

### Philadelphia Branch of The English-Speaking Union

# Courier

1221 Locust Street, Box 502 Philadelphia, PA 19107

April 2024

## Philadelphia Branch Shakespeare Competition and Reception



The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition provides teachers across the country with a performance-based program for the study of English Language Arts and Shakespeare. It is a school-based program serving Grades 9-12. Through the Competition, students develop communication skills and an appreciation of the power of language and literature. The Competition has engaged more than 360,000 young people since its inception in 1983. The 1st place winners of approximately 60 participating branches will compete at the National Competition in New York City at Lincoln Center on April 15, 2024.

The prizes for the National Competition are as follows:

1ST PLACE: BRITISH AMERICAN DRAMA ACADEMY MID-SUMMER CONSERVATORY

PROGRAM AT OXFORD

2ND PLACE: AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER THEATRE CAMP IN STAUNTON, VA

**3RD PLACE:** \$1,000

The students arrive on April 13th for a weekend of festivities including a reception, acting workshops, a NYC bus tour, a Broadway show and more.

The Philadelphia Branch held our competition on Monday, February 26, 2024 at The Museum of the American Revolution. We are so fortunate to have them as our sponsor for the competition. The competition was held in Liberty Hall with 15 students from Philadelphia area schools, including one school in Delaware. The Museum also provided access pins to all of the attendees to visit the Museum following the competition. Each participating student received a gift bag with ESU merchandise and a certificate of participation.



The Competition Reception was held on Sunday, March 10th at The Franklin Inn Club in Center City. The top three winners attended with family, friends and teachers. They each recited their winning monologue and were presented with their scholarship checks. The teachers also received gifts from the Branch.

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters who make this competition possible. Sandy Cadwalader, Matthew Dupee, Steven King, Sheila Leith, Peg Mertz and Michael Lynagh, The Rittenhouse Foundation, The Shakspere Society, and Andy Webster, who provides the scholarships to the students. He is pictured below presenting the oversized checks to the winners.

Good luck to Casey Fosbenner, our First Place Winner who heads to New York on April 13th.







### President's Column



Hello Everyone

Welcome Spring.... and hope it arrives some time soon! While we are awaiting the warmer weather, I'd like to share a



heart warming event held on St Patrick's Day at the Discovery Center/Outward

Bound. There are a number of Philadelphia area students enrolled in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA Program and on Sunday, March 17, His Majesty's Honorary Consul, Oliver St Clair Franklin, CBE and I (as the area DodE Award representative) were on hand to recognize the following students for their achievements. All ten students received their bronze medals for completing phase one of the program. One student had gone on to complete the second phase and received his silver medal too.

Sasha Benowitz - Majors in Voluntary service/Animal Welfare and Food Assistance and guitar

Kyara Meading - Majoring in Animal Welfare and Wildlife Rescue - learning sign language

Jonah Wisniewski - Coaches hockey and is a leader in his Boy Scout Troop

Reese Covalle - Majoring in woodworking and plays extramural volleyball

Erma Pak - Volunteers in environmental services, plays extramural volleyball

Mogue Wisniewski - Majoring in engineering and robotics, coaches hockey

Shaalin Gamble-Safro - Majors in piano, volunteers in environmental services/tree renewal

Manny Levine - Majors in martial arts and self defense, Youth Club soccer coach

Malaika Bhullar - Volunteers at food pantries and clothing drives, plays extramural soccer

Malcom Bullock - Volunteers to provide care to the elderly, extramural track and field, and is an avid ornithologist. Malcom, pictured to the right, received his bronze and silver medal today.

The event was VERY well attended with over 60 parents, friends and well wishers in the audience. Congratulations one and all!!!!

Our branch regularly contributes to this very worthy program and I do hope that you will visit The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA website at <a href="https://usaward.org/">https://usaward.org/</a>.

