

NYC BRANCH NEWSLETTER

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

Held in April every year, National Volunteer Month is a time to celebrate and recognize the contributions of volunteers. It is an opportunity to join the impact of volunteerism and encourage more people to get involved in their communities.

Volunteerism is a critical component of the American community and the nonprofit model, and National Volunteer Month is a reminder of the importance of giving back.

Thank you for all that you do!

How to Celebrate:

- Volunteer: Take the opportunity to volunteer at an organization or cause you care about.
- Appreciate Volunteers: If you work with or know volunteers, express your gratitude and recognize their contributions.
- Social Media: Share photos and messages on social media using relevant hashtags like #VolunteerAppreciationMonth.
- Host Events: Organize events to celebrate and thank volunteers.
- Take a Pledge: Declare your commitment to volunteering by taking the pledge to become a Global Volunteer Month Hero.



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION (ESU) AND UNLOCK A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES!

**Join us for New York City Week
June 11-14, 2025
[click here to reserve your spot!](#)**

Join us for New York City Week, a dynamic celebration of culture, history, and community in partnership with the ESU's Andrew Romy Center for New Immigrants (ARNIC). This exciting lineup of events includes a breathtaking performance of Swan Lake by the American Ballet Theatre, the Big Onion Walking Tour, an Immigrant Programs Luncheon, the ARNIC Graduation, and Operation Mincemeat: A New Musical.

By becoming a member, you open doors to unique experiences that will help you excel and make an impact worldwide. Don't miss out—join the ESU now and enrich your life through lifelong learning and global engagement!



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

for more information contact eia@esuus.org.

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!



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

for more information contact
[DeAndre Short](#)

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.





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

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

ESU NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION IS ALMOST HERE!

The ESU's National Shakespeare Competition returns to New York City from April 26 to April 28. This exciting weekend of events brings together 41 high school branch champions from across the country, culminating in the final competition held at Juilliard's Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse in Lincoln Center on Monday, April 28.

Best of luck to all our talented Semi-Finalists!

[Click here](#) to reserve your tickets.

ESU HAPPY HOUR



April 2, 2025

Happy Hour: Misadventures in the Wild: An Afternoon of Photos and Film with Kris Millgate

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EST
Sponsored by ESU Sandhills Branch

Kris Millgate is an Emmy-Award winning multimedia journalist, bold storyteller, and certified Idaho Master Naturalist. She will talk about her transition from a TV news anchor to an outdoor naturalist and environmentalist through beautiful pictures and short film clips.



April 23, 2025

Happy Hour: Why I Like Mark Twain with Susan K. Harris

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

Mark Twain (1835-1919) was an American humorist, journalist, lecturer, and novelist who gained international fame for his travel narratives and for his adventure stories of boyhood, especially *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. She will explore the debate over teaching *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—how its offensive language works, and why it matters.

TEACHERS LEARNING ABROAD (TLAB)

One last chance for an ESU Scholarship for Summer Study in the UK!

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 Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance Teachers at the Globe

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

NYC Branch TLab Scholarship Applications
Due April 15!



2024 Page-to-Stage Program participants in Stratford-Upon-Avon

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

ESU DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON BEGINS!

Their hard work has paid off and middle and high school students from the New York and New Jersey regions will soon compete in the ESU Debate Championships!

April 5th - East Coast High School Public Debate League Championship at the Hackley School

April 26 - New York Debate League Middle School Championship at Tuckahoe School

May 3rd - Garden State Debate League Middle School Championship at The Hun School

Best of luck to all our dedicated ESU debaters!
 STAY CALM & DEBATE ON!

ESU FRIENDS, MEMBERS & LIFELONG LEARNERS: LEND ME YOUR EARS!

Places are filling fast for the 1 Week Page to Stage program July 13 - 19th in Stratford-upon-Avon with Shakespeares Birthplace Trust.

Join the Merry Band who will be staying at the charming White Swan Hotel exploring this historic town illuminated by informative lectures, talk backs with the cast, and performances at the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company and Globe theatres.



Tournament at Tuckahoe

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

for more information contact [Alice Uhl](#)



For more information go to:

<https://www.esuus.org/what-we-do/international-public-speaking-competition/>

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.



