

Promoting A Healthy World:
Programming for Health &
Environment

No images? [Click here](#)



**BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

February 2023

With nearly 600 locations, ECA's Office of American Spaces engages people worldwide through programming and resources. American Spaces support U.S. foreign policy goals and strategically promote public diplomacy.

As always, thank you for sending in your comments and suggestions to americanspaces@state.gov. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Promoting A Healthy World:

**Programming for Health &
Environment**

The Office of American Spaces Newsletter seeks to provide content for future programming--while also highlighting the great work of our colleagues and partners around the world.

This month, we are starting to feature topics 45-90 days out and while we do mention items for March in the calendar and the toolkits and resources sections, we encourage you and your spaces to think about and begin planning your programming (if you have not already) related to upcoming health and environment related calendar dates. From the 75th Anniversary of the World Health Organization and corresponding [World Health Day](#) (April 7th) to [World Malaria Day](#) (April 25) as well as [World Immunization Week](#) (April 24-30), there are many types of potential health-related engagement opportunities in April. Additionally, late March and April have numerous dates about the environment---dates from [World Meteorological Day](#) (March 23) to [Earth Day](#) (April 22). So many options to pick from--and program around!



Spotlight:

PEPFAR 20th Anniversary

2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment by any nation to address a single disease in history. PEPFAR represents the U.S. government's longstanding, bipartisan leadership in the global HIV/AIDS response, and played a critical role in strengthening partner nations' health infrastructure, improving response to other public health crises such as COVID-19, Mpox, and Ebola.

The year-long anniversary campaign (#PEPFAR20) is themed, "PEPFAR: 20 Years of Global Impact," and is an opportunity to further advance global efforts to end HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and sustainably strengthen public health systems.

Through recently distributed guidance, posts worldwide were asked to highlight and celebrate PEPFAR's successes over the past two decades and advance our efforts to end AIDS as public health threat by 2030. We encourage American Spaces to participate with their Post's interagency health teams. Please

direct any questions to Beney Lee (LeeBJ2@state.gov) in the Office of Global Health Diplomacy.

From the Field:

Empowerment & Diversity at EMK



Promoting Cultural Diversity and Inclusion: In early January 2023, the Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) of **Embassy Dhaka (Bangladesh)** in partnership with **EMK (Edward M. Kennedy) Center American Space** supported the 10th edition of the 2023 Dhaka Literary Fest (DLF).

The DLF is Bangladesh's largest international literary festival and for the first time, three Rohingya artists received approval to travel to Dhaka to showcase their cultural heritage through their art and poetry: the only one of its kind, at this festival.

Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment: On January 12, the Department of State, USAID, and the U.S. Trade Development Agency hosted two panel discussions for the Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF), which were [livestreamed](#) to the main stage of IPBF in Tokyo and on Embassy Dhaka's Facebook page. The two panel discussions focused on infrastructure investment and women's economic development and were filmed at Embassy Dhaka's flagship American Space, the Edward M. Kennedy Center.



Faces of American Spaces: Photo Shoot Flair in the Western Balkans



*American Spaces North Macedonia team at American Corner Skopje,
November 2022*

North Macedonia did it first, and then Serbia soon followed; at their recent strategic planning meetings, American Spaces networks in both countries staged group photo shoots in **American Corner Skopje** and **American Corner Belgrade**, respectively, to show off the personality of each Space, as well as each country's charming and dedicated teams of American Spaces managers.

Thank you to **REPS Sarah Ziebell** for sharing these wonderful photos!

We are waiting to see which country might next take up the charge and encourage you to share photos of your American Spaces teams on our global American Spaces Facebook group! You may also submit them to the American Spaces Newsletter! Creativity counts!



REPS Sarah Ziebell and the American Spaces Serbia team at American Corner Belgrade, January 2023

From the Field:

Media Literacy Academy



Bi-National Center Monterrey had 52 participants complete a 16-week Media Literacy Academy in Fall 2022! Leading an effort to provide skills and training to counter mis- and dis-information. Congratulations, **American Spaces Mexico** especially **Claudia Ximena Zúñiga Teran**, Director of BNC Monterrey and **REPS Malore Brown**!



