



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

SEPTEMBER 2005

News & Announcements

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THE ESU OPENS ITS 2005-6 SEASON WITH A SUNDAY RECEPTION *Graham Down Welcomes Us to a Festive Tea at the Westchester*

With thanks for the kind hospitality of **A. GRAHAM DOWN**, who chairs our Education Committee and who served for several years as President of the branch of the

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
4000 CATHEDRAL AVENUE
Apartment 152 B
Admission \$25

ESU that represents the Nation's Capital region, we invite you to a gathering in one of our metropolitan area's most beautiful settings. Mr. Down's apartment is one of the jewels of a



WESTCHESTER complex that has long been proverbial for its elegant architecture and leafy vistas. Owing to his generosity, all proceeds from this get-together, including any supplemental donations that attendees give, will be used to support the ESU's charitable activities. To reach Mr. Down's residence you'll need to go to the third entrance on the right, the one with the brick-and-stone porte cochere.

TIME'S BONNIE ANGELO EXAMINES AMERICA'S FIRST FAMILIES *A White House Reporter Discloses Some Little-Known Problems*



We're pleased to join the **WNDC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** for a luncheon with **BONNIE ANGELO**, an award-winning journalist who spent more than 25 years reporting for *Time* from Washington, New York, and London. During her decade as **WHITE HOUSE** correspondent, Ms. Angelo served as co-host of *Panorama*, a popular

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Cash-Bar Reception 11:30
Lunch 12:30 Program 1:00
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
Admission \$25

midday television program. From there she went to Britain as the first woman to head a major bureau for a U.S. news-magazine. Ms. Angelo will introduce and sign copies of *First Families: The Impact of the White House on Their Lives*, a book that appears destined to become a best-selling sequel to her much-admired study of *First Mothers: The Women Who Shaped the Presidents*.

Lynn Redgrave on Wednesday, September 28

For more on that and other upcoming programs, among them events with **FLORA FRASER**, **KEN LUDWIG**, and **JUDITH MARTIN**, see the pages that follow, or consult our *Calendar* at www.esuwdc.org.

Recent Events

FROM DARTMOUTH HOUSE ON THE 4TH OF JULY, THE 2005 ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Shortly after the death of ALISTAIR COOKE in March 2004, our branch's most energetic and influential Vice President, MARJORIE J. WILLIAMS, suggested that the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION devise an appropriate way to help perpetuate a great journalist's legacy. The first fruits of Dr. Williams' inspired proposal were realized on **Monday, July 4**, when SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona delivered the **BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION's** 2005 **ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE** at **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** in London. This gathering was hosted by the **ESU**, with its International Chairman, **LORD WATSON OF RICHMOND**, its Director-General, **MRS. VALERIE MITCHELL**, its Washington Executive Director,



JOHN F. ANDREWS, and branch members **JAN DENTON** (who took the photograph at left) and **ROGER AND PATRICIA PLASKETT** on hand for the proceedings.

Others who participated in the festivities included Alistair Cooke's daughter and literary

executor, **SUSAN COOKE KITTREDGE**; his biographer, **BBC RADIO 4's NICK CLARKE**, who introduced the program and presided over the question-and-answer session that followed Senator McCain's prepared address; one of Mr. Cooke's TV producers, **RICHARD PRICE** (former chairman of **BAFTA**, the **BRITISH ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION ARTS**); Mr. Cooke's **BBC** editor during the final years of his celebrated **LETTER FROM AMERICA** series, **MARIA BALINSKA** (shown above with Senator McCain and Mr. Clarke); the Commissioning Editor for **BBC RADIO 4**, **ANDREW CASPARI**; the Controller of **BBC RADIO 4**, **MARK DAMAZER**; the Director of **BBC WORLD SERVICE**, **PHILIP HARDING**; and the Director-General of the **BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION**, **MARK THOMPSON**.

Senator McCain's topic was *An American Patriot Today*. And as expected, his comments, particularly during the discussion that followed his lecture, included a few carefully phrased declarations of interdependence. His observations could be heard live over **BBC RADIO 4** at 8:00 p.m. (3:00 in the eastern U.S.), both over the air in the U.K. and online at www.bbc.co.uk/radio4. The following day they were broadcast around the globe over the **BBC WORLD SERVICE**. They can now be downloaded through a link provided at www.esuwdc.org/calendar.html, a Web page that also offers a means to obtain a transcript of the Senator's lecture.

