AMERICANCENTER

February 2012

A WORD FROM THE CENTER

We've settled into our new home in BKC and as promised, the American Center has started once again to bring you great programming. The highlight of January was our comedy show "Make Chai Not War" at the Y.B. Chavan Center on January 18. The show, featuring three Indian-American comedians, drew a packed house and had the audience rolling in the aisles. I hope that you had a chance to make it! We also restarted our Saturday film screenings with classic American comedies. And on Monday, January 23, we hosted the first "Mumbai Mondays" program in BKC. We're thrilled that so many of you joined us for these programs.

More is coming your way in February! The American Center is bringing Guinness World Record holding 3D chalk artist Tracy Lee Stum to the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. Come and witness her amazing 3D street art come to life on Rampart Row on February 8 and 9. Saturday film screenings continue in February with an exciting selection of films honoring African-American History Month.

In March, the American Center is hosting the Bad Boys of Dance for a performance in Mumbai on March 13. Save the date!

We're also gearing up our Elections-related programming for the 2012 U.S. Presidential elections. If your school or organization wants to know more about U.S. elections or want to host a Consulate speaker on the subject, please let us know by sending an email to mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov.

In the meantime, stayed tuned for tidbits of information about the elections and upcoming programs by logging into our FaceBook page: https://www.facebook.com/amcentermumbai.

Check out our "events" and don't forget to follow us on Twitter too: https://twitter.com/amcentermumbai

Happy February!

Angela Gemza
Cultural Affairs Officer

MUMBAI MONDAYS

A discussion on "Civil Rights movement and Black History Month" let by Vice Consul Anood Taqui

Monday, February 27, 2011 **6:00 p.m.**
Venue: American Center, U.S. Consulate General, Multipurpose Room, G-49, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400051

Please join us as we discuss how everyday Americans challenged their government and communities to live up to their promises of equality and justice. This important era in American history highlights the power of civic participation in a democratic society, the role of non-violence in social movements, the significance of voting rights, the tensions between state and local control, the capacity of the courts to address injustice, and the ways in which different groups define national and community membership. Black History Month is an observance of the history of the African diaspora in a number of countries outside of Africa.

More Details

The American Center
C-49, G Block, B. K. C., Bandra East Mumbai – 400051Tel: 022-2672-4024
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

February 20: Washington's Birthday

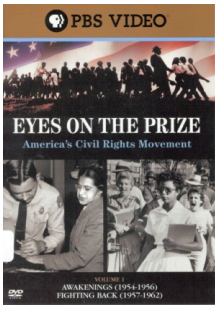
Get Your Hands-On Demonstration of eLibraryUSA Databases

Reference Librarians regularly conduct hands-on demonstrations of the eLibraryUSA databases for Library visitors. Contact the reference desk at libref@state.gov or (022) 2676-4231 to arrange your personal demonstration.

Orientation to the American Library

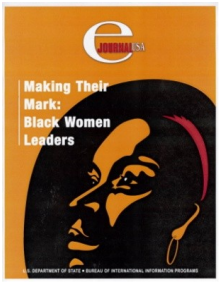
The American Library regularly welcomes groups from Universities, colleges, NGOs, and businesses for library orientation programs. In addition to teaching the students what resources and services were available at the American Libraries throughout India, the visitors also get a hands-on session of eLibraryUSA databases. Contact the reference desk at libref@state.gov or (022) 2676-4231 to arrange an orientation for your school or office.

Resources on Black History Month



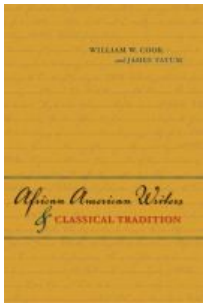
Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement
PBS Video
(2006, 14 Hrs)

Eyes on the Prize is an award-winning 14-hour television series produced by Blackside and narrated by Julian Bond. Through contemporary interviews and historical footage, the series covers all of the major events of the civil rights movement from 1954-1985. Series topics range from the Montgomery bus boycott in 1954 to the Voting Rights Act in 1965; from community power in schools to "Black Power" in the streets.



***Making Their Mark: Black Women Leaders* - Click Here**

This issue of *eJournal USA* profiles African-American women of the 20th and 21st centuries who have made significant contributions to many spheres of American life. It offers insights into how earlier generations of African-American women serve as touchstones for the present generation. The list includes women who have devoted their talents and energies to business, civil rights, politics, academia and mass media. Each in her way has affirmed the American Dream not only for African Americans, but for women and men of all ethnicities.



***African American Writers and Classical Tradition* by William W. Cook and James Tatum. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2010**

In this book the authors argue that African American literature did not develop apart from canonical Western literary traditions but instead grew out of those literatures, even as it adapted and transformed the cultural traditions and religions of African and the African diaspora along the way. Tracing interaction between African American writers and the literatures of ancient Greece and Rome, from the time of slavery and its aftermath to the civil rights era through the present, the authors offer a discussion of the life and work of Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglas, Ralph Ellison, and Rita Dove, among other acclaimed writers.

