

# The Debs Foundation Newsletter

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



SPRING 2016

## 2016 Eugene V. Debs Banquet Cindy Sheehan



Cindy Sheehan, the 2016  
Eugene V. Debs Award Winner

The officers and directors congratulate **Cindy Sheehan** as the 2016 Debs Award winner.

Ms. Sheehan is an anti-war activist and a lifelong and public admirer of Eugene V. Debs. She gained national attention during her campaign in opposition to the Iraq War after her son, Casey Sheehan, was killed in action near Baghdad on April 4th of 2004.

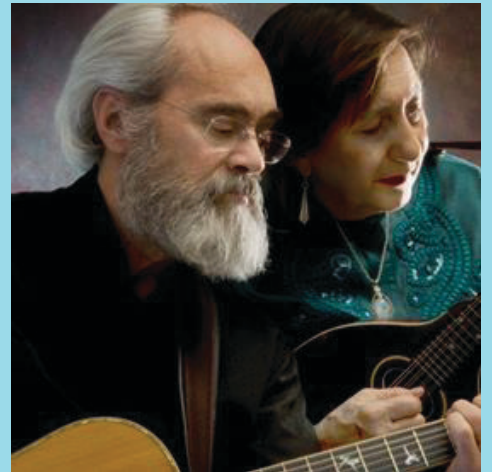
Her media exposure came after she set up a makeshift camp outside of President George W. Bush's Texas ranch to protest the Iraq War. The camp, sometimes

referred to as "Camp Casey", attracted thousands of supporters and drew tighter focus to the many salient objections to US involvement in Iraq (and to war in general).

She, like Debs, has run for office many times, including for Vice-President of the United States on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket as well as in congressional and gubernatorial races.

Ms. Sheehan has maintained her anti-war activism through the years, through efforts such as becoming a tax resister, speaking at events, planning and attending demonstrations, and speaking out against war in the media. She has authored seven books, *Not One More Mother's Child*, *Dear President Bush*, *Peace Mom*, *Myth America*, *Revolution*, *A Love Story*, *I left My Marbles in San Francisco*, and *The Obama Files*, as well as having appeared in several documentaries.

In addition to her other work, she was a founding member of Gold Star Families for Peace an anti-war organization which brings together families who lost relatives in the Iraq War. Cindy now hosts a radio program, *The Soapbox*.



Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner are  
Magpie, our 2016 Musical Guests

## 2016 Awards Musical Guest: Magpie

Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner started out in Kent, Ohio in September of 1973. They moved to Washington, D.C. the following year. After being regular stalwarts of the folk music scene there for 34 years, they moved to upstate New York where they live now.

Terry grew up listening to the music in her family, both the Italian music played by her paternal grandfather, and the country and jazz sung by her mother, and her aunts and cousins on her mother's side of the family. Her voice is a beautiful and impressive instrument, not only because of its natural power, but also because of her versatility. She is a gifted singer of jazz and blues, but is equally comfortable with the subtle beauty of traditional folk and contemporary songs. As if this weren't enough, Terry is also an excellent player of the harmonica,

Continued on page 2

*Spring Business Meeting*  
**Saturday April 9, 2016 - 2-4 pm**  
**Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center**  
**750 Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute**

## In Debs' Words...

### Closing Address to the 5th Annual Convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen: Buffalo, NY

- Sept. 14, 1878 by Eugene V. Debs

Published in *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine* [Dayton, OH], vol. 2, no. 11 (October 1878), pp. 341-342.