SUMMER EXCHANGES AS WAYS OF FURTHERING THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION'S OBJECTIVES

Among the activities that connect the **ESU WASHINGTON** community with its counterparts elsewhere are exchange programs such as the **WESTMINSTER - CAPITOL HILL INTERNSHIPS** that permit students from the United Kingdom to spend several weeks each summer in the offices of Senators and Congressmen and students from the United States to assist Members of Parliament. For a

number of years this endeavor has been conducted as a joint venture with the **CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**, represented by Professor **JOHN KROMKOWSKI** of that institution's Department of Political Science. Since 2003, thanks to Dr. **GERALD KAUVAR** in the office of its President, **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY** has been playing an increasingly pivotal role in the undertaking, both as a sponsor of interns (averaging approximately ten students per year from each side of the Atlantic) and as the provider of residence facilities for the British visitors who come here to study American politics and government.

Everyone agrees that activities such as these are valuable, and should be strengthened and expanded. For that reason we're grateful to those members of **ESU's** local branch who have done so much to sustain them, not least by the logistical support and hospitality they've extended to recent graduates of Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, London, Oxford, St. Andrews, and other universities. In the last few weeks, for instance, **ROBERT AND SUSAN FRATKIN**, **CELIA AND JULIAN JOSEPHS**, **BRAXTON AND DEBROAH MONCURE**, and **WILLIAM AND SANDRA RENFRO** have all contributed enormously to the success of this effort.

The Renfros, meanwhile, have been hosting another future leader from abroad, **KSENIA COPYLOVA** of **ST. PETERSBURG UNIVERSITY**. Ms. Copylova, who impressed all the delegates she assisted at the **ESU's** 2003 **WORLD MEMBERS' CONGRESS** in Russia, has been auditing courses in political history at **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY** for the last two months, and she says that she now hopes to return to the U.S. a year from now to begin a doctorate.



In a related development that augurs well for the future, **ESU WASHINGTON** has subscribed to the **ESU NATIONAL OFFICE's** **BOOKS-AS-ENVOYS** program (earmarking \$150 a year to contribute five **AMBASSADOR BOOK AWARD** selections about American culture to the libraries of other **ESUs** around the world) and thereby initiated one-to-one relationships with the **BATH** community in England and the **PARIS** community in France. This is particularly pleasing to the **ESU's** international headquarters in London, and on July 6, two days after the **ALISTAIR COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE** at **DARTMOUTH HOUSE**, **JOHN ANDREWS** and **JAN DENTON** were invited to a tea hosted by International Chairman **ALAN WATSON** at the **HOUSE OF LORDS**.

MRS. MITCHELL (to the left in the adjoining picture) and **LORD WATSON** used the occasion to introduce Mr. Andrews and his wife, not only to this year's Parliamentary interns from the United States, but to **LUCETTE LOUSSOUARN**, President of **ESU PARIS**, and **COLIN MCCORQUODALE**, President of **ESU LONDON** (standing to the right of Lord Watson). Everyone concurred with Lord Watson's view that the time is right for a concerted three-city initiative that will bring the **ESU** communities in London, Paris, and Washington into more sustained, productive, and mutually beneficial relationships with one another.



Current Attractions

A NATION COLUMNIST RUMINATES ON THE FERMENTING OF INSURRECTIONS

During an evening that will be enlivened by the warm-hearted drink that will be its primary subject, a witty journalist promises to convince his listeners that tea was not the beverage that fueled the



American war for independence. In *Rum: A Social and Sociable History of the Real Spirit of 1776*, IAN WILLIAMS argues that this Caribbean commodity was the 18th century's equivalent to what oil has become in today's economy: the energy supply of commerce and the cause of rivalries that could result in armed conflict. Mr. Williams is UN correspondent for *The Nation*. He has also been a reporter for *New*

York magazine and a contributor to such British periodicals as the *Financial Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, the *New Statesman*, the *Observer*, *Punch*, and the *Telegraph*. His books include *The Alms Trade* and *The UN for Beginners*. This soiree will be co-sponsored by the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, and it will feature the speaker's favorite concoctions from a brew that became known as "Nel-son's blood" after word got around that the corpse of the naval hero who had died victoriously at Trafalgar in October 1805 was preserved in rum until the Admiral could be buried in England.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Reception 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:30 Program 8:00
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
\$30 a Person

LYNN REDGRAVE PERFORMS HER LATEST DRAMA, NIGHTINGALE, AT THE CORCORAN

Best known to many of her admirers as a movie and television star, LYNN REDGRAVE earned a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for *Georgy Girl* in 1965.



