



BRANCH NEWS

P. O. Box 758, Winter Park, FL 32790-0758

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September 2015

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

Monday, September 14, 2015

3:30 p.m. Refreshments; 4:00 p.m. Program

The University Club of Winter Park

***Dr. Jerry Schiffhorst
Presents***

The Notorious Mitford Sisters

In the 1930s, and for some decades thereafter, the six daughters of Baron and Lady Redesdale were famous not only for their books and their beauty but for redefining English eccentricity. One became an American Communist, two were Nazi sympathizers, and one became the Duchess of Devonshire. Related to Winston Churchill and the Kennedys, with friends ranging from Hitler to Maya Angelou, the Mitford sisters shocked the world, proving that well-behaved women rarely make history. Their story reveals the often cozy relation between the British ruling class and Nazi Germany in the years before World War II.



Program Leader: Dot Cline

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To my fellow Club Members of E-SU,



I am pleased and honored to be your next President of our wonderful organization, the English Speaking Union of Central Florida! Serving as Michael Kakos' Executive Vice President for a few years and attending National and Regional Meetings gave me the chance to become familiar with the administration of the Union. It also helped identify opportunities for the future, including continuing to focus on E-SU's goal to increase our membership.

A great reason to be proud of E-SU is our sponsorship of teachers for summers in England. They return as better teachers for the experience, with benefits that are shared with thousands of students over their teaching careers. Sharing these stories of success can help grow our organization for the benefit of current and future members. Also, we can continue to support teachers during the year by welcoming them to our E-SU community as new members. Changing a few of our meeting times would enable teachers and other working professionals to join E-SU. We must also maintain the convenient meeting time for existing members.

This is one idea for E-SU's future, but we need more—and we need yours! How can you help? Tell a friend about E-SU, bring someone to our next program or meeting, think of a new way to market our organization or a potential new community partner, and share your ideas on growing our membership with our Membership Committee, chaired by Gisela Davis. I look forward to working with you and to serving you as your next President of the English Speaking Union!

Frank Paul Barber, President

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

We are sending our September Newsletter via email! If we do not have your email address on file, we will send the newsletter via regular mail. Let us know via an email, if you prefer a mailed version of our Newsletter. We will be able to save printing and postage costs if the majority of members receive an emailed copy!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



- * *James Brendlinger*
- * *Vern and Linell Ela*
- * *Gilda Gomez*
- * *A. Jane Hall*
- * *Lisa Isaacs-Nugent*
- * *Richard and Phyllis
Levine*

A Note from the Central Florida Branch's 2015 Shakespeare Competition Winner

Anasia Clayton, Sophomore at Cypress Creek High School



"I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends," Richard II, Act 2, scene 3. These famous words were written by a great man by the name of William Shakespeare. I was overjoyed to hear many of Shakespeare's sonnets and plays performed, this past April, during the English-Speaking Union's National Shakespeare Competition, in New York City. In this year's competition, I had the great honor of representing the Central Florida branch of the ESU as a semi-finalist. The Shakespeare competition was a great and unique experience for me. I was, and still am, surprised by how much I enjoyed participating in such a great competition.

Before I reached the competition, I was anxious about going. I feared what I would be faced with and the people I would encounter. However, once I stepped through the doors at the entrance of the ESU-US headquarters in New York City, everything seemed to change. I was pleasantly surprised by the awaiting faces inviting me to join them. Everyone was so willing to scoot over and create more room for whoever walked in next. You could feel the bubbling excitement as everyone met and started forming bonds. In this trip, I was surrounded by great, friendly, and talented youth who will, no doubt, succeed greatly in life. I met so many great people and am delighted by how kind and joyful everyone turned out to be. By the end of the trip, tears were shed as new friends had to leave and go back to their respective home-states. During the last hours, you heard many semi-finalists express that they wished that the trip could last longer, and I would have to agree, completely.

This trip was also such a great learning experience. On one of the days, the semi-finalists were taken to NYU's Tisch School of the Arts to attend an acting workshop. The workshop was extremely fun and enlightening. The different experiences helped us with the development of different social skills and brought all of us closer. We took part in various activities that stretched our acting skills and helped us with thinking quickly. In some of the activities, we really had to trust each other and rely on our group. In that workshop, we portrayed and experienced a range of emotions, from joy to shock, and from excitement to a sense of community. Without a doubt, we left that room different people than we were when we had entered; we had become a theatrical Shakespearean-loving family. Some of the other noteworthy highlights of the weekend: I attended a performance of the Broadway play *Something Rotten!*; the competition venue was the renowned Lincoln Center; and competition participants enjoyed lunch together at the Julliard School.



