

TAKE IT TO THE PARK!

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

Saturday, July 25, 2009

1 pm – 4 pm

Rick Kogan

Master of Ceremonies

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY'S CO-SPONSOR:
THE McCORMICK FREEDOM MUSEUM**



M McCormick
Freedom Museum

SCHEDULE



The Newberry Library thanks the Bughouse Square Debates Committee who created this event: Rachel Bohlmann, Diane Ciral, Shaun Healy, Kelli Landes, and Heather Malec.

1:00pm **MUSIC** by BLACK BEAR COMBO
WELCOME by RICK KOGAN

1:10pm **PRESENTATION** of BUGHOUSE SQUARE KEY to PAT BUTLER, Honorary Mayor of Bughouse Square. DAVID SPADAFORA, President of the Newberry Library, will present the key.

1:15pm **PRESENTATION** of the 2009 JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD to Barbara Thill.

Barbara Thill is a teacher at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire who defended students' freedom of speech in the school paper, the Statesman. David Spadafora, President and Librarian of the Newberry Library, will present the award. The Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award is dedicated to the memory of the former Illinois Governor who pardoned the surviving Haymarket anarchists. The award is presented each year to a person who has distinguished him or herself as a defender of free speech and ideas.

1:30pm **MAIN DEBATE:** ABRAHAM LINCOLN vs. STEPHEN DOUGLAS

On October 7, 1858, Stephen A. Douglas, United States Senator from Illinois, and Abraham Lincoln, lawyer and former Illinois congressman, met for the fifth of seven debates during their campaign for US Senate. Although Lincoln lost to Douglas in the fall election, he captured a more powerful office two years later.

Actors Michael Krebs (Lincoln) and Larry Diemer (Douglas) reenact an abridged version of the fifth debate, which took place in Galesburg, IL for over three hours on a Thursday afternoon in October 1858.

2:15pm **MEMORIAL** for STUDS TERKEL, LEON DESPRES, JUDITH KRUG, and FRANKLIN ROSEMONT

DEBATES Opened, **SOAPBOX JUDGES** Introduced

2:20pm **MUSIC** by BLACK BEAR COMBO

2:30pm **SOAPBOX SPEECHES** begin (see below)

3:30pm **READINGS** by Young Chicago Authors

3:45pm **ANNOUNCEMENT** of SOAPBOX and HECKLING CHAMPIONS and **AWARDING OF THE DIL PICKLE**

The Dil Pickle Award is presented to honor the best soapbox orator. The Dil Pickle Club was founded by labor activist and Bughouse soapboxer Jack Jones in 1914 to provide an indoor forum for free expression. By 1917 the Dil Pickle had located just around the corner from Bughouse Square and the Newberry, at 22 Tooker Place. Picklers attended lectures, plays, dances, concerts, and of course, had plenty of talk. Carl Sandburg, Clarence Darrow, Maxwell Bodenheim, Lucy Parsons, Ben Hecht, Charles MacArthur, Sherwood Anderson, and Ben Reitman were just a few of the literary, political, and social luminaries who regularly attended. The Club closed in 1933.

ABOUT BUGHOUSE SQUARE

Bughouse Square ("bughouse" is slang for mental health facility), the popular name for Washington Square Park, was the city's most popular, boisterous, and radical free-speech space from the 1910s through the 1930s. Orators mounted soapboxes and spoke to responsive, vocal crowds. Bohemians, poets, atheists, and religionists of all persuasions entertained bystanders. The Square's core contributors, however, came from the ranks of the Wobblies, men and women of the Industrial Workers of the World, whose radical views, wit, and humor made them champion soapboxers and perennial crowd favorites. World War II and a post-war crackdown against socialists and communists led to Bughouse Square's decline and by the mid 1960s it had all but ceased to exist. The Newberry Library revived the Park's free speech legacy with the Bughouse Square Debates in 1986.

SOAPBOXES

Soapbox speeches run no longer than fifteen minutes; all three soapboxes run simultaneously.

