TAKE IT TO THE PARK!

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

SATURDAY, July 30, 1 pm – 4 pm
Across from the Newberry in Washington Square Park

Rick Kogan, Master of Ceremonies

THE NEWBERRY

Sponsored by the Newberry Library
BUHHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

1:00 pm -- MUSIC by Environmental Enchantment  
-- WELCOME by Rick Sagan

1:10 pm -- HAYMARKET REMEMBERED ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY Alma Washington will give a soapbox speech as Lucy Parsons, widow of Haymarket martyr Albert Parsons, frequent Bughouse Square Public Speaker, and labor activist.

Alma Washington is an advocate for strong unions, a local council member of the Sierra Nevada Guild, and a trustee of the Illinois Labor History Society. She performs a one-woman show about Lucy Parsons, the late-nineteenth-century labor leader.

1:25 pm -- PRESENTATION OF THE 2011 JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD to Leslie F. Green, David Spalding, President of the Newbury Library, will present the award.

Leslie F. Green is a Chicagoan who, throughout his long life, has worked for the good of working people through labor organizing, writing and advocacy, and by studying and teaching about labor history. Mr. Green's life's work for the rights and wellbeing of working people in Chicago and the United States embodies the historic values of Bughouse Square and of Governor Altgeld.

The Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award is dedicated to the memory of the former Illinois Governor (1852-96) who pardoned the surviving Haymarket anarchists. The award is presented each year to an organization or person who has distinguished himself or herself in a defense of free speech and ideas.

MAIN DEBATE

1:40 pm -- 2:20 pm COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR: IS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COMPATIBLE WITH PUBLIC SPEAKER?

Kerry Shabot, Chicago Teachers Union, and Richard Lorenz, America's Future Foundation, will present their audiences with the debate.

2:20 pm -- SOAPBOX JUDGES INTRODUCED  
-- SOAPBOX DEBATES OPENED

-- MUSIC by Environmental Enchantment

SOAPBOX DEBATES

Soapbox speeches run no longer than fifteen minutes. All four soapboxes are simultaneously, Speakers compete for the Oil Pickle Award for best soapbox speaker.

SOAPBOX 1

2:30 pm -- Stephanie Warren, on FBI harassment of anti-war activists.

2:45 pm -- Ken McConaughy Berg, on freedom of expression in the classroom.

3:00 pm -- Eric Klein. Am Americans' Future Enough for Free Speech?

3:15 pm -- Hugh Iglarsh, In Preto of Sjenis

3:30 pm -- Jerry Boyle, How to Drain a Police Officer

SOAPBOX 2

2:30 pm -- Warren Leming, Clarence Darrow and the American Dream.

2:45 pm -- Pam Selman and Evan Robson, on underage drinking and the legal drinking age.

3:00 pm -- Seth Dadoo and Jellen Alexander, Screening Louder: The Power of Volume in Modern Debate.

3:15 pm -- Edwin C. Yoder, Should Religious-based Social Service Agencies Be Permitted to Discriminate When They Are Engaged in a Government Function?

SOAPBOX 3

2:30 pm -- Erwin Lutter, Jews among Other Gods: Why Jesus Alone Has the Qualifications of Being Both Savior and God.

2:45 pm -- Herb Caplan, Why the Park District Hates Me.

3:00 pm -- Janis Albein, The Blank Pattern (lyric and song).


3:30 pm -- Rob Shearn, Stepping 500 Million Tax Dollars for Religious College That Discriminate.

SOAPBOX 4

Open Mic:

Step up—one and all! Sign in here to have your 15 minutes on the soapbox.

3:55 pm -- SOAPBOX CHAMPION ANNOUNCED  
-- OIL PICKLE AWARDED

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

Jamie Alber is a folk singer and union and protest song revivalist, who performs about labor, poverty, and other social justice-related issues. Jamie is also a "Mobility" elder at NWU.

