

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

P.O. BOX 843, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808-0843

FALL 1999

Gloria Johnson: HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE

Gloria Tapscott Johnson has been active for decades in leadership roles in her union, in the Federation, and in numerous other progressive organizations. Hers has been a voice for democratic participation and economic betterment for special interests, not the interests of the rich and powerful, but of the too often ignored and dis-enfranchised among the so-called "unskilled" workers, and women and minorities.

Mrs. Johnson is a native of Washington, D.C. where after high school she earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Howard University. Prior to 1954, she taught briefly at Howard University, and served as an economist with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Wage Stabilization Board. Since May 1954, she has been with the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers, AFL-CIO (IUE). She is the Chair of the IUE Women's Council and in this position is a voting member of the IUE International Executive Board. In 1998, she was appointed Interim Secretary-Treasurer of the IUE. Outside her own union, Gloria Johnson holds positions in numerous labor organizations, including President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), and a Vice President of the AFL-CIO Executive Council. Among her more than a dozen other affiliations are the Democratic National Committee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Advisory Board of the Institute for Education and Research on Women and Work, Cornell University School



GLORIA JOHNSON
Debs Award Recipient, 1999

of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Her achievements have been recognized by numerous awards and honors, including, in 1975, the PUSH Award for Outstanding Women in the Labor Movement, in 1981, the Economic Equity Award from the Women's Equity Action League for outstanding achievement in the Labor Movement, and in 1985, a Southern Christian leadership Conference award for her work in human rights. In 1995, she was honored with the Wise Women Award presented by the Center for Women Policy Studies, and the NAACP First Annual Pathway to Excellences Award "Women in Labor." She was appointed in 1998 by President Bill Clinton to serve on the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History.

A complete listing of Gloria

...Continued on page 2

**See Page 2 for an
Afternoon Lecture**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



CLAYOLA BROWN

The presentation or keynote address will be given by Clayola Brown, who is an International Vice President of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE). She additionally is an Executive Council Vice President of the AFL-CIO, CLC, Director, Department of Civil Rights of UNITE, Manager of Amalgamated Service and Allied Industries Joint Board, and on the Executive Committee of the Workers Defense League, the A. Philip Randolph Institute Educational Fund, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Her prominent positions in labor organizations have enabled Clayola Brown to become a powerful force in the labor movement.

Her numerous awards and honors speak of the recognition she has received for her contributions to American society. These honors show special recognition from NAACP, SCLC, New York State CLUW, New York City Central Labor Council, and more than a dozen others. She was appointed in 1994 by President Bill Clinton as a Commissioner on the National Commission on Employment Policy. She also is 1st Vice President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, serves on the Board of SCLC, and is a member of Local 331 UNITE and Vice President of the NYC Central Labor Council.

Known for being an articulate and lively speaker as well as for her leadership abilities, Ms. Brown has been an highly effective spokesperson for social justice. The foundation is delighted to have her as presentation speaker at this year's award banquet.

Powers Hapgood and the American Working Class.

A public lecture by biographer Robert Bussel

Hapgood was one of the first three people hired for the CIO staff in 1935. He spent his formative years in Indiana and during the early part of the depression worked at his father's business experiment in workers' management and control located in Indianapolis. Refusing to shed his socialist ideas for cold war liberalism, Hapgood remained faithful to the values of democratic socialism, and his stands on issues of civil liberties, racial justice, and union democracy led eventually to his ouster from the CIO.

Robert Bussel has written a biography of Hapgood recently published by Penn State Press. A former union organizer, Bussel presently is Assistance Professor in the Department of Labor Studies and Industrial Relations at the Penn State Great Valley Campus. His presentation, open to the public, is at 3:00 p.m., Friday afternoon, day of the banquet, in Holmstead Hall, ISU.

