SOAPBOX JUDGES
Rachel Goodstein, good government advocate, veteran soapbox speaker and 2015 Dill Pickle Champion
Mandela Okere, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, Chicago Debate League
Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, Assistant Professor, Loyola University Chicago

ENVIRONMENTAL ENCROACHMENT MARCHING BAND
Chicago brass band and performance art group, Environmental Encroachment (EE) uses a mobile band, costumes, and antics to create unique entertainment environments. EE’s mission is to create playgrounds for the body and mind through dance, music, and art. Visit www.encroach.net.

SOCIETY OF SMALLNESS
The Society of Smallness is a collective of enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds exploring the potential for small actions to generate creative opportunities for everyone.

ABOUT BUGHOUSE SQUARE
Bughouse Square (bughouse is slang for mental health facility), the popular name for Washington Square Park, was Chicago’s most boisterous and radical free-speech space from the 1910s through the 1950s. Bohemians, socialists, atheists, and religious of all persuasions mounted soapboxes, spoke to vocal crowds, and competed informally for attention and donations. The square’s core contributors, however, came from the Industrial Workers of the World union members whose radical views and wit made them perennial crowd favorites. In the park’s heyday during the 1920s and 1930s, as busloads of tourists ogled the scene, thousands of people gathered on summer evenings. 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 and community activists officially revived the spirit of the park with the Bughouse Square Debates in 1986.

ABOUT THE DILL PICKLE AWARD
The Dill Pickle Award is presented to honor the champion soapbox orator. The Dill (sometimes spelled 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 Dill Pickle had relocated 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.

The Newberry Library thanks the BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE, who created this event: Karen Christianson, Paul Durica, Will Hansen, Mary Kennedy, Katie Samples, Alex Teller, and Karen Williams.

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

#BUGHOUSE2016
Want to supplement your heckling with some online commentary? Share your thoughts and opinions with us on social media.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FREE SPEECH
1986 – 2016

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES
SATURDAY, JULY 30 • NOON – 4 PM
The Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award is dedicated to the memory of the former Illinois governor (1892-96) who pardoned the surviving anarchists wrongfully convicted of the Haymarket bombing of 1886. The award is presented each year to an organization or person who has distinguished themselves as a defender of free speech and ideas.

**BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES**

**NOON – MUSIC** by Environmental Encroachment

**1 pm – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO BUGHOUSE SQUARE** by Rick Kogan, journalist, radio host, and long-time Bughouse advocate

**1:10 pm – WELCOME** by Chicago Alderman Brian Hopkins

**1:15 pm – PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD**

Recipient: WITNESS, represented by its Executive Director Yvette Alberdingk Thijm. David Spadafora, President of the Newberry, will present the award.

WITNESS was founded in 1992 to help record, preserve, and disseminate stories that might otherwise go unheard or unseen and to empower individuals to use video to expose inequality, injustice, and abuses of power. The organization provides training on how to safely record videos, preserve them, and share them with the appropriate audiences to maximize their impact. Among WITNESS’s recent projects, it has trained and supported activists working to protect sex workers’ rights in Eastern Europe, to fight forced evictions in Cambodia, to campaign for the Elder Justice Act in the United States, and to illuminate stories of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Video offers a uniquely visceral way of communicating. Recently, viral video footage has fueled a national conversation on race and policing. As the recording and sharing of ideas factors into debates of great consequence, it becomes increasingly important that individuals document the world around them safely and responsibly. WITNESS’s work ensures the continued use of video as a source of documentary evidence and a tool for change.

A Q&A with the audience will conclude the main debate.

**SOAPBOX SPEECHES**

Soapbox speeches run no longer than 15 minutes; all four soapboxes run simultaneously. Speakers on boxes 1-3 compete for the Dill Pickle Award for best soapbox speaker. Speakers may change without notice, and times are approximate.

