



# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

*Creating Global Understanding Through English*

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

JUNE 2004

## *News & Announcements*

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### OFFICE ADDRESS

1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20009-2512

### TELEPHONE

(202) 234-4602

### FACSIMILE

(202) 234-4639

### WEB SITE

www.esuwc.org

### E-MAIL ADDRESS

esuwc@msn.com

## *ESU MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO A FESTIVE BARBECUE AT THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY*

Under the gracious patronage of the AMBASSADOR OF NEW ZEALAND AND MRS. JOHN WOOD, the AUSTRALIA AMERICA ASSOCIATION and the SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB are hosting a barbecue at the NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY. As in years past, they've kindly extended an invitation to members of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION and their guests (among them several university students from the United Kingdom who'll be working as Capitol Hill interns this summer) to join them for another lively get-together.

Those who've been on hand for previous visits to the welcoming, leafy setting that Ambassador and Mrs. Wood provide for such occasions will know why a dish with the Antipodes' special combination of flavors is always to be relished as one of the season's most popular enticements.

Casual attire is the norm. Young people and children are more than welcome. And you'll be happy to hear that there is ample free parking on the road that leads up the hill from Massachusetts Avenue, past the BRITISH EMBASSY Rotunda, to the NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY compound.

Reservations for this picnic are being handled by Colleen Greer, who requests that you try to let her know by Monday, June 14, if you wish to attend. You can reach her by telephone at (703) 524-1381, by e-mail at [greerca2@yahoo.com](mailto:greerca2@yahoo.com), or by postal service at 2001 North Adams Street, 1011, Arlington, VA 22201-3752. Your check should be made out, not to the ESU, but to the AUSTRALIA AMERICA ASSOCIATION.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 19**  
*5:30 to 7:30 p.m.*

**NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY**  
37 Observatory Circle NW

*Adult Attendees - \$40*  
*Youngsters up to 15 - \$20*  
*Children under 4 - Free*

## *TWO SUMMER GATHERINGS FOR ENGLISH-IN-ACTION PARTICIPANTS*

ENGLISH IN ACTION is a much-admired instructional service that has long been provided by the branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION that represents the Nation's Capital area. Over the years it has enabled hundreds of newcomers to acquire conversational proficiency in a tongue that can be exceedingly difficult to master. In an effort to introduce potential volunteers to EIA and its rewards, explaining a fulfilling endeavor to those who may be unfamiliar with it, Diana Nicholson, who directs its many activities, will host an informal gathering at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 12, in the apartment (723) where she and her husband Peter reside at 4600 Connecticut Avenue NW. Light refreshments will be served, and EIA stalwarts will talk about the successes they've helped facilitate and respond to questions about how to make efforts such as theirs even more fruitful.

A few evenings later, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, the Nicholsons will preside over a zestful Chinese banquet at SHANGHAI GARDEN, a friendly neighborhood restaurant which is located near the Van Ness station on Metro's Red Line at 4469 Connecticut Avenue NW. The price (which includes the costs for a glass of wine and for a 15% gratuity) is \$18 for current or prospective EIA tutors and \$20 for other ESU constituents. To reserve for one or both of these events, you may either call Mrs. Nicholson at (202) 966-3921 or communicate with her by e-mail at [afromdc@aol.com](mailto:afromdc@aol.com).

## Recent Highlights

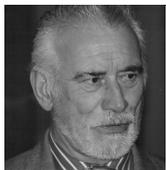
### AMBASSADOR AND LADY MANNING HOST A LOVELY BRITISH EMBASSY RECEPTION

Even if the heavens hadn't favored us with a clement-weather emergency, one during which a garden proverbial for its flora struck admirers as even more brilliant than usual, the ESU's May 10 gathering at the stately home of HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR AND LADY MANNING would have been a memorable occasion.



Among the two hundred attendees who partook of the EMBASSY's gracious hospitality were guests from as far away as New Canaan, Connecticut (Keith Simpson, a member of the New York branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION), and Fort Worth, Texas (Patty McCune and her daughter Elizabeth Jane).

