



Consul General Beth Payne inaugurates the illumination of the American Center on the occasion of President Obama's visit to India.



# BULLETIN - DECEMBER 2010



## Events at a Glance

### December 13:

**Program:** Environment Awareness (Kolkata)

### December 16-17:

**Workshops:** Creative Writing (Kolkata)

### December 20

**Film Show:** *The Hurt Locker* (Kolkata)

### December 27:

**Book Discussion:** American Fiction (Kolkata)

## Holidays:

### December 17:

Muharram

### December 24:

Christmas Day (in lieu of December 25)

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AmericanCenter.Kolkata](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanCenter.Kolkata)



**American Center  
Kolkata steps into  
Social Media.  
Details inside.**

## Your Date With U.S. History

### THE CORRUPT BARGAIN

December marks one of the most significant presidential elections in American History. The impending retirement of President James Monroe signaled a major shift in U.S. politics as the election of 1824 approached. The two political parties of that era were called the Federalists and the Democratic Republicans. Unable to agree on a consensus nominee, Democratic Republican factions nominated four candidates: Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, Treasury Secretary William Crawford, Senator Andrew Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans, and Henry Clay, powerful speaker of the House of Representatives. After a spirited campaign, the results were hopelessly divided. Jackson had the most popular and electoral votes, followed by Adams, Crawford, and Clay, but none of the four commanded an Electoral College majority. Under these circumstances, the Constitution required the House of Representatives to choose the President.



The front-runners presented a stark contrast: Adams, a Harvard graduate from Massachusetts, was a seasoned diplomat and son of a president; while Andrew Jackson was a rough-hewn politician from Tennessee. House Speaker Clay, who held the balance of power, negotiated with supporters of both Jackson and Adams, but Clay and Adams shared similar policies, and both deeply mistrusted Jackson. After the two held a long private meeting in January, Clay's support for Adams became known. Two weeks later, a letter in a Philadelphia newspaper asserted that Clay agreed to back Adams in return for the position of secretary of state if Adams won. A storm of charges and countercharges followed, with Jackson supporters accusing Clay and Adams of a "corrupt bargain."

[Source: <http://www.america.gov>]

### WALT DISNEY

December 5, 1901, marks the birthday of one of America's best-loved personalities and indeed, of the world. Walt Disney was born in Chicago to Elias Disney, an Irish-Canadian, and Flora Call Disney, a German-American. Walt was one of five children, four boys and a girl. Raised on a farm in Missouri, Walt became interested in drawing at an early age, selling his first sketches to neighbors when he was only seven years old. At McKinley High School in Chicago, he contributed his drawings and photography to the school paper. At night he attended the Academy of Fine Arts. During the fall of 1918, Walt spent a year driving an ambulance and chauffeuring Red Cross officials. His ambulance was covered from stem to stem with drawings and cartoons. After the war, Walt returned to Kansas City and in 1920, he created and marketed his first original animated cartoons. Later, he perfected a new method for combining live-action and animation.



The American Center, 38A Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata 700 071  
Telephone: 3984-6300; Fax: 2288-1616; E-Mail: [kolkatapas@state.gov](mailto:kolkatapas@state.gov)  
Web site: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov>  
Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm; Monday - Friday  
The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

**YOUR TURN**

The Bulletin wants to hear from you ... your thoughts, your opinions, your feedback. Write in with  
 --a report of an American Center event you attended  
 --your experiences in cross-cultural encounters  
 --a photo that brings out the joys and sorrows of human life  
 --a human interest anecdote.



Only email submissions will be considered for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right of submission selection, editing and publication.

Send your submissions by email to [kolkatapas@state.gov](mailto:kolkatapas@state.gov) by the 10th of each month.

**NOTES FROM THE FIELD**

Amites Mukhopadhyay has just returned from the U.S. on an exchange program on the environment. He reports, "The varying landscapes that I encountered in Pensacola, Seattle, and San Diego, were amazing. The warmth and hospitality we received at Mr. and Mrs. Sewell's house in Seattle were demonstrative of American gregariousness. The management of the Olympic National Park in Seattle demonstrated how the needs of humans and non-humans can be fine-tuned and delicately balanced, an issue that often remains unresolved in the management of national parks in India."



The photograph shows Amites at the Olympic National Park in Seattle, Washington.

**What's New? Wins Notebook Computer!**

Theme: Home - A special spot in your neighborhood...a community festival...a family gathering...that represents your unique cultural backyard!  
Rules: You must be at least 14 years old. Under-18s need permission from a parent/guardian. Maximum two uploads per individual. Deadline: Dec. 17, 2010.  
Judgment criteria: Originality, creativity, effectiveness, and photo quality.  
Prizes: 2 Notebook computers, 18 T-shirts and copies of the 20 top postcards.

Register at  EXCHANGESCONNECT at <http://connect.state.gov>.

Detailed information at <http://connect.state.gov/page/photo-contest>.

**Environment Education**

December 13, 4 p.m.: Kolkata

A group of school Principals will meet at the American Center for a briefing on Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE), a hands-on international environmental science and education program.



Contact: 3984-6320 or [bhattacharyasx@state.gov](mailto:bhattacharyasx@state.gov).

**Creative Writing Workshops**

December 16-17: Kolkata



Professor Valerie Miner of the Department of English at Stanford University will conduct creative writing workshops at Jadavpur University and the Statesman Print Journalism School. The workshops will include imaginative interpretation of geographical locale, social context and historical moment.

