



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

NOVEMBER 2007

News & Announcements

PRESIDENT

Dr. Gerald B. Kauvar

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. James C. Ledyard

TREASURER

Mr. C. Braxton Moncure

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. John F. Andrews, OBE

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Armida Colt

Mr. A. Graham Down

Mr. William Fitzgerald III

Capt. Macauley Howard

Mr. Phillip H. Miller

Mr. William L. Renfro

Dr. Marjorie J. Williams

DIRECTORS

Mr. Stephen F. Black

Hon. E. R. Braithwaite

Ms. D. Elizabeth Crompton

Mrs. Daisy P. Crowley

Mr. Donald H. Dewey

Dr. George F. Farr

Mr. Robert A. Fratkin

Ms. Wendell Vilas Graham

Dr. William F. Huneke

Mrs. Celia Josephs

Mrs. Willee Lewis

Dr. Jeanne A. Roberts

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Eric W. Beshers

Hon. Robert A. Brand

Dr. John Churchill

Mr. Gilbert M. Grosvenor

Mrs. Priscilla Liggett

Mrs. Diana M. Nicholson

Mrs. Jane P. Plakias

Frederic W. Schwartz Jr., Esq.

Dr. Stephen Joel Trachtenberg



OFFICE ADDRESS

1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20009-2512

TELEPHONE

(202) 234-4602

FACSIMILE

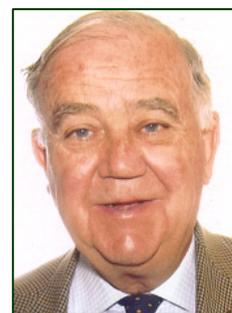
(202) 234-4639

WEB SITE & E-MAIL

www.esuwdc.org
esuwdc@msn.com

AN EVENING WITH ESU LONDON'S COLIN MCCORQUODALE *Reception and Program at the Welcoming Home of ELIZABETH CROMPTON*

For the last several years, COLIN MCCORQUODALE has been the prime mover of ESU LONDON, the branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION that serves the capital city of the United Kingdom. Drawing on the setting and resources of DARTMOUTH HOUSE, the ESU's international headquarters, Mr. McCorquodale and his constituency pride themselves on vigorous local and regional programming. And as befits a man who has devoted most of his career to the travel industry, Mr. McCorquodale is an international ambassador for the ESU. With that in



mind, one of the topics he'll address is *A Tale of Three Cities*, a special initiative launched by LORD WATSON OF RICHMOND to link the ESU communities in London, Paris, and Washington. We're grateful to ELIZABETH CROMPTON, an ESU WASHINGTON board member, for graciously volunteering to host this event in her Wesley Heights residence. For directions, please contact the ESU office.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6
Reception, 6:30 Program, 7:15
2903 44TH STREET NW
Reception and Program, \$25
Program Only, \$10

A NEW LOOK AT 'AMERICAN JENNIE,' CHURCHILL'S MOTHER *A Reception and Program with Esteemed Biographer ANNE SEBBA*



A native of Brooklyn, JENNIE JEROME married into the British aristocracy and became **Lady Randolph Churchill**, the wife of a maverick politician and the mother of a statesman who is widely regarded as the greatest leader of the 20th century. Not only was Lady Churchill a friend of royalty and the most prominent American in London society. She was a concert pianist, a magazine founder and editor, and a playwright. To learn more about the remarkable woman who gave birth to **Winston Churchill**, we're delighted to join the **ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Reception, 6:30 Program, 7:15
METROPOLITAN CLUB
1701 N Street NW
Reception and Program, \$25

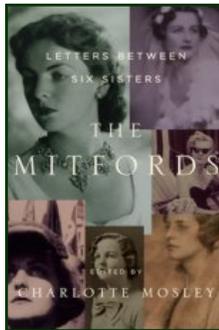
and the international CHURCHILL CENTRE for a lecture by ANNE SEBBA, a Reuters correspondent whose eight previous books include *Laura Ashley: A Life by Design* (1990), *Battling for News: The Rise of the Woman Reporter* (1993), and *The Exiled Collector: William Bankes and the Making of an English Country House* (2005). Copies of *AMERICAN JENNIE: JENNIE JEROME CHURCHILL* will be available for purchase and for inscription by the author.

An Important New Book on the Mitford Sisters

See the pages that follow for information about CHARLOTTE MOSLEY's latest edition of an eminent family's correspondence, as well as for details about a new volume by *BOOK WORLD's* MICHAEL DIRDA.

