



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

JANUARY 2006

News & Announcements

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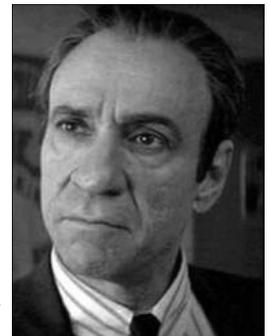
WEB SITE & E-MAIL

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SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE WITH ACTOR F. MURRAY ABRAHAM *A Memorable Evening with a Recipient of the Academy Award*

F. MURRAY ABRAHAM is best known for his portrayal of the envious Salieri in the 1984 film *Amadeus*. For this role he earned both an Academy Award and a Golden Globe trophy. He's also widely admired for the characters he's brought to life in *The Sunshine Boys* (1975), *All the President's Men* (1976), *Madman* (1979), *Scarface* (1983), *The Name of the Rose* (1986), *Bonfire of the Vanities* (1990), *Mobsters* (1991), *By the Sword* (1993), *Last Action Hero* (1993), *Nostradamus* (1994), *Mighty Aphrodite* (1995), *Dillinger and Capone* (1995), *Star Trek: Insurrection* (1998), *Finding Forrester* (2000), *13 Ghosts* (2001), and *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (2005). What his fans may be less familiar with are the stage protagonists he's depicted, among them Bottom, Creon, Cyrano, Iago, Lear, Macbeth, Malvolio, and Uncle Vanya. He'll talk about these and other figures during a dialogue with JOHN ANDREWS that will focus on his attractive new book about performing *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*. Copies will be on hand for those who wish to obtain them, and Mr. Abraham will be delighted to inscribe them.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Cash-Bar Reception, 5:30 p.m.
Dinner, 6:15 p.m. Program, 6:45

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

Dinner and Program, \$30
Program Only, \$15

A FAMILY PORTRAIT OF NELL GWYN, MISTRESS TO A KING *A British Nobleman Tells Us About his Most Colorful Ancestor*



Written by a descendant of the liaison between King Charles II and a mistress who rose from an impoverished childhood to the wealth and connections that made her a popular favorite, *NELL GWYN* is a biography that will attract as much interest for its author's credentials as for its intriguing subject matter. In the words of one reviewer, CHARLES BEAUCLERK offers "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." Our guest's full name is CHARLES FRANCIS TOPHAM DE

VERE BEAUCLERK, EARL OF BUFORD. Heir apparent to 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 poet behind Shakespeare's works. He'll be happy to sign copies of his book, which will be available for purchase.

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

Historian Taylor Branch on Thursday, January 26

For details on that and on other *COMING ATTRACTIONS*, among them a program about *To Sir, With Love*, see the pages that follow.

Coming Attractions

HIGHLIGHTS OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA SHOW AT THE GALLERY

Whether you're an art lover, a bird enthusiast, or someone with a keen interest in our nation's cultural heritage, you'll want to be present for **PHILIP LEONARD's** illustrated lecture about **JOHN JAMES AUDUBON** (1785-1851) and his dream of recording the identifying traits of every bird native to North America. Mr. Leonard is an art historian in the Education division at the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**, and he'll describe the museum's spectacular exhibition of hand-colored plates from Audubon's *BIRDS OF AMERICA*, a collection of hand-colored etchings that will be on view till March 26 in the **WEST BUILDING**. He'll also tell us about the monumental endeavors of a naturalist and visual artist who catalogued and produced watercolor sketches of a significant portion of our continent's wildlife at a time before photography was developed, and



when much of our hemisphere remained largely unexplored. Audubon spent nearly twenty years on this undertaking, and it led to the publication of 435 meticulously rendered masterworks, more than a tenth of which are to be seen in this display, among them a picture of the *Ivory-Billed Woodpecker*, long believed to be extinct, and a beautiful oil painting of the *Osprey and Weakfish*.

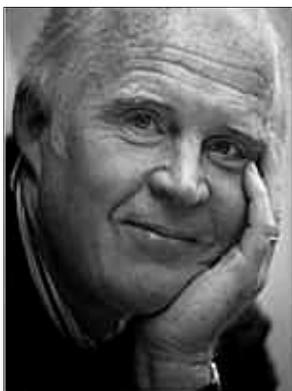
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

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

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Lunch and Program, \$25

HISTORIAN TAYLOR BRANCH CELEBRATES THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

TAYLOR BRANCH, eminent recipient of one of the **MacArthur Foundation's** proverbial "genius awards," has also been honored with a **Pulitzer Prize** and with the **National Humanities Medal**.



