



DENVER
BRANCH

May - June 2023 Newsletter

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President's Corner

Happy Spring!

Summer is just around the corner and I hope you have some exciting travel plans or just staying at home and enjoying our beautiful Colorado weather. All of this rainy weather reminds me of how much I miss the UK. Since we recently celebrated May Day, I got to thinking about the history of this tradition. In the UK, May has typically been one of the most celebrated months since Medieval times and before. May Day and the month of May has traditionally been the celebration of summer, new crops, and fertility. The month of May was originally called Maia, after the Greek Goddess who symbolized growth. Her name translates to “great” and “mother.”

The Anglo-Saxon name for May was called Tri-Milchi which means that the grass was so green and plentiful, that the cows could be milked three times a day. It was eventually called May in 1430. The celebrations usually consisted of decorating a May pole with garland and ribbons, and dancing around it. It also brought festivals, parades and Morris Dancers. Let's be honest, Morris Dancers are a bit creepy though.

I remember my mother and I making May baskets to give to all of the neighbors. It was usually flowers or seeds and candy. You had to bring them in secret by putting them on their doorstep, ringing their doorbell and then running away. I never had any idea why we did this. It was fun though! Although typically May was a festive time, there are many superstitions associated with May. Here are some very interesting ones that I did not know about until now:

Marry in May and rue the day.
Being born in May was thought to produce a sickly child.

Never buy a broom in May.
Never wash blankets in May or you will “wash one of the family away.”
Cats born in May will not be good rodent hunters and may attract snakes.

Just keep those things in mind and you’ll be fine!

A couple of events to remember is our annual meeting in July as well as our annual Shakespeare play at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in August. Hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Cindy Poinsett, President ESU-Denver Branch

Save the Date Upcoming ESU Calendar



July	Annual Meeting Event
Date/Time/Location	TBD
Saturday	Colorado Shakespeare Outing
August 5	The Winter’s Tale
5:30 picnic	Roe Green Theatre
7:00pm show	University of Colorado

National Shakespeare Competition



On April 24, 2023, the 40th Anniversary National Shakespeare Competition was held at Lincoln Center in New York City. Denver School of the Arts senior, Ben Feldman, represented the Denver Branch as one of 41 semi-finalists from across the country. The students, along with parents, branch coordinators, teachers, and supporters attended the competition, held in person for the first time since 2019.

The ESU provided the semi-finalists with a weekend of educational and cultural activities including an acting workshop at the English-Speaking Union National Headquarters in midtown, a bus tour of NYC, and a Broadway performance of *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Best of all for these teenagers was the opportunity to spend a weekend with other students from across the country who share a love of Shakespeare.

The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition is a school-based program designed to help students develop their speaking and critical thinking skills and their appreciation of literature as they explore the beauty of the language and timeless themes in Shakespeare’s works.



**The Colorado Shakespeare Festival
Presents**

The Winter's Tale

By William Shakespeare

Saturday, August 5
5:30 picnic
7:00pm show

Roe Green Theatre (Indoors)
University of Colorado, Boulder

*If this be magic, let it be an art
Lawful as eating.*

When King Leontes inexplicably accuses his pregnant wife of infidelity he makes a cruel, rash decision that he must spend two decades atoning for. Shakespeare's nuanced epic explores both the heartrending corrosion of jealousy and the joyous redemption of forgiveness that is hard-won. Borrowing elements from fantasy and mythology, "The Winter's Tale" weaves an audacious tapestry you have to experience to believe.

Since 1958, the [Colorado Shakespeare Festival](#) has delighted audiences with professional theatre on the CU Boulder campus. Complete your Colorado summer with Shakespeare in the elegant indoor Roe Green Theatre.

Email denver@esuus.org to

Reserve your ticket(s) by Tuesday, May 30

Once the group tickets are secured, we will contact you with additional information regarding payment instructions and picnic details

In Memoriam



Jane Earle, former President of ESU Denver (2010 to 2013), journalist, writer and academic, died April 9 at her Denver home. She was 88.

Born on March 23, 1935, in Kentucky, Earle began her career in journalism in Ohio and also worked at The Daily Oklahoman and the Oklahoma City Journal before joining the staff of The Denver Post in 1970 as a feature writer. At The Post, Earle switched beats to cover federal courts and federal agencies and during her seven-year tenure she also covered state government, the legislature and minority political affairs.

Among Earle's stories at The Post were pieces on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Chicano Movement and the Wounded Knee occupation in 1973.

Earle left The Denver Post and became editor, and later publisher, of Denver Magazine, a journal of politics and arts during the late 1970s and early 1980s. After leaving the magazine, she was a freelance editorial consultant and writer for the Colorado School of Mines and several corporate clients. She then joined KMGH Channel 7 as editorial director, a position she held for five years. During that time, she taught journalism at Metropolitan State College (now MSUD). While teaching, Earle completed an undergraduate degree, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a double major in History and Journalism.

Earle earned a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and was hired the following year by Cornell University where she created an award-winning curriculum in journalism ethics. During the summer of 1992, Earle was deputy media campaign manager for former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm's senate campaign: Coloradans for Lamm.

In the 1990s, after the dissolution of the USSR, Earle went to Russia and worked as managing editor for a Russian-owned, English-language newspaper — The Moscow Tribune. During her year in Moscow, Earle was a guest lecturer at Moscow State University. Returning to Denver, Earle worked as manager of community relations for Denver Water, a post she held for a decade.

Over the course of her long journalism career, Earle's work appeared in Ms. Magazine, The New York Times, Frontier Magazine, Colorado Woman, Colorado Business, Summerscapes and in Colorado School of Mines publications. Her awards included: Women in Communications, Woman of Achievement Award; Presidential Scholars' Outstanding Educator Award, Cornell University; Colorado Broadcast Journalist's Starward for Commentary (KMGH); Service to State of Colorado Chicano Education Project Service Award; and Western Magazine Association's Most Improved Publication in the West (Denver Magazine).

Retiring from Denver Water, Earle continued to write, research a Denver Water history project and develop children's stories. She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Wollerman, of New York; two sons, Fred and Paul Wollerman, both of Denver; three grandsons and a great-granddaughter.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. June 6 at Saint John's Cathedral, 1350 N. Washington St., Denver. A scholarship fund in Earle's name is being formulated; details will be released at a later date.

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National Virtual Event

Wednesday, June 7 2023

2:00pm

A Bourbon Tasting: Evan Williams Virtual Bourbon Experience

Hosted by The ESU Kentucky Branch with Co-Host Kate Nitzken



Learn about the history of Evan Williams and Louisville, Kentucky. We will taste 3 award-winning Bourbons from the Evan Williams family of products [Evan Williams Signature Black Label, Evan Williams 1783, and Evan Williams Bottled-In-Bond]. We will end by making an Old-Fashioned cocktail using a recipe from another famous Louisvillian, Tom Bullock.

One of our award-winning Bourbon Educators from Kentucky will be leading you through this historical tasting and cocktail demonstration!

Register here: [Zoom Registration](#)