



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

JUNE 2007

News & Announcements

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IS IT STILL POSSIBLE TO SALVAGE THE SITUATION IN IRAQ? *A Dialogue with a British Authority on Provincial Reconstruction Efforts*

With continuing reports about what many observers regard as deteriorating conditions in **Iraq**, it becomes increasingly difficult to imagine a positive outcome from what even the war's initial advocates are now lamenting as a troubled enterprise. For that reason we're pleased to welcome a British leader

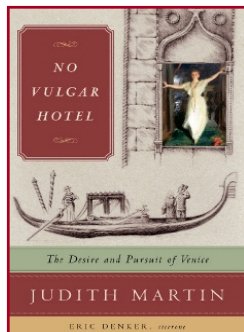
from the front, a man who has been one of the architects of a multinational effort to rebuild a war-torn society's severely damaged infrastructure. **RICHARD BROWN** is a esteemed civil engineer who spent 25 years with **British Rail** before he began devoting his expertise to reconstruction



efforts in **Bosnia-Herzegovina, East Timor, Afghanistan**, and other settings. Mr. Brown is now posted in **Basra**, near Iraq's southern border, and he will share some of the penetrating observations he's published in recent months in professional journals such as the *Third World Quarterly*.

MONDAY, JUNE 4
Lunch, 12:15 Program, 1:00 p.m.
DACOR BACON HOUSE
1801 F Street NW
Lunch, \$25 Program Only, \$10

A MISS MANNERS APPROACH TO THE PLEASURES OF VENICE *An Entertaining Luncheon Program with the Inimitable JUDITH MARTIN*



We're pleased to note that the popular columnist who has graced our lives with *MISS MANNERS' GUIDE TO EXCRUCIATINGLY CORRECT BEHAVIOR* is now back with advice on how to enjoy the enticements of *La Serenissima*, a fascinating city that has captured the hearts of an impressive cavalcade of artists, among them Lord Byron, Ernest Hemingway, Henry James, Elton John, Cole Porter, Ezra Pound, George Sand, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Pyotr Illych Tchaikovsky, Mark Twain, and Richard Wagner. As one might expect from a writer who has charmed us with two novels and several bestselling volumes on contemporary etiquette, **JUDITH**

TUESDAY, JUNE 5
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Luncheon and Program, \$25

MARTIN brings to *NO VULGAR HOTEL: THE DESIRE AND PURSUIT OF VENICE* the same descriptive skills, narrative verve, and witty pragmatism that have made her persona a household name. In the process, owing in part to the collaboration of **ERIC DENKER**, an art historian, curator, and lecturer at the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**, she has produced an illustrated book that will be treasured by everyone who is subject to *Venetophilia*, an incurable devotion to this enchanting Italian marvel. Thanks to the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**, copies will be on hand for purchase and inscription.

News About This Year's British Embassy Reception

See the pages that follow for details on a tribute to artistic director **MICHAEL KAHN**, as well as for a report on **ESU WASHINGTON's Annual General Meeting** and for notes on coming events.

WRITER ANDRO LINKLATER DISCUSSES THE FORCES THAT SHAPED OUR NATION

ESU WASHINGTON is pleased to join **POLITICS & PROSE** and the **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC** as co-host for a pro-

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

6:30 p.m., Admission Free

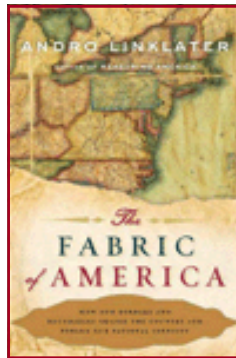
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

In association with POLITICS & PROSE

801 K Street NW at Mt. Vernon Square

vocative examination of the way borders and boundaries determined the contours of our country, and significantly affected our national identity, between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. **ANDRO**

LINKLATER is a Scottish-born, Oxford-educated journalist who has written for most of London's major periodicals, among them the *Telegraph*, the *Times*, and the *Spectator*, and is widely admired for *Measuring America*, his fascinating study of why the United States ended up with its unique system of weights and measures. His sequel to that analysis focuses on the way our landscape has been divided into diverse categories of private and public demarcation, with consequences that include surprising connections between, for example, the endeavors of surveyor Andrew Ellicott, who drew the contentious lines that separated Virginia from Pennsylvania in 1784, and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Copies of *THE FABRIC OF AMERICA* will be available for purchase and inscription, and wine and cheese will be served.



