



Consul General Beth Payne participates in a walk on World Environment Day in Kolkata.



BULLETIN - JULY 2011

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Holiday

July 4: American Independence Day

Your Date With U.S. History

THE FIRST LUNAR LANDING

On July 20, 1969, humans walked on the lunar surface for the first time. Two astronauts, Apollo 11 Commander Neil A. Armstrong and Lunar Module pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. landed on the Moon in the Lunar Module, while the Command and Service Module with pilot Michael Collins continued in lunar orbit.

Apollo 11 was launched from the Kennedy Space Center on July 16, and after one and a half orbits, the spacecraft was put on course for the Moon. It went into lunar orbit on July 19 while the spacecraft was behind the Moon and out of contact with Earth. On July 20 the Lunar Module began its descent to the lunar surface.

The Lunar Module landed in Mare Tranquillitatis (Sea of Tranquility), with Armstrong reporting, "Houston, Tranquility Base here - the Eagle has landed." He stepped onto the lunar surface



stating, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," and Aldrin followed 19 minutes later. The astronauts deployed instruments, took photographs, and collected samples of lunar rock and soil. They traversed a distance of about 250 meters.

The Lunar Module lifted off from the Moon on July 21 after 21 hours and 36 minutes on the lunar surface. Apollo 11 splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, 1969, 24 km from the recovery ship USS Hornet.

Source: www.america.gov

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE

July 29, 1805, marks the birth of Alexis de Tocqueville, author of the celebrated work *Democracy in America*, considered to be one of the most comprehensive and insightful books ever written about the U.S. He was born in Paris into an aristocratic family. He came to the U.S. in 1831 and documented his observations of the American people and their political institutions in *Democracy in America*. The book deals with issues such as religion, the press, money, class structure, racism, the role of government, the judicial system, etc.-- issues that are just as relevant today as they were then. Scores of colleges around the country use the text in political science and history courses.



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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

Olea Roy, a student at Shri Shikshayatan School, has this to say about a seminar on women's empowerment at the American Center: *"The daring success stories of the five women panelists, in a world that is largely male-dominated, were a source of elevation for the mind. They have proved that 'the fair sex' need not necessarily be 'the weak sex'."*



The photograph shows a presenter at the seminar making a point.

Documentary Film Show

Kolkata: July 8, 2 p.m.



The American Center presents American and Indian documentaries "Sweethearts of the Prison Rodeo" and "The Jail" respectively, followed by an interactive session with dancer and social activist Alokanda Roy. **Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.**

Jefferson Debate

Kolkata: July 9, 2 p.m.

The American Center, in association with iLEAD (Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Development), presents the Jefferson Debates at iLEAD's Dale Carnegie auditorium, 113/C/1, Matheswartala Road, Topsia, Kolkata 700046. **Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.**

**Musical Evening**

Kolkata: July 14, 6.30 p.m.



Lim and the Hellhounds, a new band in town, presents a performance of folk, country, blues and psychedelic music at the American Center. **Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.**

Alumni Workshop

Kolkata: July 14-15

Alumni of Exchange Programs present a two-day workshop *Understand your Personality Type and Improve your Interpersonal Skills and Effectiveness through the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Psychometric Assessment* at the American Center. **Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.**

**Seminars on Social Media**

Kolkata: July 18-19



Social media expert Prof. Sree Sreenivasan, Dean of Student Affairs at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism addresses students of XLRI, Jamshedpur, on "Media Entrepreneurship, and Social Media & Social Good" on July 18. **Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov.**

On July 19 he leads a discussion on "New Media and the Definition of Democracy" at the American Center followed by a media interaction. **Contact 39846392 or basues@state.gov.**

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

Book Club Meet

Kolkata: July 22, 4 p.m.



American Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway (July 21, 1899 - July 02, 1961), was one of the most celebrated and influential literary stylists of the 20th century. As a tribute to this famous writer, the American Library Book Club organizes a discussion of Hemingway's short stories. **Contact: 3984-6398 or choudhuryrs@state.gov.**

Flame of Independence

Kolkata: July 26, 10.30 a.m. onwards

The American Library organizes a talent show for underprivileged children at the American Center. The program comprises competitions involving art, dance, fancy dress, etc. **Contact: 3984-6394 or guhasx@state.gov.**

**Film Show:***A Farewell to Arms*

(152 mins)

July 29, 3.30 p.m.:

Kolkata



Directed by Charles Vidor, this 1957 film is based on the famous novel by Ernest Hemingway. Frederick Henry (Rock Hudson), an American serving as a volunteer ambulance driver with the Italian forces in the First World War, is wounded and falls in love with his attending British nurse Catherine Barkley (Jennifer Jones). In the midst of war and intrigue, the pair struggles to stay together and survive the horrors around them. **Contact: 3984-6394 or guhasx@state.gov.**

**FOCUS:****GLOBAL LEARNING AND OBSERVATIONS TO BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE) PROGRAM IN GUWAHATI, MAY 2011**

Mridusmita Barman, South Point School, Guwahati: "The workshop created awareness about environment-related issues and how students can collect data and learn about their school surroundings. We had a memorable time during the field work where we not only learned to use the different instruments but also got the chance to know each other better. It was a fun learning experience." **Asma Hussain, Sarala Birla Gyan Jyoti, Guwahati:** "The workshop conducted by IES, with the support of the American Center Kolkata, was one of a kind: skill-based learning to reinforce the idea and importance of research among the younger generation. Among all the sessions, the question-answer session was the most effective, as most of the doubts pertaining to the general applicability and effective involvement of children were resolved." **Sunanda Ghosh and Ravneet Khurana, Sri Shikshayatan School, Kolkata:** "We had an amazing experience learning several new things and also interacting with teachers from different states of North-East India. The workshop was very well organised, and the Instructors guided us well, making the entire event informative and interesting."

PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED STATES - INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (USIEF)

July 1: Pre-departure Orientation for students leaving for USA, at the American Center.



July 26-29: A group of U.S. school teachers on a Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program visit Kolkata under the theme "India: An Ancient Civilization, A Modern Nation."

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

**American Center's SMS service:
Dial US4U at 9243000111**

In keeping with the times, we are delighted to report the successful functioning 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 your participation in American Center events.
- ✳ Give us feedback on events or policies.
- ✳ Interact live with us 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' Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/AmericanCenter.Kolkata**

In an age of social media, the American Center is delighted to report the successful functioning 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.

RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED

On July 26, 1990, President George W. Bush signed *The Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) into law, which has helped tear down barriers for millions of people living with disabilities. This groundbreaking Act better enables citizens with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of life. Over the course of nearly two decades, this Act has made American schools and workplaces more welcoming, helped change attitudes that once seemed unchangeable, and expanded opportunity for many exceptional Americans. The ADA is one of the most successful civil rights laws in American history and has been an essential part of countless American lives.



Building on the success of the ADA, the New Freedom Initiative of 2001 has had a positive impact for many American citizens. Technological advances have helped individuals gain greater access to everyday life. Students with disabilities are given the tools they need to succeed, and in the workplace, innovative hiring and employment practices are helping to integrate Americans with disabilities into the workforce. The Ticket to Work and AbilityOne programs have helped them become more self-sufficient by expanding access to employment.

On this anniversary, the American Center highlights the U.S. Government's commitment to the ADA and celebrates the vital contributions of individuals with disabilities as it works towards fulfilling the promise of the ADA to give all people the opportunity to live with dignity, work productively, and achieve their dreams.

Source: <http://www.america.org>

JUNE IN PICTURES



A corporate quizzier takes the first prize at a Green Biz Quiz organized by the American Center and the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata.



Students lift the winning trophy at an inter-school green quiz at the American Center while Deputy Director Scott Hartmann looks on.



Information Resource Officer Linda Parker conducts a seminar on "Virtual Library" at the American Center.



Consul General Beth Payne explains a point to an interviewer.

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