

BRANCH NEWS

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

P.O. Box 758, Winter Park, FL. 32790-0758

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Email: centralfl@ESUus.org

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Winter Dinner

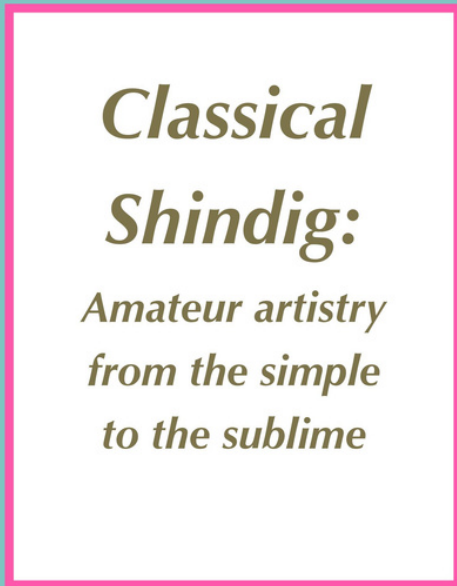
Tuesday
January 30, 2024

**The Winter Park
Racquet Club**
2111 Via Tuscany
Winter Park

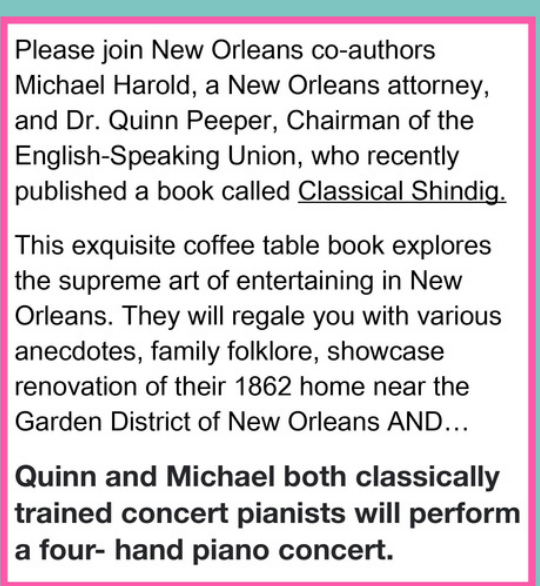
**Cocktails 6:00pm
Dinner 6:45pm**

**Black Tie is optional attire for the gentlemen,
while the ladies may want to don their most
elegant gowns.**

Program Leader: Barbara Hughes



*Classical
Shindig:
Amateur artistry
from the simple
to the sublime*



Please join New Orleans co-authors Michael Harold, a New Orleans attorney, and Dr. Quinn Peeper, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union, who recently published a book called Classical Shindig.

This exquisite coffee table book explores the supreme art of entertaining in New Orleans. They will regale you with various anecdotes, family folklore, showcase renovation of their 1862 home near the Garden District of New Orleans AND...

Quinn and Michael both classically trained concert pianists will perform a four- hand piano concert.

Menu

Appetizers

Smoked Chicken Tart
Roasted Red Pepper Arancini

Salad

Strawberries, candied walnuts, goat cheese, spinach, raspberry vinaigrette

Entree

Filet with Shrimp
Au Gratin Potatoes
Vegetable Bundle

Chocolate Cake
Coffee or Tea
Wine served with Dinner



Winter Dinner

Tuesday, January 30

6:00 p.m. Cocktails

6:45 p.m. Dinner

Reservations due by Monday, January 22, 2024

Make your check for \$55 per person

Payable to:

"The English Speaking Union"

Send to:

Barbara Hughes,

246 Balfour Drive,

Winter Park, FL 32792

Any questions please call

Barbara Hughes at:

321-279-1133

Reserve _____ places for me (us) for *Winter Dinner*
The Winter Park Racquet Club on Tuesday,
January 30, 2024

Group reservations accepted up to six per table. Checks for the entire group should be enclosed with your reservation request to guarantee seats together.

\$ _____ is enclosed (\$55 per person)

Names of those covered in this request (Please Print) _____
(person requesting)

Others: _____

YOUR PHONE NUMBER



President's Message

Happy New Year!

Among our New Year resolutions, I suspect that most of us included the hope that we'll have even more and better experiences in 2024. Here are a couple of Florida day trips that can help you keep that resolution.

Only a little over an hour up the turnpike in Bushnell, you can take in the Dade Battle Re-enactment on January 6th and 7th. As many of you (I hope) know, the Seminole attack on Major Francis L. Dade, a little over two months before the Battle of the Alamo, sparked the Second Seminole War, the longest, deadliest, and costliest of all Indian wars. In what was once called the Dade Massacre, about 104 U.S. soldiers died but only about six Seminoles. Miami-Dade County is named after the hapless major.

