



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

WASHINGTON DC AREA BRANCH

DECEMBER 2001

News & Announcements

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OFFICE ADDRESS

1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

TELEPHONE

(202) 234-4602

FACSIMILE

(202) 234-4639

WEB SITE

www.esuwdc.org

E-MAIL

esuwdc@msn.com

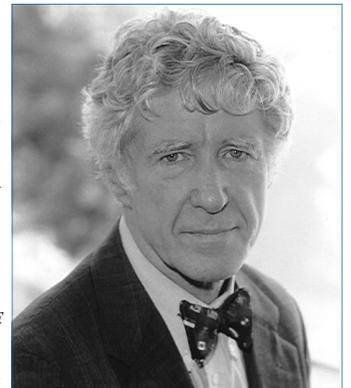
ECOLOGIST LESTER R. BROWN OFFERS A NEW ECONOMIC PARADIGM

A respected leader, and a prolific author who has been described by *The Washington Post* as “one of the world’s most influential thinkers,” LESTER R. BROWN will be with us in January to introduce and sign copies of the book he regards as the most challenging volume he’s ever produced. Its title is *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth*, and its aim is to outline the steps we need to take if we want to keep our globe habitable and develop an ecologically sustainable economic order.

Mr. Brown is the recipient of 22 honorary doctorates. He has also garnered such prestigious laurels as a 1986 MacArthur “genius” award, the 1987 United Nations Environment Prize, and the 1994 Blue Planet Prize (carrying a purse of \$500,000) for his exceptional contributions to a discipline in which the stakes are enormous.

Brown launched his career as a farmer in southern New Jersey. By 1964, after earning degrees from Rutgers, Maryland, and Harvard, he was an advisor to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman. In 1974, with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, he founded the WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE. Its annual *STATE OF THE WORLD* reports, started in 1984, are now available in 30 languages and are viewed by many, including prominent heads of state, as our most authoritative guides to the health of a fragile biosphere. Under Mr. Brown’s auspices an engaging magazine, *World Watch*, began appearing in 1988. In 1992 he augmented it with a second annual, *VITAL SIGNS: The Trends That are Shaping our Future*. Meanwhile he’s found time for such studies as *Man, Land, and Food*, *World Without Borders*, *Beyond Malthus*, and *Who Will Feed China?*

In May of 2001, after becoming chairman of the WORLDWATCH board, Mr. Brown established a new issue-oriented think-tank, the EARTH POLICY INSTITUTE. *Eco-Economy* is the most comprehensive publication to be released thus far by that organization.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2002

**Program 6:30
Buffet Reception 7:30**

**THE WASHINGTON CLUB
15 Dupont Circle NW**

**ESU Members & Guests - \$30
Non-Members - \$35
Program Only - \$10**

Did you miss the ESU-hosted December 7 edition of
BBC RADIO 4’s flagship public-affairs forum

ANY QUESTIONS?

For a link to the broadcast archive, visit

www.esuwdc.org

Local News

FROM MICHAEL YORK TO BBC RADIO 4: A REMARKABLE SEQUENCE OF ATTRACTIONS

The second half of 2001 has been an extraordinarily rich period for those who've been fortunate enough to take part in ESU activities. Our programs have been varied and fulfilling, and several of them have benefited from participation by, or coverage involving, key representatives of major news outlets.

On Friday, July 27, in a *SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE* dialogue that took place at The Washington Club, 150 attendees met and talked with one of Britain's most popular exports. Reporter Janelle Erlichman and photographer Rebecca D'Angelo (whose work appears below) were on hand for *The Washington Post*, and on Monday readers of the "Out and About" column encountered a picture of "The Shakespeare Guild's Fair-Weather Friend" and a revelation that "Actor **Michael York** has another talent: temperature control."



What prompted this story was a remark by Guild President and ESU Executive Director **John Andrews**, who thanked his guest for arranging an unseasonably cool, dry spell for the occasion and told him that in reciprocation he was going to "start referring to the nation's capital as 'Yorkshire.'" With characteristic aplomb, the star of such films as *Cabaret* and *The Three Musketeers* replied with a quip from *Twelfth Night*: "What can I say? Some have greatness thrust upon them."

