



The English-Speaking Union

*Advancing Education, Scholarship and Understanding*



Annual Report | 2015

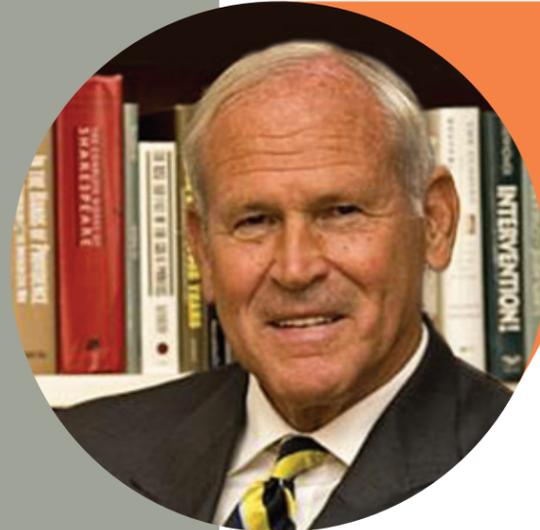


The English-Speaking Union of the United States

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### Message from the Chairman

Throughout its membership, Branches and Headquarters staff, the English-Speaking Union is a dynamic organization adept at looking back on our tradition and legacy and forward to new renewal and relevance. The ESU’s programs, events and scholarship opportunities extend to people of all ages and, more and more, to people of diverse cultures – which was the intent of its founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench.

As you review this Annual Report, take note of our metrics – the numbers of students, teachers and members engaged in and benefitting from our charitable work. We are committed to reinforce, broaden and renew the values of this organization that have made it unique and relevant through 95 years.

Our mission, “to celebrate English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members,” resounds locally and nationally, as programs including the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition, British Universities Summer School, ESU Middle School Debate, Secondary School Exchange, National Speakers Program, English in Action and the Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center enrich the lives of tens of thousands of people.

As I have said before, as we remain alert to each other’s strides and seek to emulate the best we have to offer in word and deed, I see no end to the excellence we have achieved and can, in fact, exceed.

Faithfully yours,

**Josiah Bunting III, Chairman**

The English-Speaking Union of the United States



### Message from the Executive Director

How prophetic of ESU Founder Sir Evelyn Wrench to say in 1920, “*The English-Speaking Union has been founded in no narrow attitude of race pride, in no spirit of hostility to any people. It does not aim at formal alliances, nor has it anything to say to the relationship of governments. It is simply a movement to draw together in the bonds of comradeship the English-Speaking peoples of the world!*” This is the spirit in which the ESU was formed, and absolutely the spirit of our work today. In the 2014-15 fiscal and program year, the panoply of ESU programs drew together and served our members, students, teachers and new immigrants utilizing and celebrating the English language.

At regional, local and national gatherings across the country, ESU members and branch leaders spoke of the ESU’s increasing impact on educators, students and members in their communities. Our national Board of Directors has taken on the task of shoring up our organizational infrastructure to assure best practices of governance and to allow for new, timely branch models to attract active constituencies while remaining a family of devoted and beloved members. And the Board is actively planning how the ESU will be relevant as a prominent educational charity, breaking down barriers of ignorance and misunderstanding in the world ten, twenty and fifty years from now.

This year, as we built on the strength of the ESU’s traditions to expand its educational programs to meet the needs of today, we marveled that our mission has proven both timeless and timely. Enjoy reading about our progress in this 2015 Annual Report.

**Christopher Broadwell, Executive Director**

The English-Speaking Union of the United States

## The ESU Today

The ESU, a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization, advances global understanding and goodwill by providing educational and cultural opportunities through programs and scholarships for students, educators and members.

More than  
**61,700**  
Served in 2014-15

2,409  
middle school students

45,541  
high school students

3,836  
teachers

3,178  
volunteers

750  
English learners

1,151  
schools

6,000  
members

## ESU Mission

**The ESU celebrates English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members.**

ESU members work together locally and nationally to foster global understanding through a variety of educational, cultural and social programs. The ESU's national programs are supported by its unrestricted endowment and corporate and foundation grants as well as by the generosity of members.

