



Atlanta Branch
The English-Speaking Union
Education Scholarship Understanding

Volume IV, Number 3

Fall 2014

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Atlanta Branch Friends,

We are off to a great start this fall of 2014. So far, we have enjoyed a polo match and a black tie dinner. The Evelyn Wrench speaker, Dr. Diane Preston and her husband Michael were wonderful guests of our Branch, and several board members made sure their visit in Atlanta was memorable for them. Her informative talk, "A Higher Form of Killing", described weapons new to warfare that were used in WWI. We hosted 45 members and guests at the Capitol City Club that evening with Linda Wickham chairing.

Our big picture is healthy. Current members are rejoining and we are happy to welcome many newcomers. Financially, we are in good condition. More good programs are forthcoming. If you love what we do, you will enjoy hearing about the grants and scholarships we will be awarding. Remember our mission is to foster global understanding through English.

Eight of us have just returned from the National Annual General Meeting in Newport, RI. We have returned inspired to do great things, motivated to stretch our efforts, and ready to work. Full of new ideas, all of us are renewed in spirit and energized for our tasks. Several of us will have comments to make about the meeting and the impact it had upon us.

Nominated by the ESU Atlanta Board of Directors, John and Fay Selvage received the Award of Merit, given to members for outstanding contributions to the ESU. The award was presented during the National AGM.

Our website is being updated by Recording Secretary Kim Scholes and you may want to take a look. Go to Esuus.org

Sincerely yours,

Jean Morris, President
2014-2015 ESU, Atlanta Branch
rjmorrisjr@comcast.net
770-432-5772

Our 2014 – 2015 Season begins!

TALLY HO!!



Is there anything more British than a good ole polo match – well, maybe a Cricket game. Our September event was a smashing success! The weather was absolutely perfect and the venue was amazing. Thanks to our marvelous hosts – Judy and Adolphus Orthwein and Betsie and Joe McClure – the experience will remain a highlight of the year. Everyone brought something to eat and drink as we watched a total of 10 chukkas (that’s sort of like innings for the uninitiated). For those of you who were not able to attend, you really missed a good time! It would be wonderful if we could make this an annual event.



Dining al fresco in the welcome shade while watching the polo match.



EVELYN WRENCH SPEAKER - Black Tie Event

Our guest speaker for the October meeting was **Diana Preston** (pictured left with her husband Michael), Oxford-educated historian, writer and broadcaster. The subject of Ms. Preston's talk was *A Higher Form of Killing* which is also the title of her soon to be released book. A rather intriguing title to say the least. As this is the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, it was fitting that our British guest would speak on the "war to end all wars." Her topic was quite narrow as she focused on three (3) military developments in 1915 that altered

the course of the war and still affect us today: Aerial Bombardment; Unrestricted Submarine Warfare; and Use of Poison Gas. Her presentation showed the results of the thorough research by Dr. Preston and her husband Michael as she flawlessly presented the reasons behind the development of each of the topics and the resulting death and destruction.

A question was raised at the end of the presentation by Branch Member Caroline Coles: "Were any of the German principals responsible for these weapons of mass destruction prosecuted?" Michael Preston responded that their research showed that none were prosecuted due in part for fear that some Allied leaders might also be found guilty.

Charles Maddrey commented that it was a very informative and interesting presentation.

All who made reservations attended submitting their reservations in a timely manner. Several of the 45 persons attending the dinner were guests including two couples who expressed a definite interest in joining our Branch. The Prestons were wined and dined by Jean and Rex Morris, Fay and John Selvage and Caroline Coles and were presented with a book on the history of Atlanta by Linda Wickham, our event Chairman. We hope, all in all, it left the Prestons with a favorable impression of Atlanta and the Atlanta Branch of the ESU.



NOVEMBER MEETING

After a few brief comments from our president, Jean Morris, the event chairman, Linda Defoor Wickham, introduced our guest speaker. This evening's presentation by Terry Manning on the history of the American Flag from its Pre-Revolutionary days to the present day 50 stars and 13 stripes that we are all familiar with was very enlightening, and I think we all definitely learned a great deal about more about our nation's history. Mr. Manning is an award winning volunteer in several organizations in the area and delighted us in his Colonial dress as he spoke about Old Glory. His program featured a display of 21 life size flags representing various stages of our nation's history pertaining to their use in naval history and the many versions of the flag as states joined the Union.

