



# Newsletter

## HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

December  
1974

### SEASONS GREETINGS

The spirit of the season extends through the year. Peace on earth requires access to the earth. The School's Board of Directors and Staff wish you a New Year filled with peace and happiness.

### ANNUAL BANQUET HONORS GRADUATES

77 graduates, members, and friends attended the School's Annual Banquet on December 18 at the Civic Center Holiday Inn. President Polly Roberts welcomed the graduates, and CIA President Bryan Stevens spoke about public school finance and land-value taxation. It was interesting to hear about Mr. Stevens' successful suit to have Governor Reagan's Melburn ranch re-assessed (upward - 700%). Diplomas (beautifully lettered by Anne Meck) were presented to the graduates, and the fall term teachers were congratulated for their fine work. The annual award for outstanding service to the School was presented to Iur Helmly, President of the San Francisco Branch.

### NEW YORK SCHOOL DIRECTOR HERE

Mr. Stan Rubenstein, Director of the New York Henry George School, visited San Francisco December 26 and 27. Stan met with the Board of Directors and with the faculty, to whom he introduced C.L.U.G. (Community Land Use Game) as a teaching aid.

### MANY HELP PREPARE FOR WINTER TERM

The winter term, opening the week of January 13, involved extensive preparations in addressing and distributing many thousand class announcements. We wish to extend a very big thank-you to the following people who helped:

Herry Agnew; Domingo Alameda; Julie Alexander; George and Lorene Amberg; Virginia Bartalini; Clay Berling; Shirley Bossier; Juanita Brande; Warren Burrell; C.B. Carpenter; John Chihill; Eldon Cochran; Rob Collins; Murray & Pearl Davis; Zaida Davis; William Edwards; Dan & Bridget Parkas; Sandy and Lillian Parkas; Virginia Fenton; Carl Frech; Al Haldeen; Josephine and Maria Hashim; Norm Hendrickson; Allen Hayward; Iur Helmly; Lew Hobbs; Fen Hodges; Ed Hussey; Fred Kinney; Ward Lamou; Gordon Lisher; Eleanor Laurent; Fred Lott; Myrle Mackprang; Mark & Renee Markovitch; Mrs. Arthur Markt; Sarah Newman; Linda & Richard Pensack; Ralph Petry; Chuck Pirtle; Pruddy Powers; Oser Price; Ann Reeves; E.F. Reinhardt; Job Roelofsen; Marty Rosman; Albert Schwabacher; Mark Schwler; Sidney

Scott; Bill & Gula Shanahan; Adrienne Sheaff; Mary-Frances Smith; Ervin Somogyi; F.J. Stevenson; Arlene & Basil Taylor; Esther Traviglio; Mike Trigg; Bob Vogel; Maggi Walker; Sup Washington; Lois Williams; Linda Willoughby; Millan Wong; and Yours Truly. Also special thanks to Charles Turner for transporting the announcements in his truck; to Joe Huser for placing posters at the SF Library and helping with the mailing; and to Jim Watson for placing posters at the Oakland and Berkeley Libraries. All these people deserve credit for the success of the winter term.

### SCHOOL'S PUBLICATIONS NOTICED

Two 1974 ANALYST articles have been reprinted. Harlan Trotts' "Oil From Coal; A Sleeping Bomb" (February) was reprinted in the June, 1974 PROGRESSIVE. Cathy Covell's review "License to Steal" (May) is being reprinted in AREAS OF CONCERN, a national public-interest newsletter.

### MD MAGAZINE ARTICLE ABOUT GEORGE

The School office was contacted by the New York office of MD Magazine (a social cultural magazine for doctors) but out by the AMA) concerning a feature article about Henry George to be printed in their March, 1975 issue. We provided some information, including the fact that one famous Georgian physician was Dr. William C. Gorgas, Surgeon-General of the U.S. Gorgas was principally responsible for eliminating yellow fever from the Panama Canal Zone. In speaking about both Panama and the U.S. Gorgas related that public health conditions to poverty, and asserted that the single-tax would end poverty. Those interested in seeing this article can contact the School office.

