

## NYC BRANCH NEWSLETTER

THE ENGLISH-  
SPEAKING UNION

## MEMBERSHIP

**Celebrate New York City Week with the ESU!**

Join us for New York City Week, a vibrant celebration of culture, history, and community, presented in partnership with the ESU's Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC). This exciting series of events highlights the richness of the immigrant experience and the energy of New York City itself.

**Here's what's in store:**

*June 11, 2025* – Immigrant Programs Luncheon

*June 12, 2025* – Big Onion Walking Tour & ARNIC Graduation

*June 13, 2025* – Operation Mincemeat: A New Musical

Don't miss this dazzling evening of entertainment, fun, and community connection.

**Only 20 spots available!** Customize your experience—tickets are available individually or as a package.

**Celebrate the best of New York, your way. Reserve your spot today!**

Join the ESU for New York City Week, a dynamic celebration of culture, history, and community in partnership with the ESU's Andrew Romay Center for New Immigrants (ARNIC). This exciting lineup includes:

- \* Immigrant Programs Luncheon
- \* Big Onion Walking Tour
- \* ARNIC Graduation
- \* Operation Mincement: A New Musical

**10-13 JUNE**

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here to register](#)

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
UNION

At the English-Speaking Union (ESU), we're all about celebrating English as a powerful force that unites people across the globe. We're committed to creating enriching cultural and educational experiences for students, educators, and members alike. So, join us and be part of a global movement that spreads the joy of language, learning, and friendship!

Get ready for a lineup of thrilling and unforgettable experiences that you won't want to miss! From engaging activities to inspiring gatherings, we've got something special for everyone. Save the date—these upcoming events are sure to spark your passion for language and connection!

Don't miss out—stay tuned for more details, and get ready to connect, grow, and have fun!



Top Three Winners

## ESU National Shakespeare Competition: The Winners Are In!

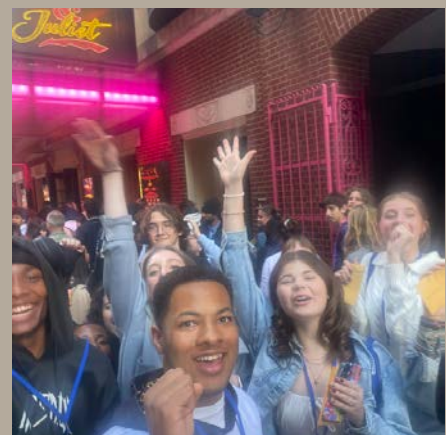
On April 28, 2025, the ESU hosted the 42nd Annual National Shakespeare Competition at Juilliard's Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse in Lincoln Center, showcasing 42 talented semi-finalists from across the country. Isaiah Canterbury of the ESU West Virginia Branch took first place with his powerful performances of Sonnet 105 and King Lear, earning a spot at the British American Drama Academy's Midsummer Conservatory in Oxford this summer. Madison Jones of the ESU Wisconsin Branch (2nd place) and Isa Rudman of the ESU San Francisco Branch (3rd place) also delivered incredibly moving performances. Congratulations to all participants, teachers, Branch representatives, judges and supporters for making the competition and weekend in NYC a resounding success!



Isaiah Canterbury of the ESU West Virginia Branch

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

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



# 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





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

for more information contact [Alice Uhl](#)

## ESU IPSC OPENS IN LONDON MAY 12- 17, 2025

Good Luck to Rishabh Barve, a senior at Blue Valley West High School in Kansas, who will be representing the ESU US in London at the International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC). He will be joining students from over the world for public speaking workshops, cultural exchange and competition. The Grand Final will take place at the Royal Institute.

We will be cheering you on, Rishabh!



The Royal Shakespeare Theatre

## ESU SUMMER TRAVEL IN THE UK CALLING ALL TEACHERS & THEATER LOVERS!

Cross the pond this July to experience Shakespeare with like-minded souls at the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon and Shakespeare's Globe in London or Contemporary British & Irish Theatre in Edinburgh during the Fringe Festival. Find out more specifics on these dynamic programs at the links below. Space is limited, reserve your place today!