Members benefit from the personal relationships and international exposure gained from ESU activities and events while they provide financial and volunteer support to sustain educational programs.

## Vision

The ESU, a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization:

- Advances global understanding by providing educational opportunities through programs and scholarship for students, educators, and members
- Promotes communication and open exchange of ideas among the world's speakers of English
- Enriches communities through active involvement of its branch members in outreach programs
- Offers financial assistance to students and educators to further academic pursuits in English-related studies
- Develops common bonds through a shared interest in the English language and culture to strengthen friendship among members and those they serve

## Programs

The English-Speaking Union  
National Shakespeare Competition

Shakespeare Teacher Programs

British University  
Summer School Scholarships (BUSS)

National Speakers Program

Middle School Debate

English in Action (EiA)

Andrew Romay  
New Immigrant Center (ARNIC)

Luard Morse Scholarships

Secondary School Exchange (SSE)

International Public Speaking Competition

Walter Hines Page Scholarship



## The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition

is a school-based program for teachers designed to develop speaking skills, critical thinking and an appreciation of literature in students. It is the only national Shakespeare competition in the US and the only such program exclusively for high school students. Students read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespeare monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages: at the school, community and national levels.

The 32nd annual English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition occurred on April 27, 2015 at Lincoln Center Theater in New York and drew 57 winners of ESU Branch competitions nationwide. Portraying Rosalind from *As You Like It*, Leontes from *The Winter's Tale*, and a recitation of Sonnet 151, Sarah Spalding, a student of John Watt at Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu, won first prize. She received a full scholarship to attend the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art's Young Actors Summer School in London, England in summer 2015. Runner-up Evelyn Johnson, representing the Philadelphia Branch of the ESU, won a full scholarship to the American Shakespeare Center's Theatre Camp in Staunton, Virginia. Third place winner, Elizabeth Mears, representing the Boston Branch of the ESU, won \$500 from The Shakespeare Society.

Citing its 32nd season, the Honorable Bill De Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York, proclaimed April 27th William Shakespeare Day. Nick Astbury, the British Deputy Consul-General in New York, read the Mayor's proclamation, and Josiah Bunting III, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union, awarded certificates to the competitors.

Since 1983

Has served more than **296,000** high school students since its inception and **2,400** teachers and **21,200** students this year in **56** ESU Branch communities

The New Book Press, publisher of *WordPlay Shakespeare*,\* offered prizes to all 2014 high school teachers participating in the 2015 English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition. This partnership gave teachers and students nationwide access to thousands of classroom hours of Shakespeare plays, allowing them to understand and participate in both close text readings and performance. And, for John Watt (Mid-Pacific Institute), the teacher of this year's First-Place winner, New Book Press awarded an iPad fully loaded with WordPlay Shakespeare plays.

\*eBooks of the Bard's plays featuring video performances of a whole play alongside the complete text.



Since 2010

## Shakespeare Teacher Programs

offer middle school and high school English and drama teachers across the country professional development opportunities, in partnership with the world-renowned Folger Shakespeare Library. Through one- and two-day intensive and interactive workshops, teachers learn the Folger's easily adaptable methods and receive materials designed to engage their students in the Bard's works.



Additionally, ESU Branches in Central Florida, Oklahoma City and Tulsa organized independent summer Shakespeare workshops for teachers. The ESU Los Angeles Branch partners with the Huntington Library to produce "Shakespeare at the Huntington," a two-week institute designed primarily for secondary teachers of English and drama.

Has served more than **825** educators from **27** states since its inception



This year, all teacher workshops centered on *Romeo and Juliet*, perhaps the most frequently taught Shakespeare play in the US. Teachers learned various approaches in presenting the play's age-old complexities with vigor while revealing its contemporary relevance. In western New York, Syracuse, Buffalo and Rochester, ESUs jointly hosted a teacher workshop at Rochester's MuCCC Theater led by: Dr. Barbara Bono, Professor of English, State University of New York at Buffalo; Kevin Costa, Folger Shakespeare Library; Celia Madeoy, Professor of Drama & Acting, Syracuse University, and Dr. Stephanie Shirilan, Professor of English, Syracuse University.

