

NYC BRANCH NEWSLETTER

THE ENGLISH- SPEAKING UNION

2025 NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations



National Women's History Month celebrates the remarkable contributions of women throughout history. It honors their achievements, resilience, and impact across all fields. This month inspires us to continue advocating for equality, support women's progress, and recognize the ongoing journey toward empowerment. Every woman's story and legacy are worth celebrating.

This National Women's Month, the ESU proudly celebrates the incredible women who make our community stronger every day. Your dedication, resilience, and achievements inspire us all. We honor your contributions and recognize the impact you have in shaping a better future.

Thank you for all that you do!

*Do not live someone else's
life and someone else's idea of
what womanhood is.
Womanhood is you*

MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a member of the English-Speaking Union (ESU) offers opportunities to connect with a global network of individuals passionate about the English language, international understanding, and cultural exchange. Members gain access to exclusive events, educational programs, and networking opportunities that promote public speaking, debate, and lifelong learning. Whether you're interested in scholarships, competitions, or engaging discussions, ESU membership provides a platform to enhance communication skills and build meaningful connections worldwide.



[Renew your membership or Join the ESU](#)

[for more information contact DeAndre Short](#)



[Click here to hear some of our EiA Volunteer Stories](#)

[for more information contact eia@esuus.org](mailto:eia@esuus.org)

VOLUNTEER WITH ENGLISH IN ACTION!

This is a unique opportunity to help newcomers to the U.S. improve their English language skills. *Online volunteers are needed.* No experience is necessary and training is provided. It only takes two hours a week to support someone who needs it! Sign up for an information session today to get started.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Don't forget to save the date for our upcoming events! We have a variety of enjoyable and thrilling activities coming up that you definitely won't want to miss.

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) is dedicated to celebrating English as a universal language that promotes global unity and friendship. We strive to offer enriching educational and cultural experiences for students, educators, and members alike. Join us in spreading the joy of language and learning!



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Join us for the 2025 Founder's Award



We'll be thrilled to have you join us for this year's Gala Weekend!

The Founder's Award Gala
Honoring Dr. E. Quinn Peeper

THERE IS STILL TIME TO

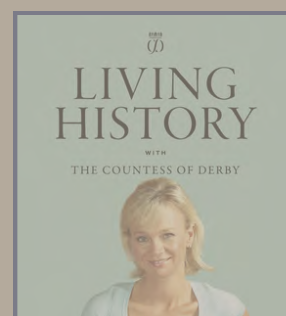
MAKE A DONATION

With Special Guest Lady Anne Emma Stanley, Countess Derby of Knowsley Hall

The Gala will celebrate Dr. Peeper's innumerable contributions to the ESU over decades, recognizing his dedication to fostering global understanding and promoting the English language as a unifying force. He is the first Founder's Award recipient to receive this distinction through his success as a Branch Board Member, Branch President, National Board Member, President and National Chair.

Adding to this extraordinary occasion, the Countess of Derby, a distinguished art historian and cultural advocate, will be joining us to honor her dear friend, Dr. Peeper.

As a special treat, the Earl and Countess of Derby are also extending an exclusive invitation to ESU members and supporters to enjoy a magical holiday weekend at Knowsley Hall November 20-23, 2025, their ancestral home near Liverpool, England. This unique experience offers a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in the history and grandeur of one of Britain's finest stately homes.



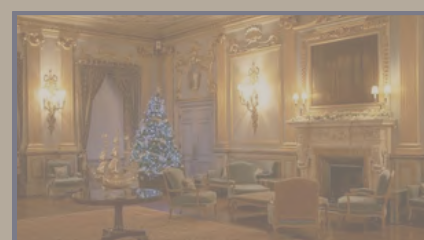
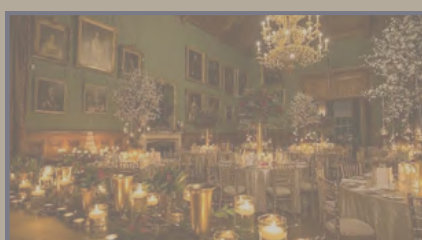
Don't miss this chance to be part of these exceptional celebrations!

Reserve your seat at the Gala

Learn more about Knowsley Hall Weekend.



