

THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION: Creating global understanding through English.

Christopher Collins—“From Reagan & Thatcher to the Present”



better blurb-bite than the phrase "written with exclusive access to X's private papers." And they possess a rare emotional force. In the paper remains of a political career, there are powerful evocations of famous moments, of times and places that are part of our collective sense of things.”-Christopher Collins (National Review November 17, 2003).

Collin's insight into the “Iron Lady” that he shared in his talk was both amusing and fascinating.



ESU was delighted to host speaker Christopher Collins on November 14, 2006. The ESU is grateful for the use of the beautiful home of Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hutchins for the event.

Christopher Collins is editor of margaretthatcher.org, the website of the Margaret Thatcher Foundation. This site offers free access to thousands of documents—many of them previously unpublished—relating to Margaret Thatcher and world events during the last thirty years.

Thatcher was the British prime minister from 1979-90. “The archives of powerful leaders fascinate. We look to them for insight into character, method, and purpose. They form the basis for the strong market for political biography, as popular in Britain as it is in the U.S. where there is no



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The English-Speaking Union Los Angeles Branch

The Los Angeles Branch Newsletter is published four times a year. The English-Speaking Union, established by Royal Charter, is a non-profit corporation dedicated to: Creating global understanding through English.

Membership Information

Individual, family and corporate membership is available. For membership information visit our web site at:

www.esula.org

or write to: ESULA, P.O.Box 40313,
Pasadena, CA 91114

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President's Message

-Jean Bruce Poole

As of this writing we are in the midst of our annual high school competition. This year we have 25 contestants from schools all over Los Angeles County. They will be whittled down to six students at the Semi Finals who will competition March 4th at the Huntington Library. The Semi Finals will be followed by a gala dinner celebrating the efforts of the students and their teachers who do such a great job of preparing their students and giving them moral support. The winner of our competition will go to New York for an all expenses paid weekend taking part in the Finals of the National Competition. The overall winner in New York will be sent to an intensive Midsummer Program at Oxford offered by the British American Drama Academy. We are very proud to have Sir Oliver Wright act as once again as Honorary Chair of this event. Sir Oliver served as British Ambassador to the United States during the 1980's and has always been interested in our competition.

Other forthcoming ESU activities include a talk by David Sefton of UCLA Live on March 24th. Invitations to this event will be sent out shortly. In April we are hoping to hear a talk by Professor Alkon PhD on Winston Churchill's Imagination (Date to be announced).

In May the Los Angeles Branch will host the Region VIII annual conference. One of the events of this weekend (May 18-20) will be a dinner on May 19 at the Westing Hotel in Pasadena honoring the delegates from Region VIII branches which range from San Diego to Seattle and east to Phoenix. This year we also hope to add Denver to Region. We hope that many of our member will attend the meeting in whole or in part by attending the dinners and take the opportunity to meet the delegates.

In November our branch welcomed Christopher Collins who had been travelling around the country as an Evelyn Wrenck speaker (Sir Evelyn Wrench founded the English Speaking Union in 1920. Every year the nations ESU picks several outstanding speakers who visit various branches and discuss all kinds of subjects). The meeting was well attended and the speaker much enjoyed. He managed to appeal to people on both sides of the political spectrum. Christopher's knowledge on the subject comes from assisting Margaret Thatcher in writing her memoirs and editing her speeches. He now runs the Margaret Thatcher Foundation (www.margaretthatcher.org).

