



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

DECEMBER 2006

News & Announcements

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AN ARTS ROUNDUP BY WETA'S *AROUND TOWN* PANEL *A Luncheon Discussion with ROBERT AUBRY DAVIS and his TV Colleagues*



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, Trey Graham, and Jane Horwitz. Just as they do online and in wry comments on WETA television, 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 friends in that institution have once again opened it up to attendees from ESU WASHINGTON. As in the past, TV 26's lively, informative *AROUND TOWN* regulars will give us their "Best Bets" and proffer enticing vignettes about coming attractions. They'll also take questions from an appreciative audience.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30
Program Only, \$10

INDIAN EMBASSY NIGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

An Event with His Excellency RONEN SEN, India's Ambassador to the U.S.

Thanks to the International Committee of the UNIVERSITY CLUB, ESU members and their guests are invited to a special dinner at which INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES will speak about one of the world's most remarkable democracies. His Excellency **RONEN SEN** has held key

posts in Mexico, Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations, and he has served as his country's envoy to the U.S. since 2004. His remarks will be supplemented by a recital that features **SUBBA SANKARAN**, a soloist who is one of only a handful of



musicians who currently perform with the surbahar. She has studied with renowned masters, and is noted not only for her concerts in America but for radio and television broadcasts in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Europe, South America, and elsewhere. Reservations for this soiree may be made either through ESU WASHINGTON or through the UNIVERSITY CLUB. Those who opt for the latter should call **Norbert Kupinski**, Director of Member Events, at (202) 824-1390.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Reception, 6:00 Dinner, 7:00 p.m.
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
1135 16th Street NW
ESU Members & their Guests, \$60

Join us Sunday, December 17, for Yuletide Revelry

For details on that and on other *COMING ATTRACTIONS*, among them a BABA luncheon with **BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND LADY MANNING** on Friday, December 8, and a **CHURCHILL'S BIRTHDAY DINNER** on Saturday evening, December 9, see the pages that follow.

BABA'S GALA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WITH SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING

In recent years the branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION that represents the Nation's Capital area has co-hosted a number of activities with the BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION,

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
Cash-Bar Reception, 12:00 Lunch 1:00
FAIRMONT HOTEL BALLROOM
24th and M Streets NW
ESU Members & their Guests, \$95
Non-Members, \$95

among them two receptions at the FAIRMONT HOTEL, the first to thank SIR CHRISTOPHER AND LADY MEYER for all they did during their time at the BRITISH EMBASSY to strengthen ties between the United Kingdom and the United States, the second to welcome their successors, SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING, to their posts in Washington. We're therefore delighted that ESU members and their guests have been invited to BABA's TENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON. This event will feature remarks by His Excellency THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR and his charming wife CATHERINE, and it will be sponsored by VIRGIN ATLANTIC. Those who've been on hand for these get-togethers in the past have always found them highly enjoyable. Space is limited, so we urge you to act quickly if you'd like to attend. You'll be well advised to call Pat Karhuse or Scarlett Lucas at (202) 293-0010 by Monday, December 4.



CHURCHILL'S BIRTHDAY DINNER AT THE FISH MARKET IN OLD-TOWN ALEXANDRIA

Members of the ESU WASHINGTON community are invited to attend a holiday dinner to commemorate the 132nd birthday of Sir Winston Churchill. This gathering will be hosted by the

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
FISH MARKET RESTAURANT
105 King Street, Alexandria
ESU Members & their Guests, \$42

WASHINGTON SOCIETY FOR CHURCHILL, and it will take place in the upstairs dining room of one of the most popular meeting places in northern Virginia. Attendees will have a choice of entrees (three seafood platters will be on offer, along with a New York strip-steak option) and a beverage list that includes both wine and non-alcoholic selections. Once the proceedings commence, they'll have a chance to preview a forthcoming book by energetic Ohio attorney MICHAEL MCMENAMIN, who will discuss the research that has gone into *BECOMING WINSTON CHURCHILL*, his soon-to-be-published study about young Winston's American mentor, Bourke Cockran, a seven-term Congressman from New York City who was a confidant and economic advisor to two Presidents (Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt) and was regarded by many as the nation's foremost orator. Mr. McMEnamin writes a column for *Finest Hour*,



a journal published by the CHURCHILL CENTRE, and articles about civil liberties that he's authored for periodicals such as *Reason* have won several awards. To reserve for this event, please call Doris Weisman at (703) 255-2579 as soon as possible.