**SOAPBOX 1**

2:45 pm — Michael Brennan, “How Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump Compare”

3:00 pm — Robert Bionaz, “Betraying the Public Trust: Politics, Cronyism, and Administrative Bloat at Chicago State University”


3:30 pm — Kate Duva, “Power to the People Who Care: A Warrior Mama’s Manifesto”

**SOAPBOX 2**

2:45 pm — Gail Scheckter, “Not for Cowards: The Power of Nonviolence”

3:00 pm — Ammad Hyland, “Making School Better from a Kid’s Mind”

**SOAPBOX 3**

2:45 pm — Monica Metzler, “City of Big Shoulders and Big Science—Chicago’s Reputation Needs to Change, because Science!”

3:00 pm — Andy Anderson, “Censored News in America: Evidence That Would Alter the Political and Economic Landscape in America if It Were Not Intentionally Suppressed by the Mainstream Media”

3:15 pm — David Ramsay Steele, “Why I Am a Global Warming Denier”

3:30 pm — Scott Whitehair, “Kickstart Your Crowdfunding Away from Me”

**SOAPBOX 4**

OPEN MIC — Moderated by the Society of Smallness: Step up, one and all!

**AFTER THE SOAPBOX SPEECHES**

4:00 pm — SOAPBOX CHAMPION ANNOUNCED — DILL PICKLE AWARDED

**SOAPBOX SPEAKERS**

Andy Anderson is a semi-retired HVAC service technician and Vietnam veteran. As a hobby, Andy sifts through books and large bodies of facts and creates condensed one-page summaries on a variety of topics. He finds that many topics are censored or suppressed by the mainstream media.

Robert Bionaz spent 22 years in law enforcement before earning his PhD from the University of Iowa. He currently teaches history at Chicago State, where he is chapter president of University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100.

Michael Brennan is a retired court researcher, teacher, debate coach, community organizer, and a current activist on a number of issues involving fairness and decency.

Ada Cheng is a recovering academic and professor turned storyteller, improviser, and stand-up comedian. She is now pursuing theater and performance full time and uses creative media to engage in social critiques.

Kenny Damara is originally from Hyderabad, India. He currently works at The Moody Church as a pastor. Kenny speaks regularly in Chicago and other parts of the world, explaining the good news Jesus Christ offers us in a world of constant bad news. Kenny is the author of Divided Desire, a book about the desires of the human heart, and the influence media and technology have on our desires today.

Ammad Hyland participates in the Centro Romero Dare2Dream Youth & Teen Program. Aged 13 years, he has already become a commanding presence behind the bullhorn at Chicago area demonstrations. He is also a reliable expert on the American education system, having completed over 2,000 hours of observational research in a local school over the last year. Keep your eye on this young man—he hopes to run for office someday!

Kate Duva, aka Kate O’Rourke, is a mama, poet, novelist, exiled schoolmarm, play therapist, community organizer for families, Caring Economy advocate, ecosexual, ritual-maker, and lifelong Chicagoo. You can find her at www.kateduva.com or Power to the Parents: www.owltreelearning.com.

Monica Metzler is a former policy wonk who got bit by the science bug (and disappointed she didn’t become spiderwoman). She runs the nonprofit Illinois Science Council.

Gail Scheckter is a community organizer, fair housing advocate, and certified nonviolence trainer. She is the former executive director of Open Communities, a civil rights organization serving Chicago’s northern suburbs.

David Ramsay Steele is the author of books on psychotherapy, atheism, socialism, and George Orwell. He can often be heard expounding a libertarian point of view at the College of Complexes.

Scott Summers is the Illinois Green Party’s 2016 candidate for the United States Senate.

Scott Whitehair is a professional storyteller, producer, and teacher. He is the host of This Much Is True, creator of Story Lab Chicago, and director of Do Not Submit Chicago—all programs designed to get his neighbors listening to and telling stories. He has performed and taught all over the world but is thrilled to live in Chicago.