

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

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



FALL 2012

DEBS AWARD RECIPIENT



Clayola Brown

Our choice of Clayola Brown for the 2012 Debs Award is timely, to say the least. The issues most clearly dividing Republicans and Democrats relate to minorities and women: their personal freedom and economic well-being. Ms. Brown has served all her adult life in advancing those rights.

Currently Clayola Brown serves in dual roles. She serves as President of the National A. Philip Randolph Institute, located in Washington, D. C., the first and only female to serve in that capacity.

And, she continues to serve as International Vice President and Civil Rights Director for her union Workers United.

Although Sister Brown has worked for her International Union since 1970, her involvement with the labor movement actually began many years earlier.

She started as a sewing machine operator at the Manhattan Shirt factory in Charleston, South Carolina, where she and her mother were activists in that organizing campaign. Sister Brown moved up through the ranks of the union, working as a trainer organizer on the J.P. Stevens campaign in the South. She became Education Director for the

newly merged Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; was appointed Civil Rights Director and elected as Manager for the laundry division affiliate where she served for more than 13 years.

She was elected International Vice President in 1991, and has been re-elected every election since that time.

In 1995, she was elected as part of John Sweeney's team to the AFL-CIO Executive Council as a Vice President, and served for 10 years.

Sister Brown's tremendous commitment to her community and her fellow man is apparent through the many boards and organizations she currently serves on, including serving as a National Board of Director for the Amalgamated Bank. She serves on the National Board of the NAACP (including chairing both the NAACP Image Awards Committee and the Labor Ad-Hoc Committee).

She is a 10 year member of the Board of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the United Nations Advisory Council.

She was appointed a Commissioner for the National Commission on Employment Policy by President Bill Clinton, and appointed a member of the New York State Workforce Investment Board by Governor George Pataki.

The list of boards that Sister Brown serves on continues which are too numerous to read.

Sister Brown has been the recipient of many awards and honors, also too numerous to read.

Clayola is a graduate of Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. She has done her post-graduate work at American University in Washington, D. C., Queens College and York University in New York City and is a lecturer at Cornell University in New York.

KEYNOTE/ PRESENTATION SPEAKER



Regina Taylor

With an impressive body of work that encompasses film, television, theater and writing, Regina Taylor's career continues to evolve with exciting and challenging projects. Taylor is best known to television audiences for her role as Lilly Harper in the series "I'll Fly Away." She received many accolades for her performance in the show including winning a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series and two Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. Taylor was most recently seen starring in the CBS hit drama "The Unit". She took home the NAACP Image Award for "Outstanding Actress in a Drama" for her work on the show. Regina made her professional acting debut on CBS in the movie "Crisis at Central High" and other television credits include the series "The Education of Max Bickford," "Feds" as well as television movies "Strange Justice" playing Anita Hill, earning her a Peabody Award and

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Celebrating Our 50th

September 29 is to say the least more than the evening awards banquet. At 1:30 p.m. we will honor Debs with a wreath laying ceremony at his gravesite. Then activities move to the Debs Home Memorial Gardens for a 50th Anniversary cake cutting ceremony at 3:00 p.m. Perhaps this is when you will hear remarks from the four surviving charter members who set the wheels in motion for what now are fifty memorable years. Then comes the unveiling of a plaque for the garden wall memorializing Jack Sheinkman. This will conclude in time for a nice break before evening festivities begin in Hulman with the social hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy!

Reuther Documentary

You will be interested to know that a Reuther legacy documentary, entitled Brothers on the Line, has been receiving acclaim on the film festival circuit, and it has been selected to screen at the annual Indianapolis International Film Festival, running July 19th-29th. There is no specific screening date as yet.

Walter and Victor Reuther were, as teenagers, brought to Terre Haute by their father to meet Eugene Debs, an experience which made a lasting impression on two soon-to-become prominent labor leaders.

Eugene Debs as an Orator

Max Ehrmann wrote an essay in 1907 indicating the high esteem in which he held his fellow townsman. Ehrmann of course is highly regarded in Terre Haute. The author of "Desiderata" has his statue at 7th and Wabash.