BRITISH WRITER *CHARLOTTE MOSLEY* RECALLS THE FAMOUS MITFORD SISTERS

The legendary **Mitfords**— the six beautiful British sisters who set the world on its ear with their writing, marriages, politics, and friendships— were inveterate letter writers, and for decades they produced a family correspondence that reflected both their lasting affection and their occasional enmity for one another. Nancy was a bestselling novelist; Pamela chose country life over the glamorous city; Diana married a notorious fascist, Sir Oswald Mosley; Unity befriended Hitler and died young; Jessica embraced communism and wrote *The American Way of Death*; and the beautiful Deborah became the Duchess of Devonshire. We're pleased to join the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB** in a warm welcome to **CHARLOTTE MOSLEY**, the daughter-in-law of **Diana Mitford**, who will talk about the vivid epistles she selected for *THE MITFORDS: LETTERS BETWEEN SIX SISTERS*. Ms. Mosley has edited two earlier collections, *The Letters of Nancy Mitford* and *The Letters of Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh*, and there is every reason to believe that her latest publication will be even more engaging than the ones that preceded it. We're happy to note that, thanks to our friends at **POLITICS & PROSE**, the latest installment of what might be thought of as a kind of family album will be available for purchase and for inscription by the volume's distinguished author.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Luncheon and Program, \$30

A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH WRITER *MICHAEL DIRDA* OF *THE WASHINGTON POST*

The last time **MICHAEL DIRDA** addressed us, his remarks about *Book by Book: Notes on Reading and Life* were recorded by **C-SPAN 2** for its popular weekend *Book TV* service. We can't promise that this event will be televised as well, but we know that, like Mr. Dirda's previous presentations, it will be a treat. A senior editor for *WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD*, where his reviews are featured in each week's issue, Mr. Dirda won the 1993 **Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism**, the same year another native of his Ohio hometown, **Toni Morrison**, captured the Nobel Prize in Literature. An infectious bibliophile, Mr. Dirda has enriched our libraries with *Caring for Your Books* (1990), *Readings: Essays and Literary Entertainments* (2000), *An Open Book: Coming of Age in the Heartland* (2003), and *Bound to Please* (2004). He has also contributed to a number of periodicals other than the *Post*, among them the *Los Angeles Times* and *Smithsonian* magazine. Co-hosted by the **WOMAN'S**



promise that this event will be televised as well, but we know that, like Mr. Dirda's previous presentations, it will be a treat. A senior editor for *WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD*, where his reviews are featured in each week's issue, Mr. Dirda won the 1993 **Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism**, the same year another native of his Ohio hometown, **Toni Morrison**, captured the Nobel Prize

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Luncheon and Program, \$30

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, this luncheon will offer its attendees an opportunity to purchase *CLASSICS FOR PLEASURE*, to be supplied by **POLITICS & PROSE**, and obtain signatures by the publication's engaging and always-informative author.

A HOLIDAY ARTS ROUNDUP WITH WETA'S INIMITABLE *AROUND TOWN* REGULARS



Looking for tips on how to make the most of all the cultural enticements that will brighten this year's holidays? If so, you'll want to be with us for a fast-moving conversation with host **ROBERT AUBRY DAVIS** and his associates: **BILL DUNLOP**, **JANICE GOODMAN**, and **JANE HORWITZ**. Just as they do online and in wry comments on **WETA** television and radio, they'll tell us who's coming to town, and when and where. This dialogue has become a December mainstay at the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**, and we're pleased that our colleagues in that institution have once again opened it up to attendees from **ESU WASHINGTON**. As in the past, **TV 26's** versatile and authoritative *AROUND TOWN* regulars will give us their "Best Bets" and proffer enticing vignettes about coming attractions. As usual, they'll also entertain questions and comments from the audience.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Luncheon and Program, \$30

WASHINGTON REVELS OFFERS A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR ESU CONSTITUENTS

This year's **WASHINGTON REVELS** program is a 25th-anniversary special with an Elizabethan theme. **Will Kemp**, the brilliant and irreverent clown from Shakespeare's company, has just Morris-danced for nine days from London to Norwich. His next feat?



