



American Center Newsletter

★ ★ The ★ ★

American Center

Colombo

July 2009

American Center In Action

American Center celebrates World Environmental Day



Dr. Pilapitiya addresses the gathering

In celebration of World Environmental Day 2009, the American Center organized a presentation titled 'Sri Lanka's Urban Solid Waste-Management or Mismanagement?' on June 23rd.

Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya, Lead Environmental Specialist, South Asia Social, Environment and Water

Resources Unit & Country Sector Coordinator - Sustainable Development Program of the World Bank in Sri Lanka presented his perspectives and insight.

The lecture was well attended with 30 participants in Colombo, including key persons in the environmental sector, academics, politicians and members of the media who are interested in the environment.

Continued on page 5

Presentation and discussion on Carbon Finance hosted by the American Center



Mr. Mendis; visiting U.S. Speaker

On July 1, 2009, the American Center organized a presentation/discussion with visiting U.S. speaker Matthew Mendis, President of C-Quest Capital on 'Carbon Finance – an avenue for leveraging investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities'.

The program was attended by 75 participants comprising high-level government representatives including the Secretary to the Ministry of Science and Technology, senior officers from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power and Energy, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Continued on page 2

The American Center
Office of Public Diplomacy
US Embassy
44 Galle Road
Colombo 3
Sri Lanka

Telephone: 2498100

Telefax: 2498101

Email: amcentersl@state.gov

Web: sri.lanka.usembassy.gov

Upcoming Events

"Moments" photography exhibition by Daniel Ringold

June 22- July 24, 2009
American Center, Colombo

Daniel is from Minneapolis, Minnesota in the US. He has been working mainly in the field of English teaching and teacher training since 1993.



Daniel

Moments -- photography is an act of meditation of being truly present in the moment

and connecting with surrounding people and places in each present moment as it presents itself.

Continued on page 2

Presentation and discussion on Carbon Finance. . .



Participants including high level government officials



Mr. Anderson welcoming the participants

From page 1

The participants also included academics, key businessmen, bankers and NGOs. The welcoming address was by Jeffrey Anderson, PAO.

Matthew Mendis' presentation was very informative and he spoke on financial structures that could support the initial cost barriers associated with renewable energy, necessary conditions and options for carbon finance and gave examples of carbon finance leverage.

The participants were very interactive. ETV covered the event for their Lanka Business Online (LBO) program.

Upcoming events. . . .

From page 1

He is currently the Senior English Language Fellow working in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.



A Photograph taken by Daniel in 2009 in Galle, Sri Lanka

July 8, 2009:

Prof. Lal Perera, Director General, National Institute of Education will speak on "**Assessing School Performance**" at 5:30 p.m. at the American Center Auditorium.

Stuart Kerachsky, PhD., Acting Commissioner of

the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S.A., also will be linked via Digital Video Conference at the above event.

July 9, 2009:

Lecture on "**Pandemic Influenza - 2009 (Swine Flu)**" by Dr. (Mrs) Geethani

Wickremasinghe, Consultant Virologist, Department of Virology, MRI at 4 pm at the American Center Auditorium.

Introductory remarks will be delivered by Ms. Rena Brescia, Foreign Service Health Practitioner, U.S. Embassy Colombo.

July 20, 2009:

Screening of documentary film "**50 years of Exploration- The Golden Anniversary of NASA**" at 10:00 am at the American Center Auditorium.

American Corner Male' hosts presentation on Sustainable Development and Ecotourism in Maldives



Audience at the American Corner in Male'

On June 18, 2009, the American Corner Male' hosted a presentation/discussion with Mr. Michael

Seltzer, Senior

Counsel, Rabin Strategic Partners NY via DVC on 'Sustainable Development and Ecotourism in the Maldives' for 70 participants. Mr. Jeffrey Anderson, Director Press, Public and Educational Affairs introduced the speaker and participated from Colombo. Mrs. Zulfa Mohamed, Library Director National Library Maldives introduced the participants from various sectors including tourism, environment, NGO, media and education institutions/schools. Many representatives from prominent local environment NGOs -- Bluepeace and Eco Care participated.