His book will be available for purchase at the banquet. For those who might wish to order the book, it is a Penn State University Press publication, identified as follows:

304 pages 12 illustrations 6 x 9

ISBN 0-271-01897-6 cloth: \$57.50s

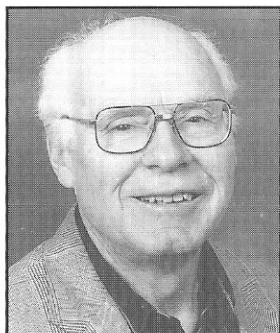
ISBN 0-271-01898-4 paper: \$19.95s

SECRETARY TO RECEIVE SERVICE AWARD

Secretary Charles King has been chosen by the foundation to receive its special service award. King has been secretary since 1985, and in that position has been part of the leadership team which has given the foundation direction and structure for fifteen years. The Theodore Debs Distinguished Service award was created to recognize individuals whose service has made significant contributions to the life of the foundation.

King has taught Sociology at Indiana State University since 1972, and by the time the foundation was searching for a new secretary in 1984, he was known personally by several ISU faculty members who were "Debsians." He remembers having lunch with Bob Constantine and Wood Creason to discuss the position, and recalls feeling excited about the prospects for challenge and being able to make constructive contributions to a very important organization. Also he liked the prospect of an occasional free lunch. King was elected to the position at the fall business meeting, 1984.

Some of the highlights of these fifteen years as Charles recalls includes, not surprisingly, the award banquets. All have been great. What a rare opportunity to get together with a large group of like minded people to celebrate the accomplishments of an individual who has made significant contributions to American society over a life time of service! No banquet stands out in memory more than 1986 when Joe Rauh was honored. To meet a person who had been a



Charles King

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 1999

Published by

The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

Box 843

Terre Haute, IN 47808

Foundation Officers:

Jack Sheinkman, *President*

Noel Beasley, *Executive Vice President*

Charles King, *Secretary*

Woodrow Creason, *Treasurer*

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.

prominent labor lawyer since the New Deal era and a founder of Americans for Democratic Action, and to have Owen Bieber as Keynote speaker, made for a full house and an especially exciting evening in every regard. King remembers fondly being able to personally escort a number of the award recipients on a tour of the Debs Home.

Charles cherishes memories of numerous little, but still essential things in which he has had a hand. Like the communications with decedents of the Debs who were interested in donating furniture and photographs to be brought back to the home of their original owner. This included several parlor and dining room pieces, which have been beautifully restored so that visitors can now view these rooms just as they were in Debs time. Also high on the list of accomplishments was the foundation's release of an enlarged edition of Ray Ginger's *Bending Cross*. How exciting to be directly involved even in selecting the photographs to be included! The secretary has during these fifteen years had a hand in most details of the ownership and operation of the museum, from purchasing and even helping plant flowers each spring, to calling repairmen, and corresponding extensively by mail and phone. One thing which seemed a bit daring at the time was to assume responsibility for launching a foundation newsletter, which since 1986 has gone out twice annually to provide a more meaningful link between the foundation and its individual members and also the general public.

Charles above all is grateful simply for having been a part of the leadership team of this organization, for having been given the freedom to "do it my way" a lot of the time, and is highly honored to be deemed worthy of the foundation's distinguished service award.

