



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

AUGUST 2003

News & Announcements

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OFFICE ADDRESS

1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20009

TELEPHONE

(202) 234-4602

FACSIMILE

(202) 234-4639

WEB SITE

www.esuwdc.org

E-MAIL ADDRESS

esuwdc@msn.com

SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD

Playwright KEN LUDWIG's Latest Comedy

In an enchanted wood on a major-studio soundstage, a comedy of errors awaits us. As Groucho Marx and Tarzan rush through the commissary, an up-and-coming starlet dreams of love and fame on the set of an Elizabethan romantic fantasy. She's suddenly smitten with the dashing actor who has been cast as Oberon. Thus begins the mayhem a fetching male figure introduces to a locale that seems to be as deliriously haunted by all the seductions of a still-novel entertainment medium as it is by the Bardic charms which inspired a legendary filmmaker's greatest achievement.

We're delighted to invite you to a special evening with one of the most popular scriptwriters of our time, KEN LUDWIG, and with the head of an eminent Washington theater that is presenting the world premiere of his new work: a hilarious romp by the man who has enriched the dramatic repertory with award-winning Broadway and West End hits like *Crazy For*

You, *Lend Me a Tenor*, and *Moon Over Buffalo*. *Shakespeare in Hollywood* treats us to a riotous behind-the-scenes look at the making of Max Reinhardt's classic 1936 movie of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

We'll savor the enticements of Mr. Ludwig's hearty brew, and then we'll chat with the author and with Arena's gifted artistic director, MOLLY SMITH. To take part in this stellar event, which will permit you to talk about a Manhattan- and London-bound play with those who are bringing it first to us, see the Order Form on page 8.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Performance 7:30

Discussion 9:45

ARENA STAGE

1102 Sixth Street SW

Members \$45 Non-Members \$50



Thoroughly Modern Millie COMES TO Wolf Trap

Join us for a matinee performance of a show that won six Tony Awards in 2002, among them Broadway's accolade for Best Musical. THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE follows the title character as she leaves Kansas for the bright lights of the Great White Way in the Roaring Twenties. Those who choose to do so will gather at noon for a festive picnic. To order, see page 8.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, AT 2:00 MEMBERS \$30, NON-MEMBERS \$35

Local News

A STELLAR LINEUP OF SPEAKERS FOR OUR AUDIENCES, BOTH HERE AND ELSEWHERE

During its 2002–3 season the branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION that represents the National Capital region offered its constituents, both locally and nationally, an opportunity to meet and share perspectives with some remarkable thinkers.

We kicked things off on Wednesday, September 18, with **Gail Kern Paster**, new director of the **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY** and the first woman to head this noted 70-year-old institution. The author of superb books on *The Idea of the City in the Age of Shakespeare* and on *Drama and the Disciplines of Shame in Early Modern England*, Dr. Paster edits *Shakespeare Quarterly* and currently presides over the **SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**. She spoke about her plans for the Folger with the ESU's **John Andrews** at a **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB** luncheon which was co-sponsored by **THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD**. Several months later, on Tuesday, April 1, Dr. Paster returned to the same setting, this time in the company of reference librarian **Georgianna Ziegler**, to preview a major Library exhibition to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth I.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, November 5, we gathered at **THE WASHINGTON CLUB** for an election-night conversation between historian **Garry Wills** and television journalist **Bill Press** (here captured in a photograph by Greg Lipscomb), who had just moved from CNN's *Crossfire* to MSNBC's *Buchanan and Press*. The winner of a Pulitzer Prize for *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America* (1992), Mr. Wills is still receiving plaudits for two best-sellers – *Papal Sin: Structures of Deceit* (2000) and *Why I am a Catholic* (2002) – that touch on recent scandals. But he and Mr. Press also devoted attention to other topics, among them Wills's *Venice: Lion City* (2001), and to a discussion of social and political trends in the U.S. and abroad.



On Thursday, December 12, the **ESU** joined forces with the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB** once again, this time for a midday address by British journalist **Michael Henderson**, who argued that there are historical moments when forgiveness can function, paradoxically, as an instrument of Realpolitik.

