



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

SEPTEMBER 2007

News & Announcements

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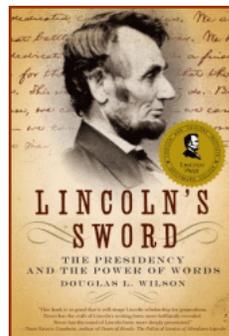
A PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST DISCUSSES 'UNHOOKED' GIRLS *A Luncheon with LAURA SESSIONS STEPP of THE WASHINGTON POST*

We're delighted to open our 2007-8 season with a *Washington Post* reporter who has earned a Pulitzer Prize and who is one of America's most sensitive observers of the pressures that make life problematic for today's young women. LAURA SESSIONS STEPP is the author of *Our Last Best Shot: Guiding Our Children Through Early Adolescence*, a challenging study of middle-schoolers. The book that is prompting most debate now, however, is *UNHOOKED: HOW YOUNG WOMEN PURSUE SEX, DELAY LOVE, AND LOSE AT BOTH*. By making "the unspeakable speakable,"



Ms. Stepp has alarmed a lot of parents while assuring their youngsters that "someone understands them." ESU WASHINGTON and the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB hope you'll want to take part in a timely conversation about "hooking up," about "friends with benefits," and about the urgent need for pre-adults and their elders to begin communicating more effectively with one another.

WAS ABRAHAM LINCOLN AMERICA'S MOST ELOQUENT WRITER? *A Reception and Program with Esteemed Scholar DOUGLAS L. WILSON*



We're pleased to join the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC and the PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY for a dialogue with one of today's most respected authorities on the "Great Emancipator." DOUGLAS L. WILSON is co-director of the Lincoln Studies Center at KNOX COLLEGE, a setting for one of the debates that took place in 1858 between Stephen A. Douglas, a prominent Illinois senator, and the challenger who would go on to become our nation's 16th President. Dr. Wilson has won awards both for *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln*

(1999) and for *LINCOLN'S SWORD: THE PRESIDENCY AND THE POWER OF WORDS* (2006). He'll discuss the latter during this month's NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL, and we're grateful that he has agreed to address us on the eve of that prestigious occasion. Joining him for this event will be ERNEST B. FURGURSON, a historian who has treated us to such narratives as *Freedom Rising: Washington in the Civil War*, and ROBERT WILSON, editor of *The American Scholar*.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Reception, 6:30 Program, 7:00

801 K STREET NW
Mount Vernon Square

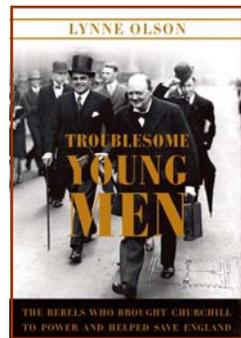
Reception, \$20 Program Only, \$10

An Important New Study of Winston Churchill

See the pages that follow for details about Lynne Olson's account of *TROUBLESOME YOUNG MEN*, as well as for information on lively dialogues about aphorisms and familiar quotations.

LYNNE OLSON TALKS ABOUT CHURCHILL AND OTHER TROUBLESOME YOUNG MEN

We're honored to co-sponsor a program that features one of ESU WASHINGTON's most distinguished members. A former White House correspondent for the Baltimore *Sun* and the writer who gave us *Freedom's Daughters* and other well-received books, LYNNE OLSON has garnered numerous accolades for *TROUBLESOME YOUNG MEN: THE REBELS WHO BROUGHT CHURCHILL TO POWER AND HELPED SAVE ENGLAND*.



With her husband Stanley Cloud, a long-time Washington bureau chief for *Time* magazine, Ms. Olson had already enriched our libraries with two volumes about wartime Britain, *A Question of Honor* and *The Murrow Boys*. Now she enlightens us with an even more riveting narrative. According to William Grimes, a reviewer for the *New York Times*, Ms. Olson's current study "imposes real time on the events that led to Neville Chamberlain's downfall and Winston Churchill's installation as prime minister, a far-from-inevitable

sequence helped along by a disorganized group of Tory rebels opposed to the government's policy of appeasement but powerless to stop it until history dealt them the right cards. It is a fascinating story that Ms. Olson tells with great dash."

WHAT'S IN A QUOTATION? A LUNCHEON WITH TWO EXPERTS ON OUR LANGUAGE

If you were at last November's WNDU luncheon with linguist PAUL DICKSON, you heard one of our planet's most resourceful wordsmiths talk about a new edition of *Slang: The Topical Dictionary of Americanisms*. First published in 1990, this compendium's second updating marks a major overhaul of the author's remarkable surveys of casual, idiosyncratic, and colloquial usage. American culture is a rapidly evolving phenomenon, and nothing reflects it more eloquently than its slang. Musicians, athletes, politicians, and bloggers are contributing to language growth, and there is no one today with



a more acute ear for the phrase that epitomizes a new lifestyle or signals the beginning of a fad. We're happy to report that Mr.

