



# Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

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[www.schalkenbach.org](http://www.schalkenbach.org)  
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December 12, 2016

### Dear Friends of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation,

As the Christmas Season arrives, it is time to reflect on events of the past year.

2016 saw a very contentious presidential contest here in the United States. Although personality issues dominated the media coverage, actual economic problems motivated many of the voters. In the US, poverty is on the rise even as progress continues to drive information technology. Except for the few at the top, many people feel powerless and are apprehensive about the future. In her preface to the 1979 centenary edition of *Progress and Poverty*, Henry George's granddaughter, Agnes George De Mille, had already discerned what was happening:

“The nation is no longer comprised of the... [fifty] states, but of the real powers: the cartels, the corporations. Owning the bulk of our productive resources, they are the issue of that concentration of ownership that George saw evolving, and warned against.... They manipulate our tax policies to help themselves. They determine our statecraft.... We are on the brink. It is possible to have another Dark Ages. But in George there is a voice of hope.”

We at RSF are striving to broadcast our “voice of hope”, and to address the challenges that confront our political economy. 2016 was a busy year for RSF, and here are some of the highlights.

On July 9, 2016, RSF sponsored a multidisciplinary conference that involved community activists, many in their 20s and 30s, who are interested in Georgist ideas and are concerned about housing, unemployment and other issues in the San Francisco Bay Area. Videos were made to share the presentations with a wider audience, and we are publishing them via our EarthSharing.org website.

RSF co-sponsored the August 2016 Council of Georgist Organizations conference in Orlando, Florida, and organized two book launches at the conference. *Rent Unmasked* is a festschrift tribute to Mason Gaffney including 14 articles by colleagues based upon his writings, edited by Fred Harrison. The articles update, expand and deepen modern Georgist analysis. *Our Land and Land Policy and Other Works* is Volume I of *The Annotated Works of Henry George*. This is a major scholarly project that RSF is co-publishing with Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. There will be six volumes providing scholars and other readers with essays, annotations, and indexes to aid in

understanding George's major writings. The series editors are two well-known Georgist scholars, Francis Peddle and William Peirce.

In addition to the book launch at CGO, RSF co-sponsored launches at Dominican University College in Ottawa (January 2016), and at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey (April 2016). You can view the video-recordings on-line at [www.schalkenbach.org](http://www.schalkenbach.org). Volume II, *Progress and Poverty*, will be available from RSF this coming Spring, and is being edited by William Peirce and Alexandra Lough. Book launches for Volume II are anticipated in the US and Canada during 2017. Please see the description of Volume II, and the other book offers, included with this letter.

In the global arena, RSF sponsors an International Liaison, Alanna Hartzok, who works with non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations. She helped organize Georgist efforts associated with the Habitat III conference that was held last October in Quito, Ecuador. RSF sent one of our Board Members, Quisia Gonzalez, to represent us at the conference and to network with others, particularly with Spanish-speaking participants. Another Spanish-language project, now nearing completion, will be the publication of a new translation of *Progress and Poverty* as rendered by Paul Martin, a Georgist educator and advocate in Nicaragua. RSF is also supporting efforts to publish a German translation of unabridged *Progress and Poverty* in Germany.

In addition to these projects, RSF is involved with efforts to develop high school economics textbooks, a manual on implementing Land Value Taxation and Resource Rent Recapture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, educational materials for state legislators, the online publication of Henry George's newspaper, *The Standard*, the research to develop a Rent Model of the economy, and the co-publishing with the Henry George Institute of the *Georgist Journal*.

Our Administrative Director Mark Sullivan, new Program Director Brendan Hennigan, dedicated Staff in NYC, and our Board of volunteer Directors give so generously their time, and so abundantly care about the Georgist cause.

Our country and the world needs to hear Henry George's "voice of hope" and implement his message. Please consider joining in to support RSF's efforts on behalf of our shared values.

All contributions to RSF are tax-deductible, and go far to help us achieve the goal of economic justice. Your donation, however large or small, encourages and inspires us with your own dedication. And we thank you so much for that!

With this comes best wishes for a happy Holiday Season and New Year,



Ted Gwartney  
President