In a lecture that commemorated **ESU** founder **SIR EVELYN WRENCH** and was generously subsidized by **Patricia and Roger Plaskett**, a rugby and cricket legend brought his charms to a soiree on Wednesday, March 19, at the **COSMOS CLUB**. **Dennis Silk** had been featured in a **BBC TV** series as “the greatest headmaster of the 20th century,” and he shared engaging anecdotes about his decade and a half at Radley College in Oxfordshire. A few weeks later, in an April 14 event that was graciously hosted by the **BRITISH EMBASSY**'s chargé d'affaires, **Tony Brenton**, and

Mrs. Brenton at their residence, Renaissance scholar **Stanley Wells** introduced the latest of his dozens of publications, an homage to *Shakespeare: For All Time*. Dr. Wells chairs the **SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST**, and he talked about the poet with **Paul Edmondson**, who oversees the Trust's educational activities. **C-SPAN2** was on hand for the dialogue, and a few weeks later the **ESU** office was pleased to hear from grateful viewers who'd watched the proceedings over the network's nationally distributed **BOOKTV** showcase. During other week-ends in 2002–3 **C-SPAN** also repeated several **ESU** programs it had recorded previously, among them British statesman **Roy Jenkins'** November 2001 remarks about Winston Churchill.

Thanks to an initiative by Board member **Laura Ivey**, our next engagement, an April 25 buffet supper in the Great Hall at the **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOUSE**, placed the spotlight on an eminent professor of international relations at Oxford. **Sir Adam Roberts**, a frequent guest on British radio and TV shows about current affairs, explored and answered probing questions about “The United Nations and the War in Iraq.”

On Wednesday evening, May 14, at the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**, we profited from the insights of a journalist who carried us back to *19 Weeks* in 1940 when Churchill's ascent to Prime Minister galvanized British resistance to a projected Nazi invasion and altered the course of world history. **Norman Moss** is widely acclaimed for a book about the making of the hydrogen bomb, and he was introduced by one of his prominent Washington associates, reporter and analyst **Bruce Morton**, who's now at CNN after many years at CBS.

Our next event, a cocktail buffet on Wednesday, June 18, in the **Holeman Lounge** at the **NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**, featured a witty and evocative address by television journalist **Robert MacNeil**, who provided background on his memoir *Looking For My Country* and explained how a native of Canada had eventually decided to become an American citizen. Mr. MacNeil is celebrated not only for the **PBS NewsHour** that once bore his name but for a series on *The Story of English*. He mentioned that its sequel – a two-hour special to be telecast in conjunction with a publication to be titled *Do You Speak American?* – is tentatively scheduled for the early spring of 2004.



Our final event prior to a brief summer recess brought us back to the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**, this time for a Tuesday, July 1, luncheon that was co-hosted by **THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD** and highlighted by a conversation between actress **Jane Alexander** (shown here in a photograph by Charles Stephenson) and the **ESU**'s **John Andrews**. Ms.

Alexander, who achieved renown in 1965 through an **ARENA STAGE** premiere of *The Great White Hope* with actor **James Earl Jones**, returned to our city in the mid-1990s as chairman of the **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**, an agency she successfully defended from those who'd sought to abolish it.

She was in Washington this time to star in Ibsen's *Ghosts*, which had been adapted and directed by her husband **Edwin Sherin** for **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**.

A WARM FAREWELL TO SIR CHRISTOPHER AND LADY MEYER OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY

For many ESU stalwarts, the high point on any year's calendar has been the well-attended reception that takes place in the spring at the **BRITISH EMBASSY**. At this time a year ago we were happy to report that our May visit to the Ambassador's residence had been exceptional even by the exalted standards which had been set by **Sir Christopher and Lady Meyer**. In his welcoming remarks the Ambassador had cited the events of September 11 and said that in the wake of that trauma he'd felt as never before the "special relationship" that has long linked the United Kingdom and the United States. He'd gone on to note that he regarded the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** as an epitome of that bond, and he'd praised the vigor he saw as he looked out upon the largest turnout he could recall at such an affair. The following day **Amanda Downes**, the Embassy's social secretary, had called with news that, in a characteristically magnanimous gesture, Sir Christopher had decided not to bill the **ESU** for the costs associated with that wonderful reception.