She has also garnered acclaim for such remarkable films as *Gods and Monsters*, *Kinsey*, and *Shine*. A founding member of Britain's ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE and the recipient of many honors, among them a *GIELGUD AWARD* from THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD and an *OBE* from HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, Ms. Redgrave is now gaining recognition not only as an outstanding stage actress, with such recent New York hits as Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* and Somerset Maugham's

The Constant Wife, but as a dramatist. Her autobiographical play *Shakespeare For My Father*, a touching journey in search of the eminent Sir Michael Redgrave, took her to London's legen-

dary THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET and from there to a Tony nomination on Broadway. Her latest triumph, *Nightingale*, a meditation based upon the life of her maternal grandmother, was a sensation when it premiered at Manhattan's NATIONAL ARTS CLUB in June, and we're honored that she has agreed to bring this captivating tour de force to Washington. Ms. Redgrave was last among us in March, when she and her daughter, photographer Annabel Clark, talked about *Journal: A Mother and Daughter's Recovery from Breast Cancer*.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Program 7:00 p.m.

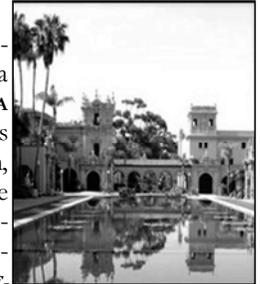
CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART
500 17th Street NW

Admission \$25

SAN DIEGO HOSTS ESU'S 85TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 13-16

The SAN DIEGO branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES will provide hospitality for ESUUS's 85th ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Most of the meetings will take place in the SHELTER POINTE HOTEL, and those who wish to lodge there should call 1-800-566-2524 by September 12 to obtain the discount rate of \$139 per night. Prospective attendees should also contact the National Office for a **Conference Registration Packet**. They may do so by e-mail (obrennan@esuus.org), by phone (212-818-1200), by fax (212-867-4177), or by post (144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016).

In addition to the various business sessions, the CONFERENCE will include a keynote address by British historian LISA JARDINE, a dinner cruise along the waters of Mission Bay, a fiesta in Old Town, and a tour of the city's most notable sights. Workshops will focus on membership recruitment, de-velopment strategies, fellowships, the *NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION*, *GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS*, and other topics. For more details, visit www.esuus.org.



APPEARING SOON: FLORA FRASER, KEN LUDWIG, JUDITH MARTIN, AND OTHERS

Looking ahead, you'll want to mark your diary for a sampling of the many ESU events that will be taking place during the weeks to come. On Tuesday evening, **October 6**, for example, we'll be collaborating with DACOR BACON HOUSE for a presentation by writer FLORA FRASER, who has inherited the narrative gifts of her famous mother, Lady Antonia Fraser, and who will talk about *The Six Daughters of George III*. On Thursday evening, **October 20**, we'll repair to FORD'S THEATRE for a look at *Leading Ladies*, the latest comedy by KEN LUDWIG, and meet the playwright for a sprightly post-show conversation. On Tuesday, **October 25**, we'll hear GYLES BRANDRETH, a respected British biographer and broadcaster, as he discusses the privileged access that proved essential to his research for *Philip and Elizabeth*, his *Portrait of a Royal Marriage*. On Tuesday, **November 1**, we'll have lunch with novelist and media figure JUDITH MARTIN and learn about her updated edition of *Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior*.



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.

Looking Ahead to Later in the Year

On Wednesday evening, **NOVEMBER 2**, we'll be at the **CORCORAN** for a lecture by Lady **HENRIETTA SPENCER CHURCHILL**, who will introduce *Blenheim and the Churchills: The Ancestral Estate of One of England's Most Venerable Families*. On Wednesday evening, **NOVEMBER 9**, we'll greet an Irish writer, **RODDY DOYLE**, who will read from his novel, *Oh, Play that Thing*. On Thursday evening, **NOVEMBER 10**, we'll welcome British historian **A. N. WILSON**, who will explore what happened *After the Victorians*. On Thursday, **DECEMBER 1**, we'll hear former broadcaster **MICHAEL HENDERSON** all about the children in the United Kingdom who were evacuated to North America during World War II.

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 prestigious London address at **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** near Berkeley Square, and those who take part in any of its local, regional, and national institutions are nourished by a vibrant global network.

In an effort to keep our constituents alert to the international 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 U.K. office. If you'd like to receive it, you may 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 discourse that is not native to them, the **ESU's** Washington branch 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 **ESU's** membership categories.

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

*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*

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 **September 11 (Graham Down)**, please reserve ___spaces at \$25.

For **September 20 (Bonnie Angelo)** please reserve ___spaces at \$25.

For **September 22 (Ian Williams)**, please reserve ___spaces at \$30.

For **September 28 (Lynn Redgrave)**, please reserve ___spaces at \$25.

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 RSA, RSC America, The Shakespeare Guild, the Washington Society for Churchill, the Woman's National Democratic Club, and other organizations that co-host, or assist the ESU by helping to publicize, particular gatherings.

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