To devise some rustic amusements that will enchant the Queen, soon to arrive on a glorious progress to mark the winter solstice. Mischief and merriment ensue, with Renaissance music, rousing dance, a set of comic actors, and of course Good Queen Bess herself. A varied cast sports **Mark Jaster** as Kemp, **Katrina Van Duyn** as Queen Elizabeth I, and

Oran Sandel as the Lord Chamberlain. Also on hand will be the **Renaissance Band**, the **Washington Revels Brass**, the **Foggy Bottom Morris Men**, and the traditional Revels company of adults, teens, and children. For this performance tickets will be discounted **10%** for those who book them as members of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**. To register online at www.revelsdc.org, enter "ESU" as your code at checkout. To order by phone, call (202) 723-7528 and remind the Revels agent with whom you speak about this generous-spirited offer.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Program at 5:00 p.m.

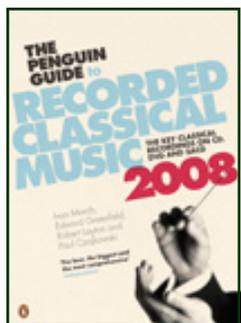
LISNER AUDITORIUM
21st and H Streets NW

For details visit www.revelsdc.org

MUSICOLOGIST *IVAN MARCH* OFFERS SAGE COUNSEL ON CLASSICAL RECORDINGS

To launch the 31st-anniversary edition of the world's best-selling handbook for audiophiles, the British lecturer, writer, and broadcaster who has enriched our libraries with *THE PENGUIN GUIDE TO RECORDED CLASSICAL MUSIC* will be here to talk about his latest update of a reference volume that has long been cherished as the definitive authority on its subject. **IVAN MARCH** began his career as a professional horn player. He studied at **TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC** in London and then at **ROYAL MANCHESTER COLLEGE**.

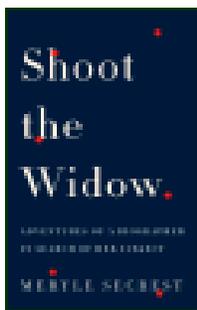
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Luncheon and Program, \$30



Following a stint in the Central Band of the **ROYAL AIR FORCE**, he began playing for the **BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION**. He went on to travel with the **CARL ROSA** and **D'OYLY CARTE** opera companies. Mr. March is a well-known journalist and on-air personality, and he is a consultant to **SQUIRES GATE MUSIC LTD.**, an international mail-order service. He contributes articles and reviews to a number of periodicals, among them *GRAMOPHONE*, where he focuses primarily upon reissues of earlier recordings. With the rise of the Internet and of satellite transmission, and with the proliferation of digital technology for downloading, transferring, and listening to recorded performances, Mr. March has found that his expertise is in greater demand than ever before. He'll talk about that and other topics during a **WNDC** luncheon that will permit attendees to purchase copies of his latest publication and get them inscribed by a globally recognized authority.

'SHOOT THE WIDOW': THE FIRST SECRET OF RENOWNED BIOGRAPHER *MERYLE SECREST*

We're delighted to team up the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DECORATIVE CLUB** for what promises to be a memorable gathering with a British-born, Washington-based journalist who has garnered the **Pulitzer Prize** and who was one of the ten writers and scholars to be honored with the 2006 **National Humanities Medal**. According to the *New Yorker's* **Louis Menand**, "**MERYLE SECREST** is a biographer who has nine lives so far, all of figures in the arts, including **Kenneth Clark**, **Leonard Bernstein**, **Frank Lloyd Wright**, **Richard Rodgers**, and **Salvador Dali**." That's an impressive lineup, and it doesn't include such luminaries as **Bernard Berenson**, **Stephen Sondheim**, and (most recently) art dealer **Joseph Duveen**, who lived below **Andrew W. Mellon** in the building that now houses the **NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION** and supplied him with many of the treasures that became the core collection of



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Luncheon and Program, \$30

the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**. So how did she assemble her material about all these fascinating subjects? That's the story Ms. Secrest tells in a memoir that takes its title from Justin Kaplan, who asserted that the first rule of biography is "Shoot the widow." We'll leave it to our speaker to explain the significance of that advice, and we'll hope that many of our constituents can be on hand for an event that will conclude with a chance to purchase books and get them inscribed by a charismatic writer.

YULETIDE REVELRY AT THE ELEGANT HOME OF BRAXTON AND DEBBIE MONCURE

Thanks to the warm hospitality of our Treasurer, **BRAXTON MONCURE**, and his wife **DEBBIE**, we're pleased to invite you to a jolly reception in one of Washington's most gracious residences.