We were delighted to welcome representatives from such prestigious organizations as AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS (Andrew Finch) and the BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (among them Donald Neese, its



current President, and his wife Linda). And we were pleased to toast English actor Keith Baxter. Mr. Baxter had been playing the title part in THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE's superb rendering of *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*, and he spoke about the performer who'd brought distinction to the same kingly role in Orson Welles's

*Chimes at Midnight*. A young Baxter had portrayed Prince Hal in this legendary film about Shakespeare's Henriad, and it was thus that he'd become acquainted with Sir John Gielgud. The centenary of Gielgud's birth had been commemorated in London on April 19, during a ceremony in the theatre that now bears his name, and Baxter recalled a few of his late friend's important contributions to the performing arts.

Mr. Baxter's recollections about Sir John were cogently echoed by Sir David Manning, who praised the unique resonance of Gielgud's diction and noted that he'd been admired with equal fervor on both sides of the Atlantic. Sir David went on to evoke another significant milestone, the tenth of May in 1940, when another figure who'd been celebrated for his eloquence, Sir Winston Churchill, had been elected Prime Minister. Sir David reminded everyone that a statue of this incomparable statesman had been erected by the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION in 1966, and that it now stood, with one foot on American soil and the other on land that belonged to the United Kingdom, in front of the Massachusetts Avenue gate to the British Ambassador's residence.



In reply to Sir David's generous salute, ESU branch President A.

Graham Down thanked him, his charming Lady, and Social Secretary Amanda Downes for all they'd done as hosts of an evening to cherish. He went on to acknowledge several key benefactors, among them the MORRIS & GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION, Marjorie J. Williams, and Walter L. Wright III. He then paid tribute to several recipients of recent laurels from the English-Speaking Union, among them the winner of our SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD for 2004 (Tricia Veneziani of NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL in Calvert County, Maryland), the winner of our SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (Jesse Swenson of SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL), the winner of our WALTER L. WRIGHT III AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE IN THE DRAMATIC PROFESSION (Kate Riley of the ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING at THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE), and the winners of our two HELENE GLADSTONE WILLIAMS AWARDS (David Gewanter, a poet and professor at GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, and Sally Stokes, a talented independent scholar).

*Photographs by ESU Member Charles W.T. Stephenson*

### NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED AT ESU'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thanks to the kindness of Executive Director John Churchill, and thanks to the helpfulness of his assistant Beata Fortenauer at the PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY, from whom the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION now rents office space, the Nation's Capital branch of the ESU held its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2004 in a Victorian mansion that houses the administrative quarters for one of America's most venerable organizations.

This get-together commenced at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, at 1606 New Hampshire Avenue NW. After the formal proceedings, which lasted a little more than an hour, those who could stay and mingle for awhile were treated to a tasty buffet luncheon, catered by Diana and Peter Nicholson.

The primary purpose of this event was to review the branch's accomplishments over the last twelve months, outline plans for the year ahead, and elect directors and officers to fill several slots that were to become available on June 1. A Nominating Committee, headed by Patricia Plaskett and including Ian McDonald, Jill Nevius, Audrey Pendergast, and Sarah Williams, presented a slate that elicited unanimous approval when voted upon by the membership. As a consequence Frederic W. Schwartz, Jr., who had served for several years as First Vice President, succeeded A. Graham Down as President, Gerald B. Kauvar became the new First Vice President, and Braxton Moncure accepted another term as Treasurer. Also re-elected were five Vice Presidents: Armida Colt, Macauley Howard, Eleanor Ritchie, Marjorie Williams, and Mark Wyatt. Two Directors, Phillip H. Miller and Gillian B. Quinby, agreed to a second round of three-year terms. Meanwhile the Board benefited from the accession of three new Directors: Stephen F. Black (for one year, to fill the unexpired portion of a term vacated by Joan Healey, whose other commitments made it difficult for her to continue participating on a regular basis),

**Celia Josephs** (for two years, to fill the unexpired portion of a term vacated by **Sir John Baring**, who will soon be moving to Manhattan), and **Thomas M. Pazzi** (for a full three-year term to succeed **Ian McDonald**, who'll remain active in branch activities but who had decided not to consider a second term on the Board). Finally, the membership endorsed a 2004-5 Nominating Committee that will consist of **Graham Down**, **Ian McDonald**, **Patricia Plaskett**, **Lee Vicellio**, and **Sarah Williams**.

