

# BRANCH NEWS

*Education. Scholarship. Understanding.*

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

Website: [www.ESUus.org/centralflorida](http://www.ESUus.org/centralflorida)

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**The English Speaking Union**  
Central Florida Branch



## Fall Dinner

**Tuesday**  
**October 18, 2022**

The Winter Park  
Racquet Club  
2111 Via Tuscany  
Winter Park

Cocktails 6:00pm  
Dinner 6:45pm

Black Tie is optional attire for the gentlemen,  
while the ladies may want to don their most  
elegant gowns.

**Program Leader: Socky O'Sullivan**



*Renowned  
Local  
Legend*

**Michael Andrew**

*Jazz singer,  
bandleader  
and  
actor!*

**Reservations due by Tuesday,  
October 11, 2022**

Make your check for \$55 per person

*Payable to:*  
"The English Speaking Union"

*Send to:*  
Barbara Hughes,  
246 Balfour Drive,  
Winter Park, FL 32792

Any questions please call  
Barbara Hughes at:  
321-279-1133

**DON'T  
miss it!**

*Make Your Reservations!*

*Don't miss our enchanting Fall Dinner program on Tuesday, October 18.  
The reservation form and menu are included in this newsletter.*

# Executive Vice President's Message



## On the Wings of Angels

The British monarchy and its concept of a privileged ruling class draws staunch supporters, harsh critics and simply apathetic observers. Privilege is defined by the idea of inheriting wealth and position, rather than working to earn it. That is why 1776 happened, but let us leave that discussion alone for now. Instead let us define **constancy** and how it can profoundly influence both nations and individuals.

I keep hearing that word **constancy** associated with Queen Elizabeth II. Seven decades of anything might fit a narrow definition of ever-present, but seventy years of service with an example of honesty, integrity and caring creates a bedrock upon which a nation and its people can thrive. It is what I call **admirable constancy**. Think of the opposite: *insufferable constancy*. Thankfully Queen Elizabeth II was intelligent, benevolent and of high moral character. Her longevity could have led to much suffering and instability if she had not been. Indeed we have enough of those examples throughout history and even today.



Queen Elizabeth II has been a constant and beloved presence in the lives of everyone over the age of about ten in the UK and the Commonwealth countries, even those who would prefer to separate politically from the crown. For that matter, she is admired and revered around the world, not just because she is Her Majesty the Queen, but because she is Elizabeth the Grand Lady.

It is a fact that the British iron-willed determination to keep Hitler out of England started with the constancy of Princess Elizabeth and her family. Walking among the ruins of bombed-out London, they provided the hope and courage to survive, while Churchill and the military-political machine provided the iron will and determination to achieve victory. The braiding of these two strands created an impenetrable fortress that Hitler could not defeat with mere brutality. Today we are witnessing another madman unable to batter through the hope and faith of the Ukrainian people, led by the constancy of a courageous, steady leader. The parallels are stunning.

Thank you to Queen Elizabeth for granting a royal charter to the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth in 1957. The close ties between ESUC and ESUUS continue to strengthen both organizations in our common pursuit of Sir Wrench's ideals. The Queen spoke at ESUUS in New York in 1957 and graciously in 1976 to help us celebrate the bicentennial of our break with England.

When Elizabeth became queen a few years later, her people already respected and loved her - not because she was owed fealty as the monarch, but because she had stayed with them through the worst. She remained steady during the longest reign in history, never subjugating fervent love of her country and its people below personal glory or power. No matter what boiled in the world around her - and there was plenty, much of it personal - she did not crumble, even if there were a misstep here and there. She was their Mother - to be counted on to be the same every day of their lives, even when nothing else was. Even when the ground was shifting under their feet. Even when there was more senseless hatred. Even when dictators, demagogues and authoritarians reemerged as populist favorites. The world as they had always known it was still there, with Mother England cradling them in her love and constancy. Our hearts go out to them in the void undoubtedly created in her passing.



*His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (left), Her Majesty The Queen (center), and Lewis Douglas, ESU Chairman from 1951-1959 (right) pictured at the ESU-hosted dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in 1957.*

So who is left to be an example of strength, hope and **constancy**? We are. Person to person. We all have an opportunity - an obligation - to treat others with kindness and dignity. We do not have to leave it to powerful people to effect change. So-called "Powerful" people come with an agenda, very often a self-serving one. We are all powerful, able to make a difference, able to effect change, able to drown out the angry voices. We too can be an example of **constancy**. If not us, then who? There will likely never be another Queen Elizabeth II.

Overlay this concept of the *humanity of man* with our founder Sir Evelyn Wrench's English-Speaking Union vision in 1918: people-to-people discourse using the power of the English language is the way civilized people should settle all disputes, be they interpersonal or international.

Kindness is not weakness. It has power and **constancy**.

*Jan McClure,  
Executive Vice President*

# 2022 Tab Scholars' Reports and Reunion



Forty former Drey Scholars with invited colleagues and members of the ESU Board gathered to enjoy our returning Drey Scholars' around-the-table discussion of their experiences this summer in the United Kingdom. Scholar Chair, Reta Jackson, introduced Lizzy Brannan and Matthew Nash-Brown, who travelled to London to participate in "Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance" and Jessica Furiosi and Gerry Precil, who both attended Oxford University's program on "History, Politics and Society," and last but not least, Kris Kahn, who travelled to Edinburgh, Scotland, to attend classes in Contemporary Scottish Drama as well as plays at the International Fringe Festival. These scholars were chosen back in 2019 and have the distinction of being named Drey Scholars for four years due to the pandemic.



