

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-BUGHOUSE PROGRAM

11:00 am — MEET THE AUTHOR

Martin Preib, *The Wagon and Other Stories from the City*

Center Stage in Washington Square Park
(aka "Bughouse Square")

BUGHOUSE 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 ALTGELD 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 Temaner, 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 Altgeld.

The Altgeld 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 on *McDonald et al. v. City of Chicago, Illinois, et al.*
v.
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 Reasons 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 Dethrone the Daley Dynasty*

3:15 pm Pam Selman and Evan Ribot, *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 Tania Unzueta, *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 Repent*

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**
and **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 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.

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 space from the 1910s through the 1930s. Orators mounted soapboxes and spoke to responsive, vocal crowds. Bohemians, poets, atheists, and religionists of all persuasions entertained bystanders. The Square's core contributors, however, came from the ranks of the Wobblies, 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.

The Newberry Library thanks **THE BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE** who created this event: Max Barry, Rachel Bohlmann, Diane Ciral, Kathleen Ellison, Stephanie Fletcher, Shawn Healy, Kelli Landes, Brad Lash, 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 Bughouse Square tradition and interaction is part of the fun. Please keep it civil and friendly.*

SOAPBOX JUDGES

David Hoekstra, *Chicago*

Sun-Times

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 *Girldrive: Criss-crossing America, Redefining Feminism*.

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

Paul Durica is completing a dissertation on tramps and hobos at the University of Chicago. Founder of Pocket Guide to Hell Tours and Reenactments, he leads Haymarket Affair and Hobohemia tours.

Leah Fried has been a union organizer with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, UE, for 13 years. She helped to organize the 2008 occupation of Republic Windows and Doors.

Rachel Goodstein is a 30+ year Chicago resident, good government advocate-city hall fighter (Meigs, Chicago 2016, Lathrop), Dil Pickle runner-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 1980, **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.

Tania 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 mutt fueled by the common energy between punk, free jazz and balkan brass bands. Since 2002 they have played to crowds across the country and has self-released several CDs. Blackbearcombo.com.