



AMERICAN CENTER NEWSLETTER

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American Center

Colombo

April 2011

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'Justice Everywhere' Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Exhibition 2011 Draws Large Youth Participation.



Students from Kandy schools view the exhibition at the University of Peradeniya

The Embassy and its partners launched this year's "Justice Everywhere" Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative exhibition in Matara in January. Subsequent programs held in Horana, Bandaragama, Padukka, Peradeniya, Kelaniya and Mihintale in January and March, attracting in total over 13,000 participants.

In Matara, during opening remarks, Ms. Niambi Young,

Cultural Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy provided insight into the achievements of the civil rights movement in the U.S. and Dr. King's life. At each venue, the exhibition included an interfaith dialogue with religious leaders representing Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. The speakers included prominent religious leaders and civil society leaders who spoke on peace and non-violence from their religious perspective. These discussions ended with interactive Q&A session. *Communities without Boundaries International*, a U.S. organization conducted non-violence workshops with the support of the National Peace Council.

Upcoming & Current Events



"Her Winds and Her Waters"

Exhibition of paintings by Sujatha Wanamali

The American Center in Colombo is currently holding an art exhibition

featuring the work of Sujatha Wanamali.

The Exhibition runs until the April 30, 2011.

Entrance is free!

April 11, 2011:

Award ceremony for the winners of Eisenhower Essay Competition.

April 23, 2011:

Readers Are Leaders Club

At 2:30 pm William Linsenmeyer will read from *James*

and the *Giant Peach* to members of the *Readers Are Leaders* club at the American Center Auditorium.

April 25-26, 2011:

Paige Jackins, English Language Fellow will conduct a training workshop for English teachers at the University of Oluvil.

April 19, 2011:

Sameera Kalupahana and Sujatha Wanamali will conduct an art workshop at Clarendon Girls' Home in Mt. Lavinia.

Continued on page 9

Regional English Language Officer visits Sri Lanka



Fife MacDuff, (Front row third from right), Puttlam ACCESS Center students, Embassy officials and teachers.

The American Center welcomed Fife MacDuff to Colombo in February. Fife is a Regional English Language Officer in the State Department and oversees English language programs in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

During his stay, he conducted a number of workshops and visited ACCESS classrooms, a program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Colombo to provide two years of English language instruction to low-income youth. Fife first visited the ACCESS program in Puttlam and later conducted a workshop to thirty secondary-level English teachers in Puttlam. During the workshop, Niambi Young, the U.S. Embassy's Cultural Affairs Officer, presented Ms Fatima Riskiya a certificate of for her participation in the online seminar on "Teaching English to Teenagers," a course conducted by the University of Maryland and funded by the Department of State. Fife also gave presentations to academic staff at Wayamba University and Sabaragamuwa University and visited a school in Belihuloya.

American Center Conducts English-teaching Workshops

The American Center together with Royal College in Colombo organized a two-day workshop conducted by Paige Jackins. Paige is spending one year in Sri Lanka at Wayamba University as an English Language Fellow, a program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy that brings American professors of English Language teaching to Sri Lanka universities. Thirty-five teachers from seven schools in Colombo participated in the workshop. These two days of workshops were also an opportunity for the teachers to make new connections with other

teachers from different schools in their educational zone.



Workshop conducted by Paige Jackins for teachers in Colombo

"Her Winds and Her Waters"

The American Center in Colombo is currently holding an art exhibition that features 38 paintings from Sujatha Wanamali.



Sujatha explaining her paintings to Hon. Minister Jeewan Kumarathunga

The exhibit marks Women's History Month, which is celebrated each year in the U.S. during the month of March. Each of the pieces relate to women, highlighting the simplicity and complexity of a life of a woman and depicting the role of a woman in the family, workplace, religion, environment and community.

Hon. Minister Jeewan Kumaranathunga and Valerie Fowler, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, opened the exhibit on March 31. Thirty five girls from the Clarendon Girls' Orphanage joined art enthusiasts, friends and relatives of the artists at the opening.

The exhibition runs until April 30, 2011.

Entrance is free!