I really enjoyed this trip and am extremely grateful. Even though I was nervous before going up on stage, the friends I had made were there for me, encouraging me as I walked onto the stage. Shakespearean words flowed out of my mouth as I became my character (monologue from Henry VI Part 3, Act 2) and recited my sonnet (71). All the work I had put in was displayed as I strode across the stage, letting my words dance across the ears of everyone in the room. I am proud of myself and everyone else who graced the stage. I had such an enjoyable time in New York with all of the participants and am overjoyed that I got to take part in such a great and memorable demonstration.

Drey Projects – Completed and Planned

The last two 2014-2015 Drey Education Projects were completed in July. The Young Company of The Orlando Shakespeare Theater, all local middle and high school students, gave three performances of *Macbeth* to packed audiences. Shakespeare with Heart, the OST young group with physical needs and non-needs students of ages 12 to 21, gave a remarkable presentation of *The Tempest*. The audience responded enthusiastically to the true joy of the performers.

Since our Central Florida Branch's budget is now in place by June 30, the Drey Endowment fund will remain the same in 2015-2016 as in 2014-2015. Project grants will be announced by the end of October 2015.

Donna M. Miller
V.P., Drey Endowment

President Kakos Retirement Presentation

Central Florida Branch President, Michael Kakos, received a commemorative plaque from Incoming President Frank Barber at the final program of the year at the WP University Club on May 11, 2015. It recognized his three-year term which ended on June 30, 2015. Michael thanked the record number of members in attendance for their continued support of the E-SU and the Central Florida Branch Programs.



Teenager from Hawaii Wins E-SU National Shakespeare Competition

NATIONAL NEWS



(l to r - Third place winner, Elizabeth Mears, winner Sarah Spalding and Second place winner Evelyn Johnson)

New York City, April 27, 2015 -- With a performance of a sonnet and monologue from Shakespeare, **Sarah Spalding**, a student of John Watt at Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu, won first prize at the 32nd annual English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition. The Competition was held on April 27th at Lincoln Center Theater in New York City for 57 winners of ESU Branch competitions nationwide. Sarah had previously won the ESU Hawaii Branch regional competition. Her prize for placing first is a full scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art's Young Actors Summer School in London, England.

The runner up of the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition, **Evelyn Johnson**, representing the Philadelphia Branch of the ESU, won a full scholarship to the American Shakespeare Center's Theatre Camp in Staunton, Virginia. Third place winner, **Elizabeth Mears**, representing the Boston Branch of the ESU, won \$500 from The Shakespeare Society.

The finalists were:

Alfred Bardwell-Evans - Charlottesville Branch

Angelo Chukwudebe - San Francisco Branch

Hale Stewart - Phoenix Branch

Koria Johnson - Sandhills Branch

Andrew Davis - Austin Branch

Harry Thornton - Chicago Branch

Willington Vuelto - New York Branch



The English-Speaking Union

Central Florida Branch
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E-SU PROGRAMS 2015-2016

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ☺ Oct. 19 - Dinner at WP Racquet Club
- ☺ Nov. 9 - Mtg. at the University Club
- ☺ Dec. 7 - Mtg. at the University Club
- ☺ Jan. 25 - Dinner at WP Racquet Club
- ☺ Feb. 8 - Mtg. at the University Club
- ☺ Feb. 29 - Mtg. at the University Club
- ☺ Mar. 14 - Mtg. at the University Club
- ☺ Apr. 18 - Mtg. at the University Club
- ☺ May 9 - Mtg. at the University Club

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH
Membership Application**

- ☐ I wish to become a member of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.
- ☐ I wish to renew my membership of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.

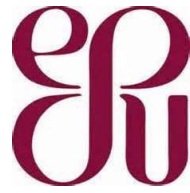
Please send a check for \$45 (single membership) or \$60 (couple membership) to the **English-Speaking Union, PO Box 758, Winter Park, FL 32790-0758.**

Name and Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone, Fax, and Email _____

Visit the E-SU Central Florida website at www.E-SUus.org/centralflorida for more information.



The English-Speaking Union
Education. Scholarship. Understanding.



English-Speaking Union
2015 Annual Conference
New York City
October 10-12



Join fellow ESU Members in New York for a Columbus Day weekend filled with camaraderie and activities that highlight George Washington's time in the city. The Conference will comprise ESU Regional Meetings, the ESU Annual General Meeting with substantive presentations on the ESU's national educational programs, the activities of the Branches and models for a vibrant and energetic ESU in the future.

