



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

JUNE 2005

News & Announcements

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A DOWN-UNDER BARBECUE AT THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY *A Festive Picnic Graciously Hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. John Wood*

Under the kind patronage of the **AMBASSADOR OF NEW ZEALAND AND MRS. JOHN WOOD**, the **AUSTRALIA AMERICA ASSOCIATION** and the **SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB** are hosting a barbecue at the **NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY**. As in years past, they've graciously extended an invitation to members of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** and their guests for another lively get-together. Those who've been on hand for previous visits to the welcoming, leafy setting that Ambassador and Mrs. Wood provide for such occasions will know why a dish with the Antipodes' special combination of flavors is always to be relished as one of the season's most popular enhancements. Casual attire is the norm. Young people and children are more than welcome. And you'll be happy to hear that there is ample free parking on the road that leads up the hill from Massachusetts Avenue, past the **BRITISH EMBASSY** Rotunda, to the **NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY** compound. Reservations for this picnic are being handled by **Colleen Greer**, who requests that you **let her know as soon as possible** if you wish to attend. You can reach her by e-mail at greerca2@yahoo.com or by phone at (703) 524-1381. Your check should be made out to the **AUSTRALIA AMERICA ASSOCIATION**, and if you mail it you should address it to Ms. Greer at 2001 North Adams Street, 1011, Arlington, VA 22201-3752.

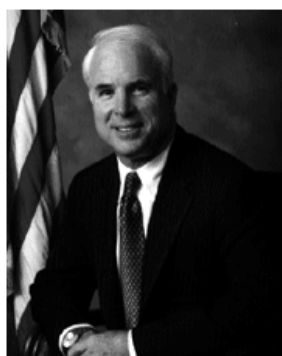


SATURDAY, JUNE 18
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY
37 Observatory Circle NW

ADULT ATTENDEES \$45
YOUNGSTERS 4 TO 15 \$20
CHILDREN UNDER 4 Free

FROM LONDON, THE 2005 ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE *Senator JOHN MCCAIN Inaugurates a New BBC Series at DARTMOUTH HOUSE*



MONDAY, JULY 4
3:00 p.m. on BBC Radio 4

LIVE FROM THE ESU'S
LONDON HEADQUARTERS

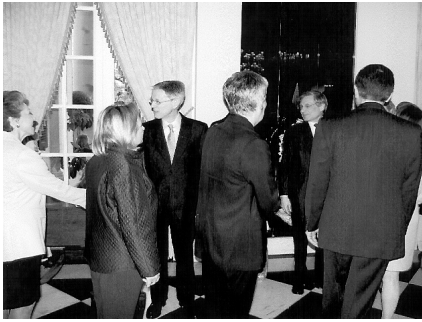
www.bbc.co.uk/radio4

Shortly after the death of journalist **ALISTAIR COOKE** in March 2004, one of our branch's Vice Presidents, **Marjorie J. Williams**, suggested that the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** devise an apt way to perpetuate his legacy. The first fruits of Dr. Williams' inspired proposal will be realized on **MONDAY, JULY 4**, when Arizona **SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN** delivers the **BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION's** inaugural **ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE** at **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** in Mayfair. This gathering will be hosted by the **ESU**, with its International Chairman, **Lord Watson of Richmond**, its Director-General, **Valerie Mitchell**, and its Washington DC Area Branch Executive Director, **John Andrews**, on hand for the proceedings. Others to take part in the ceremony will include Mr. Cooke's daughter and literary executor, **Susan Cooke Kittredge**, his biographer, **BBC RADIO 4's Nick Clarke** (who presides over *The World at One* each weekday), and **BBC Director-General Mark Thompson**. Senator McCain's topic will be *An American Patriot Today*, and we're told that he is preparing some declarations of interdependence for the occasion. His lecture will be recorded, and if all goes well it will soon be available in both audio and video formats. In the interim it can be heard live online between **3:00 and 3:45 p.m.** on the **Fourth of July** over www.bbc.co.uk/radio4. Visit www.esuwdc.org for further details.