When news came that the Meyers would be leaving their posts during the winter of 2003, the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** called the **BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**, another organization that had often benefited from the Embassy's cordiality, and began planning a gathering to thank Sir Christopher and his charming Lady and bid them Godspeed. Working in collaboration with **Patricia Karhuse**, executive director of **BABA**, and her associate **Scarlett Lucas**, and conspiring with former **BABA** president **Courtenay Ellis** of the **Murphy Ellis Weber** legal firm, the **ESU** assembled a lustrous roster of fellow presenters and booked the **WESTIN EMBASSY ROW** hotel for a festive tribute that took place on Tuesday evening, February 11.

The event drew more than 150 admirers and well-wishers, and everyone cheered as the guests of honor responded to remarks from **A. Graham Down** (president of the Nation's Capital branch of the **ESU**), **Kristen Verderame** (vice-president of **BABA**), the Honorable **John Warner** (chairman of the **SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**), **Alice Boyne** (executive director of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES**), **Susan Eisenhower** (president of the **EISENHOWER WORLD AFFAIRS INSTITUTE**), and **Virginia Hayes Williams** (civic leader and mother of **DC MAYOR ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS**). Speaking on behalf of both the **ESU** and **THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD**, branch executive director **John Andrews** read eloquent messages from former Secretary of Defense **Caspar W. Weinberger** and actor **Michael York**. Then he and **Courtenay Ellis** unveiled a certificate that had been framed beneath a pair of deftly knotted articles of neckware, one patterned after the Union Jack, the other festooned with the Stars and Stripes. This keepsake (recorded here in a picture by Keith Harvey) was a salute to the Meyers for all they'd done "to

strengthen the ties that bind the United Kingdom and the United States." Referring to a wry honor that Sir Christopher had received from **BABA** a year earlier – his induction to the *Royal Order of Red Socks*, a distinction that recognized a unique



and endearing sartorial trademark – Mr. Andrews and Mr. Ellis then welcomed the Ambassador and Lady Meyer to a new transatlantic society, *The Most Illustrious Order of the Red, White, and Blue*.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND INSPIRING REGIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

One of the **ESU**'s most popular and influential activities is its annual *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION*. This year, because of a relentless siege of snow emergencies, we were forced to hold both rounds of the *COMPETITION* on the same day, Monday, March 3.

During the morning session we welcomed participants from 40 schools (an increase of two over the number who'd signed up for the 2002 contest) to **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE** for the Opening Round of a festival that has been reinforcing the arts and humanities curricula of our area's educational institutions for 14 years. Each entrant recited a Shakespearean sonnet and rendered a vignette from one of the author's dramatic works.

Once again those who'd been on hand for previous instances of the contest were pleased to observe a competence and consistency in the recitations which had rarely been attained in the past. As a result our eminent judges were required to deliberate for nearly an hour before they returned with a roster of ten finalists for that evening's Concluding Round: **Daniel Butenas**, a student of **James Marvin** at **ST. STEPHEN'S AND ST. AGNES SCHOOL** in Alexandria, **Carli Fitzgerald**, a student of **Michael D'Anna** at **MAGRUDER HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, **Jordan McCraw**, a student of **Kelly Newman** at **MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, **Emily Moulton**, a student of **Judy White** at **HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, **Lindsay Tanner**, a student of **Valerie Karasek** at **LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL** in Fairfax County, **Kaitlin Turck**, a student of **Alyssa Passey** at **EDISON HIGH SCHOOL** in Fairfax County, **Carol Wilson**, a student of **Michael Peerless** at **WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, **Mary Wiseman**, a student of **Mary McCary** at **QUINCE ORCHARD HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, **Marquithia Young**, a student of **Ann Harding** at **ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL** in the District of Columbia, and **Whitney Zangarine**, a student of **David Schmidt** at **MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL** in Fairfax County. These ten students performed a second time that evening, and in due course the judges awarded highest honors to **Lindsay Tanner**, who garnered a \$500 check and an expense-paid trip to New York for the April 28 *NATIONAL*

SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION. For first alternate, and a \$300 check, they selected **Mary Wiseman**. For second alternate, and a \$200 check, they singled out 2001 winner and 2002 second alternate **Carli Fitzgerald**. The ESU congratulates all of these gifted youngsters (here depicted, in a photograph by Bill Sanda, that also includes Graham Down, Virginia Hayes Williams, and John Andrews), as well as the parents and teachers who encouraged and helped prepare each of them for the 2003 **COMPETITION**.