Information Officer Educates Sri Lankan Library Professionals on Emerging Technologies



Linda talks to library professionals at the American Center Auditorium

Mrs. Linda Parker, the State Department's Information Resource Officer (IRO) responsible for Bangladesh, India, Nepal

and Sri Lanka, made her inaugural visit to Sri Lanka in February.

As IRO, Linda is responsible for activities at the American Center libraries in Colombo and Male' and

at the American Corners in Kandy, Oluvil and Jaffna. During her visit, she conducted presentations for library professionals in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna. She also led a discussion at the American Center in Colombo Sri Lankan for librarians and students entitled, "How can libraries use emerging technologies: new trends for Libraries." Linda then traveled to the Embassy's American Corners in Kandy and Jaffna where she conducted several public lectures. During her visit, she introduced the *Virtual Library*, a resource available at the American Centers and Corners that provides access to over 20,000 books, 5000 journals, 250 databases, and numerous encyclopedias.

Ambassador Butenis Felicitates "Learn About America" Essay Winners



A winner receives her certificate from U.S. Ambassador Patricia Butenis

The winners of the "Learn About America" Essay Competition held in July, August and September 2010 in the Junior Observer and conducted by the American Center received their awards on March 14, 2011, at the American Center in Colombo.

The winners under 3 age categories: 12-14, 15-16 and 17-18

years were awarded at this event. Sina Jones, Outreach Officer made the introductory remarks. Ambassador Patricia Butenis congratulated the winners and graced the occasion as the chief guest, made the welcome speech and presented the awards to the winners.

Since January 2009 this essay competition has been published in the Junior Observer section of the Sunday Observer in order to encourage young Sri Lankan writers to research America, its culture, people and values and share their thoughts with the Embassy.

The winners, together with their parents, family members, some school principals, were present at this event. Winners will be highlighted in an upcoming issue of the Junior Observer.

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<http://twitter.com/USEmbassySLanka>



www.youtube.com/USEmbassySrilanka

Cultural Affairs Officer of the Embassy visits Jaffna



Niambi talks to students in Jaffna

Niambi Young, Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy, participated in several events in Jaffna at the end of February to mark Black

History Month--an occasion to honor the contributions of African American in U.S. history, culture, business and society.

History Month--an occasion to honor the contributions of African American in U.S. history, culture, business and society.

Niambi visited six leading schools in Jaffna and spoke to hundreds of students about Black History Month. O'Level and A'Level students learned about great leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and about the civil rights movement. The students

participated in a lively discussion with Ms. Young at the end of the lecture. Niambi also visited the University of Jaffna and led a discussion on art for intercultural exchange with students from Drama and Theater and History of Art and Esthetic Studies. At the Jaffna American Corner, Niambi hosted a dialogue with young artists and drama groups on cultural exchange and led a screening and discussion of the film "A Force more Powerful."

The newly opened Jaffna American Corner is located at the Jaffna Social Action Center at 159, 4th Cross Street. The Corner includes books, magazines and other material about the United States as well as free internet access. The Corner regularly organizes public events including film screenings and discussions.

Storytelling program at the American Center

February 26, 2011: Mr. Bernard Gresham and Mr. Will Martin, both employees of the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, read the the book "Ruby Bridges" by Robert Coles to members of the Readers are Leaders children's book club of the American Center.

In addition to storytelling, Mr. Gresham and Mr. Martin shared similarities and differences of their own school lives with the experiences of the characters in the book.

After the reading, participants watched a film rendition of the book.

The reading club meets every fourth Saturday of the month at 2.30 p.m. at the American Center.



Bernard and Will pose with the children attended

The club helps children improve their understanding of the English language, develop oral communication skills, and increase their confidence to critically analyze content. For more information, please contact the American Center Library at amcentersl@state.gov



World Press Freedom Day May 2-3, 2011

Save the Date! CO.NX will bring you live events before, during and after World Press Freedom Day. Stay tuned for more details - this is an event you won't want to miss!