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

Thanks to **Graham Down**, an ESU leader who resides in a handsome apartment at the **WESTCHESTER**, ESU WASHINGTON held its **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** for 2007 in a private dining room at that stately complex's main building. Proceedings commenced at 1:30 and concluded shortly after 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, May 20**. Those who attended were greeted with light refreshments.

The primary purpose of this get-together was to review the ESU's activities and achievements over the last twelve months, discuss objectives for the year ahead, and elect officers to fill several important positions that were to become available on June 1. A **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**, headed by **Ian McDonald** and including **Stephen Black**, **Elizabeth Crompton**, **Graham Down**, and **Sarah Williams**, proposed that **Gerald B. Kauvar** stay on for a third year as President, that **James C. Ledyard** be elected to a second one-year term as First Vice President, and that **C. Braxton Moncure** serve another term as Treasurer. The Committee recommended that **Phillip H. Miller**, who had completed two three-year terms on the Board of Directors, be elevated to Vice President, a designation he would share with several returning officers in that category: **Armida Colt**, **Graham Down**, **William FitzGerald III**, **Macauley Howard**, **William L. Renfro**, and **Marjorie J. Williams**. Finally, the Committee proposed that **Elizabeth Crompton** be nominated for a second three-year term on the Board of Directors, that **Donald H. Dewey** be nominated for the concluding year of an unexpired three-year term, that **George F. Farr** be nominated

for the last two years of an unexpired three-year term, and that **Daisy P. Crowley** and **William F. Huneke** each be nominated for three-year terms on the Board of Directors. After being moved and seconded, this slate received unanimous approval.

For his report on the season's activities, Executive Director **John Andrews** distributed a compilation of *ESU PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS* to indicate how many notables had addressed ESU audiences, among them four speakers (*Washington Post* critic **Michael Dirda**, historian **Elizabeth Smith Brownstein**, educator, author, and diplomat **E. R. Braithwaite**, and journalist and biographer **Walter Isaacson**) whose remarks had been shared with viewers nationwide, and in some instances worldwide, over C-SPAN2's weekend *Book TV* service. Mr. Andrews' roster included a number of presenters who'd received significant prizes, among them authors **Paul Dickson**, **Rafe Esquith**, **Michael Frayn**, **Norman Ornstein**, **Ron Rosenbaum**, **Ray Suarez**, **Juan Williams**, and **Garry Wills**, and actors **Roger Rees**, **Prunella Scales**, **Janet Suzman**, and **Timothy West**. It also illustrated the number and variety of venues in which events had occurred, and it bore witness to collaborative relationships with such institutions as the **Arts Club of Washington**, the **British-American Business Association**, the **British Embassy**, the international **Churchill Centre**, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art**, **Dacor Bacon House**, the **Embassy of Pakistan**, the **Folger Consort**, the choir of **Magdalen College, Oxford**, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, the **Phi Beta Kappa Society**, the **Royal Oak Foundation**, the **Shakespeare Theatre Company**, **St. John's Episcopal Church**, the **University Club**, and the **Woman's National Democratic Club**.

