



Consul General Dean Thompson has lunch with student leaders in Guwahati.



BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 2013

Events at a Glance

February 1
Fastest Feet in Rhythm
(Guwahati)

February 8-10
Fusion Fiesta
(Kolkata)

January 26 - February 10
Kolkata Book Fair
(Kolkata)

January 26 - February 18
American Library closed for renovations

Holidays

February 15
Shree Panchami

February 18
Washington's Birthday



FOLLOW:
[Twitter.com/USAndKolkata](https://twitter.com/USAndKolkata)



LIKE:
[Facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate](https://www.facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate)

Your Date With U.S. History

THE FRANCO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE

On February 6, 1778, France and the fledgling United States of America signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, and the Treaty of Alliance in Paris, France. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce recognized the United States as an independent nation and promoted trade between France and the United States. The Treaty of Alliance created a military alliance against Great Britain, stipulating American independence as a condition of peace. The treaty also required France and the U.S. to concur in any peace agreement.

Secretly aiding the American colonies since 1776, France's helpfulness was spurred by resentment over the loss of American territory to Britain in the French and Indian War. In 1776, the Continental Congress sent diplomats Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee to secure a formal alliance with France. American victory over the British in the Battle of Saratoga convinced the French that the Americans were committed to independence and worthy partners to a formal alliance. Over the course of the war, France contributed an estimated 12,000 soldiers and 32,000 sailors to the American war effort.

The Marquis de Lafayette, a French aristocrat, arrived in Philadelphia in July 1777 and offered his services to the Continental Army. Serving as a major general in the Continental forces, he quickly forged a life-long friendship with American commander-in-chief George Washington. Back in America by April 1780, Lafayette returned to the business of war, playing a key role in securing victory over British commander Lord Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown in late July.

Source: memory.loc.gov



GEORGE WASHINGTON



George Washington, the first president of the United States, was born on February 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. A county surveyor and colonial activist, he later became a delegate to the Continental Congress and was commissioned as commander-in-chief of revolutionary America's armed forces. George Washington was elected president of the United States in 1789, and reelected in 1792. His expanded remarks, after taking the oath of office in 1793, set a precedent for future presidential inaugural addresses. Letters were an important form of communication in eighteenth-century America. Washington maintained a voluminous correspondence in letterbooks, large bound volumes used to retain copies of incoming and outgoing correspondence.

The American Center, 38A Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata 700 071
Telephone: 3984-6300; Fax: 3984-6349; E-Mail: kolkata@pas.state.gov
Web site: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov>
Offices are open 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

Caesar Mandal, Principal Correspondent of the Times of India, traveled to Kathmandu on a Conflict Transformation Across Cultures program. About his experience, he says: "My mode of thinking has shifted from an individual approach to a regional approach.

Open-hearted discussions helped me realize that peace within Pakistan is a must for a peaceful and vibrant subcontinent. This platform highlighted open forums that could enhance the peace process in the region."

The picture shows Caesar discussing with participants from Pakistan, Afganistan and Sri Lanka, how Indian movies influence the India-Pakistan relationship.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fastest Feet in Rhythm

February 1: Rabindra Bhavan, Guwahati, 6.30 p.m.



The American Center presents "Fastest Feet in Rhythm," an award-winning collaboration between U.S. based Kathak maestro Pandit Chitresh Das and contemporary American Tap Dance star, Jason Samuels Smith, at the Rabindra Bhavan, Guwahati.

For tickets, contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov

Fusion Fiesta

February 8-10: Nicco Park, Kolkata

Celebrations International, in association with the American Center and leading city NGOs, presents Fusion Fiesta, a unique world music festival to support the cause of the girl child and women empowerment.

Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov



American Pavilion at the 37th International Kolkata Book Fair

January 26 - February 10



Visit the American Center Pavilion, January 26 - February 10, to learn about the unbelievable bonanza the American Library has planned for the people of the city: discounted annual general membership for Rs. 100, discounted annual family membership for Rs. 200, free access to 33+ databases from your home, access to 350 new DVDs, and much more. Contact: 3984-6396 or banerjeesx@state.gov

Check out these other fun events in and around the American Center Pavilion:

February 1, 3.00 - 4.00 p.m.: Celebrated photographers Brooke Shaden and Amy Parrish will do a slide show presentation. They will be in India to work with Kolkata Sanved and survivors of human trafficking. Contact: 3984-6325 or ghoshsx2@state.gov.

February 1 - 3, 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.: Fulbright scholar Partha Dey will highlight the U.S. - Kolkata partnership through the mediums of painting, ceramics and glass. Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.

February 5 and 10, 4.30 p.m.: Performers from Jungle Crows will display the true spirit of sportsmanship. Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.

February 8 - 10, 1.00 - 5.00 p.m.: Rural folk scroll painter Rupban Chitrakar will display her work as well as work on a scroll painting capturing U.S. - Kolkata ties. Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.

