



American Center Newsletter



American Center

Colombo

February 2010

The American Center
Office of Public Diplomacy

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Upcoming Events

February 18:

Monthly Public Lecture on the topic "Separatist Conflict in the United States, 1861-1865: Causes, Costs, and Aftermath" by Dr. Paul Carter, Jr. Counselor for Political Affairs, US Embassy Colombo at 5:30pm at the American Center Auditorium.

February 17,18,19:

Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative exhibition "Justice Everywhere" at the South eastern University in Oluvil.

February 22,23,24:

Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative exhibition "Justice Everywhere" at the Eastern University in Batticaloa.

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American Center in Action

Ambassador Butenis Visits South Eastern University



Ambassador Butenis is seen at the newly built Arts faculty and IT complex with the officers of SEUSL

January 18, 2010: Ambassador Patricia Butenis visited the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) and the American Corner in Oluvil, Ampara for a series of discussions with the faculty and the students. She was accompanied by the Mission Director of USAID Rebecca Cohn.

The Ambassador was welcomed by the Deans and officers of SEUSL. The Ambassador had a roundtable discussion with the Deans and officers which covered areas of academic programs, staff and

undergraduates of the university. Ambassador explained the mission of her visit to the SEUSL and American Corner. She stressed the importance of social harmony among the different communities in Sri Lanka and expressed her interest in helping such programs of the university. The discussion ended with a brief tour of the campus including the new Arts faculty building and IT complex.

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Public Lecture on "Religion, Church and the State"



Fr. Dr. Mervyn Fernando talks with Embassy officials before the event

January 16, 2010: In commemoration of Religious Freedom Day, the American Center conducted a public lecture by Fr. Dr. Mervyn Fernando, the founder and director of the Subodhi Institute for Integral Education, on the topic "Religion, Church and the State". The public lecture was linked to the American Corner in Kandy via Digital Video Conference.

As part of his introduction, the Cultural Affairs Officer, US Embassy Colombo read aloud President Obama's proclamation of religious freedom day and discussed the two main tenets of religious freedom in the US: the disestablishment clause and the free exercise clause. Fr. Fernando spoke about the right to religious expression as encoded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, described some important differences between the various major world religions in terms of their understanding of that right, and concluded with some suggestions for how religions might interact and flourish together in the future. The questions from the participants were serious and smart, reflecting the intellectual tone of the talk.

Speech by Ru Freeman, Author of "A Disobedient Girl"



January 25, 2010: Ms. Ru Freeman, a Sri Lankan by birth, currently living in the US, shared her views at the American Center Auditorium on "Emigrating, Immigrating and

Writing". She is in Sri Lanka to attend the Galle Literary Festival and to launch a new novel "A Disobedient Girl"

A Disobedient Girl is a compelling map of womanhood, set against the backdrop of beautiful, politically turbulent, Sri Lanka.

Ru Freeman was born into a family of writers in Colombo. After a year of informal study at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia, she arrived

in the United States to attend Bates College in Maine. She completed her Masters in Labor Relations at the University of Colombo, and worked in the field of American and international humanitarian assistance and workers' rights.

She has been nominated for the Best New American Voices anthologies in 2006 and 2008. She calls both Sri Lanka and America home and writes about the people and countries underneath her skin.

This was the first event hosted at the American Center to focus on the importance of engaging the Sri Lankan diaspora to participate in re-building the country. US Embassy Colombo will continue to help the two main ethnic groups to shed their differences and help build a nation where all aspirations are met.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Exhibition "Justice Everywhere"

The US Embassy is commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (a US national holiday held this year on January 18) by staging an exhibition and

programs on the intertwined legacies of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi during February and March 2010.

The exhibition was held in Colombo and will move to Ampara, Batticaloa, and Jaffna.

The exhibition itself will include historic photographs, audio clips, films, and texts that describe King's relation to Gandhi, the March on

Washington, and Dr. King's ongoing legacy around the world and in the US.

Exhibition Dates:

Ampara - South Eastern University: February 17 – 19, 2010

Batticaloa - Eastern University: February 22 – 24, 2010

Jaffna - University of Jaffna: March 7 – 9, 2010

In all three venues workshops on nonviolence will be conducted by trainers from the US NGO Realizing the Dream, Inc. founded by Martin Luther King III in 2006 to continue the humanitarian and liberating work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King by rearticulating for this century the challenges and opportunities for championing freedom, justice and equality, while working to eliminate poverty, prejudice and hostile conflict in the US and throughout the world.

