

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

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



FALL 2007

Ehrenreich Will Receive the 2007 Debs Award

This year's award recipient is well known nationally as a speaker and writer. Like many other Debs Award recipients, Barbara Ehrenreich is equally well known in many circles—women's rights, minority rights, as well as among labor unionists. Best known of her dozen or more books is her *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, which gave a human face to the struggle—too often a losing battle—to survive on minimum wages. She prepared for writing this book by spending a year at various low wage jobs and keeping records of where the nickels and dimes and dollars went each month. The plight of the “working poor” has gotten not better but worse since *Nickel and Dimed* was published in 2001. This was followed by *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream*. This July her *Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy* was released. She is honorary co-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America.



Barbara Ehrenreich

Ehrenreich is one of the most insightful writers of contemporary society, able to communicate equally effectively both orally and in her writings. Her “Flip Side” appears regularly in *The Progressive*. I find myself each month immediately scanning the contents page, then flipping over to the last page to read Ehrenreich's commentary. Her article always uses wry wit and honest dealing with facts about an important social issue. For example her “Flip Side” in the July 2007 *Progressive* dealt with the outsourcing of American jobs. I wonder, is she really considering preparing for a “safe” career? Her last sentence said, “As for me, I'm retraining as a massage therapist, at least until they figure out how to do that from Mumbai.” You will want to join us for this year's award banquet. Ticket ordering information is provided elsewhere in this issue.

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Mick Love Becomes Treasurer

At the beginning of this year Mick Love joined the Foundation's executive officers as Treasurer. Mick has been an active supporter of the Debs Foundation for many years. He was employed at Bemis Company in Terre Haute and thus was a member of the union which now is UNITE HERE. He was not just a dues-paying member, he was for several years president of the local. He also served for several years as president of the Wabash Valley Central Labor Council. In recent years he has served on the Terre Haute city council, where he was a staunch advocate of policies and practices that were “worker-union friendly.” Last fall he ran successfully for the office of Harrison Township Assessor. This means that Mick no longer is a union member. He is taking his official duties seriously. One of his major concerns is that all property owners know the procedure to follow if they feel that mistakes have been made in assessing the value of their property. As assessor Mick doesn't handle the people's money, but his office is responsible for how much they have to pay. We are happy to have him as foundation treasurer. Welcome aboard, Mick!

Plan to order your tickets early. This may be a sellout.
Note the parking information on page 3.

Debs 100 Years Ago

The year 1907 was a year distinguished by the strenuous pace of activities Debs maintained. One looking at the frantic pace that presidential hopefuls are maintaining in 2007 might wonder if Debs didn't spend most of his time and energy in 1907 in fundraising to build up his war chest of money for next year's election. But such was not the case. What Debs did in 1907 increased his recognizability and standing in the ranks of the progressive movement, but raising money for his anticipated 1908 election run was farthest from his thoughts.

The year was spent in a cause that seemed to be a test case in the struggle between progressives and big business interests and their supports in government. The government was attempting to railroad and hang two of the foremost and most radical leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World: Big Bill Haywood and Charles Moyer. They were being held for trial in Boise, Idaho on trumped up murder charges. In summary, Debs wrote weekly articles for *Appeal to Reason* in defense of Haywood and Moyer. He gave hundreds of speeches from coast to coast. The labor movement in general began to grasp the significance of the case, and the leaders of the AFL entered the fight, raising tens of thousands of dollars for the cause.

In January 1907, Debs was hired by Fred Warren of *Appeal to Reason* at a salary of a hundred dollars a week as a contributing editor. This began one of the happiest partnerships in the history of the radical movement.

But writing for *Appeal* was just one of the productive outlets for Debs, and certainly not the one that drew most heavily on his time and energy. Debs is quoted by Ray Ginger in *The Bending Cross* as describing to a colleague his frantic pace of lectures and rallies on behalf of the cause: "I've been out lecturing for Haywood for three months, and three days ago I passed through Terre Haute and I couldn't even get off the train for an hour to see Ducky [his endearing term for Kate Debs.]" (See Ginger, p. 250.)

Debs crossed swords with Teddy Roosevelt because of their strongly held views on the guilt of Haywood and Moyer. Illustrative of how emotional their exchanges became, Roosevelt, mind you—president of the country, called the *Appeal to Reason* a "vituperative organ of pornography, anarchy, and bloodshed." (See Ginger, p. 252.)

The rancorous exchanges between Debs and Roosevelt greatly heightened the country's attention to the courtroom in Boise, Idaho where Bill Haywood's trial was in progress. The labor movement rallied to the cause of the defendants. Protest parades were held in major cities during the spring of 1907. Debs intended to be at

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Noel Beasley, *Executive Vice President*

Charles King, *Secretary*

Mick Love, *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.

the trial as a special correspondent for the Appeal, but defense attorneys Darrow and Richardson persuaded Debs that since Boise was basically conservative, his presence would prejudice the jury against the defendants. When the trial ended and the verdict was reached, *Appeal to Reason* on August 3, 1907 was able to triumphantly proclaim, "Not Guilty."

The acquittal of the defendants was not an unmitigated victory, however. During Haywood's 15-month absence from the leadership of the IWW, which Debs, Mother Jones, and Haywood had founded in 1905, the organization was essentially destroyed as an effective trade union. This was possible because during Haywood's absence less radical leaders withdrew the Western Federation of Miners from the IWW, leaving that organization to the radicals.

