



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

OCTOBER 2006

News & Announcements

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A CONCERT BY THE DUMBARTON CHAMBER ENSEMBLE *Performers Offer Selections by Albinoni, Handel, Schubert, and Mozart*



You're invited to hear some of Washington's most talented musicians — trumpeter **Michael Adams**, cellist **Thomas Blackburn**, sopranos **Gwendolyn Degentesh** and **Elizabeth Lawrence**, pianist **A. Graham Down**, violists **Kathy Ferger** and **Carol Hall**, and clarinetist **Jerry Schwarz** — as they present *Sonata No. 1 in C* by **Tomasso Albinoni** (1671-1750), *Let the Bright Seraphim* (from *Samson*) by **George Frederick Handel** (1685-1759), *The Shepherd and the Rock*

by **Franz Schubert** (1757-1828), and *Piano Quartet in G Minor, K. 478*, by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791). This gathering will commemorate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. It will take place in one of Georgetown's most resonant settings, and it will be followed by a reception.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

4:00 p.m.

**EPIPHANY CATHOLIC CHURCH
2712 Dumbarton Street NW**

No Admission Charge

A PROGRAM BY THE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR *A Feature of the Cathedral Choral Society's Annual British Choir Festival*

Each autumn the CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY hosts a prominent counterpart from the Great Britain. This year's singers will be coming from WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, a Roman Catholic sanctuary that

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

4:00 p.m.

WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL

**20% Discounts on Tickets
At Prices Ranging from \$20 to \$60**

has long been renowned for its acoustics and for the excellence of its musical artists. The choir's repertory will be as varied as it is beautiful, with selections from composers **Samuel Barber** (1910-1981), **Anton Bruckner** (1824-



1896), **Edward Elgar** (1857-1934), **James MacMillan** (b.

1959), **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791), **John Tavener** (1490-1545), **John Tavener** (b. 1944), **Christopher Tye** (1505-1573), and **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1948). The concert will take place in the gothic splendor of WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL (at the intersection of Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues NW), and tickets at prices ranging from \$20 to \$60 are being made available to ESU WASHINGTON members and their guests at 20% discounts. To order, all you need to do is call (202) 537-5527 and mention that you belong to the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION.

Join us November 8 for a Talk with Michael Frayn

For details on that and on other *COMING ATTRACTIONS*, among them events with **COLIN MCCORQUODALE**, Chairman of ESU LONDON, with historian **GARRY WILLS** and journalist **BILL PRESS**, and with linguist **PAUL DICKSON**, see the pages that follow.

A FESTIVE WINE-TASTING RECEPTION AT THE EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA

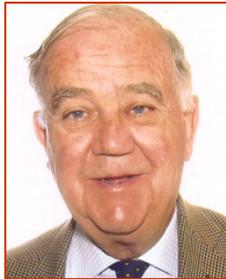
ESU WASHINGTON constituents and their guests are cordially invited to the 17th annual *AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND WINE EXPO*, an event to take place at the EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA under the auspices of the AUSTRALIA AMERICAN ASSOCIATION. Those who attend will have an opportunity to sample more than 200 wines, accompanied by tasty buffet selections, from Down Under.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
1801 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Call (202) 659-2400 for \$70 Tickets

No one will be admitted who is under 21 years of age. For details go to www.australiausa.org. Please register, if possible, by **October 25**. You may do so by calling (202) 659-2400 or by sending an e-mail to bymusdc@mindspring.com.

AN EVENING WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF ESU LONDON, COLIN MCCORQUODALE

Since June 2002 COLIN MCCORQUODALE has chaired the branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION that serves the capital city of the United Kingdom. Located at DARTMOUTH HOUSE, the ESU's international headquarters, ESU LONDON is a vibrant metropolitan chapter with strong local and regional programming and with outreach efforts that spread its influence to such distant locations as Mongolia, Madagascar, and Tajikistan. As befits a man who spent most of his career in the travel industry, Mr. McCorquodale is an international ambassador for the ESU. He'll be visiting several U.S. branches after a trip to Santiago to help launch ESU CHILE, and one of the topics he'll be addressing is a special initiative — launched by



former International Chairman LORD WATSON OF RICHMOND, and sometimes referred to as a "Tale of Three Cities" — to link the ESU communities in London, Paris, and Washington. This soiree will be hosted by GRAHAM DOWN, whose apartment is located in the main edifice of THE WESTCHESTER, on the right just past the circle as one drives through this imposing complex.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Buffet Reception, 6:30 p.m.
Program, 7:30 p.m.
4000 CATHEDRAL AVENUE, 152B
Reception and Program, \$35

