

National Chair Pat Schroeder addresses ESU/LA members in September:



By Peggy Spear
Over 50 members of ESU/LA gathered at Lawry's Restaurant in Los Angeles on September 20 to meet Pat Schroeder, National Chair of the English Speaking Union.

Pat brings to ESU exceptional leadership skills, a delightful sense of humor, and great personal warmth. All were in evidence during the luncheon. She shared her perspective on the new mission statement, and her concerns about the future of the ESU at a time of an aging membership and dwindling volunteer involvement across the country. She

then went on to describe her experiences as an outspoken female member of Congress over 22 years, and her valiant efforts to break the male lock on that distinguished House. Her candor and humor during a prolonged question period won over everyone in attendance.

We left convinced we were in good hands, as she takes the reins of the national organization and works to strengthen its programs and extend its reach across the country. ©

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The English-Speaking Union—Los Angeles Branch

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

Creating friendship and global understanding through English

Membership Information

Individual, family and corporate membership is available. For membership information Visit our website at:

www.esula.org

Or write to:

ESULA
P.O. Box 40313
Pasadena, CA 91114

Or email us at:

LABranch@esuus.org

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President's Message

-Peggy Spear

Dear Friends,

As we start a new year of ESU/LA programs, I'm grateful for the opportunities that you will read about in this newsletter. The Shakespeare Competition and Awards Dinner, a marvelous talk on pirates and piracy by Adrian Tinniswood, a distinguished British author and historian, continued work on a long range plan to strengthen the branch ...all designed to invigorate our branch and extend its reach.

At the national conference in Denver in September, Jean Bruce Poole and I were taken with a debate program for middle school students recently launched by the national office in two cities, Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio. We have been invited to apply as one of ten cities across the country to undertake it, and since it seems well suited to our diverse school population, as well as reaching a new generation of youngsters, we hope to undertake the planning phase later this year. We understand that it takes two to three years of planning and organization before bearing fruit, in the form of an organized debate competition, and that seems realistic. It will require building partnerships within local school districts, and with experienced college teachers, so we urge anyone interested in participating to let us know of your interest.

Change seems to be the reality we face in so many areas of our lives, and the ESU/LA is no exception. I regret to report that three members of the Board have resigned, for a variety of reasons: Denise Nighman, our brilliant Program Chair for more years than I care to count; Susan Adkins, who did a fine job as her second in command this past year, and Ramiro Perez, our Treasurer, who has been promoted to a regional director for his firm, a position that requires extensive and frequent travel. We will miss them all, as each has added special skills, perspectives, and enthusiasm to our meetings. We will keep you informed as we find members to take their places. Please let me know if you have any suggestions, as we want to reach out as widely as possible.

Wishing you a peaceful, productive, and happy New Year,

With warm regards,



Peggy C. Spear
President

ESU loses long-time member, David Alexander

By Peggy Spear

David Alexander, former President of Pomona College and American Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, passed away on July 25, 2010 after a long battle with cancer.

A 1954 Rhodes Scholar, David earned a D.Phil in Theology from Oxford University in 1957. He was an ardent advocate of the British-American partnership, as those who heard him speak at the Region VIII Conference in Pasadena several years ago will attest.

He will be greatly missed.



A Word about Denise Nighman

By Jean Bruce Poole

We are sad to say goodbye and thank you to Denise Nighman as a member of the Board of the Los Angeles Branch.

Denise was born and raised in Liverpool and studied speech education at Nottingham. She worked in special education in Liverpool and London for several years. In 1968 she moved to California and for thirty five years she trained special education teachers and established programs in Head Start schools. While in Liverpool, Denise joined the ESU and continued her membership in Los Angeles. She became a member of the Board of the Los Angeles Branch in 1991 and served as Event Chairperson. She planned and executed many events for the Los Angeles Branch. She was always attracted by the international goal of spreading global understanding through the use of the English language.

President Peggy Spear said of Denise that she, "had sustained and nourished this Branch in good times and bad over the years. Her warm and gracious hospitality set the standard for our events and her dedication and good humour will be sorely missed. A whole series of Branch Presidents has relied on her charm and social skills to organize the myriad events and even more members have benefitted from her loyalty and pizzazz." We will miss her!

"Shakespeare at the Huntington" Institute

By Louis Fantasia

For the fifth exciting summer, English and drama teachers from Southern California schools gathered at the Huntington Library for two weeks of intense Shakespearean study at the ESU/Huntington "Shakespeare at the Huntington" institute.