Ambassador Butenis' visit

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The Ambassador's next visit was to the Library and the American Corner at SEUSL.

The highlight of the Ambassador's visit was a discussion with a group of undergraduates and users of the American Corner. The students discussed their academic disciplines and vision with the Ambassador. It was a very interactive and

interesting discussion which was appreciated by the Ambassador and the students. At the end of the discussions, the Ambassador presented New Year compliments to the students and the AC Coordinator. Her visit to the SEUSL and the American Corner was viewed with much favor by the Deans and the students.

US Ambassador Joins with the Ministry of Environment to Conserve Forests in the North



Ambassador Butenis (right) presents computer equipment to the Honorable Champika Ranawaka Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Natural Resources, Patalee Champika Ranawaka, accepted on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka.

January 15, 2010: US Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis presented mapping equipment and specialized software to assist the Forest Department with its conservation efforts in the North. The Minister of Environment and

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) funded the computer equipment and specialized software to the Forest Department's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing Unit for their mapping operations. USAID, the development agency of the US Government, will also provide three days of technical training to Forest Department staff, led by USAID/Sri Lanka's expert GIS specialist.

The Forest Department will use this new equipment to collect information and create maps of forest resources. As a result of the conflict in Sri Lanka, the maps of forest resources in the North have not been updated for nearly 20 years. The information gained through this partnership will help the Forest Department make sound forest management and conservation decisions for the future.

US Government Launches Dairy Project in Batticaloa District



USAID officer Daniel Lee (center) celebrates the agreement with Mr. U.L. Jaufeer from Land O'Lakes (left) and a representative of the Manmunai West Livestock Breeders.

January 19, 2010: USAID signed an agreement with a major farmer society in Batticaloa District that will expand milk production in the East and raise the incomes of 1,200 participating farmers.

USAID, the development

agency of the US Government, is partnering with Manmunai West Livestock Breeders Cooperative Society to increase the quantity and improve the quality of milk production in 24 villages. Farmers will receive training and technical assistance to improve milk production. The project will also link farmers to the dairy industry and ensure that local farmers have a consistent buyer for their milk at fair prices.

In July 2009, USAID committed Rs 429 million (\$3.75 million) to work with 4,000 farmers in Batticaloa, Trincomalee and eastern Polonnaruwa districts. The three-year program also includes investment by Land O'Lakes, an American agricultural company, and CIC Agri-Businesses, which together are expanding dairy production as well as developing dairy processing facilities in the region.

The US Government and Hayleys Bring Prosperity to Farmers in the East.

January 13, 2010: The US Agency for International Development (USAID) is partnering with Hayleys Agro Farms to raise the incomes of 1000 cucumber farmers in Ampara District and stimulate economic growth by exporting more pickles abroad.

USAID committed Rs 114 million (\$1 million) to work with 4,000 farmers in Ampara, Batticaloa, and Moneragala districts. In July 2009, USAID partnered with Hayleys, a leading Sri Lankan

agricultural company, to increase the quantity and improve the quality of cucumbers grown to produce gherkin pickles and seed production for paddy. This partnership will open up new markets for farmers in the East, increase their incomes and expand the economic base of their communities.

Sunfrost Limited, a subsidiary of Hayleys, is building a plant in the East that will process fresh cucumbers into gherkin pickles.

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The US Government and Hayleys

This will create 30 new jobs at the plant and increase the demand for cucumbers; by 2012, Sunfrost expects to be working with 2,500 farmers. Sunfrost's pickled gherkins are exported to international food companies such as McDonald's

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and Burger King, as well as to retailers in 32 countries. With exports valued at Rs 900 million (\$7.8 million) per year, the economic benefit to Sri Lanka of increased gherkin production is significant.

Ambassador Butenis visits students in Sammanthurai Vocational Training Center



February 8, 2010: Ambassador Butenis recently visited students at Sammanthurai Vocational Training Center in Ampara District, one of nine vocational training centers built by the

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the South and the East following the tsunami. USAID also developed new training curriculums to better prepare young people for good job opportunities.

Ambassador Butenis said, "I was pleased to see so many young people engaged in their studies and preparing for their future careers. Of the 450 students trained last year at Sammanthurai VTC, 75% of them found jobs and the other 25% started their own businesses. The US Government is pleased to give young people the tools and skills to obtain employment and become financially independent."