Dickson has now unearthed another treasure: *FAMILY WORDS: A DICTIONARY OF THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF FAMILIES*. He'll talk about that and about his other volumes for word-lovers

during a sprightly dialogue with FRED R. SHAPIRO, a research librarian who's just completed *THE YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS*, a thousand-page compendium that endeavors to set the record

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

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

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

Luncheon and Program, \$30

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

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

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

Luncheon and Program, \$30

straight about the provenance and accuracy of the phrases we use most frequently. Mr. Shapiro's collection draws from sources not represented in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* or the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* (popular culture, children's literature, sports, computer technology, politics, law, and the social sciences) and it therefore includes hundreds of familiar phrases that other reference sets omit. Both authors have logged multiple appearances in William Safire's popular "On Language" column for the *New York Times Magazine*. Both are admired for the light touch with which they display vast stores of erudition. And both can be counted on to entertain us with witty reminders of the debts we owe to personalities as varied and colorful as Mae West, Mark Twain, and Yogi Berra.



BRITISH AUTHOR JAMES GEARY REFLECTS UPON THE ELEGANCE OF THE APHORISM

In a gathering that will build upon the deliberations commenced a day earlier by Paul Dickson and Fred R. Shapiro, touring writer JAMES GEARY will introduce his new *GUIDE TO THE*

WORLD'S GREAT APHORISTS.

Mr. Geary has given us *The Body Electric: An Anatomy of the New Bionic Senses*.

But he is probably best known for *The World in a Phrase: A Brief History of*

the Aphorism, which became a *New York Times* bestseller. His latest volume is more than a conventional, subject-based

reference guide. It collects pithy statements from figures as diverse as Friedrich Nietzsche and Woody Allen, and it arranges them under headings such as "Old Souls and Oracles," "Icons and Iconoclasts," and "Comics, Critics, and Satirists." According to John Lahr of the *New Yorker*, Geary's collection is "a rich, well-edited compendium, which is at once a feast, a thought-kit, and a treasure trove." Like the other authors

who are featured in these pages, Mr. Geary will be happy to inscribe copies of his book, which will be available for purchase.



SCOTTISH POLITICIAN BRIAN MONTEITH TO DELIVER ESU'S EVELYN WRENCH ADDRESS

As this season's installment in a lecture series to commemorate SIR EVELYN WRENCH, the journalist who founded the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION in 1918,

ESU WASHINGTON is pleased to welcome the honorary president of ESU SCOTLAND. BRIAN MONTEITH writes a column for the *Edinburgh Evening News*, where he

deals with issues such as Scotland's place in the United Kingdom and the role he sees for a Conservative Party from whose Scottish arm he resigned in 2005 after two terms in which he

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Reception, 6:30 Program, 7:00

4000 CATHEDRAL AVENUE NW

Dining Room In the Main Building

Reception, \$20 Program Only, \$10

held influential posts in such spheres of oversight as education and finance. Mr. Monteith is co-author of *Scotland's Ten Tomorrows* (2006), and he is now writing a book about *What Margaret Thatcher Did for Scotland*.

An acerbic critic of policies he regards as ill advised, he brings a Tory perspective not only to the social and economic affairs of his own country, but to those of the United States and other nations. This event will take place in the Holiday Room adjacent to the **WESTCHESTER RESTAURANT**, the same location in which a prominent Liberal Democrat, **LORD WATSON OF RICHMOND**, addressed the **ESU's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on **Sunday, May 20**. You'll find this venue in the main building of the complex, the one with the porte cochere that opens onto the western half of the circular drive. Free parking is available, either near that entrance or in the lot beyond the circle.



ATTEND THE WASHINGTON PREMIERE OF PAUL MCCARTNEY'S *ECCE COR MEUM*

Under the auspices of music director **J. Reilly Lewis**, the **CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY** is hosting a benefit performance of **Paul McCartney's *ECCE COR MEUM*** ("Behold My Heart") on **Friday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m.** in the resonant nave of **WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL**.



Soprano **Laura Lewis** and the **WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS** will be joined by England's **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR** in a program whose proceeds will go to the fight against breast cancer, which claimed the life of the composer's late wife, photographer **Linda McCartney**, who died in 1998. To obtain more information about this special event and to order tickets, visit www.cathedralchoralsociety.org or call (202) 537-5527.



