

# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

*Creating Global Understanding Through English*

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

DECEMBER 2005

## *News & Announcements*

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## A TOAST TO KITTY CARLISLE HART, ICON OF TV'S GOLDEN AGE *A Memorable Evening with a Legendary Advocate for the Arts*

We encourage you to register as soon as possible for a special conversation with one of the most revered figures in the annals of American entertainment. For fifteen years **KITTY CARLISLE HART** charmed us as a panelist for TV's *To Tell the Truth*. Her work as a singer and as an actress has included roles in feature films (with stars like Bing Crosby and the Marx Brothers), on Broadway stages, at the **METROPOLITAN OPERA**, and most recently at **FEINSTEIN'S**, a lively Manhattan cabaret in which she celebrated her 95th birthday this fall with a week-long series of vocal performances. During a wide-ranging dialogue with



**JOHN ANDREWS**, Mrs. Hart will revisit some crowning moments of a career that has featured Decca recordings of lyrics by Jerome Kern, marriage to playwright Moss Hart, a cameo in Woody Allen's *Radio Days*, and two decades as Chair of the **NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**. Born in New Orleans and educated in Europe, Mrs. Hart has always been the epitome of elegance and sophistication. Among the treats she has in store for what promises to be an occasion to cherish will be a song to conclude the proceedings, with Mrs. Hart to be accompanied by pianist **JOHN EATON**.

## A LUNCHEON PANEL WITH WETA'S *AROUND TOWN* REVIEWERS *Helpful Hints on Things to See and Do at a Busy Time of Year*



Looking for tips on how to make the most of all the cultural enticements that will brighten this year's holiday season? If so, you'll want to be with us for a sprightly conversation with host **ROBERT AUBRY DAVIS** (pictured at left) and his colleagues **JOE BARBER**, **PETER FAY**, **JANICE GOODMAN**, **TIM GORDON**, **TREY GRAHAM**, and **JANE HORWITZ**. Just as they do online and in wry comments on TV 26, they'll remind us who's coming to town, and when, and where. This presentation has become a not-to-miss December mainstay at the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**,

and we're thankful that our colleagues there have kindly opened it up to everyone who has learned to rely upon the "Best Bets" that emanate from *Around Town* vignettes about current attractions. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about all that is happening in our bustling metropolitan area.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
*Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 a.m.*  
*Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Program, 1:00*  
**1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE**  
*Lunch and Program, \$25*

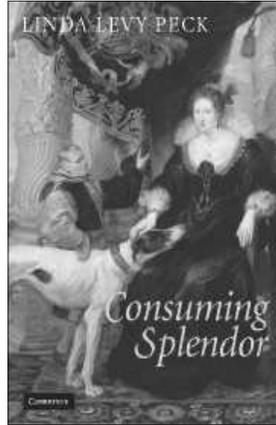
## *"Consuming Splendor" on Thursday, December 15*

For details on that and on other *COMING ATTRACTIONS*, among them a festive night of Yuletide Revelry, see the pages that follow.

## Coming Attractions

### “CONSUMING SPLENDOR” AND ENJOYING LIFE’S PLEASURES IN THE 17TH CENTURY

We’re delighted to return to historic **DACOR BACON HOUSE**, the beautifully appointed setting for an address we heard in October by London biographer **Flora Fraser**, to enjoy an illustrated talk by one of today’s foremost authorities on early modern Britain. **LINDA LEVY PECK** is Columbian Professor of History at **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**, and the author of such influential books as *Northampton: Patronage and Policy at the Court of James I* and *Court Patronage and Corruption in Early Stuart England*. Dr. Peck is now garnering accolades as co-curator for a **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY** exhibition that was mounted in conjunction with her fascinating appraisal of the luxury goods that metamorphosed post-Renaissance England into an economic and social power to be reckoned with the world over. As she scrutinizes the development



of new technologies and the flourishing of enterprises that encouraged and built upon the expansion of trade, travel, and conspicuous consumption, Dr. Peck sharpens our perception of every facet of a remarkable period. Thanks to our associates at **OLSSON’S BOOKS & RECORDS**, copies of

