



Philadelphia Branch of The English-Speaking Union

# Courier

215 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Summer 2015



## 2015 ESU Royal Garden Party —A Great Success!

The 89th Birthday and the 63rd Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated June 14th at the campus of SEI, Oaks, PA.

A big thank you to **Gayla McCluskey** and **David Humphrey** for co-chairing this stellar event!! Guests arrived to the sound of bagpipes and champagne, enjoyed sunny weather (*the thunderstorm held off until 7PM!*), a beautiful location, and a private tour of the amazing West Art Collection. We also thank **Doug Pugliese** and his team at SEI for coordinating the detailed preparation and arrangements (and monitoring the weather), and ESU Board President **Jim Munnis** who led the live auction.



*Left to right: Bagpiper and drummer greeting guests; Board members Doug Pugliese and Michael Conti, and ESU Board President Jim Munnis; Co-chairs Gayla McCluskey and David Humphrey. (Please see insert for more photographs).*

Please join us Wednesday, August 5, 5:30 pm  
 "Race Night"  
 at the Corinthian Yacht Club

Enjoy Sail Racing followed by a Dinner Buffet with ESU members and their guests. Your invitation is enclosed. Members \$40; Non-Members \$50. For more information or to make your reservation please call Barbara at 215-545-3619.



## President's Column

*“They journeyed and they encamped, they encamped and they journeyed...”*

I'm not certain anyone “encamped,” but hopefully you were one of the many E.S.U. members and guests who “journeyed” to S.E.I. in Oaks for our 2015 Queen's Birthday Garden Party. **Doug Pugliese** and his fellow S.E.I. colleagues helped assure that this was, as we E.S.U. members have come to expect, a first class event. Good food and drink, at a gorgeous setting, accompanied by an art tour second to none made this a unique event, and, as I like to say, “a good time was had by all.”



Allow me to thank the Benefactor's to our event, who, for their kindness, were rewarded with a private cocktail party and art tour and discussions at the “warehouse” of all art not currently on display at S.E.I. Later, at the party, after first being greeted with champagne, all guests were offered an opportunity to tour the S.E.I. facility, where art is on display in all office departments.

The outfits and hats of our guests continued to be, of course, in our true “Garden Party” tradition. The photo collage included in this *Courier* certainly shows this. **Peter and Suzanne Siebert** were “GQ” in their attire, and **Peter** assured me his colorful blazer had an “English” mode, as it was purchased in Bermuda. New members **John and Marlou Gregory** arrived showing that they are already well acquainted with our stylish group, as they were “colorfully attired” in their garden party wardrobe.

**Harriet Margolis**, adorned in a wonderful hat, was busy, with her generous donations to both our silent and live auctions, and in her socializing. Harriet and I reminisced about our “St. Joe's days,” and this reminiscing was, I believe, after a few toasts to the Queen. **Amanda Mucklé**, stunning in her outfit, was seen “bidding up” several items, but still had ample time for good food, drink and fellowship.

While I was “working hard” as the auctioneer, I appreciated **Jim Mallinson** hand delivering a cold Stella Artois to me, to make sure my voice did not give out. It goes without saying that Jim's attire was “strictly Esquire.” Of course, I cannot omit **The Rev. Canon Ken Gunn-Walberg** and his dear wife, **Catherine**, who arrived in proper “morning suit” attire. Rev. Ken assured me that he “was not warm,” and the jacket and tie remained on for the entire party!

Thank you to all who donated items to our silent and live auctions, which resulted in spirited bidding on all items. In addition to Board members and friends who donated, S.E.I. stepped up and donated a weekend at their Central Park apartment, as well as a private party and tour of their art for 10 people. If you haven't checked out the S.E.I. website, I suggest you do so.

I enjoyed chatting and socializing with (hopefully) all of you, and let's agree to do it again next year, at a “yet to be determined” location!

On a different matter, pertaining to our upcoming summer event, please join us at the **Corinthian Yacht Club on August 5** for our cookout and boat race night. (I may challenge Dennis Connor that evening!!) This is sure to be a fun event, and, from our dinner dance last year, we know the venue is top notch. Attire is business casual, and this should be a wonderful event, and a first time for E.S.U. Please plan to attend, and enjoy some good food, and a few drops with me, “...as it is ordained.”

