

Henry George Newsletter

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SAN FRANCISCO

LAND REFORM IN THE PHILIPPINES

Ever since World War II, the Philippines have been waiting for land reform. In 1947 it obtained its independence from the United States, but its people have never been free from poverty. According to the United Nations, despite extensive natural resources, 75% of the Philippino population lives below the poverty line.

Ferdinand Marcos promised land reform in 1972 when he declared martial law. As we know, he never delivered on his pledge. Now Corazon Aquino tells American audiences that there is a need for non-violent solutions, and yet leans toward a military solution to the country's troubles. In fact, Aquino was recently quoted as saying to her military, "The answer to terrorism of the left and the right—is not social or economic reform but military and police action." Land reformers are now being challenged as communists.

Robert Scrofani, Director of the San Francisco School, in conjunction with Common Ground, has instituted a Philippines Project to address a just land reform for the Philippino people. Scrofani has written a letter calling on Georgists and other interested people to join in their effort by contacting Philippino-Americans about their concerns, writing letters to the editor, and sending letters to Congressmen and Ambassadors. Scrofani feels that, with a united front and an organized publicity campaign, the Project group can effect important changes. Common Ground will aid in an evaluation of the project by considering sponsoring conferences or sending resource personnel to the Philippines. The group plans to compile an update report in July which will be the basis for further strategy planning.

Those interested in joining in the effort to promote land reform in the Philippines can write to Robert Scrofani, Henry George School, 63 Chatanooga, San Francisco, CA 94110.

PHILADELPHIA

Classes at the Philadelphia School began for the Spring term the week of April 21. "Fundamental Economics" was offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The popular "How Wall Street Works" drew the largest audience. The Saturday seminar "The Mortgage Dilemma" was held on May 9th. A second seminar "Small Business Development" will be offered on June 6th, from 1-3 PM.

School Notes

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SUMMER INSTITUTE PROGRAM

This summer, from July 6-17, the New York School will host its first Summer Institute program of economic study for selected high school students. Coordinators Al Alexander and Stan Rubenstein have planned a curriculum which is geared toward high school level students' understanding of how local and national economies effect them. The overall theme of the program, which is sponsored jointly by the School and the New York City Council on Economic Education, is "The Student's Stake in the Economy."

The two five-day weeks will feature lectures, field trips and small discussion groups to facilitate individual, one-on-one interactions between teachers and students, and among the students themselves. Along with the Land and Freedom series, Understanding Economics video, and the new World History series to be released this Fall, the Summer Institute program is another in a series of programs and materials available to high school economics and history classes.

The Summer Institute will utilize the 'open classroom' of New York to its fullest, with field trips to The Bureau of Labor Statistics, The Federal Reserve (with a visit to the gold vault), and IBM headquarters. Discussion sessions will be morning only; field trips will be full-day sessions. Topics of discussion will be:

Monday – "U.S Economy – Yesterday and Today";
Tuesday – "Comparative Economics – Free Market & Command"; Wednesday – "Inside the B.L.S."; Thursday – "Economic World of 1787 – Our Bicentennial"; Friday – "New York, New York, A Wonderful Town?"

Second Week: Monday – "The Business World – 21st Century"; Tuesday – "The Government and the Economy; How Big is Big Government?"; Wednesday – "A Day at the Federal Reserve"; Thursday and Friday – "Persistent Economic Problems" – Parts I and II.

School Notes

CHICAGO

The Board of the Chicago School met on April 9 to raise new issues and establish business hours for their new school. Hours at the 4536 N. Ravenswood Avenue building will be: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 7 PM to 9:30 PM, and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 AM to 2:30 PM. Other times by appointment.

President Sam Venturella notes that the Board, which will meet six times a year, passed a resolution to produce a quarterly area newsletter. Other activities include a Friday evening, land-related film series, which began on May 1. The School is also in possession of a VCR and can begin showings of high school and other video series.

Present members of the Board are: Sam Venturella, President; Robert Jene, Secretary; William O. Ranky, Treasurer; and William Branz, George M. Menninger, Charles Metalitz, Donald Hamilton, and Henry Tideman, Directors.

LOS ANGELES

Georgists Mason Gaffney and Harry Pollard will help to create a 'Georgist presence' this month at the Annual Meeting, Pacific Division, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The two will speak at the symposium held at San Diego State University on June 15 and 16. Gaffney will speak on the 15th, on the topic, "Alfred Russell Wallace – Collaborator with Darwin and George." Pollard, who will speak the following day, discusses "Communication: The Principal Economic Problems."

News of changes in the LA Board: Carl Boode retired last month as Chairman of the Los Angeles Board. Dr. Margil Wadley, Director of the Southern California Air Quality Management Board laboratories, was elected to the Chair. New Board members are: Kathryn Widby Bresticker, corporation president; Charles Haughey, patent attorney; and Roman Di Valenti, writer and marketing specialist.

GEORGIA

Betty Leslein reports that times and dates for the airing of the video series "Understanding Economics" in Atlanta have been released. Cable DeKalb has begun the series on March 23rd, Channel 8, at 10 PM. Cable Atlanta began on March 27th, airing UE on Channel 11 at 9:30 AM. Both series will run for 12 weeks.

DELAWARE

Mike Curtis, Director of the Delaware School, has been busy visiting schools to talk about George. He recently shared the Analysis of Henry George with a class at Delaware State College. The class was studying a comparison of political reformers of the 19th century. Curtis also addressed two classes at the University of Delaware on the Georgist visit to Nicaragua. A discussion of Nicaragua and taxation of land values was also the topic of discussion when Curtis appeared as a talk-show guest on WXTW radio.

LONG ISLAND

On Sunday, May 31, the Executive Committee of Long Island will visit "Free Acres," New Jersey, in order to view an experiment begun over three-quarters of a century ago. Free Acres was founded in 1910 as a planned community by Bolton Hall, influenced by the writings of Henry George.

Thirty-three miles west of Manhattan, the 70-acre community houses over 300 colonists. All land there is held collectively by the Free Acres Association. While visiting, the Executive Committee will attend a Free Acres monthly association meeting.

In other Long Island news, Stan Rubenstein spoke to the economics club at Stony Brook University in Suffolk County on May 4th. His topic "Why the Housing Shortage on Long Island?" was especially geared toward those intending to live on Long Island.

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