US Government provides additional assistance for Sri Lankans returning in the North



Ambassador Butenis (left) presents \$3 million to Mohammed Abdiker, IOM Sri Lanka Chief of Mission, to support people returning to their homes in the North.

February 10, 2010: The US Ambassador Butenis, officially presented Rs 343 million (\$3 million) from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This funding will facilitate the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes in Jaffna,

Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullativu, Kilinochchi and Trincomalee districts.

USAID/Sri Lanka supports the Government of Sri Lanka's commitment to return IDPs to their homes as quickly and safely as possible. USAID funding will provide shelter kits to build temporary housing

for 17,000 people; water and sanitation facilities to reduce disease and provide clean water for 35,000 people; transport from camps to people's homes for 25,000 people; and emergency health services across the Vanni region. In total, more than 77,000 people will directly benefit from this support and thousands will receive improved medical care throughout the region.

US Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis said, "The US Government is pleased to support efforts to return people displaced by the conflict to their homes as soon as possible. This funding will address the needs of vulnerable families, such as female-headed households, the elderly and the disabled, to ensure that assistance is provided quickly to those in most urgent need of care. By improving access to shelter, clean water and health care, USAID is providing some of the critical services people need to begin to rebuild their lives."

"This support from USAID will help us meet the basic needs of thousands of displaced families when they return to their home districts. It will provide shelter, water, sanitation and basic health services - all the things they will need to restart their lives," said IOM Sri Lanka Chief of Mission Mohammed Abdiker.

Black History Month Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph

Theme for 2010 is "The History of Black Economic Empowerment"

Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles — slavery, prejudice, poverty — as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.



A man and his son examine the bus in which Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955 — a landmark moment in America's civil rights movement. The bus is located at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, which purchased the vehicle after it was found in a field in Alabama.

According to the US Census Bureau there are more than 41 million black residents in the United States, including those of more than one race. They make up 13.5 percent of the US population.

In 2009, the inauguration of Barack Obama, America's first African-American president, lent Black History Month a special significance. Obama took the oath of office January 20, the day after Americans honored the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. with a federal holiday and national day of service.

In his inaugural address, Obama acknowledged the historical importance of a moment in which "a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."

Honoring Accomplishments of Black Americans

Black History Month was the inspiration of Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian, who instituted Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Woodson, the son of former slaves in Virginia, realized that the struggles and achievements of Americans of African descent were being ignored or misrepresented. He founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which supports historical research, publishes a scholarly journal and sets the theme for Black History Month each year.

The theme for 2010, "The History of Black Economic Empowerment," recognizes the lives of successful black men and women such as Madame C.J. Walker, founder of a beauty empire in the early 20th century and the first African-American woman to make \$1 million. This year ASALH is celebrating the centennial of the National Urban League, which was founded in New York City in 1910 by a group of dedicated reformers, both black and white, who wanted to address the needs of African Americans as they migrated northward to escape economic, social and political oppression in the South. John Fleming, ASALH president from 2007 to 2009 and director emeritus of the Cincinnati Museum Center, said Obama's heritage — a black father born in Kenya and a white mother born in the United States — "continues to reflect the contributions Africans and Europeans have made to American history from the very beginning."

Fleming said he believes Black History Month should focus on positive as well as negative aspects of the black experience. "Certainly, struggle has been an ongoing theme in our history from the very beginning. However, we were not slaves prior to being captured in Africa — and while slavery was part of our experience for 250 years, we have a hundred-and-some years in freedom that we also need to deal with." He said he has seen "substantial progress on many fronts," but "at the same time there are still major problems that have to be addressed, one being the permanent underclass in urban areas now. We don't seem to be able to break that cycle of poverty. And there are still some major rural pockets of poverty" such as in the Mississippi Delta.

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Monthly Essay Competition



Learn about
America



Essay Competition for School Children on the theme of Learn About America

The American Center has organized an essay competition for school children which is published in Junior Observer of the Sunday Observer.

The monthly essay topic is for children in three age categories 12-14 years, 15-16 years and 17-18 years.

Each age group is given a monthly topic related to the United States of America and is asked to write an essay with a minimum word count. The students can conduct research for their essay at the American Center Library in Colombo, at American Corners in Kandy and Oluvil, or from sources on [America.gov](http://www.america.gov), a very good internet resource with information on the United States, its culture, history, literature, politics, tourist attractions and much more.

The first three winners in each age group will be given a selection of American books, a lifetime membership to the American Center Library, and a certificate signed by the US Ambassador. A prize giving ceremony will be held at the American Center Colombo every two months.

