



LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

”Legacy of Abraham Lincoln and Black Americans”



The American Resource Center is pleased to invite you to a public lecture ”Legacy of Abraham Lincoln and Black Americans” - *”Abraham Lincolnin perintö ja mustat amerikkalaiset”* - by Pirkka Kivenheimo. The lecture will take place on **Tuesday, February 15 at 17:30-19:00** and will be held at the National Library auditorium at Yliopistonkatu 1.

Lecturer Pirkka Kivenheimo, a journalist and scholar of African-American history, has given presentations at the American Resource Center during several previous Black History Months. His topics have ranged from African American cinema to black music. Last year the American Resource Center arranged with Pirkka Kivenheimo a lecture on the history of the African American cinema with the title *”Mustat amerikkalaiset Yhdysvaltain elokuvahistoriassa.”*

The lecture *”Abraham Lincolnin perintö ja mustat amerikkalaiset”* will be held in Finnish.

Happy birthday, Toni Morrison!



Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, editor, and professor Toni Morrison turns 80 years on February 18. Her novels are known for their epic themes, vivid dialogue, and richly detailed black characters. Among her best known novels are *The Bluest Eye*, *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved*.

Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in 1931 in Lorain, Ohio, to a welder father and homemaker mother.

She graduated from Howard University in 1953 and then took a master’s in literature at Cornell.

She published her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, in 1969, followed by *Sula* in 1973. She first came to national attention in 1978, however, when she won the National Book Critics Circle Award for *Song of Solomon*.

After the publication of her breakthrough novel, she published *Tar Baby* (1981). Her 1987 novel, *Beloved*, the story of a 19th-century slave who escapes bondage but is forced to kill her own baby, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.

Morrison won the Nobel Prize in 1993, becoming the first African-American to win the award, as well as the first American woman in general to win in more than 50 years.

(Sources: Wikipedia, History.com; Photo by Angela Radulescu via Wikimedia Commons)

PEEK INTO THE ARC’S MAGAZINE SHELF

Bloomberg Businessweek, commonly and formerly officially known as *BusinessWeek*, is a weekly business magazine published by Bloomberg L.P. *BusinessWeek* was first published in September 1929, only weeks before the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Its original purpose was to provide information and opinions as to what was happening in the business world, at the time. Initially, the magazine published sections that included topics such as marketing, labor, finance, and management, among others. Consequently, *BusinessWeek* pioneered the action of covering national political issues that directly impacted the business world. In 1950, the magazine published its first executive pay survey, which it still does today.

(Source: Wikipedia)



WEB PICKS

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American Life

Affirmative Inaction. The American Scholar, Winter 2011.

Opposition to affirmative action has drastically reduced minority enrollment at public universities; private institutions have the power and the responsibility to reverse the trend. <http://bit.ly/eiYUkv>

Funny = Money. The New York Times Magazine, January 2, 2011.

With a gift for seeing the genius in the dorkiest dorks and the loneliest losers, one Hollywood talent manager made himself into the king of comedians. <http://nyti.ms/f3YGPT>

The Historic Election: Four Views. The New York Review of Books, December 9, 2010.

Ronald Dworkin, Mark Lilla, David Bromwich, and Jonathan Raban. <http://bit.ly/gPUoby>

Moving away from McMansions? New York Times Magazine, October 15, 2010.

A writer speculates whether Americans' home-size preferences will shift from huge to humble following the U.S. housing crisis. <http://nyti.ms/eP5pQr>

Power and the Presidency, From Kennedy to Obama. The Smithsonian, January 2011.

For the past 50 years, the commander in chief has steadily expanded presidential power, particularly in foreign policy. <http://bit.ly/i7fKGB>

The Trouble With Liberty. New York Magazine, January 3-10, 2011.

Libertarians, of both left and right, haven't been this close to power since 1776. But do we want to live in their world? <http://bit.ly/g9Dc1x>

Finland Stories

Peter Nygard Answers to No One. Forbes Magazine, December 6, 2010.

He runs Canada's largest women's clothing firm. Charges of sexual harassment and labor violations have hounded him for years. Critics pay dearly. <http://bit.ly/gqSOOw>

University Mergers Sweep Across Europe. Chronicle of Higher Education, January 7, 2011.

Leaders hope larger, more-diverse institutions will improve research... Finland merges universities to spark innovation. <http://bit.ly/i9gQos>

Economy and Politics

David Axelrod: Interview. Newsweek, December 20, 2010.