### ESU Contemporary Theatre & Performance Program August 4 - 16th in Edinburgh

<https://www.esuus.org/what-we-do/teachers-learning-abroad/edinburgh-suiss-summer-programs/>

### ESU 1-Week Page to Stage Program July 13 - 19th in Stratford-Upon-Avon

<https://www.esuus.org/what-we-do/teachers-learning-abroad/page-to-stage/>

### ESU Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance July 14 - August 1st at Shakespeare's Globe in London

<https://www.esuus.org/what-we-do/teachers-learning-abroad/shakespeares-globe-tstp/>

## ESU LUARD MORSE SCHOLAR HOMeward BOUND

Welcome Home to ESU Luard Morse Scholar, Kennedy Williams who just finished a semester at Queen Mary, University of London. Kennedy shared: "this study abroad experience has truly been incredible. Not only have I had the chance to explore and deepen my passion for public health, but I've also grown as a more open-minded person through meaningful interactions with friends and people from diverse cultures here in London."



Kennedy in front of the Palace

For More Information, go to:  
<https://www.esuus.org/luard-morse-scholarship-college-juniors/>

## ESU DEBATE SEASON: IT'S A WRAP!

Congrats to the almost 400 middle and high school students in the New York & New Jersey ESU Debate Leagues who honed their skills in civil discourse and public speaking over the 2024-2025 season! The ESU is grateful to the dedication of all the students, coaches, judges, tournament directors, host schools and especially the tireless efforts of the league presidents: Ahlam Yassin, Nick Smart, Vivekanand Balija and Martin Tansey.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!



Championship Final Round

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

for more information contact [Alice Uhl](#)

## ESU HAPPY HOUR

May 14, 2025

**Happy Hour: A Chip Off Queen Victoria's Block**

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm EST  
Sponsored by ESU Charleston Branch

Queen Victoria (1819-1901) is one of the best loved monarchs. Her reign of 63 years and 216 days, which was longer than those of any of her predecessors, constituted the Victorian era. The British Empire reached its peak during her rule. Almost within touching distance of our own time, her story is so familiar to us it seems unlikely that there is much new to discover. This ESU Happy Hour will uncover amazing and little-known aspects of Victoria's family.



**Register Here**



The ESU Players performing "Moon Over Buffalo" by Ken Ludwig 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](mailto:louisemuse4@gmail.com).**

## THE ESU PLAYERS

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025**

The ESU Players will be giving a staged reading of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*.

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

More Upcoming Dates:

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

A Gala, with a strawberry, woodruff champagne punch, and many other treats to be served

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.





## 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

### 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.



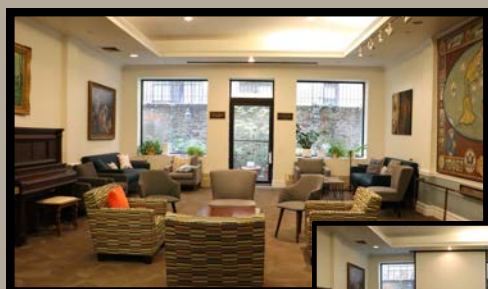
[Click here for information and  
to view the Tour Brochure](#)

#### **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.

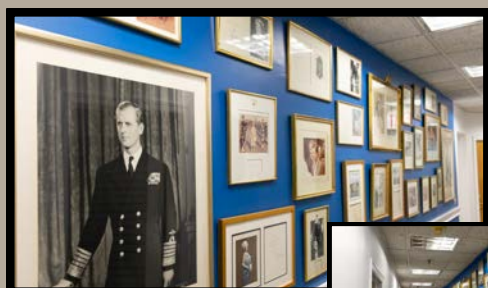
Our rooms feature versatile layouts and modern A/V systems, making it perfect for corporate meetings, creative workshops, and special gatherings.

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

[Click here to contact us](#)



The Library

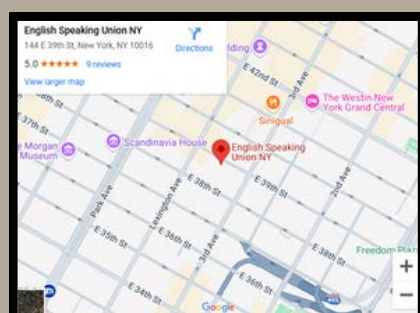


The Photo Wall



The Horizon Room

## [LOCATION](#)



The Knowledge Space