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
*Reception, 6:30 Dinner, 7:00*  
*Program, 7:45 p.m.*  
**DACOR BACON HOUSE**  
 1801 F Street NW  
*Members, \$30 Others, \$35*  
*Program Only, \$15*

*Consuming Splendor: Society and Culture in Seventeenth-Century England*, will be available for purchase and inscription. We’re happy to observe that this event is being generously underwritten by **GERALD B. KAUVAR**, President of the branch of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** which serves the Nation’s Capital area, and Special Assistant to the President of **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**. We’re most grateful to Dr. Kauvar and to his wife **SUSAN** for their philanthropy.

### YULETIDE REVELRY: MERRIMENT AT THE HOME OF BRAXTON AND DEBBIE MONCURE

Thanks to the hospitality of our Treasurer, **BRAXTON MONCURE**, and his wife **DEBBIE**, we’re pleased to invite you to a jolly get-together in one of Washington’s most welcoming residences. We hope you’ll join us for a delicious buffet, topped off by **DIANA AND PETER NICHOLSON’S** traditional holiday punch, and come prepared to sing your favorite carols around the piano. You’ll have a chance to exchange greetings with your many friends in the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, and you’ll meet tutors from the branch

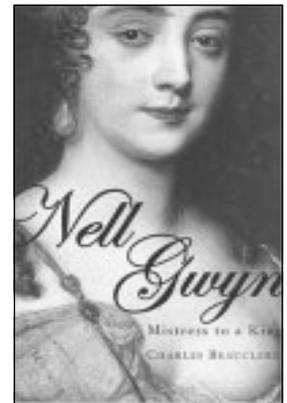


and newcomers from other countries who are engaged in **ESU’s** indispensable and widely applauded *ENGLISH IN ACTION* program. There is no admission charge for this reception, but tax-deductible donations to support the **ESU’s** educational and cultural initiatives will be gladly accepted. We encourage you to bring friends and loved ones who might be interested in affiliating with our organization. We also hope that those who can do so will bring small unwrapped gifts to be bestowed on needy children in the city. As in the past, Mr. and Mrs. Moncure are contributing substantially to the costs of this year’s social and charitable activities, not only during the holiday season but on other occasions when **ESU** visitors from abroad are taking part in Capitol Hill internships or touring the United States on grants and fellowships.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
*Beginning at 5:00 p.m.*  
**1614 FOXHALL ROAD NW**  
*No Admission Charge,*  
*But Donations Welcome*

### NOBLEMAN CHARLES BEAUCLERK TALKS ABOUT *NELL GWYN, MISTRESS TO A KING*

Written by a direct descendant of the union between King Charles II and a mistress who rose from an impoverished, abusive childhood to the wealth and royal connections that made her a favorite with the monarch’s other subjects, *Nell Gwyn* is a biography that will attract at least as much interest for its author’s credentials as for its intriguing subject matter. In the words of one reviewer, **CHARLES BEAUCLERK** describes “a time when, if it was good to be a king, it was good to be his mistress too. He does not cut his characters down to modern size.” With similar accolades, *Publishers Weekly* observes that Mr. Beauclerk offers his readers “a lively portrait of his famous forebears, along with an account of the theater of the time and the surprisingly parallel worlds of prostitutes and royal mistresses.” Mr. Beauclerk is frequently referred to as **CHARLES FRANCIS TOPHAM DE VERE BEAUCLERK, EARL OF BURFORD**. The eldest son and heir apparent of the 14th Duke of St. Albans, he also claims descent from the 17th Earl of Oxford, whom he and his adherents believe to be the real author of Shakespeare’s lyric and dramatic works. After Parliament decided in 1999 to deny hereditary peers automatic voting privileges in the House of Lords, Mr. Beauclerk accused his fellow MPs of treason. Declining thereafter to employ titles he no longer regarded as meaningful, he began focusing most of his attention on literary pursuits, among them research on his family history. He has now produced an intimate portrait of his most colorful ancestor. Copies of *Nell Gwyn* will be available for purchase, and Mr. Beauclerk will be happy to inscribe them.



