



THE STUMP

Publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Society

Number 26

Summer 2020

The Lincoln-Douglas Society

was founded in 1929 for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the 1858 debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln during their race for the United States Senate.

“The Stump”

The use of the “stump” as a metaphor for a platform for political discourse traces its roots back to the earliest days of American history. Just as Douglas argued his political ideas “from every stump in Illinois,” the Lincoln-Douglas Society seeks to share information and ideas about one of the key events in our Nation’s history.



Lincoln, The Great Communicator

A program featuring interpreter **George Buss** and Illinois folk musician and folklorist **Chris Vallillo** will be streamed LIVE on **Saturday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m.** The program combines live period music with conversation and narrative by President Lincoln (using Lincoln’s own words) to explore Lincoln’s use of communication as a personal and political tool.

This theatrical style program is presented as a casual conversation between President Lincoln and Vallillo discussing Lincoln’s gifts as a communicator and way he used those skills for the betterment of mankind throughout his lifetime. In the midst of the conversation, Vallillo will perform period music on guitar, bottleneck slide Dobro, banjo and jaw harp to illustrate Lincoln’s point and the President will quote passages from some of his favorite speeches.

Following the program will be a Q&A time with performers George Buss and Chris Vallillo. The program will also be used to increase awareness of **Looking for Lincoln** and the **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area**. This program is being co-sponsored by the **Looking for Lincoln Coalition, the Lincoln-Douglas Society** and the **Greater Freeport Partnership**. . The event is partially supported by a grant from the **Illinois Arts Council Agency**.

The program can be viewed on the Lincoln-Douglas Society’s Facebook page, the Greater Freeport Partnership Facebook page, or the Looking for Lincoln website.



ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

The Lincoln-Douglas Society will hold its annual membership meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Freeport Public Library on Saturday, **August 29, 2020**. Election of Board of Directors positions will be held, in addition to reports on the status of the organization. At 6:30 p.m. Lincoln (**George Buss**) and Douglas (**Tim Connors**) will hold a discussion in Debate Square to mark the anniversary of the Freeport Debate. Admission is free. Lawn chairs are recommended.

Please check our website and Facebook page for any updates on this event.



OUR PARTNERS

The Lincoln-Douglas Society is a proud partner with numerous organizations which seek to improve Freeport and the images of the Freeport Debate, as well as the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. In addition to the **Greater Freeport Partnership**, the Society is linked to the **Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition** and the **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area**, a part of the National Park Service. All working together to maximize our efforts.

Editor's Note

If this issue of *The Stump* had been written in early March, we would have been telling you about all of the great programming we had planned for this summer. But then COVID-19 had other plans. Now we could tell about all the wonderful programs you would have enjoyed this summer, but have been postponed until 2021.

Please do not let the dearth of public programs deter you from renewing your membership and donating to the Debate Square Maintenance Fund. Our expenses continue even as we experience this period of enforced inactivity.

We hope you are healthy and want you to know that we are still here, keeping alive the memory of the Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

The Stump

is a publication of the
Lincoln-Douglas Society
P.O. Box 58
Freeport, IL 61032-0058

Like is on **Facebook**,
or visit us at
www.lincoln-douglas.org

Questions about this publication
can be sent via the email listed on
the Society's website.

The Lincoln-Douglas Society

President: Nicole M. Bauer

Treasurer: Mindy S. Borgmann
Secretary: Edward F. Finch, D.A.

Board of Directors: Timothy R. Connors, Carole Dickerson,
Frank E. "Ned" Furst, Mary M. Hartman, Scott Leiser,
Mickey Martin, Sally Noble, Michael Perry, M.D.,
Jim Shankland, Connie Sorn, and Alan Wenzel

Board Members Emeritus: Robert Plager & Olga Carlile

Ex Officio Directors: Honorable Jodi Miller, Mayor of Freeport,
and Nicole Haas, Greater Freeport Partnership.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DEBATE SQUARE CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE

A community's self-respect is most often shown in the manner in which public places are maintained. We are proud to point to Debate Square as a great example of Freeport's civic pride. But the quality of the maintenance of Debate Square is a direct function of your willingness to contribute. Routine maintenance is not supported by tax dollars and depends entirely on the generosity of our members and benefactors.

In short, the Society needs your help to keep Debate Square the showpiece of downtown Freeport it has been for the past ten years.

Please consider donating, in addition to your annual membership dues, the cost, or part of the cost of a single mowing (\$60.00), or the cost of an application of herbicide or fertilizer (\$144.00). Any amount will help. The membership renewal form below can also be used for such donations.

The Lincoln-Douglas Society would like to publicly recognize its membership. Please indicate below if you would like your name to be left off of any such publication.

The Lincoln-Douglas Society is a 501(c) 3 chartable organization, and as such donations to the Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by current Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations.

Thank you for your generosity.

2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ Individual (\$ 20.00) _____ Family (\$30.00 / 2 to 4 people)
_____ Sustaining (\$ 50.00) _____ Foundation (\$100.00)
_____ Corporate (\$250.00) _____ Institution (\$5 – newsletter only)

\$ _____ Membership fee (from above)

\$ _____ Donation to Debate Square Maintenance Fund

\$ _____ Sokup Lecture Series Fund

\$ _____ Total Enclosed (Make check payable to: Lincoln-Douglas Society)

_____ I do not want the Society to share my name.

Send this form and payment to: Lincoln-Douglas Society, P.O. Box 58, Freeport, IL 61032-0058

Memberships can be renewed online at www.lincoln-douglas.org

The Lincoln-Douglas Society
P.O. Box 58
Freeport, IL 61032-0058



Lincoln and Son Reading

- This is one of several works of art in Freeport which mark the legacy of Lincoln and Douglas.
- Dedicated in 2011
- Life-sized sculpture of Lincoln reading to one of his sons
- By artist Lily Tolpo
- Located in Freeport Public Library (Next to Debate Square)
- Funded by private donations

2020 MUSIC IN DEBATE SQUARE

The Lincoln-Douglas Society’s popular “Music in Debate Square” 2020 series has been **cancelled** due to COVID-19 concerns. We deeply regret this but plan on bringing the series back in 2021.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Please remember to renew your Lincoln-Douglas Society membership using the form enclosed or online at www.lincoln-douglas.org.