert (Manny) Scrofani

Mark, I thought that you might find this story that Manny wrote a couple of years ago of some interest. The story is about his father's death - a death remarkably similar to his own...

- Chris Komater



that the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco had adjourned in his honor, as requested by two of the supervisors. Both of them I had known for a number of years.

Bob's enthusiasm and contributions will be remembered by us San Franciscans for a long time.

*Susan Klingelhoefer, Assistant Director,  
Robert Schalkenbach Foundation*

The willing suspension of disbelief: a literary state of mind adopted by a reader to

better appreciate fiction. A world without Manny is unimaginable, but it's a world in which I'm living, suspended in disbelief.

When I learned from Mark Sullivan that Bob was terminally ill, I accepted the news with a very heavy heart. Four days later, when Mark phoned me from San Francisco to tell me Bob had died, I wept. And wept, and wept. Bob was special, like the first robin in spring. Call it a good omen, call him a good friend. Call it a sign of new growth, call him a planter of new ideas. Call its song the finest you ever heard, his speech the best ever delivered.

Bob received many accolades as an accomplished educator, a generous humanitarian, and a profound economist and historian. He was also my friend, a person capable of giving himself, all of the time, without concern for reciprocity. But love and generosity were easy to return to a man like Bob.

Manny's gift to each of us who knew him was his ability to combine intellect, sincerity, charm, humor, and warmth into one consistently reliable personality. In Manny's company, I was comfortable, enlivened, and cheerful. My reluctance to accept his death is also a refusal to relinquish to friendship I have had with this exceptional man. I do believe that Bob Scrofani is gone from this earth, but the charismatic person with the hearty laugh lives in my mind. I can still hear him. Can you?



*E.R.S. in California Homeowner, in 1963*

I thought it was a nice gesture, but since they didn't know my Dad, I didn't consider it a personal statement about him, so I didn't even keep the article. I sent it to my sister in Oklahoma. She would be impressed.

Now I wished I had saved it or at least copied it. It was the only time that I can remember that Dad was acknowledged in any way.

## A GOOD DEATH

Nobody ever did say anything good about Dad - not that I could remember, when I was growing up. It was a family thing. Mom's family didn't totally approve of Dad for their first child, their oldest daughter and their favorite.

So he finally left the house, and after Mom died, finally left the East and come to San Francisco. Since I was there we got to see much more of each other. At first he hinted at living with me. But I discouraged that. So, after a few other addresses he settled down about three blocks from me with Anna, a lady he met at a Church social.

It was in his last year of life when he was dying of cancer that I got the best chance to see those qualities which I had not seen as a child. Now I often speak of that last year as the "Good Death." I try to explain to my students what that means, but many still don't understand the combination of those two words.

And it was a good death, if death must come. At home, surrounded by family, and everyone reconciled, all the decisions made, all the folks thanked, all the problems covered.

Dad was born in Italy and came over when he was about ten. He spoke English and Italian as an adult - unlike Grandma who spoke a little of each, never finishing a sentence in the same language that she started.