A week later, on Saturday, August 4, more than two dozen ESU members met on Capitol Hill for a tasty lunch at Taverna and a sprightly matinee at the Folger, where artistic director **Catherine Flye's** INTERACT THEATRE mounted a witty 18th-century American version of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

On Sunday afternoon, September 9, the ESU hosted an *OPEN HOUSE* to introduce everyone to its handsome new quarters. On behalf of the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, its president, **Rosemary Monagan**, extended a fervent welcome to the Club's newest tenant. Then ESU president **Graham Down** and three of his fellow musicians presented a sparkling half-hour chamber concert with selections from Ibert and Mozart. The festivities concluded with a ceremony to recognize two honorees from Howard University: junior **Marianna Ofosu**, who was heading to Christ Church, Oxford, for a year of study as the recipient of a Luard Scholarship from the ESU, and Professor **E. R. Braithwaite**, who spoke with moving eloquence about the principles that inform his work as a writer and teacher.

Owing to a late-September postponement, our next event was *A SALUTE TO ACTRESS JEAN STAPLETON*, which occurred on Monday night, October 15, at ESU headquarters. Because Ms. Stapleton was in town to resurrect the "First Lady of the World"

in *Eleanor: Her Secret Journey* at Arena Stage, this was a gathering that focused, not on Edith Bunker, but on the rich Roosevelt legacy. Joining the heroine of a touching one-woman drama was playwright **Rhoda Lerman**, who had supplied the script, Arena artistic director **Molly Smith**, who had brought



the show to Washington, and NPR correspondent **Linda Wertheimer**, who moderated a fascinating panel discussion.

A few days later, on Sunday, October 21, thanks to the efforts of **Audrey Pendergast**, thirty ESU members made their way to Washington National Cathedral for a resonant concert by London's **Westminster Cathedral Choir**. Attendees then repaired to the College of Preachers for a light reception.

November turned out to be a month for book signings. On Wednesday the 14th, during a Washington Club luncheon program that was recorded by C-SPAN for its weekend "Book TV" series, British statesman **Roy Jenkins** (here pictured in a photograph by Greg Lipscomb) shared highlights from his best-selling biography of Sir Winston Churchill. Two weeks later, on Monday the 27th, CNN *CROSSFIRE's* **Bill Press** addressed a luncheon the ESU co-sponsored with the Woman's National Democratic Club. Suggesting that all the world's a spin room, Mr. Press talked about the English that politicians and PR specialists have been putting on our language for as long as we've had leaders like Richard III and Henry V – and observers like the Swan of Avon to record their deeds and misdeeds.



Finally, on Friday, December 7, for an event that the ESU co-hosted with George Washington University, the British American Business Association, and the British Council, **BBC Radio 4** brought its celebrated *ANY QUESTIONS?* program to America



for the first time in the show's 53 years of broadcasting. Moderated by one of the U.K.'s most familiar media personalities, **Jonathan Dimbleby**, with queries from members of the audience at GWU's Jack Morton Auditorium, this animated 45-minute discussion addressed the U.S. response to global terrorism. Panelists included historian **Amanda Foreman**, writer **Ted Halstead** of *The New America Foundation*, journalist **Bill Kristol** of *The Weekly Standard*, and bureau chief **Hafez al Mirazi** of the Arab TV channel *Al Jazeera*. Aired twice in the United Kingdom, this provocative discussion will be accessible for a brief time in an archived version at www.bbc.co.uk/radio4.

English in Action

Does knowing a visitor from abroad or helping a foreign-born high-school student appeal to you? If so, you should think about becoming involved in one of the most rewarding volunteer activities a person can experience.

ENGLISH IN ACTION is a one-to-one tutoring program in which ordinary people meet for informal get-togethers. One will be a person with normal proficiency, but no special training, in the use of conversational English. The other will be a newcomer – a recent immigrant to the U.S., a college student from abroad, a professional employed by an embassy or an international corporation – who wishes to acquire the skillful ease a native speaker of our language takes for granted.