YULETIDE REVELRY AT THE GRACIOUS 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 evening in one of Washington's most welcoming residences. We hope you'll join us for a scrumptious buffet, topped off by a traditional holiday punch, and come prepared to sing your favorite carols around the piano. You'll have a chance to greet acquaintances in the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION, and you'll

meet tutors from the branch and newcomers from other countries who are currently engaged in ESU's indispensable and widely applauded *ENGLISH IN ACTION* program. There is no charge for this reception, but reservations are requested, and tax-deductible donations to help defray its costs (approximately \$35 per attendee) and support ESU WASHINGTON'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 trust that those who can do so will come with small unwrapped gifts to be bestowed on needy children in the city. 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 on other occasions, especially when ESU visitors from abroad are taking part in Capitol Hill internships or touring the United States on fellowships and educational exchange programs.

A REMINDER THAT YOU CAN SEE SOME ESU PROGRAMS ON C-SPAN'S BOOK TV

If you subscribe to cable television, the odds are that you can watch ESU WASHINGTON offerings over C-SPAN2's weekend *Book TV* service. On Sunday, October 8, for example, you would have had two chances to see *Washington Post* critic MICHAEL DIRDA talk about his latest publication, *Book by Book*, once at 7:30 a.m., and again in prime time at 8:00 p.m. You'd have also been able to catch this event on Monday, October 9, at 7:00 in the morning, and again on Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving Day) at 8:00 in the evening. In all likelihood this presentation, which was recorded during a luncheon gathering on Tuesday, September 19, at the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, will be repeated yet again. Meanwhile, we're awaiting an air-time for another recent engagement, a lecture about *Lincoln's Other White House* by ELIZABETH SMITH BROWNSTEIN that was recorded at the SOLDIER'S HOME in northwest Washington on Wednesday, October 11. As soon



as we learn when this program is scheduled to appear, we'll provide an update to those on our register who have supplied us with e-mail addresses. If you haven't already done so, then, you should provide the wherewithal for us to reach you with notices about that and about other attractions which will be of interest to the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** community.

In some instances events that are covered by **C-SPAN** are made available online for several weeks after their initial airing. In those cases anyone who wishes to do so can visit the network's Web site and watch these programs on a computer screen. We do our best to supply up-to-date links to such options on the *Calendar* page of www.esuwdc.org. But you can also proceed directly to www.c-span.org or to www.booktv.org, not only for current listings but for material about previously telecast lectures that have been archived and are available for purchase in VHS or DVD formats. If you're interested in **ESU WASHINGTON** offerings that have been carried over **C-SPAN** since November 2001, we suggest that you try searching under such entries as **Bonnie Angelo, Lester R. Brown, Michael Dirda, Jane Dunn, Harold Evans, James Humes, Roy Jenkins, Hew Strachan, Stanley Wells, and A. N. Wilson.**

FOCUSING UPON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE 2006-7 SEASON

As we prepare for the second half of our current fiscal year, we're keenly aware of how important it is to have strong support from a diverse and active membership. In the July 2006 issue of *ESU NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS* we expressed gratitude to those who have assisted us financially in recent years. We're deeply obliged to everyone who contributes to our educational and cultural outreach, and above all to those who do so at levels that permit us to offer events and services that transcend those functions which can be sustained by ordinary operating funds.

Without the substantial underwriting we've received from the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION**, for example, we'd have been unable to continue our annual *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION*. Under this rubric we have arranged several workshops each year for teachers and students in the metropolitan area. In recent springs we've bestowed fellowships for summer study in Great Britain upon several of the outstanding instructors who've helped prepare participants for the proceedings. We've given monetary prizes to the three contestants who've finished with the highest ratings. And we've sent the winners of our local *COMPETITION* to **LINCOLN CENTER** in New York, where those students have had a chance to take part in national festivities and compete for an intensive, expense-paid drama course at one of London's most prestigious academies for aspiring theatre professionals.