CO.NX is a global outreach team that works with the Bureau of International Information Programs at the U.S. Department of State. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/CoNx/26365096875>

Women in Leadership Seminars and Workshops



Left to right: Marjorie Clifton, Principal of Clifton Consulting LLC, Valerie Fowler Deputy Chief of Mission - US Embassy, Rezani Aziz, President, US -SL IV Alumni Association, Ms Susannah Shakow, President - Running Start, Niambi Young, Cultural Affairs Officer - US Embassy Colombo

The U.S. - Sri Lanka International Visitor Leadership Program Alumni Association and the U.S. Embassy in Colombo recently organized two workshops in Colombo for female undergraduates and women in middle

management.

Two specialists on leadership from the U.S., Ms. Susannah Shakow and Ms. Marjorie Clifton, led the workshop. Ms. Janaki Kuruppu, Mr. Dian Gomes and other alumni of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) participated in panel discussions.

The alumni association also organized a program for Colombo-based university students to encourage female representation in the private and public sectors. Presentation Skills, Personality Development, Body Language/Role Playing etc. were among the topics discussed.



Supreme Court Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane and prominent entrepreneur Ms. Linda Speldewinde, both alumna of the IVLP, led discussions. Ms. Valerie Fowler, the

Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, delivered the opening remarks at the program for university students.

The IVLP is an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government that sends professionals, civil servants and government officials to three-week study programs in the U.S.



Portraits of Sri Lanka's regional identity in sound and pictures

36 portraits of Sri Lankan elders

<http://iam.lk>

This project is funded by the U.S. Embassy in Colombo.

More photographs from 'Justice Everywhere' Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Exhibition



University students participating in the non-violence workshop at Sri Palee Campus - Horana.



Ambassador Butenis in discussion with Mr Nihal Padmasiri, the Principal of the Padukka Siri Piyaratne National School



Interfaith panel discussion at University of Peradeniya attended by university students.



Participants at the MLK program in Peradeniya



Niambi Young Cultural Affairs Officer of U.S. Embassy giving the opening remarks



Participants at the nonviolence workshop in Padukka



Students attending MLK exhibition in Matara



Participants comments on MLK Banner

USAID Awards Scholarships to Students of the 2011 Journalism Diploma Program

March 15, 2011: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the development arm of the U.S. government, has awarded journalism scholarships to 20 young Sri Lankan men and women. The recipients will attend the 2011 Journalism Diploma Program at the Sri Lanka College of Journalism (SLCJ) in Colombo. This is the third consecutive year USAID has awarded scholarships for the SLCJ program.

The scholarships provide tuition and a monthly stipend. During the 12-month program, scholarship recipients choose from Tamil, Sinhala and English course streams focusing on print, television or radio. In their final quarter, the students complete internships working alongside media professionals and practicing their skills.

The SLCJ is the educational arm of the Sri Lanka Press Institute. Since 2004, the program has

produced about 60 graduates per year with a 97% job placement rate in print and electronic media. With the aim of improving and increasing reporting from the regions, through the scholarship program, USAID hopes to provide opportunities for students from the provinces and increase the presence of regional reporters in the press corps. All scholarship recipients sign a commitment letter to seek work as journalists in their home province after completing the program.

Ms. Ramanathan Sujitha, a scholarship recipient from Mannar said, "The course not only gives us an understanding of the field of journalism but also teaches us media ethics and law, and language training. I'm grateful for having received this scholarship from USAID because many of us cannot afford the high expenses incurred while living and studying in Colombo. The scholarship eases these burdens so that we can focus on our work."



Fifty Years of USAID

By Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID

I remember the first time I ever heard about USAID. I was a young child travelling to Bombay -- now Mumbai -- to see my relatives. Before returning home, my uncle insisted that I travel with him to one of the slums near his family's home.

I was shocked by what I saw. There were pits of open sewage, and children were running through garbage and waste. It was clear that none of those kids went to school. The children were about my own age, but they looked thinner and smaller and more frail than I was. We were the same age and the same race, but the lottery of life guaranteed that we would have very different futures.

As we were leaving the slum, I saw a billboard describing a local water treatment system that the city was putting in place with the support of the U.S. government. Right in the middle of this billboard was a logo depicting a handshake; it was

the logo of USAID.

In recent years, we've added a tagline that represents that handshake: from the American people. But in my time now at USAID, I've come to learn that our assistance is not just from the American people. It's also for the American people. Our assistance develops new markets for American goods, keeps our country safe by preventing and scaling back conflict, and expresses our nation's collective values.

