



The English-Speaking Union

Los Angeles Branch
Education, Scholarship, Understanding

NEWSLETTER

President's Letter: October 2012

ESULA Board of Directors

Peggy Spear, President

Barbara Barbarics, Recording Secretary

Bette Cook, Treasurer

Donald Cook, Member at Large

Louis Fantasia, Educational Programs

Richard S. Gower, Member at Large

Barbara Martin, Development Consultant

Ginger Menke, Member at Large

Priscilla Moorman, Member at Large

Isabel Murphy-Sweida,
Member at Large

Mary Lois Nevins, Member at Large

Andrea Nolan, Member at Large

Meredith Parry, Program Chair

Jean Bruce Poole, President Emeritus
& Shakespeare Co-Chair

Christopher Wright, Shakespeare
Co-Chair

Susanna Adkins, Branch Manager

Dear Friends,

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 21, and a new slate of officers appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Please join me in welcoming Richard Gower, a past president, as your President-elect.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your President, and want to express my personal appreciation to the Board for their unflagging support. Their enthusiasm and loyalty create a powerful sense of community, and I treasure the friendships that have taken root in our branch. I hope this sense of warm fellowship translates to you, our members.

Looking back over the past three years, I realize how important partnerships are today, and how much progress we have made in building partnerships. Our relationship with the Huntington Library as co-sponsor of the Shakespeare Teacher Workshop is now well established. Relations between the branch and the national office have never been better. Chris Broadwell has done an excellent job of centralizing membership, making the process more efficient and effective; the national office is providing strong direction in bringing the branches into compliance with IRS regulations; and an exciting travel program is under way. All of these promise a more effective, resilient, and well-managed organization in the future. In addition, our branch is cooperating with other like-minded organizations, such as the Colonial Dames of California, to strengthen on-going programs.

Finally, we are encouraged by the strong response to membership renewals over the summer, and look forward to talking with you during the year. If you have not yet renewed your 2013 membership, now is the time to do it. In addition to the annual meeting in October, you will receive invitations to a November luncheon with Simon Claxton, our Twelfth Night Party, the Shakespeare Awards dinner, and a lecture, Mark Twain's Holy Land Revisited, by Lord Strathcarron, our Evelyn Wrench speaker, in April. Please join us for one or more of these exciting programs in various Los Angeles locations.

With all good wishes,

Peggy Spear

Meet our new ESULA Board Members!!!

Andrea Nolan



Andrea was born in the UK to a Scottish mother and English father, and received a degree in English at Malvern College in England. She joined TWA as a stewardess for a year, visited Southern California, and made it her home. Her career continued as Manager of Special Events for the Peterson Publishing Company, generating a lifelong passion for vintage cars and all things automotive. Andrea then joined an insurance company and earned California Tax Preparer and Real Estate licenses while monitoring financial systems and investment practices for the owner family.

Currently, Andrea serves as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the UCLA Affiliates, and also serves on the Board of Arts Olympus. She is active as a volunteer House Manager at Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House. DBE. Her management skills and financial background make her a welcome addition to the ESU/LA Board.

Andrea is a long-term member of the English Speaking Union. She waxed eloquent on the subject of the ESU trip to the Royal Wedding in 2011, and recommends such travel in the future.

Isabel Murphy-Sweida



Isabel Murphy-Sweida was born in Kent, and educated at Gravesend. Along with a sister and three brothers, she traveled as a child to Germany, Ceylon, and Khartoum in the Sudan, where her father, an Army officer and mechanical engineer, was posted. To this day, she enjoys meeting people from different places, and treasures friends all over the world.

Isabel joined Barclay's Bank in the UK, and came to Los Angeles in the late sixties to help open a Los Angeles office. There, she met her husband, Joseph Sweida. Later Isabel went to work for CalFed, and later still for a Japanese bank in Los Angeles. She and her husband decided to become members of the English Speaking Union after winning tickets to an ESU event at a British American Business Council gathering. She lives on the outskirts of Whittier, and enjoys reading and gardening. She looks forward to working on the Board and meeting more branch members.

...We enjoyed an exciting June!....

June 30, 2012



QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE

GARDEN PARTY

On the 30th of June the ESU joined with *The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California* to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation. With the kind support of Brian and Maryanne Kennedy who offered their home in Hancock Park as a venue for the event over 90 people from San Diego to Santa Barbara joined together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.



Barbara Beckham's creative catering lent a special ambience which was accompanied by a bar hosting Pimm's Cup, a selection of wines, and soft drinks. Activities included a book sale, a silent auction, a raffle, and a drawing for a Kindle.