Jerry Boyle is a Chicago lawyer, and member of the Chicago Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, which was established in 1910, the end that humans right shall be held more sacred than property interests.

Herb Caplan was a longtime social activist and a former Free American Blacks Attorney General. Now he is a consultant lawyer for the Poor People's War.

Seth Dadoo and Jellen Alexander began working together on the birth of the Illinois group in 1979. Seth and Jellen turned their attention to the Mass Media and the New York Brownstone Center through the group's current "Ongoing" and now recently, they created the national conference group NEDTalks. Visit them at kellen.com.

Jordan Herer is the executive director and editor of Bughouse the People, an organization working toward creating poetry as a means of realizing equality.

Hugh Iglarsh is a reasonably conventional Chicago-based writer and editor who writes for New City, Sunspot Press, and various and sundry other publications, and is a member of the Chicago Algonquin Committee. Listen closely as he has trouble speaking.

Eric Klein is a lawyer who has been commuting politics professionally since 2002. He is active with the Chicago Tea Party and plays a director in America's Future Foundation, Chicago, an all-volunteer organization developing the next generation of liberty leaders in Chicago.

Warren Leming is a writer/activist performer in Chicago. He has written about the Haymarket trial, Civil Groove, which is available from Charles Kerr Publishing. He helped found, with South Tasked, the Algonquin Committee, www.algonquin.org, among other projects.
SOAPBOX SPEAKERS – cont.

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

Ken Melvin-Berg lectured on unconventional sets during the Northeastern classroom demonstrations that swept classrooms around the world in March. He is co-owner of World-Chicago Tours.

Pam Wohler is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin. Evan Riddle is a sophomore at Harvard University. They edited their high school newspaper and sought against censorship and restrictions of student press rights by the school administration.

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

Stephanie Weiner is a Chicago peace activist, but she among those investigated by the FBI in 2010 for allegations of a conspiracy to provide material support for foreign terrorist organizations. Visit www.anapf07.org.

Edwin C. Yohna is the Director of Community and Police Policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

SOAPBOX JUDGES

Ron Grossman, Chicago Tribune
Ben Joravsky, Chicago Reader
Jessica Reaves, Chicago News Cooperative

MUSICIANS

Environmental Encroachment

Chicago performance art group Environmental Encroachment uses circus theatrics, live music and costumes to create unique entertainment environments. Performance formats include stage shows, the street, parades, and punk artist marching band encroachment. http://encroach.org/

Bughouse Square (“bughouse” is slang for mental health facility), the popular name for Washington Square Park, was the city’s most boisterous and radical free-speech spot from the 1930s through the 1980s. Countless monologues and poets spoke to responsive, rowdy crowds. Bohemians, poets, artists, and radicals of all persuasions entertained bystanders. The Square’s 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 champions of the free press and perennial crowd favorites. World War II and a post-war crackdown against radicals and communists led to Bughouse Square’s decline, and by the mid-1960s it had all but vanished.

The Newberry Library restored the Park’s free-speech legacy with the Bughouse Square Debates in 1986.

The Del Pickle Award is presented to honor the best spoken word. The Del Pickle Club was founded by labor activists and Bughouse Speechers Jack Fiske in 1934 to provide an indoor forum for free expression. By 1937 the Del Pickle had become the center of the anti-war movement. Bughouse Square and the Newberry at 2213 North Southport, Fiske’s attended lectures, plays, dances, concerts, and of course, had plenty of talk. Carl Sandburg, Clarence Darrow, Maxwell Bodenheim, Langston Hughes, Ben Hecht, Clariet, 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.

The Newberry Library thanks THE BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE who created this event: Rachel Bohmeans, Diane Groal, Paul Darmo, Vince Fopp, Stephanie Fletcher, Shawn Healy, Kelly McGrath, Heather Rixke, and Guerdolyn Rugg.

HECKLING: Respecting to speakers is a Bughouse Square tradition and interaction is part of the fun. Please keep it civil and friendly.