



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

December 2012

Human Rights Protections and the United States by Annika Schauer

“History offers a clear verdict: Governments that respect the will of their own people, that govern by consent and not coercion, are more prosperous, they are more stable, and more successful than governments that do not.” -- President Barack Obama

Both within its own borders and on a global scale, the United States continues to promote and defend human rights.

The United States Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution are two of the earliest examples of guarantees of certain human rights and freedoms that have since been adopted as standards of international law. These rights include civil and political rights, such as the right to life and liberty, freedom of expression, guarantees of personhood before the law, and economic, social and cultural rights (including the right to participate in culture), the right to work, and the right to education.

Over the years, the United States Constitution has been amended several times to expand the rights of United States citizens. The earliest amendments to the constitution included guarantees of freedom of religion, speech, and assembly, as well as the right to bear arms, the right to a fair and speedy trial, and protection against unreasonable search and seizure. Later amendments to the constitution abolished slavery completely within the Union, and guaranteed equal protection under the law for all citizens, including the universal right to vote for all Americans over the age of 18.

In addition to its domestic guarantees of human rights, the following are some examples of United States promotion of human rights abroad:

- United States is signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or UDHR, which is a non-binding declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, partly in response to the atrocities of World War II. Over the years since its inception, the UDHR has become a central component of many international agreements, as well being invoked in numerous instances of enforcement and sanctions against human rights violators worldwide.

- In 1980, the United States signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the primary international legal document protecting the rights of women.
- The latest UN treaty on human rights to be ratified in any part by the United States was the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2002, the United States signed two optional protocols on this occasion: one protected children against involvement in armed conflict (child soldiering); the other protocol protects children against trafficking for labor or prostitution.
- For the last three decades, the United States has monitored compliance with the UDHR worldwide and reports annually on human rights on a country-specific basis in a Congressionally-mandated report known as the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, or, commonly, as the Human Rights Report. The latest year's report can be found at this web address: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>
- The original purpose of the Human Rights Report was to assist U.S. lawmakers make wise decisions on appropriating foreign military and economic aid, based on a country's compliance with basic understandings of human freedoms. These reports are made publically available, and are widely used as references in academia and in non-governmental organizations, as well as by foreign governments.
- The United States also reports annually on freedom of religion (The International Report on Religious Freedom <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/>), and trafficking in persons (The Trafficking in Persons Report <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>).
- The “Leahy Law,” or “Leahy Provision,” named after the primary sponsor of the law, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, prohibits U.S. monetary

...continued on page 3

The American Center

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E-mail: mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov; Website: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

H O L I D A Y S

December 25 - Christmas



MUMBAI MONDAYS



CIVIL RIGHTS

By: Braphus Kaalund

The concept of civil rights has evolved since the founding of the United States. This lecture and discussion will trace the growth of civil rights throughout US history. While the civil rights struggle in the 1950s and 1960s are more well known, Native Americans and women also had similar civil rights campaigns. Even today, civil rights have been front and center in American political discussion as the LGBT community has campaigned for greater equality through the ballot box and the courts. Join us for a discussion of civil rights.

Braphus Kaalund is the Vice Consul for Political Affairs in the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai, India. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 2012. Prior to that, he was a lawyer for several years at the firm of Freshfields, Bruckhaus, Deringer, LLP. He worked in London, UK, Vienna, Austria and Berlin, Germany offices. He specialized in international arbitration, international trade and international finance matters. He also served as a political consultant in the southern and eastern U.S.

Mr. Kaalund received his Bachelor degree from The Johns Hopkins University in 2002. He obtained a Juris Doctorate from the University of Kentucky in 2005 and a Bachelor of International Law from the University of Birmingham, U.K in 2007.



December 17 2012
at 6:30 p.m.

Venue

**U.S. Consulate General,
C-49, G-Block, Near Trident Hotel,
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra(E),
Mumbai - 400051**

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assistance to individuals and units in foreign military who are known to have committed human rights violations with impunity. Each military-affiliation recipient of U.S. funds must be vetted for compliance with this law.

