



# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

*Creating Global Understanding Through English*

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

SPRING 2007

## *News & Announcements*

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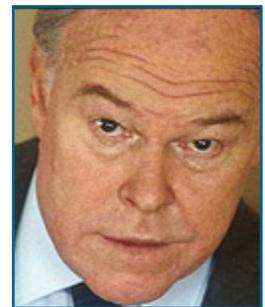
### WEB SITE & E-MAIL

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## ***SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE WITH THE RSC'S TIMOTHY WEST*** ***A Dinner Program with an Globally Renowned Actor, Director, and Writer***

TIMOTHY WEST is currently enchanting KENNEDY CENTER audiences as Menenius in the ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY's stirring *Coriolanus*. One of Britain's most eminent actors, he has excelled in roles that range from Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* to both Gloucester and the title character in *King Lear*. TV viewers will recall him as Wolsey in a BBC production of *Henry VIII*, as Bradley Hardacre in *Brass*, as the Prime Minister in *Churchill and the Generals*, and as Sir Leicester Dedlock in *Bleak House*. Filmgoers will



remember him for *Cry Freedom*, *The Day of the Jackal*, *Iris*, *Joseph Andrews*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, and *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. Mr. West is the author of *A Moment Towards the End of a Play* and *I'm Here, I Think—Where are You?* He'll be joined by his charming wife, PRUNELLA SCALES, who is best known to most of us as the irrepressible Sybil in *Fawlty Towers*.

## ***ACTRESS JANET SUZMAN TALKS ABOUT HER ROLE AS VOLUMNIA*** ***A Luncheon with a Legend from Britain's ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY***



In the same *Coriolanus* that has brought TIMOTHY WEST to our city, JANET SUZMAN has been described "a consummate Volumnia, the very model of maternal overindulgence and patrician entitlement." These words are from *Washington Post* critic PETER MARKS, who praises Ms. Suzman's rendering of "the psychological control Volumnia wields over her arrogant brute of a son." Ms. Suzman began her RSC career in the early 1960s as Joan of Arc in an epic presentation of *The Wars of the Roses*. She proceeded to acclaim in

such Shakespearean roles as Beatrice, Cleopatra, Kate, Ophelia, Portia, and Rosalind. She earned an Oscar nomination for her first film part, the Empress in *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971). A script artist and director as well as a performer who has garnered laurels on both stage and screen, Ms. Suzman is also the author of *Acting with Shakespeare: Three Comedies*, a volume based upon a series of master classes. Our conversation with her will commence promptly at noon and will be followed by a savory repast in a historic building that was once home to President James Monroe.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2**  
*Program, 12:00 noon Lunch, 12:45 p.m.*  
**ARTS CLUB OF WASHINGTON**  
2077 I Street NW  
*A Special Occasion for Only \$30*

## ***A British Embassy Reception on Monday, May 21***

See the pages that follow for details on a tribute to artistic director MICHAEL KAHN, an evening with art curator FRANCES BAILEY, and a lunch with SMITHSONIAN scholar HEATHER EWING.

## MEET MICHELLE KRISSEL, EDUCATOR AT THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA

We're pleased to join the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB as co-hosts for an informative luncheon with MICHELLE

**TUESDAY, MAY 1**

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

**1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE**  
*Luncheon and Program, \$25*

KRISSEL, Assistant to General Director **Plácido Domingo**, the tenor who now oversees the WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA. Ms. Krisel will talk about WNO's involvement in this spring's *SHAKESPEARE IN*

*WASHINGTON* festival. She'll discuss such initiatives as the company's *Young Artist Program*, and she'll respond to questions about its educational outreach activities and its plans for the 2007-8 season. For twenty years Ms. Krisel, an esteemed music critic, was a panelist on *Metropolitan Opera Quiz* and served as a commentator for *At the Opera*, a popular NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO feature. After a decade in such locales as Paris, Vienna, San Francisco, and Santa Fe, she came to the nation's capital in 1996.



## NORTHERN IRELAND'S VARIATIONS ON EUROPE'S CLASSICAL COUNTRY HOUSE

In a gathering that has been organized by the ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION and will occur in a beautiful setting at the office of America's NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION,

**MONDAY, MAY 7**

*Reception, 6:30 Program, 7:00 p.m.*

**1785 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE**  
SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM  
*Reception and Program, \$25*

curator **FRANCES BAILEY** of Britain's NATIONAL TRUST will explore *Classical Creativity on the Edge of Europe: The Country House in Northern Ireland*. Ms. Bailey holds a degree from

Trinity College, Dublin, and her many responsibilities include prominent roles at the CASTLETOWN FOUNDATION, the IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY, the ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY, and the MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, not to mention the NATIONAL TRUST IN NORTHERN IRELAND, where she has been in her present position since 2002. Her illustrated lecture will offer perspectives on a number of 18th- and 19th-century estates and their magnificent collections, gardens, and interiors. She'll also tell us about the aristocratic families who built and maintained these edifices, and how they drew upon such architectural vocabularies as the Palladian style from Italy and the Gothic tradition in various manifestations as it developed in northern climes both on the Continent and in the British Isles.



