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

McCormick Freedom Museum
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 Steeplecat. 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.

1:10pm 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 Kreu (Lincoln) and Larry Diemer (Douglas) present an abridged version of the fifth debate, which took place in Galesburg, IL, for over three hours on a Tuesday afternoon in October 1858.

2:50pm MEMORIAL for STUDS TERKEL, LEON DESPRES, JUDITH KRUG, and FRANKLIN ROSEMOND

DEBATES Opened, SOAPBOX JUDGES Introduced

2:10pm MUSIC by BLACK BEAR COMBO

1:30pm 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 Towner Place. Pickles 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. On it mounted soapboxes and spoke to responsive, vocal crowds. Bohemians, poets, atheists, and revolutionists of all persuasions entertained bystanders. The Square’s core contributions, however, came from the ranks of the Wobbles, 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 1

2:30pm Jorge Mujico, 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 Virgin Is You

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

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

3:15pm Raven Tillman, Speech is Change
MAIN DEBATERS
Larry Diener (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 Lincoln," 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 Niemuth, Flavorpill 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 Cauldron 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 Mackaylow, a chemical engineer, grew
up in Fresno, 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 residents.

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 chicagomate.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, themyparkinglawyer.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 Tressler 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.savemychicago.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 outfit 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 communitie.
Our process emphasizes artistic development,
mentorship, and creating safe spaces. Through
words, young people promote tolerance and remove
barriers to transforming their lives and society.