Have a wonderful Spring and Summer

Welcome to New ESU Members

Catherine Cooper	Mr. & Mrs. Alan LaRue	Dane Hoiberg
Pascal Cooper	Ted Neale	Laurie Ann
Bob McBride	John David Olsen	Marie Moyal
Mary Gerke	Sylvia Rousseve	
Bettina Auzers	Jamie O'Halloran	
June Barrymore Ash	Janice Sharp	

Welcome Back

Ethel L. Farrand	Louis Fantasia	Elaine Livesey-Fassel	Carmen Rice
Geoffrey Forward	Lorna Gentile	Marilyn MacDougall	Mr. & Mrs. George Riggs
Diana Ayres	Barbara Grant	Sandra Marshall	Mr. & Mrs. William Schlarb
Barbara Barbarics	Jeannine Gregory	Ginger Menke	Suzanne Seymour
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Barry	Jean Bruce P. Hayes	Mary-Lois Nevins	Michael Shannon
David Body	Mrs. Harry O. Hill	Denise Nighman	Geoffrey Shephard
Anita Brandow	Michael Hunter	Andrea Nolan	Margaret Spear
Kay Brown-Philips	George Jagels	Mary Ann Paullin	Mary Alice Toomey
Thomas Clarke	Marjorie Jones	Millicent Reynolds	Rev. & Mrs. Russell Touchstone

Theater Ticket Discounts For Members



The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum will offer 2 regular tickets for the price of 1 to ESU members showing their membership card at the box office. (No other discount applies.) The Theatricum is located at 1419 North Topanga Canyon Blvd, Topanga, CA 90290. The Theatricum repertory this year will include *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as 2 other classic plays. The season runs from June through October 2007. For more information go to www.theatricum.com.



A Noise Within has agreed to offer 2 tickets for the price of 1 to ESU members showing their membership card at the Box Office. A Noise Within is located at 234 South Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91204, Phone: 818-240-0910.

The plays for the Spring Season are *Man of LaMancha*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Loot*.

Regional Conference Update

Plans for the ESU Regional Conference in Pasadena (May 18-20) are proceeding and an exciting program is taking shape. Dinner Friday evening will be at the Town Club in Pasadena. This is a wonderful opportunity to see inside the doors of this very exclusive venue. Saturday evening will be at the Westin Hotel. The conference meetings Saturday and Sunday will also be held at the Westin Hotel.

As a very special treat a limited number (25-selected on a first to register and sign up basis) will be permitted to tour the Huntington Library's Shakespeare collection. This tour will also include viewing original materials held in the collection. A docent guided tour of the library and grounds will also be offered for other Conference attendees.

Members are encouraged to sign up as soon as applications are available to ensure that they reserve a place for the special events being offered.

The Newsletter Looks Great In Color...

You can see the newsletter in color by going to <http://esula.org> and opening a pdf file of the current, as well as past, newsletters. Of course, rather than receiving the black and white printed version you can ask Rebecca to send you the Newsletter via email. That way you get the color version and save the ESU printing and mailing costs. If you no longer want to receive the black and white printed version (and only want the email version) contact Rebecca, our Branch Coordinator, at: Rebecca.esu@earthlink.net.

Rebecca Sings...

with the Anglican Chorale of Southern California and you are invited on the following Sundays:

- ❖ **March 11, 4:00 pm**
Community United Methodist Church, 6652 Heil Ave., Huntington Beach (Donation \$15)
- ❖ **March 18, 4:00 pm**
Church of St. Paul in the Desert, 125 W. El Alameda, Palm Springs (Donations Appreciated)
- ❖ **March 25, 7:30 pm**,
St. Andrew Catholic Church, 311 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena (Donation \$10, \$8)
- ❖ **April 15, 4:30 pm**
St. Thomas the Apostle 7501 Hollywood Blvd. Hollywood (Donations Appreciated)

The Shakespeare Competition

-Peggy Spear

The English-Speaking Union's Shakespeare Competition is a curriculum-based program designed to help high school students develop their understanding of Shakespeare and their ability to communicate that understanding. Through the program, students study, memorize and interpret monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages: at the school, community and national levels.

Initiated in 1983 with 500 students in New York City, the Competition has given approximately 160,000 young people the opportunity to explore the beauty and scope of the language as well as the timeless themes embodied in Shakespeare's works. Currently the program involves 15,000 students and 2,000 teachers in 59 English-Speaking Union Branch communities nationwide.