## British University Summer School (BUSS) Scholarships

provide American high school teachers the opportunity to continue their education at prestigious centers of learning in the United Kingdom: Oxford University, Shakespeare's Globe and Edinburgh University. Through nearly 60 years, ESU BUSS scholars from all over the US have returned to their classrooms invigorated and equipped to share their newly acquired teaching and learning strategies with more than 200,000 students nationwide.

Since 1957



Central Florida, Chicago and Kentucky ESU Branches increased the number of their BUSS scholarships this year

Has served more than **2,500** American high school and middle school teachers since its inception

**51** participants in 2014-15



The Atlanta and New York Branches awarded BUSS scholarships for the first time in many years



*"I want to express my appreciation for the Globe's inclusive philosophy as well as the ESU's generosity and commitment to teachers... Thanks to you, my three weeks in London have been a-bubblin' over with the laughter, inquiry, discovery, and spirit of play that I look forward to sharing with my students and colleagues."*

Teacher Line Marshall, Princeton, NJ

Since 1920



**7** Evelyn Wrench speakers traveled to all **8** Regions and spoke to **2,477** members and friends at **47** Branches

## National Speakers Program

presents prominent lecturers in the fields of history, politics, the arts, literature and current events in cities across the country through the network of ESU Branches. The ESU National organization underwrites the Evelyn Wrench Speaker Program and plans them in cooperation with Branches throughout the US. Last year's Wrench speakers included Nicholas Bennett JP, former British Government Minister and Member of Parliament; Robert Hulse, Director, London's Brunel Museum; Rear Admiral John Lippiett CB CBE DL, Director-General, The Mary Rose Trust; Diana Preston, noted historian and author; Dr. Lee Prosser, Curator of Historic Buildings, Historic Royal Palaces; Lord Lisvane KCB, member of the House of Lords and retired Clerk of the House of Commons; and Dr. Jonathan Rose, William R. Kenan Professor of History, Drew University.



Has served more than **1,250** students since its inception  
**1,260** individual debates in 2014-15



## Middle School Debate

is an educational initiative for students in grades 5 to 8 – launched with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities – designed to help young adolescents develop critical thinking and language arts skills through public speaking. The ESU partners with the Claremont McKenna College Middle School Public Debate Program, international leaders in middle school debate education, to establish inter-school debate programs in ESU Branch communities.

Forty schools in New York City and New Jersey comprised four debate leagues, Big Apple, Gotham, Empire and Garden State, with about 900 students participating. This represented an 80% increase in the number of public, charter and independent schools that participated the previous year. There were 1,260 individual debates through this program.

On May 29, the 2015 English-Speaking Union Middle School Public Debate Program National Championship was held at the Morgan Library & Museum and featured a 28-minute debate between East Coast Champions from The Hackley School (Tarrytown, NY) and the West Coast Champions from the Pegasus School (Huntington Beach, CA). Arguing in favor of the proposition, "The United States should abolish the death penalty," the Hackley School prevailed.

The Sandhills (NC), Columbus (OH) and Greenwich (CT) Branches administered independent student debate programs.

Since 2011

*"Thank you so much for everything that made this the most worthwhile endeavor of my career thus far."*

Shawn Bridges  
Teacher and Middle School Debate Coach, Broad Street School, Bridgeton, NJ



Since  
1957

### English in Action (EiA)

pairs newcomers to the US with American volunteers, fluent English speakers, for one-on-one conversation sessions, helping them master conversational English and learn about life in the US, while also fostering cross-cultural exchange. A hallmark of the program is its comprehensive tutor training, which emphasizes the best practices in cross-cultural learning and leadership development. Expanded tutor trainings increased nearly 300% this year.

Branch programs include:  
Portland (OR), Seattle, Columbus (OH), Lexington (VA),  
Monmouth County (NJ), and New Orleans.



Serving more than  
**400**  
American volunteers  
and more than  
**750**  
students from some  
**66**  
countries

**This year**, the ESU partnered with The Moth, an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling, for a five-week workshop. A group of EiA tutors and students and ARNIC members learned how to shape their life experiences into compelling stories.