\* \* \* Following the adoption of these resolutions, Brother E.V. Debs, Associate Editor, delivered the following closing address:

Worthy Grand Master and Brothers:— I desire to claim your attention for a few moments, in order to speak to you briefly upon diverse topics which are entitled to a calm consideration. Through the kind partiality of the people of Buffalo we have met with a welcome of which we have reason to be proud. Upon entering our hall for the purpose of calling the meeting to order, we find that we are greeted by a few of the most eminent citizens of the Queen City of the Lakes. The fervent prayer of the Rev. Mr. Ward in our behalf, the generous reception and cordial welcome of the acting Mayor, Mr. Sackett, and the judicious advice given by Mr. Wilder, Master Mechanic of the New York, Lake, Erie & Western Railroad, were bestowed upon us; and I feel it to be a duty incumbent upon every member of the organization to acknowledge the kindness, and be grateful to those gentlemen, who on behalf of the people of Buffalo, tendered us a welcome which will never be blotted from the records of memory. For all these favors we are not ungrateful, and I venture the assertion that the time will never come when it can be said that we have proven ourselves unworthy to be the recipients of the same.

The impression prevails to a great extent that we, representing a class of ordinary laborers, are but the representatives of a rude and uncultivated proportion of the inhabitants of this land. I deny this. Standing as

we do beneath the frown of what society is pleased to call respectable, and we can give proof that the locomotive firemen of the United States and Canada are entitled to the same respect and consideration that is so lavishly bestowed upon many other classes of laborers. It is true we cannot appear in the gilded laces and gaudy garments necessary to put the polish upon the "gentleman" of our day, yet "beneath many a ragged dress there beats a noble heart," and on the same policy, the locomotive firemen of our land are a class of laborers who are not entirely unworthy to receive the respect of society; nor are they destitute of the principles requisite to stamp them as moral and honest citizens.

Five years ago the first rays of the Brotherhood were faintly discernible in the distance, but from that time until the present moment the sun of its existence has continued its ascendancy, until today its beams of light and intelligence have penetrated the most remote parts of the nation. As many of our people are somewhat prejudiced regarding the true merit of our brotherhood it might be well to pause and give those persons an insight into our objects and thereby demonstrate to the satisfaction of all that our institution is one of the most necessary and useful organizations that has ever been established. ...

(more by Debs can be found in the Debs Digital Collection maintained by Indiana State University <http://library.indstate.edu/about/units/rbcs/debs/debs-idx.html> and at <https://www.marxists.org/archive/debs/>).

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tim Kelley	WVCLC President

### DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

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The Eugene V. Debs Foundation  
Box 9454  
Terre Haute, IN 47808

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#### Foundation Officers:

Noel Beasley, *President*  
Tom Szymanski, *Executive Vice-President*  
Lisa Phillips, *Secretary*  
Benjamin Kite, *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.

## From the President

NOEL BEASLEY

2015 was a year of major transitions for the Debs Foundation. Our new officers – Tom, Lisa and Ben – stepped up in a major way, shouldering important responsibilities and working together effectively to bring the Debs Home and all aspects of the administration of the Foundation fully into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank each and all of them for insuring that our mission of not just preserving but enhancing the legacy of Eugene Victor Debs will continue to move forward.

At the end of the year my dear friend and comrade of many decades, Charles King, passed away. Charles

and I helped to lead the Foundation beginning in the mid-1980s and for much of that time Charles was the linchpin that kept us on track. He oversaw the Home, edited the newsletter and conducted the correspondence of the Foundation with dedication and determination. I will miss him very much.

In 2016 we will respect the past and continue to build a bright future in honor of the great warrior of the working class, Gene Debs.

## From the Executive Vice-President

TOM SZYMANSKI

We have an overflowing newsletter and hope it will help you get up to speed on our activities at the Foundation. There have been so many issues and concerns we as volunteer officers are trying to get caught up with that it seems like little progress has been accomplished. However, reviewing the past six months, we are on the right track in moving forward! On top of everything you read here, the House will have a new security system, the former living space is being con-

verted to office and storage space, house renovations and new landscaping are on the horizon and many other new initiatives and activities are planned for the future. I would like to thank Noel, Lisa, Ben and all of the Board members with their input and suggestions. Please contact us with any concerns and thank you for your patience as we continue to move forward with all of the changes. I hope to see you on April 9th.