Your very obedient servant,  
James J. Munnis

*Thank you to all the Benefactors,  
Organizations and Corporations  
for their support of the  
2015 Garden Party*

### *Benefactors*

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The Philly Pops  
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The Vintage Fox

Royal Garden Party, June 14 , 2015



### Royal Garden Party, June 14 , 2015



## Philadelphia Branch Winner at the 2015 English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition

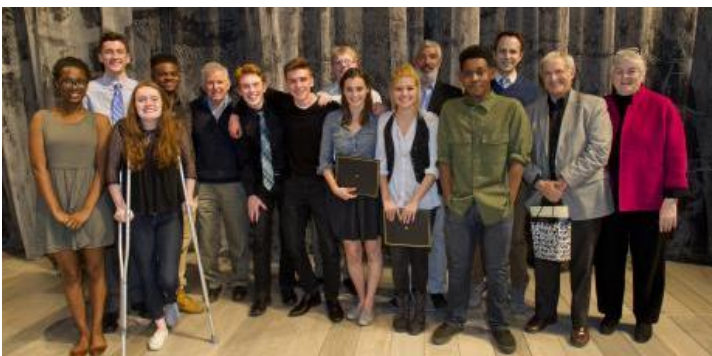


With a performance of a sonnet and monologue from Shakespeare, **Evelyn Johnson**, a student of Tom McFarlane at Friends Central School in Wynnewood, PA, won second prize at the 32nd annual ESU National Shakespeare Competition. The Competition brought together 57 high school students, the winners of ESU Branch competitions nationwide, for a two-day event in New York City culminating in the final competition on April 27th at Lincoln Center. Evelyn had previously won the Philadelphia Branch regional competition. For placing second, Evelyn won a full scholarship to the American Shakespeare Center's Theater Camp in Staunton, VA.

During the two days in New York City the students enjoyed a performance of the Tony nominated musical *Something Rotten!* on Broadway, attended an acting workshop at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, participated in a scavenger hunt around Lincoln Center, and enjoyed lunch at The Juilliard School.



*3 winners of the 2015 ESU National Shakespeare Competition. (l to r: Third place winner Elizabeth Mears, winner Sarah Spalding and Second place winner Evelyn Johnson.)*



*The 10 finalists on stage with the judges.*



## Welcome New Members

*John C. and Marlou Gregory, Phoenixville*

### ***Your ESU Membership expired on June 30th!*** *Watch for renewal mailings this summer*

Your prompt payment of dues provides financial support for the ESU at both the National and Branch levels and demonstrates your commitment to ESU's mission and work.

#### **Your Membership Benefits include:**

- A membership card
- Automatic enrollment as both a Branch and National member of the ESU
- Dining privileges and overnight accommodations at The Racquet Club of Philadelphia
- Invitations to an array of selected free Branch members events (subject to Branch availability)
- Special member rates for Branch lectures, receptions, dinners and related activities
- Subscriptions to Branch newsletters, the ESU Annual Report, and the bimonthly national ESU E-Newsletter (email required)
- Invitations to participate in ESU co-sponsored educational travel and tours
- Special privileges at ESU of the Commonwealth Headquarters, Dartmouth House, in London
- Member rate for ESU events at Dartmouth House and all ESU Branches throughout the UK
- A 25% discount off online purchases from Walkers Shortbread (through December 31, 2015)
- A 20% discount off a selection of 33 bestselling editions and up to two exquisite free gifts from the Folio Society
- Members access to the Rooftop Herb Garden of the Brunel Museum overlooking the Thames
- Invitation to the annual British Societies Summer Garden Party in New York City

## Calendar of Events

<b>August 5</b>	<b>Race Night at the Corinthian Yacht Club</b>
<b>Sept. 14</b>	<b>ESU Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b>Commonwealth Festival 2015</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Fall Dinner Dance (date TBA)</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Christmas Celebration (date TBA)</b>

### Racquet Club Bridge



ESU Members are invited to join  
 Racquet Club Bridge at 7pm on Mondays  
 in the Main Bar of The Racquet Club of Philadelphia.

**Beginners and rusty players welcome!**  
**This is a really "laid-back" bridge group!**

You will be able to order from The Racquet Club's  
 excellent Pub Menu.

## Orange-Scented Iced Mint Tea Recipe

*Makes 2 tall glasses of tea*



A most refreshing drink for a hot afternoon or evening. It may be made with either mint tea or black tea infused with fresh mint leaves. A little orange juice and simple syrup are the sweeteners. Because iced tea becomes weaker as the ice melts, brew a strong tea to start. Or use brewed tea for the ice cubes.

### Ingredients

- 3 black tea bags of choice or mint tea bags
  - 4 mint leaves, coarsely chopped
  - 1/2 cup fresh orange juice
  - 2 tablespoons simple syrup
  - Ice cubes
  - Mint leaves for garnish
1. Bring 2 cups of water just to a boil. Add the tea bags and chopped mint leaves and infuse for 5 minutes. Squeeze and remove the bags. Allow the tea to cool to lukewarm, then strain into 2 tall glasses.
  2. Stir 1/4 cup of the orange juice and 1 tablespoon simple syrup into each glass. Add ice cubes, garnish with mint leaves and serve.

*The English-Speaking Union* . 215 S. 16th Street, Suite 14 . Philadelphia, PA 19102

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**Invitation Enclosed**