Since  
2013

### Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC)

ARNIC is committed to improving the lives of recent immigrants by providing a welcoming environment, resources and information to help them improve their English, explore work and study opportunities, network, pursue citizenship, and acquire cultural fluency in order to participate fully in American society. Members receive a one-year scholarship to participate in English in Action, intensive English language classes, workshops and cultural and civic trips and events.

ARNIC partnerships grew exponentially in 2014-15. Deepened relationships with StreetWise Partners and the New York Junior League have laid the foundation for a special business mentorship program to pair recent immigrants with American professionals.

On May 21 the English-Speaking Union Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center celebrated its second year with a graduation ceremony hosted by the Open Society Foundations, financial supporters of the program, at their offices in New York City.



Served more than  
**500**  
recent immigrants from  
**66**  
countries of origin

More than  
**202**  
graduates  
**170**  
currently enrolled



*"When my husband and I came to New York, I was happy but afraid. I didn't speak English well and other people from my country recommended ARNIC. That has made a big difference... Now, I'm a New Yorker and understand American culture better! I want to say thank-you to Mr. Romay and to the ESU."*

Galyna, Ukraine (arrived in the US in April 2012)





Since  
1928

Serves  
**34**  
participants  
presently  
and  
**45**  
select  
independent  
schools  
in the US,  
the UK and  
Argentina

## Secondary School Exchange (SSE)

is a merit-based scholarship that provides tuition and room and board for US scholars to spend a semester or year between high school and college (known as a "gap year") at select British or Argentine boarding schools, and for UK scholars to spend their gap year at select US schools.

*"Westonbirt has given me a completely new global perspective... The friendships and experiences I have encountered would have never been possible without the English-Speaking Union."*

Faith Debolt, 2014-15 SSE Scholar

**2014-15:**

|  |                        |  |
|--|------------------------|--|
| <b>15</b>                                | <b>18</b>              | <b>1</b>   |
| US participants<br>studied in<br>the UK; | UK participants<br>and | Argentine<br>participant<br>studied in<br>the US |



Since  
1981

Serves  
more than  
**40,000**  
young people  
in  
**50**  
countries  
around the  
globe



## International Public Speaking Competition

brings 50 international competitors to London for a week in which students participate in a range of activities centered on both communication and cultural exchange.

The ESU sent Chaya Sara Oppenheim, a junior at Manhattan High School for Girls in New York City, to London to represent the US this May in the 2015 ESU International Public Speaking Competition. Her speech, "The Phoenix of Diversity," addressed the theme "To be ignorant of the past is to remain a child." Delegates participated in workshops at Shakespeare's Globe, attended a theater performance in London's West End, and worked with the ESU of the Commonwealth's experienced Speech and Debate Mentors.

Runner Up: Jack Emerling is a junior at Salem Academy Charter School, in Salem, Massachusetts. Jack's speech: "The Dangers of a Conscious Rebuttal of Maturity".

## Luard Morse Scholarships

provide \$25,000 merit awards for top students attending United Negro College Fund institutions or Howard and Hampton Universities, to spend a semester of study at the English university of their choosing. Scholars have studied at prestigious British centers of learning including Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics.



**Allyson Carpenter**, a Political Science Major/Community Development Minor, and **Laura Campbell**, a Biology Major/Chemistry Minor, both students at Howard University in Washington, D.C., were selected as this year's recipients of the English-Speaking Union Luard Morse Scholarship. Both will study at the University of Oxford.

Since  
1969

Has served  
**75**  
Scholars at  
**19**  
English  
universities  
since its  
inception

## Walter Hines Page Scholarship

Named for the Honorable Walter Hines Page, American Ambassador to the Court of St. James's during World War I, this scholarship offers British and Argentine teachers the opportunity to explore and exchange educational ideas with American teachers. They study an aspect of education that is relevant to their own professional interests and development. Sponsored by the ESU of the Commonwealth and ESU Argentina, this international exchange of educational techniques and ideas benefits the educators – and their students – on three continents.