Like many loners, Dad spent a lot of time walking and enjoyed lingering over the

**SCROFANI, E. Robert "Manny"** — In San Francisco, February 3, 1992; a native of New York; a resident of San Francisco for 36 years; he is survived by a sister, Gloria Pointer; brothers, Daniel and John Scrofani; his companion, Christopher Komater; and many, many loving and caring friends; he was a well known Bay Area teacher; in 1953 after graduating from Fordham University he began his teaching career in New York; he served 2 years in the US Army stationed in Hawaii; he taught in Hillsborough; he did his graduate work at S.F. State University; in 1966 he began his 26 years of teaching in Berkeley; he was the Director of Hul, an alternative school for the gifted; he was the first teacher director of Berkeley Teacher's Center; he was past chairman of the History Department at Berkeley High School; he also taught U.C. Extension workshops for teachers; he authored materials on global education, women in history, Appalachia, and ethics and economics; he was the author of the East Bay Newsletter for the East Bay Council of Social Studies; he was the editor of the Political and Economic Literacy Newsletter for CAL-NET; he was the recipient of several honors: the California Historical Society's Calland Award for Innovative Teacher in California history, he was awarded Fulbright Fellowships to Yugoslavia, Korea and Italy, he was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in Constitution UCB, he was a Ford Foundation Fellow in World History UCB, in 1991 he was named a German Marshall Fund Fellow by the NCSS, he was an Economics Fellow at Stanford, in 1984 he was named an Outstanding Teacher of Social Studies by the CCSS, he was named Young Man of the Year in San Francisco in 1962, one of Five Young Men of the Year in California in 1964, as an owner of Fanny's, a S.F. cabaret, he received the Cabaret Gold Award for San Francisco's best cabaret 1981; in 1991 proclamations of E. Robert Scrofani Day were made by the mayors of S.F. and Berkeley; he was a founding member of San Francisco Tomorrow and its first president; he served on the Public Utilities Commission; he was past president of the East Bay Council for the Social Studies, he was a member of the SFCSS, CCSS, NCSS; he was a member of the Organization of American Historians and the World Affairs Council; he was the Director of the Henry George School of San Francisco; he was active in the Noe Valley Neighborhood Association and was responsible for commemorating the hydrant on Church St. which saved the Mission during the 1906 earthquake; he celebrated this event every year at the hydrant with champagne for all; his energy, generosity and love will be profoundly missed.

papers and an occasional book. His life was simple and orderly with Anna in the small earthquake cottage that they called home. It was just three small rooms, built by her first husband, a carpenter, who died. Carpenter Gothic they call it, but there aren't many straight lines in it. Her second husband she threw out in six months.

But she liked Dad and invited him (I'm sure he was encouraging) to live with her.

That arrangement lasted about six years. By then she had gone blind, and he began to complain of some pain.

At first Dad pretended that he just had some bad food at a Church picnic. But when the pain got real bad he finally went to a doctor.

The doctor said he would have to operate. It would be the first time in a hospital for Dad. He wasn't sure he'd return so he had to make some difficult decisions. Anna went to a nursing home temporarily, where she refused to eat. Then she had a stroke and had to go to a hospital and finally a convalescent home where she died.

Dad came out of the hospital with the knowledge that he had waited too long. His cancer was inoperable. He had six to nine months to live.

He treated the doctors with old world

*A high school teacher friend of Manny's, Paul, told me a touching story. A few weeks before his death, Manny told Paul that he had thought that by the time you reached his age, you were supposed to have acquired some wisdom before you died. He did not feel he had this wisdom. He felt that there was still something left to get. Paul's response was to return later and read some passages from two contemporary Buddhist teachers about how there was no wisdom to "get", and that one already "had" that wisdom, which was not something one could "achieve." This seemed to satisfy Manny. Later, he consoled a very upset Chris with a "Stop that - go talk to Paul." - MAS*

respect. A touch of his hand, a suggestion of a bow, and a "thank you, doctor." He never asked for anything even when there was pain or discomfort. Only to the younger assistant who took time to ask him questions, did he reveal that he needed something for the runs which were occurring seven to ten times a day.

I can still admire the care with which everything was handled - all the pieces of a human life were put back together.

First he had to inform Anna's family that she had died. He wrestled for a day trying to think of the proper closing. He finally settled on "John, her companion in the home for 6 years."

In a small box in the closet was a letter addressed to him. "Dear John, I can remember the day we met. We danced at the Church social. You walked me home. The next day you repaired a part of the roof. Then you cooked for me. It wasn't long before you moved in. When I go, I would like you to have this small house that we enjoyed together."

The Judge accepted the letter as a will, and he was able to spend the last year of his life in the home they had shared together.

Over a glass of pale dry sherry, we would chat each night. Finally I asked him to make some of the difficult decisions, which he did.