After the talk, Mr. Manning kindly took questions about the rules for flying the flag, when and how it should be flown and the proper procedure when a flag is decommissioned. The evening was ended with an appropriate Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Much appreciation to Elizabeth Munson and Cherry Peurifoy for the tasty refreshments.

2014 ESU Annual Conference October 17 – 19, 2014 Newport, Rhode Island

The General Meeting

Our Branch President, Jean Morris, reports that The National Annual General Meeting was held at the Viking Hotel in Freeport, Rhode Island, October 16-18, 2014, with 140 delegates in attendance. The theme: “English Traditions Take Root: Colonial Times through the Gilded Age” and we had speakers on that subject with a mansion tour and preservation and architectural talks. The keynote speaker at the opening dinner was the recently appointed Director–General of the Commonwealth, Jane Easton, who spoke about the challenges and opportunities we now face.



The meeting was opened with a welcome to all from Chairman of the Board Josiah Bunting (pictured left). With his incredible ability to quote both literature and famous people, we were in awe of his eloquent opening remarks. He quoted former chair Winston Churchill, reminding us about the writing of the Magna Carta and Shakespeare’s anniversaries....birth and death. Those anniversaries are just around the corner for us to prepare to celebrate.



Executive Director Chris Broadwell (pictured with our president, Jean Morris) began his talk with his mission and vision. He reminded us that we are in transition but in a good position with an excellent history.

They both said we need money.

Carol Losos gave a report on the educational programs. Resembling Glenn Close, the movie star, she spoke with such enthusiasm about all the programs, the Shakespeare Competition and we actually saw the video of the winner. She loves the English in Action program, the BUSS scholar awards which may impact 42,000 people each year. Shakespeare teacher workshops impact 230 teachers per year. Go to the website to look at all the details of these programs and the Atlanta Branch simply must expand our work in this area.

Dr. Quinn Peeper, President, from New Orleans spoke about patron money and the need for it. He introduced Lucinda Chetwode, Ardgowan House, Inverkip, Scotland, Patron Party Lecturer, who has invited us to make a trip to her home in Scotland. Eight from the Atlanta Branch were in attendance. They were first-time attendees Faye and Jim Clegg along with Elizabeth Munson, Gloria Norris, our Region 2 chair; Charles Maddrey, serving on the Long-Range Planning; Fay Selvage, Branch Chairman; John Selvage, Asst. Branch Treasurer, and Jean Morris, Branch President. All of us were inspired and energized to come back and do a good job for the Atlanta Branch.



Left to right in photo: Gloria Norris, National Board Member and Region II Director; Jane Easton, Director-General, The English-Speaking Union, United Kingdom; Lucinda Chetwode, Ardgowan House, Inverkip, Scotland, Patron Party Lecturer; Dr. E. Quinn Peepers, National President, The English-Speaking Union of the United States.

A Side Trip to Visit Historic Newport, Rhode Island

Gloria Norris commented that Newport immersed everyone in its charm, its history, the magnificence of its mansions, and its special way of making us feel we were walking in the footsteps of our ancestors who made their way in the New World! Lectures on Palladian architectural influences in Newport and building restoration were luncheon lectures, along with history of some of the mansions and their original families, such as the Astors and Vanderbilts. A special treat was the Patrons Party at “Bellevue”, an Ogden Codman and Edith Wharton-designed house (pictured left), the exquisite mansion and garden owned by ESU National Patron, Mr. Ronald Fleming.



After relishing Newport, we were informed that the fall 2015 National ESU Meeting will be in **New York City**, adding to everyone’s delight!



RECOGNITION WELL DESERVED!



Two of our faithful and hardworking members, John O'Connell Selvage and Fay Bowman Selvage, received the **AWARD OF MERIT**, bestowed on them at the Annual General Meeting at Newport, Rhode Island, October 18, 2014. The award recognizes and thanks ESU members who have given special service to the ESU at the Branch level. It reads: "*The English-Speaking Union of the United States takes pride in presenting an Award of Merit to ---Fay and John, individually---of the Atlanta Branch for her/his many contributions made in support of the English-Speaking Union's Mission to promote scholarship and the advancement of knowledge through the effective use of English in an expanding global community.*"

Congratulations to you both for this well-deserved award. We really do appreciate all your hard work and dedication to serving the Atlanta Branch!!!

NATIONAL PATRONS PROGRAM



Members of the Atlanta Branch may want to consider becoming an ESU Patron by contributing to the National Patron Program. Patrons who contribute to this program help support the Evelyn Wrench Speaker Program, the Walter Hines Page Scholarship, the Shakespeare Competition, Books Across the Sea, the Luard Scholarship, English in Action, the British Universities Summer School program for teachers, just to name a few.

