



NEW YORK
BRANCH

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CONTACT US

(212) 818-1200

newyork@esuus.org

NYC BRANCH NEWSLETTER

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

MEMBERSHIP

NEW

Introducing the ESU Educator Membership

We are proud to announce our new Educator Membership, offered exclusively to teachers involved in TLab, the National Shakespeare Competition, Middle & High School Debate and other ESU education programs. Benefits include:

- Access to exclusive professional development workshops - including *The Women of Shakespeare*, live via Zoom from Shakespeare's Globe in November.
- Special curriculum resources and lesson plans
- Member events in NYC during Shakespeare Finals Weekend
- Exciting add-on experiences to TLab programs
- Discounted tickets to the National Shakespeare Competition
- Preferred rates at the Shelburne Sonesta Hotel in NYC
- Exclusive discounts on select Broadway shows

[Click here](#) for more information and to become a member.



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



October Office Hours:

October 27 at 6:00-7:00PM EST

[Click Here](#)

[for more information contact DeAndre Short](#)



[Visit our NYC Branch Website](#)

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Discover, Connect, and Thrive with the English-Speaking Union (ESU)

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

As we celebrate the **25th Anniversary of the ESU House**, launch our **Capacity Building Campaign**, and look ahead to the **250th Anniversary of our nation** with events nationwide, there's never been a better time to join our community.

Whether you're a student, educator, or globally curious individual, you'll find opportunities at the ESU—through workshops, speaker events, exchanges, and celebrations—to grow, share, and belong. Stay tuned for upcoming events and join us in this mission to build friendships, foster ideas, and strengthen global citizenship.

Join the ESU—where language connects and community thrives.



[Click here For Scholarship Applications and More Information,](#)

ESU INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Welcome back to ESU students as they start their new school year! Autumn is also Scholarship Application Season and we are happy to announce that ESU International Scholarship Applications are now open for two scholarship opportunities to study in the UK during the 2026-2027 academic year.

ESU LUARD MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

The Luard Morse Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship providing up to \$30,000 towards a semester of study at a British university to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities during their Junior year. The scholarship is open to students in all disciplines and has been awarded to students majoring in economics, philosophy, finance, mathematics, liberal arts, and the sciences. They can apply to the British university of their choice. Luard Morse Scholars have served as ambassadors for the United States while abroad and for British higher education upon returning home.



To see more of Kennedy's experience in the UK, please watch her video at:

<https://www.esuus.org/luard-morse-scholarship-college-juniors/alumni-updates/>



For SSE Scholarship Application & More Information, go to:

<https://www.esuus.org/what-we-do/secondary-school-exchange/>

or

contact [Alice Uhl](#)

ESU SECONDARY SCHOOL EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP (SSE)

The ESU SSE Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship providing tuition and room and board for scholars to spend a year between high school and college at a British boarding school. During this "Gap Year," these young scholars have new academic and social experiences in another country and culture. Through their year abroad, the SSE scholars gain independence, a global outlook, and increased maturity that benefits them at college and in their future careers.



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

THE ESU NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

The ESU New York City Branch is proud to announce the launch of the 43rd Annual National Shakespeare Competition (NSC)! High schools across all five boroughs are invited to participate, offering students a unique opportunity to bring Shakespeare's words to life through performance.

The NYC Branch winner will advance to the national finals right here in New York City in April 2026 for an exciting weekend of workshops, city tours, and a Broadway show, culminating in the final competition on stage Monday, April 27 at Lincoln Center. Students compete for scholarships and prizes, while teachers enjoy ongoing access to online and in-person professional development throughout the year.

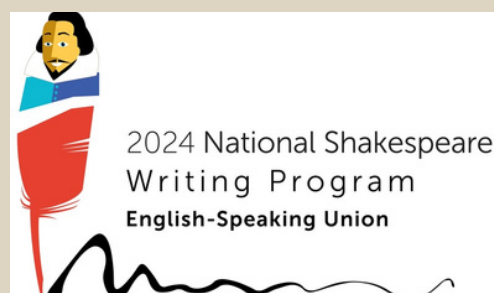
[Click here](#) to learn more and register your school for this year's NSC.

