

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

PO BOX 9454 ■ TERRE HAUTE INDIANA 47808-9454



Spring/Summer 2021

Honoring The Innocence Project

The Innocence Project will receive the Eugene V. Debs Award on **October 23, 2021**. Originally scheduled for 2020, the Award event was postponed until 2021 due to the dangerous and uncertain conditions in the world and the U.S. created by the pandemic.

The Award ceremonies will be a virtual event. The Debs Foundation is working with the Innocence Project to create a program that celebrates the extraordinary efforts that have contributed to the exoneration of more than 230 innocent people through DNA testing and other means. In addition to freeing the innocent, the Innocence Project works to address the leading causes of wrongful convictions and prevent future injustices through the courts, the legal system and legislatures throughout the country. Its social work department also provides support to exonerees as they rebuild their lives post-release.

**INNOCENCE
PROJECT**

The connections between the foundation and the Innocence Project are profound. Gene Debs was put in prison in Woodstock, Illinois, following the Pullman Strike and decades later in the Atlanta Federal Prison for speaking out against the role of the U.S. in the First World War. While in the Atlanta Prison he ran for President of the United States on the Socialist Party ticket and received over a million votes. After Debs' death, his family published *Walls and Bars*, a collection of essays exposing the conditions of the U.S. penal system of a hundred years ago. The Innocence Project is an essential component in the current struggle to ensure justice for all. More information about its work is available on its excellent website: <https://innocenceproject.org>.

Debs In Our Voices

**Beyond
Walls and Bars**

June 12
2:00 pm Eastern

The Debs Foundation and Museum will celebrate the fourth annual Debs Day on **June 12, 2021** by continuing the tradition of **Debs in Our Voices**. Volunteer readers from far and wide will bring Debs' words to life as we consider their meaning and relevance today. Recognizing the final months of the centennial season of Debs' incarceration, readings will be drawn from Debs' writings on prison abolition. Building on the success of Debs Day 2020, our first major event that pivoted to a virtual format, this year's program will also be fully online. Debs in Our Voices will feature musical performances by folk duo Magpie. This live event will stream on our Facebook page, facebook.com/eugenevdebsfoundation.

Will you help bring Debs' words to life?
We need volunteer readers! Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3ymfXWF>

Debs Conference a Success

Michelle Morahn

Without our usual events taking place due to the pandemic, those we were able to have took on added significance. On April 10, 2021 the Debs Foundation, in partnership with Cunningham Memorial Library at Indiana State, and the Department of History at ISU hosted a virtual academic conference reflecting current

focus on the 100th anniversary of Debs' incarceration in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. Titled **"While There is a Soul in Prison, I Am Not Free": The History of Solidarity in Social and Economic Justice**, the conference attracted presenters from Texas, New York, South Florida, Virginia, Columbia, South America, and Morocco who spoke on a great range of subjects related to the theme. The keynote address given by Dr. Peter Cole of Western Illinois University was titled "Prisoner 9653: Eugene Debs on Capitalism, Incarceration, and Solidarity."

There were four panels which averaged 32 people attending. Visitors ranged from Southern California to New York, and places in between. Although

we experienced some technical difficulties, most agreed it was a successful undertaking and hope was expressed this type of activity would continue.

Special thanks go to the committee who worked for over a year to pull together this virtual event. Drs. Wes Bishop, Nancy Gabin, and Lisa Phillips all contributed in unique ways to what was truly a team effort. Thanks also to Allison Duerk who manned the social media all day to promote the event as it happened. ISU History graduate student Jimmy Sadowski provided technical assistance and Dr. Lucy Campbell of ISU served as a translator for our Spanish speaking presenter. It was truly a collaborative effort that reflected well on the Foundation.

EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

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

www.debsfoundation.org
info@debsfoundation.org

FOUNDATION OFFICERS

Noel Beasley, President
Michelle K. Morahn, Secretary
Benjamin Kite, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wesley Bishop
David Bozell
Kirsten Campbell
Dennis Cheshier
Bill Clouse
Bradley Countermine
Mark Crouch
Kathleen Culver
JB Daniel
Allison Duerk
Rosemary Feurer
Nancy Gabin
Kaisa Goodman
Mark Haworth
Tim Kelley
Arieh Lebowitz
Ralph Leck
Sarah Joy Liles
Gail Malmgreen
Cinda May
Harriet McNeal
Katie Morrison
Lisa Phillips
Jimmy Priester
David Rathke
Jeanne Rewa
Don Scheiber
Randy Schmidt
Katie Sutrina-Haney
William Treash

The Debs Foundation Newsletter is published twice yearly for distribution to supporters 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 supporters, a donation form is provided elsewhere in this issue.



Dr. Nancy Gabin introduces panelists during the Debs Foundation's online academic conference

Remembering Anne Feeney

Noel Beasley



Anne Feeney sings at the annual dinner in 2000

Anne Feeney, a staunch supporter of labor, social justice and women's rights as well as a militant singer and songwriter, passed away this year on February 3 from COVID-19.