Knowsley Hall



For more information: Rossana Ivanova (862) 224-4244, rivanova@esuus.org

THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF DERBY INVITE
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION TO
A MAGICAL HOLIDAY WEEKEND AT KNOWSLEY HALL
PRESCOT, MERSEYSIDE L34 4AG ENGLAND
NOVEMBER 20-23, 2025

FROM \$2,500 PP DOUBLE / \$3,400 PP SINGLE IN AN EXECUTIVE SUITE
 UPGRADES TO DELUXE AND ROYAL SUITE/LORDE DERBY AVAILABLE



Step into the enchantment of the holiday season with an exclusive invitation from the Earl and Countess of Derby to spend a luxurious weekend at historic Knowsley Hall, a magnificent estate nestled in the English countryside.

Knowsley Hall has been in the ownership of the Stanley family for over 600 years. Set within 2,500 acres of a private walled estate, located near Liverpool, the hall has been welcoming royalty and distinguished guests since 1495.



Experience

Surrounded by beautifully decorated interiors and the warmth of tradition, you will enjoy a guided tour of Knowsley's magnificent art collection and library, engage in fireside chats with Caroline Emma Stanley, Countess of Derby, and partake in exclusive events and activities* that embody the spirit of the season:

- Traditional Christmas dinner
- Whiskey tasting experience
- Signature afternoon tea
- Private tour of Shakespeare North Playhouse
- Optional half-day tour of Liverpool

Accommodations

Enjoy three nights of unparalleled comfort in Knowsley Hall's opulent guest rooms, each uniquely styled to reflect the estate's timeless elegance. Wake up to views of the sprawling parkland and a delectable English breakfast.

Reserve Your Place Today

Availability for this exclusive weekend is limited. Don't miss the rare opportunity to celebrate the magic of the holidays in one of England's most storied estates.



For more information or to secure your reservation contact Rossana Ivanova,
rivanova@esuus.org, (862) 224-4244.

* Weekend activities subject to change.



ESU NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

Congratulations to the 10 talented ESU NYC Branch Shakespeare Finalists who took the stage at The Players on February 25! Their performances were truly inspiring.

2025 ESU NYC Branch Winners:

1st: Hanako Stepper, Trinity School

2nd: Renzo Ruiz, Repertory Company HS for Theatre Arts

3rd: Audrey Miller, Riverdale Country School



For more information contact [Maryellen Liotta](#).

[Click here](#) for more information on the 2025 ESU National Shakespeare Competition

Hanako advances to the ESU National Shakespeare Competition where she'll compete with 40 Branch Champions at Lincoln Center on April 28.

Best of luck!

ESU HAPPY HOUR

SAVE THE DATE!

March 12, 2025

Happy Hour: King George IV: The Worst Ruler in British History?

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm EST

Sponsored by ESU Richmond Branch

Sir Spencer Walpole described King George IV as a bad son, husband, father, subject, monarch, and friend. The Duke of Wellington viewed the king more favorably, describing him as a unique mix of talent, wit, buffoonery, obstinacy, and good feeling. King George IV was known for his charm and manners, but also for his drunkenness, extravagant spending, and scandalous love life.



Coming in April:

Huck Finn's America: Mark Twain's Masterpiece and the Era That Shaped His Masterpiece with Andrew Levy

TEACHERS LEARNING ABROAD (TLAB)

Calling all NYC Educators!

Already dreaming of summer escapes across the pond? The ESU NYC Branch offers a TLab Scholarship to middle and high school teachers for the ultimate professional development -- to continue your education this summer at Oxford, Edinburgh or Shakespeare's Globe in London! Return reinvigorated and inspired to share your knowledge with students and colleagues.



2024 TLab teachers at Oxford!

For applications and more information:
<https://www.esuus.org/newyork/tlab-3/>

NYC Branch TLab Scholarship Applications
 Due March 10th!



SBT 2024

For more information & to register, go to:
<https://www.esuus.org/what-we-do/teachers-learning-abroad/page-to-stage/>

STAY CALM & DEBATE ON!

ESU Middle School and High School Debate Leagues throughout New York and New Jersey were busy debating in February.

The fun continues in March with ESU NYDL tournaments Saturday March 1st at Speyer Legacy School and March 8th at Ethical Culture Fieldstone and ESU GSDL at Cedar Hill Prep March 22nd.