THE NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE WRITING PROGRAM

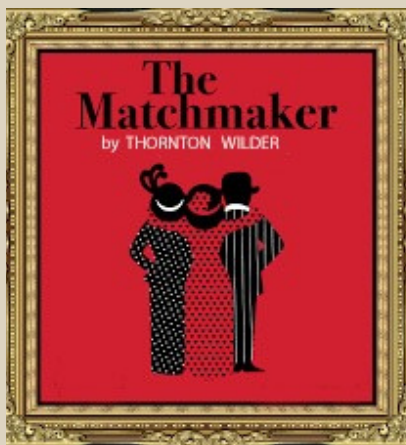
This November, the ESU New York City Branch will participate in the launch of the I AM Shakespeare Sonnet Competition, part of the National Shakespeare Writing Program. Open to students and teachers across all five boroughs engaged in ESU education programs, the competition invites students to reimagine a Shakespearean sonnet by exploring modern themes drawn from their own life experiences.

This inspiring opportunity builds writing skills, boosts confidence, and offers prizes for the top three winners. Encourage your students to take part and showcase their creativity through original Shakespeare-inspired works.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the National Shakespeare Writing Program and the I AM Shakespeare Sonnet Competition.



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



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, October 9, 2025

Thornton Wilder's farce introduces Dolly Gallagher Levi, the matchmaker who later inspired the Broadway classic Hello, Dolly! With her clever schemes, Dolly brings together a host of unlikely couples, leading to romance and laughter in 19th-century New York.

Come join us for an evening of madcap coincidences and mistaken identities, which end in a series of happy pairings.

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

ESU HAPPY HOUR

Wednesday, November 5

The Lost Heirs: The Rise and Fall of the D'Oyly Carte Dynasty

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm EST

Sponsored by ESU Central Pennsylvania Branch



[Register Here](#)

Renowned worldwide for his partnership with Gilbert and Sullivan, Richard D'Oyly Carte built an empire that spanned theatre and luxury hotels, including The Savoy. A new book by James Stebbings, *The Lost Heirs – The Rise and Fall of the D'Oyly Carte Dynasty*, explores the untold story of Carte's son and grandson, Lucas and Michael, whose tragic deaths led to the dynasty's decline. Stebbings will share this fascinating history with ESU audiences in a presentation illustrated with rare photographs—a must for Gilbert and Sullivan fans and theatre history enthusiasts alike.

THE ESU ANDREW ROMAY NEW IMMIGRANT CENTER (ARNIC)



Save the Date!



Multicultural Food Festival: Every Dish Tells a Story

Thursday, November 6
5:00 - 7:00 pm
144 East 39th Street, New York, NY

Join us for an evening of international cuisine prepared by our immigrant students. Sample homemade dishes and hear stories about the traditions and cultures of our diverse community.

This event will celebrate the contributions of immigrants and bring together our vibrant community around one table.

Don't miss out. Mark your calendars today!

for more information contact [Karl Hart](#)

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

To further support the Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center at the ESU, please consider donating at:

<https://www.esuus.org/getinvolved/donate/>



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

for more information contact eia@esuus.org

[Click here](#) to learn more about EiA

ENGLISH IN ACTION ACROSS AMERICA

Volunteering is a meaningful way to make a difference, and few opportunities are as rewarding as helping newcomers to the U.S. improve their English language skills. With just two hours a week, you can open doors for someone building a new life just by having a conversation. No prior experience is needed—training is provided, and with little effort, you will form a long-lasting relationship with your conversation partner. Sign up for an information session today and discover how fulfilling it is to support someone who truly needs it!

FAULKNER SOCIETY AND THE WWII MUSEUM IN NEW ORLEANS

In collaboration with
the English-Speaking
Union

FAULKNER FOR ALL!

Among this year's Headliners are 2023 National Book Award winner Justin Torres; the UK's glamorous art curator, historian, and author, the Countess of Derby; journalist and professor of journalism Claire Hoffman, author of the new blockbuster book, *Sister, Sinner*; and poet Julie Kane, winner of the 26th annual Louisiana Writer's Award.

ESU Chairman Dr. Quinn Peeper and Michael Harold hosted the Opening Night Ceremony and Brunch on Sunday.

