



# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

*Creating Global Understanding Through English*

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

FEBRUARY 2007

## *News & Announcements*

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## AN EVENING WITH THE AUTHOR OF *TO SIR, WITH LOVE* *Mark the 40th Anniversary of a Film Based on E. R. BRAITHWAITE's Memoir*

We're delighted to host a gathering with one of the globe's foremost emissaries for the English language. **E. R. BRAITHWAITE** is a magnetic figure who'd just completed a Cambridge doctorate in physics when he discovered that the color of his skin prevented him from landing a job in his chosen field. Before long he found his true calling at an embattled school in east London, where he tamed a group of unruly adolescents and prepared them for productive lives in a society that had largely written them off. In 1959 he published *TO SIR, WITH LOVE*, a moving account of his trial by fire. It became an international bestseller, and in 1967 it supplied **SIDNEY POITIER** with one of his most poignant film roles. Dr. Braithwaite went on to publish a number of other works, and he eventually became the inaugural **AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS** from his native Guyana. During a dialogue with **JOHN ANDREWS**, he'll talk about a stage adaptation of *TO SIR, WITH LOVE* that is being devised for a prestigious West End theatre in London.



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
*Reception, 6:30 Program, 7:00*  
**PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY**  
*1606 New Hampshire Avenue NW*  
*Members & Guests, \$12 Others, \$16*

## MEET **THOMAS W. PAYZANT**, A RENOWNED EDUCATOR *Talk with the Harvard Leader Who Rejuvenated Boston's Public Schools*



**THOMAS W. PAYZANT** has recently accepted a post as Senior Lecturer at the **HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**, where he laid the groundwork for a notable career in academic administration. During his decade (1995-2005) as **BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT**, Dr. Payzant oversaw a sequence of reforms that increased student performance in every single category of assessment. Boston is now regarded as a national model for urban instruction, and the inspirational figure who transformed its pedagogical

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**  
*Reception, 6:30 Program, 7:00*  
**4000 CATHEDRAL AVENUE NW**  
*Apartment 152 B (Down Residence)*  
*Members & Guests, \$25 Others, \$30*

system has been acclaimed as one of America's most resourceful leaders. Thanks to the hospitality of another prominent educator, **ESU WASHINGTON's** own **Graham Down**, we have a chance to hear about Dr. Payzant's many achievements and learn what recommendations he has for improvements in other settings, among them a national capital whose schools are proverbial for their problems.

## *Hear Wole Soyinka Speak on Thursday, March 1*

See the pages that follow for details about that and other programs, among them an event with a biographer whose book on Wordsworth and Coleridge has been recommended by playwright **TOM STOPPARD**.

## PBS'S RAY SUAREZ ON *THE HOLY VOTE: THE POLITICS OF FAITH IN AMERICA*

In recent years religion has played a significant role in the way political calculations are made, and one of the analysts who've paid close attention to this phenomenon is **RAY SUAREZ**, an outstanding journalist who has won plaudits since October 1999 as Senior Correspondent for *THE NEWSHOUR WITH JIM LEHRER*. Mr. Suarez has now collected his thoughts in *The Holy Vote*, a book about *The Politics of Faith in America*, and he'll be talking about, and signing copies of, this provocative study at a luncheon hosted by the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**.



We're honored to be included in what promises to be a stimulating discussion, and we're sure that a number of the ESU's

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
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

Washington-area constituents and their guests will want to meet this charming speaker. Mr. Suarez came to PBS by way of **NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO**, where he had been the moderator of *TALK OF THE NATION* since 1993.

Prior to his arrival at NPR, he had spent seven years covering local, national, and international developments for NBC station **WMAQ-TV** in Chicago. His experience in on-air journalism has also included stints with the Los Angeles bureau of **CNN**, with the Rome office of **CBS RADIO**, and with a variety of American and British news services in London. Over the years he has narrated, anchored, or reported for a number of documentaries, among them *Follow the Money* (PBS in 1997), *The Journey Home* (PBS in 2004), *By the People* (PBS in 2004), and *Who Speaks for Islam?* (LINKTV in 2005). In 2004 Mr. Suarez was an essayist for **BBC RADIO 4**, joining a group of U.S.-based writers on a new program called *State of the Union*, a sequel to the late **ALISTAIR COOKE**'s legendary *Letter from America*. He currently hosts a monthly series, *America Abroad*, for **PUBLIC RADIO INTERNATIONAL**, and several related attractions for **AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA**.