## From the Secretary

LISA PHILLIPS, PhD

The Foundation lost Charles King and, with him, a wealth of knowledge the officers are only just beginning to recover. We sorely miss Dr. King and are determined to live up to his legacy by keeping the House and Museum in good order, building upon the connections he made both in Terre Haute and beyond, and keeping Debs' memory alive in new ways. Cinda May, the Head of Special Collections at Indiana State University and a new Debs Board member, has agreed to catalog some of Dr. King's papers for research purposes and preservation. We are lucky to have Cinda May.

Looking ahead, we are in the process of hiring a new part-time Tour Guide/Museum Director. The Foundation restructured the position that was formerly held by Ms. Karen Brown. It is a part-time, twenty hour per week position that does not include living quarters. We have advertised widely and received a good pool of applications. We hope to have someone in place by June 1 at the latest. Until then, we are fortunate to have Allison Duerk and Debbie Sitarski at the Museum for a combined twenty hours per week.

We are partnering with several organizations, including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the

Vigo County Historical Society, and the Swope Arts Council to put on a Debs Day in July. We have Rosemary Feurer and Dave Rathke, of the Mother Jones Foundation, on our Board and hope to work with them closely in the future. We have also made new contacts with the Indiana University Labor Studies program and with the Working Class Studies Association. Several of our new Board members (see enclosed list) are involved in labor studies programs in various places around the country. Their involvement is already strengthening our Foundation. Indiana State continues to support the Debs House and Museum by sending students for tours, by having campus police regularly patrol the area, and by working closely with us on the annual Banquet and mailings.

I hope you will all be patient with us, me in particular, as we continue to streamline our operations. I am fortunate to work with very good people in Noel, Tom, and Ben. Our hope is that we will be able to streamline further once the Tour Guide/Director is in place and provides a stable presence.

We cannot wait for the 2016 Banquet and hope to see you all there!



## We Are Saddened by the Loss of Dr. Charles King, Longtime Secretary and Treasurer of the Debs Foundation

Dr. King passed away on December 17, 2015. He was the face of the Foundation for many years and ran everything: the Banquet, the House and Museum, the Newsletter and all correspondence, the Foundation's finances. It will take us a longtime to "get up to speed" in his absence. So many of you have written and called to express your appreciation for Dr. King's tireless efforts. Thank you. We want to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to Dr. King's daughter, Becky King-Tucker, for her help during the weeks preceding the Banquet. She stepped in for Dr. King as all the final preparations for the Banquet were being made, under especially trying circumstances, and has maintained contact with us since. Dr. King's Memorial Service will be held on April 9 at the United Methodist Temple, 5001 Dixie Bee Road and Highway 41, Terre Haute, Indiana, from 11:00-1:00.



### Charles Douglas King

Nov. 17, 1929 – Dec. 17, 2015

Charles Douglas King, born Nov. 17, 1929, in Jones County, Texas, to Leonard and Lou Verta King, who moved two months later to Terry County, South Gomez Community, in Texas South Plains. He graduated from Brownfield High School in 1947. Charles died on Dec. 17, 2015, after a stroke.

He received a B.A. from Wayland Baptist University in 1953, a Master of Theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1959, a Master of Arts in Sociology from Texas Tech University in 1961, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from SUNY Buffalo in 1968. He taught at SUNY Buffalo 1965-1968, at Texas Tech University 1968-1972, and Indiana State University until retirement in 1998. He continued to teach his favorite subject – Population Problems – until 2003.

He served as secretary of the Eugene V. Debs Foundation in Terre Haute, from 1985-2015. Charles had several professional memberships

and since 1972 has been a member of Terre Haute United Methodist Temple.