An abstract of the essay follows:

"No man in America has been more hated, and few have been so much loved as Eugene V. Debs. . . . His opinions are considered by men in high places as the countersign of bloodshed, anarchy and riot, and by millions of others they are regarded as the beacon light that is to lead humanity to a better life and a higher civilization. Whatever may be said of his philosophy, one thing is certain, that he has won a place in American history as one of its greatest orators; and in my opinion, there is not a man on the American platform today who is his equal. His is a new and different kind of oratory. He resorts to no tricks of rhetoric, no claptrap and stage effects, no empty pretense of deep emotion;

Debs as Public Speaker

Debs excelled such contemporaries as Ingersoll and Bryan in conveying personal magnetism and sincerity of purpose. Stage presence rather than speaking voice or words made Debs effective.

Debs had a way with words, but more important, his force of character and intensity of conviction conveyed the message to the listening audience. His speaking style involved none of the traditional theatrics used by many orators of the period. As shown in photos, Debs leaned forward and often reached out as though to touch each person in his audience.

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

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The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

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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.

Update on "The Drunk" Release

William Tanoos sent us on August 3rd, the information that they are uncertain of an exact release date, but hopes to start thinking about a premiere some time within the next few months. By the way, if you live in one of the large metropolitan areas and desire to keep up to date, you can email Mr. Tanoos as follows: wtanoos@gmail.com

but he stands frankly before his audiences and opens the doorways of his mind and heart that seem ever to be overflowing with terrible invective or the sweet waters of human kindness. . . .

"The first time I heard Mr. Debs was more than ten years ago, when I was a student at Harvard. He was booked to lecture at Prospect Union, Cambridge. This was shortly after the great Chicago strike; and a good many Harvard students and some instructors came out to see the "monster." Mr. Debs was late; but the audience waited. When he came there was no applause. He began to speak, and for more than two hours he held that audience as if riveted to the seats; and they who had come to scorn, hovered around him for more than an hour, and went away his friends. It was more than half an hour before I could get to the speaker's stand and shake hands with him."

(Abstracted from Debs: His Life, Writings and Speeches. Chicago: Charles Kerr & Company, 1908.)

Debs once gave a speech which moved a Polish federation audience to tears and cheers. This perplexed Debs since virtually no one in the crowd understood English. A member of the audience, speaking through a translator, explained that "Debs talks to us with his *hands*, out of his *heart*, and we all understand everything he said."

Likewise, conservative socialist Robert Hunter, who grew up in Terre Haute, echoed the belief that more than mere words passed between Debs and his listeners. In Hunter's view "a soul... [spoke] from the eyes and frame of "Gene." Debs transcended language or other barriers that separated speaker from his audience.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
TERRE HAUTE
September 29, 2012
Honoring
CLAYOLA BROWN

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

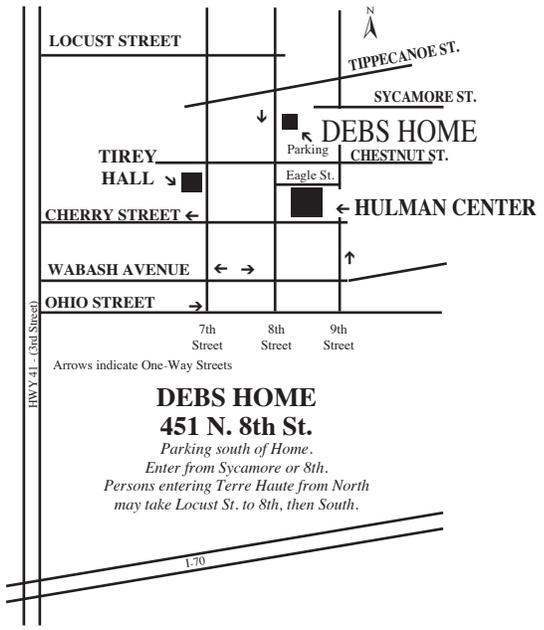
Afternoon

1:00 to 3:30 p.m.: Debs Home Open
1:30 p.m.: Gravesite Ceremony
3:00 p.m.: Anniversary Cake Cutting and Unveiling of Plaque honoring Sheinkman - Debs Home Garden

Evening

6:00 p.m.: Social Hour and Reception (cash bar), Hulman Center, ISU. Enter West Doors.
7:00 p.m.: Banquet Honoring Clayola Brown

The fall business meeting will be Sunday, September 30, at 9:00 a.m. at the Debs Home



The new parking garage across from Hulman Center is open, accessible from Cherry Street. The parking fee is \$1.00 per hour. A free lot is directly east of Hulman Center, and another is the large lot south of the Debs Home.

