



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

MARCH 2006

News & Announcements

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THE ESU'S 17TH ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION CAFRTZ FOUNDATION Supports a Festive Event at THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

Please join us for a program that has established itself as one of the ESU's signature occasions: our annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**. The object of this much-admired contest is to enhance students' appreciation for and comprehension of a poet who has been described as history's most reliable guide to the mileposts of life. As the centerpiece of a curriculum-based endeavor that now extends to middle schools, it provides an opportunity for entrants from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to display the insights and skills they've acquired in class as they recite Shakespearean sonnets and perform vignettes from such dramatic masterpieces as *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Contestants come from public,



private, and parochial institutions throughout the area, and their renderings are evaluated by an eminent panel of actors, directors, and teachers. Those who emerge as the top three candidates earn monetary prizes. The one with the highest rating proceeds to LINCOLN CENTER in Manhattan for an April 25 **NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** whose winner will receive three weeks of training at the **BRITISH AMERICAN DRAMA ACADEMY** in England. While the contest judges

deliberate following the **OPENING ROUND** presentations, participants and audience members will have a chance to converse with award-winning actor **TED VAN GRIETHUYSEN**, who has delighted Washington playgoers in such major roles as King Lear, Prospero, and Falstaff, not only at **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE** but in a number of other settings. At a comparable juncture after the **CONCLUDING ROUND**, they'll enjoy a lively dialogue with **CATHERINE WEIDNER**, Program Director of the Theatre's **ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING**. By courtesy of the **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**, each entrant will be recognized with a beautiful keepsake.

As in years past, primary support for this celebration is provided by the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRTZ FOUNDATION**, with substantial assistance from **WALTER L. WRIGHT III AND MARJORIE J. WILLIAMS**, from **MRS. PRISCILLA LIGGETT**, and from our colleagues at the **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**. In addition to the students who will be applauded for their efforts on the Lansburgh stage, this gathering will also permit the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** to honor an outstanding teacher, who will garner a fellowship for intensive study in Britain, and a promising young theatre professional from the **ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING**. For more information, visit **www.esuwdc.org**.



MONDAY, MARCH 6

Opening Round, 2:00

Buffet Reception, 6:00

Concluding Round, 7:00

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

450 7th Street NW

No Admission Charge

Hear Deborah Tannen on Tuesday, March 14

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

Coming Attractions

AN OCCASION TO REMEMBER A NOTED ADDRESS BY SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Thanks to the WASHINGTON SOCIETY FOR CHURCHILL, ESU members and their friends are invited to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Sir Winston's famous "Iron Curtain" speech, which he delivered at WESTMINSTER COLLEGE in Fulton, Missouri, on March 5, 1946. Following an elegant dinner in the Cabinet Room of one of our city's most popular restaurants, JOHN PLUMPTON, former head of the CHURCHILL CENTRE and current Director of the CHURCHILL SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY,



will speak on the topic *Before the Historians: Eyewitness to Churchill at War*. To make reservations, simply contact Doris Weisman, who can be reached by telephone at (703) 255-2579 and by post at 153 East Street NE, Vienna, VA

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
Dinner, 7:00 Program, 8:00

OLD EBBITT GRILL
675 15th Street NW
Dinner and Program, \$60

22180. When you call Ms. Weisman, you'll want to indicate whether you'd prefer roast pork or salmon for your entrée.

LINGUIST DEBORAH TANNEN TELLS US ALL ABOUT MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

In *YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND*, a book that spent more than four years on the *New York Times* best-seller list, much of that



period in the top spot, DEBORAH TANNEN revolutionized communication between men and women and launched herself as a linguistic guru who became a frequent guest on programs such as *All Things Considered*, *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, *Oprah*, and *Today*. She now has 20 titles to her credit and scores of articles, many of them in influential periodicals like *Time* magazine, and she has taught us that we often speak in ways that make it

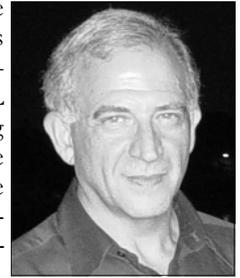
difficult to convey our thoughts and emotions in a fashion that facilitates harmony. We're glad to see that Dr. Tannen is back with another witty study, *YOU'RE WEARING THAT?* Her objective is *Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation*. We'll join the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB for a stimulating exchange with the author, and we'll make sure that copies of her latest volume are on hand for purchase and for inscription by one of the most sought-after observers in the world today.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

