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BAD BOYS OF DANCE

March 13 2012 8:00 p.m.

St. Andrews Auditorium, Bandra (W)

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Educating Women and Girls Is Key to Meeting 21st Century Demands

Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer

The education of women and girls is essential not only to promoting gender equality, but also to addressing the full spectrum of 21st century challenges. Research shows that investing in education is one of the most effective, high-yielding development investments a country can make.

Much progress has certainly been made since 2000, when nations around the world committed to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2 for the achievement of universal primary education; yet considerable gaps remain, particularly for girls. According to some estimates, 72 million children worldwide do not attend school, and 54 percent of the unschooled are girls. In addition, although gender parity in primary education has increased over the past decade, a parity gap of 6 million still remains — and it is even starker in the developing world. In Yemen, nearly 80 percent of girls out of school are unlikely to enroll, as compared with 36 percent of boys. In sub-Saharan Africa, almost 12 million girls are expected to not enroll.

The quality of education is also a serious problem because, even where school enrollment has increased, many children are still leaving school without basic numeracy and literacy skills, and are therefore ill equipped to compete and prosper. Improving girls' access to secondary education is yet another area that needs greater attention.

Countries with the lowest standards of living and the highest rates of illiteracy are usually countries that do not educate their girls. Left unchecked, these inequalities in education will perpetuate violence, poverty and instability and will keep nations from achieving economic, political and social progress. Further, the lack of access to education can follow a girl for a lifetime; of the more than 700 million illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women.

Girls' education is valuable both in its own right and because it fuels development. Creating incentives to support girls' education — and, in particular, girls' secondary education — catalyzes a range of positive outcomes. Empirical data show that increasing girls' education correlates with economic growth, increased agricultural yields and greater labor productivity. Educated mothers are more likely to ensure their babies are vaccinated and receive proper nutrition, and they tend to have smaller, healthier and better educated families. Children of educated mothers are more likely to attend school themselves.

The payoffs are considerable.

Providing girls one extra year of primary school education can increase future wages by 10 to 20 percent, and an extra year of secondary school increases future wages by 15 to 25 percent. Secondary school also offers a valuable opportunity for girls to learn healthy behaviors. In some countries, for example, AIDS spreads twice as fast among uneducated girls. In places where child marriage is an accepted norm, providing parents a tangible incentive to keep their daughters in school is often the best means to prevent this harmful practice. The evidence is clear: When women and girls are educated, all of society benefits.

It is estimated that 31 of the 196 countries in the world are at risk of not achieving gender parity in primary-school enrollment rates by the 2015 MDG deadline. With fewer than five years left to meet both the MDG and the similar World Education Forum's Education for All goal, the global community must step up efforts to address the barriers that keep far too many girls illiterate and out of school.

...continued on page 4

The American Center
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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

H O L I D A Y S

March 8 : Holi

AMERICANCENTER
Mumbai

Online Photography Contest

Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures

to honor International Women's Day and National Women's Month.

Start date:
March 1
End date:
March 31

Photos need to be the original work of the contestants, and to be shot in India within past five years.

The contest is open to Indian nationals residing in the five states of the consular district: Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra.

For complete rules and details on how to enter, visit www.facebook.com/amcenter/events

Send us your photos at
MumbaiPublicAffairs@state.gov

For more details please log on to

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...continued from page 2

The United States is focusing on initiatives to "incentivize" girls' education — to give parents tangible rewards, such as a bag of flour or a can of oil, for sending their daughters to school. In too many places, parents see no reason to educate a girl. A daughter is often viewed as a burden, relegated to performing arduous household chores and even forced into child marriage. We are stepping up efforts for programs that increase girls' enrollment in and completion of primary, secondary and tertiary education with funding for direct educational resources, such as books, uniforms and school fees, which are common barriers to enrollment. Our investments also cover indirect costs of schooling through scholarships, stipends and school health and nutrition programs. Furthermore, we place an emphasis on capacity building for schools, teachers, civil society and communities to enhance the quality of education and the positive results.

Through our engagement with local leaders and communities, we are helping to raise awareness of the benefits of keeping girls in school and cultivating wider grassroots acceptance of girls' education. From improving school learning environments and supporting teacher training in Afghanistan to targeting girls at risk for HIV/AIDS in Zambia, the United States is working on multiple fronts to ensure that the education of women and girls is an integral part of our engagement with the global community and our 21st century agenda. As Secretary of State Clinton has said, investing in women and girls is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.

Melanne Verveer is the State Department Ambassador-at-Large for global women's issues.

A WORD FROM THE CENTER

Greetings from Bandra Kurla. March marks Women's History Month each year. The theme for 2012 is "Women's Education – Women's Empowerment." One of our main priorities at the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai is explaining and facilitating higher education in the United States for Indian students. We accomplish this goal through providing information and education resources, and through processing thousands of student visas each year. The United States is an excellent place for Indian women (and men!) to study.

