



The American Dream Starts @your library



August 21, 2013 Program

In 2013 The American Dream Starts @
The Southeast Steuben County Library!

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

And this is a handout for our August 2013 formal, but very informal, American Dream program which focuses on offering patrons fun bits of American history and popular culture to assist patrons in learning more about American history and culture.

Southeast Steuben County Library

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American/English Language Popular Culture Section

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

- The Invasion of Washington, D.C. - August 24, 1814
- Cooking Hostess Julia Child Was Born – August 15, 1912
- Science Fiction Writer, Producer & TV Series Creator Gene Roddenberry Was Born - August 19, 1921
 - President Bill Clinton Was Born - August 19, 1946
 - President Barack Obama Was Born - August 4, 1961

Also of note, the New York State Fair is on this month running from August 22 – Sept 2 in Syracuse, New York.



Invasion of Washington, D.C. – August 24, 1814



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/inside-white-house%20>

The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain and unfolded over a period of 3 years from 1812 to 1815. The war began due to trade conflicts between the United States, France with whom Britain was also at war during this period, and Great Britain itself.

In 1814 British forces overwhelmed the American Army at the Battle of Bladensburg in Maryland and then marched unopposed into the U.S. Capital, Washington, D.C. U.S. Government officials, including President Madison fled Washington. And First Lady Dolley Madison had the presence of mind to remove the official presidential portrait of George Washington from its frame and take it with her as she left Washington. And it is a good thing Dolley Madison took that portrait from the White House because later that night British troops, under the command of General Ross, dined in the deserted Whitehouse and then set the building on fire.

The British troops also set fire to a number of other government buildings and private homes in Washington including the House of Representatives and Library of Congress buildings which were fortunately saved by the weather – a heavy down pouring of rain occurred shortly after the British set those two buildings on fire so they weren't damaged as badly as the White House.

British General Ross realized his forces could not hold the U.S. Capital and withdrew his troops from Washington on August 26.

On August 27 President Madison returned to a still smoking Washington and declared he'd see the city rebuilt. The White House, which was then known as the Executive Mansion, was rebuilt over the following three year period 1814-1817.

Here's a link to a YouTube clip that tells you more about the burning of Washington in 1814:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LgV6KIDtoE

A second link to a History Channel web page that offers more information on the same subject:

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/british-capture-and-burn-washington>

And a final link to a history of the White House found on the official White House website:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/inside-white-house%20>

Cooking Hostess & American Cooking Icon Julia Child Was Born on August 15, 1912

Julia Child was born in Pasadena, California on August 15, 1912. Julia was the eldest child of John and Julia McWilliams Jr. And as a child this future cooking icon didn't even like to cook!
Instead she was an enthusiastic tomboy.

As a young adult Child attended Smith College in Massachusetts and studied writing with the intent of becoming a writer. After she graduated from college Julia moved to New York City and worked in the advertising industry. And when the U.S. entered World War II in 1941 she volunteered to work for the newly formed U.S. intelligence agency The Office of Strategic Services or O.S.S. Child and her fellow O.S.S. workers were sent on assignments all over the world. And it while working for the O.S.S. she met another O.S.S. employee named Paul Child.

After the war Julia McWilliams married Paul Child and they moves to France where Paul had a job at the American Embassy. And it was only then that Child began to cook and cook with great enthusiasm! She was inspired by French cooking and even attended the international famous Cordon Bleu cooking school.

Subsequently the Child's moved back to American and made their new home in Boston, MA. It was then that Child decided she had mission to bring French cooking to the attention of mainstream Americans; to that end she published her first cookbook titled "Mastering The Art of French Cooking" in 1961.

Then Child had the opportunity to promote her book on the Boston television station WGBH. Child promoted her book by making an omelet on air and by being her jovial, straightforward self. The show was an immediate success. Child was then hired by WGBH to create a television show titled:
"The French Chef."

Child was so successful with her new pioneering cooking show format, that showed viewers in a step-by-step way how to cook specific dishes, that she continued to appear on her own cooking show for years to come and entertained Americans with her salty humor while she showed them how to cook!

The TV station Child worked for, WGBH, eventually became part of the national Public Broadcasting System (or PBS) of television stations and thus Child and her cooking show were broadcast to millions of Americans across the country every week; and this exposure and popularity made Child an American pop culture cooking icon.



Here's a link to a biography of Julia Child:

<http://www.biography.com/people/julia-child-9246767>

A link to a PBS page on Child featuring some of her recipes titled "Julia Child: PBS Icon and Cooking Pioneer:" <http://www.pbs.org/food/julia-child/>

And a link to a YouTube clip of a complete French Chef show that has Julia Child showing us all how to make boeuf bourguignon: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zA2ys8C-INk>

Writer, TV Producer & Science Fiction Icon Gene Roddenberry was born on August 19, 1921



<http://lifeinthelostworld.com/2012/09/its-the-anniversary-star-trek-tv-premiere/>

Eugene Roddenberry was born in El Paso, Texas on August 19, 1921. When he was young his family moved to Los Angeles, California.

