

## NYC BRANCH NEWSLETTER

THE ENGLISH-  
SPEAKING UNION

## MEMBERSHIP

**New York City Week is Here!**

Celebrate NYC's vibrant immigrant communities with ARNIC and the ESU! Join us for a week of culture, history, and connection:

**June 11:** Immigrant Programs Luncheon – Celebrate community and conversation.

**June 13:** Operation Mincemeat – Enjoy a witty, unforgettable musical night.



[Click here to register](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

**Let's celebrate the soul of the city — reserve your spot today!**

We're excited to announce that a Leadership Town Hall will take place on June 17 at 3:30PM EST.

[Register Here](#)

**June Office Hours:**

June 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM EST

[Click Here](#)

June 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM EST

[Click Here](#)

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
UNION**Discover, Connect, and Thrive with the English-Speaking Union (ESU)**

At the English-Speaking Union, we believe in the transformative power of the English language to unite people across borders, backgrounds, and generations. Through language, we open doors to understanding, collaboration, and lifelong learning.

Whether you're a student, educator, or globally curious individual, there's a place for you in the ESU community. From thought-provoking workshops and speaker events to elegant receptions and international exchanges, every gathering offers a chance to grow, share, and belong.

**Don't miss out—mark your calendar and join us on this exciting journey.**

Stay tuned for event announcements, and prepare to explore new ideas, build new friendships, and be part of a mission that celebrates the best of global citizenship through the English language.

**Join the ESU—where language connects and community thrives.**

# THE ESU ANDREW ROMAY NEW IMMIGRANT CENTER (ARNIC)

## Immigrant Graduation Ceremony 2025

On June 12 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, the ESU will celebrate the achievements of its 2025 immigrant graduating class. 140 immigrants from 60 countries will be recognized for their determination, dedication and success in completing our year-long educational programs. The event will take place at the ESU headquarters in New York City. Highlights of the event will include stories of immigrant journeys, students reading original published writings and alumni showcasing the impact of the ESU programs.

All of the graduates are students of ESU Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC). ARNIC is a free program that facilitates the integration of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees into U.S. life. We provide immigrants with tools and resources to overcome barriers and build successful lives in this country. Each year, the center serves 350+ new immigrants. More than 3,000 immigrants from 60+ countries have benefited from the program since the center opened its doors in 2013.

ESU members are invited to attend the graduation ceremony! Members can attend the ceremony on June 12 as part of New York City Week! Email DeAndre Short ([dshort@esuus.org](mailto:dshort@esuus.org)) for more information. We hope to see you there!



for more information contact [Karl Hart](#)

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



[Click here to learn more about NYC Week](#)

NEW



For more Information, go to:  
[nydlsummer.org](https://nydlsummer.org)

for more information contact [Alice Uhl](#)

The ESU New York Debate League Summer Institutes will run from **10AM - 4PM:**

**June 23 - 27**

at Sixth Street Community Center at 638 East 6th Street

**July 7 - 11**

at English-Speaking Union at 144 East 39th Street

**July 21 - 25**

at English-Speaking Union at 144 East 39th Street

## WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT, THE ESU NYDL SUMMER INSTITUTE IS IN!

We are excited to announce for the 1st time, the **ESU New York Debate League** will offer 3 week-long debate programs in June & July! The Summer Institute provides middle school students an immersive, skills-based introduction to the world of parliamentary debate. Rooted in the ESU's mission to promote civic engagement, critical thinking, and confident public speaking, the Summer Institute is designed to help students grow as thinkers, speakers, and teammates—whether they're brand new to debate or looking to sharpen their competitive edge.

Our program is led by two passionate educators and nationally recognized debate coaches: **Evan Streams**, ESU NYDL Tournament Director and head coach at Birch Wathen Lenox, and **Grace Campos**, former Yale debater and head coach at BASIS Manhattan. Between them, they bring over two decades of experience as both top-tier competitors and transformational teachers.

Students are placed in labs based on experience level. Fundamentals Labs are designed for rising 6th–8th graders who are new to debate. These students will learn the basics of cross-examination, rebuttals, research, and using evidence. Through engaging drills and guided practice, students will build foundational skills. **Accelerated Labs** are geared toward rising 7th–8th graders with prior debate experience and will work on a faster-paced timeline to deepen strategic understanding, enhance case writing, and sharpen refutation and rebuttal skills. All students will participate in a culminating debate tournament, showcasing the progress they've made throughout the week.



