



Remembering longtime ESU Member, Treasurer and Friend

William J.D. Jordan

February 17th, 1947 - May 25th, 2024

William J.D. Jordan, a beloved brother, cousin and uncle and a passionate supporter of Philadelphia's arts and cultural institutions, departed this life on May 25 after a brief illness. He was 77. A life-long Philadelphian, Jordan worked for decades on behalf of organizations promoting the city's cultural vibrancy and the preservation of its historic treasures. He served in various capacities as an officer, board member, mentor and volunteer, and was for years a frequent presence at Philadelphia galas and fundraisers in support of the causes he championed.

He was especially gifted at organizing fundraising campaigns and managing budgets and portfolios for charities, service organizations and congregations. While serving as the chief financial officer for the Church the Holy Trinity Rittenhouse Square, he led the successful fund-raising drive for the restoration of the church's historic bell carillon, a Philadelphia landmark and the second oldest carillon in the United States. He also was a past financial administrator and member of the vestry at St. Mark's Church in Center City. His lifetime of work supporting charities and service organizations was honored with a 2016 appointment to the Priory in the USA of the Order of St. John.

Jordan's commitment to service was partly an extension of his successful career in the finance industry. Born in Philadelphia on Feb. 17, 1947, Jordan worked for years in the investment and trust industry, including for Mellon Bank and Morgan Stanley, and as a development officer for Arcadia University and other institutions and private investors across the Greater Philadelphia region.

His deep involvement with Philadelphia's arts and cultural communities began in the 1970s and continued throughout his life. He served as former president and a long-time treasurer of the Philadelphia branch of the English Speaking Union, which honored him for his lifelong service at the group's 100-year anniversary gala in 2021.

Jordan was a past member of the Board of Councilors for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, a former president of the Center City Residents Association, a board member and treasurer of the Old Pine Conservancy and Historic Rittenhouse Town, and a board member of the Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. He was a current or former member of the Society of St. George of Philadelphia, the Social Register, the Black Tie Club International and the World Affairs Council; a volunteer for Episcopal Community Services; and a longtime supporter of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Assemblies Ball and the Curtis Institute of Music.

It was often said of Jordan that he knew nearly everyone in Philadelphia's cultural and social circles, and that his knowledge of the city and its history was unsurpassed. He maintained a large circle of friends who cherished him for his natural charm, graciousness, generosity and good humor. Jordan reserved a special devotion to his family, including his siblings and cousins. He doted particularly on his four nieces and nephews, to whom he was the fun-loving Uncle Will and an eager companion for exploring Philadelphia's wealth of museums and historic sites.





President's Column

Hello Everyone,

I would like to inform you of an increase in annual membership dues, effective this year. This is our first dues adjustment in many years, primarily driven by an increase from our National office, which receives a portion of the dues. The adjustment is necessitated by rising operational costs and our commitment to enhancing member and educational programs



The increase will help us:

1. Maintain our quality programming and events
2. Expand educational initiatives and scholarships
3. Upgrade our technology for improved communication
4. Ensure the organization's long-term financial health at both local and national levels

Important Changes:

- Starting this year, dues notices will be sent online only. Members will not receive paper notices unless specifically requested. This change helps us reduce costs and improve our environmental sustainability.
- A significant portion of the increase is due to higher fees from our National office, which supports nationwide programs and services, and Branch support.

We value your membership and support in promoting the English language and fostering global understanding. This adjustment will allow us to continue serving you effectively and advancing our mission.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the English-Speaking Union.

The best to you all,

Debbie Smith Webster
President

Calendar of Events

August 14, 2024 Happy Hour: C.S. Lewis and the Powerful Predicament of Language

August 21, 2024 Tour and Champagne Reception at Andalusia

September 25, 2024 Annual Meeting at The Library Company

September 29, 2024 Commonwealth of Nations Committee Dinner & Dancing fundraising and social event

October 18-20 ESU Annual General Meeting in Cleveland, OH

November 30, 2024 Christmas at St. Clements with The Philadelphia Chorale

December 10, 2024 Orpheus Club Christmas Concert

January 2025 Luminature at The Philadelphia Zoo

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024
4PM

The Commonwealth of Nations Committee of Greater Philadelphia* invites you to an event celebrating the work of the Commonwealth of Nations Organizations

at

The Highlands Mansion & Gardens
Fort Washington, PA

Dinner & Dancing

Proceeds from this event will benefit

Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Specialolympics.org

To volunteer at our event, please email: susan.gerrity@icloud.com.