Did You Know?

American Spaces Standards

The Office of American Spaces is pleased to announce the [release of updated Standards](#) for all Spaces. The Standards are designed to promote thoughtful conversations among stakeholders about the vital role played by American Spaces, on subjects including programming, Space management, and strategic planning. The updated Standards differentiate among the three types of American Spaces (Centers, Corners, and Binational Centers) and feature revised classifications (Comprehensive and Standard) for each type of American Space. The classifications describe the levels of programming and service and are descriptive, not evaluative as American Spaces do not fit a one-size-fits-all model. Other new elements include the addition of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Standards, and revisions to bring the Standards into compliance with changes to State Department regulations.

52 Documentary



[52 Documentary](#) is a new weekly documentary series of Voice of America (VOA). VOA is the largest U.S. international broadcaster, providing news and information in more than 40 languages to an estimated weekly audience of 326 million people. VOA produces content for digital, television, and radio platforms. It is easily accessed via your mobile phone and on social media. Since its creation in 1942, VOA has been committed to providing comprehensive coverage of the news and telling audiences the truth. VOA exemplifies the principles of a free press and this new documentary series takes viewers to meet real people in the real world.

[Sign up](#) to receive the entire series!

U.S. Speaker Spot

This is a new periodic feature for the Office of American Spaces Newsletter. We will be featuring upcoming speakers available for virtual programs about priority themes as a partnership with the [Office of the U.S. Speaker Program](#). For more information about the U.S. Speaker Program, and to submit a program request, please reach out to your local Public Diplomacy Section.



[Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins](#) is a social historian & activist. She was the first African American woman to serve as president of the League of Women Voters, where she served two terms focused on increasing voter participation, campaign finance reform, and health care for the underserved. Jefferson-Jenkins is an advocate for civil rights, social justice, and stronger citizen participation in the electoral process.

[Natasha Hemmings](#) is the chief executive officer at Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey, and the first African American woman to lead the organization. Hemmings develops partnerships with

national and local brands to increase development opportunities, equity, and diversity. Her focus is on improving inclusivity for women and girls, as well as expanding membership and volunteerism in underserved communities.



U.S. Culture

As you plan programs for March and April (and further into the future), you may wish to attend a [media literacy workshop](#) hosted by the U.S. National Women's History Museum on March 2, 2023 (live). This workshop about women's magazines will analyze U. S. culture, discuss media literacy, and provide a sample activity that you could do to empower learners. Advanced registration is required.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine has a [year-long schedule of talks](#) (live and recorded) which might be applicable for your space about global health topics.

The Center for Interactive Learning (cilc.org) has numerous virtual free online programs about the United States and other topics.

Some of the programs are produced by the National Parks Service (NPS), the Smithsonian Institution (SI), and other United States museums. One to highlight this month is: ["Women who Paved the Way: Exploring Women Homesteaders and Suffragists"](#) from Homestead National Park in Beatrice, NE.

Reminder!

The Office of American Spaces is currently in the process of updating its website and programming resources. The update will be ongoing for the next several months.

We appreciate your continued patience with this process as some bookmarks, links, and content may be temporarily inaccessible or disrupted during this time. We are also working to consolidate resources and are removing broken or lesser-used links to improve the overall user experience.

If you notice a broken link or other issue, please alert scottbj@state.gov. Thank you!

Featured Toolkits and Resources:

We would like to highlight a few key resources for potential upcoming programs:

World Wildlife Day (March 3) -- see [official site](#)

World Water Day (March 22) – see [official site](#)

Earth Day (April 22) -- see [official site](#)

World Intellectual Property Day (April 26) -- see [toolkit](#)

Look ahead for May!

- **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month (MAY)** ([toolkit](#))
- **Jewish-American Heritage Month (MAY)** ([toolkit](#))
- **Air Quality Awareness Week (May 2 - 8)** ([toolkit](#))

Other Resources

Virtual Tours: How has the climate changed? Consider taking a [narrated virtual tour](#) of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Virtual Reality: [Want to know your carbon footprint?](#) This activity can show you (and your participants)!