As in the past, one of those imaginative and dedicated instructors was singled out as **SHAKESPEARE TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Kelly Newman** of MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL, who was the faculty sponsor for an impressive finalist, and who received a \$4,000 stipend (funded in part by the National Office's TREADWELL MEMORIAL TRAVEL GRANTS) for summer study at the UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD under the aegis of the ESU's BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SUMMER SCHOOL program.

In addition to the laurels that go to students and teachers, the ESU also takes advantage of the forum each year's **COMPETITION** affords to recognize a promising young performer at THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE's superb ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING. On behalf of her husband, **Tony, Marjorie J. Williams** joined Academy program director **Catherine Weidner** in bestowing the 2003 **WALTER L. WRIGHT III FELLOWSHIP** on actor **Bob McClure**, who responded with an elegant and informative acceptance speech.

For all it did to make this year's activities possible, the ESU is exceedingly grateful for the kind philanthropy of the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION** (with particular gratitude to its president, **Calvin Cafritz**, its executive director, **Anne Allen**, and its ever-helpful program liaison, **Kathleen Zeifang**), which provided a \$20,000 grant in support of the undertaking, and which has indicated that it hopes to be able to maintain that level of assistance for the 2004 **COMPETITION**.

As in the past, we're indebted to **Priscilla Liggett** for the \$1,000 in prize money that went to the top three contestants. We're pleased to thank **DIAMLERCHRYSLER**, with special nods to **Stuart Schorr** and to **Roger and Patricia Plaskett**, for a \$1,000 corporate donation to the **COMPETITION**. We're also grateful to **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY** for the handsome books that were presented to each of the participants. And we thank **Nancye Suggs** and the **CHARLES SUMNER SCHOOL** for making their splendid facilities available gratis for two of the three workshops at which the ESU's executive director explained the latest guidelines for the **COMPETITION** and called upon several members of the Education Committee – among them **Gwendolyn Alexander**, **Celia Josephs**, and **Lee Viccellio** – to offer counsel on techniques to implement them. Once again we were pleased to welcome **Virginia Hayes Williams** to the ceremony. She was escorted, as in the past, by publicist **Jan Du Plain**, and this year she not only brought greetings from the Mayor but handed out

congratulatory certificates to all the finalists. Also on hand were **Ambassador John Wood and Mrs. Wood** of New Zealand, who had kindly hosted a beautiful ESU evening of chamber music at their home on February 4.

We can't say enough in praise of the generous men and women who gave us a hand this year as judges: **Gwendolyn Alexander** (a respected educator and a former ESU trustee), **Celia Josephs** (long-time executive for the AMERICAN FRIENDS

OF SADLER'S WELLS), **Dawn McAndrews** (director of education at THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE), **Peggy O'Brien** (executive director of CABLE IN THE CLASSROOM), **Ted van Griethuysen** (award-winning actor who has delighted us at such venues as STUDIO THEATRE and THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE), and **Lee Viccellio** (first recipient of the SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD).

We should note, finally, that during both rounds of our 2003 regional **COMPETITION**, we adhered to an innovation that had been introduced in 2002. We've taken what had previously been regarded as "dread time" – that anxiety-fraught interval when student performers, and their equally nervous parents and teachers, await the judges' verdicts on their presentations – and transformed it into an edifying highlight of the proceedings. This year we garnered bounteous praise for an informative interview with program director **Catherine Weidner** of the ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING during the morning's Opening Round; she provided timely advice about the kind of training her charges receive as they seek to acquire the tools they'll need for informed approaches to the classical repertory. We were also heartened by the enthusiastic comments we heard about John Andrews' chat with SHAKESPEARE THEATRE performers **Wallace Acton** and **Edward Gero** during the evening's Concluding Round; they previewed a stirring production of *Richard III* and talked about how it would differ from legendary renderings of the script with Laurence Olivier, Antony Sher, Stacy Keach, and Ian McKellen in the title role that would soon be earning praise for Mr. Acton.