Twenty select teachers, from both elementary and secondary levels, worked five days a week, from 9:30 to 5, with a distinguished international faculty which included author-director Charles Duff from London, Dr. Louis W Scheeder, the Associate Dean of the NYU School of the Arts, Lisa Wolpe, director of the LA Women's Shakespeare Company, and Louis Fantasia, the institute's director and an ESU-LA Board member.

The 2010 institute focused on "Mercy, Justice and Power" in Shakespeare's plays. The selected texts were: *Merchant of Venice*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Henry VIII*. The theme for this year's program is "Money, Misery and Morality" in Shakespeare's plays. The selected texts for 2011 will be: *Henry VI*, *Timon of Athens*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Pericles*.

The dates for the workshop are July 11-22, 2011. The fee for the course is \$250, which includes the cost of theatre tickets and attendance at museums. Interested teachers should contact Louis Fantasia at LFantasia101@yahoo.co.uk.

Christmas Party

Photos By Barbara Barbarics



Travel to London to Celebrate the Royal Wedding

Dear English-Speaking Union Member,

There has been an enthusiastic response to our proposed trip to London at the time of the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton created exclusively for ESU members. Our agent, Eric McFerran of Travelong, working with The NoteWorthy Group in the UK, has put together the exciting tour described in the attached materials. This tour is unusual in that the turnaround time is so short because the demand on London hotels is already at an all-time high. And, as we get closer to the wedding itself, appealing opportunities related to it will likely arise that may change the itinerary. However, based on the experience of the 60+ members who participated in Eric's trip at the time of the Royal Wedding of Charles and Diana, ESU members will have a peerless opportunity to visit some extraordinary British treasures and to celebrate this historic and joyous occasion along with all of London.

I urge you to sign up immediately for this splendid adventure. You can call into Travelong (1-800-223-4275 ext 421) with credit card information for your deposit and follow that with a completed application, or you can fill in the application attached and mail, email or fax it along with your deposit check to Travelong. Travelong will need the deposits from at least 20 people by January 21 to go forward with the trip.

As provider of this exclusive tour, the ESU is asking each traveler to make a tax-deductible contribution to the ESU of \$300 to advance our mission "to celebrate English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members." I think you will agree that this trip is a good example of one of those cultural opportunities!

Bon voyage,

Alice Boyne

President & Executive Director

The English-Speaking Union of the United States

For more information about this trip please visit: <http://esuus.org/specialoffers.htm>

Exclusive offer to all ESU US members

Lufthansa Private Jet (LPJ) is proud to offer an exclusive discount of

10% off regular LPJ fare

to all ESU members that reside in the US. This offer is valid for bookings until June 30th, 2011 with travel completed by Dec 31st, 2011. Travel needs to be booked and ticketed in the US via the LPJ service team. Please contact the LPJ service team and mention 'ESU discount'.

For more information please visit: <http://esuus.org/lufthansaprivatejet.htm>



Board Member Louis Fantasia directs American Premiere of a new comedy.

The Beverly Hills Psychiatrist

Written by
Cornelius Schnauber

Directed by
Louis Fantasia

Starring:
Alexander Zale
Tony Motzenbacher
and
Lene Pedersen

USC's Max Kade Institute
in cooperation with
The German American Cultural Society
presents the American premiere of
Two Plays by **Cornelius Schnauber**
Directed by **Louis Fantasia**

The Beverly Hills Psychiatrist
Starring: **Tony Motzenbacher** and **Alexander Zale**

Highway One
Starring: **Lene Pedersen**

Opening Sat, **January 29th**
Running thru Sun, **March 6th**
Fri, Sat @ 8pm, Sun @ 3pm
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www.plays411.com/beverlyhills

The Lounge Theatre
6201 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90038
\$10 Preview • \$20 General Admission
\$15.00 Seniors & Students - Use Promo Code 007

In "The Beverly Hills Psychiatrist," a writer desperately seeking relief from his neuroses embarks on a protracted course of therapy with the eponymous doctor. What ensues in this satirical comedy is a series of weekly sessions of mind-games, confessions and, ultimately, role reversals. But you won't easily predict how this darkly comic narrative resolves.

Our modern culture of therapy is ripe for a comedic probe.