Essay topics for February are as follows :

12-14 years : Dr. Martin Luther King has proved himself as one of the greatest orators in U. S. history. Considering his main speeches discuss how he has stressed his followers for winning their rights in non-violent means. (500 words)

15-16 years: Discuss how similar Dr. Martin Luther King's non-violent path in winning the African Americans rights in the US was to the Indian Independence Movement of Mahathma Gandandhi in India. (750 words)

17-18 years: In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means. What lessons can Sri Lankans learn from his non-violent movements in the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka? (1000 words)

Please see the Junior Observer of the Sunday Observer for more details.

Commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr

The essay competition will culminate with a speech contest where the winners will narrate their essay at the award ceremony conducted by the American Center.

The US Embassy in Colombo will stage an exhibition on the intertwined legacies of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi during February and March 2010, in Colombo, Ampara, Batticaloa and Jaffna. At each location, the exhibition will be accompanied with activities for school children including screening of films, interfaith dialogue and workshops on non-violence with facilitators from the US. The essay and speech contest is part of this exhibition to honor the life and achievements of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Visit the exhibition to learn more,

- Colombo (Feb. 6-9): National Art Gallery
- Ampara (Feb. 17-19): South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Oluvil
- Batticaloa (Feb. 22-24): Eastern University
- Jaffna (Mar. 7-9): University of Jaffna

Research for your essay can also be conducted at the American Centre Library in Colombo, at American Corners in Kandy and Oluvil or from the Internet. Information can also be found at www.america.gov.

For more details about the exhibition please contact the American Center on telephone: 2498144, 2498128, 2498180

Upcoming Events

March 7,8,9:

Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative exhibition "Justice Everywhere" at the Jaffna University in Jaffna.

READERS ARE LEADERS

Discover the wonders of reading



Join the "Readers Are Leaders" Reading Club and improve your reading skills, oral communication and meet new friends who love books.

When:

Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 2.30 p.m.

The reading club will meet every 4th Saturday of the month at 2.30 p.m.

To Whom:

Children between 10-14 years with at least Intermediate level of English

Where:

American Center Auditorium, 44, Galle Road, Colombo 03

Mr. Glen Davis, Cultural Affairs Officer, U. S. Embassy, Colombo will read to children on February 27.

If you are interested in joining the "Readers Are Leaders" Reading Club, please contact the American Center Library at 2498169/2498128 or e-mail to amcentersl@state.gov on or before February 27, 2010



Free Group Advising for the Month of February 2010

Date & time	Program	For whom	Comments
February 1 st and 8 th 2:45 p.m.	Orientation for undergraduate studies	Prospective students for Bachelor's Degrees	Covers background information, entrance requirements, how to select universities and application process.
February 22 nd 3:00 p.m.	Orientation for graduate studies	Prospective students for Post-graduate studies	Covers background information, entrance requirements, how to select universities, opportunities for financial aid, and application process

At the American Corner, Kandy (D.S. Senanayake Public Library): February 12th, 8:30a.m. - 2p.m.

At the Mahinda College Old Boys' Association building in Galle: February 25th, 8:30a.m. - 2p.m.

Admission free! Please note that prior registration is necessary to attend the above.

Please contact by visit, phone, fax or e-mail:
United States - Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, 22, Flower Terrace, Colombo 7

Phone: 094-112-564176, 4718744
Fax: 094-112-564153
E-mail: advising@isplanka.lk

Black History Month. from page 5



Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Month

"I'm glad to see the National African American Museum being developed on the Mall, which will tell a much broader story," said Fleming. In 2003, President George W. Bush signed legislation to establish the new museum, which will be located on the National Mall near

attention during February than during any other time of year, " Fleming said, "and I think it's an opportunity for us in the field to emphasize that it is something that should be studied throughout the year."

Each year, the US president honors Black History Month, or African-American History Month as it is also called, with a proclamation and a celebration at the White House. States and cities hold their own events around the country, and media feature topics related to black history.

ASALH has its headquarters in Washington, where Woodson lived from 1915 until his death in 1950. His home is designated a national historic site.

the Washington Monument. Although the new museum has not yet been built, it launched a photo exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery late in 2007 that is traveling to museums around the country through 2011.