Speaking on behalf of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**, **Graham Down** recognized five special guests. One was **GRACIE TERZIAN**, a sophomore from **OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL** who had placed first in the 2007 *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION*, and had gone on to finish in the top ten on April 23 at the *NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION* in New York's **LINCOLN CENTER**. The other four were recipients of **HELENE GLADSTONE WILLIAMS AWARDS** for 2007: **EMMA ACKER** of the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**, who had earned a \$1,000 stipend to explore the influence that America's abstract expressionists had had on London artists of the mid-20th century; **DEBORAH STEVENSON** of the **FBI**, who'd received \$2,000 for a seminar at Oxford that would strengthen her credentials as the new director for **ESU WASHINGTON'S ENGLISH IN ACTION** program; **KRISTEN WALTON** of **SALISBURY UNIVERSITY**, who'd won \$2,000 to pursue her studies of early-modern political propaganda; and **RUSSELL WYLAND** of the **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**, who had won a \$2,000 fellowship to complete his history of a secret Oxford society that had included some of the leading intellectuals of the 19th century.

Treasurer **Braxton Moncure** reported that **ESU WASHINGTON** appeared likely to end the 2007 fiscal year with a smaller deficit than had been projected. But he noted that more revenue-generating efforts would be required in the year to come to reverse what had become a disturbingly familiar pattern.

His comments were seconded by Vice President **Marjorie J. Williams**, who said that the **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** was actively seeking ways to improve the branch's financial position. Among other things, she noted that she and her colleagues were developing new print materials (among them a promotional

brochure and an up-to-date membership directory) and were planning to approach generous donors for additional support.

After he thanked everyone for these reports, President **Gerry Kauvar** reiterated how gratifying he found it to welcome several out-of-town attendees, among them visitors from the **Atlanta** and **Richmond** branches of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES**, who were in town to attend the following day's festivities at the **BRITISH EMBASSY**. He then introduced the gathering's guest of honor, **LORD WATSON OF RICHMOND**, International Chairman Emeritus of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** and Co-Chair of the **JAMESTOWN 1607-2007 BRITISH COMMITTEE**.

In a brilliant synthesis of themes he'd explored in an extended series of recent addresses, **ALAN WATSON** reminded everyone that the primary significance of Jamestown was not that it represented the founding of a new country (an unintended consequence of the original mission), but that it established in North America a permanent foothold for the vibrant language of the English Bible, of Shakespeare, and of the legal and political traditions that derive from Magna Carta. As such, the colony inaugurated "the voyage of English" and its rich legacy, and it thereby prepared the way for a global proliferation of our tongue that is now accelerating in locales as diverse as China, Chile, and the Czech Republic. Lord Watson urged his listeners to be alert to both the opportunities and the challenges of this development, and he suggested that it could have important social, cultural, and diplomatic implications. With that in mind he reiterated a call he'd made earlier for "A Tale of Three Cities," a special initiative to establish closer ties among the **ESU** communities in London, Paris, and Washington.

SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING HOST A FESTIVE RECEPTION AT THE EMBASSY

To **ESU** members for whom no spring would be complete without the unique pleasure that has long attached to an evening in the elegant home of the **BRITISH AMBASSADOR**, **Monday, May 21**,

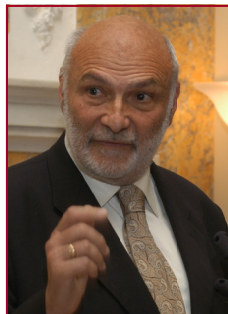


was an even more special occasion than usual. Nearly 250 attendees were on hand for another gathering that was graciously hosted by **SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING**. Once again the **EMBASSY**'s grateful guests were able to stroll in a garden that beckoned with seasonal

blossoms. Once again they had a chance to greet old friends and make new acquaintances. But as participants in a remarkable celebration of **SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON**, this year's attendees also had the enjoyment of mingling with constituents from other organizations when they lifted their glasses in a hearty toast to the director who, more perhaps than anyone else in the last two decades, has positioned our metropolis as a significant center for the interpretation, performance, and dissemination of classical drama.