DEBS AWARD

continued from page 1

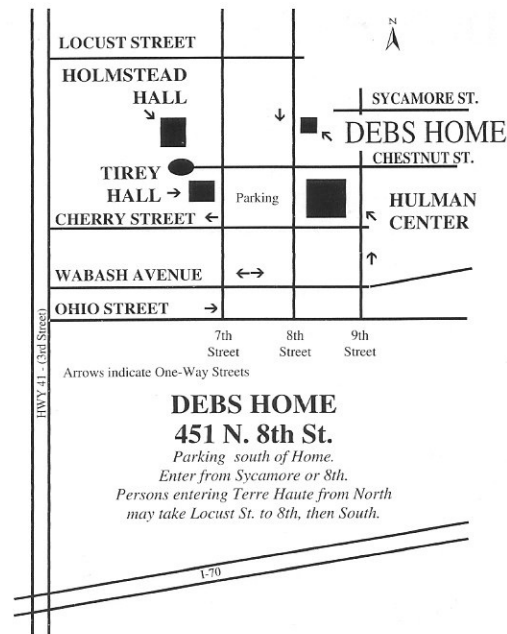
Tapscott Johnson's affiliations would reveal that she has been active internationally as well as in North America. Hers has been a lifetime of service to the labor movement, prodding to bring equity and justice to the work and life experience of people in all segments of society. That is very "Debsian" and we are happy to honor her this year as she becomes the thirty-fourth recipient of the Eugene V. Debs Award.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET TERRE HAUTE October 29 1999 Honoring Gloria Johnson	
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Afternoon 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.: Debs Home Open 3:00 p.m. Powers Hapgood's biographer, HH115 Evening 6:00 p.m.: Social Hour and Reception (cash bar), Hulman Center 7:00 p.m.: Banquet Honoring Gloria Johnson	
The fall business meeting will be Saturday, October 29 at 9:00 a.m. at the Debs Home	

Parking is free in lot shared by Hulman Center and Tirey Hall.

SEND INDIVIDUAL GREETINGS

See Back Page



NOTE

We offer a choice of entrees.
 Please **indicate your choice** of
 prime rib or fish **when you order**
 tickets and again at the door.

Dinner Ticket Order

(\$25 per ticket)

Name _____

_____ X \$25 = \$ _____
 number of tickets amount enclosed

Prime Rib Dinner(s) _____

Fish Dinner(s) _____

Tickets must be paid in advance.
 Please check one of the following options.

☐ Hold tickets at the door, in the name of _____
 (actually the preferred way)

☐ Mail my tickets to the following address:

Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.
 Mail to the Debs Foundation, Box 843, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
 Inquiries may be directed to Charles King, 812-237-3443.

Dinner Program Greetings

The foundation's souvenir dinner program has a greetings section where large organizations pay to send greetings and congratulations to the award recipient and the foundation. These listings of up to one page are too expensive for individuals. It is our feeling that individual participation is important, for the greetings section is both revenue enhancing and an indication of support for what the banquets and award ceremonies accomplish by providing public recognition for those who struggle for certain causes and ideals.

Individuals and small groups are invited to send greetings and congratulations to be included in the dinner program. For a listing of your name (one or two persons), send \$20. For a listing by name including your personal greeting not to exceed 20 words, send \$30. If not attending the banquet, indicate this in order that a copy of the souvenir program can be mailed. This order must be received by October 20. Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation and mail to P.O. Box 843, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

**Recycle your
Newsletter by
sharing it
with a friend.**

The form at right is for 1999 dues or for new members. Year 2000 dues statements will be mailed later in the fall.

EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 843

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808-0843

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NO DEFENSE FOR DIESEL!

While it's true that diesel cars get somewhat better mileage than comparable gasoline cars, it's important to realize that diesel cars are not low-polluting. Diesel exhaust may be the most significant—and most under-addressed—pollution threat in urban America today. For every mile driven, a diesel engine spews out 100 times as many toxic particles as a similar gasoline engine under the same load and weight conditions. As a result, today's diesel-fueled truck and bus engines contribute almost two-thirds of all vehicle-related particulate emissions nation-wide... Given the importance of cleaning up air pollution, it just doesn't make sense to add diesel to America's car fleet.

SOURCE:

The Amicus Journal

National Resources Defense Council

Membership Dues: The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ \$ 5.00 Student Member _____ \$100.00 Sustaining Member
_____ \$10.00 Regular Member _____ \$250.00 Life Members
_____ \$25.00 Supporting Member _____ Other

Enclose remittance. Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.

The Debs Foundation

P.O. Box 843

Terre Haute, IN 47808-0843

Your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Debs Home and offers several educational and cultural programs. We are a voluntary organization with no paid staff.

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ORGANIZATION
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