In 1988 he published *PARTING THE WATERS: AMERICA IN THE KING YEARS, 1954-63*, the first volume of his magisterial trilogy on the Civil Rights Movement. In 1998 he came out with volume two, *PILLAR OF FIRE: AMERICA IN THE KING YEARS, 1963-65*. Now, on the eve of **BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2006**, he's issued the concluding installment of what is widely regarded as a definitive survey, *AT CANAAN'S EDGE: AMERICA IN THE KING YEARS, 1965-68*. A native of Atlanta, Mr. Branch became committed to his life's work while attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the 1960s. He now lives with his wife and children in Baltimore. In addition to all the books and articles

he has given us, Mr. Branch has furthered an important cause in other ways; during the Clinton administration, for example, he served as an informal White House advisor on racial matters. Mr. Branch has observed that

"almost as color defines vision itself, race shapes the cultural eye—what we do and do not notice, the reach of empathy and the alignment of response." In a recent interview he noted that "There are a lot of people who say, well, this is over and done with and we don't want to worry about it any more. That attitude is very common, very modern, and to me kind of frightening because it's basically people who will eventually re-create the problems we're trying to solve." Copies of Mr. Branch's latest publication on will be on hand for those who wish to buy and have them inscribed by the author.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

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

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Lunch and Program, \$25

A 25-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN JOURNALIST'S QUEST FOR HOPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In her first book, activist and writer **JENNIFER MILLER** draws upon extensive travels in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, as well as upon interviews with everyone from **Mahmoud Abbas**, **Yasir Arafat**, **James Baker**, **Ehud Barak**, and **Colin Powell** to Israeli rap singers, soldiers on both sides of the divide, and construction workers in various settlements. One of her concerns is the place of young people in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: how they are affected by what they're experiencing and how they in turn may be able to influence what eventually transpires in the region. The daughter of U.S. diplomat **Aaron Miller**, a negotiator who worked with six secretaries of state on the Arab-Israeli peace process, Ms. Miller grew up in a comfortable household in Chevy Chase. She first became involved in Middle



East affairs in 1966 when she attended a nonprofit camp with the name **SEEDS OF PEACE**. It was designed to bring Israeli and Arab teenagers to a sylvan retreat in Maine, where they could get to know one another, discuss sensitive topics without fear, and form relationships of a kind that would be inconceivable in their native surroundings.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Lunch and Program, \$25

What Ms. Miller discovered was that if you create the right atmosphere, people "are going to connect, and once that connection has been forged, you can talk about all the practical things." Her book is a testament to the journey that **SEEDS OF PEACE** prompted, and she emphasizes that it's only just begun. She'll be happy to sign copies of *INHERITING THE HOLY LAND: AN AMERICAN'S SEARCH FOR HOPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST*, and they will be available for those who wish to purchase them.

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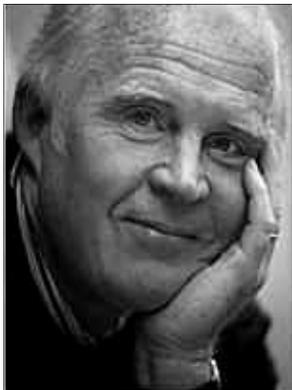


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OF THE UNITED STATES

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.

Washington in Flames, 1814

AT 12:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, we'll co-host a WNDL luncheon at 1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, where CAROLE HERRICK, a Virginia-based historian, will introduce her new book, *AUGUST 24, 1814: WASHINGTON IN FLAMES*, and tell us what really happened when British troops invaded America's capital, setting fire to the White House and sacking nearby Alexandria. Ms. Herrick serves on the board of FAIRFAX 2007, an organization that will help coordinate our region's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. Copies of her volume will be available for purchase, and she'll be happy to sign them. The price for this event, which includes a tasty 3-course meal, is \$25 for those who reserve space through the ESU.

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 at right and submit it by post, phone, fax, or e-mail. Below are the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION's present membership categories.

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*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)

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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*

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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 Jan. 5 (Herrick), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For Jan. 17 (Abraham), please reserve ___ spaces at \$30, ___ at \$15.

For Jan. 18 (Beauclerk), please reserve ___ spaces at \$30, ___ at \$15.

For Jan. 19 (Leonard), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For Jan. 26 (Branch), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For Feb. 2 (Miller), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For Feb. 14 (Ischinger), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

For Feb. 23 (Braithwaite), please reserve ___ spaces at \$25.

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.

Visit us online, and check for calendar updates, at www.esuwdc.org.