In his very informative presentation, Mr. Seltzer emphasized the value of sustainable development contributing to long-term profitability in the tourism industry. There was a lively discussion after the presentation with both Mr. Seltzer and



Left: Mr. Jeffrey Anderson participated from Colombo
Right: Mr. Michael Seltzer spoke from New York

Mr. Anderson responding to the many questions that were raised on environmental protection actions taken globally. The

participants were very encouraged by the program and many commented that they look forward to more such awareness programs by the AC Male'. Local newspapers, Miadhu, Haveeru Aafathis and TV Maldives covered the DVC program. TV Maldives ran a news segment on the program in its prime time news bulletin.

The program helped popularize discussions held via DVC with an U.S. expert and it enabled interaction with the Maldivian audience on sustainable development and global environment issues. The discussion emphasized and promoted youth/student involvement in preservation of the environment for sustainable development of ecotourism. Youth interest in DVC programs was very encouraging from the feedback/program evaluation received soon after the event.

Screening of President Obama's speech to the Muslim World in Oluvil, Ampara



Audience at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

On June 25, 2009, the American Corner at South Eastern University screened the recorded speech of President Obama to the Muslim world

from Cairo as one of their monthly lecture

programs. The program was in collaboration with the Islamic Studies and Arabic Languages and the Political Science faculties of the South Eastern University of Oluvil. The Press section of the U.S. Embassy facilitated the translation of the speech transcript into Tamil for the benefit of the students. The screening was organized by M.M. Rifaudeen, American Corner Coordinator at the university auditorium and was attended by 40 participants. The President's speech was well received and praised by the audience comprising the Dean of the faculty, faculty members and undergraduates.

Continued on page 5

Architect Nela De Zoysa – Building the Future of Sri Lanka



Pre-eminent Sri Lankan architect Nela De Zoysa was born into a family of creative thinkers – and her interest in the arts reaches far from the drafting table. Though her father, Dr. Justin Samarasekera, an award winning architect and founding member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA), was

responsible for bringing architectural education to Sri Lanka, Nela was first drawn to her chosen field as a child painting sculpture and pottery at the Melbourne Art School under Cora Abraham. Of course the artistic atmosphere at home had quite an influence as well. Her mother played first violin for the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka, prompting a love of classical music that inspired Nela to become a mezzo soprano. Indeed, Nela believes her love of classical music, opera, theater, painting, sculpture and photography all share common elements with architecture.

Though she spent her childhood in Sri Lanka, as she neared university age, Nela's uncle Neville Kanakarathne, a distinguished diplomat and Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the US in Washington DC, inspired her to study in the United States. The 'non-conformist' feel of the U.S. had always fascinated her. Studying architecture in America introduced her to diverse opportunities and boosted her creative spirit in a manner that she feels no other country could have offered. Her uncle helped her to visit buildings and experience famed American architecture, which otherwise would have been inaccessible to a young student. She had the joy of experiencing first hand the works of such great architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies Van De Rohe, Eero Saarinen, I. M. Pei, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Marcel Breuer, all of whom she had read about in school.

She grew to admire many of these and other international architects, but it was a contemporary of her father's, Geoffrey Bawa, who became a good friend to the fledgling architect Nela. She still greatly admires him as a master of space, as well as his 'guru', Minnette De Silva,

Asia's first woman Sri Lankan architect. It is apt that she eventually went on to be the winner of the Commendation Award for her design of the Suzuki Maruti Complex on Bullers Road, at the first ever Geoffrey Bawa Awards for Excellence in Architecture 2008 and the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Design Award for 2009.

Nela feels that Sri Lankan architecture is deeply rooted in its culture, though in recent times the influence of Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial architecture have had an obvious effect. The mix of imported architecture, indigenous culture and climate have produced what is recognized as 'courtyard architecture,' building around courtyards to provide light and ventilation in Sri Lanka's hot and humid climate. This style is apparent in the works of Geoffrey Bawa and other Sri Lankan architects, and even in contemporary minimalism, a style Nela frequents. Similarly the use of strong color is a feature of Sri Lankan style.

