

## SOAPBOX JUDGES

**ADA CHENG** is a professor-turned-storyteller, Moth StorySLAM winner, National Storytelling Conference presenter, and the 2017 Dill Pickle Award winner.

**SAMEENA MUSTAFA** has managed a Planned Parenthood clinic, worked as a tenant advocate, and created a political comedy collective. She recently ran a 100% grassroots-funded campaign for US Congress in Illinois's 5th District.

**ELIZABETH TANDY SHERMER** is an associate professor of history at Loyola University Chicago.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ENCROACHMENT MARCHING BAND

Chicago brass band and performance art group Environmental Encroachment (EE) uses mobility, 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](http://www.encroach.net) for more information.

## GENESIS ACADEMY SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Genesis Academy Summer Institute brings together pre-university Chicago students, ages 15-19, and youth from conflict and post-conflict zones around the world. The students meet with thought leaders, activists, and artists and participate in an array of experiential learning opportunities and field studies in order to examine those forces that play a part in perpetuating conflict and preventing it.

## SOCIETY OF SMALLNESS

The Society of Smallness is a collective of enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds who explore the potential for small actions to generate creative opportunities.

## ABOUT BUGHOUSE SQUARE

Bughouse Square, as Washington Square Park has historically been known, was Chicago's most boisterous and radical free-speech space during the first half of the twentieth century. Bohemians, socialists, atheists, and religionists of all persuasions mounted soapboxes, spoke to vocal crowds, and competed for attention and donations. For many years, the square's core

contributors were Industrial Workers of the World labor union members whose radical views and acerbic wit made them perennial crowd favorites. During the park's heyday in the 1920s and 1930s, thousands of people gathered there on summer evenings to hear speakers debate the vital issues of the day, while busloads of tourists looked on. However, the crackdown on socialists and communists that followed World War II led to Bughouse Square's decline, and, by the mid-1960s, its free-speech culture had all but ceased to exist. It was only in 1986 that the Newberry decided to work with community activists to revive the spirit of the park by organizing the first Bughouse Square Debates.

## ABOUT THE DILL PICKLE AWARD

The Dill Pickle Award honors the year's champion soapbox orator and commemorates the Dill (sometimes spelled Dil) Pickle Club, 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 to a space at 22 Tooker Place, just around the corner from Bughouse Square and the Newberry. Picklers attended lectures, plays, dances, concerts, and (of course) did plenty of talking and debating. 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.

## BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE

The Newberry Library thanks the Bughouse Square Debates Committee for organizing this year's event. The committee includes Karen Christianson, Elizabeth Cummings, Paul Durica, Will Hansen, Marcos Herrera, Cate Harriman, Mary Kennedy, Tony Macaluso, Erin Sulla, Alex Teller, Jamie Waters, Georgina Valverde, 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.

## #BUGHOUSE2018

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

# BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

Saturday, July 28  
Noon to 4 pm

Washington Square Park  
Across from the Newberry



THE NEWBERRY

---

## BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

**Noon – MUSIC** by Environmental Encroachment

**1:00 pm – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO BUGHOUSE SQUARE** by Rick Kogan, journalist, radio host, and longtime Bughouse advocate

**1:10 pm – PRESENTATION OF THE 2018 JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD**

Recipient: President Robert Zimmer, on behalf of the University of Chicago. David Spadafora, President of the Newberry, and Karen Christianson, Director of Public Engagement, will present the award.

We recognize the University of Chicago, represented by President Robert Zimmer, for the crafting of a statement by its Committee on Freedom of Expression, which articulates “the University’s overarching commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the University’s community.” This statement has become a model for policies at many universities nationwide. We also recognize President Zimmer’s and the University’s longtime and ongoing work, outspoken and uncompromising, in advocacy of free speech, open discourse, and academic freedom, especially in this era of attempted restrictions on these core elements of higher education and national discourse.

*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 achieved distinction as a defender of free speech and ideas.*

---

**1:25 pm – PERFORMANCE** by Genesis Academy Summer Institute students

**1:35 pm – MAIN DEBATE** on the Main Stage  
*Neighborhood Improvement, or Gentrification?*

**WINIFRED CURRAN** is an associate professor of geography at DePaul University. Her research focuses on understanding the effects of gentrification on the urban landscape by looking at labor, policing, education, environmental gentrification, and the gendering of urban policy in New York, Chicago, London, and Mexico City. She is currently working on a book about gender and gentrification.

**GHIAN FOREMAN** is Executive Director of the Greater Southwest Development Corporation, whose redevelopment projects have included repurposing shuttered industrial and school buildings throughout the city.

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

---

## SOAPBOX SPEECHES

### SOAPBOX 1

**2:30 pm** – Andy Olcott, “The 2nd Amendment Has Been Hijacked”

**2:40 pm** – Rosetta McGee, “Don’t Be Afraid”

**2:50 pm** – Tom Tresser, “F\*\*k Off, Amazon!”

**3:00 pm** – Geoffrey Cabbage, “The Dirtiest Election in Cook County: Where Politics and Sewage Intersect”

**3:10 pm** – June Berveiler, “Libraries Are Still for Reading”

**3:20 pm** – S. Montgomery Priz, “The Republic Has Failed, and Only the Queen of England Can Save Us”

### SOAPBOX 2

**2:30 pm** – Joseph Kopsick, “Janus Decision Reveals Two-Faced Nature of Collective Bargaining Policy”

**2:40 pm** – Harrison Sherrod, “The Future Is Marxist”

**2:50 pm** – Justin Tucker, “Let’s Give Statehood to Cook County”

**3:00 pm** – Jim Leitzel, “Casinos for Humanity”

**3:10 pm** – Hugh Iglarsh, “The Obama (Non-)Library: A Giza for the Gullible”

**3:20 pm** – Linda Horwitz, “Dissent, Compromise, and Power to the People”

### SOAPBOX 3

**Open Mic** – Moderated by the Society of Smallness

Step up, one and all!