For fifty years, USAID's assistance has developed new markets for American goods, kept our country safe preventing violence and scaling back conflict and expressed our nation's collective values in response to crises like last year's Haiti earthquake. I'm proud of this Agency's legacy and eager to bring a renewed spirit of innovation and strategic thinking to our development portfolio.

Source: DipNote, U.S. Department of State Official Blog

You can learn more about USAID's history and future programs at: <http://50.usaid.gov>

Fulbright Awards for 2012-13

Fulbright Master's Student Awards for 2012-'13

The US-SLFC invites applications from qualified candidates for the Fulbright Student Program for the academic year 2012 – 2013 in the following disciplines;

- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Physical Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Architecture and Engineering
- Commerce and Management Studies.

The awards are intended to assist a limited number of scholars, selected for their academic excellence, to do their post-graduate (master's level only) study in American universities.

Graduates who have not had extensive prior exposure to the United States are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility:

- Be a Sri Lankan citizen
- Possess a 4-year bachelor's from a Sri Lankan university. Those with degrees from non-Sri Lankan universities are welcome to apply provided they possess an equivalent of a 4-year Sri Lankan degree. Applicants with 3-year degrees from Sri Lanka and India are required to possess a relevant post-graduate qualification (for example, a post-graduate diploma in a relevant subject).
- Be committed to reside in Sri Lanka on completion of the award for a minimum of 2 years

- Possess at a minimum, 1 year of post-qualifying experience in the proposed field of study
- Be below the age of 35 years on the 1st of October, 2011

Deadline: 1st of July 2011

Fulbright Advanced Research and Lecturing Awards 2012-'13

The US-SLFC invites applications from Sri Lankan scholars who wish to pursue postdoctoral research and/or lecturing at a U.S. university or research institution.

Eligibility:

- Be a Sri Lankan citizen
- Possess a PhD from a recognised university
- Demonstrate a clear rationale for conducting the proposed research in the U.S.
- While applicants from all disciplines will be considered, preference will be given to candidates in the fields of humanities and social sciences
- Age: The age limit in force hitherto is waived. However, all things being equal, an applicant who is near retirement would not be as strong as one who is several years away.
- Possess a letter of invitation from a host institution in the U.S. (guidelines below).

Deadline: 1st of October 2011

Fulbright Professional Scholar Awards for 2012-13

The US-SL Fulbright Commission invites applications from Sri

Lankan professionals in the humanities, fine/performing arts such as music, theatre, writing, painting, design, photography, and, sports, journalism, law, sciences, paramedical services and business. They provide grantees an opportunity to gain exposure (through a project developed by the grantee) to the latest advancements in their respective fields of work in the U.S.

The awards aim to provide an opportunity to collaborate with U.S. counterparts, forge links between local and U.S. professionals,, build lasting ties through their collaborations and share the experience and learning gained in the U.S. with local counterparts.

Eligibility:

- Be a Sri Lankan citizen
- Demonstrate aptitude and accomplishment in the field thorough professional involvement, awards received, achievements or output
- Have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the area.
- Demonstrate commitment to developing this field in Sri Lanka and sharing knowledge with counterparts and the public in Sri Lanka.
- Possess a letter of invitation from a host institution in the U.S. (guidelines below).

Deadline: 1st of October 2011

For more details on above notice visit: www.fulbrightsrilanka.com or contact :

United States – Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission,
No.22, Flower Terrace (off Flower Road), Colombo 7
Tel: 011 2564176 Email : inquiries@fulbrightsrilanka.com

Monthly Photography Competition



U.S. Embassy, Colombo conducts a monthly photography competitions for school children between 12-18 years of age. Winning entries will show creativity, skill, and an ability to select a subject based on the monthly theme. Both

electronic and hard copies of photographs will be accepted. First, second and third place awards will be given in the following age categories:

- 12-14 years
- 15-16 years and
- 17-18 years

Photography Competition – April 2011

Submit photographs on the theme “Water for Life” for April 2011 photography contest. Along with the photograph, entries must include a brief explanation of the subject and why it was selected. Please send your photograph along with the coupon given here with your details certified by your school principal or the class teacher to the below address.