On May 1st, 2009, Nela became the first woman from the SAARC region, and only the second Sri Lankan (Geoffrey Bawa was the first), to be awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the prestigious American Institute of Architects (AIA) for her outstanding contribution to the profession of Architecture. Nela remembers the elegant ceremony at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, California as the greatest day of her life. Achieving such success in an overwhelmingly male profession has been an uphill struggle, but Nela views "obstacles" as "challenges" to be met and overcome. In his citation for the great honor, the Vice Chancellor of the AIA described Nela as "a role model for young professionals. She is selfless and a dedicated leader, who serves as an Ambassador for Sri Lanka and its architectural profession." Showered with flowers and gifts from friends and colleagues in the many international architectural organizations in which she has professional affiliation, Nela received the Fellows' lapel pin from the incumbent AIA president, followed by a formal black tie dinner for the over 200 distinguished attendees.

Continued on page 5

Architect Nela De Zoysa

From page 4



Nela's design for the Ministry of Ports & Aviation

Some of Nela's favorite recent projects have been her award winning design of the Suzuki Maruti Complex and her design for the Ministry of Ports & Aviation refurbishment of a listed British Colonial Building, known as the Gateway to Colombo. The slowing Sri Lankan economy has affected development projects in

the country and architects are crying for want of projects. Not to be undone by the shortfall, Nela has started projects throughout the

region. Currently she is designing a 17-storey complex of 250 apartments, in Kathmandu, Nepal and converting a colonial town house into a boutique gallery in Cochin, India, as well as additional commercial projects in India. Her yearly visits to the U.S., provide stimulus for her creative spirit which she translates into actual works.

Though large scale projects are few and far between in Sri Lanka, Nela is positive about the role she and young architects can play as the country recovers from conflict and builds a brighter future for all. As always, her motto remains, "every obstacle is an opportunity!"

Screening of President Obama's speech. . .

From page 3

This program was supported and encouraged by the newly appointed Vice Chancellor, Dr. S.M.M. Ismail.

Following the speech the audience discussed the significance of the speech. The entire audience agreed that the speech was unique and historical

and welcomed such favorable comments and approach to the Muslim world by an American president. The audience commented that they are hopeful of peace dawning in the Muslim and non Muslim world during the tenure of President Obama's term --- particularly in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan.

World Environmental Day. . . .

From page 1



Participants at Kandy American Corner

The discussion was linked via digital video conference (DVC) to the American Corner in Kandy, facilitated by

Mohamed Imthiyas, American Corner Coordinator and attended by university students, social service activists, librarians and the general public. The speaker's experience and insight on the issue was appreciated by the audience. The discussion was the fifth installment in the American Center's monthly forum that highlights current issues important to the US and Sri Lanka.

Our news, your views , visit:
<http://usembassycolombo.blogspot.com>

Free Group Advising for the Month of July

At US-SL Fulbright Commission Colombo:

Tuesday 7th, 2.45 pm

Orientation for undergraduate students.

For Prospective students for Bachelor's Degrees (Covers background information, entrance requirements, how to select universities and application process)

Monday 13th, 3 pm

Orientations for graduate students

For Prospective students for Post-graduate Degrees (Covers background information, entrance requirements, how to select universities opportunities for financial aid, and application process)

Monday 27th, 2.45 pm

Orientations for graduate students

For Prospective students for Post-graduate Degrees (Covers background information, entrance requirements, how to select universities opportunities for financial aid, and application process)

At the American Corner in Kandy:

July 10th and 11th

At the Mahinda College OBU:

July 23rd and 24th

Admission: Free. Please note that prior registration is necessary to attend the above.

How to succeed in a U.S. University

(A Pre-departure Orientation on living and studying in the U.S. for undergraduate and postgraduate students departing to U.S. universities this fall)

- How do you maintain your F1 visa status?
- How can you survive your first year in U.S. society?
- What will U.S. academic institutions expect from you as a student/graduate and how can you avoid plagiarism, meet deadlines, and get good grades?
- How do you submit assignments/conduct research?
- How do you open a bank account, driving license etc?
- Meet returning Sri Lankan students and

THE UNITED STATES-SRI LANKA FULBRIGHT COMMISSION

Presents

A Seminar on

THE U.S. STUDENT VISA (F1)

Guest Speaker

Consular Officer

American Embassy, Colombo

Wednesday July 22nd, 2009

From 3.00

(Signing-in begins at 2.45 p.m.)