We're indebted in similar ways to the **MARPAT FOUNDATION**, which granted seed money for a strengthening and restructuring of *ENGLISH IN ACTION*, a much-praised endeavor that provides tutoring in conversational English for those in our midst who need help adapting to a language and a society that are unfamiliar to them. This service depends upon a dedicated corps of volunteers, each willing to donate an hour a week or more to informal sessions that enable newcomers to become familiar with the idioms and nuances of a discourse which can be quite difficult to master. For that reason we owe at least as much to

our thoughtful, civic-minded **ESU** tutors as we do to those who reinforce the framework for their ministrations. We're exceedingly grateful to **Lynn Humphries** and **Ruby Mathews**, two members of the branch who have inherited the reins from **Diana Nicholson** and now work with a long-involved **EIA Committee** to oversee this complex operation. Lynn and Ruby are constantly on the lookout for additional volunteers, and anyone who'd like to learn more about *ENGLISH IN ACTION* may get in touch with them through the **ESU WASHINGTON** office.

It goes without saying that we're eager to maintain the vitality of efforts such as these, which we regard as pivotal to our mission. At the same time, moreover, we're seeking to expand our influence through the flourishing of additional undertakings.

One has to do with an annual *ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE*, which we helped inaugurate in July 2005 with a **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** presentation by **Senator John McCain**. This event was broadcast over **BBC RADIO 4**, and it will be followed a few months hence by a sequel in the same venue with another distinguished speaker. The idea for this series originated with our most philanthropic Vice-President, **Dr. Marjorie J. Williams**, and we're deeply gratified by the way it has evolved.

Another initiative relates to the Churchill monument that **ESU WASHINGTON** placed in front of the **BRITISH EMBASSY** in 1966. In collaboration with the international **CHURCHILL CENTRE** and the **BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**, we hosted a lustrous 40th-anniversary dinner in April at the **WILLARD HOTEL**. We're now taking steps to establish a *CHURCHILL FORUM* to ensure that Sir Winston's heritage remains vibrant, and we expect to co-sponsor another high-profile symposium in the near future.

Meanwhile, in tandem with the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD** and a wide spectrum of other institutions, we're assuming a significant role in a salute to *SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON* that will dominate our region's arts calendar in 2007. If all goes well, this festival will open up promising avenues for further exploration. In the interim it will afford the context for a fascinating parade of *SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE* engagements, several of which you'll be hearing about in the weeks to follow.

As we venture forth, we fervently hope that you will be so kind as to share your thoughts about the **ESU** and its objectives. We'd love to know about offerings that would be of high interest to you, venues you'd find appealing, luminaries you'd enjoy hearing and meeting, and highlights you'd like to see on our schedule of events. We're especially keen to receive any suggestions you may have about ways in which the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** could be more effective. And we'd welcome anything you'd like to do to help us realize our full potential as a nonprofit organization.

We recognize, of course, that a broad array of other causes vie for your attention, particularly at this point in the calendar. We'll be very thankful, therefore, if you bear **ESU WASHINGTON** in mind as you ponder tax-deductible donations for 2006 and 2007. We're happy to announce that, in response to a generous \$25,000 challenge gift from **Marjorie Williams**, our Board of Directors has pledged itself to matching funds in the same amount. We're now soliciting contributions in the same range from the membership at large, hoping thereby to eliminate a deficit pattern that has persisted over several budget cycles. Only if we succeed with this campaign can we embrace new aspirations, among them a significant initiative that is now being explored with **ESU PARIS**.



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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.

In Memory of Dick Howland

On October 24 the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION lost one of its most venerable patrons. **DR. RICHARD H. HOWLAND, OBE**, 96, was a classical archaeologist and an imaginative leader who served as the first president of the NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, as a pioneer for the SMITHSONIAN STUDY TOURS program, and as founder of the SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS. A prominent socialite as well as a widely recognized scholar, Dr. Howland was a prime mover in the ESU WASHINGTON project that resulted in the memorial to Sir Winston Churchill which stands in front of the BRITISH EMBASSY. He was also responsible for bequests that benefited not only the ESU but a number of related organizations. We're forever in his debt.

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 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 **December 5 (Around Town)**, please reserve space(s) at \$25, spaces at \$30, spaces at \$10.

For **December 5 (Indian Embassy Night)**, please reserve space(s) at \$60.

For **December 8 (BABA Luncheon)**, please reserve space(s) at \$95 (available at \$85 if ordered directly through BABA).

For **December 17 (Yuletide Revelry)**, please reserve space(s) at no charge. To help defray costs (estimated at \$35 per attendee), please accept a fully deductible donation of \$_____.

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.esurwdc.org.