The Huntington Library co-hosts the Los Angeles area English-Speaking Union's competition. The six winners of the speech semi-finals at Marlborough School compete with prepared Shakespearean passages and passages randomly selected by the competition committee. The finals will be held March 4, 2007 at the Huntington Library.

Every April, the winners of the local Branch Competitions go to New York City to take part in the National Shakespeare Competition. In the last phase of the Competition, those students selected as finalists present a cold reading in addition to their monologues and sonnets. The winner of the National Shakespeare Competition in dramatic presentation receives a summer course in Great Britain. The runner-up receives \$1,000 and third place is awarded \$500.

The Essay Contest gives students and teachers a meaningful focus for their in-depth work on Shakespeare. There are monetary rewards for the top three winning essays. For more information on the Shakespeare Competition go to <http://esula.org/shakespeare-comp.htm>.

Benefits of Membership in the ESU

Dartmouth House-London

-Geoffrey Shephard



Last summer Susana, my wife, and I decided to cross the Atlantic on the new Queen Mary. We consider London a wonderful place and, probably, the most civilized city in the world.

We are not very good at using public transportation so we decided to find a place where we could walk or use cabs for longer distances. As members of the ESU, we have reciprocal facilities with two outstanding places. The Chesterfield Hotel on Charles Street is small but super-chic. The Lansdown Club on Curson Street is one of those wonderful private London clubs. Both are in the heart of Mayfair, a few steps from Berkeley Square. To make the stay even better, **Dartmouth House** which is the private club of all members of the ESU is located on Charles Street between The Lansdown and Chesterfield.

Dartmouth House is not a residential club. However, they serve lunch, tea, cocktails, and dinner. Also, reservations can be made for large events. The club house is truly an example of an 18th century Georgian terrace townhouse (Robert Adam interior/exterior architecture). The interior public rooms are very impressive. Two come to my mind--the Wedgwood Drawing Room (Wedgwood blue/designs) and a beautiful open garden patio that looks like a late 19th century Parisian outside cafe. **Dartmouth House** is truly what one expects of a London private club. If you visit London, I suggest you make reservations and spend an afternoon visiting and absorbing the club refined cultural and historical atmosphere.

Susana and I had the most wonderful holiday in London and we are planning to do it again in the near future. I hope you take advantage of experiencing London through the ESU.

All members are encouraged to attend **Dartmouth House** where a range of cultural activities are offered. These include literary lunches, dinners and recitals. Members and their friends can enjoy the dining facilities provided by Leith's in the fine restaurant and bar, or the ornate courtyard, or can relax with a cup of tea and the daily newspapers in the Wedgwood Room. The Page Memorial Library is open to members. The Library holds a unique collection of books, chiefly American History, Social Sciences, Fiction, Poetry, Drama, Travel and Arts. Books may be borrowed by arrangement with the Librarian. Please note that it is not permissible to use public areas of **Dartmouth House** specifically for business meetings. Rooms are available for rental for such purposes. Mobile phones and laptop computers are also not to be used in members' areas of the house.

Dartmouth House is an important heritage building, sumptuously remodeled and refurbished in the 1890s by Lord Revelstoke, who created a grand town mansion in the Anglo-French style. Purchased by the ESU in 1926, it is one of the most notable properties in Mayfair and was graded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to Grade II and is scheduled as a building of national importance. The building is noted for its magnificent interior which includes Grand marble fireplaces, Louis Quatorze walnut paneling, a fine French marble Grand Staircase, with a superb painted ceiling by Pierre Victor Galland above.

Dartmouth House has become a popular venue in London for the hosting of Weddings, Conferences, Magazine shoots, Receptions, Lectures and Corporate entertaining. The House can be rented exclusively or rooms can be taken individually. Dartmouth

(Continued on Page 5)

Yes, I want to join the ESU

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Membership: Individual: \$65.00 Couple: \$95.00 Branch Patron: \$200*

*Branch Patrons attend all regular programs at no additional charge. Some special events may not be included

I enclose my check made out to *The English Speaking Union* **OR**

I prefer to pay by credit card- Visa Mastercard American Express

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____ Signature: _____

Please mail your completes application to: ESULA, P.O. Box 40313, Pasadena, CA 91114

Your membership dues may be tax deductible. Please contact your tax advisor.