The history of women's education in the United States starts in the 19th Century. Traditionally, colleges and universities admitted only men. Harvard University is the oldest chartered college in the United States, and was founded in 1636. For most of its history, Harvard was a male-only educational institution. In 1879 Harvard opened an annex institution, Radcliffe, specifically for women. In the 1940s Harvard admitted women to its graduate programs. In 1973 Harvard College began admitting women.

The first U.S. college to admit women was Oberlin, founded in 1833 it awarded its first degree to a woman in 1841. Coeducation was not the norm, and so all-women's colleges evolved in the 19th century to promote female education. The most highly regarded women's colleges are known as the Seven Sisters: Barnard College, Bryn Mawr College, Mount Holyoke College, Radcliffe College, Smith College, Vassar College, and Wellesley College. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton attended Wellesley. As women began to receive far wider opportunities to attend coeducational institutions in the late 1960s and 1970s, women's colleges began to decline – either shutting down or changing their admissions policies to admit men as well. Vassar has been co-educational since 1969, and Radcliffe formally merged with Harvard in 1999.

Young women and men considering study options in the United States are encouraged to conduct extensive research on the various education institutions that exist in the United States. Today there are many excellent all-women colleges and coeducational options for Indian women seeking to study in the United States. Which college or university may be best for a specific person can only be determined through individual research, considering the totality of all factors – focus of study, geographic preference, financial considerations, and other elements.

This research can be started at the American Library in Mumbai, the American Corner in Ahmedabad, and at any United States–India Educational Foundation office. USIEF offers individualized consultations and guidance to its members. USIEF is a non-profit entity, and the only U.S. Government supported and recommended higher-education consultancy service provider in India.

We look forward to your visit to an American Library in person, or to having you visit us on https://www.facebook.com/amcentermumbai for more links and stories relevant to women's history month. We hope to see you soon!

Kapil Gupta
Information Officer

MUMBAI MONDAYS

AMERICAN WOMEN IN THE ARTS

BY: ERIN GORDON

From the walls of museums to movie screens and theater stages,American women have helped shape the art and the culture of America. Women make significant contributions to cinema,art, music,literature,and comedy in America. Discover how women have changed cinema on screen and behind the camera, how an undergraduate student designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and altered ideas on monuments and memorials, and how women have left their mark on all forms of art and entertainment in America.

Erin Gordon is currently serving as a Consular Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai. This is her first tour with the State Department. She earned her BA in International Relations from Connecticut College and a Master of Science in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh. She spent a year building houses with the Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity as an AmeriCorps Member. Prior to joining the Foreign Service she worked for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

MARCH 19 2012 AT 6 P.M.

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

Venue:

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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NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

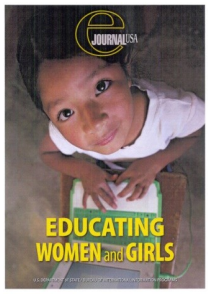
The American Library introduces its "Young Adult Collection." Geared toward youth between the ages of 11-16, these books bring the best of American fiction to Indian teens.

Youth under 16 are welcome to visit the library with their parent(s).

Check out some of the recently added titles by clicking on the link.— Young Adult Collection

March is Women's History Month! The American Library has tons of resources available to help you commemorate women's contribution to society.

Publications – a select list



eJournal USA: Educating Women and Girls, June 2011

This issue of *eJournal USA* explores how international organizations, state governments, the private sector and individuals — in many different countries — are promoting education for women and girls and are improving people's lives.

***United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security*, December 2011**

The goal of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security is to empower half the world's population as equal partners in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence, and insecurity.

U.S. Supported Women's Initiatives – a select list

***U.S. Department of State: Office of Global Women's Issues* - Click Here**

The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues is committed to advancing the rights of women and girls as a central focus of U.S. diplomatic, development and defense interests.

***Vital Voices* - Click Here**

Vital Voices, a nonprofit, non-governmental organization, founded 13 years ago by the then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. This organization identifies, trains and empowers emerging women leaders and social entrepreneurs around the globe, enabling them to create a better world.

Alumni Mentor/Mentee Workshop

With the support of the U.S. Embassy in Delhi and State Alumni through an alumni grant, the American Center of the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, sponsored an Alumni Mentor/Mentee Workshop on February 23 and 24, 2012, to facilitate USG exchange program alumni outreach, networking amongst alumni, and professional development. The purpose of the workshop was to establish a formal mentorship program by helping young leaders leverage the leadership and expertise of the more senior established alumni community. The alumni hailed from all parts of Western India and ran the gamut of exchange programs including the IVLP, YES, CCI, and SUSI. The two-day workshop lay the foundation for a successful mentorship relationship.

