

LAND & WORLD ORDER: Report from Alanna Hartzok

Our *Land and World Order* panel and strategy session at the Philadelphia conference last August has opened up an enormous opportunity for education and activism among significant constituencies from the local to the global level. The purpose of the strategy session was to build a network to bring land tenure and taxation policy issues into the global dialogue and onto the global agenda. It was considered by many to have been an important "conference within a conference" which brought together key players representing important organizations on the leading edge of global transformation: *Denise Giardina*, an award-winning novelist writing about conditions in Appalachia and former secretary/treasurer of the Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition; *Dr. Harry Lerner*, organizer of many high-powered "Peoples Assemblies" of non-governmental organizations within the United Nations; *Gerald Mische*, director of Global Education Associates, an acknowledged leader in the peace and world order movements with associates in over 70 countries; and *Dr. John Strasma*, agricultural economist and associate of the Land Tenure Center at University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Strasma is organizing a Latin American conference on land tenure in the spring and invited Prof. Mason Gaffney to play a prominent role. We spent some time discussing ways in which the Henry George Schools and the Land Tenure Center could work in closer association. Gerry Mische has offered to initiate a project on "land Use/Tenure/Taxation in our Global Village." Harry Lerner understands the importance of land value taxation and invites Georgists to play an important role in creating a UN Second Assembly. This is a proposed house of about 550 people elected by population to represent the people of the earth as a whole. Over 100 organizations have endorsed this effort so far. Denise Giardina's experience with a successful grassroots movement with tangible victories offers a lot we can learn from. Her intense dinner meeting with Walt and Arthur Rybeck will likely prove helpful in their work in West Virginia.

Others who attended the strategy session and committed themselves to ongoing work within the land and world order network include: Richard Barbuto (trustee, New York HGS), Mitch Chanelis (Green movement, New England), Betsy Dana (Federal Caucus and Georgist Registries, from Oregon), John DeSantis, Jr. (The Peoples Answer project and perpetual mayoral candidate, NYC), Jim Dorenkott (Basic Economic Education, San Diego), Burton and Elizabeth Dyson, MD (publishers of *Neighborhood Caretaker* in St. Paul), Charles Ellinger (Long Island HGS), Dr. Alexandra Hardie (economics professor, Exeter University, England), Bob Jene (Chicago HGS), Bernard Rooney (Australian Georgist researcher/activist), Art Rybeck (West Virginia LVT advocate), Walt Rybeck (Center for Public Dialogue, DC), and Jeffery J. Smith (Green movement, California).

From the Henry George Sesquicentennial Conference I went on to the Eighth Assembly of the Fourth World Decentralist Congress in Toronto, Ontario. About 100 attended, including 10 or so who had attended the Philadelphia conference. The Fourth World Congress is sponsored by a London organization led by John Papworth which emphasizes the importance of human scale, drawing from the works of E.F. Schumacher, Leopold Kohr and others. The co-sponsor for the last three years has been the School of Living, founded by the late Ralph Borsodi and Mildred Loomis, and based on decentralist principles and Georgist economics. In part, this Congress is becoming another international Georgist conference. Here we have our economic approach placed within a holistic framework which includes forums on communication strategies, organizing for change, spiritual and cultural transformation, and bioregionalism. Susan Witt of the Schumacher Society (Great Barrington, Massachusetts), Jeff Smith and myself chaired and facilitated the *Geonomics Forum*. This was based upon the "Strategy Map for Geonomic Transformation" that has been built through a consensus process over the past three years. I also had the opportunity to present two 90-minute workshops: *Community Ground Rent* on land tax reform, and *Land Reform, Tax Revolt, and Hatching Out of the Nation State*, a discussion of ecological era economics drawing in part from the work of Ralph Borsodi.

On to Quebec where 10 of us gathered at the Pigeon Hill Bruindeen Peacemaking Center in the village of St. Arnaud. We brought together people doing work in the field of creativity development and psychosynthesis, and our discussions evolved an emergent field of "sociosynthesis." We considered the "land problem" from a deeply psychological context and the perspective of Western culture's worldview. Working with chess pieces and a chess board proved an effective teaching method for discussing the land issue along with leadership dynamics.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLASSES & CONTESTS

Harry Pollard reports that courses in *Classical Analysis* have begun in Montrose and Burbank. The Los Angeles HGS will soon be announcing two essay contests for high school and college students throughout southern California. The college section, under the direction of Prof. Mason Gaffney, will award a \$2,000 prize for the best 15-20 page essay. Tom Rosenstein will head the high school section which will award \$1000 for the best 10-page essay. In both contests students will be asked to consider what would happen if Henry George's ideas were put into effect.