



**Denver Branch**  
**The English-Speaking Union**

**Education. Scholarship. Understanding.**

**January-February 2018 Newsletter**

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 Dr. Howard F. Beckley  
 Writing Competition: Aimee Arens  
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**PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

I hope that everyone enjoyed Christmas and the Holidays. The Denver ESU held two events over the last two months that have become high points of the end of the year. On November 9, members attending the Teachers Learning Abroad dinner at the University Club were treated to presentations by the two teachers awarded scholarships in 2017 – Jeannine Mortell and Lauren Wasser. Jeannine took us on a walking tour of Bath in celebration of Jane Austen, and Lauren put the audience through some of the exercises she learned at the Globe and had implemented in her classroom. The audience glowed with envy and enthusiasm for these teachers making a difference in their students’ understanding and use of English. In the second week of December, the ESU held its annual Holiday Tea with student finalists reading the essays that they wrote about the language of protest movements. It was a pleasure to hear them animate their words in their own voices – this event demonstrates every year the capacity of today’s students to voice their concerns about the world in ways literate beyond their years.

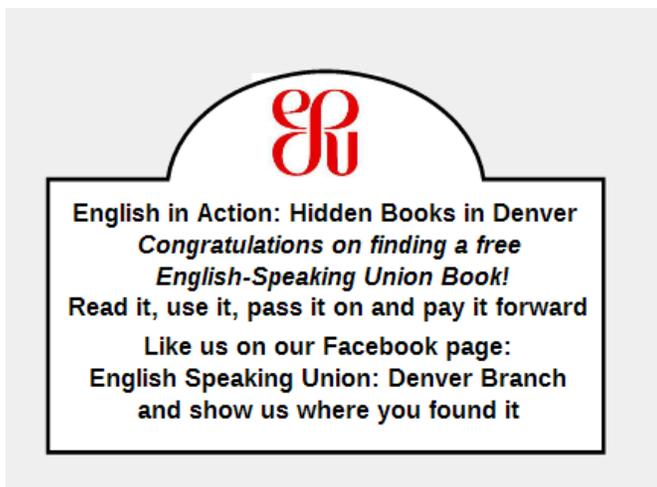
If you know teachers who would benefit from one of our scholarships, let them know the deadline for applications is January 12. Details are on our website. The branch Shakespeare Competition takes place February 11 in Boulder. This is one more chance to witness local students who excel at communicating and performing in English. The winner will fly to New York for the national competition. In the last newsletter, I mentioned that the national English in Action program sponsors tutors helping immigrants master conversational English. Before setting up this program for our branch, and I believe there are refugees waiting on tutors, I would like to hear from our members who might be interested in tutoring people who have some knowledge of English but want to improve their talking skills. This entails a short online training course, and a commitment to a weekly conversational session. You can email me at [jmthornt.thornton@gmail.com](mailto:jmthornt.thornton@gmail.com) if you are interested. I expect to go forward with this if we have at least 5-10 members who would like to be tutors.

We have a few new members, and I would like to thank them and all of you for supporting English in Action through the Denver branch of the English-Speaking Union. Denver’s students and teachers benefit from your support. We may soon be helping immigrants learn the advantages of English as well.

Michael Thornton  
 President, Denver Branch of the English-Speaking Union

# Sharing the Gift of Literature

## Save the Date Upcoming ESU Calendar



- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday<br/>Jan. 20, 2018</b>  | Board of Directors Meeting<br>St. John's Cathedral   |
| <b>Saturday<br/>Jan. 27, 2018</b>  | TLab UK Application Review                           |
| <b>Saturday<br/>Feb. 10, 2018</b>  | TLab UK Interviews                                   |
| <b>Saturday<br/>Feb. 10, 2018</b>  | Shakespeare Workshop<br>University of CO, Boulder    |
| <b>Sunday<br/>Feb. 11, 2018</b>    | Shakespeare Competition<br>University of CO, Boulder |
| <b>Saturday<br/>March 17, 2018</b> | Board of Directors Meeting<br>St. John's Cathedral   |
| <b>Saturday<br/>May 19, 2018</b>   | Board of Directors Meeting<br>St. John's Cathedral   |

The ESU Denver Branch is beginning a unique program designed to share the gift of literature while raising awareness of the English-Speaking Union and all of the English in Action programs.

The idea is simple. Gather used copies of your favorite books from your homes, thrift stores and yard sales, place an ESU bookplate on the inside cover and then leave the book around town for others to find, enjoy and pass along.

This is a fun way to spread the love of reading as well as the ESU message of education, scholarship, understanding and opportunity.

Email the Denver Branch at [denver@esuus.org](mailto:denver@esuus.org) or call 303-755-1752 to reserve your bookplates.



# TLAB Dinner at the University Club

On Thursday, November 9 ESU members and guests gathered for a favorite annual event, the TLab Dinner and Presentations. Following a cocktail reception and dinner at the University Club, ESU Denver President, Michael Thornton, introduced the fellows by reading excerpts from their letters of recommendation.

First up was Jeannine Mortell from Standley Lake High School who drew the audience in with wonderful photos of her time at Oxford before taking them along with her on her journey around Beechen Cliff and through the pages of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.

Next, Lauren Wasser of Arvada High School got the audience involved as she shared her enthusiasm for her time at the Globe by leading the group in activities she learned through her time in England explaining how she regularly employs the techniques to engage her students.

It was wonderful to see the impact that the TLab Program had on these teachers and the ways in which this program will benefit their schools and students.