Over the last six months, he completed all the left over things. He and my older

*I remember once asking a class, "How do you create a society in which everyone eats?" One student's response was "Why?" The discussion lasted two weeks.... It's time for wealth distribution to be a central topic in our economics classes, not a peripheral one. Perhaps one of our students will come up with an idea that might make the difference. -E. Robert Scrofani (Editor) Economic & Political Literacy Newsletter, Fall 1989*

brother - estranged for many years - were reconciled. It just took a "Hello Pop." "Hello, son" and it was done.

He wrote to his sister reminiscing about their growing up on this small truck farm grandpa operated in a small village in upstate New York. And he asked me to give her some money from his account. She used it while remodeling her kitchen.

A young rookie cop, now the police chief of a small Connecticut town, received a small bequest - "He helped me out a long time ago, when I was in trouble as a young man." No mention of the trouble, just a memory that someone who reached out to him should be remembered.

Over sherry, we decided where he was to be buried; where Mass would be said (born a Catholic, he found a small Episcopal Church nearby much to his liking) and who he would like to perform the service.

For his children he had opened joint savings accounts. Each received a savings book from a different bank. As an old timer he didn't trust his savings in one place, so he set up accounts in a number of different banks. But not in the Bank of America. He didn't like the way they treated him.

My older brother got the watch.

And Dad got a chance to say goodbye to everyone. I lived close by and visited daily. My sister in law came to stay with me for three months while she cared for him - later we'd have to hire someone in the evenings.

My sister from Oklahoma came with the grandchildren. My younger brother, who finds a home in many different climates, showed up to stay.

The last two weeks, everyone was around. Dad was bedridden now. He took to talking Italian again, often asking God why he chose this time. After all he was still young and healthy (he was 72, and until the illness as spry and energetic as someone much younger). Until he was too weak he still showed up at the church dances. He lay on the couch nearby talking briefly with greeters, and a few special friends. But he loved to dance and the ladies were happy to have an "energetic old guy."

As Easter Week approached we knew that his stay with us would be short.

The family all gathered on holy Saturday. My brother-in-law drove directly from Oklahoma and arrived at noon that day.

We called the local priest for the last rites. He came but he was

*A close friend compared Bob to a Hemmingway hero: his imperfectness, his stubborn and determined will to battle the odds; his contempt for pettiness; his indomitable spirit, indestructible: for even in death, that prevailing spirit gives meaning to life. This is the essence of Bob's legacy to all who knew and loved him. - Bay Area Reporter, February 13, 1992*

abrupt and very unresponsive to our grief. "It's Holy Saturday and I'm very busy." I don't even remember him asking us to pray with him. He left.

As Dad's breathing shortened everyone gathered about the bed. We talked to him and together, even though he gave no indication he could understand. Late that afternoon, he gasped for breath and was gone - peacefully.

The men, all went to the bedside one by one and touched him. I don't know why we never had been at a death before. Then we held hands and prayed, and called the doctor and the funeral home.

His mass was said on Easter Monday. The little Victorian Anglican Church on Fair Oaks was crowded. I was pleased. Dad in death had received so much of the affirmation he had not received in life. His family and his friends had been with him. And he had taken care of all the business before he left, peacefully and with no rancor left behind. A good death. 

*Dear Bob,*

*It's hard to believe that you are no longer with us. Some part of me is still denying your passing. The thought of you conjures up such energetic and lively images. And happy ones.*

*You brought a "natural high" to the lives of so many. You were exceedingly gracious in your hospitality to your friends and associates. The social gatherings at your home always bubbled with conviviality - good food, good drink, and best of all, great ideas about how to make a better world for all.*

*I treasure the memories of our co-creative relationship during the several years that we worked closely together at the Henry George School of Northern California - you as executive director and me as education director. You were a very generous friend as well, emotionally sensitive and personally supportive during times when I really needed it.*

*Sometimes we would meet for a few moments in your classroom at Berkeley High School to swap big boxes of Georgist materials for one use or another. I could tell how much your students and the other teachers loved you - they seemed to shine in your presence.*

*Bob, writing this has helped me grasp the reality that you have truly gone from us. Graduated from this earth school. Magna cum laude, Bob. You did a superb job. I love you forever,*

*-Alanna Hartzok*

## "BY GEORGE" MEDIA NOTES

"By George" in Chicago: "By George, tax reform could fill vacant land" is the headline of a major feature in the January 12, 1992 Metro section of the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Complete with an arresting photo of Dr. James Frederiksen and Sam Venturella seen through the front window of the Chicago Henry George School.