*"From the bottom of my heart I thank all the ESU Branches involved for the perfect organization, warm reception, wide variety of schools and experiences, cultural events, social gatherings and all the love that moves them to be part of the English-Speaking Union... I see new practices coming alive in my classroom, motivating my students, challenging them, guiding them into becoming responsible for their own learning experiences."*

2015 Page Scholar Cecilia Laura Hunter, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Since  
1924

**6**  
British and  
Argentinian  
teachers were  
hosted by  
**16**  
ESU Branches  
and visited  
**75**  
American  
schools

## ESU Branches

Headquartered in New York City and incorporated in the State of Delaware, the ESU coordinates its programs through its network of Branches nationwide. An independent American corporation, The English-Speaking Union of the United States also works in fellowship with more than 50 independent ESUs around the world, most closely with The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth in London.

The ESU Branches are the local delivery system of the ESU mission and programs. Their committed volunteers are invaluable in sustaining the educational and cultural activities of the Branches in promotion of the mission.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Alabama</b><br>Birmingham  | <b>Kentucky</b><br>Louisville  | <b>Oklahoma</b><br>Oklahoma City<br>Tulsa   |
| <b>Arizona</b><br>Phoenix<br>Tucson   | <b>Louisiana</b><br>Monroe<br>New Orleans<br>Shreveport  | <b>Oregon</b><br>Portland   |
| <b>California</b><br>Desert (Palm Springs)<br>Los Angeles<br>San Francisco  | <b>Massachusetts</b><br>Boston   | <b>Pennsylvania</b><br>Central Pennsylvania<br>Philadelphia                                 |
| <b>Colorado</b><br>Denver   | <b>Michigan</b><br>Detroit   | <b>Rhode Island</b><br>Newport<br>Providence  |
| <b>Connecticut</b><br>Greenwich   | <b>Mississippi</b><br>Jackson  | <b>South Carolina</b><br>Charleston<br>Columbia   |
| <b>District of Columbia</b><br>Washington D.C.  | <b>Missouri</b><br>Kansas City<br>St. Louis  | <b>Tennessee</b><br>Memphis<br>Nashville  |
| <b>Florida</b><br>Central Florida (Winter Park)<br>Fort Lauderdale<br>Jacksonville<br>Miami<br>Naples<br>Palm Beach | <b>New Jersey</b><br>Monmouth County<br>Princeton  | <b>Texas</b><br>Austin<br>Dallas<br>Houston   |
| <b>Georgia</b><br>Atlanta<br>Savannah   | <b>New York</b><br>Albany<br>New York<br>Syracuse  | <b>Virginia</b><br>Charlottesville<br>Lexington<br>Richmond<br>Southwest Virginia (Roanoke) |
| <b>Hawaii</b><br>Honolulu   | <b>North Carolina</b><br>Charlotte<br>Colonial (New Bern)<br>Greensboro<br>Research Triangle (Raleigh)<br>Salisbury<br>Sandhills (Pinehurst) | <b>Washington</b><br>Seattle  |
| <b>Illinois</b><br>Chicago  | <b>Ohio</b><br>Cincinnati<br>Cleveland<br>Columbus   |   |



## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

56

Branches participated in the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition engaging

21,204

high school students nationally.

18

Branches provided fellowships for

36

British University Summer School scholars with

5

Branches increasing their fellowship offerings.

8

Branches held Shakespeare Teacher Programs.

7

Evelyn Wrench speakers traveled to all

8

Regions and spoke to

2,477

members and friends at

47

Branches.

16

Branches hosted foreign educators through the Walter Hines Page program.

8

Branches administered English in Action sessions.

ESU Branches provided  
**\$350,000**  
in education funding.

The English-Speaking Union  
Advancing Education,  
Scholarship and Understanding



## Founder's Award Dinner

The Hon. Edwina Sandys MBE and Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill MBE accepted the English-Speaking Union Founder's Award on April 27 for their roles in helping to launch the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition 32 years ago. Immediately following the 2015 ESU National Shakespeare Competition at Lincoln Center Theater, the awards were presented at a reception and dinner in the Crystal Room of the Empire Hotel in New York City.

Danny Lopez, Her Majesty's Consul General in New York, served as Honorary Chairman of the event committee. Unable to attend in person, he was represented by Nick Astbury, Deputy Consul-General and Deputy Head of Mission.