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18**  
*Cash-Bar Reception, 6:15 p.m.*  
*Dinner 7:00 Program, 7:45*  
**1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE**  
*Dinner and Program, \$30*  
*Program Only, \$15*

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## English in Action

Does becoming acquainted with a visitor from abroad, or helping a foreign-born student, appeal to you? If so, you should ponder the idea of becoming involved in one of the most gratifying pursuits available to a civic-minded volunteer. **ENGLISH IN ACTION** is a one-to-one tutoring service in which ordinary people get together for relaxed conversations. One will be an adult with normal proficiency, but no formal training or teaching credentials, in the use of spoken and written English. The other may be a recent immigrant to the United States, a high-school or college student from overseas, or a professional who grasps the rudiments of our vocabulary and grammar but seeks to acquire the skillful ease a native speaker of them takes for granted. Under the usual format an ESU tutor meets once a week with his or her charge for an hour of informal give-and-take at a convenient time and location. It's not unusual for tutors and the grateful recipients of their assistance to develop enduring friendships and thereby enhance the respect that both parties have for diverse cultures and traditions.

**ENGLISH IN ACTION** has been provided by our branch of the **ESU** for more than 20 years, and it has aided hundreds of newcomers as they've learned to cope with the challenges and expectations of a society quite distinct from their own. **EIA** has bolstered their self-assurance and enabled them to obtain better positions, both in America and in their countries of origin. And by opening new doors for them, it has elevated the quality of their lives.



If you'd like to learn more about **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, and hear about some of the rewards a dedicated **EIA** community is reaping from interactions that are fundamental to the central purpose of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, you'll want to get in touch with **EIA's** director, **Mrs. Diana Nicholson**. You can reach her by phone at **(202) 966-3921** or by e-mail at [afromdc@aol.com](mailto:afromdc@aol.com). Diana will be stepping down from her leadership post soon, and she's particularly interested in hearing from anyone who might be inclined to assume some of her coordinating responsibilities.

## A Word from our President

Dear Friends,

You'll have noticed that several of the attractions enumerated in recent issues of **ESU NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** are being conceived or funded, either wholly or in part, by officers and board members of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**. These endeavors are in response to a campaign to encourage more active involvement in **ESU** activities by a broad cross-section of our constituency.

If you would like to help plan a get-together, supply the venue for a reception, tea, or dinner, schedule an excursion to a museum, concert hall, theater, or educational facility, propose a speaker or panel on some topic of your choosing, or subsidize a program by agreeing to pay for some or all of its costs, we'd love to hear from you. We're keen to provide more variety in the enrichment opportunities we proffer our attendees. And we're equally resolved to

begin drawing more fully upon the expertise, imagination, initiative, and good will of our talented and diverse membership. I extend this invitation now because we're at a point where the future development of our organization, not only locally but nationally and internationally, will depend upon the fervent participation of those who care the most about its exalted mission.

As you'll know if you've been following our progress in recent years, **ESU WASHINGTON** is playing an increasingly significant role in the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION's** efforts to foster global understanding through a global language. We've arranged for those who attend our events to meet and talk with notables like **Jane Alexander, Keith Baxter, Henrietta Spencer Churchill, Jonathan Dimpleby, Michael Dirda, Harold Evans, David Frost, Adam Gopnik, Stephen Greenblatt, Shirley Hazard, Anthony Hecht, Derek Jacobi, Roy Jenkins, Michael Kahn, Bill Kristol, Robert MacNeil, Peter Marks, Judith Martin, Bill Press, Lynn Redgrave, Jean Stapleton, Deborah Tannen, Caspar Weinberger, Garry Wills, and Michael York.**