Call 022-26724231/ 4024 or email libref@state.gov for more information on membership at the American Library

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 Screenings

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

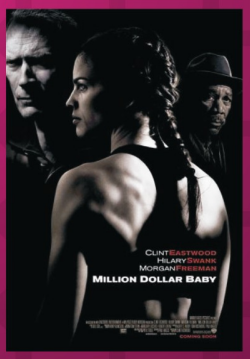
Film Screening will start at 2:30 p.m.

March 03

Julie & Julia

(2009) (123min)

A culinary legend provides a frustrated office worker with a new recipe for life in Julie & Julia, the true stories of how Julia Child's (Meryl Streep) life and cookbook inspired fledgling writer Julie Powell (Amy Adams) to whip up 524 recipes in 365 days and introduce a new generation to the magic of French cooking. Stanley Tucci (The Devil Wears Prada) co-stars in director Nora Ephron's delicious comedy about joy, obsession and butter. Bon appétit!



March 10

Million Dollar Baby

(2005) (132 min)

"I DON'T TRAIN GIRLS", trainer Frankie Dunn growls. But something's different about the spirited boxing hopeful who shows up daily at Dunn's gym. All she wants is a fighting chance. Clint Eastwood plays Dunn and directs, produces and composes music for this acclaimed, multi-award-winning tale of heart, hope and family. Hilary Swank plays resilient Maggie, determined not to abandon her one dream. And Morgan Freeman is Scrap, gym caretaker and counterpoint to Dunn's crustiness.

March 17

Juno

(2007) (96 min)

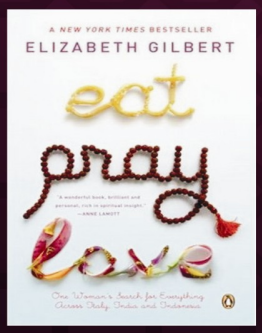
Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) is a cool, confident teenager who takes a nine-month detour into adulthood when she's faced with an unplanned pregnancy-and sets out to find the perfect parents for her baby. With the help of her charmingly unassuming boyfriend (Michael Cera), supportive dad (J.K Simmons) and no-nonsense stepmom (Allison Janney), Juno sets her sights on an affluent couple (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman) longing to adopt their first child.

March 24

The Devil Wears Prada

(2006) (109 min)

Based on the hilarious best-selling novel, this sinfully funny movie starring Academy Award winner Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway is "sensationally entertaining in every way" (maxim). As assistant to impossibly demanding New York fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep), young Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway) has landed a job that "a million girls would die for." Unfortunately, her heaven-sent appointment as Miranda's personal whipping girl just might be the death of her!



March 31

Eat Pray Love

(2010) (133 min)

Liz Gilbert (Julia Roberts) is a modern woman on a quest to marvel at and travel the world while rediscovering and reconnecting with her true inner self in Eat Pray Love. At a crossroads after a divorce, Gilbert takes a year-long sabbatical from her job and steps uncharacteristically out of her comfort zone, risking everything to change her life. In her wondrous and exotic travels, she experiences the simple pleasure of nourishment by eating in Italy; the power of prayer in India, and, finally and unexpectedly, the inner peace and balance of love in Bali. Based on an inspiring true story, Eat Pray Love proves that there really is more than one way to let yourself go and see the world.

