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BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

March 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!

Intellectual Property:

Celebrating Innovation and Creativity

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

This issue recognizes intellectual property (IP)--creations of the mind such as inventions, & literary and artistic works--as we

commemorate [World Intellectual Property Day](#) on **April 26, 2023**! There are numerous resources to plan around this year's theme: "Women & IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity." These resources include the Office of American Spaces [World Intellectual Property Day Toolkit](#), and resources available from [WIPO](#) (the World Intellectual Property Organization), and also from the [US Patent and Trademark Office](#) (USPTO). We look forward to learning how you celebrated World Intellectual Property Day at your American Space.

Announcements!

FARMCRAFT GOES LIVE ON MARCH 17! [Sign up here!](#)

On March 7, the Office of Global Affairs held the Live Virtual Program, [Farmcraft 2023: Innovative Approaches to Food Security Challenges](#). (The recording is available for viewing and download.) Farmcraft is an annual Minecraft-based competition for students 8 – 18 years old that teaches them – in an engaging and FREE Minecraft environment – about farming and the challenges associated with climate change, transportation, and other global issues.

OPEN DOORS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDY

OPEN DOORS has conducted a preliminary study on international students with disabilities and shared preliminary findings on a panel at AEIA last month. The full report will go live on the Open Doors [website](#) on Thursday, March 16 with a related webinar on March 22. Please feel free to forward the registration link below to interested colleagues.

Webinar Release: Wednesday, March 22nd at 1 pm EST

Registration link: iie-org.zoom.us

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2023!

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.



[Noah Kaufman](#) is a research scholar at the SIPA Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, where he directs the carbon tax initiative and researches energy and climate policy. During the Biden Administration, he served on the White House's Council of Economic Advisers as a senior economist on an inter-agency team that produced the mid-century strategy for deep decarbonization. Kaufman has experience working in the private and public energy sector. [Bio Video](#)



[Andrew David](#) is an associate professor of forest resources at the University of Minnesota and directs the Cloquet Forestry Center and Hubachek Wilderness Research Center. As a forestry geneticist and plant pathologist, David

focuses on species improvement for reforestation, restoration, disease resistance, and genetic preservation. He examines breeding strategies and silvicultural systems to increase forest productivity and fight off invasive pests, and the impact of climate change on forest growth.



Julie Ernst is a professor of education and director of the Center for Environmental Education at the University of Minnesota - Duluth. Her specializations lie in curricula design and teacher training, program evaluation, and development of young learners through environment-based education research. Previously, she was an education specialist for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a public affairs specialist for the USDA Forest Service. [Bio Research](#)



Rachael Miller is the co-inventor of the Cora Ball, an innovative laundry device that reduces the amount of microplastics that pollute our waterways and the ocean. She is also the founder of Rozalia Project, an organization that helps protect the ocean from marine debris through cleanup, prevention education, and research in urban and coastal waters. Miller can speak about the importance of innovation and technology in solving critical environmental challenges and how to engage communities to build collective action. Miller is also a National Geographic Explorer and captains a 60-foot research vessel.

Did You Know?

Earth Day is celebrated annually on **April 22**. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. For more interesting facts about Earth Day, please visit the American Spaces programming [toolkit](#), or schedule one of the amazing speakers with the U.S. Speaker Program featured on this page!

From the Field:

Support for Ukraine from South America

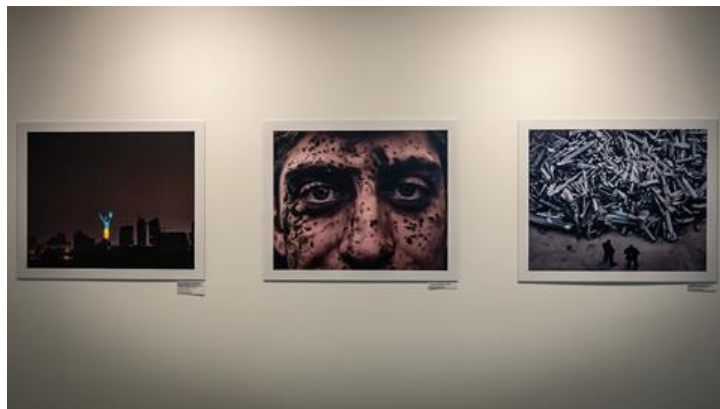
Individuals around the world marked the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in late February. In South America, two photo exhibits were unveiled to large audiences. Thank you to REPS Rita Botts for sharing!