A DIALOGUE WITH BRITISH NOVELIST AND PLAYWRIGHT MICHAEL FRAYN

MICHAEL FRAYN, the British author of such dramatic classics as *Alphabetical Order* (1975), *Clouds* (1976), *Donkey's Years* (1977), *Make or Break* (1980), *Noises Off* (1982), *Benefactors* (1984), *Copenhagen* (1998), and *Democracy* (2003), will be in town Tuesday, November 7, to receive the JOHN MCGOVERN AWARD IN LITERATURE from the COSMOS CLUB. Happily, he'll be staying an extra day, and he has graciously agreed to take part in a discussion not only of his award-winning theatrical works but of such novels as *The Tin Men* (1965), *The Russian Interpreter* (1966), *Towards the End of the Morning* (1967), *A*

Landing on the Sun (1991), *Headlong* (1999), and *Spies* (2002). He may also talk about a nonfiction title, *The Human Touch: Our Part in the Creation of the Universe* (2006). Mr. Frayn's many honors include the Somerset Maugham Award, the Whitbread Novel Award, and the Commonwealth Writers Prize for fiction (as well as an appearance on the short list for the Booker Prize), and the Evening Standard and Tony awards for drama. He's also earned an Emmy for *First and Last* (1989), a TV film, and written the screenplay for *Clockwise* (1986), a brilliant motion picture that starred John Cleese. We hope you'll join us for a session to

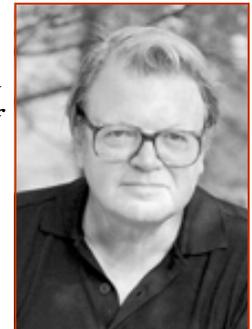


WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
450 7th Street NW
Free, but Reservations Required

be moderated by JOHN F. ANDREWS, President of the SHAKESPEARE GUILD and Executive Director of ESU WASHINGTON. This event is co-hosted by the SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY, whose globally renowned Artistic Director, MICHAEL KAHN, will take part in the dialogue. To reserve seats, you'll be well advised to call the Theatre box office immediately at (202) 547-1122, Option 4.

GARRY WILLS AND BILL PRESS EXPLORE A NEW BOOK ABOUT THE APOSTLE PAUL

It would be difficult to identify a more prolific intellectual than Garry Wills. Best known to many of his admirers for *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America* (1992), a best-seller that won the Pulitzer Prize, Mr. Wills is equally familiar for his incisive articles and commentary in such influential periodicals as the *New York Times* and the *New York Review of Books*. In January 2005, as a guest on C-SPAN2's *In Depth* program for BookTV, Mr. Wills responded to admirers' questions about volumes such as *Inventing America: Jefferson's Declaration of Independence* (1978), *George Washington and the Enlightenment* (1984), *Reagan's America: Innocents at*

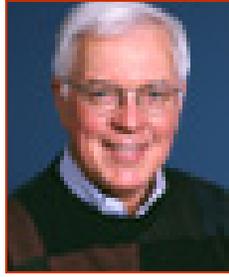


TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.
DACOR BACON HOUSE
1801 F Street NW
ESU Members, \$20 Others, \$25

Home (1987), *Under God: Religion and American Politics* (1990), *Papal Sin: Structures of Deceit* (2000), *Venice: Lion City* (2001), and *Why I am a Catholic* (2002). In a study which reminded us that he began his academic career as a classical scholar with expertise in Greek and Latin texts, Mr. Wills published *What Jesus Meant* in March. He's now back with *What Paul Meant*, a sequel about the Apostle who did so much to help the early church define the implications of the Gospels.

We're pleased that Mr. Wills will be joined in conversation by BILL PRESS, a thinker who spent several years in preparation for

what he expected to be a vocation in the Roman Catholic clergy. A former host of CNN's *Crossfire* and of MSNBC's *Buchanan and Press*, this engaging interviewer presides over a morning talk show on SIRIUS satellite radio and writes a weekly column for TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES. In his witty *Spin This!* (an outgrowth of *The Spin Room*, a CNN feature he co-hosted for several months in 2000 with Tucker Carlson), Mr. Press scrutinizes the English that public-relations specialists bring to their interpretations of current politics. He is a frequent guest on cable offerings such as CNN's *Reliable Sources*.



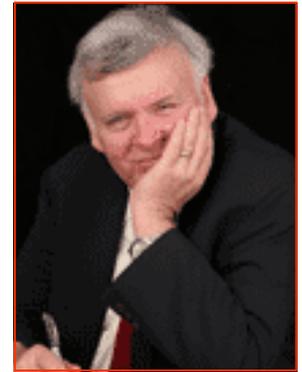
A GATHERING WITH ITALIAN COUNTESS ALESSANDRA GARDINO OF GENOA