We've organized these and other gatherings in tandem with such institutions as the **BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**, the **EISENHOWER INSTITUTE**, the **NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**, the **NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**, and the **ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION**. And we've shared many of them with audiences around the planet, who've relished our presence over **C-SPAN2**, **BBC RADIO 4**, and the Internet. We're happy to note, for example, that our September luncheon chat with **Time** correspondent **BONNIE ANGELO** has been telecast three times in recent months on **C-SPAN2's** weekend **BOOKTV** service. Soon to be aired will be a **HISTORY ON BOOKTV** feature with British author **A. N. Wilson**, who introduced his magisterial **After the Victorians** at one of our November engagements. For details, and for Web links to offerings such as the inaugural **ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE**, a celebratory **BBC** soiree that took place on July 4 at **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** in London with **Senator John McCain** as honored speaker, we urge you to visit our **Calendar** page at [www.esuwdc.org](http://www.esuwdc.org).

In the interim we hope you'll mark your 2006 diary for such highlights as our annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATION'S CAPITAL REGION**, to take place on Monday, March 6, at **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**, with underwriting from the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION**, and our ever-popular **BRITISH EMBASSY RECEPTION**, to occur on Thursday, May 18, at the stately residence of **Ambassador and Lady Manning**. In all likelihood this occasion will be preceded by a ceremony earlier in the spring to commemorate a key milestone: the 40th anniversary of a lifelike bronze monument to **Sir Winston Churchill**, which the **ESU** unveiled on April 9, 1966.

We'll look forward to seeing you on these and other dates. And there is nothing that would please us more than to have you express your devotion to the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** with a year-end pledge or contribution. Small tax-deductible donations will be much appreciated, and so will upgrades to higher levels of membership affiliation. To help us move forward with even loftier aspirations, meanwhile, we're eager for corporate sponsorships and for substantial gifts from individual supporters. If you'd like to explore a major commitment, please give me a call at **(202) 994-1818** or e-mail [gkauvar@gwu.edu](mailto:gkauvar@gwu.edu). With best wishes for the holidays and for the year ahead,

Gerry Kauvar



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.*

## 2006 Shakespeare Competition

On **MONDAY, MARCH 6, AT 2:00 P.M.** on the **LANSBURGH** stage of the **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**, we'll host the opening round of ESU's annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATION'S CAPITAL REGION**, with the concluding round to follow at **7:00** that evening. We're honored to report that principal funding for this event will be provided once again by the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION**. In preparation for the **COMPETITION**, we're offering a series of Saturday morning workshops at **ST. ALBANS SCHOOL**. Like the contest itself, these sessions are free and are open to the public. For details about them and about related activities, please call **(202) 234-4602** or e-mail **esuwdc@msn.com**.

## 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 prestigious 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 readers 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, you may 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 discourse 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 \$35, Dual \$45)**

*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 advance the **ESU's** work \_\_\_ by underwriting one of the organization's regular programs, \_\_\_ by organizing or hosting an occasion in my home or in a venue of my own choosing, \_\_\_ by facilitating corporate or grant support, \_\_\_ by volunteering my time, counsel, or expertise.

For **Dec. 5 (Hart)**, please reserve \_\_\_ spaces at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30.

For **Dec. 6 (Around Town)**, please reserve \_\_\_ spaces at \$25.

For **Dec. 15 (Peck)**, please reserve \_\_\_ spaces at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$35, \_\_\_ at \$15.

For **Dec. 18 (Yuletide)**, please reserve \_\_\_ spaces at no charge.

For **Jan. 18 (Beauclerk)**, please reserve \_\_\_ spaces at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30.

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 collaborate with the ESU.*

*Visit us online, and check for calendar updates, at [www.esuwdc.org](http://www.esuwdc.org).*