Alf Siewers, the paper's urban affairs writer, has written an in-depth article on Henry George, the single tax movement he founded, the Chicago Henry George School, current experiences with land value taxation, and what this all means for Chicago.

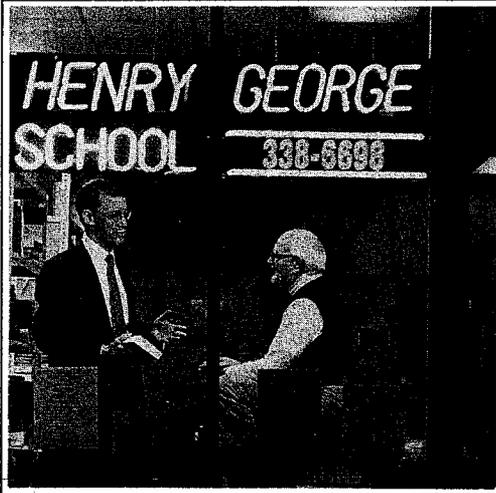
He goes into the pros and cons of LVT for Chicago, quoting at length Chicago School trustee Frederiksen and President Venturella. "Essentially," Frederiksen is quoted, "the goal is to make the entire city of Chicago an enterprise zone."

Siewers has done the homework, and cites arguments for LVT made by Steve Cord in Maryland, and a University of Maryland study of Pittsburgh, the largest US city to employ a higher tax rate on land. Cord argues that studies around the world show low-income areas pay less with LVT. But there are opponents, too, such as the Pennsylvania Economy League, Pittsburgh city finance director Ben Hallyar, and Dick Vanecko, spokesman for the Cook County (Chicago) assessor's office. Both sides admit, writes Siewers, that the effects of LVT in Pittsburgh are "muted" due to the other taxes levied by the various levels of government.

On the hopeful side are the words of Illinois Lieutenant Governor Bob Kustra on the land value tax idea: "I don't think that this was ever taken seriously enough by Cook County. It has great potential for turning these vast areas of blight on the West Side into rejuvenated neighborhoods and commercial centers."

But, as Sam Venturella concludes: logic and statistics are not enough to generate action. "What's going to bring this change is someone who can stir up the emotions of people about taxes." We need another Henry George, by George!

*U.S. News & World Report* (March 2, 1992): Editor-In-Chief Mortimer B. Zuckerman, in his Editorial on "America First or America Last?" writes that "...the great economist Henry George had the right answer to the clamor then for higher tariffs: 'What protection teaches us is to



do to ourselves in time of peace what our enemies seek to do to us in time of war."

He goes on to critique protectionist measures with the claim that while protection saved 17,000 jobs in the US steel industry, the extra cost of domestic steel has been "\$150,000 for every job saved." Japan's export surplus to the US is, he says, mainly due to their superior goods. And he concludes: "America may have a first-class standard of living [Ed. note: or may not: US wages are in 10th place], but it has a second-class economy and a third-class political system. And protectionism puts America last."

We thank Susan Klingelhofer at Robert Schalkenbach Foundation for bringing this to our attention.

"Dear Elvis" in *SPIN Magazine*: Yes, someone actually asked "Dear Elvis" in this popular rock (n' roll) magazine, "Who was Henry George?" Elvis answers this question put by Buddy Klemer in Raleigh, NC., managing to cover some of the main points of George's career: *Progress and Poverty*, the single tax, "his anti-monopoly theories" which "made him a voice of the people as social unrest grew", and the 1886 mayoral campaign. "George's ideas met with rejection from them other economists back then, but he still was a real good man. Too legit, Elvis". (Thanks to Tom Smith for bringing this item to our attention.)