Best of luck to all our dedicated ESU debaters!



NYDL Varsity Debaters with Coach

For more information go to:
<https://www.esuus.org/what-we-do/middle-school-debate-public-speaking/>

for more information contact [Alice Uhl](#)



THE ESU ANDREW ROMAY NEW IMMIGRANT CENTER (ARNIC)

The ESU Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) is a free program that facilitates the integration of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees into U.S. life. We provide immigrants with the tools and resources to overcome barriers and build successful lives in the U.S. Our center offers English classes, conversation practice and career services.

for more information contact [Karl Hart](#)

[Learn more about the center at esu-arnic.org](http://esu-arnic.org)



The ESU Players performed *Don't Drink the Water* by Woody Allen at the English Speaking Union

All performances are held at
144 East 39th Street, NYC

Admission is free, but request that you RSVP by sending an email to louisemuse4@gmail.com.

THE ESU PLAYERS

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, March 13, 2025

The ESU Players will present *Moon over Buffalo* by Ken Ludwig

Join us for a reception starting at 6:00 PM, followed by the play at 6:30 PM.

More Upcoming Dates:

April 10th

May 8th

June 26- 25th Annual production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

THE ESU EVENT AND OFFICE SPACE RENTAL

The Garden Room



Discover the ideal venue for your meetings and events at the English-Speaking Union, conveniently located at 144 E 39th St, New York, NY 10016, in the historic Murray Hill neighborhood. Our Midtown Manhattan space features three elegant rooms, adaptable to a variety of events, from corporate meetings to creative workshops. Our rooms feature versatile layouts and modern A/V systems, making it perfect for corporate meetings, creative workshops, and special gatherings.

Knowledge Space



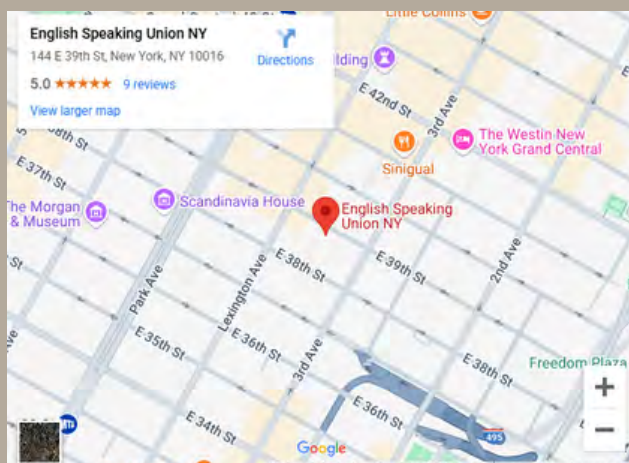
[Read more about our Flexible Event and Office Space](#)

[Click here to contact us](#)

The Horizon Room



LOCATION





Set sail on an extraordinary journey through history aboard the magnificent Sea Cloud Spirit, retracing the footsteps of one of Britain's greatest naval heroes, Admiral Horatio Nelson. This exclusive voyage, co-hosted by the English-Speaking Union and Sea Cloud Cruises, offers a unique blend of luxury, adventure, and intellectual stimulation.

Highlights:

- Sail from Naples to Malta on board Sea Cloud Spirit, ranked among the best luxury passenger ships in the world. This three-mast windjammer's 28 sails are hoisted by hand for authentic sailing experience
- Exclusive lectures by renowned biographer Flora Fraser
- Visit key locations in Nelson's Mediterranean campaigns
- Experience the thrill of sailing on a tall ship in Nelson's wake
- Indulge in luxurious accommodations and gourmet cuisine

The English-Speaking Union

promotes cross-cultural understanding, and expands opportunities for students, teachers, English language learners and members through the English language.

PATRON TOUR 2025

The English-Speaking Union

In Partnership with

Sea Cloud Cruises

Presents

2025 National Patron Tour
Nelson on Shore and at Sea:
A Life of the British Admiral
With Author and Lecturer Flora Fraser

July 6-14, 2025

Naples to Malta

Aboard Sea Cloud Spirit



The ESU National Patron Tours

enhance our Patrons' engagement with the ESU community through bespoke experiences of cultural enrichment, educational exploration, and unforgettable adventures.

contact Rossana Ivanova for more information at
rivanova@esuus.org or (862) 224-4244