Download, Print, and Go!: Coloring Our World Activity

Booklet: [Celebrating Women throughout History](#) (available in English and Spanish)

Calendar of Events

To provide a further look ahead for potential programming purposes, we are featuring the Office of American Spaces Calendar with dates 3-4 months out here. As always, the full calendar is available on the American Spaces [website](#).

February Black History Month - see [official site](#) and [toolkit](#)

February 1: World Interfaith Harmony Week - see [official site](#)

February 2: World Wetlands Day - see [official site](#)

February 4: World Cancer Day - see [site](#)

February 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation - see [official site](#)

February 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science - see [official site](#)

February 13: World Radio Day - see [official site](#)

February 17: Random Act of Kindness Day - [see site](#)

February 20: Presidents Day - see [toolkit](#)

February 20: World Day of Social Justice -- see [official site](#)

February 21: International Mother Language Day - see [official site](#)

March: Women's History Month - see [toolkit](#)

March 1: Zero Discrimination Day - see [official site](#)

March 3: World Wildlife Day - see [official site](#)

March 8: International Women's Day - see [official site](#)

March 14: Pi Day -- see [video](#)

March 20: International Day of Happiness -- see [official site](#)

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - - see [official site](#)

March 21: International Day of Forests - see [official site](#)

March 21: World Down Syndrome Day - see [official site](#)

March 22: World Water Day - see [official site](#)

March 23: World Meteorological Day - see [official site](#)

March 24: World Tuberculosis Day - see [official site](#)

March 25: International Day of Remembrance for the Victims Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade - see [official site](#)

April is Jazz Appreciation Month ([official site](#)) and Arab-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

April 2: World Autism Day - see [official site](#)

April 4: International Mine Awareness Day - see [official site](#)

April 6: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace - see [resources](#)

April 7: World Health Day - [see resources](#)

April 10: Siblings Day - see [official site](#)

April 12: International Day of [Human Space Flight](#), [Photo Exhibition](#), and [English Resources](#)

April 18: International Day for Monuments and Sites - see [official site](#)

April 20: Look-Alike Day - see [official site](#)

April 22: Earth Day See [official site](#)

April 23: English Language Day ([official site](#)) and National Library Week Begins ([official site](#))

April 24: World Immunization Week Begins - see [official site](#)

April 25: World Malaria Day - see [official site](#)

April 26: World Intellectual Property Day - see [toolkit](#)

April 30: International Jazz Appreciation Day

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#)) and Jewish-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

May 2: Air Quality Awareness Week (2 - 8) - see [toolkit](#)

May 3: World Press Freedom Day - see [site](#) for programming information

May 4: Star Wars Day - see [official site](#)

May 14: Mother's Day - see [holiday description](#)

May 15: Chocolate Chip Day ([site](#)) and International Day of Families ([official site](#))

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia Transphobia and Biphobia - see [site](#) and [toolkit](#)

May 20: World Bee Day - see [official site](#)

May 21: Founding of the American Red Cross - see [toolkit](#) and [articles](#)

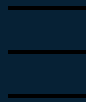
May 22: National Maritime Day - see [official site](#)

May 28: Hamburger Day - see [official site](#)

May 29: Memorial Day - see [Share America Articles](#)

Thanks to all of you who have shared your programming ideas and highlights with your colleagues through our American Spaces FB page. You can continue to share your news and information by emailing us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov. If you have any questions or content to add, email Karlene Noel Jennings at JenningsKN@state.gov.

To add someone to this newsletter, email us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov.



American Spaces

Want to learn about more events in your area or causes you care about? Tell us about yourself and your interests here:

[Update My Preferences](#)

Office of American Spaces

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

SA-5, 2200 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20037

americanspaces@state.gov

<https://americanspaces.state.gov/>

This email was sent by the U.S. Department of State. If you no longer would like to receive these messages, unsubscribe below.

[Unsubscribe](#)