Obama's top strategist is moving back to Chicago to prepare for 2012. He talks about mistakes made, the GOP presidential field, and why 'hope' and 'change' are still good themes. <http://bit.ly/ftORKA>

The FP Top 100 Global Thinkers. Foreign Policy, December 2010.

Foreign Policy presents a unique portrait of 2010's global marketplace of ideas and the thinkers who make them. <http://bit.ly/gkeci6>

Judicial Cooperation Among State Courts in Europe and the United States: A Comparative Approach. Brookings, December 13, 2010.

Judicial cooperation is a means to an end. As we have seen yesterday and today, it takes different forms in the service of different goals—harmonizing the law, for example, through certification or model statutory provisions; preventing operational conflicts through inter-court councils; or promoting the interests of groups of courts through coordinated public information and legislative relations efforts. <http://bit.ly/hV4urD>

Person of the Year 2010: Mark Zuckerberg. Time, December 15, 2010.

For connecting more than half a billion people and mapping the social relations among them, for creating a new system of exchanging information and for changing how we live our lives, Mark Elliot Zuckerberg is TIME's 2010 Person of the Year <http://bit.ly/i215Pq>

Global Challenges

California Climate Law Is Magnet for Clean Energy Projects. America.Gov, December 23, 2010.

With national climate legislation stalled in the U.S. Congress, environmental advocates are turning their attention to the country's more action-oriented states. <http://bit.ly/dPDxtr>

Can We Evolve Beyond Money? OurWorld 2.0, January 10, 2011.

If coming generations are weaned on collaborative consumption, it is possible they will naturally gravitate away from consumerism. <http://bit.ly/flWdDw>

Caribbean Islands in a Changing Climate. Environment, November/December 2010.

The specific characteristics of Caribbean island environments and histories condition the region's sensitivity to climate risks. <http://bit.ly/gawaRk>

How Much Energy Does It Take to Get Our Energy? Mother Earth News, December 2010/January 2011.

If you look closely, not all energy sources are created equal in terms of the amount of net energy they produce. <http://bit.ly/hMVfs3>

Just Add Body Heat: The New Passive Houses Are So Energy-Efficient, They Make Heating and Cooling Practically Irrelevant. E-Magazine, November/December 2010.

Passive homes are the simplest and most effective way to build a truly "green" home: using super-insulation and an efficient heat-recovery system. But until now, passive houses have hardly existed in the U.S. That's about to change. <http://bit.ly/hxmBZB>

Pricing Pollution. Brookings, January 12, 2011.

Why has the most recent iteration of cap-and-trade suddenly stirred up such passions, and come to be so vehemently opposed by people who would, in other circumstances, celebrate the use of market forces to bring about a public good? <http://bit.ly/hBnp90>

Public's Top Stories of the Decade - 9/11 and Katrina. Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, Dec 30, 2010.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks drew more public interest than any other story in the past decade. <http://bit.ly/hAw31l>

Technology, Anthropology, Conservation and Development: A Personal Journey. National Geographic, Dec 8, 2010.

Can cell phones save the world? <http://bit.ly/fEXlDe>

We're Not Worthy: A New Collection of Essays Finds That Protecting the Earth Is a Moral Obligation. E-Magazine, November/December 2010.

The new book Moral Ground asks more than 80 leaders, thinkers, authors and visionaries—from President Obama and the Dalai Lama to Bill McKibben and Barbara Kingsolver—to describe our moral obligation to protect the planet. E-Magazine runs two excerpts, one that redefines sacrifice, and another that appeals to our selfishness. <http://bit.ly/eyfyZv>

When Jeans Turn Green. America.Gov, January 12, 2011.

Social change can begin in different places, such as in a pair of jeans. <http://bit.ly/h4nxIK>

World Population Reaches Turning Point. People & Planet, January 3, 2011.

World population has reached a transition point: the rapid growth of the second half of the 20th century has slowed, but numbers will reach 7 billion in 2011. <http://bit.ly/dK3coC>

International Relations

Fear and Containment. National Journal, December 18, 2010.

The threat of an atomic Iran is uniting historically fractious Arab nations and creating a coalition for containment. <http://bit.ly/ep4oSb>

Karzai Might Be Right. National Interest, January 20, 2011.