Recent Highlights

AMBASSADOR AND LADY MANNING HOST A JOYOUS BRITISH EMBASSY RECEPTION

It was **Tuesday evening, May 3**, and once again the heavens graced a memorable gathering with a clement-weather emergency. For those who enjoyed sitting or strolling in a garden that has become justly proverbial for its flora, the azaleas and dogwoods blossomed in full profusion. For those who savored an



enticing selection of hors d'oeuvres with the beverages of their choice, a friendly retinue of waiters seemed ever at the ready. What made the festivities particularly special, however, was the warmth with which **HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR AND**

LADY MANNING paid tribute to the reception's honorees and welcomed approximately 230 **ESU** constituents and their guests to the Mannings' beautiful residence in the **BRITISH EMBASSY**.

The only disappointment in an otherwise perfect occasion was that three venerable leaders, **Richard H. Howland**, **Priscilla Liggett**, and **Eleanor Ritchie**, who were being recognized for their distinguished contributions to the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** and to a number of other worthy causes, were too frail to attend. Their presence was nevertheless palpable as **Sir David Manning** and **ESU President Frederic W. Schwartz, Jr.**, thanked them for all they'd achieved during their more active days.

Sir David recalled, for instance, that all three had been significantly involved in the **ESU's** commissioning of a magnificent statue of **SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL**, which had been installed in front of the gates at 3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW and dedicated on April 9, 1966. Conceived by **Alexander C. Liggett**, and sculpted by **William M. McVey** in collaboration with landscape architect **Fred S. Toguchi**, this monument had been designed so that "one foot stands on United States soil, one on British Embassy grounds: a symbol of Churchill's Anglo-American descent, and of the Alliance he did so much to forge, in war and in peace."

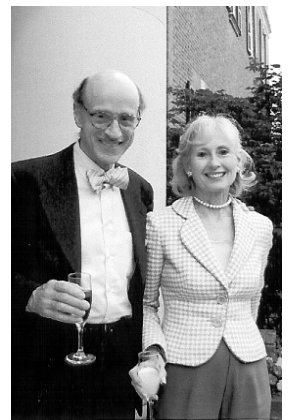


As Sir David addressed the values we indelibly associate with this unique statesman, he went on to commend the special relationship that Churchill's legacy epitomizes, a topic that prompted him to reflect, not only upon the many ways in which the U.K. and the U.S. continue to build fruitfully upon a broad spectrum of shared traditions, frameworks, and institutions, but upon the accelerating global proliferation of a language that undergirds so much of our cultural and political heritage.

In reply to Sir David's generous remarks, **ESU** branch President **Frederic Schwartz** thanked him, his charming Lady, and Social Secretary **Amanda Downes** for all they'd done as hosts of an evening to cherish. He went on to acknowledge several underwriters, among them the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION** for major program support, **Marjorie J. Williams** and **Walter L. Wright III** for their sponsorship of key endeavors, and the **BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** for its assistance to the **ESU** fellowship fund. He then enumerated five recipients of recent laurels from the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, among them the winner of our **SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD** for 2005 (**Jennifer Hoover** of **BETHESDA - CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, Maryland), the top contestant in our **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION** (**Emily Matich**, a student of **Lisa Coyne** at **OAKCREST SCHOOL** in McLean, Virginia), the designee of our **WALTER L. WRIGHT III AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE IN THE DRA-**



MATIC PROFESSION (**Elizabeth Webster** of the **ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING** at **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**), and the new holders of two **HELENE GLADSTONE WILLIAMS AWARDS**, **Colette Crossman**, a Ph.D. candidate in art history at the University of Maryland, who will be in Great Britain this summer conducting research in London, Oxford, and other locales on spiritual themes in the works of Victorian painter Edward Burne-Jones, and the **Rev. Nathan J. A. Humphrey**, a scholarly Episcopal curate in Monkton, Maryland, who will be enrolling shortly in a doctoral program at St. John's College in the University of Cambridge.



Among the grace notes for this spring's **EMBASSY** reception was that it coincided with a wedding anniversary for two of our city's most popular and respected figures, **Finlay** and **Willee**

Lewis, pictured above. Sir David toasted them with great feeling, and everyone was pleased that they had chosen to be with us on a date that meant so much to them.

