



Performing artist Zuleikha conducts a wellness session at the American Center.



BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 2011



Events at a Glance

January 25-February 6:
Kolkata Book Fair

February 24:
Dance Workshop (Kolkata)

February 25:
Dance Performance (Kolkata)

February 25:
Film Show: *The Color Purple*
(Kolkata)

Holidays:

February 21
George Washington's
Birthday

Your Date With U.S. History

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Founded February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization. The organization has more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world. They are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, campaigning for equal opportunity and conducting voter mobilization.

The NAACP was formed partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, the capital of Illinois and resting place of President Abraham Lincoln. Appalled at the violence that was committed against blacks, a group of white liberals that included Mary White Ovington and Oswald Garrison Villard, both descendants of abolitionists William English Walling and Dr. Henry Moscovitz, issued a call for a meeting to discuss racial justice. Some 60 people, seven of whom were African American signed the call, which was released on the centennial of Lincoln's birth.

The NAACP's stated goal was to secure for all people the rights guaranteed in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution, which promised an end to slavery, the equal protection of the law, and universal adult male suffrage, respectively. It established its national office in New York City in 1910 and named a board of directors as well as a president, Moorfield Storey, a white constitutional lawyer and former president of the American Bar Association. The only African American among the organization's executives, Du Bois, was made director of publications and research, and in 1910 established the official journal of the NAACP, *The Crisis*. In time, *The Crisis* became a voice of the Harlem Renaissance, as Du Bois published works by Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and other African American literary figures.

In the 21st century, the NAACP is focused on disparities in economics, health care, education, voter empowerment, and the criminal justice system, while also continuing its role as legal advocate for civil rights issues.

[Source: www.naacp.org]



HORACE GREELEY



February 3, 1811, marks the birth of Horace Greeley, a newspaper editor, founder of the Liberal Republican Party, reformer, and politician. His *New York Tribune* was America's most influential newspaper from the 1840s to the 1870s and established Greeley's reputation as the greatest editor of his day. Greeley used it to promote the Whig and Republican parties, as well as opposition to slavery and a host of reforms ranging from vegetarianism to socialism.

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**American Center's
brand new SMS
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inside.**

The American Center, 38A Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata 700 071
Telephone: 3984-6300; Fax: 2288-1616; E-Mail: kolkatapas@state.gov
Web site: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov>
Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm; Monday - Friday
The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

YOUR TURN

The Bulletin wants to hear from you ... your thoughts, your opinions, your feedback. Write in with



- a report of an American Center event you attended
- your experiences in cross-cultural encounters
- a photo that brings out the joys and sorrows of human life
- a human interest anecdote.

Only email submissions will be considered for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right of submission selection, editing and publication.

Send your submissions by email to kolkatapas@state.gov by the 10th of each month.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Amit Patro, Editor of Sikkim Express, has just returned from the U.S. on the Edward Murrow Program and reflects, "The icing on the cake about this trip was that it was election time in the U.S. We witnessed the U.S. midterm elections and trust me, election season brings out a sense of unbridled excitement for journalists. It was astonishing to see newspapers endorsing candidates during elections; back home such a practice would bring our credibility into question. I was really impressed to see the way elections were being held on a voting day at Phoenix."



The photograph shows Amit with students of St. Paul's Episcopal School, New Orleans.

35th Kolkata Book Fair

January 25 - February 6

"Focal Theme Country": United States of America

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, January 25

BOOK FAIR UBIAUDITORIUM, 4.30 p.m.

Introductory speech by **U.S. Ambassador Timothy J. Roemer**.

Inaugural address by Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Richard Ford**.

AMERICA PAVILION, 5.30 p.m.

Inauguration of American pavilion by **U.S. Ambassador Timothy J. Roemer**.

Thursday, January 27

UNNAYAN BHAVAN, SALT LAKE, 11 a.m.

Seminar on "Planning for environmental sustainable urban development with special reference to challenges brought by increasing urbanization" by **Kristina Ford**, former Director of City Planning in New Orleans.