Those ESU members who have always dreamed of seeing Cuba can visit it by car and without a passport. Tampa's José Martí Park, named after the country's greatest poet and freedom fighter, is actually owned by the Cuban government and has soil from each Cuban province. Between 1961 and 2015, while the U.S. suspended diplomatic ties with our island neighbor, the park was the only Cuban owned territory in the U.S. To complete the trip, have a meal at the original Columbia Restaurant, owned and operated by the same family since 1905.

About two hours up the turnpike is Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Park in Cross Creek. After visiting Marjorie's home, everyone goes to The Yearling Restaurant for some fried green tomatoes, gator, or venison (even though it seems a bit strange to eat a yearling at The Yearling). And don't be discouraged by its Cracker exterior. Unfortunately, the restaurant has not found anyone to replace Willie Green, its legendary blues guitarist who died in 2021.

President's Message, continued...

About an hour north of us up I-4 is DeLeon Springs State Park, home of the Old Spanish Sugar Mill Pancake House (now under new management). If you have never been there, the restaurant allows customers to cook their own pancakes on griddles built into each table. Since there is normally a long wait once you put your name in for a table, you can use that time to take a 50-minute pontoon boat ride to the Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge.

Even closer to us is Blue Spring State Park. Before Global Warming changes everything, we all still have a chance to see the manatees flock to the springs whenever the weather turns very cold. Clearly manatees have a lot in common with snow birds. It is wise to go early, though, since the park often closes temporarily when its parking spaces fill.

What's the last time you visited Silver Springs for a ride in their glass bottom boats? It's still up the turnpike and I-75 North, just past the Villages. And to prepare, watch some of the classics that were filmed there, from half a dozen Tarzan movies and James Bond's *Moonraker* to *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* and TV's *Sea Hunt*.

And finally, everybody has probably visited St. Augustine, the oldest European settlement in the U.S. If you have seen the Castillo, the historic homes, and some of its quirky museums, here are a few less visited (but fascinating) sites: (1) Fort Mose, the oldest African-American settlement in North America; (2) Fort Matanzas, the site of the deadly confrontation between the Spanish and the French Huguenots in 1565; (3) Castle Ottis just north of the city (normally open only Sunday mornings); (4) Treasury Street, arguably the narrowest in the U.S.; (5) the Tiffany windows in Flagler College's dining hall, the former Ponce de Leon Hotel built by Henry Flagler; and (6) for the horticulturalists among us, the intertwined oak and palm love trees on Cordova Street.

And remember our ESU poetry contest ends January 6. Send your haiku or limerick to me (mosullivan@rollins.edu).

Sláinte,

Socky O'Sullivan
President

2023 NCTE CONFERENCE

ENGLISH-
SPEAKING
UNION



2023 Teacher
Recipients:
Kendice Kunce
(left) and Shana
Call (right)

The English-Speaking Union of Central Florida Branch Drey Endowment awarded grants for two teachers to attend the 2023 National Council of Teachers of English Convention which was held in Columbus, Ohio, November 16-19th. One important mission of ESU is to help teachers stay current and gain new skills and insights to bring to their classrooms. To attend the NCTE Convention is an excellent way to do that. Many of our active and retired English teachers have benefitted from NCTE membership and professional development throughout their careers. It is an honor to present the two teachers who were awarded this grant to attend the 2023 NCTE Convention.

Shana Call teaches Senior English, AP Literature and Composition as well as serves as a Beta Club Sponsor at Orange County Cypress Creek High School. She has completed five years of teaching.

Kendice Kunce is an AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) English Language Instructor at Orange County Apopka High School. She has completed twelve years as a full-time teacher.

2023 NCTE CONFERENCE *continued*

ENGLISH-
SPEAKING
UNION



To quote Shana:

“Once again, thank you for this amazing opportunity. This opportunity has allowed me to learn and network with some of the most gracious and engaging people in education.”

Kendice shared similar comments:

“I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the opportunity ESU's Central Florida Branch gave me through the grant to attend NCTE's Annual Convention in Columbus, Ohio. It was such an amazing experience being surrounded by teachers from all over the nation in one place with the shared goal of becoming more informed professionals. I attended several sessions. Among my favorite was Penny Kittle and Kelly Gallagher's session "Standing Our Ground: Practices that Inspire Revolution" that they revised to call "Struggles that Inspire Revision". It was rejuvenating. I loved the session on blending together texts by classic poets and modern musicians, like Virginia Woolf and Lil' Wayne, and have already taught a lesson on sentence combining to my growing sophomore writers.”