## LOOKING INTO *THE LOST WORLD OF JAMES SMITHSON* WITH HEATHER EWING

Who was the Englishman whose astonishing donation resulted in the largest museum and research complex in the world? The

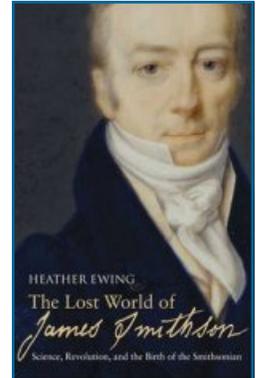
**TUESDAY, MAY 8**

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

**1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE**  
*Luncheon and Program, \$25*

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION is justly celebrated for a vast array of services and programs. But the man behind what is sometimes referred to as "America's attic" has been a shadowy mystery for

more than a century and a half. An illegitimate son of the Duke of Northumberland, **JAMES SMITHSON** was the youngest member of Britain's Royal Society — a talented chemist who was admired by the greatest scientists of his age. At the same time he was a suspected spy, an inveterate gambler, and a radical revolutionary during the turbulent years of the Napoleonic Wars. At the heart of his story is a bequest — worth \$9 million in today's currency — which prompted an international lawsuit and a protracted congressional battle during which figures as diverse as John Quincy Adams and Alexander Graham Bell grappled over how to put the donor's endowment to use. **HEATHER EWING** is an architectural historian who has drawn upon diaries and letters from across Europe and the United States to piece together this fascinating narrative. According to **JONATHAN YARDLEY** of *The Washington Post*, her "superb book" offers "conclusive evidence" that the Smithsonian "arose from deeply serious and scholarly roots, and it should inspire the institution's trustees to make certain that this tradition is carried on into the future." Copies of her volume will be on hand for purchase and inscription.



## ESU'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO OCCUR MAY 19 AT THE WESTCHESTER

Thanks to the hospitality of **Graham Down**, an ESU board member who resides in a lovely apartment at the WESTCHESTER,

we'll hold our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for 2007 in a dining room at that stately complex's Main Building, the third entrance on the right. 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 recent recipients of the branch's **HELENE GLADSTONE WILLIAMS AWARD**. Admission is free for those who choose not to stay for the luncheon buffet.

**SATURDAY, MAY 19**

*Meeting, 10:30 Luncheon, 12:00*

**4000 CATHEDRAL AVENUE NW**  
*Dining Room in the Main Building*  
*Luncheon Attendees, \$25*

## 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 elegant residence of the **BRITISH AMBASSADOR**. It is thus with immense relish that we look forward to another gathering to be hosted by **SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING**. Once again, weather permitting, the **EMBASSY**'s grateful guests will be able to stroll in a garden that beckons with seasonal blossoms. And once again they'll have a chance to reflect upon the cultural and educational aspirations that define the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**'s exalted mission.

As in the past, there will be ample opportunity to greet old friends, make new acquaintances, and enjoy refreshing beverages and hors d'oeuvres. But this spring's festivities will have a more substantive focus than has usually been the case at such receptions. As participants in an unprecedented celebration of **SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON**, this year's **ESU** attendees and their guests will be mingling with representatives of other institutions, among them the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD**, and they'll be joining the **AMBASSADOR** and his charismatic spouse in a warm salute to the director and producer who, more perhaps than anyone else in the last two decades, has helped position our metropolis as a significant center for the appreciation, interpretation, and performance of classical drama.

**MICHAEL KAHN** had garnered accolades on Broadway, and had overseen such artistic enterprises as the **AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE THEATRE** in Stratford, Connecticut, and **MCCARTER THEATRE** in Princeton, New Jersey, before he came to Capitol Hill in 1986 to rescue an embattled troupe that was on the verge of extinction. Benefiting from his experience not only as an artist but as a gifted teacher (he had helped establish the Drama Division at **LINCOLN CENTER**'s prestigious **JULLIARD SCHOOL**, and he had assisted **John Houseman** and **Margot Harley** when they decided to create a touring **ACTING COMPANY** that would launch the careers of such promising students as **Kevin Kline** and **Patti LuPone**), Mr. Kahn transformed what had commenced in 1969 as the **FOLGER THEATRE GROUP** into an institution that is now recognized as one of the foremost dramatic ensembles in the world. As that organization prepares to begin occupying its magnificent new quarters at the **HARMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS**, Mr.