## A GEORGETOWN PERFORMANCE BY THE DUMBARTON CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

You're invited to hear some of Washington's most accomplished musicians — cellist **Thomas Blackburn**, organist and pianist

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
4:00 p.m.  
**EPIPHANY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
2712 Dumbarton Street NW  
No Admission Charge

**A. Graham Down**, sopranos **Diane Kincannon** and **Beth Lawrence**, oboeist **Anne Miller**, trumpeter **Ross Miller**, and clarinetist **Jerry Schwarz** — as they present *Variations on "My Young*

*Life Hath an End"* by **Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck** (1562-1621), *We Hasten with Untethered Feet* by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750), *Sonata for Trumpet and Organ* by

**Giovanni Buonaventura Viviani** (1638-1692), *Sonata for Cello and Piano* by **Claude Debussy** (1862-1918), and other selections, among them a soprano solo by **Franz Liszt** (1811-1886). This concert will take place in one of our region's most resonant settings, and it will be followed by a light reception.

## SEMPER FIDEL? WHAT WILL CASTRO'S CUBAN LEGACY BE AFTER HE EXPIRES?

After a half-century of hostility and severed relationships, the United States will soon face a Cuba without Fidel Castro. What will the transition entail for each country? **DR. JULIA SWEIG**, an authority on Cuba who recently wrote an article on "Fidel's Final Victory" for *Foreign Affairs*, will offer a valuable perspective on the issues and policy options for both nations. Dr. Sweig's *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground* (2002) earned the **AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**'s Herbert Feis Award for best book of the year by an independent scholar.



Her latest volume is *Friendly Fire: Losing Friends and Making Enemies in the Anti-American Century* (2006). Dr.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
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

Sweig is the author of many articles and opinion pieces, and she has supplied congressional testimony on various aspects of Latin America. She is a Senior Fellow at the **COUNCIL FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS**. She is

also a consultant for the **ASPEN INSTITUTE**. We're grateful to the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB** for inviting **ESU WASHINGTON** to co-host this informative get-together.

## ANTHONY H. CORDESMAN DISCUSSES AFGHANISTAN, THE TALIBAN, AND NATO

After what appeared to be a decisive victory in Afghanistan, the United States and its allies now face serious challenges from a Taliban that has regrouped in neighboring Pakistan and is said



to be preparing a spring offensive. How serious is this new threat, and to what extent can America rely upon its **NATO** partners to help defend against it? These are the kinds of questions that Middle East authority **ANTHONY CORDESMAN** will pose during a luncheon session that has been arranged by the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**. Mr. Cordesman holds the exalted **Arleigh H. Burke Chair** at

the **CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES** and is a national security analyst for **ABC NEWS**. His commentary on such conflicts as the Gulf War, Operation Desert Fox, Kos-

ovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Before he became affiliated with CSIS, Dr. Cordesman was an assistant to SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN, with particular emphasis on the Arizona legislator's role on the SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. Prior to that he served as director of intelligence assessment in the OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. He has had numerous foreign assignments, including posts in Lebanon, Egypt, and Iran, and he has worked extensively in Saudi Arabia and in the Persian Gulf. Dr. Cordesman is the author of more than twenty books, among them *The Iraq War*, *Saudi Arabia Enters the 21st Century*, *The Lessons of Afghanistan*, and *Terrorism, Asymmetric Warfare, and Weapons of Mass Destruction*.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
*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*

### WOODWARD AND BERNSTEIN: A NEW STUDY OF THE LEGENDARY REPORTERS

How did **Bob Woodward** and **Carl Bernstein** get along when they were breaking one story after another in the early 1970s about what turned out to be the most devastating scandal in the history of American politics? To what extent were they in agreement about the best ways to obtain information from reluctant sources? And what was the impact of their *Washington Post* collaboration on their subsequent lives and careers? These are the kinds of topics that another award-winning journalist explores in *WOODWARD AND BERNSTEIN: LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF*



*WATERGATE*. We're delighted that ALICIA SHEPARD has agreed to address a luncheon gathering, and sign copies of her new volume, at the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB. And we look forward to a lively exchange as she tells us what she's found in a newly available archive of Watergate-related notes and documents at the University of Texas. Ms. Shepard teaches at AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, and what she has uncovered will surprise even those who've read, and enjoyed the cinematic version of, *All the President's Men*.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**  
*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*