At

US-SL FULBRIGHT COMMISSION AUDITORIUM
22, FLOWER TERRACE, COLOMBO 7

Charges: NONE

(Please register early, as accommodation is limited)

Contact

2564153/2564176 or
studentadvisingsl@gmail.com

learn about their experiences

Learn all this and more before you leave for the U.S. this Fall from U.S. Embassy Consular Officers, U.S. Academics, and U.S. students in Sri Lanka. Learn about their experiences and ask them all the questions you have about living and studying in the U.S.

Date: July 17th, 2009

Venue: Taj Samudra Hotel

Time: 1:30 – 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact:

The US-SL Fulbright Commission
22, Flower Terrace, Colombo 7
Tel: 471-8744, 2564176, 2564153
Web: www.fulbrightsrilanka.com

US-SLFC Awards for 2010 - 11

US-SLFC is pleased to announce the following awards for the academic year of 2010-11

Fulbright Student Awards:

The US-SLFC invites applications from qualified candidates for the Fulbright Student Programme for the academic year 2010 - 2011 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:

1. Be a Sri Lankan citizen
2. 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 degrees from India are required to possess a relevant post-graduate qualification.
3. Be committed to reside in Sri Lanka on completion of the award for a minimum of 2 years
4. Possess at a minimum, 1 year of post-qualifying experience in the proposed field of study
5. Be below the age of 35 years on the 1st of October, 2009

Duration of award: a maximum of 2 academic years

Deadline: 31st of July 2009

Interviews (of short listed candidates): August/September 2009.

*Preference is given to applicants in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Fulbright Advanced Research and University Lecturing Scholar Awards:

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:

1. Be a Sri Lankan citizen
2. Possess a PhD from a recognised university
3. Demonstrate a clear rationale for conducting the proposed research in the U.S.
4. While applicants from all disciplines will be considered, preference will be given to candidates in the fields of humanities and social sciences
5. 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.

Duration of award: 6 months

Deadline: 31st of July 2009

Interviews (short listed candidates): December 2009

Continued on page 8

US-SLFC Awards for 2010 - 11 From page 7**Professional Scholar Awards:**

The US-SLFC 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, 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 grantees an opportunity to collaborate with U.S. counterparts, forge links between local and U.S. professionals in the fields, build lasting ties between the two countries through their collaborations and share the experience and learning gained in the U.S. with local counterparts.

Eligibility:

1. Be a Sri Lankan citizen
2. Demonstrate aptitude and accomplishment in the field thorough professional involvement, awards received, achievements or output
3. Have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the area.
4. Demonstrate commitment to developing this field in Sri Lanka and sharing knowledge with counterparts and the public in Sri Lanka.

Duration of award: 3 months (minimum)

Application Process:

Application forms will be sent electronically to candidates. Please write to fulbright@isplanka.lk

Each applicant may not apply to more than one award category. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. All successful candidates will be required to reside in Sri Lanka for a minimum of 2 years on completion of the grant. Application instructions will be sent electronically. Please request application details (indicate clearly the award you wish to apply for) by writing to the following email address: fulbright@isplanka.lk with a copy to us-slfc@isplanka.lk

Applications and supporting documents need to be sent by Registered Post on or before the 31st of July 2009 to the following address (please indicate the name of the award on the top left corner of the envelope):

The US-SL Fulbright Commission (US-SLFC)
22 Flower Terrace (off Flower Road), Colombo 7

Tel: 011-471-8744

Email: fulbright@isplanka.lk

Web: www.fulbrightsrilanka.com



***U.S. Embassy Colombo
on Facebook***



<http://www.facebook.com/usembassycolombos/>

U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event

Americans celebrate July 4, 1776, adoption of Declaration of Independence



Fourth of July fireworks explode high over New York City. (© AP Images)

The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams, the holiday would be

"the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance. ... It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

The Fourth of July holiday is a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political freedom.

A Summer Holiday

Each year, crowds of visitors flock to the National Mall -- the grassy expanse between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument -- for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which always takes place on two weekends overlapping the Fourth of July holiday. The 2008 festival celebrates the culture of Bhutan, the music, food and wine of Texas and the history of NASA and the U.S. space program. (See "Bhutan, Others Come to Washington for Folklife Festival.")