NEW DIRECTORS ELECTED ON MAY 3 AT THE ESU'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the NATION'S CAPITAL BRANCH OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES took place between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, in the INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOUSE at 1825 R Street NW. For most of the thirty English-Speaking Union constituents in attendance, the gathering commenced with a light buffet lunch, catered by **Diana and Peter Nicholson**. For a number of Board members it had been preceded by a morning retreat, in the same location, at which fundraising consultant **Charles Webb** led a wide-ranging discussion of the branch's priorities and how to produce more resources for them.



After the cordial greetings with which he welcomed attendees, branch president **Graham Down** opened the session by recognizing four new recipients of the ESU research funds that are bestowed each spring as **HELENE GLADSTONE WILLIAMS AWARDS**. Three of the honorees – **Joetta Harty**, a doctoral candidate at **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**, **Lena Cowen Orlin**, executive director of the **SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**, and **Adele Seeff**, executive director of the **CENTER FOR RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND** – had already done a good deal of work on projects that had been approved for support a year ago, and each of them spoke about their studies (in England for Ms. Harty and Dr. Orlin, and in South Africa for Dr. Seeff) and their preliminary findings. The fourth awardee, **Edward Robinson** of the **SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**, was about to embark on a trip to London, and he talked about what he expected to find.

Everyone applauded the enthusiasm that animated these eloquent presentations. Then Mr. Down guided the proceedings through a sequence of reports that included remarks from ESU treasurer **Braxton Moncure** (who expressed optimism about the branch's financial health and noted that the operating deficits that have occurred in the last two budget cycles have been offset by a surplus in the fiscal year that ended in June 2001), from EIA coordinator **Diana Nicholson** (who said that **ENGLISH IN ACTION** was now attracting more students than the available number of tutors could handle without reinforcements), from National Board member **Phillip Miller** (who spoke about a sophisticated Web site that is being designed by the New York office), from executive director **John Andrews** (who admitted that he would be happier if he knew that the months to come would be less challenging than 2002–3 had been, with all the instability that had resulted from setbacks which prevented the branch from building on the previous year's momentum), and from advisor **Charles Webb** (who outlined an approach to institutional development that he said the ESU might find helpful as it addressed its long-term objectives).

In the most important business of the gathering, a branch Nominating Committee, chaired by **Patricia Stockton Plaskett** (with **Phillip Miller**, **Diana Nicholson**, **Audrey Pendergast**, and **Jill Schwartz** as additional members), proposed (a) that the terms of all current officers be extended for one more year, (b) that two members of the existing Board of Directors, **Macauley Howard** and **F. Mark Wyatt**, be elevated to vice presidential slots, (c) that two current Board members, **William FitzGerald III** and **William L. Renfro**, be elected to additional three-year terms, and (d) that three new candidates, **Sir John Baring**, **Robert A. Fratkan**, and **Wendell V. Graham**, be elected to three-year terms for the period from July 2003 through June 2006. Dr. Plaskett also forwarded a proposal that the 2003–4 Nominating Committee consist of **Ian McDonald**, **Audrey Pendergast**, **Patricia Plaskett** (chair), **Jill Schwartz**, and **Sarah Williams**. Once these recommendations had been duly moved, the ESU members who were present at the gathering greeted them with unanimous approval.

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE ESU'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS

As we enter a new season, we take this occasion to acknowledge our indebtedness to those whose financial contributions to our activities have been most substantial. To compile the roster that follows, we've included 2002–3 tax-deductible donations as well as membership dues payments, and we've used the categories enumerated on Page 8 of this bulletin.

