



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

APRIL 2006

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HISTORIAN GARRY WILLS AND JOURNALIST BILL PRESS ***A Dialogue about a Challenging New Portrayal of Jesus and His Meaning***

It would be hard to identify a more prolific intellectual than GARRY WILLS. Best known to many of his admirers for *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America* (1992), a best-seller that won the Pulitzer Prize, Mr. Wills is equally familiar for his incisive articles and critiques in such influential periodicals as the *New York Times* and the *New York Review of Books*. In January of 2005, as a guest on C-SPAN2's three-hour *IN DEPTH* program for *Book TV*, Mr. Wills responded to readers' questions about volumes like *Inventing America: Jefferson's Declaration of Independence* (1978), *Confessions of a Conservative* (1979), *Cincinnatus: George Washington and the Enlightenment* (1984), *Reagan's America: Innocents at Home* (1987), *Under God: Religion and American Politics* (1990), *Saint Augustine* (1999), *Papal Sin: Structures of Deceit* (2000), *Venice: Lion City* (2001), and *Why I Am a Catholic* (2002). In a study which reminds us that he began his academic career as a classical scholar, with expertise in the nuances of Greek and Latin texts, Mr. Wills now offers his interpretation of *What Jesus Meant*.



In the words of Harvard minister Peter Gomes, "With characteristic clarity, [he] gets to the heart of the Gospel.... It is plainer than we might like, and thus harder both to take and to avoid."

We're pleased that Mr. Wills will be joined in conversation by BILL PRESS, another thinker who spent several years in rigorous preparation for what he expected to be a vocation in the Roman Catholic clergy. A former co-host of CNN's *CROSSFIRE* and of MSNBC's *BUCHANAN AND PRESS*, this engaging interviewer presides over a morning talk show on Sirius satellite radio and writes a weekly column for *Tribune Media Services*. In his witty *Spin This!* (an outgrowth of *THE SPIN ROOM*, a charming CNN feature he co-hosted with Tucker Carlson in the aftermath of

Election 2000), Mr. Press scrutinizes the English that public-relations specialists bring to political developments. Meanwhile, in his most recent publication, *How the Republicans Stole Christmas*, he urges those who speak for the current minority party to pay more attention to the moral and spiritual concerns which are being addressed with such intensity by those who advocate what they believe to be theologically conservative positions on the issues that dominate today's culture wars.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30

Lunch, 12:30 Program, 1:00

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

Lunch and Program, \$25

Celebrate the ESU's Churchill Statue on April 11

For details on that and on other COMING ATTRACTIONS, among them a chat with Arena Stage's MOLLY SMITH, see the pages that follow.

A LUNCHEON CHAT WITH ARENA STAGE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MOLLY SMITH

ARENA STAGE is one of America's flagship regional theatres. Founded in 1950 by **Zelda and Tom Fichandler**, who presided over its first four decades and moved it from downtown to its present home on 6th Street SW in 1961, it has nurtured the early careers of such stars as **Jane Alexander**, **James Earl Jones**, and **Robert Prosky** and graced the dramatic repertory with classics like *The Great White Hope*. In the process it has won acclaim not only in the Nation's Capital but throughout the country, with such distinctions as the first **Tony Award** to go to a non-Broadway institution. Like any successful operation, however, ARENA realizes that it has no hope of surviving, let alone continuing to thrive, if it fails to replenish an outstanding heritage with a dynamic vision for the future.

That, at least, is the view of **MOLLY SMITH**, a bold-spirited leader who took the helm seven years ago and who is now overseeing a drive to build a new performing-arts complex that will make the Waterfront a compelling cultural destination. Ms. Smith will discuss her favorite challenges as a director. She'll also reflect upon the actors, playwrights, and scripts she most admires.



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

A WILLIAM WALTON CELEBRATION WITH THE COMPOSER'S COLORFUL WIDOW

Thanks to THE WASHINGTON CHORUS, ESU constituents are invited to take part in the culminating **KENNEDY CENTER** component of a major **WALTON CELEBRATION**. This commemoration will conclude with a 3:00 p.m. Sunday **CONCERT HALL** performance of **SIR WILLIAM WALTON's** most familiar vocal work, *Belshazzar's Feast*, with **Robert Shafer** conducting the **CHORUS** and an orchestra specially assembled for this joyous occasion. Prior to the performance, at 1:30 p.m. in the **ROOF TERRACE ATRIUM**, attendees will have an opportunity to meet and talk with the British



composer's widow, **LADY WALTON**, who will chat with **David Wordsworth**, Walton's publisher at **OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS**.

