

MARVIN MORRIS, 1919-2011

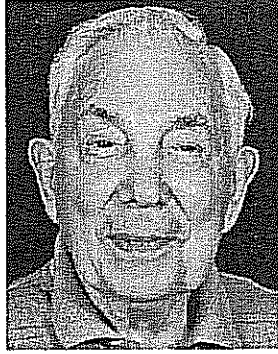
Marvin Morris, Rochester, NY died of a stroke Sept. 6, 2011, at age 91. Marvin had been a passionate Georgist since 1938. Educating others on Land Value Taxation and working towards its realization became his life long mission beginning at age 18.

After reading *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George, in 1938 – the truth of this plan became a passion in his life. He wrote book reviews, wrote on "enlightened self-interest" (which becomes clarified with the understanding of this form of revenue) helping people understand where the "self-interest" truly exists. His efforts included addressing the Rotary, Kiwanis, four colleges, classes at Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and a host of businesses and professional organizations. His correspondence and study with key people in the U.S. and several countries on the progress of this movement created an awareness of understanding, some of which was outlined in the material included on his website.

He had been instrumental in bringing the late Perry Prentice of the Robert Schlakenbach Foundation to Rochester to address an assemblage of community and business leaders in the 1970s. In 1982 he coordinated meetings in Albany on Land Value Taxation, held at the request of Minority Leader of the State Assembly, James Emery. He attended Georgist conferences in Philadelphia in 1989 and 2005. In 2006 he attended the Council of Georgist Organizations conference in Evanston, IL. Marvin was a long time member of Common Ground-USA. He was also working with Josh Vincent and Dr. Bill Batt of the Center for the Study of Economics. Marvin also interested others in Rochester, including Evan Lowenstein., in land value taxation.

Marvin was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. Prior to retirement he had been a life insurance salesman for National Life of Vermont. He was a graduate of Monroe High School. For the past 2-1/2 years he had been residing at the St. Johns Meadows where he actively participated in classes, activities, and exercise. While there, he presented the site value taxation plan to a panel of Rochester area supervisors. Even at age 91, he was finishing website pages with the help of Patty Jo Metcalfe of St. Johns and Edward Dodson, webmaster of the School of Cooperative Individualism, www.cooperativeindividualism.org, who was establishing a page, http://www.cooperativeindividualism.org/morris-marvin_homepage.html, for Marvin on his website.

Marvin was predeceased by his wife Sydell. He is survived by daughters Debra (Steven) Nozik and Susan (Tedd) Morris Goldstein, grandson Ethan Nozik, nieces, nephews, and companion Renee Rosenbaum. Funeral services were held Sept. 9 at the Benjamin Goldstein Chapel of Temple B'rith Kodesh. <<



TAKING IT TO THE PEOPLE (from page 4) and how it has benefited cities and towns in the past and could do so for New York City. Fortunately, the Assembly member's COS was familiar with Henry George and his theories. Unfortunately, I was a bit early for the meeting, which, in any case, was unscheduled, except by me and Rita Rowan with each other to meet the Assembly member. Rita hadn't arrived yet. Their staff had not been very forthcoming in allowing us to set up a meeting, and essentially promoted a walk-in policy. However, the Assembly member became very pressed for time once he learned I didn't have a meeting, and I only got about 5 minutes to pitch our message to the impatient Assembly member. I left about a dozen pages of supporting material with them, but it was a case of "don't call us, we'll call you." Not very fruitful, at least not now.

Perhaps we need more supporters?

Thinking that, I recently visited the Occupy Wall Street encampment downtown at Zucotti Park (renamed to its old name: Liberty Park, for the "occupation"). Another long-time Georgist and I handed out hundreds of fliers to both the occupiers - mostly disaffected students - and passersby, and engaged in some interesting conversations. The highly valuable Wall Street area proved a rich environment for pitching the idea of collecting the land rent for the people instead of for private interests, and along with the generous donation of Georgist books to the overflowing OWS library, I think we will have made some converts by the end of this occupation. The people there plan to stay until their as-yet-poorly-defined demands are met, but winter and the police may have other plans. The group, like similar movements around the world, is highly new media savvy. Here is their Wikipedia page: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occupy_Wall_Street. There are several Facebook pages and even a pseudo-newspaper being handed out at the event. We Georgists could learn something about outreach from these folks. Unfortunately, they are basically pie-slicers. That is, they propose a larger slice of the existing economic pie for the poor and middle class, and a smaller slice for the rich and powerful. We, of course, following Henry George, propose the pie be baked with new ingredients altogether. This would result in more pie for everyone, while providing a more equitable and fair distribution naturally, rather than by fiat, democratic or otherwise. This is a hard message to put on a 1-page flier - even if it was two-sided - but I think the folks at Schalkenbach, Jeff Smith, and I, made a good attempt at it. I did manage to wrangle a couple of interviews from a journalism student and an independent journalist. I'm at about the 3:30 mark here, but they only quoted me talking about State Banking, not the other 70% where I talked about getting value from the land or about Greenback monetary reform:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXkK04vrm_c&feature=youtube_gdata.

This is the problem when you have a complex message in a mass movement. Your message tends to get diluted to a few talking points, not terribly effective or (concluded on page 15)