**Graham Down** thanked everyone who had contributed to all the successes that made his three-year presidency so rewarding. He extended his best wishes to **Frederic W. Schwartz**, and he voiced confidence that Mr. Schwartz would build effectively on the foundation he'd done so much to establish through his efforts on the Development and Institutional Advancement committees. In response Mr. Schwartz expressed deep gratitude and seconded an observation by Executive Director **John Andrews** that Mr. Down had brought discernment, perseverance, and inspiring leadership to the branch at a time when they were much needed.

The reports that accompanied the main business of the session were highly upbeat. Commenting on the budget, Treasurer **Braxton Moncure** noted that, owing to a generous \$20,000 bequest from the estate of **Mary Marvin Breckinridge Patterson**, the Washington branch of the ESU appeared likely to finish the 2003-4 fiscal year with a surplus. ENGLISH IN ACTION Director **Diana Nicholson** reminded everyone that EIA continues to attract volunteers to an endeavor which assists newcomers with the subtleties of a language whose nuances are unfamiliar to them. She pointed out that current tutees hail from locales as diverse as Argentina, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, Ivory Coast, Japan, Korea, Peru, Paraguay, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey. She was also happy to say that adults in need of tutoring are regularly referred to her by the D.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY RESOURCES DIVISION, by the PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, and by other institutions.

As a member of the national board of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES, **Marjorie Williams** described several steps that are being taken by the association's Director of Development, **James Hopkins**, among them an effort to increase the number of National Patrons. She also expressed enthusiasm for a "virtual book club" that is being launched by the New York office under the heading *GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS*. Speaking on behalf of the Institutional Advancement Committee, **Laura Ivey** observed that a great deal had been done in recent months to implement key recommendations by fundraising consultant **Charles Webb**, who'd addressed the 2003 Annual General Meeting, and she predicted that the year ahead would be one in which the branch made significant strides in its quest for additional support from individual, corporate, and foundation sources.

Describing the plans that are being made for a Washington prelude to the October *WORLD MEMBERS CONFERENCE* in Manhattan, **William L. Renfro** indicated that a number of delegates he'd met a year ago during the ESU's international St. Petersburg convention, including a sizable contingent from Russia and from Eastern Europe, would be in attendance. Program Committee chairman **Ian McDonald** thanked his fellow members and com-

mended both them and **John Andrews** for what he described as a stellar roster of offerings and opportunities for ESU constituents in 2003-4.

For his part, Mr. Andrews stressed the collaborative outreach that had made it possible for the branch to offer attractions of unprecedented variety. Among the instances he cited were a September 14 theater preview and discussion with playwright **Ken Ludwig** and Artistic Director **Molly Smith** at ARENA STAGE, an October 19 performance at WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL in conjunction with the CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY, a November 20 lecture by historian **Garry Wills** that was co-sponsored by the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, a November 24 tour of OCTAGON HOUSE that featured a World Trade Center display by the AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION, a January 21 dinner, co-hosted by the BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, to welcome **Ambassador and Lady Manning** to their new posts in Washington, a February 24 DECATUR HOUSE lecture by historian **Simon Thurley** of ENGLISH HERITAGE that permitted the ESU to cooperate with the NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION and the ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION, a March 3 reading by best-selling novelist and BBC personality **Sarah Dunant** that took place under the aegis of the ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE, a March 15 *SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE* dialogue with SHAKESPEARE THEATRE director **Bill Alexander** that brought THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY and THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD together with the ESU, and an April 28 presentation by Oxford historian **Hew Strachan** that provided an opportunity for the branch to join forces with the EISENHOWER INSTITUTE.