A WORD OF GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

As in years past, the **BRITISH EMBASSY** reception was an event at which the **ESU** generated much-needed funds for its educational and charitable purposes. For all they've provided, both on this occasion and during the months that preceded it, we're highly grateful to our **PATRONS**: Mr. Jay Coupe, Mr. and Mrs. Robert



A. Fratkin, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Greer, Jr., Mr. William F. Huneke, Mrs. Anne N. Lewis, Mrs. Priscilla C. Liggett, Mr. Phillip Harlow Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. Braxton Moncure, Mrs. Lillie Lou Rietzke, and Mr. and Mrs. Frederic W. Schwartz, Jr.

Meanwhile, we remain deeply indebted to our **BENEFACTORS**: Mr. and Mrs. William FitzGerald, III, Mr. and Mrs. Leander McCormick-Goodhart, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Pazzi, Mrs. Jane Plimpton Plakias, Mr. and Mrs. Roger J. Plaskett, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Renfro, Mrs. Nell V. Weidenhammer, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Mark Wyatt.

We extend fervent appreciation to our **DONORS**: Mr. Robert N. Alfandre, Mr. Charles Barenthaler, III, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Black, Ms. M. Irene Crowe, Mr. Austin Hay, Mrs. Joan C. Saenz Healey, Ms. Anne G. Hodge, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Horning, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Kauvar, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Lewis, Mr. Roger B. Lowe, Ms. Marie Matson, Mr. and Mrs. Ian S. McDonald, Cdr. Susan J. Merritt (now Mrs. Peter Nelson), Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mertz, the National Geographic Society, Ms. Ruth Upperu Paul, Mrs. Mary D. Rob, and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Suddeth.

We're grateful, as always, for those who affiliate with the **ESU** at any level, but we're especially drawn to those who help us offset our administrative costs by signing up with payments that place them above the *Associate* and *Subscriber* categories. With that in mind, we thank our **CONTRIBUTORS**: Ms. Marcile Backs, Mr. and Mrs. Eric W. Beshers, The Hon. and Mrs. E. R. Braithwaite, Ms. Illa S. Brown, Mr. Gene Calvert, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth S. Carpenter, The Hon. Henry E. Catto, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Francis G. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Cranford,

Mr. Michael D. D'Anna, Mr. A. Graham Down, Mr. Gerald P. Dumont, Mr. Bradbury P. Foss, Mr. John Sward Gleiber, Ms. Carol Gould-Philips, Mrs. Flora B. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Paul David Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Hartland, Mrs. Helen Hecht, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Gary Heckman, Capt. Macauley Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Hunter, III, Mr. John Peters Irelan, Mr. Jeffrey B. Jones and Mrs. Alice McElfresh, Dr. Donald West King, Mr. Gregory J. King, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. McKittrick, Jr., Mr. Daniel N. Myers, Mr. Carl Nelson and Mrs. Abigail Nichols, Ms. Nancy M. Norton, Ms. Ragnhild Oeverjordet, Ms. Audrey Pendergast, Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Dean Smith, Mrs. C. Edgerton Thayer, Ms. Julia H. Thompson, Ms. Pauline Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice B. Tobin, Ms. Jacqueline A. Wakeling, and Ms. Cynthia Wojick.

It's a pleasure, finally, to single out those who kindly responded to our May invitation with special donations to the **ESU**, many of them from friends who were unable to attend the event: Mr. and Mrs. Tersh Boasberg, Mr. Charles Barenthaler, III, Dr. Arthur P. Bean, Jr., Ms. Ann C. Bushnell, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. T. James Camp, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth S. Carpenter, Mrs. Margaret Green, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Greer, Jr., Ms. Jeanne Griest, Dr. Joyce Hagel, Mrs. Marifranis Hardison, Ms. Anne G. Hodge, Mr. John Peters Irelan, Dr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Kauvar, Mrs. Priscilla Liggett, Mr. and Mrs. Leander McCormick-Goodhart, Mr. Phillip H. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. Braxton Moncure, Mr. and Mrs. Terence Murphy, Mrs. Evelyn S. Nef, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Press, Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Sacks, Mrs. Stanley D. Scott, Mrs. C. Edgerton Thayer, and Dr. and Mrs. Ellen Yahuda.