AMERICAN CENTER, 2 p.m.

Workshop on Photography by **Annie Griffiths Belt**, award-winning National Geographic photographer.

BOOK FAIR UBIAUDITORIUM, 4.30 p.m.

Extra Literary Influences: The Ashok Sarkar memorial Lecture by **Richard Ford**.

Friday, January 28

BOOK FAIR AC AUDITORIUM, 4.30 p.m.

Simply Beautiful Photographs: Presentation by **Annie Griffiths Belt**.

AMERICA PAVILION, 5 pm.

Student advising by the **United States - India Educational Foundation**.

BOOK FAIR, AMERICA PAVILION, 6.30 pm.

Slide show of photographs of **Annie Griffiths Belt**.

ITC - THE SONAR, KOLKATA, 7.30 p.m.

Dinner event: Celebrating the inauguration of the Kolkata Book Fair 2011.

By invitation only.

Saturday, January 29

AMERICA PAVILION, 12 noon - 2 pm.

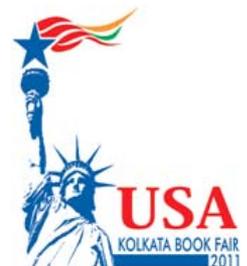
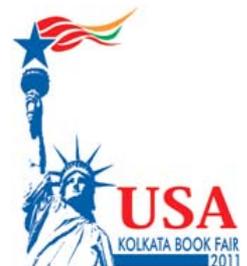
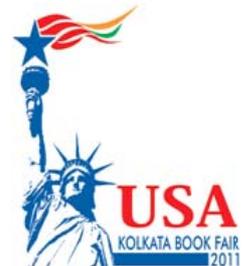
Impressions of America: A design competition. Open to all.

BOOK FAIR AC AUDITORIUM, 4.00 pm.

Prose, poetry and music by **Neelanjana Banerjee, Robin Sukhadia & Eric Frazer**.

AMERICA PAVILION, 5.30 pm.

Readings from the translated works of Jibananda Das by Fulbright Scholar **Jordan Pleasant**.



All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.

35th Kolkata Book Fair
January 25 - February 6

Sunday, January 30

AMERICA PAVILION, 12 noon - 2 pm.
Cartoon Characters Fancy Dress Competition. Open to age group 1-12.

Monday, January 31

AMERICA PAVILION, 5.00 pm.
Musical program by Indian singer **Pulak Das**.

Tuesday, February 1

AMERICA PAVILION, 5.30 pm.
Readings from Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, and Steve Scafidì by Fulbright Scholar **Jordan Pleasant**.

Wednesday, February 2

TECHNO INDIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, 11 am.
Screening of "Cosmopolitan" followed by interactive session with students of Film & Media Studies
AMERICA PAVILION, 5 pm.
Student advising by the **United States - India Educational Foundation**.

Thursday, February 3

DEW DROPS DANCE STUDIO (27-B, Dr Rajendra Road), 2.00 pm.
Workshop with **Havikoro Troupe**, American hip-hop and break dancers.
BOOK FAIR UBI AUDITORIUM, 4.30 pm.
The Immigrant Novel: The Sushil Mukherjee Lecture by PEN/Hemingway Award winner **Akhil Sharma**.
AMERICA PAVILION, 6.00 p.m.
'Meet the Author' program with **Akhil Sharma**, For American Library Book Club members.

