



Denver Branch

The English-Speaking Union

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

September-October 2019 Newsletter

Executive Committee

President:	Michael Thornton
Treasurer:	Bruce Haefner
Program Chair:	Bonnie Pritchett

Board of Directors

July 2017 – June 2020:	Basil Carpenter Cindy Poinsett Bonnie Pritchett Susan Stokley
July 2018-June 2021:	Christine DiNunzio Niccole Guagliardo Todd Madison Jeannine Mortell Lauren Wasser
July 2019 – June 2022:	Polly Cox Bruce Haefner Kathleen Murphy Charles Thompson

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Finance and Governance:	Sue Stokley
Membership:	Polly Cox
Program:	Bonnie Pritchett

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Teachers Learning	Kate Murphy
Abroad UK:	
Dr. Howard F. Beckley	
Writing Competition:	Sue Stokley
Shakespeare Competition:	Lauren Wasser
English In Action:	Christine DiNunzio

Secretary/Administrator Cami Van Anne

ESU Denver Branch

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members,

The first business meeting of the new board will take place on September 21. A few board members retired during our annual meeting in July – Aimee Arens and Mary McLean stepped down from the board after many years of service. Bruce Haefner replaces Chuck Thompson as treasurer, who filled that role for as long as anyone can remember. Chuck will remain on the board. Kate Murphy became our President-Elect, and will take over my position in one year. I appreciate all the people who attended the annual meeting on a sunny afternoon in June. Mary McLean deserves kudos for her concerted efforts in arranging the luncheon at the Cherry Creek Country Club.

The Denver chapter of the ESU is sponsoring a few events with Lighthouse Writers Workshop through the next year, including awarding one of our high school writers in the Dr. Howard F. Beckley Writing Competition that takes place this fall with a workshop at Lighthouse next summer. We were already mentioned in a Writers Studio program that featured Esmé Weijun Wang and Michelle Tea – they conducted a lively conversation for a big crowd at the Museum of Nature and Science. We will continue to explore ways to let people know that what we do in the ESU supports students and teachers in the Denver metro area.

I have participated in two conference calls with board members from across the country about what the ESU chapters would like to do for the centennial coming up in 2020 – it will be Denver's 90th year as a member run chapter. Most of the talk has focused on raising the profile of the ESU through an emphasis on its educational programs. The Denver board will be discussing what we would like to do in connection with the centenary. If members reading this have ideas for a celebration that would promote our successes and

attract more members to our organization, please contact me.

A dozen members gathered for a potluck luncheon on the green in Boulder before a matinee performance of *King Charles III* as part of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. It was another fine day for listening to English mastery. I'm looking forward to the dinner with our teacher scholars who attended Oxford this summer – their presentations about their fellowships make members believers in the programs that we sponsor. You can expect to see details about this dinner in November before long. Thank you again for your support.

Michael Thornton
President, Denver Branch of the English-Speaking Union

Lighthouse Writers Workshop Inside the Writer's Studio



On Friday, August 9, ESU Denver Branch was a sponsor of the Lighthouse Inside the Writer's Studio featuring acclaimed memoirists and novelists Michelle Tea (author of over a dozen book, including *Against Memoir*) and Esmé Weijun Wang (author of *The Collected Schizophrenias*) at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The two authors read from their award-winning works, discussed their artistic processes, and answered audience questions live on-stage.

Save the Date Upcoming ESU Calendar

Saturday September 21 9:30 - 11:30	Board of Directors Meeting St. John's Cathedral 1350 Washington Street
Saturday November 16 9:30 - 11:30	Board of Directors Meeting St. John's Cathedral 1350 Washington Street
November Date/Time TBD	TLab Dinner Location TBD



TLAB SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



My name is Emily Pool and I participated in the History, Politics, and Society program at Exeter College. I took two seminar classes - Issues and Problems in the Contemporary Middle East and Modern Warfare. My time at Oxford was unforgettable! It was incredible to return to a formal learning environment and have discussions with brilliant professors. Learning about Brexit whilst in the midst of a new PM election was thrilling, and Boris Johnson was announced as the new PM during one of our plenary lectures about Brexit. To supplement the seminars and lectures, I spent time studying in the Radcliffe Camera and Duke Humphrey's Library, two extraordinarily beautiful buildings. On the weekends, my new friends and I went to pub quiz, went punting, explored the Botanic Gardens and other colleges, and went to the unparalleled Blenheim Palace. Being able to study at Oxford was the highlight of my year, and was my favorite experience as an adult! I am so thankful for ESU for allowing me to be a part of that life-changing program!



In Memoriam



Jeanne Reeves, long-time member of the English-Speaking Union Denver Branch, passed away on July 13, 2019. She was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, on December 22, 1922, daughter of Charles and Florence McFarland. Jeanne graduated from the Colorado Training School for Nurses in Denver in 1945, and she worked at St. Luke's Hospital in Denver.

Jeanne married Roger A. Reeves on March 17, 1945. Roger was a graduate of the School of Engineering at the University of Missouri and was an architect in Denver. He served as ESU Denver Branch President from 1990 to 1995. Roger passed away on April 10, 2006.

Jeanne was active for many years in various organizations, in addition to the English-Speaking Union: Friends of Nursing (past president); Denver Art Museum (docent); and Denver Lyric Opera Guild. She was a member of Saint John's Cathedral and past president of St. Martha's Guild. Jeanne was an avid traveler – she and Roger visited 134 foreign countries.

Jeanne's funeral was held at the Little Ivy Chapel at Fairmount Cemetery on July 21, 2019. She is survived by a daughter, Jennifer Reeves; sons Roger W. (Debby) Reeves and Brian (Babette) Reeves; a brother William E. (Joan) McFarland; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Please keep Jeanne's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Join the Denver Branch for a social gathering to view/discuss the Downton Abbey movie

Members are invited to purchase tickets to the Downton Abbey movie at the Cherry Creek Mall AMC theater for the 3 pm show on Sunday, September 22.

There is now food delivery to your seat in this remodeled movie theater, but we plan to visit the Kona Grill in the mall after the movie for happy hour priced appetizers and drinks in the lounge or on the patio to talk about the newest edition of this British saga.

All are invited, and those who will have already seen the movie can join us for the discussion.

Let the ESU know if you'll be joining us and we will look forward to seeing you there!

denver@esuus.org





The English-Speaking Union welcomes its members to Washington, DC, for the 2019 ESU Annual Conference. The conference will set the stage for and represent the kick-off for the Centennial of the English-Speaking Union, which will take place during 2020. The conference will include the ESU 2019 Annual General Meeting, social events including receptions and meals, breakout sessions, panel discussions and local tours and museum visits as well as updates and camaraderie to advance our programs supporting teachers, students and recent immigrants.



**[Conference Registration Fee is \\$600 -
Register online here.](#)**

Our conference venue will be the Cosmos Club (left), 2121 Massachusetts Ave. NW, (Embassy Row near Dupont Circle) and the newly opened National Churchill Library & Center, 2130 H St NW, Gelman Library at George Washington University. See Schedule of Events (over).

To reserve a room, please call Mr. Mbaye Ndour at 1-202-387-7783 by September 30, 2019 and mention the English-Speaking Union room block.

We also have a block of rooms reserved across the street at The Fairfax at Embassy Row To book a room, please call 1-855-559-8899 or 1-202-293-2100 by September 30, 2019, when the room block will expire.