Photographs by Jan Denton (responsible for all but one of the pictures on Page 2) and by Charles W.T. Stephenson (responsible for the head shot of Sir David Manning on Page 2 and for the view of the Embassy portico and rear terrace on this page)

NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED AT ESU'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

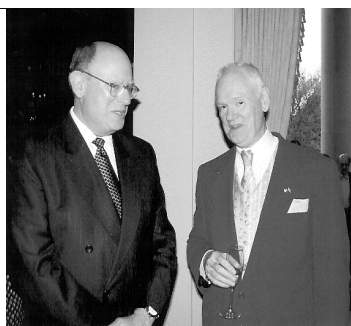
Owing to the kindness of Executive Director **John Churchill**, and thanks to the helpfulness of his staff at the **PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY**, from whom the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** now rents office space, the Nation's Capital branch of the **ESU** held its **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2005** in a Victorian mansion that houses one of America's most prestigious organizations.

This get-together, which attracted 36 attendees, began at 10:30 a.m. on **Saturday, May 21**, at 1606 New Hampshire Avenue NW. After the formal proceedings, which lasted an hour and a half, those who could stay and mingle for awhile were treated to a light buffet luncheon, catered by **Diana and Peter Nicholson**.

The primary purpose of the event was to review the branch's accomplishments over the last twelve months, outline plans for the year ahead, and elect directors and officers to fill several slots that were to become available on June 1. A **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**, headed by **Patricia Plaskett** and including **A. Graham Down**, **Ian McDonald**, **Lee Viccellio**, and **Sarah Williams**, presented a slate that elicited unanimous approval when voted upon by the membership. As a consequence **Gerald B. Kauvar**,

who had served for a year as First Vice President, succeeded **Frederic W. Schwartz, Jr.**, as President, **Thomas M. Pazzi** became the new First Vice President, and **Braxton Moncure** accepted another term as Treasurer. Also re-elected were five Vice Presidents: **Armida Colt**, **Macauley Howard**, **Eleanor Ritchie**, **Marjorie J. Williams**, and **Mark Wyatt**. One new Director, **D. Elizabeth Crompton**, had agreed to complete the last two years of a 3-year term from June 2004 through May 2007. Meanwhile the Board benefited from the accession of four new Directors for 3-year terms from June 2005 through May 2008: **Stephen F. Black**, **James C. Ledyard**, **Mark Olshaker**, and **Jeanne A. Roberts**. Finally, the membership approved a 2005-6 **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** that will consist of **Stephen F. Black**, **Ian McDonald** (Chair), **Diana Nicholson**, **Lee Viccellio**, and **Sarah Williams**.

Frederic Schwartz thanked everyone who had contributed to his term as President. He extended best wishes to **Gerry Kauvar**, and he voiced confidence that Mr. Kauvar would build effectively upon the foundation he'd done so much to establish through his efforts on the **EDUCATION** and **GOALS & STRATEGY** committees. In response Mr. Kauvar expressed deep gratitude and presented Mr. Schwartz, as a gift from his fellow officers and directors, an inscribed copy of the book that accompanied a December 2004 program, co-sponsored by the **ESU**, that had featured a preview of **Robert MacNeil's** PBS series *Do You Speak American?*



Mr. Kauvar (here pictured in conversation with Treasurer **Braxton Moncure** at the May 3 **BRITISH EMBASSY** reception) went on to say that he looked forward to doing all he could to get more of the membership vigorously involved in branch activities. He described 2004-5 as a "strenuous year." He made it clear, however, that he did not regard the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** as a "fragile organization." He embraced its "global mission" as an important one, and he spoke enthusiastically about the **ESU's** future.

The reports that accompanied the main business of the session were generally upbeat. Executive Director **John Andrews** observed that the branch had offered an unprecedented number of program attractions (30) in 2004-5, eight more than in 2003-4 and twice as many as in 2002-3. He noted that these events had taken place in a diversity of locales, among them the **AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE**, **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**, the **BRITISH EMBASSY**, the **CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART**, **DACOR BACON HOUSE**, the **EISENHOWER INSTITUTE**, the **MANSION ON O STREET**, the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**, the **NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**, the **NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**, the **NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY**, **WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL**, and the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**.

