



U. S. Ambassador to India, Timothy J. Roemer and Consul General, Beth A. Payne experience a rickshaw ride during the Ambassador's visit to Kolkata on October 13-14, 2009.



AMERICAN CENTER
Kolkata

BULLETIN - November 2009



Events at a Glance

November 17:

Program: International Education Week : "Know the U.S.A. Quiz" (Kolkata)

November 19-21:

Program: 3-D Painting : Tracy Lee Stum (Kolkata)

November 24:

Program: Celebrating the Obama Presidency through Print: Texts and Triumphs (Kolkata)

November 25:

Film Show: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Kolkata)

Holidays:

November 2

Guru Nanak's Birthday

November 11

Veterans' Day

November 26

Thanksgiving Day



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is Native American Heritage Month. The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.



What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the

American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by New York Governor Charles S. Whitman. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990, the then President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.

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Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm; Monday - Friday

The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

3-D PAINTING : TRACY LEE STUM

November 19-21 : Kolkata



The American Center will host a 3-D painting work at the Government College of Arts & Crafts, Kolkata by Tracy Lee Stum, an internationally recognized artist whose versatile talent and exceptional abilities came to life in the realms of painting, drawing, street painting, and decorative design.

A visionary and leader in these Arts, Tracy's wealth of experience, expertise and imagination makes her one of the most highly sought-after working artists in her respective field today. Her paintings have won numerous awards and accolades and she currently holds a Guinness World Record, which was set in 2006 for the largest street painting by an individual. Best known for her spectacular 3D anamorphic and interactive street paintings, Tracy is actively creating commissioned works in chalk for leaders in the advertising, events, corporate, and educational sectors. The level of excellence, quality and mastery

in her work distinguish Tracy as an obvious choice for any successful marketing or communications campaign.

Contact: 3984-6324 or basusx@state.gov

Film Show**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**

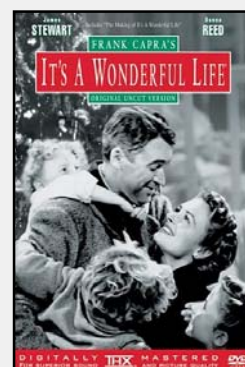
(130 mins)

November 25 : Kolkata

It's A Wonderful Life (1946), is one of the most popular and heartwarming films made by director Frank Capra. Frank Capra regarded this film as his own personal favorite - it was also James Stewart's favorite of all his feature films.

George Bailey (James Stewart) has the picture perfect life: a loving wife, Mary (Donna Reed), four young children, and his own business, which he inherited from his father. However, on Christmas Eve, George encounters severe business difficulties at the Bailey Building and Loan. George's Uncle Billy (Thomas Mitchell) loses the cash they owe the bank, which is owned by the Scrooge-esque Mr. Potter (Lionel Barrymore). This leads George to a life crisis, and he contemplates suicide. He's saved at the last moment by the appearance of his guardian angel, Clarence (Henry Travers).

Clarence shows George how much his life means by showing him how the world would be without him. It's not pretty; his cheerful, friendly town is dreary and impoverished. Finally, George is convinced and Clarence returns him to the world as if nothing had happened. George goes home to find the entire community gathered at his house to raise money for his consistently philanthropic loan business. Even Mr. Potter's accountant donates money to the cause. The movie concludes with George's brother, Harry (Todd Karns), bursting in the door, back from the war. As the whole community sings "*Auld Lang Syne*," a bell rings, telling George that Clarence finally achieved his goal as an angel and obtained his wings.



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

New services recently introduced at American Library, Kolkata



◆ Personal reading materials allowed: You can now bring your personal books and papers along with your laptop for use in the library reading room.



◆ Reader's Club: This reading group for library patrons features regular book discussions. Club members meet to discuss and analyse specific works of American writers.



◆ Wi-fi and broadband internet access : Patrons can now use our Wireless network (Wi-Fi) facilities with their personal laptops in the reading room. They can also use their personal virus-free CD-ROMs and pen drives in public PCs.



◆ New SMS service! You can now receive the latest information about library programs and promotions on your mobile phone. Please let us know if you want to receive our SMS alerts. Call us at: 033-3984-6394 / 033-3984-6397 / 033-3984-6398 / 033-3984-6399 Or contact us by email to subscribe: KolkataAmlibrary@state.gov

Do You Know?

- You can renew your loaned items over the telephone. Nos. are 3984-6394, 6397.
- You may avail interlibrary loan facility of books from the other American Libraries in India.
Nos. are 3984-6394,6397.
- You can get any information on the U.S. call- 3984-6398, 6399.
- You can organize collaborative programs with the American Library, Call 3984-6336, 6337.
- You may avail internet surfing and access to online database during library hours.
- You can be member of the American Library even if you reside outside Kolkata, call 3984-6336, 6337.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK : KNOW U.S.A. QUIZ

November 17 : Kolkata

The American Library will host "Know the U.S.A. Quiz," a program celebrating International Education Week 2009, on November 17 at the American Center.

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CELEBRATING THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY THROUGH PRINT: TEXTS AND TRIUMPHS

November 24 : Kolkata

American Library in collaboration with The Jadavpur Association of International Relation presents "Celebrating the Obama Presidency through Print: Texts and Triumphs" and also lectures on President Obama's policy in India to be held at the American Center.

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UNITED STATES COMMEMORATES MILITARY HEROISM ON VETERANS' DAY

Veterans' Day originated in the Armistice Day holiday commemorating the November 11, 1918, armistice at 11 a.m. (hence "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month"), which suspended active hostilities and effectively ended the First World War.

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919, the first Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations"

The holiday originally was intended to include parades, public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m. On June 4, 1926, the U.S. Congress passed a concurrent resolution requesting the president to issue a proclamation calling for "display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples."

A 1938 statute designated each 11th of November a legal holiday -- a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. In 1954 -- after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the nation's history, and, after American forces had fought aggression in Korea -- the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, changed the holiday's name to its present "Veterans Day." With this change, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

On October 8, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation." He wrote: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

Unlike several other U.S. holidays now celebrated on Mondays to create long holiday weekends, Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11. This preserves the historical significance of the date and helps focus attention on the holiday's important purpose: to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.