VISITING THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR 2 MUSEUM / RECOGNIZING ESU'S FORMER LEADERSHIP

This past weekend, ESU Chairman Dr. E. Quinn Peeper and President Karen Karpowich visited the National World War II

Museum in New Orleans. Meeting with their leadership, they spoke of our mutual commitments to human understanding and freedom.

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.

We salute their vision and honor two ESU's former leaders who were at the center of the storm during that period.

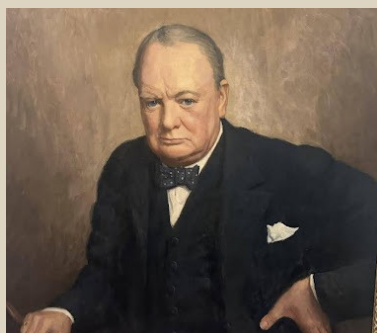


Sunday Brunch with ESU
Luard Morse Scholars

Lady Derby Speaking at
Commander's Palace



ESU President Karen
Karpowich with Dr. Quinn
Peeper & Michael Harold
at their home in the
Garden District, New
Orleans



Sir Winston Churchill
Second President of English
Speaking Union

Dwight David
Eisenhower President
English Speaking Union
of United States
1963-1966



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deadline to Reserve Your
Tickets is October 7

The Academy of St. Martin

Invites you to
The ASMF Chamber Ensemble
at The Century Association

7 W 43rd Street, NYC

6:30PM Reception

7:15PM Recital

8:00PM Reception

Contact americanfriends@asmf.org to register

**OCTOBER 14,
2025**



**NOVEMBER 6,
2025**

Winston Churchill Society of New York Annual Gala at the Union League Club in NYC (38 E 37th St.)

Join us for a fascinating evening with acclaimed author Thomas Maier, who will present his new book, *The Invisible Spy*. Maier will uncover the story of Churchill's undercover agents at Rockefeller Center and their secret work with Ernest Cuneo—former NFL player turned White House insider—who became America's first spy of World War II. Maier is also the author of *When Lions Roar: The Churchills and the Kennedys*, exploring the families' intertwined histories.

A formal invitation with ticket details will follow. A portion of your ticket will be tax deductible.

For sponsorship opportunities and more information, please contact Geoffrey Raicht at graicht@churchillnewyork.com

250th Anniversary

United States Semiquincentennial
The English Speaking Union and the American Revolution

Join us as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary with events nationwide, a student essay contest, limited-edition swag, and more.

Contact Deborah Unger at dunger@esuus.org

SPRING 2026

AMERICA



**APRIL
23-27, 2026**

Annual General Meeting - NYC Voices of Liberty: Celebrating 250 Years of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence in the Heart of New York

Join us in New York City this April for the English-Speaking Union's Annual General Meeting as we honor the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Contact Deborah Unger at dunger@esuus.org

SAVE THE DATE

25th Anniversary of the ESU House NYC

This year, we mark the 25th anniversary of the ESU House. We will be celebrating this milestone during the ESU's Annual General Meeting, honouring our mission to promote understanding and global friendship through the English language.

Contact Deborah Unger at dunger@esuus.org

**APRIL
23-27, 2026**



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, (862) 224-4244.

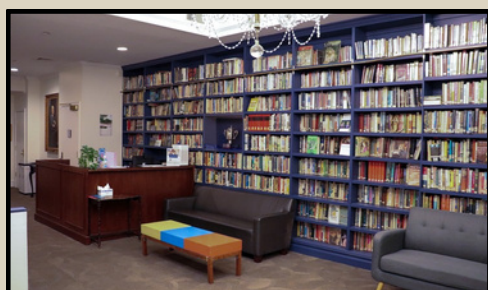
THE ESU EVENT AND OFFICE SPACE RENTAL



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](#)

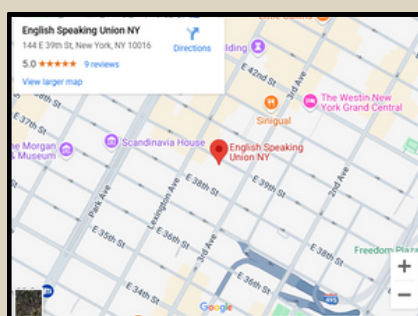


The Photo Wall



The Horizon Room

LOCATION



The Knowledge Space