



American Center Director Jeffrey Reneau inaugurates the "Sound of Peace" concert at Nazrul Mancha.



# BULLETIN - OCTOBER 2012

## Events at a Glance

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Jefferson Debate

**October 9-11**  
Theater workshop (Kolkata)

**October 9**  
Theater program (Kolkata)

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**October 8**  
Columbus Day

**October 23**  
Nabami - Durga Puja

**October 24**  
Dashami - Durga Puja

**October 29**  
Lakshmi Puja



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## Your Date With U.S. History

### U.S. ELECTIONS: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

More than 100 million voters will likely cast ballots in nationwide U.S. elections on November 6, 2012. But only 538 men and women will elect the next president of the United States, and those elections will take place in 50 state capitals and Washington, D.C., on December 17.

This indirect election system, called the Electoral College and devised in 1787 by the framers of the Constitution, reflects the federal governing system of allocating powers to a national government representing not only the people but also the states.

The Electoral College requires a presidential candidate to have national stature as well as broad appeal to different regions. "One consequence of the Electoral College has been to make it hard for third parties, regional factions, or lesser figures to gain the presidency," said John C. Fortier, author of *After the People Vote*.

The presidential electors nearly always vote the same way in December as the voters in their state did in November. The Electoral College winner nearly always captures the most popular votes nationwide. But because all but two states have winner-take-all rules, occasionally the Electoral College winner trails another candidate in nationwide popular votes, as happened in 2000.

An election strategy flows from the Electoral College system. Presidential candidates pay less attention to reliably Democratic and Republican states in the campaign. Instead, they focus workers and money on a relatively few narrowly divided states--Florida and Ohio are well-known examples--that decide the elections.

Source: [iipdigital.usembassy.gov](http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov)



### WILLIAM PENN



Born in London, England, on October 14, 1644, William Penn was an important English Quaker who founded the Pennsylvania colony. Eventually, Delaware would break off from it. Penn believed in religious toleration and called Pennsylvania the "holy experiment." He created a written constitution for the colony that amazingly limited the power of government. It also called for freedom of the press and the right to own private property. In this way, Pennsylvania had many of the rights and liberties that would later be granted the citizens of the United States through its constitution.

While he visited his colony many times, he died in England.

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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](mailto:kolkatapas@state.gov) by the 10th of each month.

**NOTES FROM THE FIELD**

Tina Roy of Earth Day Network, traveled to the U.S. on an exchange program on climate change and clean energy. Of her experience, she states: "We visited organizations that have engaged in commendable waste management programs and recycling programs in which community members participate in environmental protection activities."

The photograph alongside was taken at 'Grow Dat Youth Farm' in New Orleans, a farm that engages high school students in sustainable agriculture. Here, Johanna, the Program Manager, tells the visitors more about their work.

Tina also visited the Holy Cross Project in New Orleans. This project has initiated the construction of sustainable homes following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Jefferson Debate**

October 5, 3 p.m., iLEAD campus, 113/C/1, Matheshwartala Road, Topsia, Kolkata 700046

The American Center and iLEAD present this year's edition of "The Jefferson Debates," a yearly debate competition addressing some of today's most relevant and provocative topics. Students from various colleges will team up to debate the topic "National elections do not have an international impact." *Open to all.*

Contact: [dayalss@state.gov/39846326](mailto:dayalss@state.gov)

**Theater Workshop by Arena Stage**

October 9-11, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., American Center

Founded in 1950, Arena Stage is one of America's original resident theaters, and has a distinguished record of leadership and innovation in the field. *By invitation only.*

Contact: [dassx@state.gov/39846392](mailto:dassx@state.gov)

**Voices of Now: India**

October 11, 6.30 p.m., Rabindranath Tagore Centre, 9A, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata 700071

The American Center and ICCR Kolkata present an Arena Stage theater program that will give participants an opportunity to learn about theater, writing, and performance, with the goal of devising and performing a piece of theater based on their own stories. *By invitation only.*

Contact: [dassx@state.gov/39846392](mailto:dassx@state.gov)

**The Global Entrepreneurship Program**

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GEP, launched by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2010, is designed to leverage U.S. expertise and resources to promote entrepreneurship around the world, with an initial focus on Muslim-majority countries. More than 120 U.S. and overseas partners--corporations, investors, universities and nongovernmental groups--are part of GEP, including Google Inc., Stanford University, and the Angel Capital Association. Serial entrepreneur Steven Koltai, who headed GEP until mid-2011, estimates that so far the program has reached 10,000 entrepreneurs and startup teams.

