



# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

*Creating Global Understanding Through English*

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

MARCH 2005

## *News & Announcements*

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## ***THE ESU's 16TH ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION*** ***CAFRTZ FOUNDATION Supports a Festive Event at THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE***

Please join us for a gathering 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 endeavor 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. As the centerpiece of a curriculum-based program that now extends to a number of middle schools in the Washington area, this contest provides an opportunity for thirty or more entrants from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to display the insights and skills they've acquired in the classroom as they recite Shakespearean sonnets and perform vignettes from such dramatic masterpieces as *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Their presentations will be evaluated by a distinguished panel of actors, directors, and teachers, and those who emerge as the top three candidates will come away with monetary prizes from a fund that has been generously supplied by **Mrs. Priscilla Liggett**. The contestant who finishes with the highest rating will then proceed to LINCOLN CENTER in Manhattan for an April 25th **NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** whose winner is to be rewarded with a summer at London's **BRITISH-AMERICAN DRAMA ACADEMY**.



While the **COMPETITION** judges deliberate following the **OPENING ROUND** performances on Friday morning, participants and audience members will have a chance to talk with actor **Ted van Griethuysen**, who has delighted Washington playgoers in such major roles as King Lear, Prospero, and Falstaff, not only at **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE** but in a number of other settings. At a comparable point during the **CONCLUDING ROUND** on Friday afternoon, they'll enjoy a chat with **David Sabin**, a current Helen Hayes Award nominee who has appeared on Broadway and on television as well as at the Lansburgh and at such additional venues as **STUDIO THEATRE**. Other highlights of the proceedings will include remarks by **Nicholas Goldsborough**, Managing Director of **THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**, and by **Graham Down**, Chairman of the **ESU Education Committee**. Mr. Down will honor retiring Executive Director **Anne Allen**, who is leaving the **MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRTZ FOUNDATION** after fifteen years of exemplary service. He will also bestow the ESU's **SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD** upon **Jennifer Hoover** of **BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL**, an instructor who has helped prepare several students for this annual contest. Thanks to the **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**, each entrant will receive a beautiful keepsake. And thanks to support from the **CAFRTZ FOUNDATION**, everyone will be able to attend these festivities free of charge.



### **FRIDAY, MARCH 4**

#### **OPENING ROUND**

*Reception 8:30 a.m.*  
*Program 10:00 a.m.*  
*Lunch Buffet 1:00 p.m.*

#### **CONCLUDING ROUND**

*Program 1:30 p.m.*  
*Ceremony 3:00 p.m.*

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**  
450 7th Street NW

**ADMISSION FREE**

# Global Conversations

In recent years **THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES** has been working to make our planet a bit smaller. With the help of the Internet and of a new Web site called **GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS**, an initiative the National Office launched at the **WORLD MEMBERS' CONFERENCE** in October, **ESU** constituents around the world are suddenly able to conduct online conversations and get to know one another. Through resources that are readily available to most of us, participants can conduct real-time chats with acquaintances who reside thousands of miles away.

The first dialogue is already under way. It focuses on the English language, with all its complexities and variations. A skilled discussion leader has been posting articles about our modes of discourse, and readers everywhere have added their comments.

In 1918, when **Sir Evelyn Wrench** founded the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, his aspiration was to further friendship among the English-speaking peoples on what them seemed to be a much larger orb. At that time he could scarcely have imagined how far social, economic, and technological developments would carry his dream. Today English has evolved into what **ESU** Chairman **Lord Watson of Richmond** has called the *lingua franca* of the global village. Not coincidentally, the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** has reinforced this development as it has expanded into more than fifty countries. By means of an unprecedented network and a fresh emphasis on **GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS**, the **ESU** has now opened the door to hitherto unexplored means of fulfilling its mission to foster *Global Understanding Through English*.

As **GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS** proliferate, those who take part in them will decide what to discuss next, be it literature, film, the visual arts, current affairs, or whatever else seems pertinent. Why not visit [www.global-conversations.org](http://www.global-conversations.org) right now, then, and join the fun? The process is simple, and of course it's free. Simply type in your full name and e-mail address, and you'll quickly find a temporary password in your Inbox. After that, whenever you log on, you can either retain or alter this password. You'll suddenly discover that you've embarked upon an exciting new venture.

## English in Action

Does becoming acquainted with a visitor from abroad, or helping a foreign-born student, appeal to you? If so, you should ponder the idea of becoming involved in one of the most gratifying pursuits available to a civic-minded volunteer.

**ENGLISH IN ACTION** is a one-to-one tutoring service in which ordinary people get together for relaxed conversations. One will be an adult with normal proficiency, but no special training or formal teaching credentials, in the use of spoken and written English. The other may be a recent immigrant to the United States, a high-school or college student from overseas, or a professional (employed, perhaps, by an embassy or a multinational business) who grasps the rudiments of our tongue but seeks to acquire the skillful ease a native speaker of it takes for granted.

Under the usual format an **ESU** tutor meets once a week with his or her charge for an hour of enjoyable give-and-take at a mutually convenient time and location. It's not unusual for tutors and their

grateful "English patients" to develop lifelong friendships and thereby enhance the appreciation that both parties have for diverse cultures and traditions.