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 September 10. 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
\$40 per ticket, Table of 8 is \$280
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 \$40 = \$ _____
number of tickets amount enclosed

Tickets must be paid in advance, checks payable to The Debs Foundation, P.O. Box 9454, 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:

Program Listing \$20.00 _____
\$30.00 _____

Name or Names:

Inquiries may be directed to Charles King, 812-237-3443, or, charles.king@indstate.edu

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

Taylor... continued from page 1

Gracie Award, "Cora Unashamed," "Children of the Dust," "I'll Fly Away: Then and Now," "Howard Beach: Making a Case for Murder." Segueing effortlessly between the big and small screen, Taylor has starred in blockbuster films alongside some of Hollywood most talented leading men. Her film credits include "The Negotiator," "Courage Under Fire," "A Family Thing," "The Keeper," "Clockers," "Losing Isaiah," and "Lean on Me." In addition to her film and television work, Taylor holds the honor as being the first Black woman to play William Shakespeare's Juliet in Broadway's "Romeo and Juliet." Her other theater credits include "As You Like It," "Macbeth," "Machinal," "The Illusion" and "Jar the Floor." In addition, she won the L.A. Dramalogue Award for her performance in "The Tempest" on the west coast. Taylor not only feels comfortable on the stage, she is also an accomplished playwright and director. Her other credits as playwright include "Oo-Bla-Dee," for which she won the American Critics' Association new play award, "Drowning Crow," (her adaptation of Chekhov's THE SEAGULL, which was produced on Broadway by Manhattan Theater Club in its inaugural season at the Biltmore Theater and starred Alfre Woodard), "The Dreams of Sarah Breedlove," "A Night in Tunisia," "Escape from Paradise," "Watermelon Rinds," and "Inside the Belly of the Beast." Taylor's critically acclaimed "Crowns" continues to be one of the most performed musicals in the country. It is the winner of four Washington D.C. Helen Hayes awards including Taylor's win for Best Direction as well as Best Regional Musical. Taylor's play "Magnolia" premiered at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in March 2009. Taylor's trilogy,

"The Trinity River Plays" premiered as a co-production with the Dallas Theater Center and the Goodman Theatre and was the Recipient of the 2010 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award. Most recently Taylor wrote and directed Post Black, (a monologue played by Micki Grant, Carmen De Lavallade, and Ruby Dee) for The River Crosses Rivers II Festival at NYC's Ensemble Studio Theatre. Taylor is a member and Artistic Associate of the Goodman Theatre and a resident playwright at NYC's Signature Theatre Company. She received the Hope Abelson Artist-In-Residence Award from Northwestern in 2010. Creator and Curator of The State(s) of America - The Regina Taylor Project, a festival involving multiple departments at Northwestern University; students were challenged to own their own voice by creating plays, films, interactive graphic art, stories, spoken word and devised pieces that hold up mirrors to these times. She has received honorary doctorates from Columbia College, DePaul University and Lake Forest College. As part of the Goodman's 2011/2012 Season, Taylor is directing the 10th anniversary production of her hit musical, Crowns (June 30 - August 12, 2012).

Taylor is also the National Spokesperson for the Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness Organization (OCSA), launched in 2010 to educate both women and men about this deadly disease, which is the number one gynecologic cancer killer of women. She was raised in Dallas, Texas and recently moved to Chicago. [ReginaTaylor.com, CrownsTheGospelMusical.com, Twitter: TheReginaTaylor, Facebook: Crowns The Gospel Musical]

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

NOTE: Please check here if this is a:
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Membership Dues: The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

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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.

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