April 2011 photography Competition
American Center
44, Galle Road
Colombo 03

You may send your photograph electronically to the email address amcentersl@state.gov included in the e-mail your Name, Age, Contact Details, School and Name of the School Principal.

Our panel of judges will assess all entries and then select first, second and third place photographs under each age category. All three winners will receive a collection of American literature, a life time membership of the American Center Library and a certificate signed by the U. S. Ambassador. Winners will be invited to attend an award ceremony at the American Center in Colombo.

Rules and Conditions

1. Submitted electronic images must be no larger than 1024 pixels width & 720 pixels in height and are not to exceed 500kb in size.
2. Photographs can be either black and white or color.
3. If sending printed photographs, the size should be at least 4”x 6”.
4. All entries must be submitted on or before May 31, 2011.
5. You may only enter a maximum of 3 photographs into each competition.
6. Please do not post any photographs that are obscene, discriminatory, or which otherwise violate any local or international laws.
7. The photographer must be the sole author and owner of the copyright of photos entered in to the competition.
8. By entering this contest the photographer agrees that any winning photograph you submit may be used by the American Center/U.S. Embassy Colombo solely for the purposes of this competition or future contests and no other purpose, these uses include; displaying the entries in the American Center lobby, on the official website, Facebook and cropping and re-sizing the image as necessary to fit pre-defined formats for the competition.

Upcoming & Current Events

April 26, 2011:

To mark World Intellectual Property Day, Dr. D. M. Karunaratne, Director General, National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka will be delivered a public lecture titled “The economic aspects of intellectual property rights” at 4:30 p.m. @ the American Center.

Contact, Tel: 2498169/2498146 or Email: amcentersl@state.gov for more details.

Entrance is free!!

April 2011

April 9 - **Robots** (2005, 89 minutes)

Robots is a 2005 American computer-animated comedy film produced by Blue Sky Studios for 20th Century Fox, and was released theatrically on March 11, 2005. The story was created by Chris Wedge and Bill Joyce, a children's book author/illustrator. The two were trying to create a film version of Joyce's book Santa Calls but instead they came up with a movie about robots. Joyce served as producer and production designer for the film.

April 16 - **The Road to El Dorado** (2000, 89 minutes)

The Road to El Dorado is a 2000 American animated adventure comedy film by DreamWorks Pictures. The soundtrack features songs by Elton John and Tim Rice, the music team from Disney's The Lion King.

April 23 - **James and Giant Peach** (1996, 76 minutes)

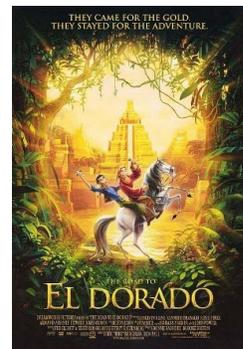
James and the Giant Peach is a 1996 musical fantasy film directed by Henry Selick, based on the 1961 novel of the same name by Roald Dahl. It was produced by Tim Burton and Denise Di Novi. The film is a combination of live action and stop-motion animation.

April 30 - **Despicable Me** (2010, 95 minutes)

Despicable Me is a 2010 American computer-animated 3D comedy film from Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment that was released on July 9, 2010 in the United States. The film stars Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand, Julie Andrews, Will Arnett, Kristen Wiig, and Miranda Cosgrove. It is the first CGI feature produced by Universal, in association with its Illumination Entertainment division. It was entirely animated in the French studio Mac Guff in Paris, France.

Reviews were drawn from www.wikipedia.org

Movies start promptly at 3:30pm every Saturday. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served. Please contact the American Center at amcentersl@state.gov or at (11) 249-8146 with any questions.



American Center
Presents
Free screening
of the movie

BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the scenes is the first feature film produced by The Unlimited Entertainment. It is the culmination of the experiences gained by a team of after/AL students from Royal College, not only through making of short films, filming of school events and theatre productions, but also through the premature exposure to the hardships and realities in their zealous voyage towards making their own film.



