

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

P.O. BOX 9454, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808-9454



SPRING 2014

And Then There Were Two



Woody Creason 1921-2014

The death of Woody Creason on Feb. 11 reduced to two—Bob Constantine and Curtis Culver—what had been five men who personally contacted the contractor who owned the Debs home. Their goal was to buy the property and restore it to its original condition. For this purpose they chartered the Debs Foundation in 1962. One of those five initiators was Woody Creason. Woody served for many years as professor of Economics at Indiana State University, and from 1964 until 2005 served as Treasurer of the foundation, setting a longevity record which probably will never be broken by any other Debs Foundation officer. Woody's support was indispensable to me, the foundation secretary since 1985, in dealing with matters related to foundation affairs.

Whether it was co-signing checks, doing yard work at the Debs Home or any knotty issues which came up, Woody was always ready with a helping hand or with words of advice.

Woody and Maxine Creason had two sons and numerous grandchildren. Maxine preceded him in death after 44 years of marriage. It was Woody's wishes that there be no funeral service and that his body be cremated and the ashes buried in the grave alongside Maxine. His sons plan a "celebration of life" service for him later in the year. His full obituary appeared several times in the Tribune Star.

Spring Board Meeting: April 12

This year's Spring board meeting will be a "can't miss" affair for members who are interested in the future of the foundation. Given its importance, the meeting will not be in the Debs Home and can run as long as three hours. The meeting will be in the conference room of the Hilton Garden Inn, which is reserved from 1:00 PM to 4 PM. Light refreshments will be available. See you there!

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, April 12,
at 1:00 pm, Hilton Garden Inn

Regarding Our Finances

One clear fact shows up in our financial statement. We did not take in enough money in 2013 to pay all expenses. It isn't much relief to say that we had another bad year for sewer problems at the Deb Home. We spent \$2,450.00 on that project and at least now it is not likely to cause additional problems. But the fact is that we had to draw \$25,000 from the Endowment Fund. It is good to know that these financial reserves exist, and that due to the recovery of the stock market continued some increase again last year. But we know we cannot rely on stock market increases as a bailout. We must find ways to increase income, whether through increases in current sources of income or through development of new courses of income.

Debs In The News

On Dec. 5 the Tribune Star had a front-page article which adds another chapter to the saga of the future of the twin towers. The proposal to demolish the sycamore towers has been put on hold for at least half a year. A developer with apparently deep pockets and great ambitions is exploring a possible "adaptive re-use" of the now vacant towers. Built as residence halls, the 15-story structures later housed the colleges of Business and Education.

The proposal is of interest to the university for two reasons. One, it would be better to preserve the historic structures if they can be put to productive use as apartments. The key concern for the university is to get all this square footage "off its books." Secondly, it would save the university the approximate 4 million dollar cost of demolition. For the Deb Foundation, its main attraction would be that there would no longer be concern for possible harm to the Debs Home by the shock waves demolition would inevitably cause. The Debs Foundation exists as an act of historic preservation. We Debsians highly prefer adaptive re-use over demolition, so we hope that the saga of the twin towers will end on this positive note.

Another news item covered in several issues of the Tribune Star regarded the long awaited movie—

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The *Debs Foundation Newsletter* is published twice yearly for distribution to members and friends of the Foundation. The Eugene V. Debs Foundation is a non-profit, private organization which maintains the home of Eugene and Kate Debs as a museum and shrine to labor, and carries on educational and informational programs which aim to honor and promote the goals for which Debs struggled: industrial unionism, social justice, and peace. For those wishing to become members, an application form is provided elsewhere in this issue.

The Drunk—much of which was filmed in the Debs Home. The official premiere of the movie was held in downtown Terre Haute's Indiana Theater. The premiere was February 15. That Saturday night was, as the Tribune Star called it, when "Hollywood came to Terre Haute." It was a sell-out crowd of close to 1,300.

It is a low budget movie, but a good one worth seeing. The film-makers are local young men, William Tanoos and Paul Fleschner. The Drunk follows a character named Joe Debs, a hard-drinking young man who gets arrested for drunken driving, then decides to make himself the only opposition in the primary in the governor's race against a corrupt prosecuting attorney.

