

SOAPBOX JUDGES

KATE DUVA, developmental therapist, community organizer for families, and the 2016 winner of the Dill Pickle Award for best soapbox speech.

SIMON NYI, Media & Journalism and Business Program Manager for Illinois Humanities, and a PhD candidate in English at Northwestern University.

ROBERT SMITH III, Associate Director of the National Public Housing Museum.

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.

SOUSAPHONES AGAINST HATE

A non-partisan musical ensemble that protests recently implemented hateful government policies that target the poor, the arts, the environment, and refugees.

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 religionists 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.

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES COMMITTEE

The Newberry Library thanks the Bughouse Square Debates Committee, who created this event: Karen Christianson, Paul Durica, Andrew Epps, Mark Hallett, Will Hansen, Cate Harriman, Mary Kennedy, Tony Macaluso, Katie Samples, Alex Teller, Jamie Waters, Ella Wagner, Georgina Valverde, Karen Williams

HECKLING

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

#BUGHOUSE2017

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

SPECIAL THANKS

The 2017 Bughouse Square Debates are supported in part by a grant from the Free for All Fund of the Chicago Community Trust.

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

Saturday, July 29
Noon to 4 pm

Washington Square Park
Across from the Newberry



THE NEWBERRY

newberry.org/2017-bughouse

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

1:15 pm – **PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD**

Recipient: Kevin Coval, of Young Chicago Authors and Louder Than a Bomb. David Spadafora, President of the Newberry, and Karen Christianson, Director of Public Engagement, will present the award.

We recognize Kevin Coval with this year's award for his work in creating new platforms for free speech and expression for young people, as well as training in critical thinking, clear writing, public speaking, civic engagement, and cultural literacy. As Artistic Director of Young Chicago Authors, he brings together young people from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and provides them with space, mentorship, and resources to help them to produce and share meaningful writings and oral presentations. He also involves hundreds of students from Chicagoland high schools and community centers in Louder than a Bomb: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival, the largest youth poetry festival in the world, which he cofounded.

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.

1:30 pm – **MAIN DEBATE** on the Main Stage

What Constitutes Legitimate Journalism in a Hyper-Connected World?

DARRYL HOLLIDAY, editorial director and co-founder of *City Bureau*, a producer with the Invisible Institute, and co-founder of Illustrated Press.

MARY WISNIEWSKI of the *Chicago Tribune* and this year's vice president of Freedom of Information Act help for the Chicago Headline Club.

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

2:15 pm – **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

with Sousaphones Against Hate

SOAPBOX SPEECHES

SOAPBOX 1

2:30 pm – Susan Aarup, “*Universal Health Care and Inter-Faith Dialogue*”

2:45 pm – Tom O'Donnell, “*There's a Lie in School*”

3:00 pm – Rachel Cheeseman, “*‘Don't Worry Sean, No One Wants to Kill You’: A Non-Apology*”

3:15 pm – Alex Mazarakos, “*Is It OK to Punch a Nazi?*”

SOAPBOX 2

2:30 pm – Michael Burack, “*Medical Cannabis Now*”

2:45 pm – Ada Cheng, “*Alien Forever?: The Institutionalization of the Alien Status among Naturalized Citizens*”

3:00 pm – Geoffrey Cubbage, “*Alternative Voices Have to Be*”

3:15 pm – Samantha Clark, “*H. H. Holmes Never Opened a Hotel during the Chicago Worlds Fair*”

SOAPBOX 3

2:30 pm – Jim Leitzel, “*Legal Recreational Cocaine*”

2:45 pm – Abhinav Gandhi, “*When You Have to Pick a Starbucks Name for Yourself: Views from a Non-Immigrant Alien*”

3:00 pm – Duke-Pierce Reade, “*A Time and a Place for the Sticky Wiki*”

3:15 pm – Rachel Goodstein, “*More Tough Talk for the Toddling Town—An Ex-Pat's Powerful Prescription for Chicago's Persistent Pubescent Problems*”

SOAPBOX 4

Open Mic – moderated by the Society of Smallness
Step up, one and all!