Throughout the United States, Fourth of July fireworks displays are popular, from the spectacular exhibition on the National Mall to more modest fireworks shows in city parks across the land. In New York City, Macy's department store for 31 years has sponsored what it bills as the nation's largest July 4 fireworks display. In 2008, the 30-minute show will feature 35,000 shells launched from six barges afloat in the East River and in New York Harbor. Macy's estimates that more than 3 million will watch in person. The event has been televised nationally in recent years. "The Fourth" is a family celebration. Picnics and barbecues are common. July is summer in the

United States, and millions of Americans escape the heat at beaches and other vacation spots. Independence Day is not among the legal holidays fixed on a Monday or Friday, but many employees use vacation time to create an extended weekend.

Construction of important public works sometimes begins on July 4. The Erie Canal, Washington Monument and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (the nation's first) all broke ground on Independence Day. The date reflects a desire symbolically to stamp these projects as true civic improvements.

A Civic Occasion

The Fourth of July is a time when elected officials and other public figures often give speeches extolling American traditions and values. Independence Day has provided some of this nation's most stirring words of freedom. In 1788, Founding Father James Wilson addressed a Philadelphia gathering that was possibly the largest July 4 celebration in the young nation's history. He exhorted his fellow citizens to ratify the proposed Constitution. "A people, free and enlightened," he said, "establishing and ratifying a system of government ... A WHOLE PEOPLE exercising its first and greatest power -- performing an act of SOVEREIGNTY, ORIGINAL and UNLIMITED."

On July 4, 1852, the black journalist and abolitionist Frederick Douglass decried the evils of slavery, still prevalent in the American South at that time, but identified forces "drawing encouragement from the Declaration of Independence, the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions in operation" that "must inevitably work The downfall of slavery."

Ninety years later, near the darkest moments of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded the nation that for the "weary, hungry, unequipped Army of the American Revolution ... the Fourth of July was a tonic of hope and inspiration. So is it now.... The tough, grim men who fight for freedom in this dark hour take heart in its message -- the assurance of the right to liberty under God -- for all peoples and races and groups and nations, everywhere in the world."

Source: www.america.gov

Monthly Essay Competition



Learn about
America

ESSAY COMPETITION



Essay Competition for School Children on the theme of Learn About America

The American Center has organized an essay competition for school children which is publishing in Junior Observer of the Sunday Observer.

The monthly essay topic is for children in three age categories 12-14 years, 15-16 years and 17-18 years.

Each age group is given a monthly topic related to the United States of America and is asked to write an essay with a minimum word count. The students can conduct research for their essay at the American Center Library in Colombo, at American Corners in Kandy and Oluvil, or from sources on the America.gov is a very good internet resource with lots of information on the United States, its culture, history, literature, politics, tourist attractions and much more.

The first three winners in each age group will be given a selection of American books, as well as lifetime membership to the American Center Library as well as a certificate signed by the U.S. Ambassador. A prize giving ceremony will be held at the American Center Colombo every two months.

Essay topics for July are as follows :

12-14 years : Tourist attractions in the United States of America (500 words)

15-16 years : The native Americans/First Americans (750 words)

17-18 years : Importance of July 4th – Independence Day to U. S. citizens (1000 words)

Please see the Junior Observer of the Sunday Observer for more details.

American Center Library moves beyond walls

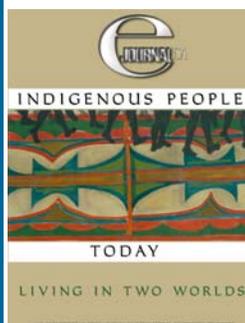


Students view the documentary film Design e²

On June 12, 2009, the American Center Library Director conducted a program at the Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, to familiarize fifty five 2nd year students and academics from the department on printed and electronic resources and other services available at the American Center Library.

Following the presentation, a DVD titled Design e² on green architecture was screened and students were able to understand the concept of eco-friendly architecture by some real examples demonstrated in the film.

eJournalUSA



Indigenous People

Electronic Journal of the US Department of State

June 2009

The June 2009 edition of eJournal USA provides insight into Native Americans and other indigenous peoples.

Articles provide historical background and look at issues surrounding their languages and culture, their legal status, and how they are networking around the world.

Web access: <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0609.pdf#popup>

Every Thursday at 2.30pm

Entrance free!