Mr. Andrews went on to observe that an author who'd presented her novel *The Great Fire* to Washington audiences under ESU auspices, **Shirley Hazzard**, had been introduced by **Jeff Seroy**, her publicist from FARRAR STRAUS GIROUX, and had gone on to win the *NATIONAL BOOK AWARD* a few days later in New York. Nor was Ms. Hazzard the only recipient of major literary honors to appear on this year's calendar. Two holders of the Pulitzer Prize, critic **Michael Dirda** of *The Washington Post* and poet **Anthony Hecht**, were guests for an engaging dialogue about their latest publications on Thursday, April 1. Mr. Andrews said that he was pleased not only by these developments but by the fact that two 2003-4 programs, among them a February 13 engagement with biographer **Jane Dunn** about Queen Elizabeth I of England and Mary Queen of Scots, had appeared on C-SPAN2's weekend *Book TV* service, both in choice prime-time slots, and both in formats that were then available to be viewed online at [www.booktv.org](http://www.booktv.org) for two months after their initial airings.

He observed that, thanks to calendar listings in outlets such as *The Washington Post* ("Backstage," "Book World," and "Sunday Source"), *The Washington City Paper*, *The Georgetown*, and *Northwest Current*, not to mention "Best Bet" picks on WETA-TV's "Around Town" magazine, these events were drawing constituents who had had no previous awareness of the English-Speaking Union, and that many of them were becoming regular attendees and affiliating with the organization. He noted, finally, that the year ahead would feature a gathering about **Robert MacNeil's** PBS series *Do You Speak American?*



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, many of which are shared with audiences around the world through radio and TV, the national capital's ESU endeavors to advance a noble mission.*

## Mark Your Calendar for the ESU's October World Members Conference

Early October will be a busy time as Washington and New York combine forces to welcome ESU delegates from around the globe. The festivities will commence with a reception near Capitol Hill on Sunday evening, **October 3**, and conclude with a closing session the following Sunday, **October 10**, at the ROOSEVELT HOTEL in Manhattan. Further details will be made available a few weeks hence, but those who'd like more information now are encouraged to visit [www.esuus.org](http://www.esuus.org) and download the material offered online about the 2004 **WORLD MEMBERS CONFERENCE**. If you need to have it mailed or faxed to you, please get in touch with this office.

## Rewards of Membership

As we conclude the ESU's 2003-4 season, we invite you to join THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION or renew an existing affiliation if you haven't already done so. The ESU now girdles the planet, with a stately London address at Dartmouth House, and those who belong to any of its local, regional, and national associations are nourished by a vibrant global network.

Through a diverse assortment of edifying events, and through such initiatives as an annual *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION* for secondary-school students, a variety of awards to facilitate work in academic and artistic settings, and a tutoring service for those who aspire to better command of a discourse that is not native to them, the ESU's Washington branch is dedicated to extending a noble heritage. To help preserve this legacy, simply supply the information requested in the Order Form at right and submit it to Executive Director John F. Andrews at 1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009-2512. You can reach him by phone at (202) 234-4602, by fax at (202) 234-4639, or by e-mail at [esuwdc@msn.com](mailto:esuwdc@msn.com).

### ASSOCIATE (Individual \$35, Dual \$45)

*Event notices, local and national  
ESU newsletters, and other 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*

### 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*

### UNDERWRITER (\$5,000)

*All SPONSOR-level benefits plus free admission for up  
to 8 additional guests at all ESU gatherings*

## Order Form

I wish to renew my membership or enroll in the English-Speaking Union at the \$\_\_\_\_\_ level.

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the ESU's educational and cultural endeavors.

I wish to provide a gift membership at the \$\_\_\_\_\_ level to the person(s) whose contact details follow my own below.

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

Please charge  MC  Visa \_\_\_\_\_ ( / ).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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