### SOAPBOX 4

**Youth Soapbox** – Organized by students from GCE Lab School

Youth, ages 25 and younger, will speak individually or in pairs or teams and give three-minute lightning speeches on pressing issues. Youth awards will be presented at Soapbox 4 after the speeches.

Lucia Bennett (*Prison Reform*)

Katrina Burlet (*Prison Reform*)

Alexsandra Gomez (*Environmentalism*)

Jayden Hammond (*Structural Racism*)

Jonathan McGee (*Gun Violence*)

Amani Mryan (*Abortion Rights*)

Noor Mryan (*Gun Violence and Bigotry*)

Molly Pinta (*LGBTQ Rights*)

Kate Quinn (*Gun Control*)

Marley Rosario (*Student Activism*)

Gimena Servin (*Immigration Policy*)

---

## SPEAKER OF TRUTH YOUTH PICKLE AWARDS

Awards will be presented to Edie Canter, Executive Director of the Chicago Debate Commission, and Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General.

---

## AFTER THE SOAPBOX SPEECHES

**3:30 pm** – **PERFORMANCE** by National Youth Poet Laureate Patricia Frazier

**3:45 pm** – **PRESENTATION OF DILL PICKLE AWARD FOR BEST SPEECH**

---

## SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

**JUNE BERVEILER** holds music and German degrees from the University of Kansas and the University of Mississippi and now serves as a supply organizer at churches around Chicago.

**GEOFFREY CUBBAGE** has been a Bughouse Square Debates fan since high school. Prior to diving into the murky world of politicized sewage treatment, he was a projects analyst and oversight reporter for a Kabul-based firm.

**LINDA HORWITZ** is an associate professor at Lake Forest College. Her research focuses on visual rhetoric, public memory, and the rhetorical construction of identity.

**HUGH IGLARSH** is a writer, editor, satirist, and theater critic who has published extensively in *New City*, *CounterPunch*, and other publications.

**JOSEPH KOPSICK** has self-published two collections of essays (*Libertarian Conspiracy Theories* and *Soft Communism for 90’s Kids*) and runs a blog, *The Aquarian Agrarian*.

**JIM LEITZEL** teaches economics and public policy at the University of Chicago. At last year’s debates, he explained how to re-legalize cocaine for recreational use.

**ROSETTA MCGEE** has been a member of Envision Unlimited for five years and is a featured soloist in the Rose Center Choir, a satellite of Envision Unlimited.

**ANDY OLCOTT** will address the history of the 2nd Amendment and argue that the Amendment should be repealed.

**S. MONTGOMERY PRIZ**, English Explorer Extraordinaire (Esquire Pending), is a recent law school graduate, circus performer, and insurance privateer based in Chicago.

**HARRISON SHERROD** manages a film production company by day and teaches weird seminars at the Newberry by night.

**TOM TRESSER** is a civic educator, public defender, organizer, and “NO”-sayer to plans that rip off the public and enrich the clouted few.

**JUSTIN TUCKER** is a libertarian activist living in Chicago.

---

## YOUTH SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

**LUCIA BENNETT** will speak on why solitary confinement is an LGBTQ issue. She believes that prison is unsafe for anyone but that LGBTQ people are especially at risk.

**KATRINA BURLET** is the founder and director of the Justice Debate League, a non-profit organization that coaches debate teams in prisons.

**ALEXSANDRA GOMEZ** is a student at McGill University. She believes that we must actively confront environmental justice problems in marginalized communities.

**JAYDEN HAMMOND** is a student at GCE Lab School and will be speaking on structural racism.

**JONATHAN MCGEE** currently serves as a Community Engagement Officer at Get In Chicago, an organization that aims to reduce gun violence among at-risk youth in Chicago.

**AMANI MRYAN** is an activist and member of her school’s Forensics and Poetry teams. She recently performed the poem “Trigger Warning” with her teammates at March For Our Lives Chicago.

**NOOR MRYAN** is a member of her high school’s debate team. She believes that minorities should embrace their differences and urges us to remember that hate speech has real consequences.

**KATE QUINN** is an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. She served as a core organizer for March For Our Lives Chicago and is also Campaigns Director for Gather Activism.

**MOLLY PINTA** is from Buffalo Grove and is out, proud, and ready to share her passion for the LGBTQ community with the world! She is planning her hometown’s first pride parade and rally.

**MARLEY ROSARIO** is an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. He served as a Lead Organizer for March For Our Lives Chicago and is Director of Outreach at Gather Activism.

**GIMENA SERVIN** is a GCE Lab School sophomore, Daniel Murphy Scholar, Louder Than a Bomb slam poet, mariachi player, golf caddy, thriving animator, and the 2018 Youth Bughouse Mayor.