Donations of Silent Auction items gratefully accepted : restaurant and event gift certificates, vacation or hotel stays, art work, wine, collectables, gift baskets.

***To find out which Organizations comprise our Commonwealth of Nations Committee of Greater Philadelphia, and to view our calendar of upcoming events, please visit phillybrit.org.**



Jack Thayer, former President of the Philadelphia Branch of The English-Speaking Union and Survivor of The Titanic

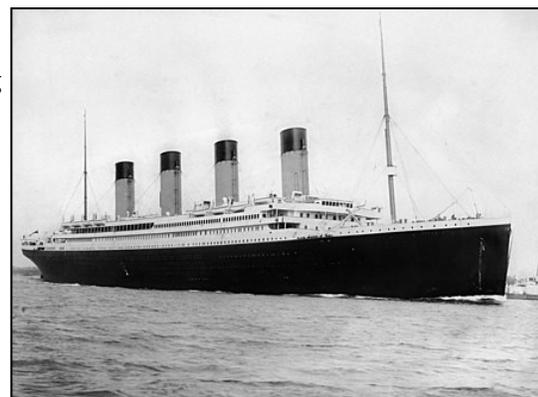


John B. Thayer III: A Young Titanic Survivor's Tale John Borland Thayer III, often referred to as Jack, was a 17-year-old first-class passenger aboard the ill-fated RMS Titanic. Born in 1894 in Philadelphia, he was the son of John B. Thayer II, a prominent railway executive, and Marian Thayer. On April 10, 1912, Jack boarded the Titanic at Southampton, England, with his parents. The family was returning to the United States after a European vacation. When the Titanic struck an iceberg on the night of April 14, Jack's life changed forever. As the ship began to sink, his mother was helped into Lifeboat 4, but Jack and his father remained on board as the vessel continued its descent into the icy Atlantic waters. In a remarkable turn of events, Jack survived the sinking by jumping into the freezing water just before the ship's final plunge. He managed to climb onto an overturned collapsible lifeboat, where he endured hours of exposure to the cold before being rescued by the RMS Carpathia. Tragically, Jack's father did not survive the disaster.

This loss had a profound impact on the young man, who struggled with survivor's guilt and depression in the years following the tragedy. Despite the trauma, Jack went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania and later served in World War I. In 1940, he published a detailed account of his Titanic experience titled "The Sinking of the S.S. Titanic." In 1942, Jack became the President of the Philadelphia branch of the English-Speaking Union, an organization dedicated to promoting international understanding and friendship through the use of the English language. This position reflected his commitment to cultural exchange and education.

Sadly, the trauma of the Titanic disaster haunted Jack throughout his life. Approximately a year after the passing of his Mother, on September 20, 1945, at the age of 51, John B. Thayer III died by suicide. His death came just after the end of World War II and was a stark reminder of the long-lasting psychological impact the Titanic disaster had on its survivors.

Jack's life, marked by both resilience and enduring trauma, serves as a poignant reminder of the human cost of the Titanic disaster and its long-lasting impact on survivors. His experience, subsequent contributions to society, and tragic end continue to offer a unique and sobering perspective on one of history's most famous maritime tragedies.



MEMBERSHIP

If you know anyone who wants to join, please direct them to our website at www.esus.org/philadelphia/ or have them email philaESU@gmail.com to request a paper application. **We appreciate your support!!**

ANDALUSIA HISTORIC HOUSE AND GARDENS Tour and Champagne Reception



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024 starting at 3pm. (Rain or shine) ESU members have been given a rare opportunity for an exclusive tour of the "Big House" at Andalusia and Champagne Reception, followed by a stroll in the Gardens. The tour will be lead by Executive Director, John Vick along with a seasoned docent. The cost is \$50/person. The event is currently SOLD OUT, but if you would like to be put on the waiting list, please contact the office at 215-545-3619 or PhilaESU@gmail.com.



THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF
THE PHILADELPHIA BRANCH
OF
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

cordially invite you to attend the

2024 Annual Meeting

Please join us to celebrate our programs and accomplishments. See the results of our fundraising endeavors. Meet other members and supporters.

