



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

MAY 2006

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REFLECTIONS ON LAW BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ABA ***A Discussion of THE SEPARATION OF POWERS with MICHAEL S. GRECO***

In association with the PRINCETON CLUB OF WASHINGTON, we're pleased to co-sponsor a conversation about *THE SEPARATION OF POWERS* with MICHAEL S. GRECO, a partner in the Boston office of KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART NICHOLSON GRAHAM LLP and the current President of the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. Mr. Greco holds degrees from Princeton University and the Boston College Law School and has taught at Phillips Exeter Academy. He'll discuss the roles defined in our Constitution for the executive, legislative, and judicial



branches of the federal government and talk about why it's essential to keep their functions balanced and distinct. In this context he'll consider recent developments that have raised concerns about encroachment by one or more branches. And he'll argue that overreaching and other abuses could undermine the viability of our democratic institutions. Mr. Greco will also be happy to address such topics as the ratings ABA provides for candidates nominated to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

NEWSWEEK'S JONATHAN ALTER LOOKS BACK TO FDR ***An Appraisal of Franklin D. Roosevelt's First One Hundred Days in Office***



We're delighted to join the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB as co-hosts for a gathering with NEWSWEEK senior editor JONATHAN ALTER, author of *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*. Mr. Alter will explain how a new President restored confidence and transformed American society during his first three months in the White House, lifting the nation out of despair and galvanizing its citizens from paralysis to dynamism. Mr. Alter has covered the last six presidential campaigns. He frequently interviews

heads of state, not only here but elsewhere, and he has produced more than fifty *Newsweek* cover stories. As a correspondent for NBC, Mr. Alter appears regularly on *Today* and the *Nightly News*. Not surprisingly, he has received many awards, not only for his reporting and commentary, but for articles in such periodicals as *Esquire*, the *New Republic*, and the *New York Times*. Copies of his latest publication will be on hand for purchase and for inscription by their distinguished writer.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30

Lunch, 12:30 Program, 1:00

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

Luncheon & Program, \$25

Reception at the British Embassy on May 18

For details on that and on other *COMING ATTRACTIONS*, among them two events with PULITZER PRIZE winners, see the pages that follow.

THEATRE À LA CARTE IN WASHINGTON, AND HOW TO SAVOR ITS MANY BENEFITS

Along with our friends in the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**, we anticipate a thought-provoking dialogue when the leaders of four innovative drama companies sit down with an insightful reviewer to discuss our metropolitan area's emergence as one of the most important theatrical centers in the nation. We hope you'll join us for a luncheon conversation at which *Washington Post* drama critic **NELSON PRESSLEY** (pictured here) conducts a panel discussion with four talented artistic directors: **CHRISTOPHER HENLEY** of *Washington Shakespeare Company*, **BLAKE ROBISON** of *Round House Theatre*, **ARI ROTH** of *Theater J*, and **JEREMY SKIDMORE** of *Theater Alliance*. These producers do



THURSDAY, MAY 11
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30
Lunch, 12:30 Program, 1:00
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Lunch and Program, \$25

not run the largest institutions of their kind. No, what makes them notable is something else: they introduce their audiences to unfamiliar scripts, playwrights, actors, and directors, and they do so with shows that generate admiring comments from playgoers and critics alike. As a result, it's not unusual for them to garner nominations for Helen Hayes Awards and other distinctions, often by competing successfully against much larger institutions, among them **Arena Stage**, the **Folger Theatre**, the **Kennedy Center**, **Shakespeare Theatre Company**, and **Studio Theatre**.

THE ESU'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO OCCUR AT PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY

Thanks to the hospitality of our associates at the **PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY**, chief among them its helpful Secretary, **John Churchill**, we'll hold our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** for the third consecutive year in that organization's welcoming quarters. Proceedings will commence at 10:30 a.m., and they'll be followed

SATURDAY, MAY 13
10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
1606 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
No Admission Charge,
But Donations Welcome

by a light luncheon for those who wish to linger and converse with their fellow **ESU** members. Attendees will not be expected to pay for this gathering, but they'll make our lives simpler if they kindly reserve spaces in advance. Those who'd like to help offset the food and beverage costs for lunch (roughly \$25 a person) may do so with a tax-deductible donation in any amount. As in the past, the primary purpose of this get-together will be to review the **ESU's** activities and achievements over the last twelve months, discuss objectives for the year ahead, and elect officers to fill several important positions. Those who join us will also have the pleasure of meeting art historian **COLETTE CROSSMAN**, a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland and a recipient of the branch's 2005 **HELENE GLADSTONE WILLIAMS AWARD**.