MICHAEL KAHN had garnered accolades on **BROADWAY**, and had overseen such enterprises as the **AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE THEATRE** in Connecticut and **MCCARTER THEATRE** in New Jersey before he came to Capitol Hill in 1986 to rescue an embattled troupe that was on the verge of extinction. Benefiting from his experience not only as an artist but as a gifted teacher (he'd helped establish the Drama Division at **LINCOLN CENTER**'s prestigious **JUILLIARD**

SCHOOL, and he had assisted **John Houseman** and **Margot Harley** when they decided to create a touring **ACTING COMPANY** that would launch the careers of such promising students as **Kevin Kline** and **Patti LuPone**), Mr. Kahn transformed what had begun in 1969 as the **FOLGER THEATRE GROUP** into an institution that is now recognized as one of the foremost dramatic ensembles in the world. As that organization prepares to begin occupying its magnificent new quarters at the **HARMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS**, Mr. Kahn is now putting his finishing touches on the six-month festival that he and **KENNEDY CENTER** President **Michael Kaiser** have been coordinating from the outset.



To commend Mr. Kahn's accomplishments and to thank him for all he's contributed to the cultural life not only of our region but of our nation, we were privileged to welcome **SUPREME COURT** Justice **RUTH BADER GINSBURG**, who spoke eloquently about the honoree's remarkably varied career, beginning with his childhood in Brooklyn, and emphasizing his work in opera and his roles as a committed educator. We also

welcomed words from **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY** Chairman **LONDON BUTLER**, who shared congratulatory messages that had been sent by actor **Stacy Keach** and by **Mayor Adrian M. Fenty**. We were treated to timely remarks by award-winning performers **HELEN CAREY** and **TED VAN GRIETHUYSEN**, who talked about the qualities that are most appreciated by those who've had the chance to be directed by Mr. Kahn, and by **LORD WATSON OF RICHMOND**, who observed how fitting it was that a great American producer of England's most celebrated author was being feted on the 400th anniversary of a New World event that inspired some of the most memorable lines in *The Tempest*. Then, on behalf of **ESU WASHINGTON** and the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD**, **JOHN ANDREWS** (who has headed both organizations since 2001) read a letter from actor and director **Keith Baxter** in which this devoted friend of Sir John's talked about parallels between Gielgud's career and Mr. Kahn's, extolled the honoree as an artist who fully deserved his position in a circle that included such luminaries as Kenneth Branagh, Zoe Caldwell, Sir Derek Jacobi, Kevin Kline, Sir Ian McKellen, Christopher Plummer, and Lynn Redgrave, and praised the 2007 laureate in words from **Dame Maggie Smith** and **Dame Judi Dench**. Mr. Andrews presented Mr. Kahn with a 1996 **Clive Francis** caricature of the award's namesake that had been signed by Sir John. In his



acceptance remarks, Mr. Kahn thanked everyone who had taken part in the ceremony and concluded with an eloquent statement of one of the lessons his years in the playwright's company had disclosed to him: that what sets Shakespeare apart from other eminent dramatists is that "he doesn't tell us what to think"; instead he subtly teaches us "what to think about."

Photographs by Charles Stephenson (left column) and Keith Harvey (right)



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES

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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.

Aussie Barbecue on June 23

ESU WASHINGTON constituents are invited to attend an *AUSSIE BBQ* on Saturday, June 23, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY (37 Observatory Circle NW, just above the Rotunda of the BRITISH EMBASSY on Massachusetts Avenue). This picnic is co-sponsored by the AUSTRALIA AMERICA ASSOCIATION and the SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB, and it features live entertainment, door prizes, and abundant food and drink. Dress is casual, and those who wish to attend at the \$55 non-member rate should reserve by Monday, June 18. To respond, please contact Colleen Greer by e-mailing greerca2@yahoo.com, calling (703) 524-1381, or sending a check to the Australia America Association at 2201 N Street NW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20037.

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 quick 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 June 4 (Richard Brown), please reserve ___ space(s) the luncheon and program at \$25 per person, ___ space(s) for the program only at \$10.

For June 5 (Judith Martin), please reserve ___ space(s) at \$25.

For June 26 (Andro Linklater), please reserve ___ space(s) at no charge.

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.esuwdc.org.