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ESU RECEIVES GENEROUS BEQUEST FROM MARY MARVIN BRECKINRIDGE PATTERSON

One of our most distinguished benefactors died on December 11 at the age of 97. A descendant of B. F. Goodrich on her mother's side and of Vice President John C. Breckinridge on her father's, **Mary Marvin Breckinridge Patterson** enjoyed a remarkably varied career as a photojournalist (with pictures in *Life*,

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Look, and *National Geographic*), as a newscaster (covering World War II as a CBS correspondent who had been hired by Edward R. Murrow), as a filmmaker (producing an acclaimed 1930 documentary on the Frontier Nursing Service in rural Kentucky), as a diplomat (supporting her husband, Jefferson Patterson, on numerous Foreign Service postings for the U.S. State Department), and as a philanthropist, with major gifts to such institutions as Bowdoin College, the Folger Shakespeare Library, Meridian House, the Smithsonian Institution, and Vassar College. Those in the English-Speaking Union who had the privilege of knowing Marvin will not be surprised to learn that the grace she always exhibited has now been perpetuated by a bequest of \$20,000, a lovely gift that has been kindly supplemented by a selection of choice volumes from her library.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWCOMERS

We extend fervent greetings to those who've joined the ESU during the last twelve months: Ms. Alison Adler, Ms. Jane H. Armstrong, Ms. Barbara S. Bahny, Dr. & Mrs. William Allen Barwick, Ms. Natalie B. Baumer, Mr. R. Cedric Baxter, Mrs. Mary Lou Bennett, Mr. Daniel H. Borinsky, Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Cranford, Ms. Jennifer J. Delve, Mrs. Rosemarie B. Dircks, Mr. Gerard Dunphy, Mr. Leonard L. Fleisig, Mr. Thomas Grindley, Ms. Nancy R. Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Hall, Ms. Sara W. Kane, Ms. Katherine H. Kappas, Mr. Gerald B. Kauvar, Ms. Carol Ann Kell, Mr. Gregory J. King, Ms. Patrice LaLibente, Mr. Richard C. Latson, Dr. Hanna H. Lerski, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory S. Lewis, Ms. Dianne Brace & Mr. Robert Lynch, Mr. John Wellington Macdonald, Mr. Ted McAdams, Ms. Marilyn Ann

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Other News

ESU'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR 2003 TO BE IN PROVIDENCE, NOVEMBER 13-16

The 2003 national convention of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES** will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, from Thursday, November 13, through Sunday, November 16. Tentative plans include meals or receptions at several of the city's ornate private clubs, as well as at Brown University and at the historic Federal Reserve Building, which has been carefully restored to its original grandeur.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TO LAUNCH AN ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

Under the direction of **James Hopkins**, director of development at National Headquarters, the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES** will soon invite every ESU member in the country to take part in an **ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN**. One of our key Board members, **Dr. Marjorie J. Williams**, is serving in a leadership capacity for this endeavor, and she will help guide the local effort, whose aim is to generate more revenue both for the New York office and for the branch of the ESU that represents our own metropolitan area.

ESU CELEBRATES 85TH ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday, June 26, ESU delegates from around the world assembled at **WESTMINSTER ABBEY** in London for a celebration of the 85th anniversary of the founding of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** in



June of 1918. More details on this and on other international events will be provided in the near future. In the interim **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** will be posting an account, with pictures and details, on its Web site at www.esu.org.

English in Action

Does becoming acquainted with a visitor from abroad, or helping a foreign-born student, appeal to you? If so, you should ponder the idea of becoming involved in one of the most gratifying pursuits a civic-minded volunteer can experience. **ENGLISH IN ACTION** is a one-to-one tutoring service in which ordinary people get together for relaxed conversations. One will be an adult with normal proficiency, but no special training, in the use of spoken and written English. The other, typically, will be a recent immigrant to the U.S., a high-school or college student from overseas, or a professional (employed, perhaps, by an embassy or a multinational business) who understands the rudiments of English but seeks the skillful ease a native speaker of our tongue takes for granted.