RICHMOND HOSTS A SPECTACULAR FIVE-DAY ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE ESUUS

Thanks to the imaginative planning and tireless efforts of **Ellen LeCompte** and her colleagues at **ESU RICHMOND**, the **2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF**



THE UNITED STATES promises to be a convention to remember. Most of the festivities will take place in the stately **JEFFERSON HOTEL**, a landmark of Southern hospitality, and this celebrated five-star facility is offering special rates to those who reserve accommodations

while a limited number of superior and deluxe rooms remain available. Those who wish to do so may either call (800) 424-8014 or go online through www.esuus.org to print an order form that can be faxed to the hotel. The same Web address provides a link

to details about and registration forms for the **CONFERENCE** and for the optional tours and ancillary activities to accompany it.

For those who wish to arrive early, **Wednesday, October 31**, will be set aside for excursions to attractions in **JAMESTOWN, RICHMOND, and COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG**. On **Thursday, November 1**, attendees will enjoy an afternoon **SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL** that includes a panel discussion with **John Andrews**, president of the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD**, **Ralph Cohen**, executive director of the **AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER**, and **Michael LoMonico**, senior consultant on national education at the **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**. That will be followed **Friday, November 2**, with a **FOCUS ON JAMESTOWN**, to be highlighted by a luncheon conversation with **Dr. James Kelly**, director of museums at the **VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, who will discuss *Three North American Beginnings: Jamestown 1607, Quebec 1608, and Santa Fe 1609*. **Saturday, November 3**, will be devoted to **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**, and it will include both a morning symposium on **CHURCHILL AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES** (with **Allen Packwood**, director of the **CHURCHILL ARCHIVES CENTRE** in Cambridge, and **Celia Sandys**, granddaughter of Sir Winston and author of numerous books and articles about that eminent statesman) and an afternoon dialogue between **Mrs. Valerie Mitchell**, secretary-general of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** at **Dartmouth House** in London, and **William R. Miller**, chairman of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES** and head of the **ESU's International Council**. Proceedings will draw to a close on **Sunday, November 4**, with a plenary session in the hotel and a liturgically evocative service at Richmond's venerable **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**.

Among the luminaries to be involved in various components of the conference will be **Lord Watson** of Richmond-upon-Thames, who will deliver a keynote address about *Jamestown and the Voyage of English*, and two of Virginia's most admired public figures, **Governor Tim Kaine** and **Senator John Warner**. Our gracious hosts are doing their best to provide something for everyone, and we hope that dozens of constituents from **ESU WASHINGTON** will be on hand for this illustrious gathering.

ANOTHER SPLENDID EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN LONDON AND WASHINGTON

For many years now, the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** has been at the center of an exchange program that brings students from the United Kingdom to **CAPITOL HILL** and provides an opportunity for their U.S. counterparts to spend a summer in **WESTMINSTER** as interns for members of Parliament. Pictured here are this summer's visitors from England, Scotland, and Wales, who attended a July **BABA** reception at the **BRITISH EMBASSY** as guests of **Braxton and Debbie Moncure**. We're grateful not only to the Moncures, but to all the others who extended hospitality to these charming young leaders, among them **Robert and Susan Fratkin**, **Celia and Julian Josephs**, **Gerry and Susan Kauvar**, and **Ren and Sandy Renfro**. We also thank our colleagues at the **CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA** and at the **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**.





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 Dumbarton Ensemble

ESU WASHINGTON constituents are cordially invited to a free concert by the **DUMBARTON ENSEMBLE** on **Sunday, October 21**, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the beautiful WEST-CHESTER apartment of **GRAHAM DOWN**, the multitalented pianist who heads this popular group of musicians. Attendees will be treated to a violin sonata by **Georg Friedrich Handel**, a trio for clarinet, viola, and piano by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**, and a sonata for clarinet and piano by **Nino Rota**. Light refreshments will follow the program. Mr. Down requests that those who wish to be on hand for this occasion reserve space with a call to (202) 333-8258 or a message to agdown@msn.com. His residence, unit 152B, is in the main building (the third entrance on the right, with the porte cochere) at 4000 Cathedral Avenue NW.

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 affiliation 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 **September 18 (Stepp)**, please reserve ___ space(s) for the luncheon and program at \$30 per person.

For **September 27 (Wilson)**, please reserve ___ space(s) for the reception and program at \$20, ___ space(s) for the program alone at \$10.

For **October 2 (Olson)**, please reserve ___ space(s) for the luncheon and program at \$30 per person.

For **October 11 (Dickson and Shapiro)**, please reserve ___ space(s) for the luncheon and program at \$30 per person.

For **October 12 (Geary)**, please reserve ___ space(s) for the luncheon and program at \$35 per person, ___ space(s) for the program alone at \$10.

For **October 23 (Monteith)**, please reserve ___ space(s) for the reception and program at \$20, ___ space(s) for the program alone at \$10.

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