

BRANCH NEWS

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

P.O. Box 758, Winter Park, FL. 32790-0758

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The English-Speaking Union Central Florida Branch

A Special Concert From Windsor Castle *The Queen's Six Goes Pop*

**Monday
February**

8

2021

4:00 PM

Zoom waiting
room opens at
3:45 pm.

Email Zoom
lecture link
invitation will
be sent on
**February
5 & 8**

In a live program from Windsor Castle, The Queen's Six, a group of professional male singers known for their concert tours and recordings as well as for their role as choristers at Windsor Castle, will talk about what it's like to sing for the Royal Family and to live within the castle grounds. The highlight of this special program designed for us will be a concert of popular songs. Established in 2008, the Queen's Six, together with six other adult male singers and boy

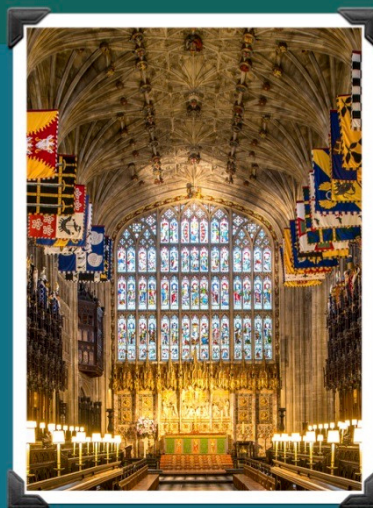
choristers, sing each week for services in

St. George's Chapel as part of a tradition going back to the 1300s.

The choir sang for the 2018 wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

This is a Zoom treat not to be missed.

Program Leader: Gerald Schiffhorst



President's Message

Happy New Year! May 2021 be filled with hope, optimism, peace, joy, love, and good health for each of you! Our branch is preparing for our annual Shakespeare Competition during this month of February and even though I am aware that you may well be cognizant of this English-Speaking Union program, I thought I would share some additional information that you might not be acquainted with.



2020 was the first year that ESU National produced an all-digital Shakespeare Competition in its thirty- seven years of existence. It was also the first year for a Teachers Recognition Award and a First People's Choice Award. The First People's Choice reached 9,500 people from the United States and as far away as China, Brazil, and Japan; it generated world-wide exposure and interest. The First Commemorative Yearbook for branches and students was created. The Shakespeare National Competition has involved 360,000 plus students since its inception and 2, 000 teachers with 1,000 competitions reaching 50 communities and branches.

Additionally, there have been some new developments and initiatives for 2020-2021... New Writing Competitions, New Strategic Partnerships, and New Resources for Teachers. The national administrative staff person who oversees the Shakespeare Competition also manages the Frankenstein Writing Competition. This year there was a Frankenstein Writing Competition with four prompts that were rigorous but accessible for middle and high school students. This competition was created in partnership with the Morgan Library and Museum with complementary Professional Development opportunities for thirty-five teachers from across the United States. Free class materials were available for teachers as well as free virtual museum tours. The Frankenstein Competition was promoted by some prestigious future partners which included National Honor Society, American Heritage Society, the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, and the National English Honor Society. This competition certainly provided increased exposure of our organization as well as some of our branches. I hope many of you have been able to view the programs that our branch guest speakers have presented in addition to the National "Happy Hour Talks" utilizing the Zoom platform.

Even if you were unable to view the programs on the date of the presentation perhaps the links shared in our newsletters have enabled you to view them at your leisure. Both the Mayflower and Westminster have graciously shared our branch programs and Happy Hour Talks on their in-house television listings for the convenience of our members. The Program Committee is diligently planning programs for next year with the hope that we will be able to gather at the University Club for our monthly meetings; be assured that precautions will be observed for everyone's safety.

Continued President's Message

We have two exciting up-coming programs this month:

February 8 – The Queen's Six Goes Pop – The Queen's Six are a group of professional male singers who record, tour, and are choristers at Windsor Castle. Please look for upcoming emails about this program as you will not want to miss it.