Gerry Precil began the discussion by asking everyone to explain what classes they chose for their program followed by what a typical day was like and their most memorable moment. Jessica and Gerry took classes about Immigration and Modern Warfare. Gerry was proud that her paper in the Modern Warfare class received a grade one point from Writing with Distinction. Jessica shared that she chose the Modern Warfare Class because she knew nothing about the subject and wanted to gain that knowledge/background.

Lizzy and Matthew had the experience of hearing their voices projected from the stage at the Globe as they read lines from Shakespeare. They kept the audience laughing, especially when Jessica explained she was Juliet in the play and Matthew was her Nurse. They enthusiastically talked about all the craziness of being students instead of teachers and the insights this gave them.

Kris Kahn shared some of his adventures when he spent eleven days before classes began by renting a motorcycle and touring the Scottish Highlands and Isle of Skye to become closely acquainted with Scottish culture. His memorable moment was scary since his passport was stolen, but he had taken a picture of it on his phone. He shared in a most entertaining way how the American Embassy helped by giving him a temporary passport.

All of the scholars talked about the culture shock of being in the United Kingdom. One example was how advanced they are technologically. To buy even an ice cream at Stonehenge, Jessica discovered no cash was accepted; just tap your credit/debit card on the square. It seems the U.K. has moved to being a cashless society.

The program in the University Club Library ended by answering questions from the audience and everyone giving these educators a big round of applause. The Reunion commenced in the adjoining room where tables of sandwiches, fruits, vegetables and cookies were enjoyed, as well as lots of laughter and conversations.



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Central Florida Branch

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**Any questions please call**

**Barbara Hughes at:**

**321-279-1133**



Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me (us) for

*Fall Dinner*

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

The Winter Park Racquet Club

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (\$55 per person)

Names of those covered in this request (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
(person requesting)

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **YOUR PHONE NUMBER**

Group reservations accepted up  
to six per table. Checks for the  
entire group should be enclosed  
with your reservation request to  
guarantee seats together.

*Don't Miss  
This  
Exciting  
Evening!  
  
Make  
Your  
Reservations!*



## *Dinner Menu*

*October 18, 2022*

### *ESU Dinner*

#### ***Passed Hors d'oeuvres***

*Pesto Tomato Bruschetta  
Olive tapenade  
&  
Goat Cheese Crostini*

#### ***Plated Salad***

*Iceberg wedge, bacon, tomato,  
& bleu cheese*

*Rolls & Butter*

#### ***Plated Entrée***

*3 oz filet with demi-glace  
&  
3 oz panko crusted flounder  
with beurre blanc  
Garlic mashed potatoes  
&  
Vegetable bundle*

#### ***Plated Dessert***

*Flourless Chocolate Torte  
  
Coffee and Tea  
House Wine*



# Program Schedule 2022-2023

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

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Dinner at Winter Park Racquet Club and entertainment by Michael Andrew Host: Socky O'Sullivan

**Monday, November 7, 2022, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

Professor Richard Aldous, Bard College - "The Iron Lady and the Gipper"  
How the iconic friendship between Thatcher and Regan ended the cold war.

**Monday, December 5, 2022, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

A special three-part presentation on the Evolution of Christmas  
Part I: Why Christmas Is Celebrated on the Winter Solstice, Patrick Powers.  
Part 2: Customs of a Victorian Christmas 2  
Thanks to Prince Albert and Charles Dickens, Ann Hellmuth.  
Part 3: Commercialization of Christmas by Department Stores, Michelle Levy

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Dinner at Winter Park Racquet Club and entertainment by Gloria Cook, Concert Pianist  
Host: Socky O'Sullivan

**Monday, February 20, 2023, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Shakespeare Competition at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Margeson Stage  
Annually the Central Florida E-SU sponsors a Shakespeare Competition for Orange, Seminole, and Osceola County students in grades 9-12. Each student, who is a winner at his or her own school, memorizes and presents a Shakespearean sonnet and also a monologue from a collection of edited pieces provided by National. The Central Florida winner is then given an all-expenses paid trip to New York to compete in the National E-SU Shakespeare Competition. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. at Orlando Shakes with refreshments served at 5:00.

**Monday, March 6, 2023, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

Barbara Perry, UVA - "The Kennedys in England"  
Rose Kennedy: The Life and Times of a Political Matriarch.

**Monday, April 3, 2023, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

Julia Taddeo - University of Maryland - "From Mad George to Megabit"  
British Royal Scandals, Media, and History.

**Monday, May 1, 2023, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

Ed Larson - George Washington's Second Revolution.  
Our Annual General Meeting will precede our guest speaker, Ed Larson



Register for our next ESU National Happy Hour

Wednesday, October 19 at 4:00 p.m.

**Meet the Curator Talk with Carly Collier from Royal Collection Trust -  
Victoria & Albert**

Please visit the following link

<https://www.esuus.org/esu/activities/happy-hour/>

You can also check out any past National Happy Hours talks.



## *In Memoriam*

*Eleanor McKechnie*

*A member since 2007*

## *Branch Business*



*If you have any contact updates or questions concerning  
Branch emails, please email us at [esucentralfl@gmail.com](mailto:esucentralfl@gmail.com).*

*Monthly newsletters are delivered through email unless you  
notify us at [esucentralfl@gmail.com](mailto:esucentralfl@gmail.com) that you would like to  
receive a hard copy.*

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and "Follow" our  
organization page @  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
cflesu](https://www.facebook.com/cflesu)

**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](http://www.E-SUus.org/centralflorida) for more information.

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