Friday, February 4

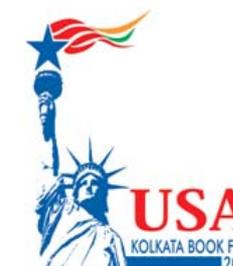
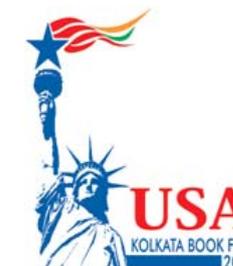
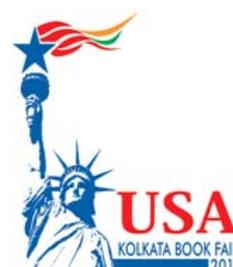
ST JOHN'S DIOCESAN SCHOOL (17, Sarat Bose Rd), 10.00 a.m.
Tips on Creative Writing by **Akhil Sharma**.
DEW DROPS DANCE STUDIO (27-B, Dr Rajendra Road), 2.00 pm.
Workshop with **Havikoro Troupe**.
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, 4.00 p.m.
Reading from author's works by **Akhil Sharma**.
RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY, EB CAMPUS (56A, B.T. Road), 5.00 pm.
Workshop with **Havikoro Troupe**.
OPEN AIR AMPHITHEATER, 6.00 pm.
A Musical Extravaganza: Visions of America by **Undefined Dimensions** and **Rhythmosaic**.
AMERICA PAVILION, 6.00 p.m.
Musical program by Indian singer **Pulak Das**.

Saturday, February 5

AMERICA PAVILION, 12 noon - 2 pm.
Facebook Quiz. Open to all.
AMERICA PAVILION, 12 noon - 2 pm.
Student advising by the **United States - India Educational Foundation**.
KOLKATA CITY CENTRE MALL (DC Block, Sector - 1, Salt Lake) 6:30 pm.
Break dance and hip hop performance by **Havikoro Troupe**.

Sunday, February 6

BOOK FAIR GROUNDS, 9.00 pm.
Closing Event: Break dance and hip hop performance by **Havikoro Troupe**.



American Center launches its SMS service:

Dial US4U at 9243000111

In keeping with the times, we are delighted to announce the introduction of a new service-- *Tunespray*. The best feature of this service is SMS notification to you about our upcoming programs. Apart from standard SMS notifications, this feature comes with some other useful tools:



- SMS us your participation in American Center events.
- Give us feedback on events or policies.
- Interact with us live regarding events through Text 2 Poll and Message Boards.
- Voice your opinion through SMS.

To avail yourself of information on American Library membership, reference services, and programs, type: "US4U<space>LIBRARY 9243000111".

American Center launches its Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/AmericanCenter.Kolkata

In an age of social media, the American Center is delighted to announce the launch of its Facebook Page. This Page is designed not only to promote upcoming events, programs, interactive sessions, and releases of new books and articles at the American Center, but also to get feedback from our audiences through their active participation in online conversations and opinion polls.

To avail yourself of information about upcoming events or to interact with us, please visit our Facebook Page at the above-mentioned link and "Like" us to get yourself added to our page.

Dance Workshop and Performance

Kolkata: February 24 and 25

The highly reputed American dance troupe, the Paul Taylor Dance Company 2, will present a contemporary dance workshop on February 24 at the Ananda Shankar Centre for Performing Arts, 11F, Palm Avenue, Kolkata 700019, at 2 p.m., and a contemporary dance performance on February 25 at ITC - The Sonar, at 7.00 p.m. (entry by Invitation only).

Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



"I live rent-free in a building rented strictly to whites, in a section of the basement that was shut off and forgotten during the nineteenth century," says Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, summing up the social invisibility of African Americans in much of U.S. history. From this underground perspective, the *Invisible Man* attempts to make sense out of his life, experiences, and position in American society. Black History Month, celebrated in February each year, is a remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated annually in the United States and Canada in February. The remembrance originated in February 1926 through the effort of historian Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week."

Film Show:
THE COLOR PURPLE
(154 mins)
February 25,
3 p.m.: Kolkata



Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey star in this 1985 classic directed by Steven Spielberg. *The Color Purple* follows the life of Celie Johnson as she struggles through life in the early 1900s. The film begins with Celie about 17 years old, giving birth to her second child, sired by her father. The film culminates in a heart-rending ending.

Contact: 3984-6394 or pattanayakpr@state.gov

JANUARY IN PICTURES



Performing artist Zuleikha conducts a wellness session at Kalighat.



American Center Deputy Director Scott Hartmann addresses school teachers during an American library orientation.



Performing artist Zuleikha conducts a wellness session at a Leadership Training School.