But the year 1907 was a year of unprecedented activity for Debs, and he could rightly claim that had it not been for his efforts, two innocent men could have been hanged. The year left Debs more widely known than before and allowed him to enter the political wars of 1908 with heightened expectations.

C.K.

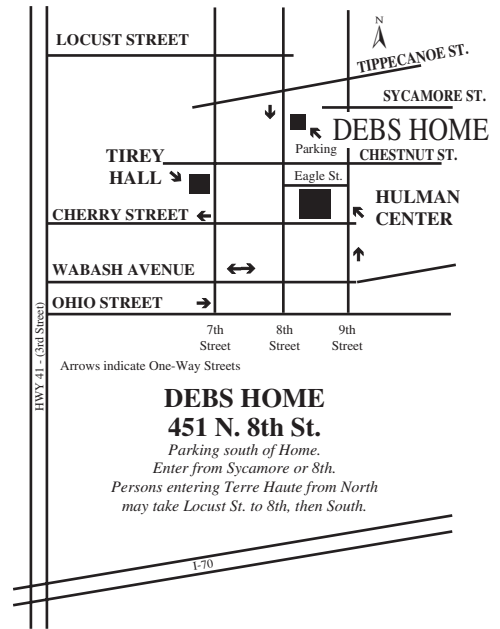
ONE REASON TO CELEBRATE THE 2006 ELECTIONS

While Iraq and corruption were the big issues, don't let anyone tell you the environment didn't play a role in this election. The billion-dollar handouts to Big Oil, the energy policies written by polluters, the fanatic denial of global warming science, these were all part and parcel of the corruption and out-of-touch ideology that Americans had grown sick and tired of.

If you need more proof, consider this: Of the "Dirty Dozen" (the 13 members of Congress targeted by the League of Conservation Voters for the poorest environmental voting records), nine were defeated. Dozens of candidates, from both parties, who ran on forward-looking energy policies were chosen by voters. At least 20 pro-environmental challengers unseated anti-environmental incumbents in the House.

Source: Frances Beinecke, "Nature's Voice" (NRDC) Jan/Feb, 2007

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET TERRE HAUTE	
October 6	2007
Honoring BARBARA EHRENREICH	
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
Afternoon	
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.: Debs Home Open	
Evening	
6:00 p.m.:	Social Hour and Reception (cash bar), Hulman Center, ISU. Enter West Doors.
7:00 p.m.:	Banquet Honoring Barbara Ehrenreich
The fall business meeting will be Sunday, October 7, at 9:00 a.m. at the Debs Home	



The Hulman Center lot is closed to make way for a new parking garage. Parking is free in ISU lot south of Debs Home. Another free lot is directly east of Hulman Center

Individual Greetings

You have the opportunity to participate in sending greetings in either of two forms. For a listing of your name (one or two persons), send \$20. For a listing which includes your personal greeting not to exceed 20 words, send \$30. Indicate if not attending the banquet in order that a copy of the souvenir program can be mailed. This order must be received by October 15. Use space at bottom-right to provide name, \$20 or \$30 listing (include message) and if attending the banquet. Your greeting honors this year's Award Recipient and the Debs Foundation as well.

Dinner Ticket Order

**\$30 per ticket, Table of 8 is \$210
Students K-College - 1/2 price**

NOTE

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

Chicken Dijonnaise _____
Number

Vegetable Marinara _____
Number

Name _____

_____ X \$30 = \$ _____
number of tickets amount enclosed

Tickets must be paid in advance, checks payable to The Debs Foundation, P.O. Box 843, Terre Haute, IN 47808. 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:

Inquiries may be directed to Charles King, 812-237-3443.

Program Listing \$20.00 _____
\$30.00 _____

Name or Names:

(If not attending banquet, provide mailing address across left).

Greenhouse gas leaders

In 2004, more than 27 billion tons of carbon dioxide was emitted into the atmosphere.

Countries releasing the most:

USA	22%	South Korea	2%
China	17%	Italy	2%
Russia	6%	South Africa	2%
Japan	5%	France	2%
India	4%	Mexico	1%
Germany	3%	Brazil	1%
Canada	2%	Australia	1%
United Kingdom	2%		

Source: Energy Information Administration

Another Bad Republican Idea

Privatization, the transfer of public services or resources to private ownership or management, is based on the popular notion that private industry is better and more efficient than government in providing these services. But indirect and "hidden costs" are often not taken into account thus adding to the taxpayer burden. To make a profit companies may resort to reducing services, cutting wages, skimping on materials, hiring unqualified workers, and raising user fees. And privatization can hurt local and state economies. Contracting-out exports taxpayer dollars from citizens and communities to big corporations often headquartered out of state.

Privatization leads to more opportunity for corruption including bribery, kickbacks, campaign donations, and "revolving door" public officials. There is less accountability since private contractors are not required to open their records or decision-making process to the public and are not covered by "open meetings" laws or freedom of information acts.

Source: Common Cause/Indiana, Feb. 2006

This form is provided for new members or for late payment of 2007 dues. The 2008 Dues Notice will be included in the December Membership mailing.

NOTE: Please check here if this is a:

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS CHANGE

Email Address:

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

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.

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