GEP's goal is to create a robust local entrepreneurial ecosystem. GEP has established local programs in Egypt, Indonesia and Turkey, creating positions of Entrepreneurs in Residence. The GEP is expanding beyond Muslim-majority countries. It wants to connect U.S. embassies that support entrepreneurial activities to GEP's partners and enhance related programs, such as mentor-mentee online matching services, angel networks of private investors to fund startups, and links between U.S. and local business incubators.



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



## Exchange Programs Corner

**Sayak Barua, a sarode artist,** traveled to the U.S. on a "Bang on a Can" musical exchange program, September 10 - October 7, 2012. He visited Orlando, Florida; and New York City. The tour included group jam sessions, rehearsal sessions for ensembles, informal concerts, and workshops led by visiting collaborating artists.

**Anwesa Majumder, a Teach for India (TFI) Fellow,** traveled to the U.S. on an International Visitor Leadership Program on "Young Leaders: Influential Voices," September 10-28, 2012. She was joined in the U.S. by other participants from the South Asia region. She visited several cities during her program, which introduced participants to the U.S. political system, and the role of young people in elections and policy formation.

**Binita Toppo and Seema Toppo, two young and talented soccer players from Ranchi,** traveled to the U.S. on a Sports Visitor program that involved soccer training, nutrition, fitness, life skills, conflict resolution, disability sports, and exposure to the unique American perspective on sports.

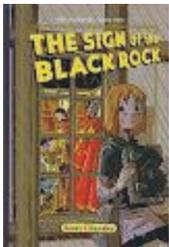
### LAUNCH OF NEW RESOURCES AT THE AMERICAN LIBRARY: GRAPHIC NOVELS AND E-LIBRARY

## eLibraryUSA

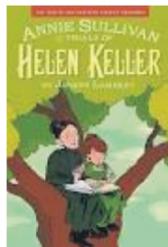


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### The American Library's new collection of graphic novels



**THE SIGN OF THE BLACK ROCK** by Scott Chantler. Kids Can Press, 2011. 112 pp. The action resumes as three good-hearted fugitives stop at a roadside inn during a ferocious thunderstorm.



**ANNIE SULLIVAN AND THE TRIALS OF HELEN KELLER** by Joseph Lambert. Hyperion Books, 2012. 92 pp. Annie, Helen's visually-impaired tutor, breaks down the barriers between Helen and the wider world.



**BATWOMAN: ELEGY** by Greg Rucka and J. H. Williams. DC Comics, 2012. 192 pp. A superhero comic that deserves to be read and re-read to appreciate its smart storytelling and even more impressive artistry.

### UNITED STATES - INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Applications are invited for the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program for Indian school teachers (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades) of English, Mathematics, or Science to participate in direct exchange of positions with U.S. teachers for one semester. Application deadline October 15, 2012. Details at <http://www.usief.org.in/Fellowships/FIC-Fulbright-Teacher-Exchange-Program.aspx>.

SPAN's elections resource at <http://span.state.gov/mar-apr2012/eng/us-elections-2012.html>



A collection of links to articles, explainers, news resources and FAQs. The page will be updated through the year, more often as we get closer to November. We invite suggestions on material that could be included on this page.

## Young voters

A key demographic for the 2012 election is the group of voters born between 1979 and 2000. In 2008, they made up 18 percent of voters with 48 million of them eligible to vote. That number has increased at a rate of about 4 million per year. Political analysts predict 35 million young voters will cast ballots next month, an estimated 26 percent of all voters.



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

# ELECTIONS 2012

**American Center Facebook Page**  
[www.facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate](http://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.*



**DAY OF THE GIRL**

October 11 marks the International Day of the Girl Child, establishing a day to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. In reserving a day for advocacy and action by and for girls, the UN has signaled its commitment to end gender stereotypes, discrimination, violence, and economic disparities that disproportionately affect girls. In the United States, an organized campaign to achieve a national Day of the Girl is still underway. A project of the nonprofit organization School Girls Unite, the Day of the Girl campaign was launched by a core group of young girl activists with the goal of achieving Day of the Girl proclamations from localities across America. School Girls Unite ran petition drives, published issue papers, and met with government officials from local levels to the White House to build momentum for a national campaign kickoff day on September 22, 2011.



School Girls Unite and the Day of the Girl campaign are now pursuing a long-term goal to achieve local proclamations in all 3,143 counties and each of the 50 states, as well as a Presidential Proclamation that would mirror the recent UN resolution. The mission of the National Day of the Girl campaign is to engage girls in civic leadership before age 18, empowering girls to make the changes they want to see in the world.

Source: [www.dayofthegirl.org](http://www.dayofthegirl.org)

**SOUND OF PEACE CONCERT IN SEPTEMBER**



Lakkhichhara, Kolkata.



Raeth, Pakistan.



LRB, Bangladesh.



Suraj Jagan, India.

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.