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 Tel: 91-22-2672 4000

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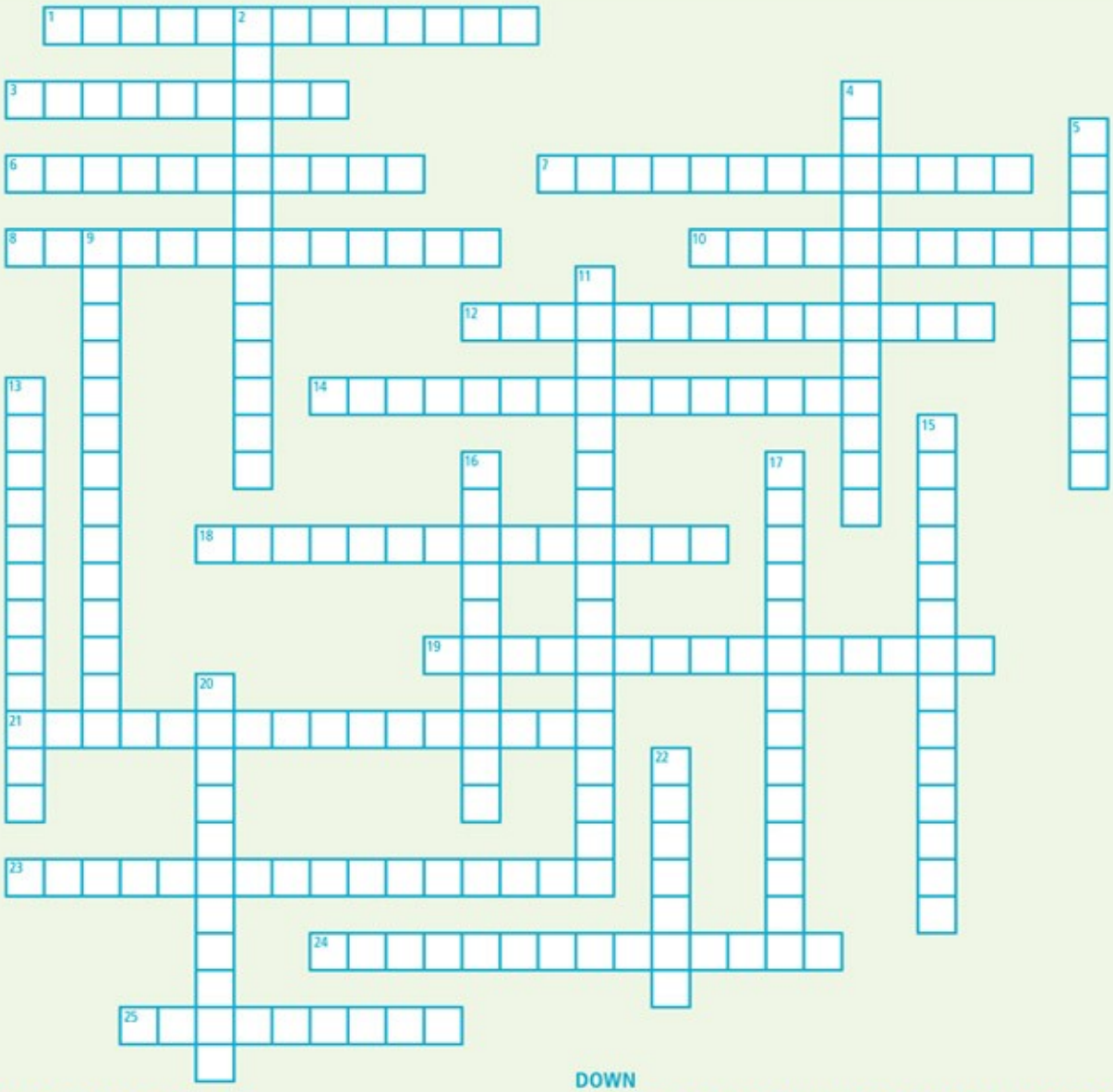
Women's History Month Crossword: Notable Women

Test your knowledge of women's history by identifying the notable women in this crossword puzzle. (You can use an encyclopedia to help find the answers.)



ACROSS

1. Founder of the Christian Science movement
3. First Asian-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress
6. Credited with founding the American Red Cross
7. Prominent civil rights activist; arrested in 1872 for trying to vote in the U.S. presidential election
8. First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean
10. First female speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
12. Jazz singer; first African-American woman to win a Grammy
14. First African-American female U.S. secretary of state
18. Former first lady who became a U.S. senator
19. First African-American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives
21. First female U.S. Supreme Court justice
23. Humanitarian and first lady; chaired the committee that drafted and approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
24. First woman principal chief of the Cherokee nation
25. First female American astronaut to go into outer space

DOWN

2. First American woman to serve on the International Olympic Committee
4. Wrote *The Feminine Mystique*; credited with starting the modern women's rights movement
5. Brought French cooking techniques to American television
9. Notable 19th century poet from Amherst, Mass.
11. First female U.S. secretary of state
13. First African-American to be awarded the Nobel Prize in literature
15. Civil rights leader; credited with saying "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired"
16. Notable French fashion designer; created the "little black dress"
17. Artist best known for her paintings of flowers, animal bones, and landscapes
20. Studied chimpanzees in Africa for most of her professional career
22. Architect who designed the Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Memorial

ACROSS

1. MARY BAKER EDDY
3. PATSY MINK
6. CLARA BARTON
7. SUSAN B. ANTHONY
8. AMELIA EARHART
10. NANCY PELOSI
12. ELLA FITZGERALD
14. CONDOLEEZZA RICE
18. HILLARY CLINTON
19. SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
21. SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR
23. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
24. WILMA MANKILLER
25. SALLY RIDE

DOWN

2. ANITA DERFANTZ
4. BETTY FRIEDAN
5. JULIA CHILD
9. EMILY DICKINSON
11. MADELEINE ALBRIGHT
13. TONI MORRISON
15. FANNIE LOU HAMER
16. COCO CHANEL
17. GEORGIA O'KEEFFE
20. JANE GOODALL
22. MAYA LIN