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

EMINENT SCIENTIST DANIEL ALKORN EXPLORES THE MYSTERIES OF MEMORY

Among the most exciting developments in medical research are stunning new discoveries about the workings of the human brain. To learn more about them, we're collaborating with the WNDC as co-hosts for a luncheon with one of today's foremost authorities on the topic. DANIEL ALKORN is the author of a pioneering book on *Memory's Voice*. He is also the co-founder of a key research center, the BLANCHETTE ROCKEFELLER NEUROSCIENCES INSTITUTE at JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY's Montgomery County campus, where he and his colleagues are making significant breakthroughs in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Alkorn



believes that it is important for scientists to communicate the fruits of their investigations to the general public, and he does so not only through his numerous articles and reviews, many of them in the mainstream press, but through televised conversations with such high-profile interviewers as Dan Rather and Charlie Rose.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

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

A PRESENTATION ABOUT *THE REGENCY COUNTRY HOUSE* IN THE 18TH CENTURY

We're delighted to join hands with the ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION and the NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION for a lecture by JOHN MARTIN ROBINSON, a prominent architectural



historian whose academic affiliations include posts with the universities of OXFORD and ST. ANDREWS and membership in the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES. Dr. Robinson joined the Historic Buildings Division of the GREATER LONDON COUNCIL in 1974, and in 1986 he began work for ENGLISH HERITAGE, where he oversaw the restoration of many historic structures, among them SPENCER HOUSE. In 1989 he became a partner at

HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONSULTANTS. Five years later he was appointed to the North West Regional Committee of the NATIONAL TRUST, a position he held until last year. Dr. Robinson has written official guidebooks to WINDSOR and to BUCKINGHAM PALACE. His voluminous publications include *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry* and *The Wyatts: An Architectural Dynasty*. For this occasion he'll discuss and sign copies of *THE REGENCY COUNTRY HOUSE*, which will be available for those who wish to buy them.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Lecture, 7:00 Reception, 7:45
1785 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Lecture & Reception, \$25

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 spearheading 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. But her primary focus will be upon the edifice she hopes to dedicate in 2008.

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 and memorable 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 Wadsworth**, Walton's publisher at **OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS**.



A close friend of Sir William and Lady Walton, Mr. Wadsworth will explore the rich tapestry of their life as a couple.

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 50 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
JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER
Specially Priced Tickets, \$42

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

One of the highlights of each ESU season is our annual **EVELYN WRENCH LECTURE**, a distinguished showcase that draws its name from the London journalist who founded the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** in 1918. This year's speaker is **JULIUS BRYANT**, FSA, whose title is **Keeper of the Word and Image** at the world-renowned **VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM** in South Kensington. Mr. Bryant will offer a virtual tour of one of civilization's greatest treasure troves. While doing so, he'll talk about some of the issues that galleries such as his must confront in a climate that renders many of today's collections vulnerable to threats that were scarcely imaginable in earlier eras. Educated at University College, London and at the Courtauld Institute of Art, Mr. Bryant has done research at Yale's British Art Center and at the Huntington Library and Gallery in California. Since 2003 he has been Chief Curator for **ENGLISH HERITAGE**. His many books include *Marble Hill: The Design and Use of a Palladian Estate* (1986), *Finest Prospects* (1986), *Mrs. Howard: A Woman of Reason* (1988), *The Landscape of Kenwood* (1990), *London's Country House Collections* (1993), *The Trojan War: Sculptures by Anthony Caro* (1994), *Turner: Painting the Nation* (1996), *Decorative Arts from the Wernher Collection* (2002), and *Anthony Caro: A Life in Sculpture* (2004). In 1979 Mr. Bryant won the **Rudolf Wittkower Prize** as the best undergraduate in his department at UCL. In 1997 he was a runner-up for the prestigious **Gulbenkian Museum Publication of the Year Award**, whose selection panel "highly commended" his study of J.M.W. Turner. In 1999 he was elected a **Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries**.



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



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.

A Look at Cezanne in Provence

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, the ESU will co-host a WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB luncheon at which SALLY SHELBURNE, a staff lecturer at the NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, provides an overview on the museum's exhibition about *CEZANNE IN PROVENCE*. This is the first show on the artist at the Gallery since 1989, and it places the spotlight on his landscapes, bathers, and portraiture as it calls attention to the centenary of his death. Activities begin as usual with a cash-bar reception at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the program at 1:00. The cost for lunch and the program is \$25 a person. The WNDC is located at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW, two blocks east of the Q Street exit from Metro's Dupont Circle station.

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)*

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*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*

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*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.

For **Mar. 6 (Shakespeare Competition)**, please reserve ___ spaces at no charge for the _Opening Round, _Reception, _Concluding Round.

For **Mar. 14 (Tannen)**, please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For **Mar. 16 (Alkorn)**, please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For **Mar. 21 (Shelburne)**, please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For **Mar. 22 (Robinson)**, 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. 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.