



The American Dream Starts @your library



December 2013 Program

The American Dream Starts @ The Southeast Steuben County Library!

The library is offering a variety of programs and resources for Adult Learners of English. This program is made possible courtesy of a grant awarded by the American Library Association and The Dollar General Foundation.

This is a handout for our December 2013 American Dream program focusing on American history and popular culture items to assist patrons in learning more about America.

Southeast Steuben County Library

Corning, NY 14830

Tel: 607-936-3713

Website: SSCLIBRARY.ORG



American/English Language History & Popular Culture Section:

Events That Occurred In American History During The Month of December:

December 4: In 1957 the very first *Chase's Calendar of Events* book was published

December 5: In 1782 President Martin Van Buren was born

December 6: In 1865 the Thirteenth Amendment To The U.S. Constitution becomes law

December 9: In 1886 frozen food technology pioneer Clarence Birdseye was born

December 9: In 1916 actor Kirk Douglas was born

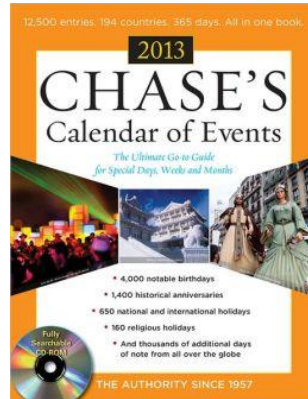
December 16: In 1773 *The Boston Tea Party* occurred

December 19: In 1957 *The Music Man* premiered on Broadway

December 20: In 1946 The film *It's a Wonderful Life* debuted

On This Day In American History: December 4

In 1957 The Very First *Chase's Calendar of Events* Was Published

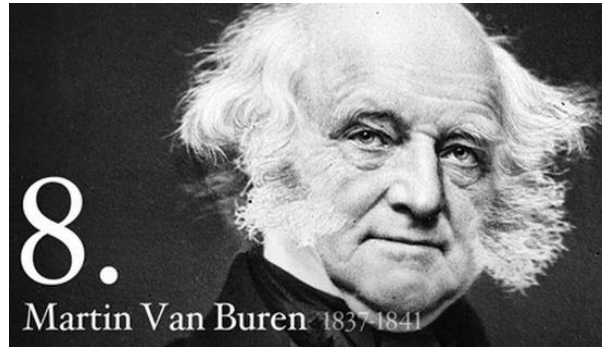


<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/chases-calendar-of-events-2013-with-cd-rom-editors-of-chases-calendar-of-events/1115280993>

If you've ever wondered where I get the ideas for the topics discussed in the American Dream blog postings and presentations – wonder no longer! There is a really cool book called Chase's Calendar of Events, which is published every year, and should be available to peruse at your public library. And the book lists birth anniversaries, famous events and other items that occurred on every day of the year!

We have the 2013 and the 2014 editions at the Reference Desk of our library if you'd ever like to drop in and take a look!

On This Day In American History: December 5



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/martinvanburen>

President Martin Van Buren was born on December 5, 1782 in Kinderhook New York.

Van Buren became a lawyer as a young man and then got involved in politics.

In 1821 Van Buren was elected to the U.S. Senate and became a trusted advisor to President Jackson who subsequently made him his Secretary of State. In 1832 when Jackson ran for a second four year term as president he asked Van Buren to be his Vice President. Van Buren accepted Jackson's offer and when Jackson won his re-election bid Van Buren became his Vice President.

In 1837 Van Buren was elected President of the United States in his own right. He served as President from 1837 to 1841.

Here's a link to a White House biography of President Van Buren:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/martinvanburen>

And here's a link to a YouTube accessed clip of the portion of the History Channel series "The Presidents" which offers a short overview of Martin Van Buren's life and presidency:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIYvSeVKyCs>

On This Day In American History: December 6



<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

On December 6, 1865 the Thirteenth Amendment To The U.S. Constitution becomes law.

The Thirteenth Amendment was passed during the American Civil War (1861-1865) and it is legally abolished slavery within the United States.

Here's the text of the amendment taken from the National Archives website found at <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>:

AMENDMENT XIII

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

On This Day In American History: December 9



<http://www.biography.com/people/clarence-birdseye-9213147>

Clarence Birdseye was born in Brooklyn, New York on December 9, 1886.