Mr. Andrews emphasized that almost all of these gatherings had been presented in collaboration with other organizations, and he supplied a partial list that included the **AUSTRALIA AMERICA**

ASSOCIATION, the **BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**, the **BRITISH COUNCIL**, **CANTABDC** (a local group for graduates of the University of Cambridge), the **CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY**, the **HARVARD CLUB OF WASHINGTON**, the **LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS' ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**, **MACNEIL/LEHRER PRODUCTIONS**, the **NEWSEUM**, **POLITICS & PROSE**, the **PRINCETON CLUB OF WASHINGTON**, and **WETA TELEVISION**.

He also distributed a packet of **ESU PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS** that illustrated how consistently publicized these events had been. One, a luncheon presentation by Sir **Harold Evans** to highlight his PBS series *They Made America*, had been televised several times over **C-SPAN2's** weekend **BOOKTV** service. And many of the others had been featured in such media outlets as the *City Paper*, the *Georgetown*, the *Washington Examiner*, and the *Washington Post* (in *Book World's* Literary Calendar, in the *Sunday Source* section, and in Jane Horwitz's *Backstage* column), not to mention the bulletins, brochures, and printed invitations of cooperating institutions. As a consequence, he said, these events were appealing to constituents who'd had no previous awareness of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, and many of them were becoming regular attendees and joining the **ESU**.

Mr. Andrews' comments were strongly reinforced by a **PROGRAM COMMITTEE** report from co-chair **Celia Josephs**, who singled out a number of her favorite moments: a mid-September luncheon with **Princess Michael of Kent**, focusing on her novel about two ancestors who had been rivals for the love of a Renaissance king; a late-September dinner with media personalities **Robert Aubry Davis**, **Martin Goldsmith**, and **Larry Kane**, who reminded us about the Beatles' first visits to America in 1964; Corcoran dialogues in October, November, February, and March with actor **F. Murray Abraham**, *New Yorker* columnist **Adam Gopnik**, *Washington Post* critic **Peter Marks**, and actress **Lynn Redgrave** and her daughter **Annabel Clark**; a late-November chat about Shakespeare's sonnets with Renaissance scholars **Paul Edmondson** and **Stanley Wells**; a December concert by the world-renowned **Choir of King's College, Cambridge**; luncheon talks in January and March by authors **Stephen Greenblatt** (*Will in the World*) and **Michael W. Kauffman** (*American Brutus*); a mid-February lecture about *William Pitt the Younger* by **William Hague**, former Leader of Britain's Conservative Party; a late-March dinner gathering about "The Rise and Rise of English" with **Lord Watson of Richmond**, **ESU's** International Chairman; a mid-April dinner conversation about David Garrick's *Clandestine Marriage* with London director **Richard Clifford**, Folger Theatre producer **Janet Griffin**, and actors **Catherine Flye** and **Ted van Griethuysen**; a late-April gathering (one of three in association with the **ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION**) at which British historian **John Wilton-Ely** extolled the virtues of Horace Walpole as a "Mirror of the Georgian Age"; an early-May book-signing with **Ernestine Bradley**, who talked about growing up in Nazi Germany and eventually making her way to the United States as an airline stewardess; and two recent midday presentations by prominent **ESU** members, **Barrett McGurn**, who spoke about his role as editor of *Yank* magazine during World War II, and **Judith Farr**, who discussed the most recent of her four books about poet Emily Dickinson. Mrs. Joseph praised her colleagues on the committee for all their help, particularly co-chair **Tom Pazzi**, who was unable to attend the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. She lauded **Audrey Pendergast** for her efforts in arranging a mid-May tour

of Italian Renaissance masterpieces at the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**. And she thanked **Graham Down**, **Braxton Moncure**, and **Jane Plakias** for making their homes available for receptions, holiday parties, picnics, and other get-togethers.