A **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**, chaired by **Ian McDonald**, is now receiving suggestions and recommendations from the member-

ship. Those who wish to communicate with this panel – which also includes **Stephen F. Black**, **Diana Nicholson**, **Lee Vicedellio**, and **Sarah Williams** – may do so by writing or speaking with any of its delegates between now and **Friday, May 3**. Its chairman can be reached by post at **4621 Hunt Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815**, by e-mail at crisianmcd@aol.com, or by phone at **(301) 654-2069**. Messages may also be conveyed through the **ESU** office at **(202) 234-4602** or esuwdc@msn.com.

SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING HOST A RECEPTION AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY

For many **ESU** constituents no spring would be complete without the special pleasure that has long attached to an evening in the beautiful residence of the **BRITISH AMBASSADOR**. It is thus with immense relish that we look forward to this year's gathering, one to be presided over by **SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING** at a time when, weather permitting, their grateful guests will be able to stroll in a garden that beckons with azalea and dogwood blossoms. Once again this soiree will provide an opportunity to reflect on the cultural



THURSDAY, MAY 18
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
3100 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
Admission \$100
(\$50 Tax-Deductible)

and educational aspirations that remain central to the **ESU's** exalted mission. It will also supply salutary reminders of the unique legacy of **SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL**, a statesman of Anglo-

American heritage whose indispensable contributions to the special relationship between the U.K. and the U.S. are powerfully evoked by a larger-than-life statue of the United Kingdom's wartime leader that the **ESU** placed in front of the Embassy compound on April 9, 1966.

During a gala at the **WILLARD HOTEL** which occurred two days after the 40th anniversary of that dedication ceremony, the **ESU** joined the **BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** and the **CHURCHILL CENTRE** to commemorate sculptor **William McVey's** monument and take stock of Sir Winston's enduring heritage. Popular news anchor **Gordon Peterson** led a panel that included aerospace executive **John W. Douglass**, journalist **H. Finlay Lewis**, British diplomat **Dominic Martin**, and UPI correspondent **Martin Walker**, and their cogent remarks were supplemented by eloquent messages from such key figures as **Lady Soames**, the Prime Minister's daughter, and **Susan Eisenhower**, granddaughter of Churchill's comrade in arms.

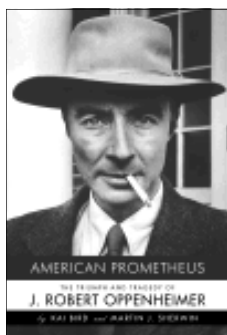


It proved to be a scintillating dinner, and those who arranged it are now intent upon establishing an annual **CHURCHILL FORUM**.

To that end, those who cherish the discourse and values that Sir Winston has come to epitomize are encouraged not only to attend this year's reception but to consider supplementary gifts that will help launch an important new series of historical and philosophical deliberations. Corporate underwriting and foundation grants will be vital to the effort's success, of course, but individual commitments are equally crucial. Thanks to a thoughtful gesture from Board member **WILLIAM L. RENFRO**, everyone who contributes \$150 or more in tax-deductible donations at this juncture will receive, as a timely keepsake, a compact-disc recording of *Churchill: A Celebration in Words and Music*.

A NEW STUDY OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF PHYSICIST J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER

Looking toward another event we're delighted to co-host with the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**, we eagerly await a presentation by **KAI BIRD** and **MARTIN J. SHERWIN**, who'll talk



about and sign copies of *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. Winner of the 2005 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2006 Pulitzer Prize, this fascinating volume tells the story of a man who is often described as the "Father of the Atomic Bomb." Mr. Bird and Mr. Sherwin spent more than twenty-five years conducting interviews and sifting through archival records, and the result of their meticulous research is

a narrative that reveals both the exhilaration of discovery and the anxieties and personal misfortunes that emanated from a brilliant scientist's realization that what he had wrought could have incalculable consequences for a fragile planet and all of its inhabitants. According to the *Boston Globe*, this is "the first biography to give full due to Oppenheimer's extraordinary complexity." It "stands as an Everest among the mountains of books on the bomb project and Oppenheimer, and is an achievement not likely to be surpassed or equaled." Previous studies by **KAI BIRD** include *The Chairman: John J. McCloy*, *The Making of the American Establishment*, and *The Color of Truth: McGeorge Bundy and William Bundy, Brothers in Arms*. Mr. Bird's co-author, **MARTIN J. SHERWIN**, is a professor of history at Tufts University. His book *A World Destroyed: Hiroshima and its Legacies* won the Stuart L. Bernath Prize and the American History Book Prize.