As a young man Birdseye studied botany, biology and zoology. And in 1912 while on a five year trading expedition to Labrador, Canada he witnessed some of the local fishermen quickly freezing freshly caught fish to be eaten later in the year. Birdseye discovered that the fishermen did this because it was harder to catch fish during the winter months. He also discovered that the quick freezing process they used, which encompassed ice and the cold weather, froze the fish very quickly and because of this the fish retained their freshness so that when fish was later defrosted and cooked it tasted as if it had recently been caught.

When Birdseye returned to the United States he worked on and perfected a method for quickly freezing food which was subsequently used to freeze fresh foods and even in the making of TV Dinners. And this technology created a whole new industry – the frozen food industry! So the next time you buy a frozen pizza or dinner at your local grocery store you can thank Clarence Birdseye for the convenience of frozen foods that can be quickly heated in the Microwave and eaten!

Here's a link to a Bio biography of Clarence Birdseye:

<http://www.biography.com/people/clarence-birdseye-9213147>

On This Day In American History: December 9 (Page 1 of 2 on Kirk Douglas)



<http://www.biography.com/people/kirk-douglas-9278036>

Classic Hollywood era actor Kirk Douglas was born on December 9, 1916 in Amsterdam, New York. The son of immigrants Douglas served in the U.S. Navy before turning his attention to acting.

Douglas began acting on Broadway and first came to the attention of American film fans with a role in the 1946 film “The Strange Love of Martha Ivers.”

Douglas became one of the most popular and critically acclaimed actors of the classic Hollywood era which ran approximately from the 1940s through the 1960s.

Some of Douglas’s popular films include: The Champion (1949), Young Man With A Horn (1950), Ace In The Hole (1951), The Big Sky (1952), Gunfight At The O.K. Corral (1957), The Vikings (1958), Strangers When We Meet (1960), Spartacus (1960), The List of Adrian Messenger (1963), The Man From Snowy River (1982), Tough Guys (1986) and It Runs In The Family (2003)

Here’s a link to the Official Kirk Douglas website if you’d like to know more about his life and the movies he’s appeared in:

<http://www.kirkdouglas.com>

On This Day In American History: December 9 (Page 1 of 2 on Kirk Douglas)



<http://www.histomil.com/viewtopic.php?f=260&t=7900>

In a photo from the movie Spartacus Kirk Douglas is seen on the right; pictured with Tony Curtis on the left and Jean Simmons in the center.

As Douglas's film career wound down he began a second career as a writer. His popular written works include his biography "The Ragman's Son" (1989), The Gift (1992) and Climbing the Mountain: My Search for Meaning (1997)

Kirk Douglas celebrates his 97th birthday this year!

Here's a link to a biography of Kirk Douglas found on the official Kirk Douglas website:

<http://www.kirkdouglas.com>

And a link to a YouTube featuring Douglas in a scene from the 1954 film Ulysses

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hstAgn_BT20

On This Day In American History: December 14



<http://www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org/glendale-free-press/sports/ernie-davis>

Running back Ernie Davis was born in New Salem, Pennsylvania on December 14, 1939. Davis grew up in Elmira, New York. The very athletic Davis played football for Syracuse University and was so fast he was nicknamed “The Elmira Express.” In 1961 Davis became the first African American to win the covered sports award “The Heisman Trophy;” which is awarded to honor excellence in college athletics.

Davis was drafted by the professional football team the Cleveland Browns; but unfortunately never got a chance to play for them as he died of leukemia on May 18, 1963.

Here’s a link to a Bio biography of Ernie Davis:

<http://www.biography.com/people/ernie-davis-9267805>

And here is a link to a YouTube clip that shows Davis, in jersey #44, fulfilling his role as a very fast running back for Syracuse, University:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExxbEw4yigU>

On This Day In American History: December 16 (Page 1 of 2 on the Boston Tea Party)

On December 16, 1773 the Boston Tea Party occurred.



<http://bostinno.streetwise.co/2013/12/16/boston-events-240th-anniversary-of-the-boston-tea-party/>

The Boston Tea Party was basically a protest by American Colonists in Boston over taxes imposed upon the American Colonists by the British Parliament. The Colonists objected to the taxes because they had no representation in Parliament and thus were being taxed without their consent.

