

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

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

1:00 pm — **MUSIC** by Environmental Enchroachment
— **WELCOME** by Rick Kogan

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 speaker, and labor activist.

Alma Washington is an advocate for strong unions, a local council member of the Screen Actors 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. Orear. David Spadafora, President of the Newbery Library, will present the award.

Leslie F. Orear 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. Orear's life's work for the rights and well-being 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 (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.



MAIN DEBATE

1:40 pm — 2:20 pm **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR: IS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COMPATIBLE WITH PUBLIC SERVICE?**

Kenzo Shibata, Chicago Teacher's Union.

v.
Richard Lorenc, America's Future Foundation

Questions and Answers with the audience will conclude the Debate.

2:20pm — **SOAPBOX JUDGES INTRODUCED**
— **SOAPBOX DEBATES OPENED**
— **MUSIC** by Environmental Enchroachment

SOAPBOX DEBATES

Soapbox speeches run no longer than fifteen minutes; all four soapboxes run simultaneously. Speakers compete for the Dil Pickle Award for best soapbox speaker.

SOAPBOX 1

2:30 pm — Stephanie Weiner, on FBI harassment of anti-war activists

2:45 pm — Ken Melvoin-Berg, on freedom of expression in the classroom

3:00 pm — Eric Kohn, *Are Americans Mature Enough for Free Speech?*

3:15 pm — Hugh Iglarsh, *In Praise of Shyness*

3:30pm — Jerry Boyle, *How to Disarm a Police Officer*

SOAPBOX 2

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

2:45 pm Pam Selman and Evan Ribot, on underage drinking and the legal drinking age

3:00 pm Seth Dodson and Kellen Alexander, *Screaming Louder: The Power of Volume in Modern Debate*

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

SOAPBOX 3

2:30 pm Erwin Lutzer, *Jesus 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 Jamie Albert, *The Blame Pattern* (speech and songs)

3:15 pm Jordan Hestermann, *The American Dream of Hypocrisy*

3:30 pm Rob Sherman, *Stopping 300 Million Tax Dollars for Religious Colleges 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**
and **DIL PICKLE AWARDED**

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

Jamie Albert 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 “wobbly,” a.k.a. an IWW member.

Jerry Boyle is a Chicago lawyer, and member of the Chicago Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, which was established “...to the end that human rights shall be held more sacred than property interests.”

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).

Seth Dodson and **Kellen Alexander** began working together as two-thirds of the improv group 1, 2, 3, Fag! Seth and Kellen raised money for Lambda Legal and the Howard Brown Health Center through the gay comedy showcase “Qweirdo,” and most recently they created the techie conference spoof NEDTalks. Visit sethandkellen.com.

Jordan Hestermann is the executive director and founder of Becoming We the People, an organization working toward ending poverty as a means of realizing equality.

Hugh Iglarsh is a reasonably introverted Chicago-based writer and editor who writes for New City, Counterpunch and various and sundry other publications, and is a member of the Nelson Algren Committee. Listen closely as he has trouble projecting.

Eric Kohn is a liberty evangelist and has been committing politics professionally since 2002. He is active with the Chicago Tea Party and program director for America's Future Foundation - Chicago, an all-volunteer organization developing the next generation of liberty leaders in Chicago.

Warren Leming is a writer/critic/performer in Chicago. He has written about the Haymarket trial, *Cold Chicago*, which is available from Charles Kerr Publishing. He helped found, with Studs Terkel, the Nelson Algren Committee: www.nelsonalgren.org, among other projects.

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS – cont.

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.

Ken Melvoin-Berg lectured on unconventional sex during the Northwestern classroom demonstration that swept headlines around the world in March. He is co-owner of Weird Chicago Tours.

Pam Selman is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin. **Evan Ribot** is a sophomore at Harvard University. They edited their high school newspaper and fought against censorship and restrictions of student press rights by the school administration.

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

Stephanie Weiner is a Chicago peace activist. She is among those investigated by the FBI in fall 2010 for allegations of a conspiracy to provide material support for foreign terrorist organizations. Visit www.stopFBI.net.

Edwin C. Yohnka is the Director of Communications and Public 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 encroachments. <http://encroach.net/>

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 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.

The Newberry Library thanks **THE BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE** who created this event: Rachel Bohlmann, Diane Ciral, Paul Durica, Vince Firpo, Stephanie Fletcher, Shawn Healy, Kelly McGrath, Heather Radke, and Gwendolyn Rugg.

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