Jeannine Mortell engages the audience



Jeannine Mortell, Michael Thornton, and Lauren Wasser



Lauren Wasser and Benjamin Wasser

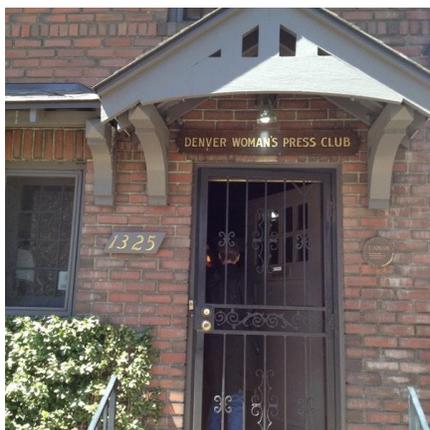


Ruth Beckley, Lee Recca, and Michael Newman



Bruce Haefner and Chuck Thompson

## A Wonderful Holiday Celebration



The Denver Branch celebrated the holiday season and the accomplishments of the winning students from the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition on Saturday, December 9 at the Denver Women's Press Club.

Students read their winning responses to the query "How does the language of protest incite action?"

Congratulations to the following students and their teachers:

**First Place Winner**

Ryan Shea, Lakewood High School

**Second Place Winner**

Lydia Ellefsen, Lakewood High School

**Third Place Winner**

Carley Bennett, Lakewood High School

**Honorable Mention**

David Akpokiere, Eaglecrest High

**Honorable Mention**

Abraham Escalante, Smoky Hill High

A huge thank you goes out to Ruth Beckley who underwrites this yearly competition and to Patterson Benero who graciously sponsors our presence at the Denver Women's Press Club.

ESU members and guests brought new children's books to the holiday party to donate to a local charity. This year, books were given to the Children's Hospital book drive.



The Children's Hospital Colorado tries to help their patients and families feel as welcome and comfortable as they would at home and they rely on donations of new toys, books, stuffed animals, craft materials, and other items to do so.

We are pleased to help this respected institution.



**Children's Hospital  
Colorado**

# 2018 ESU Denver Branch Shakespeare Competition

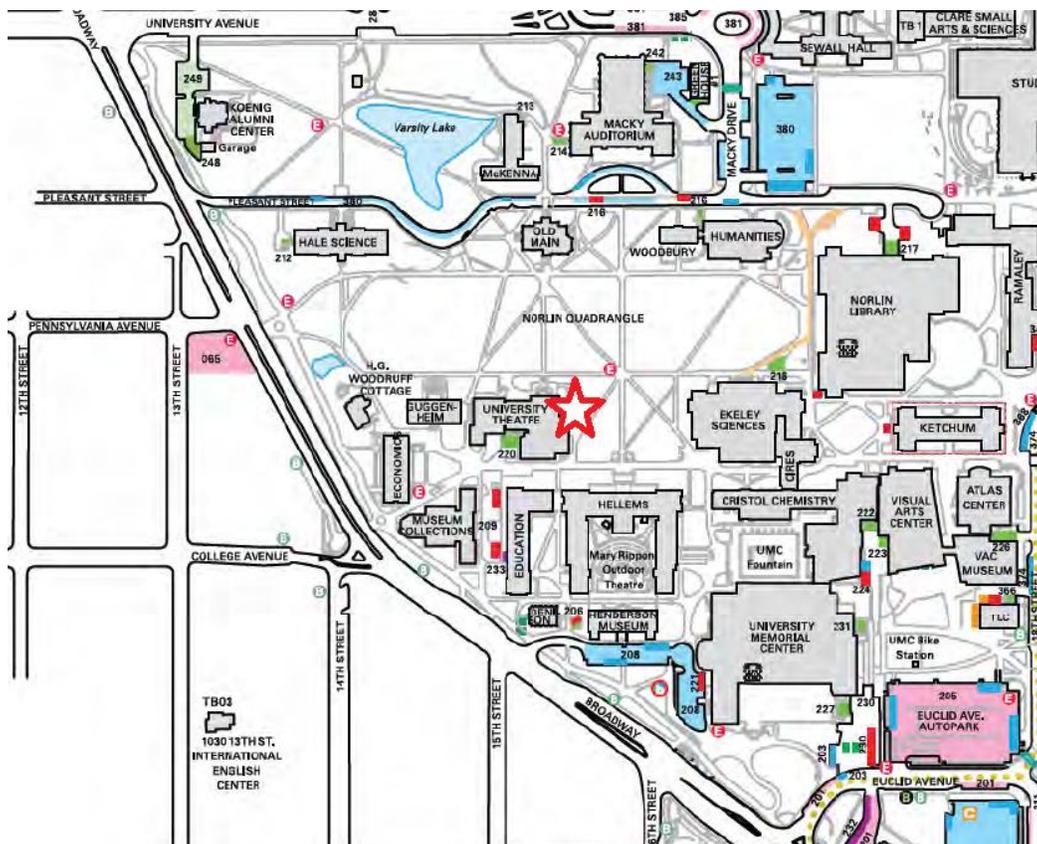
Sunday, February 11, 2018, 1 to 3 pm  
Doors open at 12:30 pm  
University Theatre,  
University of Colorado, Boulder



The public is invited to attend this annual Competition held by the Denver Branch of the English-Speaking Union. Watch talented High School students as they recite a Shakespeare Sonnet and perform a Monologue from one of Shakespeare's plays.

The top three students will be recognized and the winning student will travel to New York City for the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition, held onstage at the Lincoln Center, Spring 2018.

There will be a free reception with coffee and cookies in the University Theatre lobby following the Competition. Please join us for this exciting event!



Take the Baseline exit on the Boulder Turnpike (US 36), go west to Broadway and turn right. Short-term metered parking is available in the Euclid Avenue Autopark and west of Broadway at 13th Street (pink shading on the map). Street parking may also be available on University Avenue (at the top of the map). We hope to see you there!