Contact: 3984-6325 or [mullicksx@state.gov](mailto:mullicksx@state.gov)

**Book Club Meet: American Fiction Today**

December 27, 3 pm: Kolkata

American fiction is much more diverse and pluralistic today than ever before. The American Library Book Club will celebrate its second anniversary through discussions on the different trends that characterize contemporary American fiction.



Contact: 3984-6394 or [guhasx@state.gov](mailto:guhasx@state.gov)

**All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.**

Film Show:

**THE HURT LOCKER**  
(131 mins)December 20:  
Kolkata

*The Hurt Locker* is a winner of six 2010 Academy Awards. Three members of the Army's elite Explosive Ordnance Disposal squad battle insurgents as they search for and disarm roadside bombs on the streets of Baghdad. In Iraq, it is soldier vernacular to speak of explosions as sending you to "the hurt locker."

Contact: 3984-6336 or [ghoshdx@state.gov](mailto:ghoshdx@state.gov)

**FOCUS:****SHELLEY FISHER FISHKIN, AMERICAN STUDIES EXPERT**

Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Professor of English at Stanford University, was in Kolkata and Guwahati recently to conduct a variety of programs. She writes about her experiences as follows: "As president of the American Studies Association in 2004-5, I applauded the 'transnational turn' in the field and made it the focus of my presidency. Little did I guess how much outstanding work in transnational American studies I'd encounter at a conference in Kolkata! I had never realized how significant trade with India was to the growth of some key American fortunes--such as the one that founded Brown University. Who knew that a distinguished Indian poet had written a long poem about the American hippies and 'flower children' who flocked to India in the 1960s and early 70s? Not me. I was fascinated by Jayanta Mahapatra's poem, 'Lost Children of America,' the focus of an intriguing paper by Himansu Mohapatra. And how had I missed an over-the-top parody published in the U.S. called 'Outsourcing Obama'? I learned about it from a paper by Subir Dhar. Thinking about this treasure trove of riches, it was with some embarrassment that I found myself recalling that on the international board of advisors for the Journal of Transnational American Studies, there was no scholar from India. That is no longer the case: I proposed that Professor Krishna Sen be added to the Board. My colleagues agreed, and, to our delight, Krishna Sen agreed, as well. Transnational American Studies is alive and well in India. It was a pleasure to find that out this summer."



Left: Shelley Fishkin at the Lyceum Theatre in New York at a rehearsal of the play by Mark Twain (adapted by David Ives), "Is He Dead?" that she rediscovered and helped produce in 2007.

**COMPELLING ADDITIONS TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY'S BOOK COLLECTION**

*Primal Management: Unraveling the Secrets of Human Nature to Drive High Performance* by Paul Herr. American Management Association, 2009. 280 pp. The biological approach of this book lends a fresh aspect to the subject of employee performance enhancement, and the well-researched, entertaining presentation should make this an appealing reference for progressive business leaders.



*Globalization and Economic Ethics: Distributive Justice in the Knowledge Economy* by Albino Barrera. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. 286 pp. This book maintains that far from being rival principles of distributive justice, efficiency and need satisfaction are, in fact, complementary. This book explores the vital link between human capital formation and allocative efficiency using the properties of the market and the knowledge economy as analytical tools.

**UNITED STATES - INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (USIEF)**

USIEF announces the 2011 Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar for higher education administrators of Indian colleges and universities. Selected candidates will participate in a two-week seminar scheduled in October 2011 in the U.S. to learn about the various facets of U. S. higher education, as well as share knowledge on Indian higher education. Application material can be downloaded at [www.usief.org.in](http://www.usief.org.in).

Contact: 3984-6309 or [shevanti@usief.org.in](mailto:shevanti@usief.org.in)

## American Center's launches its SMS service:

Dial US4U at 9243000111

In keeping with the times, we are delighted to announce the introduction of a new service-- *Tunespray*. The best feature of this service is SMS notification to you about our upcoming programs. Apart from standard SMS notifications, this feature comes with some other useful tools:



- SMS your participation in American Center events.
- Give us feedback on events or policies.
- Interact live with us regarding events through Text 2 Poll and Message Boards.
- Voice your opinion through SMS.

To avail yourself of information on American Library membership, reference services, and programs, type: "US4U<space>LIBRARY 9243000111".

## American Center launches its Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/AmericanCenter.Kolkata](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanCenter.Kolkata)

In an age of social media, the American Center is delighted to announce the launch of its Facebook Page. This Page is designed not only to promote upcoming events, programs, interactive sessions, and releases of new books and articles at the American Center, but also to get feedback from our audiences through their active participation in online conversations and opinion polls.

To avail yourself of information about upcoming events or to interact with us, please visit our Facebook Page at the above-mentioned link and "Like" us to get yourself added to our page.

## HONORING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The annual observance of the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* on December 3 was established by the International Year for Disabled Persons (1981). The Day aims to promote a better understanding of disability issues with a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities and gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities. The goal of full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and development was established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982.



Through the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982) and the Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993), the United Nations promotes the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The Organization's commitment to the full and effective participation of all human rights by persons with disabilities is deeply rooted in the quest for social justice and equity in all aspects of societal development.

These commitments provide an international policy framework, which has been further strengthened by the newly adopted Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006. The Convention provides an impetus and a unique platform for advancement of the international disability rights agenda in development from which to engage the wider global development community. Work within this community is framed by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals.

The theme of this year's observance is "Keeping the promise: Mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and beyond."

## NOVEMBER IN PICTURES



The audience listens intently to a panel at the American Center discussing President's Obama's address to the Parliament of India.



Jon Jost, noted American filmmaker and artist, engages the audience at a workshop at the American Center.



American Center Deputy Director Scott Hartmann inaugurates Shyama Puja at Sodepur, Kolkata.

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