We invite you to meet and hear COUNTESS ALESSANDRA GARDINO, heir to an 800-year-old Italian legacy, as she takes us on a vicarious tour of central Italy. Drawing upon multimedia illustrations, she'll describe what it's like to manage a 250-room palace in a well-preserved Umbrian village. Among other things, she'll discuss the challenges implicit in restoring and maintaining so grandiose a residence. With its elegantly preserved interiors and lush private gardens, **Palazzo Ranghiasi** was declared a historical and architectural monument at the beginning of the 20th century. Its family archives are now protected by the Italian government. But its continued vitality depends upon the charms and business acumen of a young noblewoman whose ability to flourish in a male-dominated society requires many of the skills that Niccoló Machiavelli commended in his advice to a Renaissance prince. ESU WASHINGTON is pleased to be co-sponsoring this program with the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

LINGUIST AND SOCIAL COMMENTATOR PAUL DICKSON REVIEWS MODERN SLANG

PAUL DICKSON is frequently referred to as a wordmaster, and we're delighted that he'll be joining us for a luncheon gathering at which he introduces a newly revised edition of his classic reference book, *Slang: The Topical Dictionary of Americanisms*. Originally published in 1990 and first updated in 1998, this compendium's third rendering marks a major overhaul of the author's remarkable surveys of casual, idiosyncratic, and colloquial usage. American popular culture is a rapidly evolving phenomenon, and nothing reflects its course more eloquently than its fast-moving slang. Musicians, athletes, politi-

cians, and bloggers — not to mention demographic developments in particular hotspots — are contributing to language growth, and there is no one today with a more acute ear for the phrase that epitomizes a new lifestyle or signals the beginning of a fad. Selected by no less an authority than William Safire as one of the best books of the year in its first edition, *Slang* remains an essential companion for anyone who wishes to keep up with contemporary American society. We're co-hosting this event with the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, and we're pleased to observe that copies of Mr. Dickson's volume will be available for purchase and for inscription by its author.



ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU CAN WATCH ESU PROGRAMS ON C-SPAN'S BOOK TV?

If you subscribe to digital cable television, the odds are that you can watch ESU WASHINGTON offerings over C-SPAN2's weekend *Book TV* service. On Sunday, October 8, for example, you would have had two chances to see *Washington Post* critic MICHAEL DIRDA talk about his latest publication, once at 7:30 a.m., and again in prime time at 8:00 p.m. You'd have also been able to catch this event on Monday, October 9, at 7:00 in the morning. In all likelihood this presentation, which was recorded during a luncheon gathering Tuesday, September 19, at the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, will be repeated in the near future. As soon as we know when the next broadcast will occur, we'll notify our constituents by means of an e-mail announcement. If you haven't done so, then, you should provide an address that will permit us to reach you with that information and with notices about other attractions that will be of interest to the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION community.

In some instances events that are recorded by C-SPAN are made available online for several weeks after their initial airing. In those cases, anyone who wishes to do so can visit the network's Web site and watch those programs on a computer screen. We do our best to supply up-to-date links to such opportunities on the *Calendar* page of www.esuwdc.org, the Net home for ESU WASHINGTON. But you can also go directly to www.c-span.org or to www.booktv.org not only for current schedules but for material about previously recorded events that have been archived and are available for purchase in VHS or DVD formats. If you're interested in ESU WASHINGTON offerings that have been telecast over C-SPAN in recent years, you may wish to search under such names as Bonnie Angelo, Lester R. Brown, Jane Dunn, Harold Evans, James Humes, Roy Jenkins, Hew Strachan, Stanley Wells, and A. N. Wilson.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to hear the inaugural ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE, which BBC RADIO 4 broadcast live from DARTMOUTH HOUSE on July 4, 2005, with Senator John McCain as speaker, you'll find a link to BBC's audio transcript on ESU WASHINGTON's *Calendar* page. We'd expected by now to be disclosing details about the 2006 installment in this series, but unforeseen difficulties forced a postponement of the lecture.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Reception, 6:00, Dinner 7:00
Program, 7:30 p.m.

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
ESU Members, \$50 Others, \$55



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30



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.

In Memory of Jay Coupe

On September 13 the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION lost one of its most eminent patrons. JAY COUPE had only recently joined the Board of ESU WASHINGTON, so many of our members had scarcely got to know him. They missed a chance to learn about his many accomplishments as a Navy captain who was honored with several distinguished medals, as a spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as a diplomat who served Ambassador William J. Crowe Jr. at the Court of St. James's in London, as a master of eight languages, and as a tenor who might well have enjoyed a fulfilling career as an opera singer. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Captain Coupe's widow, **Patrisha Davis**, and to the many friends and loved ones who share our sense of bereavement.

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 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 **November 3 (McCorquodale)**, please reserve space(s) at \$35.

For **November 8 (Frayn)**, please reserve space(s) at no charge.

For **November 14 (Wills & Press)**, please reserve space(s) at \$20,
 space(s) at \$25.

For **November 17 (Gardino)**, please reserve space(s) at \$50,
 spaces at \$55.

For **November 30 (Dickson)**, please reserve space(s) at \$25,
 spaces at \$30.

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.esurwdc.org.