



# The Nashville Speaker

The English-Speaking Union  
NASHVILLE BRANCH

Volume 8, Issue 1

Fall, 2009

## Our Mission

The English-Speaking Union of the United States is committed to promoting scholarship and the advancement of knowledge through the effective use of English in an expanding global community.

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## Have you made your reservation for the Fall Banquet?

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT HILLWOOD COUNTRY CLUB**

**5:30 p.m. Reception \* 6:30 p.m. Speaker \* 7:15 p.m. Dinner**

*Black Tie – Decorations Saris optional*

*“The Maharajas of India” – an illustrated program.*

**John McLeod**, Professor of History at the University of Louisville, in his own words: Most of my research is on the history of India during the colonial period. I have published three books: [Sovereignty, Power, Control: Politics in the States of Western India, 1916-1947](#), which

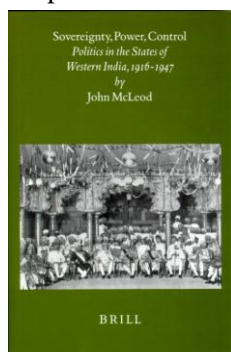
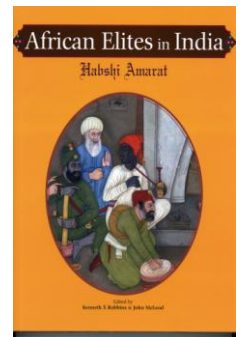
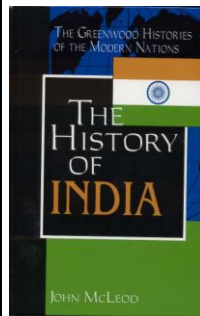
came out in 1999; [The History of India](#), published in 2002; and [African Elites in India](#), co-edited with Kenneth X. Robbins and released in 2006. I am now working on two more books, *Indian Tory: A Biography of Sir Mancherjee Merwanjee Bhownaggee*, and *Rajmandal: Historical and Genealogical Notes on the Royal Families of South Asia*. I have also written articles and book reviews in American, Australian, British, and Canadian journals.

Since coming to U of L in 1995, I have taught courses on the History of Civilizations; British Imperialism; Civilizations of Ancient and Medieval India; Civilizations of Modern India; English History; the English Monarchy and the Birth of the Modern Age (which culminated in a two-week trip to England); the History of India; Royalty in Indian History (which included a trip to India); and Victorian Britain.

In 2001, my work on the history of the former princely and chiefly states of India was recognized when I received the title of Honorary Rajvanshi Genealogist of the Rajvara Heritage Institution of Rajkumar College in Rajkot, India. This is an updated version of a traditional Indian title: in olden days, each Indian monarch had an official genealogist whose duty was to record the history of the rajvansh, or royal family.

**\$55 per person - checks made payable to  
The English-Speaking Union and mailed to  
2009 Overhill Drive, Nashville, TN 37215-3414  
by November 10.**

**Indicate your choice of entrée:  
Arborio-Crusted Atlantic Salmon  
Sautéed Chicken Francaise  
Saffron Vegetable Curry**



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***by Theodore Elliott Wiltsie, Ed.D.*

Your officers and Board of Directors have been busy planning a year full of activities. By all reports the first event, The Fall New Member Reception, was a resounding success. We have twelve new members. Many thanks to those who have joined or renewed their membership.

The current membership is 158 – 47 couples and 64 singles – up sixteen from last June.

Many thanks also to those who have donated to our local ESU Educational Fund. Your generous support of this vital function is greatly appreciated and keeps our active educational initiative thriving.

The ESU Annual Conference is being held in New Orleans in early November and three of our members,

Phyllis Heard and Ann and Gerry Calhoun, will be representing the Nashville Branch as official delegates.

Since we have no designated "official" branch photographer, members are encouraged to bring their cameras and take pictures at ESU events. You are invited to forward copies of event photographs to Lynne Siesser for possible use in our brochures and newsletters.

The ESU is essentially a volunteer organization. Therefore, when considering various programs and activities, it is important for your Executive Committee to know which members are available and willing to assist, and in what capacity. So far thirteen members have volunteered to assist with various committees and activities to support our goals and events. Thank you so much. Your willingness and availability to help is greatly appreciated.

It's looking like an interesting and exciting year. Your support and attendance at ESU events is important. Next up - the Fall Dinner Banquet.