Source: www.america.gov

"I think that African-American history gets more

Movies for Youth at the American Center

February 2010

February 6 - Enchanted (2007, 107 minutes)

Classic Disney animation meets contemporary urban chaos when a frightened princess is banished from her magical animated homeland to modern-day New York City in a romantic comedy penned by Bill Kelly (Blast from the Past), directed by Kevin Lima (Tarzan) and featuring music by composer Alan Menken and lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Princess Giselle (Amy Adams) lives in the blissful cartoon world of Andalasia, where magical beings frolic freely and musical interludes punctuate every interaction. Though Princess Giselle is currently engaged to be married to the handsome Prince Edward (James Marsden), her fate takes a turn for the worse when the villainous Queen Narissa (Susan Sarandon) banishes her to the unforgiving metropolis of New York City. As the cruelty of the big city soon begins to wear down the fairy-tale exterior of the once-carefree princess the frightened Giselle soon finds herself falling for a friendly but flawed divorce lawyer (Patrick Dempsey) whose kind compassion helps her to survive in this strange and dangerous new world.

February 13 - Toy Story 2 (1999, 92 minutes)

A Golden Globe Award winner for Best Picture, TOY STORY 2 has become a favorite all across the world, garnering praise from fans and critics everywhere. It's "an instant classic," raves New York Magazine. While Andy is away at summer camp, Woody is toynapped by Al, a greedy collector who needs Andy's favorite toy to complete his Roundup Gang collection. Together with Jessie, Bullseye, and the Prospector, Woody is on his way to a museum where he'll spend the rest of his life behind glass. It's up to Buzz, Mr. Potato Head, Hamm, Rex, and Slinky Dog to rescue their friend and remind him what being a toy is all about.

February 20 - Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (2008, 101 minutes)

The Great Depression hits home for nine-year-old 'Kit Kittredge' when her dad loses his business and leaves to find work. Oscar Nominee Abigail Breslin stars as Kit, leading a splendid cast in the first-ever American Girl theatrical movie. In order to keep their home, Kit and her mother must take in boarders- paying houseguests who turn out to be full of fascinating stories. When mother's lockbox containing all their money is stolen. Kit's new hobo friend Will is the prime suspect. Kit refuses to believe that Will would steal, and her efforts to sniff out the real story get her and her friends into big trouble. The police say the robbery was an inside job, committed by someone they know. So if it wasn't Will then who did it?

February 27 - Finding Nemo (2003, 100 minutes)

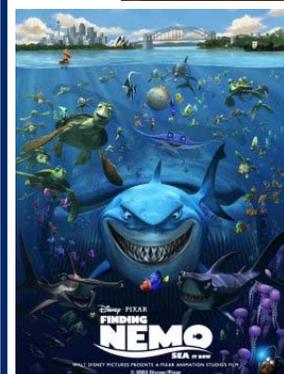
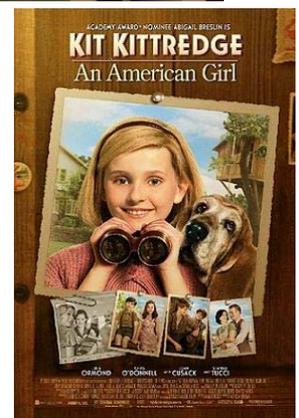
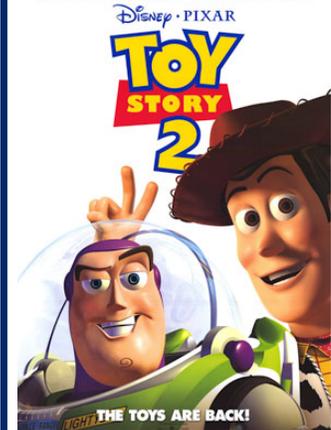
Nemo, an adventurous young clownfish, is unexpectedly taken to a dentist's office aquarium. It's up to Marlin (Albert Brooks), his worrisome father, and Dory (Ellen DeGeneres), a friendly but forgetful regal blue tang fish, to make the epic journey to bring Nemo home. Their adventure brings them face-to-face with vegetarian sharks, surfer dude turtles, hypnotic jellyfish, hungry seagulls, and more. Marlin discovers a bravery he never knew, but will he be able to find his son? FINDING NEMO's breakthrough computer animation takes you into a whole new world with this undersea adventure about family, courage, and challenges.

Reviews were drawn from DVD covers

Movies start promptly at 3:30pm every Saturday. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served. Please contact the American Center at amcentersl@state.gov or at (11) 249-8146 with any questions.



