

THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION

Education – Scholarship – Understanding

Newsletter

Desert Branch – January/February 2017

ESU CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 9 - Board Meeting 11 AM
City Hall – Cathedral City
- 23 – Shakespeare Competition
Prelims – 12:00 noon
Shadow Hills High School, Indio
Finals – 6:00 PM
Coachella Valley Repertory Theater
Rancho Mirage
Free Mixer to follow

MARCH

- 9 - Board Meeting
City Hall – Cathedral City

APRIL

- 8 - Mixer – 5 – 7 PM
Luau at the home of Ed Kazlauskas
46-058 Verba Santa Drive, PD
- 13 - Board Meeting 11 AM
City Hall – Cathedral City

P.O. Box 4796, Palm Springs, CA 92263-4796

Telephone – 760-862-5505 – Voice Mail

Email: desert@esuus.com

Facebook: ESU-Desert Branch

**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
Sid Adair
Lisa Luisi
Audrey Provan

**HONORARY
BOARD MEMBERS**

Nancy Adams Holliday
Matilde Jones

PRESIDENT EMERITA

Joy Daniels Brower

WEBSITE

www.esuus.org/branches/desert

EMAIL

desert@esuus.org

FACEBOOK

ESU Desert Branch



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year

Once again this is not a cheerful message. 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.

Several teachers have asked if we're having a Writing Competition this year. The answer is No. We don't have the volunteers this year to chair this committee. Teachers are disappointed and the board is too.

We have lost many of our members who in the past have been ready and willing to take on these important jobs. Our members are aging and we've been unable to get younger and newer members to join us. A couple of years ago I went to the Senior Centers in the valley and pitched our message and found no one was really interested. We've been unable to get publicity from the Desert Sun, although articles and photos have been constantly submitted.

I joined this group in 2007 and we had well over 100 members. This year we are down to 43 members. We lost 8 members in the past year.

Our March board meeting will be one of planning for the future, if there is a future for this Branch. We must have some new volunteers if we are going to continue. If you are interested or have any ideas we welcome you to join us.

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.

Geri D

“SHAKESPEARE” COMPETITORS TAKE THE STAGE

Feb. 23rd: 2 COMPETITIONS

The ESU’s annual High School National Shakespeare competition for this region of the United States will be held February 23rd. The preliminary competition with 13 schools represented will be held at Shadow Hills High School in Indio (39225 Jefferson St., Indio). Doors open at 11:30 and at the competition begins at noon.

High schools sending contestants this year include: Cathedral City, Central Union (El Centro, CA), Desert Hot Springs, Etiwanda (Rancho Cucamonga, CA), Idyllwild, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Palm Valley, Palo Verde (Blythe, CA) , Shadow Hills and Twenty-Nine Palms.

Our panel of judges will view each students Shakespearean monologue presentation and their presentation of one of Shakespeare’s sonnets. Five finalists will be named and sent on to the finals that evening at the Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre in Rancho Mirage (69330 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage). Those five finalists will repeat their monologue and sonnet performances in front of a new set of judges, and additionally will be asked to present a “cold reading” of a Shakespeare monologue with only 7 minutes to prepare.

Following the finalists presentations, and while the judges deliberate, the ESU will sponsor a free mixer for all, including beverages and appetizers. Awards will then be presented for first, second and third place, with the first place winner receiving an all-expense paid trip to compete at the National Finals at Lincoln Center in New York City in April.

We hope you will join us at either the preliminary competition, finals, or both, to see these talented students perform Shakespeare. Reservations are not needed; just be there and be ready to be impressed with what these students will perform for you.

ESU ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

ESU’s Annual Holiday Party brought out more than 40 members and guests who enjoyed the company of present and former members. The party was held at the Palm Springs home of Sid and Beverly Adair. The weather cooperated and we were able to enjoy sitting outside on the patio. Scott Shiner (husband of Dave Richardt, Shakespeare Chair) took over the bar tending duties and several ESU members brought food. Bill Gay (Santa Claus) led the group in singing Christmas carols.

Our next Mixer will be a Luau at the Palm Desert home of Ed Kazlauskas and Ron Iehl.

ESU DESERT BRANCH 2016-2017 OFFICERS

President – Geri Dicks

GranyGeri@aol.com
760-568-6412

Vice President – Dave Richardt

davotto@aol.com
760-324-0591

Treasurer –Rick Cherry

rickinca@earthlink.net
760-641-7757

Secretary – Patti Gallagher, PhD

Pattigalah@verizon.net
760-565-7986

Immediate Past President–Rick Cherry

rickinca@earthlink.net
760-641-7757

2016 – 2017 COMMITTEES AND BOARD MEMBERS

Membership

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

Mixers

Jean Hopkins
jeanmiles Hopkins@me.com
760-656-1943

Creative Writing Competition

Shakespeare Competition

Dave Richardt
davotto@aol.com
760-324-0591

Special Events

Jean Hopkins
jeanmiles Hopkins@me.com
760-656-1943

Publicity

Rick Cherry
rickinca@earthlink.net
760-641-7757

BOARD MEMBERS

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