He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and Chaplain Division 1954-1956, stationed in Berlin, Germany. While stationed there, he met Susanne Kratz, and they were married in 1959. They have two children, daughter, Rebecca King-Tucker, residing in Lebanon, Ore., with her husband Tom; and son, Timothy King, residing in Wheaton, Ill., with his wife Wendy and daughter Mackenzie.



It is requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the United Methodist Temple, the Light House Mission of Terre Haute, or VNA Hospice of the Wabash Valley in Terre Haute. A memorial service will be held during the spring at a date and time to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of DeBaun Funeral Homes & Crematory. Online condolences may be left at: [www.debaunfuneralhomes.com](http://www.debaunfuneralhomes.com).

## Thank You

### To our 2015 Banquet Sponsors

**Brett Voorhies**, President, Indiana State AFL-CIO  
**Lawrence Hanley**, International President, Amalgamated Transit Union, AFL-CIO/CLC  
**Sarita Gupta**, Executive Director, Jobs With Justice  
**Dan Waldrop**, Business Manager, IBEW Local 697  
**UAW Local 662**  
**David Walsh**, President & CEO, Amalgamated Life Insurance Company  
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**Cecil Roberts**, International President, UMW

**Henry Kramer**, Secretary – Treasurer, Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers  
**Clayola Brown**, President, The A. Philip Randolph Institute  
**Chris Shelton**, President, CWA  
**Greg Thoenes**, Business Manager, UA Local 157  
**Joe Kerr**, Business Manager, IBEW Local 725  
**UAW Region 2-B & The Indiana State CAP**  
**Leo Gerard**, International President, United Steelworkers  
**Ted Champ**, President, BAC Local 4 Indiana/Kentucky  
**Mary Kay Henry**, International President, SEIU  
**Lonnie Stephenson**, International President, IBEW

### To our Members and Major Donors

We have too many members to list here but would like to start acknowledging people who are lifetime members and/or who have made donations in a loved one's honor, to start the 2016 list (complete to the best of our knowledge):

AFSCME National	Jessie Cook	John C. Kite
Phil Amador	Kenneth Eslinger	Keith Knauss
James Boland	Milton Fisk	Matt Mancini
Dexter Bolin	Jess A. Grant	R. B. Metzger
Larry Buchan	Andrea Haft	Donald Morris
Sydney Bykofsky	Donald E. Hamilton	Harry Paul
Kenneth Casebeer	Richard Hudelson	Shellie Sclan
Anna Chase	IBEW Local 725	Michael J. Sullivan
Dennis A. Cheshier	Benjamin C. Kite	Fred Whitehead

## From the Treasurer

**BENJAMIN KITE**

Dear Members,

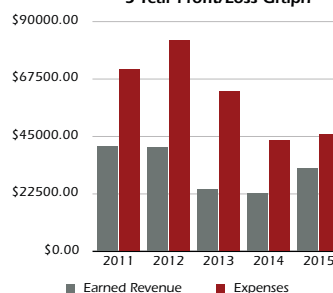
The Foundation's financial performance was mixed this year. While we collected more revenue from banquet tickets and ads than preceding years, revenues from dues were down. Expenses for the year remained relatively low, although some of that can be attributed to the fact that we were operating without a museum director on the payroll for part of the year. Rather than cut back the hours of the museum, we've chosen to keep the museum staffed and try to recover the lost revenue elsewhere.

I expect to improve dues revenue by returning to the practice of sending out dues reminders, and by boosting banquet ticket sales and ads with ticket and ad pre-sales. Revenues in general should improve later this year once dues, donations, and ticket purchases are available online.