Those who gather for this dialogue will learn that **Susana Gil Passo** met Sir William in 1948 during a **BRITISH COUNCIL** trip he took to his future wife's native Argentina. Before the year was out, they married, and soon they were on their way to Italy. Over the decades to come they carved a garden, home to hundreds of rare and exotic plants, out of what had been a rocky volcanic

quarry on the island of Ischia in the Bay of Naples. This retreat, which they called **La Mortella**, was Lady Walton's labor of love, and it was also a source of inspiration to her husband. Open to the public, it is now enjoyed by more than 6,000 visitors a year. It also provides a setting for master classes and for a summer concert series. The ESU has reserved choice seats for *Belshazzar's Feast*, and they are being offered here at a \$3 discount.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
Conversation, 1:30
Concert, 3:00 p.m.
JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER
Specially Priced Tickets, \$42

A 40TH-ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE ESU'S MONUMENT TO CHURCHILL

One of Washington's most familiar sights is the evocative statue of **SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL** that stands in front of the stately home of **HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR** on Massachusetts Avenue, with one foot on American soil and another on land that belongs to the **BRITISH EMBASSY**, a fitting "symbol of Churchill's Anglo-American descent, and of the Alliance he did so much to forge, in war and in peace." A tribute to the ties that bind those nations which came together through the efforts of this unique leader, sculptor **WILLIAM M. MCVEY's** bronze masterpiece is the product of a visionary campaign that was spearheaded by **Alexander C. Liggett** and his civic-minded colleagues at the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**.



As it marks the 40th anniversary of a 1966 unveiling ceremony that featured remarks by **Secretary of State Rusk**, a letter to posterity from former **President Eisenhower**, and presentations by members of the former **Prime Minister's** family, the ESU will join hands with the **BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**, the international **CHURCHILL CENTRE**, and other organizations for a memorable evening in one of our city's most historic settings. During an after-dinner panel that will inaugurate an annual **CHURCHILL FORUM**, we'll hear such luminaries as writer and policy analyst **SUSAN EISENHOWER**, British Ambassador **SIR DAVID MANNING**, and *Inside Washington* host **GORDON PETERSON**, who now anchors the evening news on

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
Reception, 6:00 Dinner, 7:00
Program, 8:00 p.m.

THE WILLARD HOTEL
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
\$125 Per Person
\$30 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

WJLA television, as they reflect upon Sir Winston's enduring legacy and take stock of the "special relationship" that this exalted legacy has long epitomized. Proceeds to **ESU WASHINGTON** will benefit a variety of educational and charitable activities, among them initiatives to take the language that Churchill carried into battle and make it an even more potent instrument for the kinds of cross-cultural communication that are so essential to global harmony.

JULIUS BRYANT PROVIDES A FRESH LOOK AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

One of the highlights of each ESU season is our annual *EVERLYN WRENCH LECTURE*, a distinguished showcase that draws its name from the journalist who founded the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION



in 1918. This year's speaker is **JULIUS BRYANT**, FSA, Keeper of the Word and Image at the world-renowned **VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM** in London. Mr. Bryant will offer a virtual tour of one of civilization's great treasure troves and talk about some of the issues that galleries are forced to confront in a climate that renders many of today's collections vulner-

able to threats that were scarcely imaginable in bygone eras. Mr. Bryant's many publications include *Marble Hill: The Design and Use of a Palladian Estate* (1986), *Mrs. Howard: A Woman of Reason* (1988), *The Landscape of Kenwood* (1990), *London's Country House Collections* (1993), *Turner: Painting the Nation* (1996), and *Anthony Caro: A Life in Sculpture* (2004). In 1999 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

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

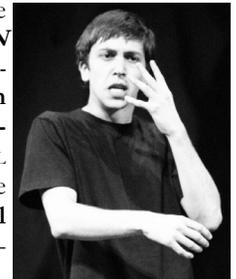
ESU HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND INSPIRING SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

Among the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION's most popular and edifying endeavors is its annual *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION*. We're pleased to report that 41 public, private, and parochial schools took part in our 17th rendition of this contest, which occurred on **Monday, March 6**, at what is now known as the **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**. As in the past, major funding for the event came from **THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION**.