Alexander Zale and Tony Motzenbacher star as therapist and patient. Zale has appeared at Lincoln Center and the Public Theater in New York, the Seattle Rep, D.C.'s Arena Stage, and locally, the Taper, PRT and the Odyssey.

Tony Motzenbacher has played roles ranging from Sherlock Holmes to Karl Marx. Also a playwright, his play "RAY-KA-PAY" won L.A. Weekly and Drama-Logue Awards.

The bill includes a curtain-raiser, "Jessica's Monologue," extracted from a longer play, "Highway One." An opera diva, in a reflective mood as she prepares to go on stage for a final rehearsal of "Aida," is suddenly given a big surprise which will be life-altering. Lene Pedersen stars.

Lene Pedersen, a former Miss Norway, starred in "Winter" (Best of 2008- L.A. Times) and also performed in "A Doll's House," "Peer Gynt," "Talk to Me Like The Rain and Let Me Listen" and "Join and Split." She has also appeared in a long list of independent films.

"The Beverly Hills Psychiatrist" was translated from the German by John Howard and Anne Adams. "Jessica's Monologue" was translated by Anne Adams.

Louis Fantasia directs the evening's

(Continued on page 7)

Join the English-Speaking Union!

Membership is valid July 1 through June 30 each year.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ MOBILE PHONE: _____

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E-MAIL: _____

Individual: \$65.00 Couple: \$95.00 Branch Patron: \$200.00*

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

I enclose my check made payable to **The English Speaking Union** or

I prefer to pay by credit card: Visa MasterCard AMEX

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail your complete application to: ESU-LA, P.O. Box 40313, Pasadena, CA 91114

Your membership dues may be tax deductible. Please consult with your tax advisor.

(Continued from page 6)

two pieces. With over 150 credits world-wide including plays, operas and musicals, his most recent L.A. productions include the acclaimed “The Arab-Israeli Cookbook” and “Charlotte: Life or Theatre?,” and his own performance in Patrick Suskind’s “The Double Bass.”

Playwright Cornelius Schnauber is Professor Emeritus of German at USC. A renowned scholar, historian, biographer and educator as well as playwright, his recently produced works in Los Angeles include “Irma and Emma,” “Heydrich/Hitler/Holocaust” and “Richard and Felix: Twilight in Venice.” The latter was one of the Ring Festival events concurrent with L.A. Opera’s production of the Wagner Ring Cycle.

Got troubles? Come see “The Beverly Hills Psychiatrist.” He’s got the cure for what ails you!

COME SEE “THE BEVERLY HILLS PSYCHIATRIST” AT THE LOUNGE THEATRE; OPENS JANUARY 29
WHAT: “The Beverly Hills Psychiatrist.” American Premiere of a new comedy.

WHO: Written by Cornelius Schnauber. Directed by Louis Fantasia. Presented by The Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies at USC in co-operation with The German-American Cultural Society.

WHERE: The Lounge Theatre 2, 6201 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90038.

WHEN: Previews Friday, January 28. Opens Saturday, January 29, 2011, runs through Sunday, March 6.

Show times: Fri. & Sat. at 8, Sun. at 3.

ADMISSION: \$20. Students and seniors \$15 (Use promo code 007). Preview: \$10.

ADMISSION: (323) 960-4418.

ONLINE TICKETING: www.Plays411.com/beverlyhills



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Save the date

For information or to make a reservation please call:
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February 26, 2011

Shakespeare Competition Semi-Finals

10am-1:30pm at Marlborough School, Los Angeles, CA. All are welcome to attend this first stage of the Shakespeare Competition free-of-charge. Box Lunches available for pre-order at \$7.50 each. Please call to reserve your lunch.

March 6, 2011

Shakespeare Competition Finals & Awards

Banquet

4:00pm at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens.

March 27, 2011

Evelyn Wrench Speaker

Adrian Tinniswood will speak on The Pirates of Barbary

Home of Richard Gower, Venice, CA. 3pm-6pm.

April/May 2011

Garden Party TBD.

July 11-22, 2011

Shakespeare at the Huntington—teacher workshop

July 22, 2011

Reception honoring teachers.

The Newsletter Looks Great in Color

You can see the newsletter in color by going to esuus.org/forms.htm and opening a file of the current, as well as past, newsletters. Of course rather than receiving the black and white printed version, you can ask our Branch Manager to send you the color Newsletter via email. That way you get the color version and save the ESULA 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 Rasmussen Tufenkian our Branch Manager at: LABranch@esuus.org. ☺