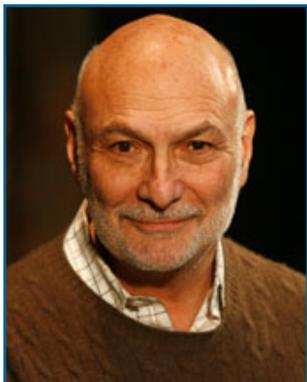
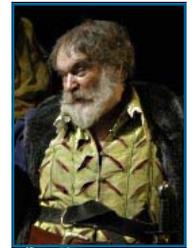
Kahn is directing **Hamlet** and putting his finishing touches on a six-month Bardic festival that he and **KENNEDY CENTER** President **Michael Kaiser** have been coordinating from the outset.

To commend Mr. Kahn's accomplishments and thank him for all he's contributed to the cultural life not only of our region but of our nation, we're pleased to announce that such notables as **LONDON BUTLER** (Chairman of the **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**, and a leader who has worked with Mr. Kahn and with **STC** Managing Director **Nicholas T. Goldsborough** to enlarge the Theatre's scope and expand its operations), **SUPREME COURT** Justice **RUTH BADER GINSBURG** (a magnanimous and fervent supporter of all these efforts), and award-winning actor **TED VAN GRIETHUYSEN** (one of the dedicated performers who've done so much to help Mr. Kahn realize his lofty objectives) will take part in a ceremony at which this indefatigable visionary receives a laurel that has been bestowed upon such previous honorees as **Kenneth Branagh**, **Zoe Caldwell**, **Dame Judi Dench**, **Sir Derek Jacobi**, **Kevin Kline**, **Sir Ian McKellen**, **Christopher Plummer**, and **Lynn Redgrave**.

Past winners of the **GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS** will be present at this get-together by means of messages to be shared with Mr. Kahn and his admirers. And every attendee at what promises to be a sparkling revel will have a chance to chat both with the awardee and with those who'll bestow the accolade he accepts. As they do so, these patrons will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that their contributions to a worthy endeavor offer indispensable sustenance for such educational initiatives as **ESU**'s annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**, a contest which is graciously co-sponsored by the **STC** and is presented each March on the **LANSBURGH** stage. They'll also know they're making it possible for the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** to maintain the assistance it proffers to the **STC**'s **ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING** through an annual **WALTER L. WRIGHT III AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE IN THE DRAMATIC PROFESSION**. This stipend goes to a talented young professional in the **ACA**, and it is now underwritten by Mr. Wright's widow, **DR. MARJORIE J. WILLIAMS**. Along with the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION**, Dr. Williams supplies substantial programmatic funding for the branch of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** that represents the D.C. area.

For additional details about this high-profile event — including information about corporate and individual sponsorships, about potential foundation partnerships, and about options for congratulatory or promotional expressions to be displayed in a handsome printed keepsake — we encourage benefactors to call (202) 234-4602 or send e-mails to [esuwdc@msn.com](mailto:esuwdc@msn.com).

**MONDAY, MAY 21**  
**6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**3100 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE**  
**Admission \$125**  
**(\$75 Tax-Deductible)**





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.*

## ESU Programs on C-SPAN

Even if you don't subscribe to cable television, you can probably see ESU WASHINGTON programs over C-SPAN2's weekend **Book TV** service. In recent months, for example, you'd have had several chances to view presentations by **Washington Post** critic **Michael Dirda**, historian and producer **Elizabeth Smith Bernstein**, and writer **E. R. Braithwaite** (author of *To Sir, With Love*). In the near future you'll be able to catch journalist **Walter Isaacson's** talk about a new biography of Albert Einstein. You can check the *Calendar* page at [www.esuwdc.org](http://www.esuwdc.org) for updates and helpful links. Or you can simply visit the **Book TV** home page, click on *TV Schedule*, and then opt for *Watch Online* when an attraction that interests you is being telecast.

## 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, you may upgrade with a quick 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.

For April 30 (Timothy West), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$30.

For May 1 (Michelle Krisel), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25.

For May 2 (Janet Suzman), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$30.

For May 7 (Frances Bailey), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25.

For May 8 (Heather Ewing), reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \_\_\_ at \$25.

For May 19 (Annual General Meeting), reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25.

For May 21 (British Embassy), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$125.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION is enclosed.

Charge \_\_\_MC\_Visa\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_ / \_\_\_).

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*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](http://www.esuwdc.org).*