A RECEPTION TO INTRODUCE ESU'S SIGNATURE PROGRAM FOR NEWCOMERS

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 available to a civic-minded volunteer. **ENGLISH IN ACTION** is a one-to-one tutoring service in which ordinary peo-

ple get together once a week for an hour of relaxed conversation. One will be an adult with normal proficiency, but no formal training or teaching credentials, in the use of spoken and written English. The other may be a recent immigrant to the United States, a high-school or college student from overseas, or a professional who grasps the rudiments of our vocabulary and grammar but seeks to acquire the skillful ease a native speaker of them takes for granted. **ENGLISH IN ACTION** has been provided by our branch of the **ESU** for more than two decades, and it has aided hundreds of newcomers as they've discovered how to cope with the challenges of a society quite distinct from the ones they left. If you'd like to learn about **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, and hear some of the rewards its participants reap from interactions that are fundamental to the mission of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, you'll want to attend the reception that **Diana Nicholson** is graciously hosting to introduce **EIA** to those who wish to become more familiar with it. Mrs. Nicholson oversaw this admirable program until recently, and she'll be joined by its new directors, **Lynn Humphries** and **Ruby Mathews**, as well as by several **EIA** veterans who can provide valuable background details.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
6:30 p.m., Apartment 723
4600 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
Reservations Requested

THE ESU AND BORDERS CO-SPONSOR A CHAT WITH WRITER MICHAEL DIRDA

MICHAEL DIRDA received the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism in 1993, the same year another native of his Ohio hometown, Toni Morrison, captured the Nobel Prize in Literature. A infectious bibliophile, Mr. Dirda has enriched our libraries with *Caring for Your Books* (1990), *Readings: Essays and Literary Entertainments* (2000), and *Bound to Please* (2004), not to mention all the reviews he has written over the years as one of the mainstays of *WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD*. It's a treat to note that Mr. Dirda has now completed *Book by Book*, a new collection in which he offers what *Publishers Weekly* calls "a guide to reading and its life lessons. . . . Dirda's message is simple: if reading is to be life-enhancing, we need to focus our attention on books that are rewarding." He "draws on a notebook in



which he has recorded striking quotations and passages, and his volume has the agreeable feel of a commonplace book. Highly cultured yet never pretentious, Dirda's survey convincingly demonstrates what a wealth of life lessons – moral, emotional, and aesthetic – a good library can contain." After a dialogue with the **ESU**'s **JOHN ANDREWS**, a conversation that will include questions and comments from the audience, Mr. Dirda will inscribe copies of his latest publication.

TUESDAY, MAY 23
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30
Lunch, 12:30 Program, 1:00
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Lunch and Program, \$25

THURSDAY, JUNE 1
Dialogue, 6:30 p.m.
BORDERS BOOKS & MUSIC
1800 L Street NW
Reservations Requested



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.

In Memory of Eleanor Ritchie

A few weeks ago the ESU lost one of its most revered and generous leaders. **ELEANOR PRESTON RITCHIE**, the widow of **BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM L. RITCHIE, SR.**, who died in 1980, passed away on March 27 at the age of 98. She and her husband were enthusiastic supporters of the campaign to erect a monument to **Sir Winston Churchill** in front of the **BRITISH EMBASSY**, and this was but one of the dozens of ways in which they demonstrated their dedication to the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** and its worthy causes. Mrs. Ritchie will be greatly missed by her affectionate admirers, and we extend deep sympathy to her son, **Mr. William L. Ritchie, Jr.**, and to her daughter, **Mrs. Louise Beale**, as well as to her brother and her four grandchildren.

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** now girdles the planet, with a stately London address at **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** near Berkeley Square, and those who take part in any of its local, regional, and national communities are nourished by a vibrant global network.

In an effort to keep our members alert to the broader dimensions of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, we now offer everyone who affiliates with the **ESU** at the **Contributor** level or above a colorful periodical, **ESU NEWS**, which comes out six times a year from our headquarters in Mayfair. If you're not yet receiving it, why not upgrade your membership with a call to **(202) 234-4602**?

Through an enticing assortment of edifying events, 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 tongue that is not native to them, **ESU WASHINGTON** is dedicated to extending a precious legacy. To help sustain this legacy, all you need to do is supply the information requested in the form to the right and submit it by post, phone, fax, or e-mail. Below are the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**'s present membership categories.

ASSOCIATE (Individual \$45, Dual \$65)

*Event notices, local and national
ESU member 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 6 issues a year of ESU NEWS*

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 ☐ renew or ☐ enroll in the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** at the \$_____ level. I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the **ESU** of \$_____ to support its educational and cultural endeavors. I understand that \$50 of the price for each admission on May 18 is tax-deductible.

For **May 1 (Greco)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at \$25.

For **May 4 (Alter)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at \$25.

For **May 11 (Pressley)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at \$25.

For **May 13 (AGM)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at no charge.

For **May 18 (British Embassy)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at \$100.

For **May 23 (Oppenheimer)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at \$25.

For **May 24 (EIA)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at no charge.

For **June 1 (Dirda)**, please reserve _____ space(s) at no charge.

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

Charge ☐ MC ☐ Visa _____ (____ / ____).

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Member rates for ESU events are available to anyone affiliated with BABA, CantabDC, LSE Alumni, the Royal Society of Arts, the Shakespeare Guild, the Washington Society for Churchill, the Woman's National Democratic Club, and various other organizations that cooperate with the ESU.

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