

THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION

Education – Scholarship – Understanding

Newsletter

Desert Branch – March/April 2017

ESU CALENDAR

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

MAY

11 - Board Meeting 11 AM

City Hall – Cathedral City

13 - Annual Meeting

Time and Place to be announced
Invitations will be sent

19 – 21 Region VIII Meeting

Hosted by Los Angeles Branch
Information inside Newsletter

OCTOBER

28-29 – ESU National Conference

Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY
More information later

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

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

**HONORARY
BOARD MEMBERS**

Nancy Adams Holliday
Matilde Jones

PRESIDENT EMERITA

Joy Daniels Brower

WEBSITE

www.esuus.org/branches/desert

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ESU Desert Branch



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Weren't they wonderful! Of course I'm referring to the 12 high school students who took part in our annual Shakespeare Competition. It was difficult for the judges to single out the final five for the selection of the finalist to send on to New York. All of the finalists received cash awards and we're looking forward to having him at our Annual Meeting and hearing of his experience in New York and also having him perform his sonnet and monologue.

A great big round of applause to Dave Richardt, Chairman of the Shakespeare Committee and all the wonderful volunteer who helped him. Also thanks goes to Shadow Hills High School, Sharon Deady, Drama Teacher and the Starry Knights Drama Club. And also to the Coachella Valley Repertory Theater who hosts the final competition in the evening. Many, many hours of volunteer work goes into this project and the Desert Branch will do everything to keep sending a young person to the finals in New York.

The annual election for Desert Branch officers and board members will be held at our annual meeting on May 13. We could use a few more board members, so if you are interested in serving on the board, please give Bill Gay a call at 760-202-9078. The following is our ballot at this time. Help us by adding your name. On May 10 the officers will be elected and the board members whose term expires in 2020.

OFFICERS

President	Bill Gay
Vice President	Dave Richardt
Secretary	Lew Pusch
Treasurer	Geri Dicks
Immediate Past Pres.	Geri Dicks

Two board members will be elected with terms to expire in May 2020

They are Patti Gallagher and Hal Maguire

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 13, time and place to be determined. The Shakespeare winner will present his sonnet and monologue and also will tell us about his experience in New York. Invitations will be sent in April.

Geri D

The Annual Region VIII Conference
"Spotlight on Communication"

Welcome to Sunny LA!



Registration - **\$175** (single) **\$250** (couple)
Please mail your check or money order payable to:

ESU LA

C/O Jason Hayes

727 De Haven Street

San Fernando, CA 91340

Deadline to register - March 15, 2017

May 19th, Friday

5-7pm - Social Mixer

May 20th, Saturday

Breakfast at your leisure -
Hotel Lobby

9am-12pm - Workshops

12:30-1:30 - Lunch

2-4pm - Meeting

Region VIII/National

6pm - Dinner and a
Guest Speaker

May 21st, Sunday

9:00am - 11am Region VIII
General Meeting

11am - 12pm Guest Speaker

12:30-1:30 - Lunch

2:00 - Meet for travel to our

3pm - VIP tour at the
Huntington

Detailed agenda provided upon
registration.

For your room reservation:

Contact

Embassy Suites Hotel LAX South

1440 E. Imperial Avenue

El Segundo, CA 90245

310.640.3600

Suites begin at the ESU
discounted rate of \$159

*Breakfast and a Wine Reception
each evening is complimentary for
each hotel guest.*

Hotel Reservations

must be made by 4/28/17

Steps to Registration:

- 1. Register for the Conference**
- 2. RSVP for the VIP Tour at
the Huntington**
- 3. Book your hotel**

Questions?

Contact Jason Hayes

LA Branch President

818.451.6400 or esula2015@gmail.com

SHAKESPEARE 2017 - “The Bard” Showcased Brilliantly
Dave Richardt – Chairman, Shakespeare Committee

The 2017 Shakespeare Competition sponsored by The English Speaking Union was held February 23rd. The afternoon preliminaries were hosted again this year by Sharon Deady and the “Starry Knights” Drama Club of Shadow Hills High School. Special thanks for their wonderful help in a beautiful auditorium. The evening finals were again hosted by the Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre in Rancho Mirage. Twelve students, each from a different high school, shared their talents at the preliminaries. Represented schools included Indio High, La Quinta High, Central Union High, Palo Verde Valley High, Palm Valley School, Etiwanda High, Palm Springs High, Cathedral City High, Idyllwild Arts Academy, Palm Desert High, and Desert Hot Springs High. Five finalists were chosen from the preliminaries.

Students, schools (and teachers) at the finals, and the finals awards were as follows: Honorable Mention - Dakota Johnson, Palm Desert High (John Hadley, teacher); Honorable mention - Amanda Sutton, Shadow Hills High (Sharon Deady, teacher); 3rd place - Jackson Dean, Palm Valley School (Susie Zachik, teacher); 2nd place - Nicholas Wass, Palm Springs High (Allyson Sawyer, teacher); and first place went to Hunter Abal-Sadeq, Idyllwild Arts Academy (Bonnie Carpenter, teacher).

Hunter will represent the Desert Branch of the ESU in New York City on May 1st, performing with 55 other national finalists at the Mitzy Newhouse Theatre at Lincoln Center. Hunter performed the role of Titus from “Titus Andronicus” followed by Sonnet 137.

The Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre was the perfect venue for the finals, and our branch is appreciative for the support from the theatre, their Managing Director Gary Palmer, and Artistic Director Ron Celona. A free mixer of drinks and appetizers were offered while the finals judges decided the winners.

Special thanks to our wonderful judges; Dr. Bill Gay (ESU former President), actress Rhiannon Howell and actress Desireé Clarke for the preliminaries, and actors Garnett Smith, Edward Marshall and Scott Smith for the finals. Many thanks also go to the ESU Shakespeare “team” of Geri Dicks (ESU President), Dave Richardt (Shakespeare Competition Chair.), Dr. Bill Gay, Lew Pusch, Patti Gallagher, Lisa Luisi, Jean Hopkins, Rick Cherry, and Scott Shriner.

SHAKESPEARE FINAL COMPETITION
AT THE
COACHELLA VALLEY REPERTORY THEATER



1st Place Winner – Hunter Abal-Sadeq from Idyllwild Arts Academy
Bonnie Carpenter, Teacher and Geri Dicks, ESU Desert Branch President



The Five Finalists
Hunter Abal-Sadeq, Nicholas Wass, Amanda Sutton, Dakota Johnson
And Jackson Dean

ESU DESERT BRANCH 2016-2017 OFFICERS

President – Geri Dicks

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Vice President – Dave Richardt

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Treasurer –Rick Cherry

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Secretary – Patti Gallagher, PhD

Pattigalah@verizon.net
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Immediate Past President–Rick Cherry

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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
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Special Events

Jean Hopkins
jeanmiles Hopkins@me.com
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Publicity

Rick Cherry
rickinca@earthlink.net
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BOARD MEMBERS

Sid Adair
Dr. Bill Gay
Lisa Luisi
Lew Pusch

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