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



Parul Mandal, National Executive member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, traveled to the U.S. to participate in an International Visitor Leadership Program on "Young Leaders: U.S. political process," January 14 - February 1. Young leaders from countries in the South Asian region participated in the program.



FOCUS: Americanenglish.state.gov U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S AMERICAN ENGLISH PORTAL

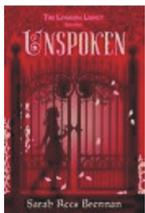


The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State launched a new website recently geared toward teachers and students of American English as a foreign language. The website includes rich content designed to accompany classroom materials and also to support independent learners of English as a foreign language. It is easily accessible on mobile devices and is organized in a clear, intuitive way to ensure that visitors find the resources they need.

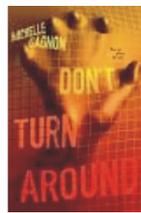
One of the key features of the website is *Trace Effects*, an innovative language learning video game that will complement students' classroom English language instruction through interactive 3-D multimedia learning activities. *Trace Effects* exposes young users to American society, and explores themes related to community activism, entrepreneurship, environmental conservation, empowering women, science and innovation, and conflict resolution. It includes seven chapters of game play, twenty eight practice activities, four multi-player practice activities, comprehensive teacher and student manuals, seven illustrated chapter summaries, a point-based scoring system for game play, American English dictionary integration, offline play option through a DVD, a mobile app for smart phones, and social media connectivity. Check out the website, or visit the American Center Library for free access!



COMPELLING ADDITIONS TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY'S BOOK COLLECTION



UNSPOKEN by Sarah Rees Brennan. Random House, 2012. Sarah Rees Brennan brings Gothic romance kicking and screaming into the twenty-first century with a heroine who can take care of herself, a boy who needs to be saved, and the magical forces that bring them together and tear them apart.



DON'T TURN AROUND by Michelle Gagnon. Harper, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Noa has been a victim of the system ever since her parents died. Now living off the grid and trusting no one, she uses her computer-hacking skills to stay safely anonymous and alone. But when she wakes up on a table in an empty warehouse with an IV in her arm and no memory of how she got there, Noa starts to wish she had someone on her side.



PALACE OF STONE by Shannon Hale. Bloomsbury, 2012. This is a sweet book that will appeal to a broad audience. It is written for the middle grade audience (10-14) but is interesting and deep enough for older readers if they can get past the title of the book. The romance is sweet and innocent, nothing that would turn off young readers.

AND COMPELLING ADDITIONS TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY'S DVD COLLECTION: Rain Man, Rocky, Saving Private Ryan, Schindler's List, Scott Pilgrim vs. the World, Silence of the Lambs, The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, The Social Network, Sound of Music, Terminator, Terminator 2, Terminator 3, Terms of Endearment, Thelma & Louise, Titanic, Toy Story, Up, Vertigo, West Side Story, High Noon, 2001: A Space Odyssey.



THE UNITED STATES - INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



USIEF announces the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program that provides international teachers unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The program consists of a six-week, non-degree, non-credit customized academic course including seminars on new teaching methodologies, curriculum development, lesson planning, and instructional technology. For details on the program, visit www.usief.org.in/Fellowships/FIC-teaching-Excellence-and-Achievement-Program.aspx.

Contact: 3984-6309 or shevanti@usief.org.in

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

American Center Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate

In an age of social media, the American Center is delighted to draw your attention to 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 join our over 20,000 fans by following the above-mentioned link and "Like" us!

Surf On Our Turf

The American Library invites you to blog at:



<http://blogs.usembassy.gov/kolkata/>

Join our online discussion forum to share your thoughts on what you have read, recommend books to read, and get information on the library's recent additions and events.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: AT THE CROSSROADS OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

The month of February is designated as Black History Month to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African-Americans to U.S. society. The 2013 theme for Black History Month is "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation set the United States on the path of ending slavery. A wartime measure issued by President Abraham Lincoln, the proclamation freed relatively few slaves, but it fueled the fire of the enslaved to strike for their freedom. On August 28, 1963, hundreds of thousands of Americans marched to the memorial of Abraham Lincoln, the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, in the continuing pursuit of equality of citizenship and self-determination. It was on this occasion that Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech. Just as the Emancipation Proclamation had recognized the coming end of slavery, the march on Washington for jobs and freedom announced that the days of legal segregation in the United States were numbered. In this month, U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide organize programs to highlight the achievements of African-Americans in particular, and issues of human rights in general.



Source: www.infocentral.state.gov

JANUARY IN PICTURES



A student of the Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya at Narendrapur explains an exhibit to Consul General Dean Thompson during his visit to the school to inaugurate its 54th annual celebrations.



Young readers enjoy themselves at the American Library's Children's Corner.

Published under the direction of Jeffrey Reneau, Director, American Center of the U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata.

Prepared by Sunrit Mullick

Technical Assistance by Amitava Santra

Printed at Graphic Service, Kolkata.