Activities

- ❖ Pre-Conference Board Meeting and Branch President's Conclave*
- ❖ Opening Reception for all Members on Saturday night followed by dinner with acclaimed historical biographer Flora Fraser, whose newest work examines the Washingtons' marriage
- ❖ ESU Annual General Meeting and Regional Meetings
- ❖ Lunch with speaker
- ❖ Tours of Historic Sites in Lower Manhattan pertinent to George Washington
- ❖ Reception for National Patrons at the storied Morris-Jumel Mansion, Washington's Headquarters during the Revolutionary War
- ❖ Sunday Brunch at ESU National Headquarters



*For Branch Presidents and National Board Members Only

Lodging

Accommodations will be provided by the DoubleTree Metropolitan Hotel located at 569 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10022. This renovated, iconic New York City hotel is steps from Park Avenue, Madison Avenue shopping, the United Nations, Central Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Broadway theaters and The Museum of Modern Art. Designed by the famous architect Morris Lapidus, the hotel was restored and converted in summer 2012 into the DoubleTree Metropolitan Hotel. To make reservations, call 1-800-222-8733 and mention the **English-Speaking Union** room block, or group code **ESU**, or reserve online at www.dtnewyork.com using registration code **ESU**. **All reservations must be made before September 9, 2015.**



Discounted room rates for Friday and Saturday nights: \$339

Discounted room rate for Sunday night: \$269



English-Speaking Union
2015 Annual Conference
October 10 - 12, 2015
New York, New York



General Washington Takes New York

All events at DoubleTree Metropolitan Hotel unless otherwise noted

Preliminary Schedule
Times are subject to change

Saturday, 10/10

9:30 am - 5:00 pm	Registration
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	National Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Board and Branch Presidents' Lunch*
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Board and Presidents' Conclave*
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Reception
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Dinner with keynote speaker Flora Fraser

Sunday, 10/11

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Regional Meetings
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Annual General Meeting
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Reception for National Patrons at Morris-Jumel Mansion

Monday, 10/12

9:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakfast at ESU House
11:00 am - 2:00 pm	Bus/Walking tour of George Washington's New York & visit to Federal Hall
2:00 pm	Buses will return to DoubleTree Metropolitan Hotel or conferees may continue to tour on their own and perhaps have lunch at Fraunces Tavern.

**For National Board Members and Branch Presidents only.*

Registrant information:

Name: _____

Name as it should appear on badge : _____

Branch: _____ Office(s) held in ESU: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

☐ I am / We are National Patrons and will attend the Patron reception. (Please indicate number in party) _____.

☐ I / We will stay at DoubleTree Metropolitan Hotel

DoubleTree Metropolitan Hotel accommodations are available at a discounted group rate for Friday and Saturday nights at \$339 and Sunday night at \$269. To reserve, call 1-800-222-8733 and mention the English-Speaking Union or at www.dtnewyork.com using reservation code ESU. All reservations must be made before September 9, 2015.

I / We will attend the Conference # of people _____ @ \$485 per person = \$ _____

Conference Registration Total: \$ _____

Please indicate method of payment:

Total Payment: \$ _____

_____ Payment by check: (payable to The English-Speaking Union)

Credit Card Payment: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as it Appears on Card: _____

Billing address: _____

Cardholder signature _____

Return this form with payment by mail or fax (front and back) to:

Conference Coordinator
The English-Speaking Union
144 East 39th Street | New York, NY, 10016
Phone: 212.818.1200 | Fax: 212.867.4177 | E-mail: info@esuus.org

Conference Cancellation Policy: Written notice (fax, email or post) is required to cancel your Conference registration. A \$25 processing fee will be charged for cancellations made prior to September 11, 2015. After that date, all fees are non-refundable.

Monday, October 19, 2015

English Speaking Union Dinner

The Winter Park Racquet Club 2111 Via Tuscany, Winter Park
overlooking Lake Maitland

Our Guest Presenters will be:

Dr. John Sinclair and Musical/Choral Group from Rollins College
"The Songs and Glees of the British"

We will gather for a cocktail reception at 6:00 and dinner will be served at 6:45p.m. Black tie is the optional attire for the gentlemen, while the ladies may want to don their most elegant dinner gowns.

Reservations are required.

The Menu:

Appetizers

*Mesclun Salad Greens with Tomato Petals, Julienne Cucumbers,
Herb Cheese Crostini, Olives, and Balsamic Vinaigrette*

Tuscan Filet Mignon

Escalope Gruyere Potatoes

Asparagus Bundles

Mocha Java Pie with Strawberry Sauce

Coffee, Tea or Decaffeinated Coffee

White and Red House Wines with dinner

Check for \$45 per person should be made payable to The English Speaking Union and mailed with this reservation request to **Barbara Hughes, 246 Balfour Drive, Winter Park, Florida, 32792** to be received **no later than Tuesday, September 29, 2015.** Any questions, please call Barbara Hughes at 321 279-1133.

Tables will be assigned and group seating may be arranged for this event. Group reservations will be accepted for any number of people, up to **SIX** per table, but checks for the entire group **must** be enclosed with your reservation request to guarantee seats together. **Seating arrangements will be made based upon the date of the receipt of the check ...** In other words... **"First come First seated."** There is ample room for seating up to 130.

Please note the earlier than normal reservation date!! Thank You!

Reserve _____ places for me (us) for the dinner at *the Winter Park Racquet Club* on Monday, October 19, 2015
\$ _____ is enclosed (@\$45 each).

Names of those covered in this request (Please Print):

Person sending request

Your Telephone Number