Evan Streams



Grace Campos

## ESU 2025 INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION -- IT'S A WRAP!

Congratulations to Sashane Dassanayake from Sri Lanka for winning the 2025 ESU International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC)! And to Rishabh Barve, ESU US Delegate and all the students from 40 countries who embarked on this journey and the international friendships, public speaking and critical thinking skills they gained along the way! Special thanks to the ESU of the Commonwealth for hosting a week filled with inspiring workshops, speeches, global connections and unforgettable cultural experiences, including a visit to the National Gallery and seeing *Romeo & Juliet* at Shakespeare's Globe! We are so proud of Rishabh and wish him all the best -- as he begins his Freshman year this fall at Stanford University !



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

for more information contact [Alice Uhl](#)



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

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

## The ESU National Shakespeare Competition Wishes NYC Educators an Amazing Summer!

As the school year wraps up, we at the ESU National Shakespeare Competition thank you for your dedication and passion. Your work inspiring students with Shakespeare's timeless words is invaluable.

We wish you a restful, well-earned summer! Are you looking to enjoy a bit more of the Bard in your free time? Check out [Time Out's Complete Guide to Shakespeare in the Park – NYC 2025 Edition](#), or [ESU UK Summer Theatre programs](#) if you want to cross the pond as well as the park.

We'll be back this fall with new classroom resources and professional development to spark creativity in your classroom. Until then — rest, recharge, and enjoy the summer!

COMING SOON



## SPEAKER EVENT

Don't miss the chance to hear the brilliant Catherine Loomis speak this September 2025! Known for her engaging storytelling and deep expertise in Renaissance literature, Loomis brings history to life with wit, insight, and passion. Whether you're a longtime literature lover or simply curious, her talk promises to enlighten, entertain, and inspire. This is an event you won't want to miss!

## ESU HAPPY HOUR

June 4, 2025

**Happy Hour: Kansas City: Home of Disney's Original Animation Studio**

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm EST

Sponsored by ESU Kansas City Branch

Walter Elias Disney (1901-1966) was born in Chicago and raised in Kansas City, where he worked as a newspaper deliverer and studied at the Kansas City Art Institute. In 1922, he founded Laugh-O-gram Films, which created innovative cartoons and set the stage for The Walt Disney Company. During this time, he developed his famous character, Mickey Mouse. The original Laugh-O-gram building is currently being renovated by Thank You Walt Disney, Inc. to honor Disney's legacy.



[Register Here](#)



The ESU Players gave a staged reading of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* at the English Speaking Union

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

## THE ESU PLAYERS

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

ESU Members and their friends are invited to the 25th Anniversary of the ESU Players performing William Shakespeare's *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*

Reception--6:00 pm  
Play---- 6:30 pm

**Admission is free, but request that you  
RSVP by sending an email to  
[louisemuse4@gmail.com](mailto:louisemuse4@gmail.com).**

Limited Spots Left

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

EXECUTIVE PLUS/DELUXE SUITE \$2,800 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, \$3,900 PP SINGLE).  
(EXECUTIVE SUITES AT \$2,500 PP DOUBLE / \$3,400 PP SINGLE ARE SOLD OUT)



### Celebrate the Magic of the Season at Knowsley Hall

This holiday season, you're cordially invited by the Earl and Countess of Derby to experience an unforgettable weekend of elegance, history, and festive charm at Knowsley Hall—a grand estate nestled in the heart of the English countryside.

Steeped in over 600 years of heritage, Knowsley Hall has been the cherished home of the Stanley family since the 14th century. Set within 2,500 acres of private parkland just outside Liverpool, this historic residence has welcomed royalty and dignitaries since 1495—and now, it opens its doors to you.



**Your Weekend Includes:** Surround yourself with twinkling lights, roaring fires, and the rich traditions of an English Christmas. Highlights of your stay include:

- A private guided tour of Knowsley's renowned art collection and historic library
- Fireside conversations with Caroline Emma Stanley, Countess of Derby
- A festive traditional Christmas dinner in the grand dining room
- An elegant afternoon tea served in the drawing room
- An indulgent whiskey tasting experience
- A private tour of the Shakespeare North Playhouse
- An optional half-day excursion to Liverpool

### **Accommodations:**

Relax in Regal Comfort Spend three nights in one of Knowsley Hall's exquisitely appointed guest rooms, each uniquely decorated to reflect centuries of aristocratic style and charm. Wake each morning to views of the rolling estate and a delicious full English breakfast.

Let the splendor of Knowsley Hall transport you to a world of seasonal wonder, timeless luxury, and warm hospitality.