*Thank you* to those who have been so generous to the Education Fund since the last newsletter:

**Gold Benefactors (\$500 +):**

Marilyn Shields Wiltsie &amp; Ted Wiltsie

**Silver Benefactors (\$250 - \$499):**

Phyllis Heard

**Benefactors (\$100 - \$249):**Arlyn & Ted Cherney, Martha Reid & Bill Henderson, Alyne Massey,  
Ann Marie & Martin McNamara, Susan & Otey Walker**Patrons (\$50 - \$99):**Joe Diehl, Chloe Fort Lenderman, Nancy Griswold, Anne & Bob Guerra, Jean & Dick Hart,  
Judith & John Poindexter, Lina & John Wellborn, Mac Whiteman**Donors (\$25 - \$49):**Joan Campbell, Genevieve Farris, Marlin & Bill Sanders, Jane Tarkington,  
Jane & Richard Treadway, Jane & Tom Yount

*The donation from the Wiltsies was made in memory of  
Mildred Joy Gulbenk*

## SUCCESSFUL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS . . . .



The Branch was charmed to have Estelle Condra at our Fall Membership Meeting. Estelle, a noted story teller, entertained guests with the tale of Namptjie, the Wagtail – part of the folklore of the Khoisan people of the Kalahari.



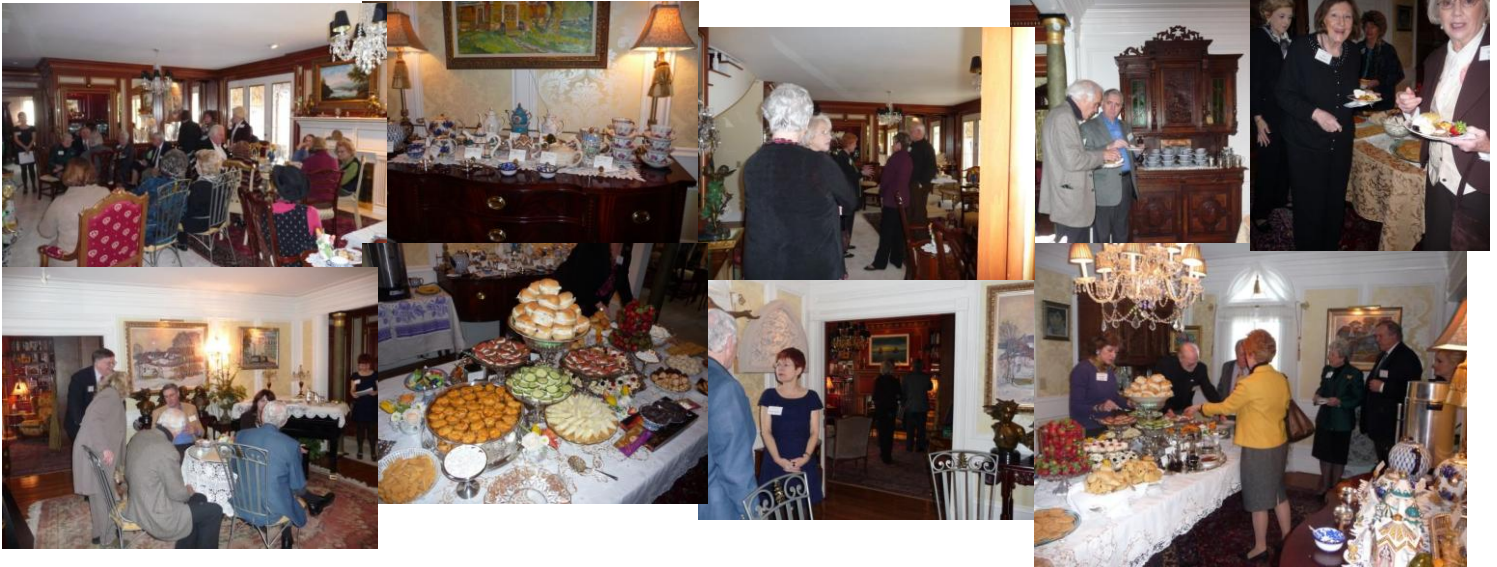
*Welcome new members:*

**Carolyn & David Amiot, Melinda & Ron Coles, Bob Feldman, John Fields, Louise Howell, Audrey & Frank Jones, Katherine Puckett, Barbara Schneider, Bob Thomson,**

*Welcome honorary members:*

**Ruth Cordell (Webb School), Nita Harvile (Overton High), Melissa Stugart (Stratford High) and from the Nashville Shakespeare Festival – Denise Hicks, Robert Marigza, Claire Syler, Nancy Van Reece**

In February Susan Sinclair gave the group a wonderful presentation on sterling silver in the setting of the Cherney's spectacular art collection.



Lynne Olson was the speaker at the Spring Banquet at Shadowbrook. Dr. Olson spoke about Sir Winston Churchill.