WORD FROM THE CENTER

This month began with a commemoration by President Obama for World AIDS Day on December 1 where he reaffirmed that “we will come together as a global community to stand with people affected by HIV/AIDS, to remember those we have lost, and to renew our commitment to ending the pandemic once and for all.”

On December 10, we will celebrate the United Nations' Human Rights Day to mark the anniversary of the presentation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the United Nations. Come to our Mumbai Mondays talk on December 17 to hear more about human and civil rights and engage in a discussion with an American officer on this important topic.

We just commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25 and continued the accompanying 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence into December. In honor of this, the American Library Mumbai created an eInfoPack on Gender Violence which can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

As we approach the end of this year, we reflect on all of our activities and thank you for helping us make it a fruitful one. Please continue to follow us on facebook for latest updates at www.facebook.com/Mumbai.usconsulate as we plan for exciting things in the new year.

Here's to wishing you a festive holiday season this December and to a prosperous New Year just around the corner!



Sincerely,
Swati Patel
Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer
U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai

An American Fulbrighter in India

When I first informed my family and friends that I would be living in India for 9 months, my news elicited mixed responses. Some were elated and looked forward to visiting me, while others smiled, congratulated me, paused, and then asked, “Why India?” In the beginning, I used to say “Why not?” I had never been to the country and did not have the necessary knowledge to give a more forceful and concrete answer. Now, after living here for nearly three months, when people question why India, I merely say because of its people.

India is undeniably a country of breathtaking beauty. From the landscape, to the endless and vibrant color palette of saris and spices, to the bright, warm, and welcoming smiles of the locals, adequately describing what makes India so beautiful is truly an insurmountable task. For me, the beauty of India is not so much in the physical and external aspects of the country, but more so in the graciousness, warmth, and hospitality of its people. From the fruit and vegetable vendors, to the local copying stall, to the shop that sells trinkets, once you go to a shop more than once, and despite the language barrier, they are always happy to see you and never hesitate to invite you to join them in their various celebrations and customs.

While there are certainly some hurdles to living in India, for instance, learning the art form of crossing a busy street without being hit by a bus, rickshaw, car, motorbike, bicycle, or other fellow pedestrians, the vibrancy and eccentricities of life in Mumbai has made my Fulbright experience all the more memorable. Stumbling upon a procession to send the idol Ganesh to the water, and joining the locals as they danced in the streets and threw flowers in the air, and offered prayers of good health is definitely one of the many experiences that I will never forget.

By Jacqueline Mabatah, Fulbright Nehru Student researcher affiliated with TISS

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Saturday Film Screenings

December 1

in the spirit of the holiday season

Screening will start at 2:30 p.m.



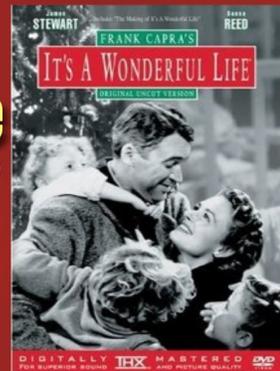
Miracle on 34th street (1947 / New Edition 2006, 96 mins)

When a nice old man who claims to be Santa Claus is institutionalized as insane, a young lawyer decides to defend him by arguing in court that he is the real thing.

December 8

It's a Wonderful Life (1946 / New Edition 2006 , 144 mins)

An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never existed.



December 15

Christmas in Connecticut (1945 / New Edition 2005, 102 mins)

A food writer who has lied about being the perfect housewife must try to cover her deception when her boss and a returning war hero invite themselves to her home for a traditional family Christmas



December 22

White Christmas (1954 / New Edition 2005, 102 mins)

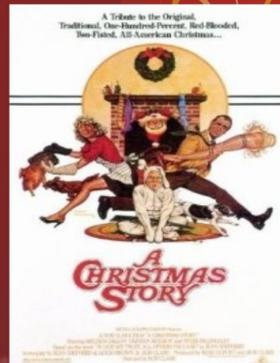
A successful song-and-dance team become romantically involved with a sister act and team up to save the failing Vermont inn of their former commanding general.



December 29

A Christmas Story (1983 / New Edition 2006, 94 mins)

Ralphie has to convince his parents, teachers, and Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun really is the perfect gift for the 1940s.



