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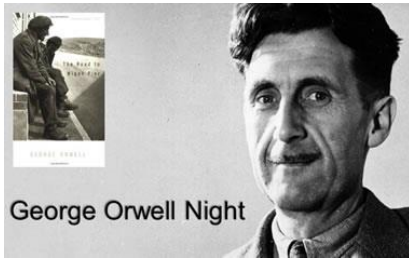


# Press Release

**British-American Connections Pittsburgh (BACP) is pleased to announce the launch of the Britsburgh Literary Society.**

**Pittsburgh, PA, March 13, 2017:** Nonprofit British-American Connections Pittsburgh (BACP), today is pleased to announce the launch of the **Britsburgh Literary Society**.

To continue and expand the world of George Orwell, the Britsburgh Literary Society & 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage @ Prime Stage Theatre present **George Orwell night of readings - *The Road to Wigan Pier***, along with selected essays and poems, this Sunday, March 19. "We are delighted to extend the audiences' experience of discovering and enjoying the works of George Orwell with these recommendations from Richard Blair, his adopted son who visited with us last weekend," said Wayne Brinda, Director of 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage @ Prime Stage Theatre.



George Orwell Night

Our distinguished readers include:

- Andy Kirkland (Managing Director of The New Renaissance Theatre Company)
- Brian Ceponis (who played O'Brien in Prime Stage's 1984)
- Richard Keitel (Director of 1984)

The interactive evening with audience discussion is moderated by **Jeffrey J. Williams**, Professor of English (CMU). This event is free. A suggested donation for the evening is \$10 or pay what you can at the door. Registration can be found at <http://bit.ly/BritsburghGORTWP> or [www.primestage.com](http://www.primestage.com). Space is limited.

Robert Charlesworth, Chairman of BACP said, "We are fortunate that Jeffrey J. Williams has agreed to lead the first meetings of the Britsburgh Literary Society, focusing on the works of George Orwell. Jeff is a Professor of English and Director of Graduate Studies at Carnegie Mellon University, and quite the authority on Orwell. It's great to have him on board!" Williams joined the CMU faculty in 2004 and he teaches and writes about the novel and has a particular interest in the politics of literature and culture. Committed to literary criticism that engages the general public, Williams writes regularly for venues like *Dissent*, *Salon*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. A new selection of his writing appears in *How to Be an Intellectual: Essays on Criticism, Culture, and Politics* (Fordham, 2014.) We look forward to his passionate illumination of the novels and essays of George Orwell.

**The Britsburgh Literary Society** seeks to engage a diverse group of Pittsburghers in discussion of British and American literature illuminated by passionate experts from the city's literary scene. Britsburgh Literary Society members are invited to meet and greet each other over a drink or a bite of dinner at different locations around downtown prior to each evening's formal presentation and discussion starting at 7:00 p.m. To learn about membership of the Britsburgh Literary Society and all other Britsburgh Societies visit [www.britsburgh.com](http://www.britsburgh.com).

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## Upcoming Meetings of the Britsburgh Literary Society

Sunday, March 19, George Orwell night of readings - *The Road to Wigan Pier*

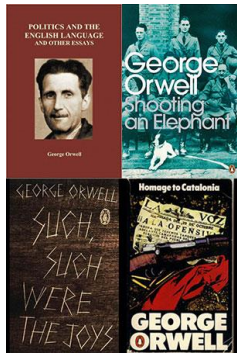
Prime Stage Studio, 840 Saw Mill Run Blvd

7pm <http://bit.ly/BritsburghGORTWP> or [www.primestage.com](http://www.primestage.com)

Wednesday, April 12, Orwell's Clear Window

The Library, 2304 E Carson St

6pm Meet and Greet/ 7pm Presentation. <http://bit.ly/Britsburghclearwindow>



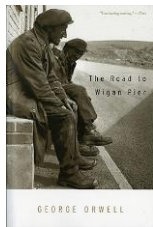
George Orwell's last books, *1984* and *Animal Farm*, are known around the world. Less well-known are his essays, set out in a distinctive style that is "clear as a windowpane," to use Orwell's phrase. A master of the essay, Orwell combined sharp observations of the world around him with reflections on politics, and people.

We will read and discuss several of Orwell's essays including *Politics and the English Language*, in which Orwell discusses the degradation of truth in an era of alternative facts. Other essays to be discussed include his classic memoirs of working as an Imperial Police Officer in Burma, *Shooting an Elephant*; of *Looking Back on the Spanish Civil War*; and of his schooldays, *Such, Such Were the Joys*.

Wednesday, May 17, Orwell as Reporter

Location TBD

6pm Meet and Greet/ 7pm Presentation <http://bit.ly/BritsburghGOOAR>



This event will turn to *The Road to Wigan Pier*, which recounts Orwell's journey to coal country north of London in England in 1936 and his reportage of how miners worked and lived. It follows upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage event George Orwell night of readings - *The Road to Wigan Pier* and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the book.

Wednesday, Date June 7, Orwell's Politics

Location TBD

6:00 Meet and Greet/7:00 Presentation



*1984* is one of the most read books in the US, taught to almost every high school student in the US. If you haven't read it since then, reread it and see how it builds a picture of a society off the rails, and how it fits, or doesn't fit, contemporary politics.

**About British-American Connections Pittsburgh ([www.britsburgh.com](http://www.britsburgh.com))**

BACP aka "The Britsburgh team" is a nonprofit 501c6 focused on "Building bridges across communities by driving growth in British-American culture, education, history, tradition and trade in Pittsburgh". During 2017, BACP intends to establish a 501c3 charitable organization to better facilitate its mission.