On the night of December 16, 1773 a group of Bostonians dressed up as Mohawk Indians stormed aboard ships carrying cargos of tea and docked in Boston Harbor and dumped the tea into Boston Harbor in protest of a tax on tea. This protest has since become known as the Boston Tea Party.

In response to the Tea Party, the British government closed Boston Harbor and this is seen as a milestone on the road towards the American Revolution which broke out in earnest three years later after the Declaration of Independence was adopted by representatives of all the colonies at the Second Continental Congress which met in Philadelphia, PA in 1776.

On This Day In American History: December 16 (Page 1 of 2 on the Boston Tea Party)

Here's a link to a neat recent Bostinno article that offers a nice overview of the events that lead up to the Boston Tea Party:

<http://bostinno.streetwise.co/2013/12/16/boston-events-240th-anniversary-of-the-boston-tea-party/>

Another link to part of a thirty minute YouTube accessed BBC show on the Boston Tea Party that shows the Bostonians, dressed as Mohawks, boarding the ships in Boston Harbor and dumping tea into the harbor.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jU69_g9E74

And if you prefer a shorter clip that is just a bit silly check out the School House Rock "No More Kings" video which also chronicles the events of the Boston Tea Party but in just three minutes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-9pDZMRCpQ>

On This Day In American History: *December 19:*

In 1957 musical *The Music Man* Premiered on Broadway.



http://www.posters.ws/1855/musicals/music_man

The Music man follows the story of a charismatic con man named Harold Hill who travels from town to town and sells the citizens of each community he visits on the idea of forming a boy's brass band. Hill sells the citizens band uniforms and instruments for the boys and promises to teach the boys how to play their instruments and form a band. And after the uniforms and band instruments are paid for – Hill skips town leaving his promises unfulfilled – he does this in town after town until he winds up in a town where he finds in the end – he just cannot abscond with the money and leave the towns people in the lurch.

The exceptionally popular Broadway stage production of *The Music Man* starred Robert Preston as Harold Hill a role he reprised in the equally popular 1962 film of the same name. In addition to Preston, the movie starred Shirley Jones as Marian Paroo a librarian that Preston falls in love with and Ron Howard as Winthrop Paroo Marian's younger brother who becomes a member of Hill's boy's brass band.

Here's a link to Preston and Jones as Hill and Paroo singing the songs "Till There Was You"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLDsLeVxOaU>

On This Day In American History: *December 20:*



http://drafthouse.com/movies/its_a_wonderful_life/austin

The classic holiday movie *It's A Wonderful Life* made its screen debut on December 20, 1946.

The film relays the story of George Bailey, a conscientious businessman with an adventurous spirit, who winds up running the family business until a crisis on Christmas Eve makes him wish he had never been born – and an angel names Clarence grants him his wish and shows him how much poorer the people of his town would have been if he had never been born.

The movie starred screen legend Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, Donna Reed as George's wife Mary Hatch Bailey, Beulah Bondi as George's mother Ma Bailey, Thomas Mitchell as George's uncle Billy Bailey, Lionel Barrymore as the wicked Mr. Potter and Henry Travers as the angel Clarence.

The movie was not a hit when it was first released but became a perennial favorite after the film's director Frank Capra forgot to renew the copyright on the film in the late 1960s and it fell into the public domain; and after that any television broadcasting station could show the film for free – and they did! And in the years since then the film has become a much loved holiday classic.

Here's a link to a YouTube accessed *It's A Wonderful Life* trailer which gives you a good idea of what the film is about: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewe4lg8zTYA>



Ira Gershwin (on the right) with his brother George.

<http://riverwalkjazz.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/gershwins.jpg>



Harry Chapin

<http://www.biography.com/people/harry-chapin-248869>



Jimmy Buffett

<http://blog.indiantrailslibrary.org/?p=1137>

Music Section:

Ira Gershwin, who wrote the lyrics to complement his brother George's music, was born December 6, 1896 and died August 17, 1933.

The Gershwin's songs were popular when they were first issued and are now considered American standards. Some of their most popular songs include: "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Lady Be Good," "Rhapsody in Blue," "Funny Face," "S' Wonderful," "I Got Rhythm" and "Of Thee I Sing."

Here's a link to a YouTube clip of Jazz great Ella Fitzgerald singing "Of Thee I Sing;"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p2GJEMUrQ>

Popular folk singer songwriter and social activist Harry Chapin born December 7, 1942 and died in an automobile accident on July 16, 1982. Chapin was a very popular singer in the 1970s and is known for writing a number of popular songs including: "Taxi," "Cat's In The Cradle," "W.O.L.D." and "Sunday Morning Sunshine."