Once again we were blessed with a distinguished panel of judges: director and choreographer **Jeanne E. Harrison** (Founder of TRAVELING PLAYERS ENSEMBLE), teacher and administrator **Celia Josephs** (former Executive Director of the AMERICAN FRIENDS OF SADLER'S WELLS), theatre educator **Dawn McAndrews** (head of the SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY's outreach to instructors and students in the region), renowned teacher **Louisa Newlin** (noted for her efforts at the FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY, at Maine's COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC, and at a variety of public and private schools in our area), retired AMERICAN UNIVERSITY literature professor **Jeanne A. Roberts** (former President of the SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA), long-time Montgomery County instructor **Lee Viccellio** (first winner of ESU's annual SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD for study in Great Britain), and Program Director **Catherine Weidner** (head of the ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING, a joint venture of the SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY and GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY). They narrowed the field to ten finalists from the 2:00 p.m. opening round in the afternoon, and then selected three prizewinners during the 7:00

evening session that followed. Thanks to the generosity of **Gilbert M. Grosvenor** (Chairman) and **Steve Hubbard** at **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**, every entrant received a beautiful atlas from one of the world's most prestigious publishers. And owing to the kindness of **Mrs. Alexander C. Liggett**, the top three presenters received prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200.

Placing highest was **Christopher Carothers** (pictured here in one of three photos in this column by **Bill Danna**), a student of **Orion Hyson** at **WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, Maryland, who will advance to the **NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** on **Monday, April 24**, at Manhattan's **LINCOLN CENTER**. First Alternate was **Adam Pelta-Pauls**, a student of **Valerie Mainwaring** at **WINSTON CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County. Second Alternate was **Brittney Lewis**, a student of **Paul Rubenstein** at **FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL** in Fairfax County, Virginia.



The other seven finalists were **Olivia Bonin**, a student of **Judy Bello** at **THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** in Fairfax County, **Christina Day**, a student of **Valerie Karasek** and **Martha Verbanic** at **CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL** in Fairfax County, **Nick Drummond**, a student of **Marshall Lancaster** at **ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOOL** in Laurel, Maryland, **Daniel Furman**, a student of **Debby Brennan** at **WASHINGTON MATH SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL** in Washington, D.C., **Maureen Raj**, a student of **Kelly Newman** at **MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL** in Montgomery County, **Stephanie Ramsey**, a student of **R. L. Mirabal** at **LAKE BRADDOCK HIGH SCHOOL** in Fairfax County, and **Ariana Swenson**, a student of **Scott Carneal** at **SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL** in Montgomery County.

Another winner during this year's festivities was **Sarah Monnerat** of **SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL** in Washington (pictured here with a Sidwell alumnus whose name adorns the laurel that was presented next), who received a \$4,000 stipend as recipient of the **SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD FOR 2006**. An additional prize went to **Carie Yonekawa** of the **ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING**, who accepted the **\$2,500 WALTER L. WRIGHT III AWARD** to further her preparation for work in the drama profession's most demanding repertory. Her certificate was bestowed by Tony Wright's wife, **Dr. Marjorie J. Williams**.



The Chairman of ESU's Education Committee, **A. Graham Down**, served as master of ceremonies for the opening session; his esteemed colleague, **Dr. Gerald B. Kauvar**, President of **ESU WASHINGTON**, welcomed everyone to the concluding session. Among the other notable contributors to an inspiring and memorable day were award-winning actor **Ted van Griethuysen**, who talked with eloquence, wit, and sensitivity about his richly varied career on stage and screen in New York, Washington, and elsewhere, and gifted administrator **Catherine Weidner**, who participated in a panel discussion with **Carie Yonekawa** and 2005 *WRIGHT AWARDEE* **Elizabeth Webster**.



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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.

Arts Leader Dorothy McSweeney

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 4, the ESU will co-sponsor a WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB conversation with DOROTHY MCSWEENEY, who chairs the D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES, and two of her DCCAH colleagues, playwright Anu Yadav and poet Delores Kendrick. They'll offer perspectives on the cultural life of our metropolis and respond to questions and comments from the audience. Activities begin as usual with a cash-bar reception at 11:30 a.m., followed by a delicious 3-course lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the program at 1:00. The cost for the meal and program is \$25; the price for attending the program only is \$10. The WNDC is at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW, one block north of Dupont Circle.

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 at 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 wish to make a special contribution of \$_____ to help underwrite the April 11 Churchill celebration, for which my gift ___ may ___ may not be acknowledged in the printed keepsake for that commemorative occasion.

For Mar. 28 (Wills & Press), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For Mar. 30 (Smith), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For Apr. 9 (Walton), please reserve ___ tickets at \$42.

For Apr. 11 (Churchill Celebration), please reserve ___ tickets at \$125.

For Apr. 25 (Bryant), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

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.