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Meeting at 5:30 PM ♦ **Reception at 6:45 PM**

at **The Library Company of Philadelphia**
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Reception with light refreshments following the meeting

**RSVP: 215-545-3619 if you plan to attend,
or email philaesu@gmail.com**

*There is **no cost** to attend this event. If you would like to make a donation, checks can be made payable to The ESU and mailed to 1221 Locust Street, Box 502, Philadelphia, PA 19107
On-line donations can be made by requesting a link at philaESU@gmail.com*

AMERICA250

America250 is a nationwide initiative to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, which will occur in 2026. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, plays a significant role in this celebration due to its historical importance in the founding of the nation.

Some key points about America250 in Philadelphia:

1. Historical significance: Philadelphia is where the Declaration of Independence was signed and where the Constitution was drafted, making it a focal point for the celebrations.
2. Planning: The city and various organizations have been working on plans to mark this milestone with events, exhibitions, and improvements to historical sites.
3. Infrastructure projects: There have been discussions about enhancing the city's infrastructure and public spaces in preparation for the influx of visitors expected during the celebration.
4. Cultural programs: Museums, historical sites, and cultural institutions in Philadelphia are likely to offer special exhibitions and programs related to America's 250th anniversary.

Economic impact: The celebration is expected to bring significant tourism and economic benefits to the Philadelphia area.

We plan to provide more information as it becomes available. If you hear about an event happening that might interest our membership, please let us know philaesu@gmail.com.





ESU National is thrilled to extend a warm invitation to all ESU and International Council members to join them for an unforgettable experience this October.

Participants will have the unique opportunity to engage with our International community at large, from around the globe, from places such as Asia, South Asia, Eastern Europe, Europe and the UK. The International Council will host the Welcome dinner held on Friday evening. Immerse yourself in the captivating atmosphere of Cleveland, a city renowned for its rich history, cultural diversity, and

thriving arts scene. This is your chance to connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for education, language, and cultural exchange. Prepare to be inspired by engaging speakers, breakout sessions, and enlightening discussions.

You will have the chance to embark on guided tours to experience the best of what Cleveland has to offer. The Cleveland Museum of Art is a renowned institution with over 63,000 artworks spanning 6,000 years, known for its digital advancements and free admission. It is a leading hub for exhibitions, research, and digital innovations in the art world. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame was built in Cleveland in 1995 after winning a bid over other cities. Star-studded events marked milestones like the groundbreaking ceremony in 1993 and the grand opening in 1995. The Cleveland Orchestra is a top-tier orchestra renowned for its exceptional performances and dedication to the community. Led by Franz Welser-Möst, the Orchestra has set new goals to enhance its impact on Northeast Ohio by prioritizing concert experiences, music education, and cutting-edge technology. Performances are held at Severance Hall in Cleveland and the Blossom Music Center in the summer.

The Tour of Cleveland covers all the main attractions from Public Square to Playhouse Square, including landmarks such as Old Stone Church, Terminal Tower, Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Cleveland Public Library, Federal Reserve of Cleveland, and Playhouse Square. Visitors will also get to explore the inside of the Arcade and Cleveland Trust Company Building (Heinens).

So mark your calendars and secure your spot. Join us in Cleveland this October and be part of a community that celebrates knowledge, fosters connections, and embraces the joy of learning. For more information, please visit our website at www.esuus.org.

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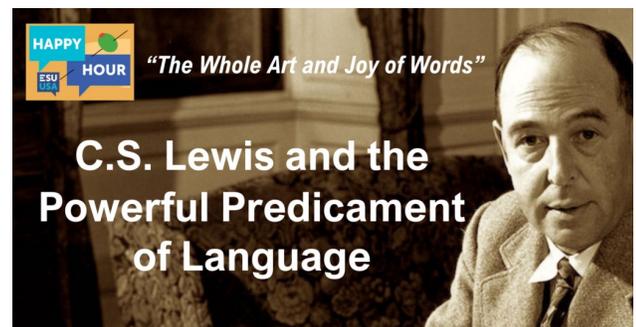
Tel. 215-545-3619

Happy Hour: C.S. Lewis and the Powerful Predicament of Language

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Website: esuus.org/evens/



C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century and arguably one of the most influential writers of his day. Lewis wrote more than thirty books, reaching a vast audience and attracting thousands of new readers every year. This ESU Happy Hour is sponsored by the ESU Central Florida Branch. ESU Happy Hour programs are online, free, and open to all members and the public. Registration is required. To register for this lecture go to www.esuus.org/events/

For additional lectures, more information, and to register for the on-line lecture, go to www.esuus.org and click on *News and Events, Happy Hour Series*.