**ENGLISH IN ACTION** has been provided by the Washington area's branch of the **ESU** for more than twenty years, and it has assisted hundreds of newcomers as they've learned to cope with the expectations of a society quite distinct from their own. **EiA** has bolstered their self-assurance and enabled them to obtain better positions, both in America and in their countries of origin, and it has significantly elevated the quality of their lives.

If you'd like to learn more about **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, and hear about some of the rewards a dedicated **EiA** community is reaping from interactions that are fundamental to the mission of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, you might wish to attend a lively **CHINESE BANQUET** to be held at **6:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday, March 9**, in the **SHANGHAI GARDEN** restaurant at **4469 Connecticut Avenue NW**. This gathering, which will feature good conversation and delicious fare, will cost **\$20** a person, and it will take place a few minutes from the Van Ness station on Metro's Red Line. A similar gathering several days ago persuaded four attendees to begin volunteering as **EiA** tutors.



To reserve for March 9, or to request further information about **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, please get in touch with **EiA's** director, **Mrs. Diana Nicholson**, at **4600 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 723, Washington, DC 20008**. You can reach Diana by phone at **(202) 966-3921** or by e-mail at [afromdc@aol.com](mailto:afromdc@aol.com).

## Coming Attractions

### AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY A CURATOR AT LONDON'S NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

In association with the **AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION**, which administers the historic **OCTAGON**, and the **ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION**, with whom the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** has enjoyed collaborating on previous occasions, we're pleased to invite our constituents to *Off the Beaten Track: Three Centuries of British Women Travelers*, an illuminating lecture that derives from an exhibition with the same title.

Our speaker will be the curator of that show, **CLARE GITTINGS**, who has served since 1989 as Education Officer at the **NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY** in London. Ms. Gittings has organized and discussed several important exhibitions at one of Britain's most popular museums, among them a recent one with the theme *Escape to Eden: Five Centuries of Women and Gardens*. She is also widely recognized for such publications as *Death, Burial, and the Individual in Early Modern England* (1984) and *Death in England: An Illustrated* (1999). This program will take place on **Thursday, March 3**, at **1730 New York Avenue NW**, with a reception at **6:30 p.m.** and the program to follow at **7:00**. The admission fee for those who register through the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** is only **\$10**.

## FREE CONCERT AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY BY OUR CITY'S DUMBARTON ENSEMBLE

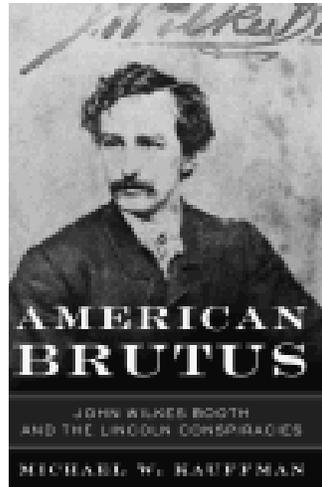
We hope you'll join us for a gathering at which **Thomas Blackburn** (cellist), **Michael Carver** (pianist), **Graham Down** (pianist), **Kathy Ferger** (violinist), **Carol Hall** (violinist), and **Jerome Schwarz** (clarinetist) bring their talents to a recital that will include **Robert Schumann's** *Andante and Variations for Two Pianos*, **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's** *Sonata Number 4 for Piano and Violin*, **Arthur Bliss's** *Pastorale for Clarinet and Piano*, **William Hurlstone's** *Suite for Clarinet and Piano*, and **Jean Francaix's** *Trio for Violin, Viola, and Cello*. These exquisite selections will be presented **Sunday, March 13, at 4:00 p.m.** by the **DUMBARTON ENSEMBLE**, and they'll be heard in a setting that is widely praised for its superb acoustics.

The **KREEGER MUSIC BUILDING**, on the main campus of **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**, is located north of Nebraska Avenue and west of the intersection with Massachusetts Avenue NW at Ward Circle. Once you enter the campus gate through Rockwood Parkway, simply proceed to the second of two stop signs; turn left at that point, and you'll find the Kreeger, with its **MC-DONALD RECITAL HALL**, on the left at the end of a cul-de-sac.

## AN IDES OF MARCH DIALOGUE ABOUT AN ACTOR WHO RE-STAGED *JULIUS CAESAR*

We're pleased to join the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB** as co-hosts for an event at which a highly respected authority on the Lincoln assassination, drawing on new material from long-neglected sources, illuminates the family background and political motivations of John Wilkes Booth. **MICHAEL W. KAUFFMAN** argues that the figure who slew our nation's sixteenth President was anything but deranged. In his opinion, Lincoln's assailant was a charismatic performer who regarded himself as a genuine patriot and saw his intended victim as a Caesar whose tyranny called for the courageous intervention of a modern Brutus.