On January 19, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, decided to postpone the seating of the new parliament which had been scheduled for this weekend. The decision leaves the country still with no parliament, sidelines the two commissions that had been specially created to oversee the election, and raises new worries that Karzai is abusing his powers as president. <http://bit.ly/ffiHMj>

Pakistan's Road to Disintegration. Council on Foreign Relations, January 6, 2011.

Interviewee: Stephen P. Cohen, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

"The fundamentals of the state are either failing or questionable, and this applies to both the idea of Pakistan, the ideology of the state, the purpose of the state, and also to the coherence of the state itself," Cohen says. <http://on.cfr.org/ejLsyZ>

U.S.-China Relations: Is a Sustained Cooperation Imaginable? Brookings, January 18, 2011.

Following a year of open discord and repeated tension in Sino-American relations, China's President Hu Jintao arrives in the United States this week on a state visit, the first such event between the two countries since 1997. <http://bit.ly/hDE8DH>

What It Will Take to Finish the Job in Afghanistan. Time, domestic edition, January 6, 2011.

Finishing the job in Afghanistan. Needed: security, development and a stable Pakistan. <http://bit.ly/eqeKzb>



INTIAANITIEOUTTA AMERIKKA-KIRJASTOSTA

Did you know that the ARC is a fountain of knowledge for students, researchers, and anyone else interested in Native Americans? At the ARC you can find a large collection of books with some of the most recent topics ranging from music and art to clothing and religion. There are also many DVDs and VHS tapes on Native Americans available for home loan and educational purposes free of charge.

The latest addition to the ARC's magazine collection is *American Indian Magazine*, a quarterly published by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

More information about the ARC's collection on Native Americans (in Finnish) is available at the latest edition of *KAJO*, a magazine published by Suomen Intiaaniyhdistys: <http://photos.state.gov/libraries/finland/788/pdfs/Intiaanitietoutta%20Amerikka-kirjastossa.pdf>.

Information about the Finnish Indian Society is available at <http://www.intiaaniyhdistys.net/index.htm>.

Happy New Green Year!

The concern for the environment is global. In the United States, many individual states and cities have initiated laws and regulations to better protect the environment. Here is a small collection of examples of how one can make a difference:

- Many states, including California, New York, Rhode Island, and Delaware have laws that mandate supermarkets to take back plastic bags they have been giving to customers and to recycle them. The city of San Francisco has banned plastic bags altogether. In February a new law in Samoa will come into effect allowing only bags that have been produced from non-petroleum based biodegradable plastic or that are compostable plastic bags. In Washington, D.C., stores selling food or alcohol have been charging a fee of 5 cents per plastic or paper bag since January 2010. The tax is used to clean up the Anacostia river.

- About half of the states have regulations or specific plans that aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. After all of them have been realized these states will be cutting down their emissions by seven percent by the year 2020. The state of California leads the way in many aspects: it has already improved the efficiency of its power plants and buildings, promoted renewable energy, and promoted the use of fuel-efficient vehicles. California also recently approved new energy-efficiency requirements for television sets; on average televisions account for ten percent of a household's energy use.

- The city of New York has passed a law to conduct energy audits on about 22 000 large commercial and residential buildings that account for about half of the entire city's carbon dioxide emissions. Large buildings will have to pay for energy audits every ten years as well as pay for inspections of their heating, cooling, and other energy consuming systems, and to take other measures to reduce energy consumption. Large commercial buildings will also for example be required to switch to more energy-efficient lighting.

(Compiled from various news sources)

Do you already know Dipblog?

DipBlog is the diplomatic blog of the U.S. Embassy Helsinki with entries written by American diplomats and occasional guest bloggers. DipBlog entries include stories about living overseas and particularly in Finland, information about environmental issues that affect everyone globally, and accounts about personal interests, ranging from football all the way to Moomin chess sets.

On DipBlog you can also find information about the U.S. Embassy activities in Finland, as well as interesting and important news. Some of the latest entries deal with the killings in Arizona and Wikileaks.

You can follow the blog entries at <http://www.usembassy.fi/blog/> or at the U.S. Embassy Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/finland.usembassy>.



The American Resource Center

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-16; Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

Address: P.O. Box 15 (Unioninkatu 36), 00014 University of Helsinki

Tel. (09) 191 24048 Fax: (09) 652 940

E-mail: arc@usembassy.fi

<http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc.html>

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