Guests were entertained by an audio recording of radio reports of the actual event and a special presentation of expertly crafted replicas of royal crowns by Roman Borak.



A champagne toast by Chris Wright was finished off by a piper playing *God Save the Queen*.

....and we had another successful Shakespeare Teachers' Workshop in July!

“Shakespeare at the Huntington” Celebrates its Eighth Season of Training Teachers

This summer, for the eighth season, secondary school English and Drama teachers convened at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino to work with ESU-LA Board member Louis Fantasia and the distinguished faculty of scholars, theatre practitioners and educators for two intense weeks in July.



The twenty-two teachers, mainly from Southern California, had a full program of voice, movement, scene study and text analysis, as well as classroom techniques and scholarly research. Study tours included visits to the Getty Center, the Getty Villa, the Norton Simon Museum and the rare books collection of Huntington. As a group, the teachers saw several Shakespeare plays during the two weeks, including MEASURE FOR MEASURE, TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA, WINTER'S TALE and MACBETH.

“I have learned SO much...” wrote one participant. “I have had so many epiphanies and moments of inspiration, that at one point today I was actually feeling euphoric. I won't lie, I am totally overwhelmed, but there is no doubt that I will be able to take a good portion of this to the classroom. At first, I was thinking that two weeks was a bit much, but now I'm sure that 10 weeks would not be enough... There is no doubt that with more teacher programs like this one, there would be a dramatic increase in the quality of education. I know that sounds like a dramatic statement, but I am so sincere when I say that.”

The distinguished faculty that comes together each summer includes scholars and teachers from New York University, the University of Texas at Austin, Shakespeare's Globe in London, as well as distinguished local actors, teachers and scholars.

Louis Fantasia, director of the program since its inception since in 2005, and director of the London Globe's “Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance” teacher training institute from 1997 to 2002, believes that the Huntington has become one of the nation's pre-eminent teacher training programs.

“Of course I'm prejudiced,” said Fantasia, “But I believe we have developed and refined our program so that it addresses the needs of teachers today, making Shakespeare vibrant and alive for all students. The fact that over the past two years we have started to reach out, with the help of ESU National Headquarters, and draw participants from outside Southern California, shows the impact we are having. Two other signs of our success are the number of returning teachers who return to take the course more than once, and the support we are getting from corporations and foundations to continue to expand the program.”

Teachers interested in the 2013 summer program should contact Susan Adkins for more information: Susannaadkins@sbcglobal.net

Los Angeles Branch of the English Speaking Union

Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 2012

Presented by the Nomination Committee:
Jean Bruce Poole, Barbara Martin, Ginger Menke and Don Cook

Slate of Officers for Election

President: Richard Gower

Secretary: Barbara Barberics

Treasurer: Bette Cook

...and looking ahead to November....

Meeting William Faulkner: How an English Schoolboy Found a Literary Lion
Wednesday, November 28*

**additional details regarding time and place will follow in invitation*

From the fall of 1961 to spring of 1962, Simon Claxton was a 17-year-old English schoolboy on an English Speaking Union Exchange Scholarship to The Cate School, a private school in Santa Barbara, California. Having chosen William Faulkner as the subject of his 12th Grade Author Report, Simon tried to arrange a meeting with the great writer. By lucky chance he had one of the last interviews with the reclusive Faulkner before he died in July 1962. This lecture features a dramatized reading of this interview, linked with Simon's impressions of Faulkner's writing before and since, all within the context of his wonderfully memorable year as an ESU exchange student

Simon Claxton studied English at Queens' College, Cambridge. He taught for ten years at Radley College, an English school that was an early participant in the British-American Summer School exchange program. Following a year's teaching in New Zealand, Mr. Claxton was Head of the English Department at Hazelwood Preparatory School in Surrey and Knight House School in Dorset.

ESU-LA 2012-2013 CALENDAR



OCT 21 4:00 pm Wine Tasting and Annual Meeting
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gower,
607 San Juan Avenue Venice, CA 90291 Reservations \$20

NOV 28 'Meeting William Faulkner: How an English Schoolboy Found
a Literary Lion', presented by Simon Claxton

JAN 5 Twelfth Night Party

FEB 23 Shakespeare Semi-finals Competition
Marlborough School, Los Angeles

MAR 9/10 Shakespeare Finals Competition



APR 14 Evelyn Wrench Speaker, Lord Strathcarron, presents
'Mark Twain's Holy Land Revisited'

JULY (tba) Teachers' Reception

ESULAB Branch
PO Box 40313
Pasadena, CA 91114

For further information: Meredith Parry: Murduck1@aol.com
Susan Adkins: SusannaAdkins@sbcglobal.net