July 2 - Kung Fu Panda (2008, Running time: 92 minutes)

Enthusiastic, big and a little clumsy, Po is the biggest fan of Kung Fu around which doesn't exactly come in handy while working every day in his family's noodle shop. Unexpectedly chosen to fulfill an ancient prophecy, Po's dreams become reality when he joins the world of Kung Fu and studies alongside his idols, the legendary Furious Five Tigress, Crane, Mantis, Viper and Monkey under the leadership of their guru, Master Shifu. But before they know it the vengeful and treacherous snow leopard Tai Lung is headed their way, and it's up to Po to defend everyone from the oncoming threat. Can he turn his dreams of becoming a Kung Fu master into reality? Po puts his heart and his girth into the task and the unlikely hero ultimately finds that his greatest weaknesses turn out to be his greatest strengths.



July 9 - The Iron Giant (1999, Running time: 86 minutes)

The Iron Giant is a 1999 animated science fiction film produced by Warner Bros. Animation, based on the 1968 novel *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. Brad Bird directed the film, which stars a voice cast of Eli Marienthal as Hogarth Hughes, as well as Jennifer Aniston, Harry Connick, Jr., Vin Diesel, Christopher McDonald and John Mahoney. This is a story of a lonely boy raised by his widowed mother, discovering a giant iron man which fell from space. Hogarth, with the help of a beatnik named Dean, has to stop a military force and a federal agent from finding and destroying the Giant. *The Iron Giant* takes place during the height of the Cold War (1957).



July 16 - Bolt (2008, Running time: 96 minutes)

For super-dog BOLT (voice of John Travolta), every day is filled with adventure, danger and intrigue at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet a cross country journey through the real world to get back to his owner and co-star, Penny (voice of Miley Cyrus). Armed only with the delusions that all his amazing feats and powers are real and the help of two unlikely traveling companions a jaded, abandoned housecat named Mittens (voice of Susie Essman) and a TV-obsessed hamster named Rhino (voice of Mark Walton) Bolt discovers he doesn't need superpowers to be a hero.



July 23 - Enchanted (2007, Running time: 107 minutes)

Classic Disney animation meets contemporary urban chaos when a frightened princess is banished from her magical animated homeland to modern-day New York City in a romantic comedy penned by Bill Kelly (Blast from the Past), directed by Kevin Lima (Tarzan) and featuring music by composer Alan Menken and lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Princess Giselle (Amy Adams) lives in the blissful cartoon world of Andalasia, where magical beings frolic freely and musical interludes punctuate every interaction. Though Princess Giselle is currently engaged to be married to the handsome Prince Edward (James Marsden), her fate takes a turn for the worse when the villainous Queen Narissa (Susan Sarandon) banishes her to the unforgiving metropolis of New York City. As the cruelty of the big city soon begins to wear down the fairy-tale exterior of the once-carefree princess the frightened Giselle soon finds herself falling for a friendly but flawed divorce lawyer (Patrick Dempsey) whose kind compassion helps her to survive in this strange and dangerous new world.



July 30 - WALL-E (2008, Running time: 98 minutes)

After hundreds of lonely years doing what he was built for, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) discovers a new purpose in life (besides collecting knickknacks) when he meets a sleek search robot named EVE (Extra-terrestrial Vegetation Evaluator). EVE comes to realize that WALL-E has inadvertently stumbled upon the key to the planet's future and races back to space to report her findings to the humans who have been eagerly waiting aboard the luxury spaceship Axiom for news that it is safe to return home. Meanwhile, WALL-E chases EVE across the galaxy and sets into motion one of the most incredible comedy adventures ever brought to the big screen.

Reviews drawn from MSN movies, All Movie Guide and IMDB

For more details about after school movie screenings : Tel: 2498146 E-mail : amcentersl@state.gov

July 2009 - Celebrating American Independence

July 7 - 1776 (1972, 142 minutes)

The story is set during the first Continental Congress, when the Declaration of Independence was drafted by such founding fathers as John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. The script attempts to "humanize" these remote historical figures by contemporizing them -- particularly the character of Ben Franklin. Blythe Danner's character of Martha Jefferson is expanded for the film version to allow for an elaborate outdoor production. Nominated for Oscar, and another nomination.