Venue:

U.S. Consulate General,
C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel,
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

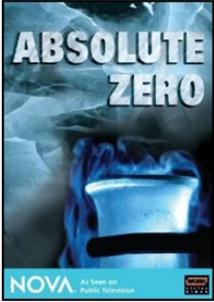
Free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

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NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

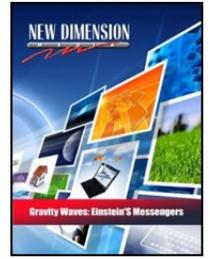
Explore new DVDs at the American Library



Absolute Zero: Chasing the Ultimate Freezing Point – NOVA, 2007. (109 min.)

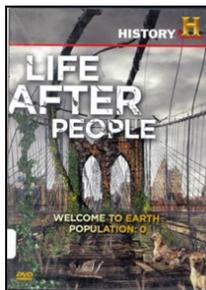
Absolute Zero presents the epic story of humanity's struggle to master extreme cold. This NOVA special recreates groundbreaking discoveries across four centuries that expanded our knowledge of low temperatures and led ultimately to today's cutting edge "cold technologies." The gripping story of the race between two leading chemists to liquefy helium and nitrogen opened the door to the modern era of refrigeration and modern air conditioning.

Gravity Waves: Einstein's Messengers – New Dimension Media, 2007. (21min.)

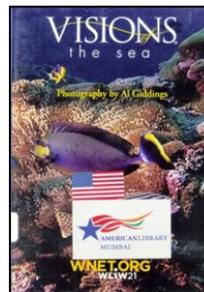


Since Galileo first turned a telescope to the heavens, astronomers have studied the planets, the stars, and distant galaxies. But there are some mysteries so deep the answers cannot be found with traditional tools; This award-winning documentary takes viewers inside the National Science foundation's Laser interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO), where scientists are spearheading the completely new and radical field of gravitational wave astronomy and opening a whole new window on the universe.

Life After People: Welcome to Earth Population: 0 – History, 2008. (94 min)



If humans were suddenly to disappear, what would happen to our planet - the structures we've built, the everyday items we take for granted, domesticated and wild animals, plants, trees? What would become of the things that define our species and leave our mark on this Earth? *Life after People* takes you through an amazing visual journey with insights from experts.



Visions of the sea: Photography by Al Giddings – GW entertainment, 2009. (60 min)

Join the swooping watery flights of manta rays and the nimble acrobatics of the humpback whales. Witness camouflage techniques that disguise both prey and predator so well before your eyes, you're not sure who to root for. Go beyond the usual vacation encounter with coral, stunning in both color and in the ability of these tiny creatures to build massive reefs that function as complex underwater cities. *Visions of the Sea* invites you to dive deep and discover creatures you couldn't meet any other way.

If you are an alumnus of a United States exchange program and have received special recognition, please send a write-up with 2-3 photos to mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov. You could be featured in future e-bulletins!

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Milburn Fernandes



Saturday Kids' Movies

White Fang
(1991, 107 min)

MONSTER HOUSE
(2006, 91 min)

Fred Claus
(2007, 116 min)

Rudolph
the Red-Nosed Reindeer
(Animation)
(1998, 83 min)

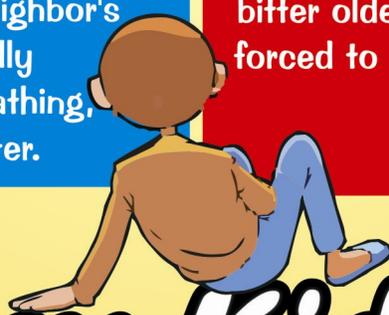


A courageous young man and a magnificent wolf in a epic struggle of survival

Three teens discover that their neighbor's house is really a living, breathing, scary monster.

Fred Claus, Santa's bitter older brother, is forced to move to the North Pole.

Rudolph is born with a red nose he is bullied throughout his younger years, a chain of events brings Rudolph from zero to hero.



Hey Kids! Come and enjoy movies

(Screening will start at 11:00 AM)



This event is for children 6-16 years old; those under 16 must be accompanied by a parent.

Free and open on a first-come, first-served basis.

U.S. Consulate General

C-49, G-Block, Near Trident Hotel, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 51

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