Kendice Kunce (R), Kelly Gallagher, author of numerous books (c), and Shana Call (r)



Angie Thomas (L) author of *The Hate You Give* and most recently *Nic Blake and the Remarkables* with Shana Call

Save
THE
Date



Please join us on **Monday, February 26**, for the annual English-Speaking Union's Shakespeare Competition. Events will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. in our beautiful venue, Orlando Shakes. This year, 19 competitors will present their memorized monologues and sonnets as they compete for an opportunity to represent the Central Florida ESU Branch in New York.

Our 2024 Central Florida ESU panel of judges will be Anne Hering: Director of Education at Orlando Shakes, Donna Miller: former Program Coordinator for Orange County's Language Arts, and Dr. Maurice "Socky" O'Sullivan: former Professor at Rollins College.

We welcome all friends of the Bard to come witness the outstanding talent from our participating tri-county high schools! Refreshments will be served in the lovely outdoor Darden Courtyard on property, under an air-conditioned tent. It will be an evening to remember!

Brett Carrier, VP Shakespeare Competition

Program Schedule 2023-2024

**All programs are on Mondays at
the University Club of Winter Park unless otherwise indicated.**

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Dinner at the Winter Park Racquet Club

6:00-6:45 p.m. Cocktails, 6:45-8:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Entertainment: Classical pianists Dr. E. Quinn Peeper and Michael Harold

Monday, February 26, 2024, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Shakespeare Competition at The Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Margeson Stage.

4:00 p.m. Program at Orlando Shakes with refreshments served at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, March 4, 2024, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Christopher A. Snyder - Mississippi State University, "Gatsby's Oxford"

Monday, April 1, 2024, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Gary Prager - "Lawrence of Arabia." The End of Ottoman Rule and the
Making of the Modern Middle East.

Monday, May 6, 2024, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

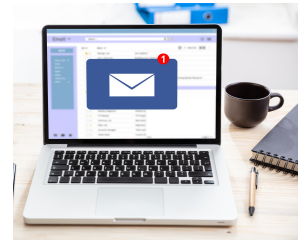
John Stewart- "Thomas Jefferson." A Virginia Cavalier in King Arthur's Court.

*Our Annual General Meeting will precede our guest speaker, John Stewart.

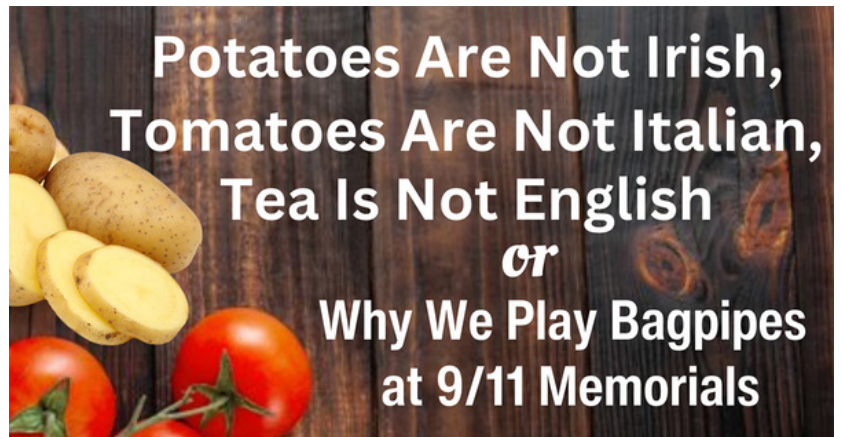
Branch Business

If you have any contact updates or questions concerning Branch emails, please email us at esucentralfl@gmail.com, or contact Brett at 407-443-4859.

Monthly newsletters are delivered through email. Notify us at esucentralfl@gmail.com if you prefer a hard copy.



Register for January's Happy Hour Talk



Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6 PM (ET)

Potatoes are not Irish, Tomatoes are not Italian, Tea is not English or Why We Play Bagpipes at 9/11 Memorials with Dr. Robin Sinclair

https://esuus-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_U2DvxICLTF2EweaclPsiVQ#/registration

**Evolve
education and
impact lives.
Join the ESU!**

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH
Membership Application**

- I wish to become a member of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.
- I wish to renew my membership of the English-Speaking Union, Central Florida Branch.

Please send a check for \$45 (single membership) or \$60 (couple membership) to the **English-Speaking Union, 144 East 39th Street, New York., NY 10016.**

Name and Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone, Fax, and Email _____

Visit the E-SU Central Florida website at www.E-SUus.org/centralflorida for more information.