### 5-Year Profit/Loss Comparison

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Dues</b>	\$ 16829.85	\$ 23793.94	\$ 8200.97	\$ 13910.00	\$ 10655.00
<b>Tickets</b>	\$ 11400.00	\$ 7190.00	\$ 6600.00	\$ 4920.00	\$ 8200.00
<b>Ads</b>	\$ 12820.00	\$ 9819.00	\$ 9600.00	\$ 4000.00	\$ 13500.00
<b>Earned Revenue</b>	\$ 41049.85	\$ 40802.94	\$ 24400.97	\$ 22830.00	\$ 32355.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 71203.53	\$ 82930.00	\$ 62351.78	\$ 43169.29	\$ 45,864.51
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	\$ (30153.68)	\$ (42127.06)	\$ (37950.81)	\$ (20339.29)	\$ (13509.51)

### 5-Year Profit/Loss Graph



### Expenses Categories over \$1000 (2015)

	2015 Amount
<b>Payroll</b>	\$ 14593.21
<b>Payroll Taxes</b>	\$ 9153.37
<b>Professional Services</b>	\$ 7516.42
<b>Utilities</b>	\$ 5429.20
<b>Printing and Copying</b>	\$ 2775.98
<b>Posting and Shipping</b>	\$ 1040.55
<b>Other Expenses</b>	\$ 5355.78
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 45864.51

# The 2015 Banquet



The 2015 Eugene V. Debs Awards Banquet honored President James Boland of the International Bricklayers' Union. President Boland graciously accepted the Debs Award and appeared humbled by the experience. His remarks were well appreciated by the audience. Mr. Boland talked about his Irish immigrant roots, about the working-class, and about the importance of the labor movement.



Beautiful Donation from Dennis Cheshier



Longtime Debs Foundation Board Member Denny Cheshier donated a beautifully carved plaque commemorating all the people involved in the building of the massive national railroad. Thank you Denny! The plaque is now on display in the John L. Lewis Room in the Debs House.

## Save The Date!

### 2016 E.V. Debs Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, September 24, 2016

1:00 to 4:00 pm

**Debs Open House**

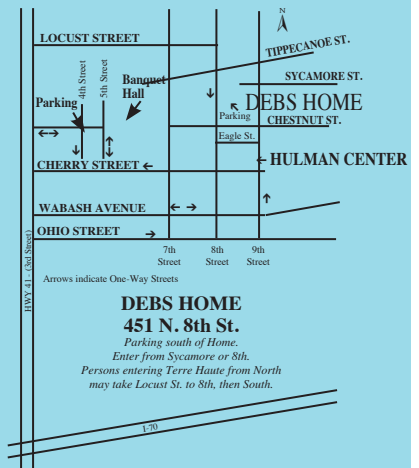
6:00 pm

**Social Hour (cash bar)**

7:00 pm

**Banquet honoring Cindy Sheehan**

For Tickets: [debsfoundation.org](http://debsfoundation.org)





mandolin, fretted dulcimer, and rhythm guitar.

Greg came up listening to folk on record, and singing along all the while. The popular folk music of the revival in the 50s and 60s caught his ear and imagination. At an early age, he was hooked and took to the guitar, listening and learning not only the music, but going back to explore its roots. More than 50 years later, Greg is an outstanding guitarist, whose finger-style approach owes a lot to a wide range of influences, and is the solid basis of Magpie's sound. His high baritone voice has equal range and his captivating interpretation gives power and beauty to the full spectrum, from growling blues, to a Chilean lament, to a sweet croon.

With a career that has spanned more than forty years, Magpie has traveled the globe, bringing its unique sound and breathtaking versatility to audiences everywhere. From traditional songs to vintage blues, swing and country to folk classics to contemporary and stirring original compositions, they cover a lot of musical ground. With their powerful voices and harmonies and their excellent instrumental arrangements on guitars, mandolin, harmonica, dulcimer, and concertina, their sound is much bigger than just two people. Award-winning recording artists, songwriters, musical historians, and social activists, Terry and Greg always promise a presentation that is highly entertaining as well as provocative and deeply moving.

**Reserve Your Tickets Now at [debsfoundation.org](http://debsfoundation.org)**

**EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 9454

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

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**Membership Dues: The Eugene V. Debs Foundation**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Student/Limited Income \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 Sustaining Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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.