In most cases the individuals who sign up for ESU tutoring sessions are adults who've already mastered the rudiments of English but wish to sharpen their ability to comprehend and employ idiomatic expressions. In other instances they are young people who grew up in foreign countries and are enrolled in courses at a high school for non-native students.

Under one traditional format, an ESU tutor agrees to meet with an adult foreign visitor for an hour of conversation on a weekly basis at a mutually convenient time and place. Many of these meetings occur in a tutor's home. Others take place at a tutor's or student's office, at a public library, at a restaurant, or at the ESU premises. Some tutors organize visits to museums and other pertinent sites. It's not unusual for tutors and their pupils to become lifelong friends and develop ties that derive from an appreciation of cultures other than their own. Tutors needn't have teaching backgrounds, because EIA pupils are expected to possess a basic understanding of English.

Under the **Bell Multicultural High School Program**, tutors are paired with foreign-born high-school pupils to help them with their studies. Bell has a parking lot and is located near Irving Street, between 14th and 16th Streets NW, at 3145 Hiatt Place NW. The school is one block from the Columbia Heights station on Metro's Green Line. Whenever possible, several tutoring sessions are scheduled simultaneously, so that EIA volunteers who wish to do so may arrange car pools.

We're grateful for six new tutors: **Diana Bohn, Tim Gordon, Joy Evans, Joan Healey, Judith Ives,** and **Rachel Ray**. We also welcome, as adult pupils, **Maria Berte** from Argentina and **In-Jeong Jang, Yeun Kim, Sang Hat Wi, Hye-Jin Lee,** and **Sang-hee Choi** from Korea. Finally, we're pleased to commend the efforts of Bell students **Maza Berhe, Hirut Kassa,** and **Tigisa Gizan** from Ethiopia, **Cristan Ortez** and **Ana Rivera** from El Salvador, and **Myo-Pale Aye** from Myanmar.

If ENGLISH IN ACTION sounds like your cup of tea, please get in touch with EIA's director, **Mrs. Diana Nicholson**, at 4600 Connecticut Avenue NW, 723, Washington, D.C. 20008. You can reach Diana by telephone at (202) 966-3921.

A Word from Our President

Dear Members and Friends,

As we prepare for the delights of the holidays, I hope you'll permit me to add to your joy by sharing some of the good news that has been warming our hearts at the Washington DC Area Branch of the English-Speaking Union.

We've had the good fortune to enjoy a distinguished array of program offerings. Not only have these events been enthusiastically received; they've given us unprecedented media exposure. Meanwhile, thanks to a new Web site that was designed gratis by **Bryan Fratkin**, the talented son of patrons **Bob and Susan Fratkin**, we can now publicize our initiatives more effectively.

But we've also extended the ESU's outreach by other means. A few weeks after we saluted one of our most eminent constituents, Ambassador **E. R. Braithwaite**, at a September *OPEN HOUSE* to welcome everyone to our beautiful new home on New Hampshire Avenue, we had an opportunity to share the talents of this charismatic educator with a gathering of Prince George's County teachers, who relished a chance to meet and talk with the author who'd enriched their lives with *To Sir, With Love*.

To underwrite the activities that will be associated with our 13th annual Shakespeare Competition, we've just received a substantial grant from the **Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation**. The figure we requested was \$25,000. The Foundation generously responded with an award of \$20,000 in outright funds and \$5,000 in additional funds to be matched by an equal sum from another source. Thanks to the gracious patronage of **Marjorie Williams** and **Walter L. Wright III**, who met the Cafritz challenge almost as soon as it was proffered, we're now in the happy position of approaching this spring's festivities with a budget that will enable us to make an edifying and popular endeavor even stronger than it has been in the past.

In the meantime I'm gratified to note that the officers and directors of our organization have risen to a challenge that **Dr. Williams** and **Mr. Wright** themselves issued a year ago, when they presented our branch with a \$12,000 donation to begin building a permanent endowment. The Board has now reciprocated with a dollar-for-dollar match in gifts and pledges.