We hope you'll join us for holiday drinks and a light buffet. You'll have an opportunity to greet acquaintances in the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, and among the people you'll meet will be tutors from the branch and newcomers from other countries who are engaged in **ESU's** indispensable **ENGLISH IN ACTION** service.

There is no charge for this reception, but reservations are requested, and tax-deductible (roughly \$30 per attendee) educational and cultural initiatives will be gratefully accepted, particularly from those who are enrolled in **ESU WASHINGTON** at levels of membership that are lower than the **Contributor** category. We also encourage you to bring friends and loved ones who might be interested in affiliating with the organization. As in the past, Mr. and Mrs. Moncure are underwriting many of the expenses for this year's social and charitable activities, not only during the holidays but at other times, among them occasions when **ESU** visitors from abroad are taking part in Capitol Hill internships or touring the United States on exchange programs.

reception, but reservations are requested, and tax-deductible (roughly \$30 per attendee) educational and cultural initiatives will be gratefully accepted, particularly from those who are enrolled in **ESU WASHINGTON** at levels of membership that are lower than the **Contributor** category. We also encourage you to bring friends and loved ones who might be interested in affiliating with the organization. As in the past, Mr. and Mrs. Moncure are underwriting many of the expenses for this year's social and charitable activities, not only during the holidays but at other times, among them occasions when **ESU** visitors from abroad are taking part in Capitol Hill internships or touring the United States on exchange programs.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
1614 FOXHALL ROAD NW
No Charge, but Donations Welcome

MARK OLSHAKER TO BECOME OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN DECEMBER

After six and a half years as Executive Director of the branch of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** that serves the Nation's Capital, **JOHN ANDREWS** is moving to Santa Fe, where his wife **Jan Denton** will be pursuing her new career as an artist, and where he plans to resume some long-postponed writing projects. He'll remain involved with **ESU WASHINGTON** in an advisory capacity, and he's immensely gratified by the Board's decision to appoint an extraordinarily well-qualified successor. **MARK OLSHAKER** is the author of more than a dozen books, among them six novels and several bestselling nonfiction titles with criminal-profiler **John Douglas**. He has also helped produce a number of **PBS** features, several in association with author **David Macauley**, and one, *Discovering Hamlet*, about **Kenneth Branagh's** first professional production as the Prince. More detail about Mr. Olshaker and his plans for the **ESU** will be distributed shortly.



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.

The Russians Are Coming!

Between Sunday, **November 4**, and Thursday, **November 8**, a delegation of fascinating visitors from **St. Petersburg** and **Moscow** will be in our area as part of an excursion to the Richmond conference of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES**. If you'd like to meet and be helpful to them (supplying lodging, hosting a meal or two, assisting with local tours and transportation), we're sure that you'd enjoy the opportunity to get acquainted with some grateful university professors and their most promising students. For more information, you're encouraged to get in touch with our Hospitality Chairman, **DAISY CROWLEY**, who can be reached by phone at **(703) 237-4975** or by e-mail at **daisycrowley@gmail.com**. She'll be delighted to involve you in an edifying and deeply satisfying cultural experience.

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 international headquarters in Mayfair. If you're not yet receiving it but would like to do so, you may upgrade an existing membership or open a new one 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, and to enjoy all the benefits of association with a vibrant international community, 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** membership categories.

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

Local and national ESU publications, e-mail notices about upcoming events, and full participation in every aspect of a global organization

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

All SUBSCRIBER-level benefits plus 1 coupon to be used at a regular ESU event (that is, one priced at \$40 or less), plus 6 issues a year of ESU NEWS from 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 for regular events, 1 more coupon for a special occasion, and recognition in print materials

PATRON (\$1,000)

Free admission for 2 persons to all regular events, 4 coupons for use at special occasions, and recognition in print materials

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 **November 6 (McCorquodale)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$25 and ___ space(s) at \$10 per person.

For **November 7 (Sebba)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$25.

For **November 8 (Mosley)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$30.

For **November 20 (Dirda)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$30.

For **December 4 ('Around Town')**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$30.

For **December 11 (March)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$30.

For **December 18 (Secret)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$30.

For **December 22 ('Yuletide')**, please reserve ___space(s) at no charge. Please accept \$___ as an optional, fully tax-deductible donation.

My check for \$___ to **THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** is enclosed. Charge ___MC_Visa_____(___ / ___).

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Fax _____

E-Mail _____

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