TOM HANKS TIM ALLEN



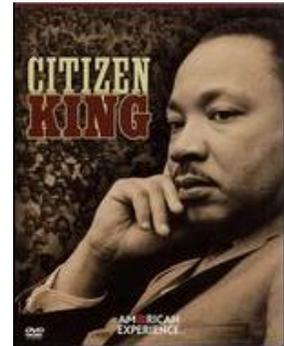
Film Screenings at the American Center

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February 2010 - African American History Month

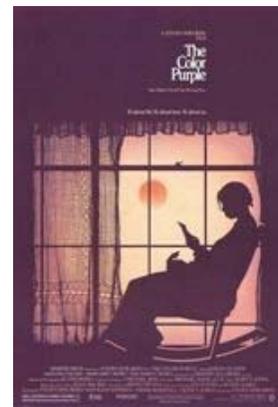
February 2 - **Citizen King** (2004, 115 minutes)

In April 1963, a 34 year-old minister wrote a letter from behind bars in the Birmingham jail to his fellow clergymen. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," argued Dr. Martin Luther King. "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." The campaign to end segregation in Birmingham marked a crucial turning point in Dr. King's life, as he embarked on a controversial, often lonely struggle to redefine and redirect the movement he had helped lead. The quest would not end until his untimely death five years later. In exploring the last few years of his life, this film traces King's efforts to recast himself by embracing causes beyond the civil rights movement, by becoming a champion of the poor and an outspoken opponent of the war in Vietnam.



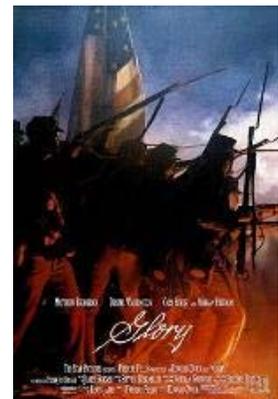
February 9 - **The Color Purple** (2007, 119 minutes)

Steven Spielberg's masterful adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel stars Whoopi Goldberg, in her impressive screen debut, as Celie, a sharecropper's daughter living in rural Georgia. The film opens in 1909 when Celie is a young girl, a victim of incest, pregnant with her father's child. Ugly and unloved, separated from her children and her sister, Celie's only option is marriage to an abusive, philandering husband (Danny Glover) who treats her little better than a slave. Her life changes forever when her husband brings his mistress, a beautiful blues singer named Shug, into the house. The Color Purple was the film debut for Oprah Winfrey, who beautifully plays Celie's sister-in-law, Sofia.



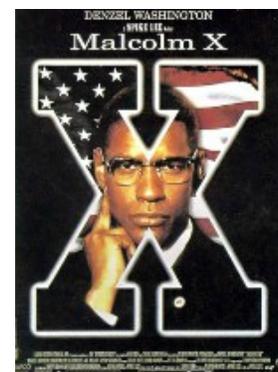
February 16 - **Glory** (1989, 122 minutes)

As the US Civil War protracts and drains even the vast resources of the north, an experiment is made with black troops, serving in a special regiment under an all-white officer corps. Since the traditional military establishment considers this a bad joke, the young abolitionist idealist Robert Gould Shaw from a very privileged family gets the rank of Colonel with the dubious honor to command the black volunteers, mainly illiterate former slaves. Even his personal friend and second in command, Major Cabot Forbes, lacks confidence in the project. They must overcome countless difficulties in training and procurement before the unit can even enter the war, but end up covering themselves and the Union army with glory against the Confederates.



February 23 - **Malcolm X** (1992, 202 minutes)

A biography of Malcolm X, the famous African American leader. Born Malcolm Little, his father (a minister) was killed by the Ku Klux Klan. He became a gangster, and while in jail discovered the Nation of Islam writings of Elijah Muhammad. He preaches the teachings when let out of jail, but later on goes on a pilgrimage to the city of Mecca, there he converts to the original Islamic religion and becomes a Sunni Muslim. He changes his name to El-Hajj Malik Al-Shabazz and stops his anti-white teachings, as he realizes the error of his mistakes. Denzel Washington was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as Malcolm X. Reuniting with Spike Lee at his best on Malcolm X, Washington again slipped inside the skin of the controversial black leader in a superb lead performance.



Reviews drawn from MSN movies, All Movie Guide and Amazon

Movies start promptly at 6:00pm every Tuesday. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served. Please contact the American Center at amcentersl@state.gov or at (11) 249-8146 with any questions.