AFTER THE SOAPBOX SPEECHES

3:30 pm – **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**
with Sousaphones Against Hate

4:00 pm – **SOAPBOX CHAMPION ANNOUNCED**
– **DILL PICKLE AWARDED**

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

SUSAN AARUP holds a BA from Wright State University, Dayton OH; an MS in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Springfield College, Springfield MA; and an MA in Theological Studies from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She believes in working together across organizations. Besides being a single-payer activist, she has been fighting for disability rights for more than 35 years, and has participated in many acts of civil disobedience with the disability rights organization ADAPT. She is Co-coordinator of Chicago ADAPT; Co-chair of the People with Disabilities Committee of the Illinois Single-Payer Coalition; and a member of the steering committee of the Alliance for Community Services.

MICHAEL BURACK is a University of Chicago graduate in public policy working on an insurance project for businesses in the cannabis space.

RACHEL CHEESEMAN is known by most people as Cheese. She is a 27-year old graduate student at the University of Chicago, studying political science with a focus on the American judiciary and voting rights. When not voraciously consuming the content of scholars, journalists, wine bottles or deli owners, she practices as a non-artist whose favorite non-medium is the Facebook rant. She didn't choose it. It chose her.

ADA CHENG is a professor-turned storyteller. She is a one-time Moth storyslam winner, a presenter at the National Storytelling Conference, and a runner-up at Chicago's 2016 Bughouse Square Debates. She has been featured at storytelling shows in Chicago, Atlanta, and New York. She has also told stories at The Moth in Chicago, New York, Denver, and Detroit. She is currently touring her solo show, *Not Quite: Asian American by Law, Asian Woman by Desire*, at different locations in Chicago. She brought her solo show to the National Storytelling Conference and Capital Fringe Festival earlier this summer, and will appear at the Minnesota Fringe Festival and Boulder International Fringe Festival in August. Her motto: Make your life the best story you tell.

SAMANTHA CLARK runs the Chicago Neighborhoods Project. She is in the process of visiting all 77 community areas of the city.

GEOFFREY CUBBAGE has worked for the Illinois Green Party as the Volunteer Director since the summer of 2016. During the 2016 Presidential campaign, he served as Deputy Press Director for the Stein/Baraka campaign.

ABHINAV GANDHI's grandparents immigrated from what is now Pakistan during the Partition of India in 1947. Born and raised in New Delhi, he has a deep and abiding interest in pop culture trivia and history. At the start of 2016, he moved to Chicago for work. To pay his bills he helps retailers make data-driven decisions, and in his free time, if not found vegetating, he supports non-profits working in the K-12 education space.

RACHEL GOODSTEIN is a five-time Bughouse soapbox speaker whose previous topics have included “Rebuilding Meigs Field” (Dill Pickle runner-up); “Dismantling the Daley Dynasty”; and “Saving the Lathrop Homes.” She won the 2015 Dill Pickle Award for “Tough Talk for Tough Times in the Toddling Town: Serious Solutions the Second City's Crises.” In 2016 she served as a soapbox judge. Rachel lived in Chicago for over 30 years and was involved in good government causes. She worked in educational media and was a long-time board member of a youth organization. She is currently a Chicago ex-pat living in Northern Michigan and writing her memoir on civic engagement.

JIM LEITZEL is an economist with a specialty in vice policy. He teaches Behavioral Economics and Law and Economics at the University of Chicago, where he is the Director of the undergraduate major in Public Policy Studies.

ALEX MAZARAKOS grew up just outside of Chicago—near Midway Airport—and has lived in Chicago for the last 8 years. He loves living in the city and doesn't intend to ever leave. One of the things he loves is the diversity of culture and opinions which one encounters on a regular basis. As the son of immigrants from Greece, he appreciates the abundant opportunities and rights afforded to us by the First Amendment. That's why he attends the Bughouse Square Debates every year. It's a highlight of his summer.

TOM O'DONNELL is an independent researcher. He is a part of a group called Citizens for Truth in School, which takes action to fix the problem of a lie being taught in school.

DUKE-PIERCE READE is an author of historical fiction and historical anthologies, including the book *The Red and the Gold* and the soon to be released *Ancestral Histories and Notes*. His areas of study include Roman Britain, the Saxon Invasion, the Danelaw, and the age of the first three Edwards. Before dedicating himself full time to writing, he lectured and promoted energy efficiency and sustainability under contract with the EPA and the DOE.