



# Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

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[www.schalkenbach.org](http://www.schalkenbach.org)  
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December, 2018

### Dear Friends of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation,

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation is going to be entering a new era soon. Mark Sullivan, who has been a vital part of RSF for the past 26 years, and of the Georgist movement for longer than that, will be retiring as RSF's Administrative Director, a position he has held since 2004.

Mark worked for the Henry George School of Social Science for 11 years before joining RSF in 1992. He has also served the Council of Georgist Organizations (CGO), starting with being its secretary/treasurer beginning in 1980, and eventually becoming its president in 1999. In recent years, together with his partner Osamu Uehara, he has taken on the volunteer role of hosting a hospitality suite at most CGO conferences. Mark and Osamu also seek to share Georgist ideas through the arts, via Earth Sharing Associates. Some of you will remember their collection of movement songs a few years ago, and a collection of film excerpts they presented one evening at CGO in Baltimore this year.

Mark has served as RSF's AD since 2004. You'll find his name in the acknowledgments and prefaces of many books researched and written by Georgists over those decades. In addition to managing all the processes that keep RSF's office running, our catalogs being updated, our publications distributed, RSF and The American Journal of Economics & Sociology meeting their responsibilities and our committees functioning, Mark has been key to our contacts and contracts with dozens of contractors who have brought their particular talents to RSF over the years. He has been the constant face of RSF, organizing literature tables at CGO, Eastern Economic Association, Left Forum and various other venues, corresponding with long-time and new friends of RSF and the Georgist movement, in the US and beyond, and meeting with them as they pass through Manhattan. In those years, he has worked with many dozens of RSF board members, and 7 RSF presidents.

As Administrative Director, he has broad experience and seeks to guide our ever-changing board with the accumulated wisdom of RSF's past. He manages a staff of part-timers, drawing on their diverse talents and stoking their passion and understanding of Georgism's many facets.

Mark follows in the footsteps of Vie Peterson, who served RSF as Executive Secretary from about 1940 to her retirement in 1976; Oscar Johannsen, who, in addition to his role as a board member from 1959 to 2001, served as our Executive Director from 1978 to 1996; and Ted Gwartney, who has served on either on RSF's board or as our Executive Director (1996-2000) for most of the years since 1970. In addition, Mark serves as RSF's Board Secretary, and serves AJES as secretary and treasurer.

RSF's Board recently amended our bylaws to permit us to hire an Executive Director. Our plan is that, upon the hiring of an ED, Mark will become Assistant to RSF's President, to carry out some tasks that take advantage of Mark's breadth and depth of RSF experience, over the following months. And most likely you will continue to see Mark and Osamu at CGO, including the 2019 meeting in Pittsburgh in late July.

We will soon be announcing our search for an Executive Director. We encourage you to suggest that potential candidates look for information on RSF's website about that search. And don't hesitate to touch base with Mark in the coming months, as he winds down his day-to-day management responsibilities at RSF.

We thank Mark for all his contributions over many decades, wish him a long, satisfying retirement, and look forward to his continuing contributions to our shared goals --- of a society and world more attuned to Georgist values and more familiar with Henry George's remedies for our most serious problems.

*Gib Halverson*

Gilbert M. Halverson  
RSF President