Commenting on the **ESU**'s fiscal condition, Treasurer **Braxton Moncure** noted that, although the branch appeared likely to finish the 2003-4 fiscal year with a deficit of nearly \$17,000, more than half of that figure was offset by a \$9,801 surplus that had been carried over from the previous cycle. He pointed out that over a 6-year period since mid-1999 the surpluses had usually come at opportune times, often from legacies bequeathed by long-time **ESU** members, and that as a result the average deficit was only \$4,982. "If we're going broke," he smiled, "we're doing so very slowly." Referring everyone to a page labeled Balance Sheet, he noted that the branch now enjoys \$273,788 in Current Assets, \$256,055 of which is invested in Endowment funds.

Mr. Moncure went on to observe that the Current Assets category no longer includes a \$335,000 "Deed of Trust" that had been carried on the branch's books until recently. As he and Mr. Schwartz explained, this sum had represented a mortgage the **ESU** once held for a former clubhouse at **2131 S Street NW**, a property which had been sold to a couple who required supplemental financing to afford some long-overdue renovations. Sadly, before they could complete all their work on the building, the new owners had been forced into bankruptcy and foreclosure. In the aftermath of this unsettling development, owing to a bizarre chain of events that included a bold act of theft by one claimant to the property, the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** had been thwarted in its attempts to collect the unpaid balance on its loan. Mr. Schwartz emphasized that he was continuing to represent the **ESU** on a pro-bono basis and had filed an appeal in the case. Because he now estimated the branch's odds of success at less than 50%, however, he had advised the board to remove this figure from the Balance Sheet as an Asset. This step had been reported to, and approved by, the National Office, and through them, Mr. Schwartz observed, it would also be reported to such external authorities as the Internal Revenue Service.

Speaking in his role as Chairman of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**, **A. Graham Down** described 2004-5 as a "challenging year." He noted, for example, that the annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** had had to be rescheduled twice because of winter-weather advisories that closed area schools. Chuckling over the **ESU**'s uncanny talent for generating snow on demand, he said, one teacher had gone so far as to suggest a new sideline for the branch as a proprietor of ski resorts. Despite these difficulties, however, the March 4 contest drew even more students to the Lansburgh theater than had its predecessor in 2004. The contest itself had been excellent as usual, and the only negative thing that could be said about it was that, for the first time in more than a decade in a half, none of the entrants represented a public school from the District of Columbia. Mr. Down said that through the good offices of **Stephen Black**, a Committee member who also serves on the board of **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**, the **ESU** would be coordinating with **David Snider**, who heads the Theatre's *Text Alive* program and works regularly with DC teachers and students, to address that problem. Mr. Down went on to observe that the Committee would be

doing what it could to strengthen the area's middle-school competition, now in its second year as a collaborative effort with the **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S CENTER FOR RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE STUDIES**, and that it would be exploring ways to be more helpful to teachers like **Fran Caterini** of **WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**, who helped found the new contest and who is now seeking to develop a new Shakespeare curriculum for her institution that would provide a logical sequence of readings and activities for grades seven through twelve.

ENGLISH IN ACTION Director **Diana Nicholson** reported that **EIA** continues to attract volunteers to an endeavor which assists newcomers with the subtleties of a language whose nuances are unfamiliar to them. She pointed out that current tutees hail from locales as far-flung as Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Hungary, Iran, Ivory Coast, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Taiwan, and Yemen. She was also happy to say that adults in need of tutoring are regularly referred to her by the **D.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY RESOURCES DIVISION**, by the **PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION**, and by other institutions. Mrs. Nicholson thanked Executive Director **John Andrews** for his assistance in updating the program's database, and she said that the latest figures indicate that roughly 140 tutors and tutees are regularly participating in **EIA** activities. She articulated her gratitude to the loyal members of her committee – **George Desorcy**, **Rachel Hecht**, **Phillip Miller**, **Sorab Modi**, **Audrey Pendergast**, **Madelyn Ribnick**, and **Sarah Williams** – and on behalf of them she thanked such stalwart supporters of **ENGLISH IN ACTION** as **Graham Down**, **Braxton Moncure**, **Jane Plimpton Plakias**, and **Eleanor Ritchie**, each of whom has hosted one or more **EIA** functions.