### CHRONICLE MENTIONS GEORGE - WRONGLY

An editorial in the S.F. Chronicle on December 11 entitled "Wasted Wood" erroneously included Henry George in a list of writers who noted that population increases faster than subsistence! Clay Berling brought this to the attention of the School, and Cathy Covell wrote to the Chronicle correcting the error. Her letter was published on December 16, although the Chronicle omitted the following sentence: "Explaining why the overpopulation theory has received such good press, George wrote, 'The great cause of the triumph of this theory is that, instead of menacing any vested right or antagonizing any powerful interest, it is eminently soothing and reassuring to the classes who, wielding

the power of wealth, largely dominate thought." The Chronicle subsequently published a reader's response to Cathy's letter. His letter agreed that land speculation is harmful to society. That writer contacted the School and has become an ANNUITY subscriber.

#### U.S. GOVERNMENT WRITERS BACK

Ward Lamon received a reply to his October 31 letter to President Ford suggesting the taxing of land values. The reply was written by Emil M. Sunley, Associate Director, Office of Tax Analysis, U.S. Treasury Dept. It said, "The question of whether a land value tax would discourage land speculation has not been verified. However, the evidence found in Australia, where this tax was tried, was negative. Speculation seemed as rife in Australia as in the United States. In addition, a brief experience in Canada, and experiments in Pittsburgh and Hawaii, have either been unfavorable or inconclusive."

Ward and his fellow San Franciscans for Land Value Taxation are working on a response.

#### WINNER TERM CLASSES

The Winter term will see 9 classes in Progress and Poverty in the Bay Area and 1 in the Fundamentals of Money. Teachers for this term are: Gordon Lisher, Cathy Covell, Bob Eldeman, Ingo Bischoff, Sandy Parkas, Clay Berling, Al Haldeen, Murray Davis, Bob Vogel, and Bob O'Donnell. Sacramento is running 2 P&P classes, whose teachers are Marvin Otto and Vern Delkey.

The advanced class for the Bay Area will be World Trade and Social Problems. This will begin Tuesday, January 28, and will be taught by Joe Husar. Joe plans to bring current factual material into the course to supplement the George readings. We urge all who have not taken this excellent course, and especially the new graduates, to avail themselves of this opportunity. In Sacramento the advanced class will be the Fundamentals of Money, led by Wayne Lunney.

#### SAN DIEGO SCHOOL RE-ACTIVATES CLASSES

Congratulations to our neighbors to the South, who this past fall term ran 3 classes in Progress and Poverty, and graduated 20 students!

Cathy Covell, editor

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#### MEET THE PRES.

Polly Roberts had seen much of the earth before she encountered the Henry George philosophy that we all own it! Her family was in the Foreign Service, and she has lived in Bucharest, Paris, Belgrade, Sydney, and Bangkok. She liked Sydney best, although she describes it as a "male chauvinist city."

Polly graduated from Radcliffe with a BA in physics. She then studied ancient and Near Eastern languages at Harvard and Berkeley graduate schools before discovering that economics was her prime subject. She is now a doctoral student at the Giannini School of Agricultural Economics at UC Berkeley.

While living back East Polly and her husband Keith started the New England chapter of the Sierra Club at Cambridge, Mass. Here in San Francisco, Polly wrote for Clear Creek Magazine, which also had an ecological theme. Polly published an article entitled "Parks For Fun and Profit" in NOT MAN APART, which used Pt. Reyes to show how conservation can sometimes become land speculation.

Polly met the Henry George School while working on the Ralph Nader research report on Land Use in California. She has spoken at several School seminars, and her summary of the Nader report is a popular book among School graduates.

In between courses and papers, Polly finds time to do such things as travel to Sacramento to testify on behalf of the Consumer Action Coalition against the fixing of milk prices, or to plan a conference on density development in cooperation with ABAG and the local Sierra Club. And when she's not doing all that, you might find her jogging in Berkeley or practicing some Bach piano pieces, or leaving for a long hike in the Sierras.

So, halfway through her term of office, here's to Madame President!

#### FILL INACTIVE WRITERS LETTERS!

Does he ever!!! Recently he has written to the San Rafael Independent Journal, an Assemblyman in Sacramento, Common Cause, Birthright of Marin, and consultants to the Metropolitan Transit Commission. He writes about transit, population, finance -- you name it -- and he always brings in the idea of land-value taxation. And, for every letter he writes, he sends copies to everyone else he knows! We wish his secretary good luck, and congratulate Bill on his continuing crusade for economic justice.

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