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.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION (IPSC)

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), competing with students from around the world. Rishabh enjoys bringing words to life—on stage, in the courtroom, or on the page. From Anaheim to D.C., from TEDx talks to national speech tournaments, Rishabh is excited to take the stage at the IPSC in London, May 12 - 17th. We will be cheering you on!



for more information contact [Karl Hart](#)

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

THE ESU PLAYERS

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, April 10, 2025

The ESU Players will present Len Ludwig's *Moon over Buffalo*

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

More Upcoming Dates:

May 8th

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

THE ESU 2025 FOUNDER'S AWARD RECAP



The ESU 2025 Founder's Award Weekend on March 14-15, was a spectacular two-day celebration in Winter Park, FL, honoring ESU Chairman Dr. Quinn Peeper as the recipient of the organization's highest distinction in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the ESU's mission to advance Anglo-American relations, international friendship, and the promotion of English as a tool for global communication. The event brought together members, supporters, and distinguished guests from across the country and the international ESU community to recognize Dr. Peeper's exceptional leadership and dedication to the ESU's mission.

The weekend culminated in the grand Founder's Award Gala at the Winter Park Racquet Club, where Dr. Peeper and the ESU received greetings from the ESU Central Florida Branch, our gracious weekend hosts. Warm remarks also came from Bolormaa Jamiyansuren, speaking on behalf of the entire international ESU community, and Caroline Emma Stanley, Countess of Derby, who was also in attendance. The Countess spoke about the history, architecture and art collection of her family's ancestral home, Knowsley Hall, and extended a heartfelt invitation to a magical holiday weekend there from November 20-23, 2025.

<https://www.esuus.org/event/knowsley-hall-weekend/>

Please see the following page for details.

The evening's highlight was the presentation of the Founder's Award to Dr. Quinn Peeper by Dr. Laurence C. Morse, recipient of the 2020 Centennial Founder's Award. In addition, Dr. Peeper announced the launch of the ESU's first-ever Capacity Building Campaign, a bold initiative to expand the organization's reach and impact. The campaign will raise funds to support the ESU's long-term growth and will culminate in the 25th anniversary celebration of the ESU House in 2026.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who attended and contributed to making this event a resounding success.

See the event unfold! [Download the event program](#) and view the photo gallery here:

<https://www.jenadamsphoto.com/f244712513>

password: esu



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)



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.



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

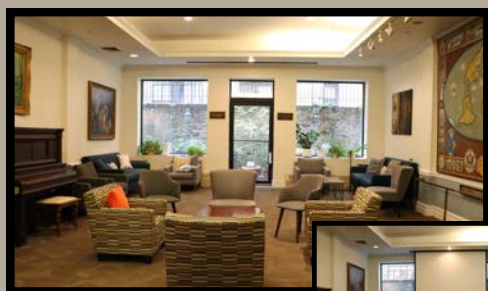


The ESU National Patron Tours

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

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.

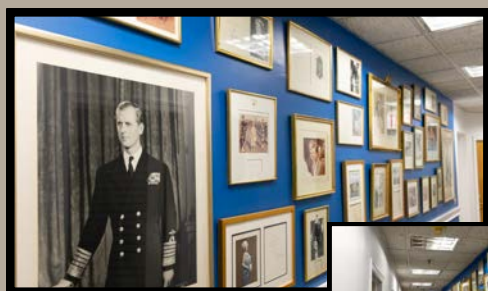
Our rooms feature versatile layouts and modern A/V systems, making it perfect for corporate meetings, creative workshops, and special gatherings.

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

[Click here to contact us](#)



The Library

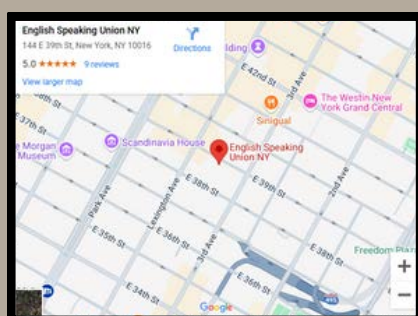


The Photo Wall



The Horizon Room

LOCATION



The Knowledge Space