



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 Shakspeare 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 <https://usaward.org/>.

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 Gloyb 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 Distillery 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



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.

SPACE IS LIMITED
Email in advance to reserve your spot.
Please do not send payment until your reservation has been confirmed.
philaesu@gmail.com

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.



HAPPY HOUR
ESU USA

“Never be separated from the Americans”

Winston Churchill and the United States of America

Guest Speaker: Timothy Riley
America's National Churchill Museum

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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HAPPY HOUR
ESU USA

Shakespeare

How Leaders Rise, Rule, and Fall

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

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!!