To conclude the proceedings, **Frederic Schwartz** called upon **Sally Stokes**, recipient of a 2004 **HELENE GLADSTONE WILLIAMS AWARD**, for some comments about the use to which she had put her \$4,000 in



ESU grant funds. Ms. Stokes delivered a touching, witty, and beautifully illustrated presentation, beginning with an endearing account of her initial awareness of **Noel Streatfeild**, a recent British writer whose life and work she had been studying for the last several years, and proceeding to a detailed narrative about the sites she had visited, the libraries and archives she had consulted, and the friends, relatives, and descendants of the author who had welcomed her into their homes, replied to her inquiries, provided her with introductions, and given her access to any materials in their possession that might be pertinent to the publications and lectures she was expecting to produce. Among other things, Ms. Stokes talked about her desire to secure new, and more perceptive, generations of readers for classics such as *Ballet Shoes*. As she drew her remarks to a close and found herself greeted with applause, it was obvious that she had succeeded with at least one audience. Everyone agreed with Mr. Schwartz's observation that Ms. Stokes' report – like the research she had conducted and was continuing to augment as she learned more about her subject – had been a model of the kind. Among the attendees who concurred with this assessment was the **Rev. Nathan J. A. Humphrey**, who will probably be addressing a similar group of **ESU** members a year hence as he pursues his doctorate at the University of Cambridge.



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 20009-2512

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 array of offerings, some of which are shared with audiences around the world through radio and TV, the national capital's ESU endeavors to advance a noble mission.

New Play by ESU's Rachael Bail

We're happy to announce that ESU member RACHAEL BAIL has completed a new play, **Return to Vietnam**. Its premiere will take place in the ALDEN THEATRE at 1234 Ingleside Avenue in McLean, Virginia, during the weekends of June 17-19 and June 24-26. Performances are scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Directed by Michael Stepowany and presented by the MCLEAN DRAMA COMPANY, this production will mark the 30th anniversary of the conclusion of one of America's most traumatic experiences. Tickets are priced at \$15 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens and students, and \$10 for groups of eight or more. For further information, please call the theatre's box office at (703) 790-0123.

Thanks for Your Generosity

Everyone associated with the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION is enormously grateful for your willingness to facilitate its offerings with your support. The ESU girdles the planet, with a prestigious London address at DARTMOUTH HOUSE near Berkeley Square, and those who take part in any of its local, regional, and national associations are nourished by a vibrant global network.

In an effort to keep our constituents alert to the international dimensions of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION, we're recently completed arrangements for a perk that is being supplied to everyone who affiliates with the ESU at the Contributor level or above. Those members now receive **ESU NEWS**, a colorful, illustrated periodical that comes out six times a year from our organization's international headquarters. If you qualify for this benefit, you should find in your envelope a copy of the May 2005 issue. If you're not yet receiving **ESU NEWS** but would like to do so, you may upgrade your membership to a higher level with a quick telephone call to (202) 234-4602.

Through an enticing assortment of edifying events (many of which are enjoyed by listeners elsewhere through C-SPAN2, the BBC, and other media outlets), and through such enterprises as an annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** for secondary-school students, a variety of **FELLOWSHIP AWARDS** to encourage substantive exploration in academic and artistic settings, and a volunteer-based tutoring service, **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, for those who aspire to better command of a discourse that is not native to them, the ESU's Washington branch is dedicated to extending a precious legacy. To help sustain this legacy, and to augment it through ambitious new initiatives to be announced in the months ahead, all you need to do is supply the information requested in the form at right and submit it by post, phone, fax, or e-mail. Below are the ESU's membership categories.

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

*Local ESU NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS,
e-mail notices, and other publications*

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,
plus bimonthly issues of ESU NEWS
from Dartmouth House in London*

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*

Response Form

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the ESU of \$_____ to support its educational and cultural endeavors. I wish to ___renew or ___enroll in the English-Speaking Union at the \$_____ level.

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

Charge _MC_Visa_____ (___/___)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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E-Mail _____

*Member rates for ESU events are available to those affiliated with
BABA, CantabDC, LSE Alumni, the RSA, RSC America, The
Shakespeare Guild, the Woman's National Democratic Club,
and other organizations that assist the ESU.*

Visit us online, and check for calendar updates, at www.esuwdc.org.