### *The Trial of Chaka Dlamini*

Publisher: Amagi Books, Norwood 2117, South Africa. 114 pages, quality paperback. Available from Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 41 E. 72nd St., New York, NY 10021, @ \$6.00 plus postage (\$1.50 first book, .75 each additional).

## THE TRIAL OF CHAKA DLAMINI

Review by Pat Aller

A work of fiction which every student of Henry George should read is *The Trial of Chaka Dlamini*, by Stephen Meintjes and Michael Jaques, published in 1990.

In witty dialogue and a lively plot, Chaka, a wise South African, answers charges by fellow blacks that his ideas on reform are reactionary. As the friendly "trial" moves from the homes of radical university students to village shebeens (bars) where his audience includes professional and self-employed blacks, to meeting with white Britons and Afrikaners, the critique against Chaka begins to include socialism.

Like Socrates, Chaka turns the tables on his friends, getting them to question their own premises and leading them to the logic of land value taxation. Economics in this book, however, is always related to ethics and history, with vivid examples. The authors are especially good in pointing out the many social and economic ills caused by present tax practices.

The book is didactic but the approach is not. Characters, though briefly sketched, are unique and warm, with arguments reflecting their backgrounds and personalities. Chaka, a richly imagined figure, does not have all the answers.

The value of this work for Georgists, in addition to its being fun to read, is that it sets up many arguments against the land value tax and rebuts most of them very well. Has your advocacy of Georgist theory ever been stumped by objections based on practical reasons or examples? This book abounds in them, in today's words, today's logic, addressed to today's haves and have-nots.

The Trial of Chaka Dlamini is a rarity in Georgist and other economic literature, because it is fiction. Even then it is unusual, for it is almost a play, almost all dialogue. It should attract many who would not approach economics otherwise. Georgist groups may also find it entertaining and instructive to read aloud, perhaps evaluating the arguments after each chapter. It could also be staged for the public, though some tough stretches may need compression or other adaptation.

While this book's setting is South Africa, the logic is universal. Chaka has won high praise from journalists and reformers in South Africa. This is a book to own and to give.

## 12th ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN GEORGIST CONFERENCE: SANTO DOMINGO

As noted in our last *Newsletter*, This year's Annual Conference is slated for June 17-22 in Santo Domingo, capital city of the Dominican Republic. Hosted by the Dominican HGS - *Escuela de Ciencias Sociales Henry George*, headed by Ms. Lucy Silfa, the Conference promises to be a memorable one.

Ms. Silfa is coordinating her efforts with the Council of Georgist Organizations, whose task it is to hold these annual affairs. This year, CGO Chairman Dick Noyes and Secretary Mark Sullivan have handed over the responsibility for nitty-gritty details to Sue and Scott Walton, professional conference planners based in Chicago. Sue and Scott also assist past CGO Chairman Sam Venturella, Director of the Chicago HGS.

Complete information, including program, can be obtained from Scott W. Walton Assoc., Ltd., 1111 Church St., Evanston, IL 60201 (Tel: 708-475-0391; Fax 708-475-3776). Below are some of the highlights you can expect to enjoy.

**Wed. June 17:** Afternoon Registration. *Evening Reception at City Hall.* Welcome by Mr. Hector Quailly, Board Member HGS/DR.

**Thurs. June 18:** 9 AM *History of the Dominican Republic (1492-1992)* by Dr. Fernando Perez Memem. Meetings of Common Ground USA and the Henry George Foundation. Field Trip to Historical Monuments of Santo Domingo. Evening: *Table Topics* with Don Hurford. *Economic Reform in Russia* with Ben Sevak.