February 22 - Annual Shakespeare Competition - Please take the opportunity to read the article in the Newsletter for specifics about the competition.

"Hope and optimism are not just attitudes, they are life strategies."

-Thomas Friedman

Warmly,
Barbara W. Hughes

CENTRAL FLORIDA ESU 2020-2021 PROGRAM SEASON

**All programs are on Monday at the University Club of Winter Park unless otherwise indicated.*

Monday, February 8, 2021, 4:00 p.m. Zoom Program

A Special Concert From Windsor Castle: The Queen's Six Goes Pop

Monday, February 22, 2021, Virtual Shakespeare Competition

This year links or recorded performances, completed remotely in advance, will be shared with all membership for review. On Tuesday, February 23, 2021, the winners will be announced along with contestant names, schools, and teacher sponsors.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Zoom Program

Elliot Engel- "Sir Walter Raleigh: Beyond the Muddy Cloak"

Wednesday, March 31, 2021- Scholars' Reunion

Monday, April 12 or 19, 2021- TBA

Monday, May 17, 2021, 3:30- 5:30 p.m. Annual E-SU Meeting

Susan Rosoff- "David Hockney: From Yorkshire to Hollywood and Back Again"

If you would like to view any of our past ESU Branch Programs, you may access them by visiting the ESU Central Florida Branch Youtube Channel link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHSbTEUXk8z13quMw34MHSQ>

The Shakespeare Competition

Going boldly where the Central Florida Branch of The English-Speaking Union has never gone before, our annual Shakespeare competition will be held virtually for the first time ever. While our competition is still open to public and private schools in the tri-county area, local students will submit video footage of their winning interpretations of both monologues and sonnets. With 18 schools vying for the opportunity to compete at the national level, determining a branch representative will be a challenge for our panel of three judges. However, this year, ESU members can do their own personal judging from the privacy of their own homes.



With our new recorded format, links to all videos will be shared with ESU members in lieu of a live, in-person competition. These links will be e-mailed to members on Monday, February 22. On the following day, another e-mail will arrive announcing the winners along with a revelation of contestant names, schools, and teacher sponsors. At the time of printing, the national competition is tentatively scheduled to include a trip to New York for the branch winner with a live competition at The Lincoln Center. The national competition will be held in a distanced virtual format as well.

We wish all of our student competitors good luck as they compete for \$1,000.00 for First Place, \$500.00 for Second Place, and \$250.00 for Third Place. All teacher sponsors will be awarded \$250.00 honorariums in recognition of the hard work that goes into hosting the first round of the competition at the school level. Please watch for the arrival of our first ever virtual Shakespeare competition in your e-mail in-boxes.

The Shakespeare Competition links will be
released on February 22nd!



The Central Florida English Speaking Union
would like to recognize the following
members for their contributions to the ESU
Centennial 2020 campaign.

William Adams
Judith Beck
Joe Bostwick
Ginger Bryant
Gail Chase
Dot Cline
Gisela Davis
Arthur Evans
Gilda Gomez
Natalie Hill
Dorothy Holtgreffe
Barbara Hughes

Loreta Jackson
Frank and Patricia Johnson
Sharyn Jontz
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Julie Rankin
Carol Reagles
Max Reed
Ralph Rogers
Diane Sandquist
Gerald Schiffhorst
Jack and Sally Schott
Deborah Williams
Nancy Williams
Joan Yeilding
Martin and Joyce Zeluck

Thank You!

Your generosity sustains both National
and Branch programs and events.

**Evolve
education and
impact lives.
Join the ESU!**

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH
Membership Application**

- ☐ I wish to become a member of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.
☐ I wish to renew my membership of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.

Please send a check for \$45 (single membership) or \$60 (couple membership) to the **English-Speaking Union, 144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016.**

Name and Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone, Fax, and Email _____

Visit the E-SU Central Florida website at www.E-SUus.org/centralflorida for more information.

**The English-Speaking Union
Central Florida Branch**

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