SOAPBOX 1

2:30pm Jorge Mujica, *Enhance Immigrants' Rights*

2:45pm Nora Rowley, *The Use of Religion as a Weapon in Burma/Myanmar*

3:00pm Haroon Rashid, *Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable: Chicago's Most Underappreciated Historic Figure*

3:15pm The Parking Ticket Geek, *Chicago's Parking Debacle*

SOAPBOX 2

2:30pm Rob Sherman, *Stop Unconstitutional Donations of Your Tax Dollars to Houses of Worship*

2:45pm Erwin Lutzer, *The Resurrection of Jesus: Why All Historians Should Agree He Rose from the Dead*

3:00pm Tom Tresser, *Chicago 2016 Olympics- Biggest Disaster to Hit Chicago Since the Great Fire!*

3:15pm Stephanie Velasco, *No One Should Be Caged: Amnesty International USA's Campaign for Immigrant Rights*

SOAPBOX 3

2:30pm Herbert Caplan, *Artificial Turf Is Poison: Chicago's Park District Is Responsible, The Victim Is You*

2:45pm Michael Mackaplow, *A Politically Incorrect Recipe for a Fair and Prosperous Society*

3:00pm Lina Thorne and Mars Caulton, *Abortion on Demand and Without Apology*

3:15pm Raven Tillman, *Speech is Change*

MAIN DEBATERS

Larry Diemer (Douglas) taught English and directed theatre at Galesburg High School from 1976 until his retirement in 2005. He first played Douglas in 1994, when he was selected in an open audition for a C-SPAN production, in which Michael Krebs also performed.

Michael Krebs (Lincoln) formed a theatrical company in 1994. He has produced a play, *Visiting the Lincolns*, for audiences at Gettysburg, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and other sites. He helped create an online analysis of Lincoln's assassination for the Chicago Historical Society, and he appeared on the Library of Congress' Mr. Lincoln's Virtual Library.

SOAPBOX JUDGES

David Anderson, The McCormick Foundation

Suzanne Niemoth, Flavorpill Chicago

Madeline Nusser, *Time Out Chicago*

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

Herb Caplan was a long time trial attorney and a former First Assistant Illinois Attorney General. Now he is a volunteer lawyer for Protect Our Parks (www.protectourparks.org).

Mars Caulton is a poetry slam escapee, a children's performing arts teacher, a mother, and a reliable troublemaker against the system.

Senior pastor at Moody Church since 1980, Erwin W. Lutzer is author of more than twenty books, an international conference speaker, and the featured speaker on three radio programs.

Michael Mackaplow, a chemical engineer, grew up in Fremont, CA, one of the most racially diverse cities in the United States. He has backpacked through 17 countries.

Jorge Mujica is a former journalist and union organizer, and a political activist for immigrants in the United States.

Haroon Rashid is president and founder of Friends of DuSable, a non-profit organization dedicated to researching and disseminating the history of Chicago's early resident.

Nora Rowley, M.D., quit US medicine, was a doctor with Doctors Without Borders inside Burma, and is now a human rights activist for Burma, particularly the Rohingya Muslims, the "Myanmar Boat People."

Rob Sherman is the most successful atheist activist in the history of the world, and author of the "Godless in Chicago" blog at chicagonow.com, a subsidiary of the Chicago Tribune Media Group.

The Parking Ticket Geek has had a lot of experience with Chicago parking tickets. He shares his knowledge of the system, and provides helpful advice at his blog, theexpiredmeter.com.

Lina Thorne is an activist with World Can't Wait, and one of 45 million women who have had an abortion in the US.

Raven Tillman is a double honors and AP student at Lincoln Park High School. She is a senior who actively participates in Debate, Mock Trial, and JROTC.

Tom Tresser has been active in Chicago civic life since 1980. He was a co-founder of Protect Our Parks, and is a leader in the all-volunteer effort to stop the 2016 Olympics from coming to Chicago (www.nogameschicago.com).

Stephanie Velasco is a junior at Columbia College Chicago, where she is member of the award-winning Columbia College chapter of Amnesty International. She is a summer intern at Amnesty USA's Midwest Regional Office.

MUSICIANS

Black Bear Combo is a raucous mutt fueled by the common energy between punk, free jazz and balkan brass bands. Since 2002 it has played to crowds across the country and has self-released several CDs.

YOUNG CHICAGO AUTHORS

Young Chicago Authors encourages self-expression and literacy through creative writing, performance, and publication. YCA provides artist-led workshops free to youth ages 13-19 in schools and communities. Our process emphasizes artistic development, mentorship, and creating safe spaces. Through words, young people promote tolerance and remove barriers to transform their lives and society.