

**CGO 2018 CONFERENCE TO MEET IN BALTIMORE'S  
INNER HARBOR**

By Sue Walton, Evanston, IL and Lindy Davies, Brooks, ME

The hard realities of real estate, taxation and crime often lead us to meet in cities where economic decline has brought lodging prices down. Such is the case in Baltimore. The city is proud of its history, and has more buildings on the national historic register than any other US city. Baltimore has long been known as the "city of neighborhoods" and its people take pride in their friendly hospitality. Yet Baltimore is a profoundly troubled city in which poverty and crime are widespread.

Our 2018 CGO conference theme is "Renewing Baltimore." We'll start by exploring the nuts-and-bolts reality of a plan that can bring the city of Baltimore back to fiscal and economic health. Local officials, religious and community leaders will weigh in on the effects that such a reform would have on many aspects of community life. A special pre-conference "charrette" will bring together Baltimore stakeholders to envision the effects of Georgist reform. We'll construct a scenario in which Baltimore will have replaced its taxes on wages, building and personal property with a levy on land values. Participants will cooperate to describe the effects of this reform, five years in, on the city's economy, community and civic life.

A day will be devoted to the spiritual/religious dimensions of the land question. Scholars and local religious leaders will be invited to reflect and speak on this.

Speakers will include:

Clarence Davis, president of the Baltimore AARP and former state legislator from Baltimore;

Mary Pat Clarke, Baltimore City Council member;

Dr. Michael Safko, University of Baltimore Law School;

Ed Dodson on Maryland's single tax history, and the pioneering work of Jackson Ralston; and many more.

The August 27-31, 2018 CGO conference will NOT take place at some remote hotel! It will be in Baltimore's vibrant Inner Harbor. Our hotel, the Holiday Inn Inner Harbor, is just two blocks from the Camden Yards Stadium (where the Orioles will be playing while we're there!) and just blocks away from numerous museums, restaurants, the National Aquarium, street performers in the daytime and live music at night.

There will not be a formal bus tour this year. There will, however, be two optional events which participants can participate in a preconference Sunday, August 26th, late morning venture to Fort McHenry or a post conference Friday, August 31st, visit to the Irish Railroad laborer's cottages. Space is limited for both events, so please be sure to sign up early

(conference Administrator Sue Walton be emailed at [sns@swwalton.com](mailto:sns@swwalton.com). Committee member Lindy Davies may be emailed at [lindy@henrygeorge.org](mailto:lindy@henrygeorge.org).)