As a consequence it is now my honor to invite everyone else in the English-Speaking Union to do likewise. As you ponder your charitable contributions for 2001-2, why not consider a greatly needed donation to the ESU? With another \$12,000 in our reserves, we'll be able to start moving toward the day when some of those cultural and educational aspirations that have heretofore seemed unattainable can finally become feasible.

Our branch is active, committed, and increasingly diverse. Now is the time to reinforce those attributes with the kind of fiscal support that will ensure our continued growth. With every good wish for the season,

A. Graham Down

The ESU and its Mission

Since 1920, when it was created in response to a parallel organization that had been established at the conclusion of World War I in Great Britain, THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES has sought to foster social and cultural cohesion through the resources and cherished traditions of a language that has become increasingly indispensable as a means of international communication. The ESU now girdles the planet, with a venerable London address at Dartmouth House, and those who belong to any of its local, regional, and national societies are nourished by a vibrant global network.

Through a rich array of enjoyable and informative gatherings, and through such fruitful initiatives as an annual Shakespeare Competition for secondary-school students, a variety of award stipends to facilitate learning in academic and artistic settings, and a volunteer-based tutoring service for those who pursue better command of a discourse that is not native to them, the Washington area's branch of the ESU is doing its part to preserve and transmit a heritage that continues to link those who share a vital core of common interests and mutual aspirations.

We'd be honored to have you align yourself with this noble legacy either by joining us or by renewing an existing affiliation. Simply supply the information called for in the Order Form at right and submit your completed application, along with a check payable to The English-Speaking Union, to 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036. Below is a detailed enumeration of membership levels and benefits.

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

*Event notices, membership directory,
ESU branch newsletter*

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

*All ASSOCIATE-level benefits plus free subscriptions to
national and international ESU publications*

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

*All SUBSCRIBER-level benefits plus free tickets for use at 2 regular ESU
events and discounted prices for designated special occasions*

DONOR (\$250)

*All CONTRIBUTOR-level benefits plus 2 additional tickets for use at
regular events, 1 free ticket for a designated special occasion,
and recognition in selected print materials*

BENEFACTOR (\$500)

*All DONOR-level benefits plus 4 additional tickets for use at regular
events, 2 free tickets for use at a designated special occasion,
and prominent mention in selected print materials*

PATRON (\$1,000)

*All SUBSCRIBER-level benefits plus 2 free tickets for use at
all ESU gatherings, prominent mention in selected print
materials, and acknowledgment at all special occasions*

SPONSOR (\$2,500)

*All PATRON-level benefits plus 4 or more free
guest tickets for all ESU gatherings*

The Gift of Membership

The holidays are upon us, and we encourage you to consider bestowing a membership in THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION on someone who'd enjoy attending our events or taking part in endeavors like ENGLISH IN ACTION. You'll not only be offering a special treat to a loved one; you'll also be able to apply to your own dues payment a 10% discount for every gift you provide.

If you'd like to bestow multiple gifts, simply make and complete one or more copies of the Order Form below and submit them to our office. We'll send attractive acknowledgment materials not only to you but to each of the beneficiaries of your generosity.

As you'll know if you've read the rest of this bulletin or visited us at www.esuwdc.org, the ESU has presented a number of programs in recent months. We're now arranging future engagements with London author **Miranda Carter**, Washington journalist **Marvin Kalb**, Georgetown sociolinguist **Deborah Tannen**, and British Shakespeare authority **Stanley Wells**. We're also organizing excursions to concerts and theater attractions, as well as to such settings as the **BRITISH EMBASSY**, **HILLWOOD MUSEUM**, and the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**.

Order Form

I wish to order ___ member ___ non-member tickets for January 18 for ___ the program and buffet reception (\$30 for members, \$35 for non-members) ___ the program only (\$10 for any attendee).

I wish to enroll or renew my membership at the _____ level.

I wish to provide a Gift Membership at the _____ level to the person(s) whose name(s) and contact details follow my own below. It is my understanding that, if I wish, I may deduct 10% of the price for each gift from the amount I remit to cover my own membership.

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

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 _____