TAKE IT TO THE PARK!

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

Saturday, July 31, 2010
1 pm – 4 pm

Rick Kogan
Master of Ceremonies

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY’S CO-SPONSOR:
THE MCCORMICK FOUNDATION CIVIC PROGRAM
PRE-BUIGHOUSE PROGRAM
11:00 am — MEET THE AUTHOR
Martin Prehsl, The Wagon and Other Stories
from the City
Center Stage in Washington Square Park
(aka “Bughouse Square”)

BUIGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES
1:00 pm — MUSIC by Black Bear Combo
— WELCOME by Rick Kogan

1:10 pm — BUGHOUSE SQUARE KEY PRESENTED
to Diane Ciral, Honorary Mayor of Bughouse Square.
David Spadafora, President of the Newberry Library,
will present the key.

1:15 pm — PRESENTATION OF THE 2010 JOHN
PETER ALGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD
to Kartemquin Films. Gordon Quinn and Justine Nagin
will accept the award for Kartemquin. Illinois Senator
Mattie Hunter and Illinois Representative Ken Dunkin
will present the award.

Kartemquin Films, a non-profit documentary
film company, established by Gordon Quinn, Jerry
Tension and Stan Karter more than 40 years ago,
uses video to uncover and disseminate reports
of difficult, ignored, and unpopular subjects.
Their mission of “cinematic social inquiry”
embodies the historic values of Bughouse Square
and of Governor Algeld.

The Algeld Freedom of Speech Award is
dedicated to the memory of the former Illinois
Governor (1892–96) who pardoned the surviving
Haymarket anarchists. The award is presented
each year to an organization or person who has
distinguished him or herself as a defender of free
speech and ideas.

1:30 pm — 2:10 pm — MAIN DEBATE
GUN CONTROL IN THE CITY
Otis McDonald, plaintiff in McDonald et al. v.
City of Chicago, Illinois, et al.
Garrett Evans, Survivor of the 2007 Virginia Tech
shootings
Questions and Answers with the audience will
conclude the debate

2:15 pm — SOAPBOX JUDGES INTRODUCED
— SOAPBOX DEBATES OPENED

2:20 pm — MUSIC by Black Bear Combo

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

SOAPBOX 1
2:30 pm — Erwin Lutzer, Logical Reason: Why
Jesus is the Only Way to God
2:45 pm — Nona Willis Aronowitz, Can
Sarah Palin be a Feminist? (Is There Such a
Thing as a Conservative Feminist?)
3:00 pm — Herbert Caplan, Standing Up
to City Hall
3:15 pm — Leah Fried, How Organized
Workers Can Win Justice and Change the World

SOAPBOX 2
2:30 pm Steve Tucker, Give Me Liberty or
Give Me Death Panels
2:45 pm Jim Grossman, The Past is Never Dead
3:00 pm Rachel Goodstein, Twenty is Plenty:
Reasons to Defund the Dairy Dynasty
3:15 pm Pam Selman and Evan Rjabot, Students
are Americans, Too!
3:30 pm Edwin C. Yohnka, Who Will Guard
the Guardians? Stop Prosecution of Citizens Who
Videotape Police Officers at Work

SOAPBOX 3
2:30 pm Tanja Unzrasta, Undocumented
Immigrant Youth at the Forefront of Our Own
Movement
2:45 pm Paul Durica, as historical soapbox
speaker Dr. Ben Reitman, The Art of Soapbox
Oration, with an Historical Survey of the Most
Distinguished Chicago Boxers
3:00 pm Jeff Bilotich, Unless You Repeat
3:15 pm Edward Crouse, The Patient Neglect
and Bankruptcy Act: The Health Care that
Obama and Company Actually Delivered
3:30 pm Rob Sherman, Why Illinois Should
Cancel Millions of Dollars in State Grants to
Religious Organizations

3:45 pm — MUSIC by Black Bear Combo
— BEN REITMAN AND FRIENDS
— REVISIT BUGHOUSE SQUARE on the Main Stage
4:00 pm — SOAPBOX CHAMPION ANNOUNCED
— DIL PICKLE AWARDED

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 Tozer 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, Shernel Anderson,
and Ben Reitman were just a few of the literary,
political, and social luminaries who regularly
attended. The Club closed in 1933.

Bughouse Square (“Bughouse” is slang for
mental health facility), the popular name for
Washington Square Park, was the city’s most
hazardous and radical free-speech space from the
1910s through the 1930s. Carry mounted
soapboxes and spoke to responsive, rowdy crowds.
Bohemians, poets, atheists, and religiously opposed
entertainers battled bystanders. The Square’s core
contributors, however, came from the ranks of
the Wobbly, 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 on socialists and communists
led to Bughouse Square’s decline and by the end
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.

The Newberry Library thanks THE BUGHOUSE
SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE who created this event: Max
Barry, Rachel Bohleman, Diane Ciral, Kathleen Ellison,
Stephanie Fletcher, Shawn Healy, Kelli Landes,
Brad Losh, Kelly McGrath, and Heather Radke.

We thank Chipotle for their generous donation of lunch for today’s speakers and program participants.
HECKLING: Responding to speakers is a Buglese Square tradition and interaction is part of the fun. Please keep it civil and friendly.

SOAPBOX JUDGES
David Heekstra, Chicago Tribune
J. R. Jones, Chicago Reader
Jason Marck, WBEZ
Elizabeth Taylor, Chicago Tribune
Eric Zorn, Chicago Tribune

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS
Nona Willis Aronowitz is a political and cultural critic who has written for the Chicago Tribune, Salon, Slate, and The Nation. She is the author of Children: Crossing America, Rediscovering Feminism.

Jeff Bilofich is an evangelist and revivalist with an urgent message for all people in these perilous days. He works with Straightened Paths ministry.

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).

Edward Creone is a member of Chicago Single-Family Action Network (ChiSPAN), a grassroots organization dedicated to the idea that health care is a human right that can never be taken away.

Paul Duricic is completing a dissertation on trumpets and hobo's at the University of Chicago. Founder of Pocket Guide to Hell Tours and Reenactments, he leads Haymarket Affair and Hoheolina tours.

Leah Fried has been a union organizer with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, U.E. for 37 years. She helped to organize the 2008 occupation of Republic Windows and Doors.

Rachel Goodstein is a 36-year Chicago resident, good government advocate, city hall fighter (Mergis, Chicago 2016, Latropi), Did Pickle run-up in 2006, attorney, and drum student.

Jim Grossman is Vice-President for Research and Education at the Newberry Library, and will be moving to Washington in September to be Executive Director of the American Historical Association.

Senior pastor at Moody Church since 1989. Erwin W. Lutzer is author of more than twenty books, an international conference speaker, and the featured speaker on three radio programs.

Pam Selman and Evan Ribot are former high school newspaper editors from opposite sides of the political spectrum who stood together to fight against censorship and restrictions of student press rights.

Rob Sherman is Illinois' most famous atheist of all time, who has spent the last fifty years fighting injustice, one victory at a time.

Steve Tucker is part of the Chicago Tea Party. He is a health insurance broker.

Tanis Unzueta is a local radio journalist, LGBTQ activist, and co-founder of the immigrant Youth Justice League in Chicago. She is an advocate for the passage of the DREAM Act, and was one of the five undocumented students who conducted a sit-in at Senator McCain's office in Arizona this summer.

Edwin C. Yohnka is the Director of Communications and Public Policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

MUSICIANS
Black Bear Combo is a raucous rock fueled by the common energy between punk, free jazz and blues bands. Since 2002 they have played to crowds across the country and have self-released several CDs, Blackbearcombo.com.