### **Reserve Your Place Today**

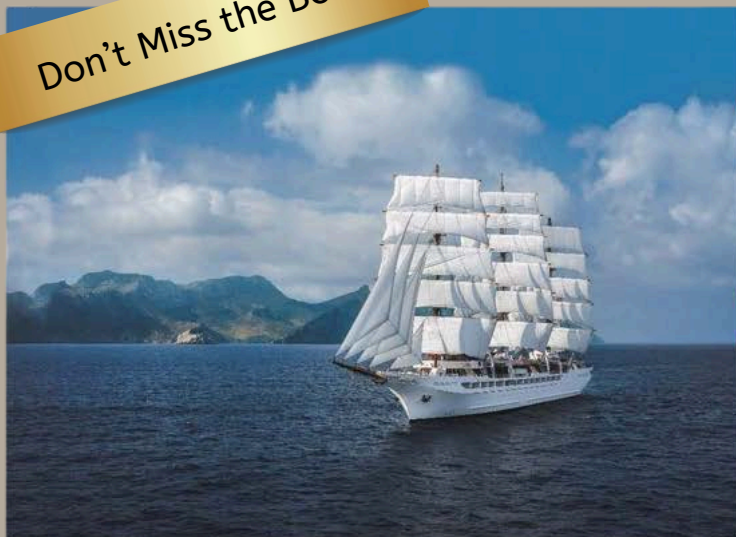
Availability for this exclusive weekend is limited. Don't miss the rare opportunity to celebrate the magic of the holidays in one of England's most storied estates.

[Click here for more information](#)

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

\* Weekend activities subject to change.

Don't Miss the Boat



### Embark on a Voyage Through History with Sea Cloud Spirit

Join an unforgettable journey across the Mediterranean aboard the breathtaking Sea Cloud Spirit, as we trace the legendary path of Admiral Horatio Nelson—one of Britain's most iconic naval commanders. Co-hosted by the English-Speaking Union and Sea Cloud Cruises, this one-of-a-kind expedition blends refined luxury, rich history, and stimulating intellectual discovery.

#### Voyage Highlights:

- Sail from Naples to Malta aboard Sea Cloud Spirit, consistently ranked among the world's finest luxury sailing vessels. With 28 sails raised by hand, experience the timeless magic of traditional tall ship sailing.
- Exclusive on-board lectures by acclaimed biographer Flora Fraser, offering insight into Nelson's life and legacy.
- Step ashore at pivotal sites from Nelson's Mediterranean campaigns, walking in the footsteps of history.
- Relive the age of sail as you cruise the same waters once navigated by Nelson and his fleet.
- Delight in elegant staterooms and gourmet dining, where comfort and cuisine rival the finest hotels at sea.

Set your course for history, adventure, and unforgettable experiences—reserve your place aboard Sea Cloud Spirit today.

#### The ESU National Patron Tours

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

## 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



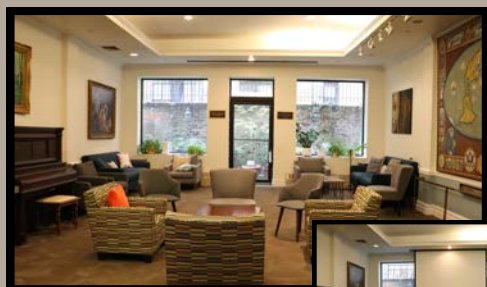
[Click here for information and to view the Tour Brochure](#)

#### **The English-Speaking Union**

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

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

# THE ESU EVENT AND OFFICE SPACE RENTAL



The Garden Lounge



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.

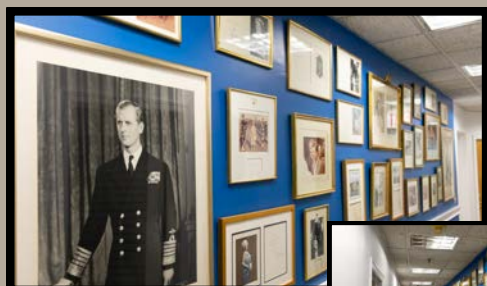
Our rooms feature versatile layouts and modern A/V systems, making it perfect for corporate meetings, creative workshops, and special gatherings.



The Library

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

[Click here to contact us](#)

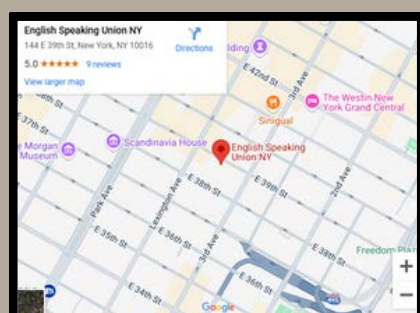


The Photo Wall



The Horizon Room

## [LOCATION](#)



The Knowledge Space