Members also have the option to contribute directly to the local Branch and help fund the various Travel and Study Grants that we offer. National Donors can request that the national office remit one-half of the contribution back to the Branch. We hope some of you will make this decision. A special event for patrons is in the planning stage for later in the year.

Dr. William Klopstock
Co-Chair, Patron Committee

Putting a Name with a Face

The ESU Atlanta Branch Officers for the coming 2014 – 2105 season may or may not be known to you by sight. To remedy that situation, we are including in this edition of the newsletter a picture and brief bio on two more of our officers for the next year.



Kim Scholes will continue to serve as the **Recording Secretary** for the Board taking the minutes of the quarterly Board meetings for the Atlanta Branch. Kim has an illustrious background in human relations in both the government and private sector and is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). She has received many awards and accolades for her career achievements and for her volunteer and community service work. A University of Tennessee alumni with an MBA in management and marketing, she is also involved with other organizations such as the Junior League of Atlanta, the DAR, the Atlanta History Center and many others too numerous to mention. In her spare

time, she enjoys reading, hiking, traveling, running, and historical research. We are, indeed, fortunate to have her as a member of our team.



David Robichaud is our **Treasurer**. David is originally from New Hampshire and, after leaving high school, continued his education at the University of Chicago and Florida State University. David was on active duty in the US Army for several years in the early 1970's. His professional work career includes his 20 years in the Tax Department of BellSouth and an additional 12 years in public accounting. David interests include travel, German opera, hiking, and history. We count heavily on David's expertise in managing the financial side of our organization and are grateful for his willingness to take on this responsibility.

DID YOU KNOW

The Travel Grants - Study Committee will be soliciting applications from college students and faculty for travel grants of up to \$2,000 to be awarded in March 2015 by the Atlanta Branch of the ESU under the leadership of Nicki Nicholson. The origins of our travel grant program have come from the Cincinnati Branch of the ESU which has been running a successful program for over 13 years.

The Atlanta Branch travel program is restricted to college students, or faculty members who either live in Georgia, teach in the state, or work in Georgia who "are involved in academic pursuits that are in accord with the goals of the English Speaking Union." Grants are restricted to the fields of Business, the Humanities, Science, and Engineering, Liberal, Fine or Applied Arts. All study is restricted to either the United States or to the countries of the British Commonwealth.

Two years ago we gave three travel grants to students at Mercer College and one to a PhD faculty member at Mercer. The doctor spoke to our branch this last year upon her return.

This spring we awarded a grant to a student at Emory and another to one at Mercer for study in the UK. The third grant went to another PhD, a Shakespeare Scholar, who wished to study in Belfast for two weeks. Since returning, she has become a member of the Atlanta Branch and has agreed to become a member of the grants committee.

Besides the Travel Grants, the committee has awarded a grant to Georgia Shakespeare out at Oglethorpe University to help pay summer expenses for the two scholars that stay over from the university for the summer to act and work during the summer. Another grant has been going to the Shakespeare Tavern for their three intern college students to pay them a stipend who come to the Tavern to teach (7 to 15 year old students) and learn about behind stage activities. Last month part of the Travel Grants Committee had lunch with the three college students and Laura Cole head of the education program at the Tavern. The three interns were an inspiring group of ladies!

To learn in detail about the Atlanta Branch ESU program, please visit www.esuus.org/atlanta/about/travel grants to see all the details of the program and shortly to make application for the 2015 Travel Grants.

Article submitted by John Selvage

SAVE THE DATE

December 13, 5 - 7 p.m. Christmas Party at the home of Mr. & Mrs. James Munson

January 18, 2015 Renata Dennis on Jane Austen

February 22 Annual Shakespeare Competition

MANY WAYS TO KEEP ON TOP OF WHAT'S GOING ON



Yes, we TWEET! Follow us at @ESUAtlanta and click the "Follow" button.



Don't forget to LIKE us on **Facebook**. Please SHARE our postings with your Friends list.

Visit our website: www.esuus.org/atlanta

For those of you signed up on LINKED IN, add us to your network.



A huge thanks to Kim Scholes, our resident IT guru, for setting up all our accounts.

"UNDER THE WEATHER"

The following members are recovering from illness/surgery:

- * Caroline Coles
- * Michael Motes
- * Betsi McLure

GET WELL SOON!!

