

BRANCH NEWS

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

President:

Barbara Hughes

Executive VP:

Socky O'Sullivan

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Gilda Gomez

Nancy Williams

Reta Jackson

Ginger Bryant

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Jackie Abrams

Asst. Treasurer:

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Secretary:

Glenda McClure

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

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THE ENGLISH
SPEAKING UNION
CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

**MONDAY
APRIL
4**

**Refreshments
3:30 pm**

**Lecture
4:00 pm**

**At the University Club
of Winter Park**

**Program Leader
Socky O'Sullivan**



Jana Mathews

Guy Fawkes Behind the Iconic Mask

In November 1605, a small group of Catholic Englishmen devised a bold plot to usurp the Protestant regime by blowing up the House of Lords. On the eve of the Parliament's convention, royal officers literally found the man with the match – Guy Fawkes – lurking in the building's basement with thirty-six barrels of gunpowder.

Jana Mathews, Ph.D. is a Professor of
Medieval and Renaissance

Literature at Rollins College.

She is currently serving as chair of the Department of English
and president of the College of Liberal Arts Faculty.



President's Message



“Be involved, be informed. Make meaningful contributions to society through service and involvement.” - M. Russell Ballard



As we near the month of April and the approach of the last few branch meetings of 2021-2022, a number of things come to mind:

We have two programs in April and a final one in May:

- April 4 - Jana Matthews of Rollins College speaking on “Guy Fawkes Day.”
- April 5- Our branch is (for the first time) co-hosting an event with Opera Orlando Ambassadors. This lecture and luncheon features world-renowned opera expert Fred Plotkin who will be speaking about Verdi and Rigoletto and will be joined by Metropolitan Opera stage director Kathleen Belcher and conductor Gregory Buchalter.
- May 9 – Elizabeth Cobbs, author of *The Hamilton Affair*.

The Nominating Committee is beginning to create a slate for the 2022-2023 Year.

- Hopefully, some of you might consider becoming more active within our branch. It can be a rewarding experience and one in which one can meet new people, enhance established relationships, and augment what is provided for our membership.
- As a testimony - I have made dear friends as I have served as your president and have had the opportunity of meeting and spending time with dynamic speakers. I have been enriched by each of you, and I treasure the experiences I have had!

So...

- Come join a committee.
- Share your interest in becoming an officer or director!
- Definitely come to the monthly meetings.
- Bring a friend.
- Share ideas of topics and speakers that you might like to have at a future meeting.

Remember... “Make meaningful contributions to the ESIU through service and involvement!”



President's Message, continued

As we look forward to what is ahead for us within the ESU, may we not forget what is presently occurring in another part of the world. May we pray for the people of Ukraine daily, pray for peace and laying down of weapons, pray for those who fear for tomorrow. May we also pray for those with power over war and peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions.

Quinn Peeper, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union of the United States, shared the following message on our ESUUS website:

***"We disavow the destruction of lives and violent war in Ukraine.
We stand in solidarity with our colleagues at ESU Ukraine
and with the entire nation of Ukraine."***



Barbara Hughes,

President, ESU Central Florida Branch

ESU NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nominating Committee would like to invite any of the Central Florida membership interested who wish to participate more in-depth by serving in any capacity to let us know.

You will find it a rewarding and enjoyable experience!

If you are interested in contributing your time and talents by serving as an officer on the board, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Elaine Laegeler at laegelere@gmail.com. If you would like to serve on one of the committees, please notify President Barbara Hughes at barbarahughes954@gmail.com or Socky O'Sullivan, Executive Vice President, at mosullivan@rollins.edu.





CENTRAL
FLORIDA
BRANCH

The English-Speaking Union Central Florida Branch

Nominating Committee Recommendations for Executive Board 2022-2023

Members: We will vote for our 2022-2023 Board at our May 2022, meeting.

“Any member shall have the right to make additional nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, but they shall be only submitted with the pre-approval of the nominee. Such nominations must be duly seconded.”

President: Socky O’Sullivan

Executive Vice President: Jan McClure

Vice Presidents:

Communications: Brett Carrier

Endowment: Jan McClure

Membership: Gilda Gomez

Programs: Nancy Williams

Scholarship: Reta Jackson

Shakespeare Competition: Ginger Bryant

Treasurer: Jackie Abrams

Deputy Treasurer: Joe Sabora

Secretary: Open

Directors:

2022-2025 Jim Fitch
Michele Levy
Glenda McClure

2020-2023 Sharyn Jontz
Deborah Williams
Joseph Bostwick

2019-2022 Reta Jackson
Ginger Bryant
Sheri Hjelm

Parliamentarian: Open

Past President: Barbara Hughes

Member Spotlight



Dr. Jerry Schiffhorst,
we celebrate you!

Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Schiffhorst has been involved with the Central Florida ESU for many years, beginning in 1980, when he received a scholarship for summer study in England. He chose Oxford and studied T. S. Eliot, whose life and work became a topic years later for one of Jerry's many presentations to our chapter. He has done five other ESU talks, including the recent webinar on the Royal Art Collection for the ESU's National Happy Hour Series. He has given twelve other presentations on history at the University Club, all of these after his retirement from the University of Central Florida, where he is a Professor Emeritus of English. He also served as a judge for two of the annual Shakespeare Competitions.

Jerry, who taught literature and writing at UCF for 33 years, found in the ESU an ideal place to keep learning after retirement and to explore his interest in English history. He is greatly impressed by the chapter's commitment to education and area teachers. Dr. Jerry served for two years on the Program Committee as Secretary and continues to be a consultant on speakers, a sort of talent scout. During the pandemic Professor Jerry reached out to various potential presenters, many of whom agreed to do remote (and later in person) talks. Clearly, the Central Florida ESU has long been an important part of his life!



You can check out any past National Happy Hours talks
by visiting the following link

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

Also, you can view any of our recorded Central Florida Branch Programs at

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

Program Schedule 2021-2022

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

Monday, April 4, 2022, 3:30-5:00 p.m. — Jana Mathews, Rollins College - "Guy Fawkes Day"

Monday, April 5, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - "Verdi and Rigoletto" lecture and luncheon at the Winter Park Library and Events Center - World-renowned Opera expert Fred Plotkin and Metropolitan Opera stage director Kathleen Belcher and conductor Gregory Buchalter.

Monday, May 9, 2022, 3:30-5:30 p.m. — Professor Elizabeth Cobbs, author - *The Hamilton Affair* - Our Annual General Meeting will precede our guest speaker, Professor Elizabeth Cobbs.

Branch Business



If you have not been receiving Branch emails, please check your spam folder. You should also add the following email address to your contacts to ensure delivery - webletters@peer360.com. If you have any email address updates or questions concerning Branch emails, please email us at esucentralfl@gmail.com.

**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**

P.O. Box 758

Winter Park, FL 32790-0758

Website: www.ESLus.org/centralflorida
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