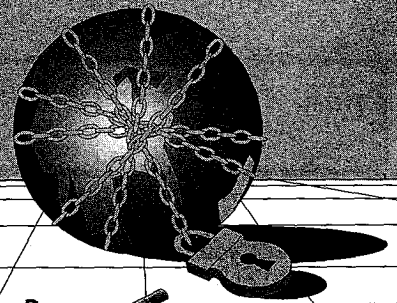


# GROUND SWELL

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## NY HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL'S CONFERENCE ON RENT, PUBLIC POLICY AND ECONOMIC FAIRNESS HELD JUNE 9

Kathleen Cummings, New York, NY

A stunner of a conference with juicy ideas and lively talk made a sunny late Spring Saturday cruise by with a nod to You Tube and technical equipment filled with easy to understand slides. It opened with Marty Rowland, an environmental engineer, giving an overview of Henry George's life and mentioning today's big concerns regarding infrastructure as part of the community and how it is to be paid for. He also covered The Single Tax Movements origins as early as Spinoza in the Netherlands of the 1600s where land rent was to be used for defense. Marshall Vauban of France used a salt tax to assist the poor in 1707. In the 1830s in Iowa farmers were interested in the single tax as a way of curbing speculators. He also included some interesting books such as Arthur Young's The History of the Single Tax and Katie Raworth's The Doughnut Economy comparing the doughnut hole to the inefficient economy with heavy pollution.

Josh Vincent as many know has been an activist assessor for many years. His Center for the Study of Economics in Philadelphia regularly publishes his studies on many locales such as his latest one in Hartford, Connecticut. Hartford was once a wealthy city but now not paying much in taxes is now one of the poorest in the country. The poverty rate is 30% and unemployment is 20%. Bridgeport too is very poor and pays three times the amount of taxes that wealthy Greenwich pays. One interesting slide showed a Hilton Hotel in downtown Hartford being blown up and replaced with a parking lot downtown, the rent benefiting the landowner. Both Hartford and Bridgeport have no real infrastructure or amenities like nearby West Hartford with its stores and boutique businesses. The land value tax could help here with its four tier tax structure-- Apartments, Commercial, Industrial, Residential, as usual most of the tax arrangements are on buildings and land hardly any tax at all.

Yannis Tziligakis, and international economist and businessman, gave a talk on describing the enslavement of the style was so dramatic that he carried the day. He emphasized that home ownership plays into mortgage schemes most banks deceptively offer to an innocent public. Wall Street especially with its casino perspective just amounts to profits as rent. They sell futures which like land speculation wait till prices and values rise. His manner was so convincing that a woman from Kenya wanted him to give a talk to her group. The New York Henry George School attracts audiences and students from every corner of the globe. It's one of its strengths.

All in all the whole day was an effective way to promote Henry George and the Land Value Tax.

(Kathleen Cummings may be emailed at [kcummings12@verizon.net](mailto:kcummings12@verizon.net). She attended the CGO conferences in 2010 in Albany, NY and 2016 in Orlando, FL.) <<

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