Early in her music career, Anne also was an attorney and spent much of the 1980s working as a trial lawyer, taking mostly domestic violence cases. She then began performing full time at rallies, strikes and concerts and making recordings of her songs. Beginning in the late 1990s, Anne performed for fifteen years at the annual Debs Award banquets and tailored the music to the accomplishments of the award recipients and to the political issues of the times. She also wrote the song "For Gene Debs." One of her finest songs is "Have You Been to Jail for Justice" which many other musicians and groups have performed and covered in their albums. "She was joyous and fiery in her determination to use her music to elevate those who are most marginalized and to move toward great justice in the land," said Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary, in a statement released after her death." Her business card read: "Performer, Producer, Hell Raiser" and she excelled in all three categories.

At the request of her family, donations in her honor can be made to The Thomas Merton Center, 5129 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

You can stream a video on YouTube of the April 3, 2021 event "Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Anne Feeney" (1 hr 49 min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5MOMggtwE>

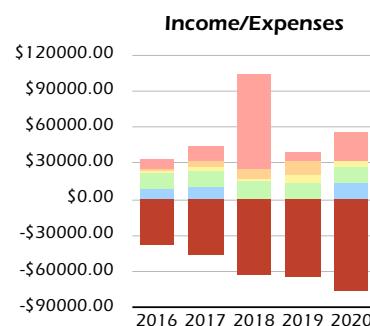
Debs Museum Open for Tours

After a yearlong pause on in-person programming, the 1890 Debs home is again open for traditional tours. As restoration efforts continue throughout this year, tours will be offered by advance appointment only. Mask requirements and group size restrictions remain in place and will ease as pandemic conditions improve. Virtual tours via Zoom broadened our reach during the last year and will remain a permanent option for visiting the museum. To schedule an in-person or virtual tour for your family, union local, classroom, or any other group, email museum@debsfoundation.org or call (812) 232-2163. Tours are always free, and a suggested donation of \$5 per person helps keep the museum doors open and the Debs legacy alive.

2020 Financial Report

5-Year Profit/Loss Comparison

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dues, Donations and Support	\$ 8848.20	\$ 11834.00	\$ 80388.48	\$ 7521.53	\$ 25180.16
Banquet Income	\$ 1216.00	\$ 6228.00	\$ 7709.70	\$ 12581.37	\$ 0.00
Memorabilia Income	\$ 1442.00	\$ 3211.00	\$ 2112.13	\$ 6287.77	\$ 4582.06
Investment Income	\$ 12612.00	\$ 13280.00	\$ 14261.24	\$ 13249.47	\$ 13032.70
Capital Gains (Realized)	\$ 9176.00	\$ 9347.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 13425.82
Total Revenue	\$ 32421.00	\$ 54526.00	\$ 104471.55	\$ 41499.06	\$ 56220.47
Expenses	\$(37,865.00)	\$(46056.00)	\$(61652.10)	\$(63344.07)	\$(74,991.84)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (5444.00)	\$ 8470.00	\$ 42819.45	\$ (21845.01)	\$ (18771.37)



Expense Breakdown (2019)

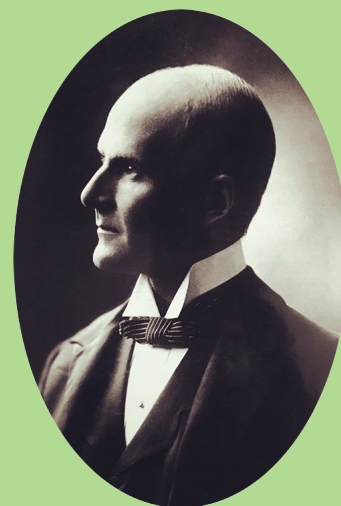
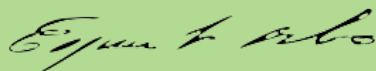
Salaries, Other Compensation, and Employee Benefits	\$ 37402.04
Professional Fees and Other Payments to Independent Contractors	\$ 13218.35
Occupancy, Rent, Utilities, and Maintenance	\$ 13890.60
Printing, Publications, Postage, and Shipping	\$ 5656.51
Other Expenses	\$ 4824.34
Total Expenses	\$ 74991.84

In Debs' Words

from *Walls and Bars*, published 1927

"Often at night in my narrow prison quarters when all about me was quiet I beheld as in a vision the majestic march of events in the transformation of the world.

"I saw the working class in which I was born and reared, and to whom I owe my all, engaged in the last great conflict to break the fetters that have bound them for ages, and to stand forth at last, emancipated from every form of servitude, the sovereign rulers of the world."



PO Box 9454
Terre Haute, IN 47808-9454

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 977
TERRE HAUTE, IN

**DON'T PITCH YOUR
NEWSLETTER! PASS IT ON.**

Support the Eugene V. Debs Foundation

Donate online at www.debsfoundation.org. Recurring monthly option now available!

Name

Address

City State ZIP

E-mail

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 ■ Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 ■ Sustaining Contribution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 ■ Regular Contribution | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 ■ Lifetime Contribution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 ■ Supporting Contribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount <input type="text"/> |

Please make checks payable to:

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

The Eugene V. Debs Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit educational organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Eugene V. Debs Home and Museum and offers educational and cultural programs.

Your Continued Support Makes It Possible!