Kauffman's book, which will be available at this event for purchase and inscription, has received enthusiastic notices in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post Book World*, and a number of other prestigious media outlets. Richard Norton Smith, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, says that "In this gripping, often surprising reexamination of America's most notorious crime," the author "rescues the Lincoln assassination from the historical waxworks. Combining exhaustive research, computer technology, and a compulsively readable style, Kauffman clears away more than a century of misconceptions. This Booth is a greater actor, and a more cunning monster, than we ever imagined." Other reviews have been similarly laudatory.



Mr. Kauffman will discuss his findings during a dialogue with **John Andrews**, who has published articles in *Atlantic Monthly* and elsewhere about the Shakespearean dimensions of what he refers to as "the most dramatic moment in American history." This event will take place on **Tuesday, March 15, at 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW**, with a cash-bar reception at **11:30**, lunch at **12:30**, and the program at **1:00**. The price for those who register through the **ESU** is **\$25** a person.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN REDGRAVE, A FIRST LADY OF THE STAGE AND SCREEN

A founding member of Britain's **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE**, **LYNN REDGRAVE** is most familiar to us for her award-winning performance in *Georgy Girl* (1965), but she has also earned acclaim for such recent films as *Gods and Monsters*, *Kinsey*, and *Shine*. Her autobiographical one-woman anthology, *Shakespeare For My Father*, took her to London's **THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET** and earned her a Tony nomination on Broadway. In 2003 Ms. Redgrave delighted New York audiences again in Alan Bennett's brilliant comedy *Talking Heads*.



The recipient of numerous honors, among them a **GIELGUD AWARD** from **THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD** and an **OBE** bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen, Ms. Redgrave will talk not only about her distinguished career but about a struggle with breast cancer that has been captured in a new book, to be available for purchase and for signing, that she co-authored with her daughter, photographer *Annabel Clark*. They will be joined in what promises to be a touching, conversation by the **ESU's John Andrews**.



This event will take place **7:00 p.m.** on **Monday, March 21**, in the Hammer Auditorium at the **CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART**, an attractive, inviting, and intimate space to be entered at **500 17th Street NW**. Admission for those who reserve their tickets through the **ESU** is **\$20** a person.

## ESU PROGRAMS AVAILABLE OVER C-SPAN, BOTH ON TELEVISION AND IN RECORDINGS

We're happy to report that a luncheon program the Washington branch of the **ESU** co-hosted on **Tuesday, January 4**, at the **WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB** has now been telecast three times, twice in January and once in February, on **C-SPAN2's** weekend *BookTV* service. If you missed **Sir Harold Evans'** superb remarks about the book accompanying his **PBS** series *They Made America: Two Centuries of Innovation*, you can now order it, along with tapes or DVDs of several previous **ESU** presentations, by visiting the *Store* at [www.c-span.org](http://www.c-span.org). You should also check regularly for repeats of previous attractions.



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.*

### *A Speech by Lord Watson of Richmond*

On THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, at a time and venue to be announced soon, the international Chairman of the ESU, LORD WATSON OF RICHMOND, will be visiting from London, and will address his Washington friends about *The Rise and Rise of English*. A former broadcaster with the BBC, and now an executive with BURSON MARSTELLER, Alan Watson is a dynamic speaker whose keynote address at the ESU's WORLD MEMBERS CONFERENCE in October was the highlight of a richly varied gathering. His publications include *Europe at Risk*, *The Germans: Who Are They Now?* and *Thatcher and Kohl: Old Rivalries Revisited*. He holds numerous honorary degrees, and he will play a leading role in the 2007 anniversary celebrations at Jamestown.

## *We Welcome Your Support*

As April 15 approaches, we encourage you to be mindful of THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION as you allocate your tax-deductible donations for 2005. The ESU 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 associations are nourished by a vibrant global network.

Through an enticing assortment of edifying events, and through such activities as an annual SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION for secondary-school students, a variety of FELLOWSHIP AWARDS to facilitate work in academic and artistic settings, and a volunteer-based tutoring service, ENGLISH IN ACTION, 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 precious legacy. To help sustain this legacy, and to augment it through some ambitious new initiatives to be announced in the near future, 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. If you'd like to provide a gift enrollment in the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION for a friend or loved one, that too would be a welcome gesture. Below are the ESU's membership categories.

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

*Event notices, local and national ESU reports, 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*

## *Response Form*

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the ESU of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support its educational and cultural endeavors. I wish to \_\_\_renew or \_\_\_enroll in the English-Speaking Union at the \$\_\_\_\_\_ level.

For **March 3 (Gittings)**, please reserve \_\_\_spaces at \$10.

For **March 4 (Shakespeare Competition, Opening Round)**, please reserve \_\_\_spaces at no charge.

For **March 4 (Shakespeare Competition, Concluding Round)**, please reserve \_\_\_spaces at no charge.

For **March 13 (Concert)**, please reserve \_\_\_spaces at no charge.

For **March 15 (Kauffman)**, please reserve \_\_\_spaces at \$25.

For **March 21 (Redgrave)**, please reserve \_\_\_spaces at \$20.

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 those who belong to BABA, the RSA, RSC America, The Shakespeare Guild, and the Woman's National Democratic Club.*

*Visit us online, and check for calendar updates, at [www.esuwdc.org](http://www.esuwdc.org).*