

THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION

Education – Scholarship – Understanding

Newsletter

Desert Branch – November/December 2016

ESU CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 8 – Board Meeting – 11 AM
City Hall – Cathedral City
- 10 – Holiday Party 5 – 7 PM
Home of Beverly & Sid Adair
Invitations will be sent

JANUARY

- 12 – Board Meeting – 11 AM
City Hall – Cathedral City

FEBRUARY

- 9 - Board Meeting 11 AM
City Hall – Cathedral City
- 23 – Shakespeare Competition
Prelims – 11:30 AM
Shadow Hills High School, Indio
Finals – 5:30 PM
Coachella Valley Reperetory Theater
Rancho Mirage
Free Mixer to follow



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**ESU DESERT BRANCH
2016-2017 OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Geri Dicks
760-568-6412
GranyGeri@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Shakespeare Chair
Dave Richardt

TREASURER

Rick Cherry

SECRETARY

Patti Gallagher, PhD

**IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT**

Geri Dicks

BOARD MEMBERS

Term Expires 2017
Bill Gay, PhD

Term Expires 2018
Jean Hopkins
Lew Pusch

Term Expires 2019
SidAdair
Lisa Luisi
Audrey Provan

**HONORARY
BOARD MEMBERS**

Nancy Adams Holliday
Matilde Jones

PRESIDENT EMERITA

Joy Daniels Brower

WEBSITE

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FACEBOOK

ESU Desert Branch



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Holidays

Our luncheon with Oliver Everett as our speaker was fantastic. Bellatrix at the Classic Club as usual did an outstanding job with food, service and visual equipment. Oliver Everett and his companion Diana Jarvis-Read were delightful. Bill Gay and I had dinner with them the evening before. Since Mr. Everett had been a speaker at the Desert Branch several years ago, he was interested in hearing what was happening with the Branch.

Once again we will be back at the Palm Springs home of Sid and Beverly Adair for our Holiday Party. There will be food, drink and Christmas Carols led by Santa and Patti Gallagher. As usual we are in need of finger foods, so if you wish to bring food in exchange for the \$15 fee please let me know.

As we look forward to a new year we have had to curtail some of our programs because we just don't have the help needed to do everything we've done in the past. One thing you can be sure of is that our Shakespeare Competition is our first priority. Progress is ongoing, and everything is shaping up for the competition, both preliminary and finals to take place on Thursday, February 23rd. The preliminary will be held at Shadow Hills HS in Indio and again the finals will be at the Coachella Valley Repertory Theater in combination with a Mixer.

Our final Mixer will be a Luau on April 8 at the Palm Desert home of Ed Kazlauskas and Ron Iehl. Dust off your Mumus and Hawaiian shirts and come prepared to enjoy the evening.

We really need your help to continue our programs. If you feel you can help in any way call me at 760-568-6412 or email me at GranyGeri@aol.com. I've been a member of the Desert Branch of ESU for 9 years and I feel privileged to know most of you. If you don't know me, please come up and introduce yourself. I really want to get to know all of our members.

Geri D

ESU SPECIAL EVENT RESTORATION OF WINDSOR CASTLE

Twenty eight ESU Members and guests attended a luncheon and enjoyed a slide show presentation of the Restoration of Windsor Castle after the fire in 1992. The restoration was completed five years later. Oliver Everett, CVO was at the Castle at the time of the fire and helped with removing paintings and furniture. The Queen commissioned water color paintings of the Castle after the fire and after the restoration and these were part of his talk. He also gave a history of the Castle. At the end he had slides that show how the Queen and Prince Philip use Windsor Castle for entertaining, including Garter Day processions and the visits of foreign Heads of State.

The Queen and her sister Princess Margaret lived at Windsor Castle during WW II, and he showed photos and some of the history of that time.

Below is an email received from Mr Everett after his visit here.

From: Oliver Everett <oeverettw@gmail.com>
To: Reset Cases#*4246 <granyszeri@aol.com>
Sent: Sat, Oct 22, 2016 10:08 pm
Subject: Re:ESU visit....

Dear Geri,

Diana and I were very glad to meet you. Very many thanks from both of us for your most kind hospitality, for having us to visit your ESU, for making all the very good arrangements (including your very effective laptop), for the excellent dinner and lunch and for our wonderful accommodation in the Agua Caliente....even if we were not brave enough to gamble! And we'd be most grateful if you would pass on our thanks to Rick also for his arranging our most comfortable room at the hotel.

We very much enjoyed our stay and meeting your very friendly ESU members. It was very good to meet Bill and Yoshi and the others. And it was a pleasure to speak to such a responsive and well informed audience....and very well done ensuring such a good number of guests.

With very many thanks again and best wishes from us both,
Oliver and Diana

Unfortunately for ESU Branches the Evelyn Wrench Speaker series has been cancelled. We were very lucky to have the last speaker available to Region VIII.



ESU SHAKESPEARE 2017 GETS UNDERWAY WITH SCHOOL SIGNUPS

Dave Richardt, Chairman

The season is upon us, the season of our branch Shakespeare Competition that is.

Participatory letters were sent out to schools from Upland to Blythe, Big Bear to Riverside, and all points in-between. Forms requesting participation in this year's competition were due on November 1st. We have 13 schools participating, including several new schools. This year each school will be allowed to send one winner from their in-school competition (in previous years it has been two, but we need to be in compliance with National ESU rules this year). Detailed information will be mailed out to each school in the middle of November. It will include specific rules for in-school competition, rubrics for judges, lists of suggested monologues and sonnets, and suggestions for running in-school competitions. In-school competitions need to be completed by the end of January.

Each school will then send their winner to our branch competition. The date, times and venues are as follows:

All events take place on February 23 (Thursday), 2017. The preliminary competition involving all contestants is being held again at Shadow Hills High School, Indio, from 11:30am to 3pm.

The top finalists from the afternoon competition will then compete in the evening at The Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre in Rancho Mirage at 5:30pm. During the judges deliberations at the CVRep, free beverages and appetizers will be served to all guests. First, second and third place awards will be given, and the first place winner receives an all expense paid trip to perform at the National Shakespeare Competition at Lincoln Center in New York City.

We look forward to seeing our past schools' entries as well as several new schools that are now participating.

Mark February 23rd on your calendar to allow yourself the pleasure of watching these young actors strut their Shakespeare!

SAVE THE DATES!



ESU HOLIDAY PARTY
December 10, 2016

Once again it's time to gather and enjoy the holidays. Our party this year will be again held at the home of Sid and Beverly Adair, 777 N Patencio Road, PS.

We need volunteers for food and if you wish to volunteer you don't pay for the party. We need appetizers, desserts or another appropriate dish to serve 50 people. Please no chips and dips

If you are volunteering food please call Geri Dicks (760) 568-6412.

SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION
FOLLOWED BY MIXER
February 23, 2017

After the competition is over and the judges are deliberating, food and drinks will be available to all the guests. This is the one free Mixer the Desert Branch has



LUAU
April 8, 2017

The final Mixer of the season will be held at the Palm Desert home of Ed Kazlauskas and Ron Iehl. Hawaiian dress is appropriate.

ESU DESERT BRANCH 2016-2017 OFFICERS

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760-641-7757

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Pattigalah@verizon.net
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Immediate Past President–Rick Cherry

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2016 – 2017 COMMITTEES AND BOARD MEMBERS

Membership

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Mixers

Jean Hopkins
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Creative Writing Competition

Shakespeare Competition

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BOARD MEMBERS

Sid Adair
Dr. Bill Gay
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Lew Pusch

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