(Continued from Page 4)

House and Leith's, the ESUs contract caterers, have become synonymous with both grandeur and quality. To make a booking for the restaurant please call 020 7529 1550. For all other enquires please call Leith's on 020 7499 4005.

Page Memorial Library: The ESU's Page Memorial Library, named after the former US Ambassador to the UK who worked with Sir Evelyn Wrench to establish the first ESU, has a varied and interesting collection of materials on America. Most of the 11,000 books in stock are American and the main emphasis is on literature, history, biography, sociology and travel. There is a general reference collection of directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries and atlases. The classification scheme used is Dewey and the books are computer catalogued. ESU members and schools are entitled to borrow books from the library and reading lists on specific subjects are available on request. The library is also the repository for the archives of the ESU. The main archives consist of Annual reports, Minutes of Meetings, ESU Journals and a large collection of photographs and publicity material. Over time, the collection's index is being digitized, and it is hoped that online searching of our catalogue will soon be available.

Leith's Catering: Leith's have been supplying the catering at the English Speaking Union since 1997 and are available to offer their support and expertise. With years of experience, the Leith's team will help to assist you from the initial planning stage right through to the event itself. The Leith's chefs will be delighted to customize menus to suit your exact requirements offering a creative style of food, "Simply Better". "Simply Better" is the Leith's company motto, which they take very seriously. As said by their founder Prue Leith, OB. "We aim to be simple and straightforward in all our dealings with clients, suppliers and colleagues. And, above all, our food is simple, fresh and uncomplicated. Better means better than our rivals, better value for money, better than our clients' expectations and better than before. Our constant goal is the improvement of everything we do, all the time. Whether it is a banquet or a sandwich, we are determined to make it simply better."

Dartmouth House offers a unique atmosphere for entertaining, weddings, meetings and conferences. The Restaurant in the Revelstoke Room run by Leith's is open to the public Monday to Friday, from 12 to 2pm - for reservations call 020 7529 1550.

The menu at Dartmouth House is changed on a monthly basis. A sample menu is available below:

First Courses: Butternut Squash Soup with Lime & Ginger

Roquefort Soufflé with Wild Mushroom Sauce

Baby Squid Stuffed with Coriander & Pickled Ginger

Salad of Bacon, Spinach & Quail's Eggs with Croutons

Roast Garlic & Chicken Terrine with Onion & Fruit Chutney

Main Courses: Pan-Fried Seabass with Citrus & Basil Sauce Served with Wild Rice & Mangetout

Asian Marinated Breast of Pheasant, Spinach & Sauté Potatoes

Braised Rump of Beef in Red Wine Sauce with Celeriac Mash & Shallots

Herb Crepes with Roasted Baby Vegetables & Goat's Cheese Sauce

Healthy Option of the Day

Puddings: Chocolate, Fudge & Pear Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream

Cold Raspberry Soufflé

Apple Tart with Calvados Crème Anglaise

British Cheeses

One Course – £12.00; Two Courses - £15.00; Three Courses - £18.00 ;Seasonal Vegetables £2.25; Seasonal Salad £1.95; Pot of Tea or Coffee - £2.00

Floor Plans Of Dartmouth House

The Ground Floor: THE COURTYARD. Dartmouth House boasts one of London's rarest features - an enclosed courtyard for hosting open-air receptions. The fountain, architectural style and wrought iron table and chairs combine to create the atmosphere of a château terrace.

THE WEDGWOOD ROOM. Named after the pale blue paneling and detailed plaster work, this room offers one of the most intimate settings in the House, and is only available when the house is hired exclusively.