July 14 - National Treasure (2004, 131 minutes)

A man sets out to steal a lost fortune in order to save it in this adventure drama from producer Jerry Bruckheimer. Benjamin Franklin Gates is an archeologist who is from the eighth generation of a family who has shared an unusual quest. As Gates-family legend has it, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin hid a massive cache of gold during the waning days of the Revolutionary War and left clues as to its whereabouts in the original drafts of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

July 21 - The Patriot (2000, 165 minutes)

In 1776, over Benjamin's objections, his oldest son Gabriel joins the fight against the British. Gabriel returns from battle seriously wounded, with Lord General Cornwallis (Tom Wilkinson) calling for his arrest. A skirmish breaks out on Benjamin's plantation, and one of his children is killed as Gabriel is captured by Col. Tavington and sentenced to hang. Benjamin sets aside his vow of pacifism and rescues Gabriel; with the help of his former comrade-in-arms Harry Burwell the father and son form a regiment of Carolina patriots whose cunning and ruthlessness make them heroes among the colonists -- and wanted men by British troops.

July 28 - Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942, 126 minutes)

After several failed attempts to bring the life of legendary, flag-waving song-and-dance man George M. Cohan (James Cagney) to the screen, Warners scenarist Robert Buckner opted for the anecdotal approach, unifying the film's largely unrelated episodes with a flashback framework. Summoned to the White House by President Roosevelt, the aging Cohan is encouraged to relate the events leading up to this momentous occasion.

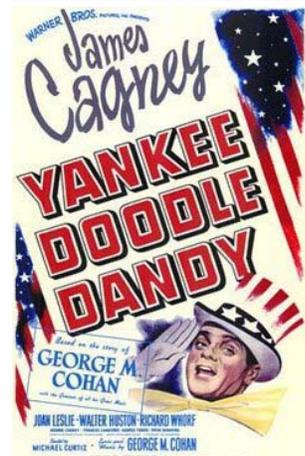
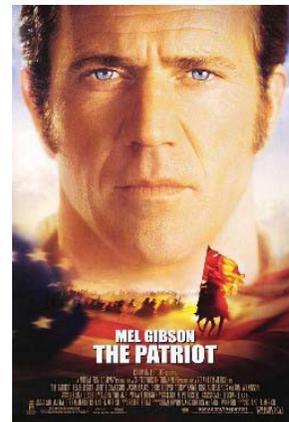
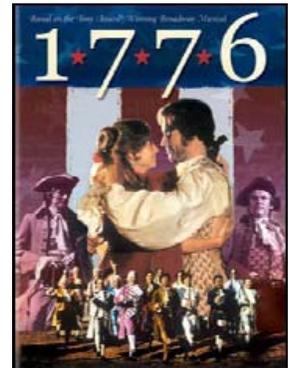
Reviews drawn from MSN movies, All Movie Guide and Encarta

Movies begin promptly at 6:00pm every Tuesday. Entry is free. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served. Bring photo ID for entry.

For more details contact American Information Resource Center:

Tel: 2498146

E-mail: amcentersl@state.gov





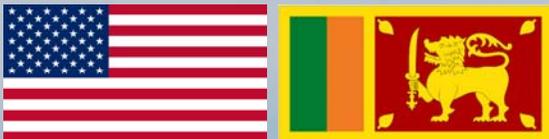
Carving 60 years of Friendship

The American Center is
turning 60!
Join the
U.S. Embassy
in celebrating the 60th
Anniversary of the
American Center
in Colombo.

To mark the occasion, the
U.S. Embassy is holding
a sculpture competition
open to the public.

The Embassy invites local artists to submit their work on the theme: "**Carving 60 years of Friendship**". Selected entries will be displayed for the public at the American Center starting in August 2009. A panel of Sri Lankan and American judges will select the winning entry. The winning sculpture will be displayed permanently at the American Center and the artist will receive an award of Rs. 100000/= and a certificate signed by the U.S. Ambassador.

Applicants must submit sculpture entries and a CV between 8:00am – 5:30pm (Mon-Thu) or 8:00 am to 12:00pm (Fri) to the American Center, 44, Galle Road, Colombo 03, on or before the competition closing date of July 31, 2009.



For further information please
contact the American Center
at 2498106 or 2498163
or
email us at: amcentersl@state.gov