The Drunk will be distributed nationally in a couple of months. When it appears in your area it would be worth a few dollars for you to see. To purchase a DVD of the movie go to www.thedrunkmovie.com.

degree in history from Indiana State University and worked for some years as a paid assistant to Robert Constantine when preparing the publication of Bob's three-volume "Letters of Eugene Debs."

An item of business for the April 12 business meeting will be to decide how we proceed to make these

discs available to interested parties. By the time of the annual award banquet this fall we should have ordering information available to interested persons.

2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Eugene V. Debs Foundation

Lisa Phillips, Treasurer

Expenditures:

Utilities

Duke Energy	1,825.00
Vectren	1,850.00
Indiana American Water	426.81
City of T.H. Sewage	255.79
Frontier	1,653.13
TOTAL ...	6,010.73

Museum Director

Salary	17,073.24
Indiana Dept. of Revenue	1,093.04
Internal Revenue Service	2,186.10
Workman's Comp. Ins.	310.00
Medicare (her part)	316.98
TOTAL	20,979.36

Banquet

Hall Rental	750.00
Sodexo (food service)	3,623.00
Printing: Tickets (\$150) and Program (\$1279.44)	1,429.44
Anne Feeney Honorarium	1,000.00
Anne Feeney (Lodging & Travel)	250.00
Meier Johan-Wengler	485.00
Beth Maier (Photos of 2012 Banquet)	50.00
Essay Contest Winner (Hannah Long)	500.00
Record Banquet (Bob Bruce)	100.00
Anne Feeney Hotel Room	178.00
Champion Awards (Plaque for Essay Winner)	10.70
TOTAL ...	8,376.14

Sewer Replacement Project

Labor	1,134.00
Material	450.53
Equipment Rental (Cahills).....	214.00
Replacement Flowers	39.52
B&S Plumbing Work done earlier	489.50
B&S Plumbing done after new line	124.00
Complete Outdoor (rototiller).....	73.50
TOTAL ...	2,451.55

Other Expenses

Digital Recording Project (G. Malmgren)	1,566.69
Tyco Security Svc.	616.60
Oasis Computer Solutions	911.00
AME Group (Computer Repair)	146.99
Wabash Valley Visions & Voices	175.00
Jewett Printing (newsletters)	1,312.20
Jewett Printing (member cards, envelopes)	378.88
Terminix	30.00
Socialist Party USA (40th Anniversary Ad)	200.00
Amalgamated Bank (Safe Keeping Fee).....	300.00
USPS Box Rental Fee	44.00
USPS postage & stamps	295.14
ISU Bursar	400.00
Kasameyer Glass.....	108.39
Radio Advertising	342.00
Moore Photography (photos of Home)	150.00
Kmart (office fan)	52.43
Am. Welding & Gas	42.50
Office Max	45.60
AC for Debs Home (3rd floor)	481.49
Purchases Karen Paid from Cash Box	409.36
TOTAL	24,534.18

Income

Dinner Program Ads	9,600.00
Dinner Tickets.....	6,600.00
Dues	8,200.97
Vangaard.....	25,000.00
U.S. Dept. of Treasury (refund)	56.61
TOTAL INCOME	\$49,907.58

The Digitalization Project

It has taken awhile but we finally have a list of most Debs Award Banquets from the early days. The “list” is more than that; it has digital recordings of the award recipients. We cannot give them away. We did this mainly as an act of historic preservation, but we would like also to recoup as much of our costs—the transfer process, packaging and shipping—and maybe interested parties will want to add a few dollars extra to accelerate the process of recouping production costs. We face the reality that, while Gail Malmgren

contributed her time free of charge—the actual costs of the digitizing work was \$1566.69. And that is for the master discs only. We now want to offer them to the interested public, e.g. single banquet, a select few—five, ten, etc.

We were so fortunate to have the free services of Gail Malmgren to take on this project. She has recently retired from a career at Tamiment Library at New York University. Better still, Gail earned a Master’s

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EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION

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Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

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_____ \$25.00 Regular Member _____ \$250.00 Life Members

_____ \$50.00 Supporting Member _____ Other

Enclose remittance. Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.

The Debs Foundation • P.O. Box 9454 • Terre Haute, IN 47808-0843

We are a not-for-profit organization, so your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Debs Home and offers several educational and cultural programs.