The best to you all,

Debbie Smith Webster President

# SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

The ESU Annual Garden Party will be Sunday, June 2nd at The National Society of the Colonial Dames, 1630 Latimer Street, Philadelphia, PA





Oliver St. Clair Franklin, CBE with double medal winner, Malcolm Bullock



Supporting Oliver St. Clair Franklin, CBE, who received the Globy Award for Life Achievement on December 11, 2023, are former ESU President, George Tyndall, ESU President, Debbie Webster, and Susan Gerrity, DBE National President and Chair of the Commonwealth 2024 Committee.

# Private Tour and Tasting at Philadelphia Distillary Where they make Bluecoat Gin



**DATE**: Thursday, April 25, 2024 **TIME**: Tour: 4:30pm—5:30pm

Following the Tour, an area in the lounge will be reserved for our group for a cash bar and ala carte food service.

COST: \$40/person

Location: 25 E. Allen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

SPACE IS LIMITED

Email in advance to reserve your spot.

Please do not send payment until your reservation has been confirmed.

philaesu@gmail.com

Checks can be made payable and mailed to: The ESU, 1221 Locust Street, Box 502, Philadelphia, PA 19107 or email for a payment link, or scan the QR code.

#### **Parking**

Street parking is available on Allen St, Front St, Laurel St, Frankford Ave, and Delaware Ave.

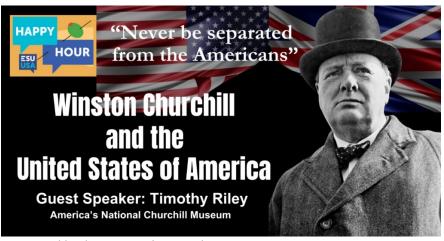
#### **Parking Lot**

There are parking lots available in the surrounding area, between Front St and Allen St, and towards Front St and Richmond St (see map above). These lots are free when there are no events at the Fillmore.

**Dress Code**: No open toe shoes, No heels. We will not be able to admit guests on a tour if they do not adhere to the dress code for safety purposes.







ed States would benefit both countries and the greater world. We invite ESU members and guests around the world to celebrate National Winston Churchill Day on April 9th with our guest speaker, Timothy Riley, Director and Chief Curator of America's National Churchill Museum. This ESU Happy Hour is sponsored by the ESU Kansas City Branch. ESU Happy Hour programs are online, free, and open to all members and the public. Registra-

On April 9, 1963, President Kennedy signed a

House Resolution proclaiming Sir Winston Churchill an Honorary Citizen of the United States. This

program will examine and explore Churchill's lifelong admiration for America and his belief that a "special relationship" between Britain and the Unit-

Sponsored by the Kansas City Branch

**Date:** April 9, 2024 **Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Website: https://esuus-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN Jmv2fbMjQZ-JKsFkQlbZSA#/registration

# www.esuus.org/philadelphia/

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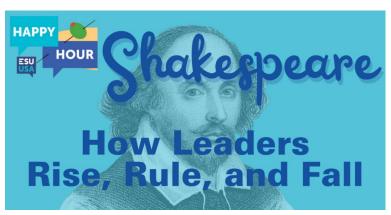
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Sponsored by the ESU Boston Branch

**Date:** May 1, 2024 **Time:** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Website: https://esuus-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN g0CKI7-HQqmc0pFL4ChFXA#/registration

tion is required

Perhaps our best teacher on the nature of power – how it is acquired, exercised, and lost – is none other than William Shakespeare. An incisive observer of human nature, Shakespeare educates us on the qualities that make a successful leader and warns how power can corrupt a leader's moral compass. Four centuries after his death, Shakespeare's plays continue to inspire and relate to a 21st-century audience, and we can learn more about our contemporary political leaders through the lens of his characters. Join our next ESU Happy Hour as Dr. Eliot Cohen compares some of the most memorable leaders of Shakespeare's plays to their real-world contemporary counterparts. Tracing the art of power from its acquisition to decline. This ESU Happy Hour is sponsored by the ESU Boston Branch. ESU Happy Hour programs are online, free, and open to all members and the public. Registration is required.

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*.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

If you know anyone who wants to join, please direct them to our website at www.esuus.org/philadelphia/ or have them email philaESU@gmail.com to request a paper application.

We appreciate your support!!