In 1983, while Headmaster of the Anglo American School in New York, Paul Beresford-Hill conceived a Shakespeare competition to be a part of the Britain Salutes New York festival and Edwina Sandys, a committee member and granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, authorized its funding. Paul asked the ESU to host the competition. 500 New York City students participated. The final round was held at ESU Headquarters with actress Celeste Holm among the judges. Subsequently, the ESU, under the guidance and perseverance of Alice Boyne, who later became its Executive Director and President, developed and expanded the competition through its network of Branches to be its flagship national educational program. It has benefitted more than 296,000 students to date.

*"I am both humbled and honored by this award and accept it on behalf of the quarter million American high school students whose lives have been touched during the past 32 years by the National Shakespeare Competition administered by the ESU."*

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill MBE



*"I am happy to be on the platform again with Paul. Working together on the 1983 Britain Salutes New York Festival proved to be one of 'our finest hours.' As you know, my grandfather, Winston Churchill, considered himself to be an English-Speaking Union – English father and American mother. I also think of myself as an English-Speaking Union."*

Hon. Edwina Sandys MBE

## ESU Annual Conference: Newport October 17 - 19

The ESU Conference in Newport, Rhode Island drew the largest number of members to a conference in years, topping out at 140! Nearly every Branch was represented, and we enjoyed the participation of more Branch leaders than usual, as they were specifically invited to a day-long Conclave of Branch Presidents and National Board Members that took place just prior to the Conference.

Our Newport Branch hosts, led by Branch President Jan Slee and Conference Committee Chair Patricia Woods, produced an enjoyable series of programs through the weekend. Members assembled for a reception and opening dinner at the Hotel Viking on Friday evening, with the new Director General of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, Jane Easton, providing the after-dinner address. Saturday included regional meetings over breakfast, the Annual General Meeting and a luncheon with speakers talking about the historic elements of Newport. Through the afternoon, trolleys shuttled members to historic houses, and in the evening National Patrons enjoyed a reception at the lavish "Bellevue House" during which they enjoyed a presentation by Lucinda Chetwode regarding Scottish country homes, as an introduction to an upcoming National Patron travel program to Ardgowan House in Scotland. The conference concluded on Sunday afternoon after visits to Newport's historic houses of worship and a wharf-side brunch.



# With Thanks

The English-Speaking Union gratefully acknowledges the following donors whose financial contributions, pledge payments and new pledges between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 advance the work of the ESU:

## \$75,000 and Above

The Hearst Foundation, Inc.  
Open Society Foundations  
Mr. Andrew Romay

## \$10,000 to \$74,999

F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.  
Dr. Laurence C. Morse and  
Ms. Pamela McKoin  
The Elizabeth & Stanley D. Scott  
Foundation  
The J. M. Kaplan Fund

## \$2,500 to \$9,999

Mr. Richard Anderson  
The Richard Anderson Charitable Fund  
Axe-Houghton Foundation  
Mrs. Ludmila S. Bidwell  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation  
Richard D. Donchian Foundation  
Thomas P. Gohagan & Co.  
Mr. Charles T. Munger, Jr.  
Henry E. Niles Foundation  
Mr. Pete Robbins  
Travel Dynamics International

## \$1,000 to 2,499

Chicago Branch of the ESU  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Doughty, Sr.  
Mr. Duane L. Hughes/Tides Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Kakos  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Olsson  
Hon. Blanka A. Rosenstiel  
The Rosenstiel Foundation  
Herb and Anne Rowe  
Charitable Foundation  
San Diego Branch of the ESU  
The Shakespeare Society, Inc.  
Mr. Bruce E. Thompson

## \$500 to \$999

Dr. Mark R. Harrison  
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Winston Hill  
Mr. Karl D. Jackson  
Mr. Lawrence Raymond  
Mr. Robert W. Robinson  
Mr. Christopher W. Rogers/  
Abbot and Dorothy H. Stevens Foundation  
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Ms. Jeanne S. Umstattd  
Mr. Joseph E. Wandke  
Mrs. Alison Griscom Wilson

## \$250 to \$499

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Mr. Guy A. Bramble  
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Mr. Seth W. Whitaker  
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## \$100 to \$249

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Mr. Lawrence F. Schiller  
Mr. Peter H. Seed  
Mr. Bejan Shirvani  
Mrs. Kuniko Silverstein  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Simons  
Mr. Hugh W. Sloan  
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