



Kentucky Branch

Happenings



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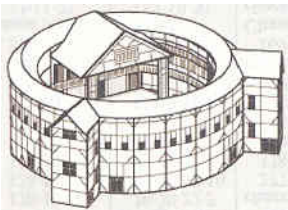
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NEWS & NOTES

If you have news to share please contact Keith Eiken or any Board Member.

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Gatwick in the Flood

A man fondles
his watch and peers
down tracks twin-
lined to the distant
bend though there is
nothing coming sir
nothing is there
past this cloud-cold
platform and the
muffled coughs of
tweed-men shifting
their feet.

Emily Ruppel
ESU Scholar 2007

GOOD NEWS ABOUNDS!

We congratulate ESU Scholar Bethany Johnson on being selected for the Mary Churchill Humphrey Scholarship at the University of Louisville. The prestigious award is a full paid scholarship for one year at a British university. Bethany has decided to attend Edinburgh University next year. Of course, we believe her ESU scholarship gave her an 'edge' in the competition. Ms. Humphrey was an early member of the Kentucky Branch.

Have you seen the "Henrietta Marie" slave ship exhibit at the Frazier International History Museum? Your ESU membership card provides free admission to the show. Numerous positive comments about the relic's portrayal make it a 'must see' experience.

We will once again host the annual statewide Shakespeare Competition. See Coming Events for details. Bring a friend and watch the "Secular Pilgrims" create energy and drama with the Bard's words. As the branch with the reigning national winner of the event, we are anxious to produce another champion.

Earlier this month, Dr. John Stempel, Patterson School of Diplomacy, University of Kentucky, spoke on the British diplomatic role in the Middle East since World War I. The well attended buffet event at the Audubon Country Club provided fresh insights on the complexity of the situation.

While trying to find a diversion during a restless night, I turned on the BBC early morning radio broadcast. A discussion was underway about the book "Not Quite What I was Planning." The memoir encourages readers to write their own autobiography - in *six words*. Sample items noted were: "My second grade teacher was right," and the poignant "I still prepare coffee for two." My memory of a rainy late afternoon visit to Cambridge evoked "King's College's evensong nurtures me daily." What is your autobiography? Send us your effort and, if space allows, we will print it in the next issue.

Keith Eiken

George Ella Lyon Charms Brunch Audience

By Virginia Dulworth
Corresponding Secretary

Forty seven Kentucky Branch members and their guests gathered at Audubon Country Club on Sunday January 6 for a delicious brunch and a beautifully presented talk by Kentucky author George Ella Lyon, Ph.D.

Dr Lyon charmed her audience with readings from her selected works. A prolific writer, she has published 22 picture books. Her "Who Came Down That Road" (currently out of print but available in public libraries) won the Publisher's Weekly Best Book of the Year award. Mrs Lyon has written five novels for young readers. She received the prestigious Golden Kite award for her novel "Borrowed Children". In addition, she has penned an adult novel, a play and several collections of poetry. George Ella is a much sought after speaker at writing conferences and workshops; and is very popular with teachers throughout the United States..

At Audubon, Mrs Lyon began by reading and showing her newest beautifully illustrated and written picture book "My Friend, the Starfinder" due in bookstores in February 2008. Her lyric quality and imaginative use of language captivated her listeners. After her readings, the audience

was invited to examine and purchase many of her books which she graciously signed.."

In George Ella's talk, she touched upon a subject of great concern to her: Mountain top removal in the Appalachia region. It is estimated that 800 square miles of mountains (over 400 mountains) have been blasted away by coal companies. This flattening destroys the beauty of the mountain scenery and imperils the surrounding regions. Earth from these mountain tops is then dumped into neighboring valleys, burying streams. This sludge poses a real threat to many communities. In 2000 a sludge dam broke and spilled millions of tons of sludge into the Big Sandy River.





English-Speaking Union
Kentucky Branch
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Louisville, KY 40202

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Coming Events

March 2, 2008 Shakespeare Competition Finals — Frazier International History Museum
10:00— 12:00 noon Junior Competition 1:00-4:30 PM Senior Competition and Reception

March 9, 2008 Sunday Brunch “John Millington Synge Creator of Irish Identity”
Professor Emerita Kathleen Lyons, a native of Louisville, who taught English at Bellarmine University for 31 years, will discuss Synge’s 1907 play “The Playboy of the Western World” and its importance to Irish Identity. The Brunch will be held at Audubon Country Club.

June 9, 2008 Queen’s Birthday Garden Party will be held at Avish, the splendid residence of Owsley Brown Frazier. Invitations with details will be mailed later.

Secular Pilgrims

“By Georgette Kleier, Chair Theatre Department Youth Performing Arts School”

When I arrived in Stratford on Sunday afternoon July 29, I felt a sense of purpose and excitement. That evening I began meeting all the other secular pilgrims who were going to be a daily part of my life for the next week. The term “secular pilgrims” was used by Dr. Paul Edmondson, head of the Education Program at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, to describe visitors from around the world. These visitors traveled to see, touch and experience Shakespeare’s place of birth, the buildings, gardens and streets of his life in Stratford, as well as the work of The Royal Shakespeare Company. The description “secular pilgrims” became more and more clear to me as the week progressed. The pilgrims in

my group came from Chile, Moldova, Canada, Brazil, and Taiwan. It was as if we were visiting a “holy shrine” when we entered the Shakespeare Center each day. I learned that being able to understand Shakespeare was a “carrot” used by ESL instructors all over the world to engage their students more fully in mastery of the English language. I began to wonder how some of us in the United States had managed to turn Shakespeare into drudgery for our students when the rest of the world had managed to create passion and respect for the most famous dramatist of the English language. I still do not know the answer but am convinced that personalizing Shakespeare or “making it real” is one way to unlock meaning for students.

Gifting to the Kentucky Branch

We have received appreciated Stock which was donated to support this year’s Scholarship Program. The Kentucky Branch has an account with A. G. Edwards and Sons for receiving tax deductible gifts through the use of securities. If you own securities and wish to make a donation to our Branch you can direct support to a Branch Project such as Shakespeare Competition, English in Action, or the Scholarship Program. A significant contribution can be directed into our Foundation account managed by the Louisville Community Foundation. Monies in the Foundation are invested in perpetuity for the sole benefit of our Branch. If you would like more information regarding the benefits of gifting, please contact Margaret Turley 502-423-3556 or 1-800-477-1510. **Thank you for your support.**

What Really Happened at Jamestown

Get an insight into the true story of one of the first American colonies with two top-level curators from the British Royal Armouries. These internationally-recognized specialists will be at the Frazier International History Museum to explore the inseparable relationship between England and the early history of today’s United States.

The February 26 event begins at 6:30 pm and ends at 9:00 pm, including a book signing by one of the presenters, Graeme Rimer, of his book *Wheelock Firearms of the Royal Armouries*. Seats are extremely limited for this unique engagement; please call Laura Wheaton at 753-1032 to reserve your space. This is another opportunity to use your free Frazier Museum membership.