THE REVELSTOKE ROOM. This room, named after Dartmouth House's previous owner, has french windows onto the Courtyard and double doors linking it to the Wedgwood Room. The striking rich red, gold and green colour scheme gives the room a warm and luxurious feel. The room also operates as a Leith's restaurant and is open to the public Monday to Friday, from 12 to 2.30pm. For reservations, call 020 7529 1550.

The First Floor: THE LONG AND SMALL DRAWING ROOMS. Overlooking Charles Street and decorated in late 18th century style, these elegant rooms feature an Adam's Fireplace, beautifully draped full-length windows and an ornately carved ceiling. They are ideal for a range of social occasions, conferences or meetings with natural daylight and a quiet, yet central, location. The rooms are connected by large double doors, which can be opened to allow them to be used simultaneously.

THE CHURCHILL ROOM. Featuring some of the finest Louis XIV walnut paneling in the country, the Churchill Room overlooks the Courtyard and is a striking and atmospheric setting for a range of occasions. Popular for receptions and ideal for dinner dances due to the sprung flooring. For more information go to www.esu.org.



ESU - International News



www.global-conversations.org

ESU Members can now join Global Conversations. Anytime, anywhere, ESU members can log on to Global Conversations to:

- ❖ Exchange ideas on the arts, literature, current events, and a range of other topics with fellow ESU members
- ❖ Meet ESU members around the world and get to know them
- ❖ Interact with topic experts

It's available from any online computer, anywhere around the globe. To get started, go to www.global-conversations.org. ESU members can sign up for free and join the conversation today.

Chile Launch

The British Embassy in Santiago was the setting for the ESU Launch of Chile, kindly hosted by HE Mr Howard Drake. Thirty-six international delegates from the UK, USA, Argentina, France, Canada and New Zealand attended, together with members of the ESU Chile committee, and local dignitaries. Also present were several recipients of ESU Scholarships to the International Public Speaking Competition, International Relations Conference and the ESU Shakespeare's Globe Seminar, all of which took place in the UK.

The Ambassador opened proceedings and then introduced Lord Watson, Valerie Mitchell and Richard Collingwood-Selby, Chairman ESU Chile, all of whom spoke. Valerie then introduced representatives from the countries that attended. First to speak was Malcolm Rodman, Chairman of ESU Argentina, who had given tremendous support to ESU Chile in setting up its steering committee. Also among the speakers was Mrs Gloria Early from the Atlanta Branch in the USA who read a message from Mr William R Miller, Chairman of the ESU of the USA and Chairman of the ESU International Council.

The Launch was part of a week-long program of events attended by the international delegates. Lord Watson spoke at Universidad de Los Andes and was made an Honorary Member of the University. There was also a visit to the Chilean British Cultural Institute/Chilean British University where Lord Watson and Valerie

Mitchell spoke. The delegation was rapt by the Final of the ESU Chile Dialogue Competition run in partnership with the Chilean Ministry of Education, for 13 -14 year old students from the maintained and partially-maintained sectors throughout Chile. The delegates also enjoyed a Cultural program of events including a visit to Pablo Neruda's house in Isla Negra, a piano recital at Teatro Municipal and a visit to the Santa Rita vineyard.

Thanks go to HE Mr Howard Drake, to Mr and Mrs Collingwood- Selby and to the ESU Chile Committee for their wonderful hospitality and organization of an outstanding program.

International School Exchange

The pilot exchange between the Branch in Cornwall and the English College in Prague took place in October 2006. Barbora Wachtlová (Bára) and Alžběta Voglová (Betty) visited Dartmouth House on their way to Truro School in Cornwall. Colin McCorquodale Chairman of the London Branch escorted Bára and Betty to the Literary Lecture: "A History of the English-Speaking Peoples Since 1900" given by Andrew Roberts. The students also lunched with Valerie Mitchell and Helen Green, Head of International Programs. ESU staff and the London Branch took the students on shopping and sightseeing tours. The students spent two happy weeks at Truro school and attended an ESU illustrated lecture given by Alison Bevan, Director of the Penlee House Gallery, on The Newlyn School: "A Golden Age of Cornish Art". The two Truro students who visited Prague, Emma Milton and Bex Binton, had an interesting and positive experience, and the two Heads are determined to continue the project next year.