Under the usual format an **ESU** tutor meets once a week with another adult for an hour or so of enjoyable give-and-take at a mutually convenient time and location. It's by no means unusual for tutors and their charges to develop lifelong friendships and significantly enhance one another's appreciation for diverse cultures. And because **EIA** pupils are expected to have a basic grasp of English before they apply for instruction, tutors are not required to possess formal teaching credentials.

ENGLISH IN ACTION has been provided by our branch of the **ESU** for more than twenty years, and it has assisted hundreds of newcomers as they've learned to cope with the expectations of a society quite distinct from their own. **EIA** has enhanced their self-assurance and enabled them to obtain better positions, both in the U.S. and in their countries of origin, and it has immeasurably enhanced the quality of their lives. At the **Bell Multicultural School**, for example, where tutors are paired with non-native pupils to offer them counsel with their studies, a number of **EIA** alumni have earned college and university scholarships and proceeded to fulfilling careers.

During the last few months we've had an influx of more than fifty new students, the most recent of whom are **Solange Baraldi**, **Marcos Cruz**, **Amyra Sarsur**, **Thadeus Tewolde**, and **Sayuri Inoue**, from nations like Argentina, Brazil, Eritrea, and Japan. We've also welcomed a number of new tutors, who generously lend their time and considerable talent to **EIA**: **Meghan Brewer**, **Beatrice C. Fuller**, **Farah Englert**, **Elizabeth Heimbach**, **Celia Josephs**, **Sarah Kane**, **Mary Meyer**, **Funlola Odekunle**, **David Powell**, **Rebecca Rodwell**, **Anne Richard-son**, **Julie Salcetti**, **Jay Solly**, and **Jacqueline Wakeling**. We're immensely grateful for their efforts, but we can always use reinforcement from others who can extend a helping hand.

If you'd like to know more about **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, and hear about some of the rewards a vibrant **EIA** community is reaping from exchanges that are central to the vital mission of the English-Speaking Union, please join us for a casual get-together on Sunday afternoon, August 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Party Room at 3003 Van Ness Street NW. There is no admission charge, and children are welcome.

will be no charge for this gathering, and children are more than welcome. For additional details, both about August 17 and about **ENGLISH IN ACTION** in general, please get in touch with **EIA's** director, **Mrs. Diana Nicholson**, at 4600 Connecticut Avenue NW, 723, Washington, DC 20008. You can reach her by phone at (202) 966-3921 and by e-mail at afromdc@aol.com.

A Word from Our President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Leadership has been described as the ability to manage constructive change. After more than two years as your president, I must say that I find that formulation remarkably pertinent.

I begin on this note because a number of indications tell us that, whether or not we wish to do so, we simply have to rethink the way we define ourselves and the manner in which we relate to a world that is very different from the one which gave birth to the **ESU** in the second decade of the last century.

It's become apparent, for example, that we can no longer sustain a healthy agenda of programs and services with the income we're able to generate even from higher membership dues and donations, from admission fees at our distinguished cultural and educational events, and from sound investments on our limited reserve funds. We require additional forms of revenue, and it seems clear that in the future we'll be placing increased emphasis on corporate and foundation partnerships.

These conclusions have emerged from the initial phase of a rigorous evaluation process, conducted by our Planning and Development Committee with expert consultation from the Charles Webb Company. To guide us as we act upon the recommendations this self-scrutiny elicited, we're now moving forward with a just-appointed Institutional Advancement Committee. I'm happy to report that this pivotal task force is being chaired by **Sir John Baring**, a seasoned executive and a recently elected **ESU** trustee whose judgment and enthusiasm have inspired us all. You'll soon be hearing from John or from one or more of his dedicated colleagues, and I hope that you'll respond to their inquiries with your considered opinions, with your suggestions, and with as many types of further support as seem appropriate to the realm in which we must now learn to operate effectively.

Meanwhile I trust that you'll join me in applauding the achievements that are detailed elsewhere in this bulletin. We've come through a trying year, one that has been marked by the need to relocate our office twice with little or no warning. Even so, I'm confident that we're now in a strong position to being moving forward again. And I know that I can count on you to help us rise to the challenges of an era which calls for outreach to previously untapped constituencies, which demands enhanced collaboration with related organizations, and which encourages a broader approach to the aspirations of our eminent forebears.