Here's a link to a YouTube clip of Harry Chapin signing the song "Cat's in the Cradle;"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s5r2spPJ8g>

Jimmy Buffett born December 25, 1946 and become a popular pop singer in the 1970s.

Buffett is known for his easy going style which can also be heard in his song lyrics. Buffett's hits include "Cheeseburger In Paradise," "Son Of A Son Of A Sailor," "A Pirate Looks At Forty," "Changes In Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" and his most popular hit "Margaritaville."

Here's a link to a YouTube accessed clip of Jimmy Buffett singing Margaritaville:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue2-ZVxpVjc>



References

About the White House: The Presidents: #8 Martin Van Buren. White House. Online. Accessed December 16, 2013,
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/martinvanburen>

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<http://www.kirkdouglas.com/>

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Chase's Calendar of Events 2013. New York. McGraw-Hill. 2013.

Clarence Birdseye. Biography. Online. Accessed December 16, 2013,
<http://www.biography.com/people/clarence-birdseye-9213147>

Constitution of the United States: Amendments 11-27. National Archives. Online. Accessed December 16, 2013,
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html

DeLuca, Nick. (2013, December 16). This Day in Boston History: Happy 240th Anniversary, Boston Tea Party. Bostinno. Online. Accessed December 17, 2013,

Computer Security and Privacy

This class will help attendees gain insight on how to safely travel around their computer and the internet. DJ will also discuss Encryption and Script Blocking!

Program Date/Time: Thursday, January 9, 2014; 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Dream & Create with Pinterest

Join hostess Jenn for a program based upon recipes and DIY projects found on the fun social networking/personal interest website – Pinterest! Each program offers a delicious recipe which we then use to create the delicious dish of the day and a home decorating craft.

Program Date/Time: Thursday, January 9, 2014; 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

iPad Workshop: This workshop offers new iPad owners an overview of how to use the iPad; and includes a discussion of useful suggested apps in categories that iPad owners might enjoy. The iPad app categories discussed include: News, Entertainment, Sports, Cooking, Games, Books, Weather and more!

Program Date/Time: Monday, January 13, 2014; 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p. m.

Digital Literacy*: This informal program offers patrons a chance to try out a variety of tablets (including the iPad), e-readers, Windows 8 touch screen laptops and Macs in a relaxed setting and either ask questions about how to use those tech device or simply sit down and try one more of them out!

Program Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2014; 11:00 p. m. - 12:00 p. m.

Tech Section: Upcoming Programs: Page 2 of 2

Microsoft Excel 2010: Course I

Learn the latest features of Microsoft Excel 2010. This tutorial will walk you through Cell Basics and how to Modify Columns, Rows and Cells. We invite you to bring your own laptop (if you have Excel 2010), and will provide laptops for those who need them.

Program Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2014; 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Teen Tech Friday: 3 D Printing: Learn the applications of this fascinating technology and create a project using provided software. Projects will not be available to take home until later.

Program Date/Time: Friday, January 27, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Microsoft Excel 2010: Course II

Attendees must have taken “Microsoft Excel 2010: Course I” or have working knowledge in basic use of Microsoft Excel 2010. Learn how to Format Cells and Data, learn Simple Formulas and learn to create a Table in Microsoft Excel 2010. We invite you to bring your own laptop (if you have Excel 2010), and will provide laptops for those who need them.

Program Date/Time: Thursday, January 23, 2014; 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Microsoft Excel 2010: Course III

Attendees must have taken “Microsoft Excel 2010: Course II” or have working knowledge in basic use of Microsoft Excel 2010. Learn Worksheet Basics, how to Sort Data, Multistep Formulas and learn how to create a chart in Microsoft Excel 2010. We invite you to bring your own laptop (if you have Excel 2010), and will provide laptops for those who need them.

Program Date/Time: Thursday, January 30, 2014; 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

**You can also make a free One-On-One appointment
with a member of our tech team!**

We'll assist you in learning how to use a new computer, e-reader, tablet or other tech device you own (this includes learning how to use new software and create resumes)!

**Just call the Reference & Technology Desk at 607-936-3713
extension 502 to make an appointment. It is free!**