Pilgrim Scholars

On November 17, more than 25 American, Canadian and British SSE scholars made their way to Dartmouth House to celebrate Thanksgiving. They enjoyed a splendid supper with traditional turkey and pumpkin pie. Earlier in the day a briefing had been held for the 12 UK two term scholars going to the US in January. Alumni of the program and current US scholars helped to make the evening a great success. The SSE gap year scholarships enable British and North American students to spend a year studying at a school in Britain. If you would like more information or application forms, please contact Katherine Plummer at Dartmouth House. For more information go to www.esu.org.

Shakespeare at the Huntington- The Art of Teaching Shakespeare

-Peggy Spear

Plans are already well underway for the second two-week teacher training workshop. Based on the success of last year's workshop, the ESULA will once again partner with the Huntington Library in San Marino. The Huntington Library will take on much of the responsibility for fundraising and once again supply the venue, while the ESULA will continue to take charge of faculty development and participant recruitment.

I have had my share of professional development over the years. Most of the time spent was not conducive to development of any kind. This course is the exception. It has provided me with the tools to develop a number of different and valuable approaches to teaching Shakespeare. It's given me something to think about and much to use-and the inspiration to get back and plunge into it next fall!" - (Participant in 2006 workshop)

Under the leadership of Louis Fantasia, former Director of the London Shakespeare Globe Center's Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance Institute (1997-2002), The Art of Teaching Shakespeare covers the use of performance as a critical method for understanding Shakespeare. Through a rigorous and exciting schedule of participatory workshops, traditional lectures, theater attendance, and critical discussions, The Art of Teaching Shakespeare provides secondary school teachers with new tools to develop students' dynamic participation in Shakespeare's works. An international faculty of distinguished scholars, master teachers, and theater practitioners works closely with 20 selected participants on a variety of core topics including scene analysis, voice, movement, acting and directing techniques, curriculum development, and research techniques. The course includes field trips to the Getty and Norton Simon Museums, Los Angeles area theaters, and major attractions such as the Hollywood Bowl or Universal Studios, as well as an introduction to the Huntington Library's world-renowned collection of Shakespeare materials, including First Folios. Tuition is \$300, plus room and board and travel expenses. The Art of Teaching Shakespeare aims to give teachers tools and strategies that will inspire and encourage, challenge and prepare them and their students to encounter the greatest language, action and characters the world has ever known-with successful results! Participation in the training program is by application only. If you would like to sponsor or recommend a teacher to participate in the program please contact Rebecca Rasmussen, ESULA Branch Coordinator: rebecca.esu@earthlink.net. For general information on the program go to <http://esula.org/teachers.htm>

ESU Christmas Party-A Resounding Success



Good company,...



good food,...

and a lot of good entertaining silliness.



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Visit: www.esula.org

SAVE THE DATE

March 4, 2007
2007 Shakespeare Competition Finals
Huntington Library

March 24, 2007
David Sefton-UCLA Live
“His Journey to LA”
The home of Mary Lois Nevis at 4:00 pm

April 21-24, 2007
2007 Shakespeare Competition
In New York

April , 2007
Professor Alkon PhD
“Winston Churchill’s Imagination “
Time and place to be announced

May 18-20, 2007
Regional Meeting
Westin Hotel, Pasadena

June , 2007
Speaker to be announced
Time and place to be announced

July , 2007
Speaker to be announced
Time and place to be announced

September , 2007
Garden Party
Time and place to be announced

October , 2007
Tour of the Getty Museum-Santa Monica
Time to be announced

November , 2007
Speaker to be announced
Time and place to be announced