**Fri. June 19:** Morning session with *keynote address* by Engineer Pedro Breton,

General Administrator of the Agricultural Bank, and panel discussion of *Global Economics and Developing Countries*. Afternoon *tour of the Presidential Palace* and meeting with the Economics Advisor to the President of the Republic. Dominican-style BBQ dinner.

**Sat. June 20:** Morning panel on the *Free Trade Proposal* between Canada, Mexico and US, with guests from the Embassies to question the panelists. Lunch speaker Jack Schwartzman: *A Georgist Appraisal of Christopher Columbus*. Panel discussion on the *objectives of the HGS* at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. *Gala Banquet*.

**Sun. June 21:** *Morning Ecumenical Service* by Ian Rathie; Open Discussion and Reports from Georgist Organizations & People. *Liberation Theology for a Post-Marxist World* with Prof. James M. Dawsey.

**Mon. June 22:** Morning check-out and Farewell. 

### NEW YORK IN SPRING

#### Fundamental Economics:

Mon., Ms. Pia DeSilva, 7 - 9

Tues., Mr. George Collins,  
5:30 - 7:30 & 7:30 - 9:30

Weds., Ms. Vandana Chak, 6:30 - 8:30

Thursday, Mr. Tom Smith, 6 - 8

#### Progress & Poverty (in Spanish)

Tues., Mr. Nibaldo Aguilera, 5:30 - 7:30

Weds., Mr. Nibaldo Aguilera, 6 - 8

#### Applied Economics:

Mon., Mr. Lindy Davies, 6 - 8

Tues., Mr. Lindy Davies, 12:30 - 1:30

Weds., Mr. Manuel Felix, 6 - 8 (in Spanish: *Third World Issues*)

#### Liberty and the Just Society

Mon., Mr. Mark Sullivan, 6 - 8

#### Great Decisions '92:

Tues., Mr. William Brown, 6:30 - 8:30

#### Classical Analysis II

Tues., Mr. Mark Sullivan, 6:30 - 8:30

#### History of Economic Thought:

Weds., Mrs. Fryda Ossias, 6 - 8

#### Economic Science:

Thurs., Mr. George Collins, 6 - 8

#### Current Events

Thurs., Mr. Sydney Mayers, 6 - 8

### Upcoming Forums & Seminars:

#### Is Big Brother Watching?

Mr. Dennis King, Fri., May 8, 7 - 9 PM

#### Business Ethics:

Prof. Martin Roth, Sat.,  
May 16, 1 - 3 PM

## MOSCOW ECONOMISTS

(continued from front page)

new textbooks. George Collins offered HGS assistance in that endeavor, and Nonna Ranneva accepted. (In fact, there was discussion of organizing another seminar at the HGS, choosing, this time, a delegation of academic economists.)

Mr. Lazutkin's observation about the vital importance of personal contacts was another point of consensus. The more contacts we have, the more the unpredictable connections fan out. For example, Igor Voron came to the seminar in the role of a securities broker for S.A. & Co. Little did anyone know that Mr. Voron was also a rock musician, but HGS volunteer Ken Glassman found out. He heard a tape of Igor's Moscow trio, which sounds "fantastic - like a cross between Led Zeppelin and Stravinsky." Mr. Glassman has little doubt that American audiences will buy this Moscow Metal when they hear it. "Let's bring in hard currency with hard rock! Why not?"

"Private Wealth, Common Wealth" was a heady mix of personal, social, financial, and theoretical exchanges, many of which will undoubtedly bear fruit in the months and years to come. The seminar can best be understood not as an event in itself, but as a significant eddy in the small-but-swift current of dialogue between the Georgist movement and the post-communist world. The seminar itself grew out of such a contact, made when Heather Remoff visited Moscow in 1990 and "distributed my little paper on land value taxation to anyone who would take it." One who took it was Dr. Alexi Slepukhin, of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations, who translated Heather's paper and had it published. A few months later, Dr. Slepukhin was in the United States, arranging for a special seminar at the Henry George School. - Lindy Davies

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