### A CHANCE TO HEAR NOBEL LAUREATE WOLE SOYINKA AT THE COSMOS CLUB

A world-renowned playwright and poet, a man who has long been revered as one of Africa's leading writers and activists, has been selected for the 2007 JOHN P. MCGOVERN AWARD IN LITERATURE at the COSMOS CLUB. A Nigerian, WOLE SOYINKA completed his graduate training at the University of Leeds in England, and he is the author of more than thirty book-length publications: plays, poetry, fiction, critical essays, and memoirs. In 1986, when he received the NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE,

the ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY described him as an artist "who in a wide cultural perspective and with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence." From the outset of his remarkable career Mr. Soyinka has been a fearless fighter for human rights around the world. He was imprisoned in his native country for two years in the 1960s and was under a death sentence in the 1990s for criticizing the dictator who was then ruling his nation. A limited number of seats will be held for ESU constituents, so early reservations are advisable.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 1**  
*8:15 p.m. In the Powell Auditorium*  
**THE COSMOS CLUB**  
*2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW*  
*No Charge, but Reservations Needed*

### THE ESU SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION RETURNS TO THE LANSBURGH THEATRE

We hope you'll mark you calendar for an event that has established itself as one of the ESU's signature occasions: our annual *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION*. The object of this much-admired contest is to enhance students' appreciation for and comprehension of a poet who has been described as history's most reliable guide to the mileposts of life. It provides an opportunity for entrants from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to display the insights and skills they've acquired in class as they recite Shakespearean sonnets and enact vignettes from such dramatic masterpieces as *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Contestants come from public, private, and parochial institutions throughout the area, and their renderings are evaluated by an eminent panel of actors, directors, and teachers. Those who emerge as the top three contenders earn monetary prizes. The one with the highest rating proceeds to LINCOLN CENTER in New York for an April 23rd NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION whose winner will receive three weeks of training at the BRITISH AMERICAN DRAMA ACADEMY in England. Thanks to the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, each participant will be recognized with a beautiful keepsake. As in the past, primary support for this festival is supplied by the MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION, with substantial assistance from DR. MARJORIE J. WILLIAMS and from our colleagues at the SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY. In addition to the students who will be applauded for their efforts on the LANSBURGH stage, this gathering also permits the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION to honor an outstanding teacher, who will garner a fellowship for intensive study in Great Britain, and a young theatre professional from the ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING, who will win the WALTER L. WRIGHT AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE IN THE DRAMATIC PROFESSION. For more information, including details about noted speakers who will grace the celebration, visit [www.esuwdc.org](http://www.esuwdc.org), and click on *Shakespeare*.



**MONDAY, MARCH 5**  
*Opening Round, 1:30*  
*Buffet Reception, 6:00*  
*Concluding Round, 7:00*  
**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**  
*450 7th Street NW*  
*No Admission Charge*



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.*

## Biographer Adam Sisman

If you read a late-November profile of **Tom Stoppard** in the *New York Times Magazine*, you may recall that a book the playwright was described as reading with pleasure was *THE FRIENDSHIP: WORDSWORTH AND COLERIDGE* by British biographer ADAM SISMAN. We're pleased to report that Mr. Sisman will be with us for a 12:15–2:00 p.m. luncheon at historic DACOR BACON HOUSE (1801 F Street NW) on **Tuesday, March 6**. Mr. Sisman collected the NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD for *BOSWELL'S PRESUMPTUOUS TASK: THE MAKING OF THE LIFE OF DR. JOHNSON*, and he'll talk about and inscribe copies of his latest volume, which will be available for purchase thanks to OLSSON'S. To reserve space(s), see the Response Form below.

## 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 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 Feb. 5 (*Braithwaite*), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$12, \_\_\_ at \$16.

For Feb. 6 (*Suarez*), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

For Feb. 9 (*Payzant*), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30.

For Feb. 20 (*Swieg*), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

For Feb. 22 (*Cordesman*), reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

For Feb. 27 (*Shepherd*), reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

For Mar. 1 (*Soyinka*), please reserve \_\_\_space(s) at no charge.

For Mar. 5 (*Shakespeare*), reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at no charge for \_\_\_ the

Opening Round, \_\_\_ the Buffet Reception, \_\_\_ the Concluding Round.

For Mar. 6 (*Sisman*), please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to The English-Speaking Union is enclosed.

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

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