Black Americans of Achievement Series, Chelsea House Publishers (Series of 20 books for young adults)

Black Americans of Achievement tells the stories of black men and women who have helped shape the course of modern history. Written in a straightforward, colorful style for young adults, the series is richly illustrated with photographs, art, and documents. Each volume contains a bibliography and complete chronology of the subject's life. Some of the noted personalities included in the series are Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Thurgood Marshall, Dizzy Gillespie, Jackie Robinson, Oprah Winfrey and many more.

The American Library timings: Monday to Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Internet based library catalog: http://amlibindia.state.gov Email: libref@state.gov

E-Bulletin Editor:
Swati Patel
Designed by:
Milburn Fernandes

Admission to American Center programs, restricted to persons over 14, unless otherwise specified, is on a first-come, first-served basis. The auditorium doors will open 30 minutes before the start of the program.

AMERICANCENTER
MUMBAI

Saturday Film Screening

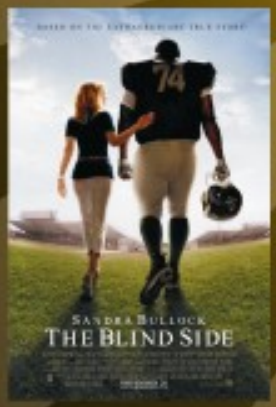
African-American History Month

Feb 11
Dreamgirls
(2006, 130 min)

Director Bill Condon brings Tom Eyen's Tony award-winning Broadway musical to the big screen in a tale of dreams, stardom, and the high cost of success in the cutthroat recording industry. The time is the 1960s, and singers Effie (Jennifer Hudson), Lorrell (Anika Noni Rose), and Deena (Beyonc Knowles) are about to find out just what it's like to have their wildest dreams come true. Discovered at a local talent show by ambitious manager Curtis Taylor Jr. (Jamie Foxx), the trio known as "the Dreamettes" is soon offered the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of opening for popular singer James "Thunder" Early (Eddie Murphy).

Feb 18
The Help
(2011, 146 min)

The #1 New York Times bestseller by Kathryn Stockett comes to vivid life through the powerful performances of a phenomenal ensemble cast. Led by Emma Stone, Academy Award-nominated Viola Davis (Best Supporting Actress, Doubt, 2008), Octavia Spencer and Bryce Dallas Howard, The Help is an inspirational, courageous and empowering story about very different, extraordinary women in the 1960s South who build an unlikely friendship around a secret writing project one that breaks society's rules and puts them all at risk. Filled with poignancy, humor and hope and complete with compelling, never-before-seen bonus features The Help is a timeless, universal and triumphant story about the ability to create change.



Feb 25
The Blind Side
(2009, 129 min)

Based on the true story of Leigh Anne (Sandra Bullock) and Sean Tuohy who take in a homeless teenage African-American, Michael "Big Mike" Oher (Quinton Aaron). Michael has no idea who his father is and his mother is a drug addict. Michael has had little formal education and few skills to help him learn. Leigh Anne soon takes charge however, as is her nature, ensuring that the young man has every opportunity to succeed. When he expresses an interest in football, she goes all out to help him, including giving the coach a few ideas on how best to use Michael's skills. They not only provide him with a loving home, but hire a tutor to help him improve his grades to the point where he would qualify for a university athletic scholarship. Michael Oher was the first-round pick of the Baltimore Ravens in the 2009 NFL draft.

Film screening will start at 2:30 p.m.

Please bring a photo ID for entry. No mobiles, computers, cameras or other electronic equipment allowed.

Venue:

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

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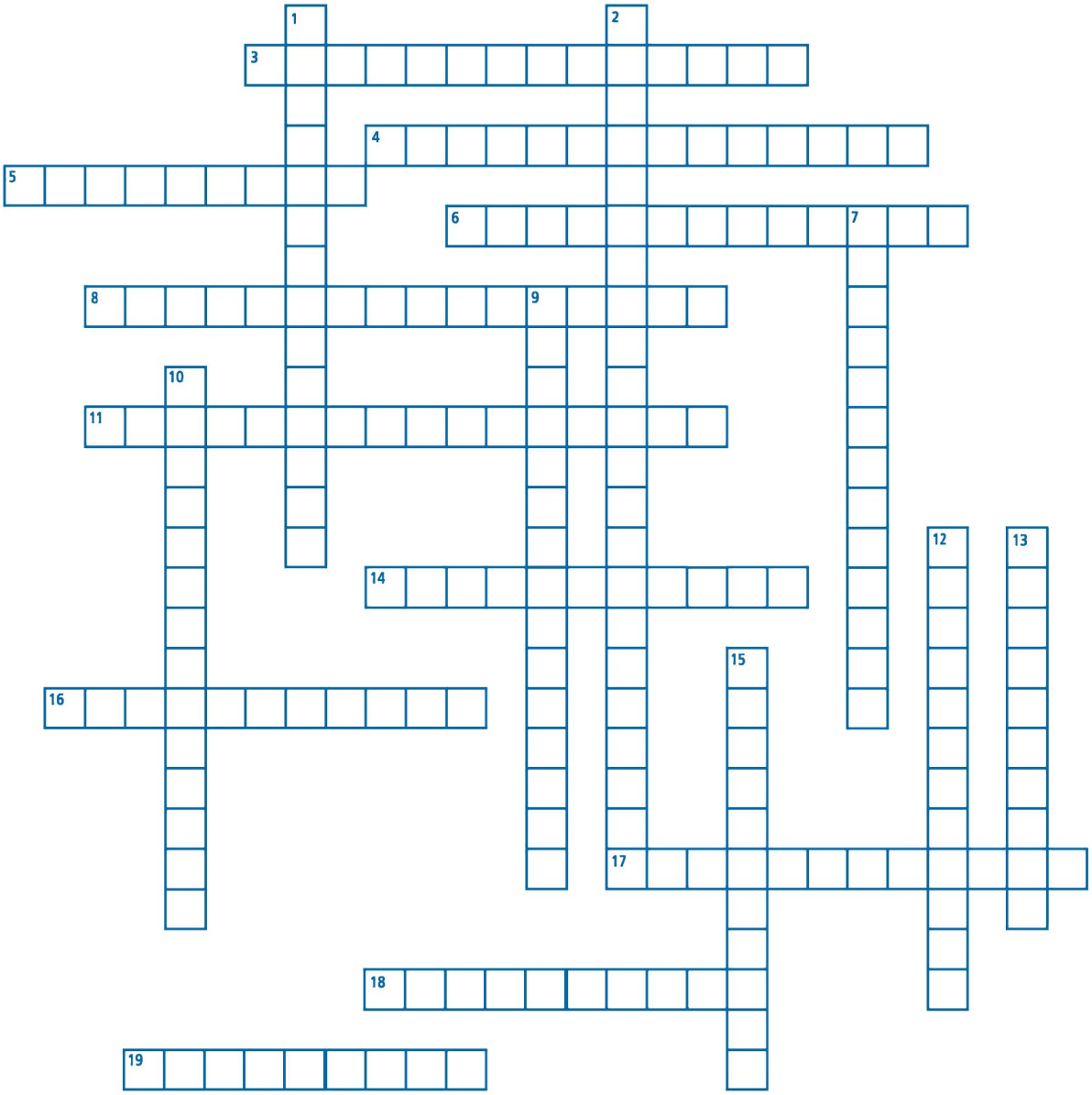
Black History Month Crossword: Notable African-Americans

For more information regarding notable African Americans, contact the American Library at libref@state.gov

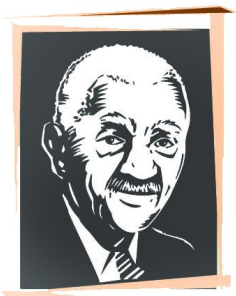


ACROSS

3. Opera singer who gave a concert in front of the Lincoln Memorial when she was banned from performing at Constitution Hall
4. Most famous jazz trumpeter of the 20th century; nicknamed "Satchmo"
5. Cofounder of the NAACP
6. Founder of Negro History Week, precursor to Black History Month
8. First African-American U.S. Supreme Court justice
11. Civil rights leader famous for his "I Have a Dream" speech
14. First African-American U.S. president
16. Notable boxer famous for saying "I am the greatest"
17. Wrote the novel *Invisible Man*
18. First male African-American Grammy winner
19. Refused to give up her seat on a bus, an action that sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott

DOWN

1. First African-American Major League Baseball player
2. Notable African-American scientist; often credited with inventing peanut butter
7. First African-American man to win an Oscar for best actor
9. First African-American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; first African-American woman to run for president
10. Often called the Queen of Soul, this singer performed at Bill Clinton's and Barack Obama's inaugurations
12. First African-American awarded the Nobel Prize in literature
13. First female African-American astronaut
15. First African-American secretary of state



ANSWERS

ACROSS
3. Marian Anderson
4. Louis Armstrong
5. W.E.B. Du Bois
6. Carter Woodson
8. Thurgood Marshall
11. Martin Luther King
14. Barack Obama
16. Muhammad Ali
17. Ralph Ellison
18. Count Basie
19. Rosa Parks

DOWN
1. Jackie Robinson
2. George Washington Carver
7. Sidney Poitier
9. Shirley Chisholm
10. Aretha Franklin
12. Toni Morrison
13. Mae Jemison
15. Colin Powell

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL
Mumbai

presents

3D Chalk Artist

Guinness World Record Holder

Tracy Lee Stum

Showcase at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival

February 8 and 9, 2012

at Rampart Row

For more details on Tracy : www.TracyLeeStum.com

In association with

THE TIMES OF INDIA
Kala Ghoda Arts Festival
4 - 12 February 2012

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