ARGENTINA: Standing shoulder to shoulder with G7 and European Union allies, U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Marc Stanley inaugurated a photo exhibition marking the one-year anniversary of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. Ambassadors from more than a dozen countries as well as government officials attended the event at ICANA, the binational center (BNC) in Buenos Aires, on February 23. The photo exhibition will tour BNCs throughout Argentina in 2023, continuing to highlight support for democratic, sovereign territories.



*This photo features participants from the event at ICANA including **REPS Rita Botts**.*

CHILE: In partnership with the Ukrainian Embassy, U.S. Embassy Santiago organized a February 23 reception at BNC Santiago for approximately 60 members of the diplomatic corps, Chilean government, Ukrainian community, and media to launch a 25-photo exhibition commemorating the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine. The photo exhibition, provided by the Ukrainian Embassy, shows moving images of Ukrainian resilience and will be open to the public throughout March. It will also be offered to the American Spaces network for display through the year.





The photos above show images of the event and artwork from the BNC Santiago exhibition opening.

Featured Toolkits and Resources:

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

Look ahead!

- **Earth Day (April 22)** ([toolkit](#))
- **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month (MAY)** ([toolkit](#))
- **Jewish-American Heritage Month (MAY)** ([toolkit](#))
- **Air Quality Awareness Week (May 2 - 8)** ([toolkit](#))

Other Resources

New Kanopy Films: In conjunction with the **PEPFAR 20th Anniversary**, the Office of American Spaces has licensed three additional films through Kanopy: **A Closer Walk, United in Anger: A History of ACT UP - The Grassroots Movement to End the AIDS Crisis**, and **BPM (Beats Per Minute) - 120 battements par minute**. Please let us know if you feature these films in your programming in the upcoming months.

Virtual Writing: [Writing Hour with the National Portrait Gallery!](#) Join the National Portrait Gallery for a virtual, creative writing hour! They have set up a virtual space where writers can create, connect, and draw inspiration from the Portrait Gallery's collection. They will provide writing prompts, and you are also welcome to bring your own writing project-in-progress. They will write for about 30 minutes and end each session with a brief discussion or reading. Spots fill up fast!!

Using Art to Teach U.S. History and Culture (and Language Arts): The Smithsonian American Art Museum, through its [The American Experience](#) Program brings to life selected key moments in United States history, from its origins to contemporary life. Primary sources, literary connections, media, and related artworks enrich the dialogue between American art and history.

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

Critical Creativity in Action Kit: Produced by colleagues in the Office of American English, you will find a printable 50-card deck containing activities and a PDF comprehensive instruction manual. The Critical Creativity Activity Cards are a flexible collection of literacy strategies designed to help teachers add opportunities for creative thinking to their classrooms and language groups!

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](#).

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](#)

June: LGBTQI+ Pride Month ([toolkit](#)) and National Caribbean-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

June 1: Global Day of Parents - (see official [site](#))

June 3: World Bicycle Day - (see official [site](#))

June 4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - (see official [site](#))

June 5: World Environment Day - see programming [toolkit](#)

June 8: World Ocean Day (official [site](#)) and Best Friends Day (official [site](#))

June 12: World Day Against Child Labour - (see official [site](#))

June 14: National Flag Day - (see official [site](#))

June 15: Elder Abuse Awareness Day - (see official [site](#))

June 17: The World Day to Combat Desertification - (see official [site](#))

June 18: Father's Day - (see official [site](#))

June 19: Juneteenth ([toolkit](#)) and International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (official [site](#))

June 20: World Refugee Day - (see official [site](#))

June 26: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

June 27: Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (official [site](#) and [toolkits](#))

June 29: International Day of the Tropics - (see official [site](#))

June 30: Meteor Watch Day - (see official [site](#))

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

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