ESU CALENDAR

APRIL
8 - Mixer – 5 – 7 PM
   Luau at the home of Ed Kazlauskas
   46-058 Verba Santa Drive, PD

13 - Board Meeting 11 AM
    City Hall – Cathedral City

MAY
11 - Board Meeting 11 AM
    City Hall – Cathedral City

13 - Annual Meeting
    Time and Place to be announced
    Invitations will be sent

19 – 21 Region VIII Meeting
    Hosted by Los Angeles Branch
    Information inside Newsletter

OCTOBER
28-29 – ESU National Conference
    Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY
    More information later

P.O. Box 4796, Palm Springs, CA 92263-4796
Email: desert@esuus.com
Facebook: ESU-Desert Branch
Weren’t they wonderful! Of course I’m referring to the 12 high school students who took part in our annual Shakespeare Competition. It was difficult for the judges to single out the final five for the selection of the finalist to send on to New York. All of the finalists received cash awards and we’re looking forward to having him at our Annual Meeting and hearing of his experience in New York and also having him perform his sonnet and monologue.

A great big round of applause to Dave Richardt, Chairman of the Shakespeare Committee and all the wonderful volunteer who helped him. Also thanks goes to Shadow Hills High School, Sharon Deady, Drama Teacher and the Starry Knights Drama Club. And also to the Coachella Valley Repertory Theater who hosts the final competition in the evening. Many, many hours of volunteer work goes into this project and the Desert Branch will do everything to keep sending a young person to the finals in New York.

The annual election for Desert Branch officers and board members will be held at our annual meeting on May 13. We could use a few more board members, so if you are interested in serving on the board, please give Bill Gay a call at 760-202-9078. The following is our ballot at this time. Help us by adding your name. On May 10 the officers will be elected and the board members whose term expires in 2020.

OFFICERS
President Bill Gay
Vice President Dave Richardt
Secretary Lew Pusch
Treasurer Geri Dicks
Immediate Past Pres. Geri Dicks

BOARD MEMBERS
Term Expires 2017
Bill Gay, PhD

Term Expires 2018
Jean Hopkins
Lew Pusch

Term Expires 2019
Sid Adair
Lisa Luisi

HONORARY
BOARD MEMBERS
Nancy Adams Holliday
Matilde Jones

PRESIDENT EMERITA
Joy Daniels Brower

WEBSITE
www.esuus.org/branches/desert

EMAIL
desert@esuus.org

FACEBOOK
ESU Desert Branch
The Annual Region VIII Conference
“Spotlight on Communication”

Welcome to Sunny LA!

Registration - $175 (single) $250 (couple)
Please mail your check or money order payable to:
ESU LA
C/O Jason Hayes
727 De Haven Street
San Fernando, CA 91340
Deadline to register — March 15, 2017

May 19th, Friday
5-7pm — Social Mixer

May 20th, Saturday
Breakfast at your leisure —
Hotel Lobby
9am-12pm — Workshops
12:30-1:30 — Lunch
2-4pm — Meeting
Region VIII/National
6pm — Dinner and a
Guest Speaker

May 21st, Sunday
9:00am — 11am Region VIII
General Meeting
11am — 12pm Guest Speaker
12:30-1:30 — Lunch
2:00 — Meet for travel to our
3pm — VIP tour at the
Huntington

For your room reservation:
Contact
Embassy Suites Hotel LAX South
1440 E. Imperial Avenue
El Segundo, CA 90245
310.640.3600

Suites begin at the ESU
discounted rate of $159

Breakfast and a Wine Reception
each evening is complementary for
each hotel guest.

Hotel Reservations
must be made by 4/28/17

Steps to Registration:
1. Register for the Conference
2. RSVP for the VIP Tour at
   the Huntington
3. Book your hotel

Questions?
Contact Jason Hayes
LA Branch President
818.451.6400 or esula2015@gmail.com
SHAKESPEARE 2017 - “The Bard” Showcased Brilliantly
Dave Richardt – Chairman, Shakespeare Committee

The 2017 Shakespeare Competition sponsored by The English Speaking Union was held February 23rd. The afternoon preliminaries were hosted again this year by Sharon Deady and the “Starry Knights” Drama Club of Shadow Hills High School. Special thanks for their wonderful help in a beautiful auditorium. The evening finals were again hosted by the Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre in Rancho Mirage. Twelve students, each from a different high school, shared their talents at the preliminaries. Represented schools included Indio High, La Quinta High, Central Union High, Palo Verde Valley High, Palm Valley School, Etiwanda High, Palm Springs High, Cathedral City High, Idyllwild Arts Academy, Palm Desert High, and Desert Hot Springs High. Five finalists were chosen from the preliminaries.

Students, schools (and teachers) at the finals, and the finals awards were as follows: Honorable Mention - Dakota Johnson, Palm Desert High (John Hadley, teacher); Honorable mention - Amanda Sutton, Shadow Hills High (Sharon Deady, teacher); 3rd place - Jackson Dean, Palm Valley School (Susie Zachik, teacher); 2nd place - Nicholas Wass, Palm Springs High (Allyson Sawyer, teacher); and first place went to Hunter Abal-Sadeq, Idyllwild Arts Academy (Bonnie Carpenter, teacher).

Hunter will represent the Desert Branch of the ESU in New York City on May 1st, performing with 55 other national finalists at the Mitzy Newhouse Theatre at Lincoln Center. Hunter performed the role of Titus from “Titus Andronicus” followed by Sonnet 137.

The Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre was the perfect venue for the finals, and our branch is appreciative for the support from the theatre, their Managing Director Gary Palmer, and Artistic Director Ron Celona. A free mixer of drinks and appetizers were offered while the finals judges decided the winners.

Special thanks to our wonderful judges; Dr. Bill Gay (ESU former President), actress Rhiannon Howell and actress Desirée Clarke for the preliminaries, and actors Garnett Smith, Edward Marshall and Scott Smith for the finals. Many thanks also go to the ESU Shakespeare “team” of Geri Dicks (ESU President), Dave Richardt (Shakespeare Competition Chair.), Dr. Bill Gay, Lew Pusch, Patti Gallagher, Lisa Luisi, Jean Hopkins, Rick Cherry, and Scott Shriner.
SHAKESPEARE FINAL COMPETITION
AT THE
COACHELLA VALLEY REPERTORY THEATER

1st Place Winner – Hunter Abal-Sadeq from Idyllwild Arts Academy
Bonnie Carpenter, Teacher and Geri Dicks, ESU Desert Branch President

The Five Finalists
Hunter Abal-Sadeq, Nicholas Wass, Amanda Sutton, Dakota Johnson
And Jackson Dean
ESU DESERT BRANCH 2016-2017 OFFICERS

President – Geri Dicks
GranyGeri@aol.com
760-568-6412

Vice President – Dave Richardt
davotto@aol.com
760-324-0591

Treasurer – Rick Cherry
rickinca@earthlink.net
760-641-7757

Secretary – Patti Gallagher, PhD
Pattigalah@verizon.net
760-565-7986

Immediate Past President – Rick Cherry
rickinca@earthlink.net
760-641-7757

2016 – 2017 COMMITTEES AND BOARD MEMBERS

Membership
Geri Dicks
GranyGeri@aol.com
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Mixers
Jean Hopkins
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760-656-1943

Creative Writing Competition

Shakespeare Competition
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Special Events
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Publicity
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BOARD MEMBERS
Sid Adair
Dr. Bill Gay
Lisa Luisi
Lew Pusch

Newsletter – Geri Dicks – 760-568-6412 – GranyGeri@aol.com