A. Graham Down



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW Washington, DC 20009

Since 1920, when it originated in response to a parallel organization that had been established two years earlier in Great Britain, the English-Speaking Union of the United States has sought to foster social and cultural cohesion through the resources and traditions of a language that has become increasingly indispensable as a means of international communication. Through a diverse calendar of offerings, many of which are shared with audiences around the world by way of television, radio, and other media, the National Capital Area's ESU does all it can to further a noble mission.

TOUR OF BOTANIC GARDENS

On Tuesday morning, **SEPTEMBER 9**, the English-Speaking Union will provide a special guided tour of the oldest institution of its kind in America. Attendees will assemble at 10:45 a.m. in the main entrance of the U.S. BOTANIC GARDENS (100 Maryland Avenue SW, at the foot of the Capitol) for an event that will last for roughly one hour and will be followed, for those who reserve in advance, by a dutch-treat luncheon at the NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART's GARDEN CAFE. Space is limited, both for the free tour and for the meal, so you'll want to act soon. To sign up, or to obtain details, please call (202) 234-4602 or e-mail esuwdc@msn.com.

Rewards of Membership

As we embark on our 2003-4 season, we invite you to join THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION or renew an existing affiliation if you haven't already done so. We also urge you to consider a supplemental donation, ideally in the range of \$25 or more, to offset a small portion of our administrative overhead costs.

The ESU now girdles the planet, with a stately London address at Dartmouth House, and those who belong to any of its local, regional, and national associations are nourished by a vibrant global network. Through a lively assortment of edifying events, and through such initiatives as a SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION for secondary-school students, a small number of awards to facilitate work in academic and artistic settings, and a tutoring service for those who seek better command of a discourse that is not native to them, the Washington branch of the ESU is dedicated to extending an incomparable heritage. To help preserve this legacy, all you need to do is supply the information requested in the Order Form at right (selecting the membership category that seems right for you) and submit it, along with a check or credit-card order, to executive director John F. Andrews at 1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009. You can reach him by phone at (202) 234-4602, by fax at (202) 234-4639, or by e-mail at esuwdc@msn.com. As you'll see, you may also use this form to register for the events described on the first page.

ASSOCIATE (Individual \$35, Dual \$45)

*Event notices, membership directory,
local and national ESU newsletters*

SUBSCRIBER (Individual \$75, Dual \$100)

*All ASSOCIATE-level benefits plus 1 coupon
for a regular ESU event (that is, an
event priced at \$40 or less)*

CONTRIBUTOR (Individual \$125, Dual \$150)

*All SUBSCRIBER-level benefits plus 1 additional
coupon to be used at a regular ESU event*

DONOR (\$250)

*All CONTRIBUTOR-level benefits plus 2 additional coupons
to be used at regular events and 1 coupon for a special
occasion (that is, one priced at more than \$40)*

BENEFACTOR (\$500)

*All DONOR-level benefits plus 4 additional coupons to be used at
regular events, 1 additional coupon for a special occasion,
and recognition in selected print materials*

PATRON (\$1,000)

*Free admission for 2 persons to all regular events,
4 coupons for use at special occasions, and
recognition in selected printings*

SPONSOR (\$2,500)

*All PATRON-level benefits, plus free admission for up
to 4 additional guests at all ESU gatherings*

UNDERWRITER (\$5,000)

*All SPONSOR-level benefits, plus free admission for up
to 8 additional guests at all ESU gatherings*

Order Form

I wish to renew or enroll in the ESU in the _____ category.

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the ESU of \$_____.

Please reserve ___ member spaces (at \$30 each) ___ non-member spaces (at \$35 each) ___ for August 31. Please reserve ___ member spaces (at \$45 each) ___ non-member spaces (at \$50 each) ___ for September 14.

I wish to provide a Gift Membership at the _____ level for the person(s) whose name(s) and contact details follow my own below.

My check for \$_____ to The English-Speaking Union is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Fax _____

E-Mail _____