Monday, April 25, 2011
@ the
American Center
2.30 p.m for Children
5.00 p.m for Adults



American Center
#44, Galle Road
Colombo 3

Tel: 2498500
E-mail: amcentersl@state.gov

Directed by Lakpathy Wijesekara

Lakpathy Wijesekara, born in Piliyandala, had a keen interest in performing arts since childhood. He developed his interest to the camera through his participation in the children's play "Sellam Gedara" and "Kopi Kade" of the Independence Television Network. He produced his first short film when he was in grade six. He has produced many short films which have won a number of national and international awards. He was a pioneer in establishing a culture of short films in school level in Sri Lanka. He directed a stage drama "Kalathra Yathra" during his O/L class which was his first major direction on stage, for which he won the award for best direction of the year.

RSVP: 2498146, 2498169, 2498128
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Martin Luther

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NONVIOLENCE & PEACE BUILDING

ADVANCED TRAINING

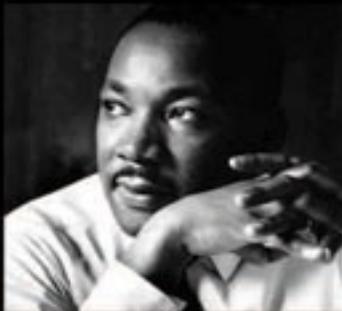
Come join your friends and peers!

When: May 26 to June 1, 2011

Where: Colombo

All facilities including food and lodging are free and space is limited.

Apply now!



Requirements:

- Applicants must have participated in the introductory nonviolence workshops conducted at any of the following universities during the MLK exhibition:
- 2010: South Eastern University, Eastern University, University of Jaffna
- 2011: Sri Palee Campus – Horana, University of Peradeniya, University of Kelaniya, University of Rajarata
- Applications must be submitted online at <http://cwbi.org/register-now/advanced-training> (applications are available in English, Sinhala and Tamil)
- **Applications to be submitted by April 18, 2011**



U.S. experts will lead this in-depth
ADVANCED TRAINING

for selected candidates. Training will include interactive sessions, role-play, and study of the theory and practice of conflict resolution. The training will be conducted in English with Sinhala and Tamil translations.



April 2011 - American Classics

April 12 - Rebel Without a Cause (2005, 111 minutes)

The three teens that this story revolves around are played powerfully by James Dean, Natalie Wood and Sal Mineo. It's not just about how the kids deal with the problems that life hands them but about the parents as well. Jim Stark(Dean) is the newcomer to the neighborhood. The family is always moving around seemingly due to Jim's inability to stay out of trouble. The parents(Jim Backus/Ann Doran) may be at the core of Jim's problems. There's a great scene at the police station, where the parents are arguing(as usual) over what's right for the boy and Jim sums up the whole event by crying out, as only James Dean could do.."You're tearing me apart".

April 19 - The Great Gatsby (1974, 144 minutes)

When Nick Carraway (Sam Waterston), a young businessman from the midwest, rents a cottage on Gatsby's estate, he soon finds out that Gatsby holds a torch for Nick's cousin, Daisy Buchanan (Mia Farrow), who lives across the bay in an equally huge mansion with her brutish husband Tom (Bruce Dern), a physically abusive philanderer who enjoys spouting Fascist rhetoric while waving around his polo mallet. When Daisy finds out Gatsby is nearby, a strained secret reunion takes place at Nick's cottage, but trouble soon follows. Can Gatsby turn his unrequited love into a successful second chance? Will Daisy want to leave her loveless but comfortable life with Tom? And how will the volatile Tom react to all this?

April 26 - An Affair to Remember (1957, 119 minutes)

In this poignant and humorous love story nominated for four Academy Awards, Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr meet on an ocean liner and fall deeply in love. Though each is engaged to someone else, they agree to meet six months later at the Empire State Building if they still feel the same way about each other. But a tragic accident prevents their rendezvous and the lover's future takes an emotional and uncertain turn.

Reviews drawn from MSN movies, All Movie Guide and Amazon

Movies start promptly at 6:00pm every Tuesday. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served. Please contact the American Center at amcentersl@state.gov or at (11) 249-8146 with any questions. Entrance free !