Lynne Olson & Dick Knight

Bill Schwartz & Janice Johnson

Ted Wiltsie, Jane Treadway, Susan Sinclair & Katie Sharp

# Upcoming Events



**Rosslyn Chapel: Fact and Fiction:** Thursday, November 12, 6:00 p.m.  
Massey Auditorium, Botanic Hall, Cheekwood

**Free and open to the public**

Lady Helen, Owner of Rosslyn and Director of Rosslyn Trust, will be discussing the history and conservation efforts of the Rosslyn Chapel, one of Scotland's most important historic buildings. Rosslyn Chapel was most recently featured in Dan Brown's *DaVinci Code*. Founded in 1446 by Sir William St. Clair, the medieval chapel is known as an artistic masterpiece. It contains an extraordinary series of carvings whose meanings have been debated by scholars, mystics, the suspicious and the skeptical throughout the centuries.

**Fall Banquet:** John McLeod, Ph.D.: *The Maharajas of India*,  
Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at *Hillwood Country Club* at 5:30 p.m.



**Winter Informal:** *Twelfth Night Celebration, "Much Ado About Members"*,  
Tuesday, January 5, 2010 – venue TBD at 6:00 p.m.

**Shakespeare Workshop:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 at *Harpeth Hall*

**Regional Shakespeare Finals:** Saturday, March 6, 2010 at *Troutt Theater, Belmont University*

**Joint Meeting: The Opera Club/ESU:** Ann Jennalie Cook, Ph.D.: *Hamlet*,  
Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at *Noah Liff Opera Center, Redmon Street*,

THE  
Tragical Historie of  
HAMLET,  
Prince of Denmarke.  
By William Shakepeare.  
Newly imprinted and enlarged to almost as much  
again as it was, according to the true and perfect  
Copie.

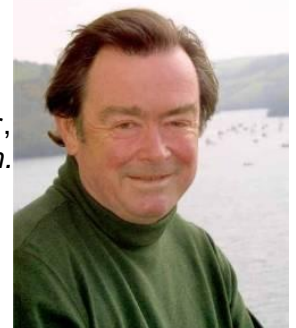


AT LONDON.  
Printed by I. R. for N. L. and are to be sold at his  
shoppe under Saint Dunstons Church in  
Fleetstreet. 1597.



**Spring High Tea:** Joint Meeting: Scottish Society of Middle Tennessee/ESU,  
Sunday, April 18, 2010 at *Shadowbrook* from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Spring Banquet:** Tim Heald: author, journalist, public speaker,  
Saturday, May 22, 2010 at *Hillwood Country Club* at 5:30 p.m.



# **The English-Speaking Union, Nashville - Volunteer Needs**

*Tap the wealth of experience among the membership: Opportunities to participate actively in ESU goals and events.*

## **Membership/Outreach**

**Chair: William T. Schwartz**

**Linda Walter**

*Become an ambassador for the ESU. Contact and involve civic organizations through the promotion of ESU events, programs and membership recruitment. (Treasurer maintains membership contact and financial database).*

## **Events**

**Chair: TBD**

**Donah & Roger Burgess, Jane Stone, Linda Walter**

*Initiate an interesting program or event and coordinate with other appropriate committee chairs.*

## **Education Committee**

**Chair: Dr. Ann Cook Calhoun**

**Donah & Roger Burgess, Marion Couch, Lina Wellborn**

*Assist Ann on the promotion and arrangements for the Shakespeare Workshop and Competition and the Page Scholar. (A visiting international educator)*

## **Fund Raising**

**Chair: TBD**

*Brainstorm and implement creative ways to raise funds for the ESU educational programs of the Nashville Branch.*

## **Hospitality**

**Chair: TBD**

**Donah & Roger Burgess, Ann & Gerry Calhoun, Bitsy & Roupen Gulbenk, Linda Walter, Lina Wellborn, Mac Whiteman**

*Coordinate with event chair and host/hostess to assist in arranging for refreshments at informal events.*

## **Arrangements**

**Chair: TBD**

**Susan Creagh, Lina Wellborn**

*Coordinate with event chair and host/hostess in scheduling individuals to meet and greet at events; give parking directions; assist the elderly or those needing physical help; acquiring, picking up and setting up a PA system when necessary.*

## **Public Relations**

**Chair: TBD**

*Periodically send information to local and regional media outlets announcing upcoming events representing the ESU and soliciting attendance and membership.*

## **Communications**

**Chair: TBD**

*Assist as necessary by writing thank you notes, letters of condolence, and other necessary correspondence, newsletters, mailing reminders, cards, making telephone calls.*

## **Historian**

**Jane Stone**

*Maintains a chronological date/time log of programs, events and activities, and reconstruct past history, as able.*

**If you are interested in joining one of these teams, please let Lynne or Ted know.**

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