As a young man Roddenberry studied law enforcement and aeronautics. During World War II he served as a U.S. Army pilot and it was during this time that he began to write. After the war Roddenberry became a civilian pilot and later a police officer and began selling his short stories to magazines.

And then Roddenberry saw his first television set and he had the insight to realize television was going to be a great medium for telling stories. With that in mind, in 1966 Roddenberry created and wrote the pilot for a new TV series he described as a Wagon Train to the stars style of series. The television series was called “Star Trek.” The original Star Trek was reasonably popular in its initial three year run 1966-1969. However, it was after the series was cancelled and subsequently put into television syndication that it became hugely popular with American and international audiences.



The original Star Trek series was followed by six motion pictures starring the original cast, four additional TV shows: “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine,” “Star Trek Voyager,” and “Enterprise” all with new casts and storylines; four films featuring the cast of Star Trek The Next Generation and two films so far in the re-booted Star Trek series that follows the adventures of the original Star Trek crew and features a new cast.

The library owns all the DVDS of all the Star Trek television series and moves so feel free to check them out!

Here’s a link to a biography of Gene Roddenberry found on the Roddenberry website:

<http://www.roddenberry.com/corporate-gene-biography>



<http://www.roddenberry.com/corporate-gene-biography>



Bill Clinton, Forty Second President of the United States, Was Born August 19, 1946.



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

Future U.S. President Bill Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe III on August 19, 1946, in Hope, Arkansas. Clinton's biological father died in a car accident before he was born and when Bill was four years old his mother married Roger Clinton. And it is from his stepfather, Roger Clinton, that young Bill took the surname of Clinton.

As a high school student Bill Clinton was a delegate to the Boys Nation group and met President John Kennedy at the Whitehouse. After high school Clinton attended Georgetown University, he obtained a Rhodes Scholarship from Oxford University and studied there before returning to the United States and obtaining a law degree from Yale University.

Clinton was elected Attorney General of the State of Arkansas in 1976, elected Governor of the State of Arkansas in 1978 and 1986 and remained Governor of Arkansas from 1986 until he ran for president in 1992.



More About President Clinton



Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd President of the United States in 1992 and was re-elected four years later serving from 1993 until 2001. During his presidency Clinton became known for overseeing American peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, for sending American military forces to Iraq after that country was determined to have chemical weapons and for his unfortunate affair with a young White House intern.

President Clinton obviously did more in his eight years as president than there is time and space in this presentation to discuss so here are two useful links to offer you more information on his life and presidency.

The first link is to the official bio of President Clinton found on the White House website:

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

And the second link is to a more in-depth biography of President Clinton found on the Biography website: <http://www.biography.com/people/bill-clinton-9251236>

President Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States, Was Born August 4, 1961.



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

Future 44th president of the United States Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Barack Obama was the only child of Kenyan Barack Obama Sr. and Kansas born Ann Dunham. Dunham and Obama Sr. met while both were studying at the University of Hawaii in Manoa, Hawaii. The couple married in 1961 and divorced in 1965. Obama Sr. returned to Africa and Barack only saw his father once more, briefly, when Obama Sr. visited Hawaii in 1971.

When Obama was four his mother married Lolo Soetoro who was a student from Indonesia. The family subsequently moved to Indonesia where Obama's half sister Maya was born. Ann Dunham later sent her young son back to Hawaii to live with her parents and attend school. Later still Ann and Obama's half sister Maya joined the family in Hawaii.

More About President Obama



As a youth Obama excelled at his studies and after high school he attended Harvard University obtaining a law degree. While a student at Harvard Barack Obama met a fellow law student named Michelle Robinson whom he married in 1992.

After he graduated from college Obama moved to Chicago and taught constitutional law at the university of Chicago. Obama was subsequently elected to the Illinois State Senate and later elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 2008 Barack Obama ran a successful campaign for president as was elected the 44th president of the United States. Four years later, in 2012, he was re-elected making him the current president of the United States.

President Barack Obama lives in the White House with his wife Michelle and their two daughters Malia and Sasha.

Here's a link to a biography of President Obama found on the official White House website:

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

And a second link to a longer bio of President Obama found on the Biography website:

<http://www.biography.com/people/barack-obama-12782369>

Music Section: Spotlight on Jazz!

To get an idea of how the music of these great Jazz musicians sounds simply click on the YouTube link under their names!

Musician Louis Armstrong (b August 4, 1900 – d. July 6, 1971) performing “Hello Dolly;”

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

Oscar Peterson (b. August 15, 1925 – d. December 23, 2007)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsQlwud3IR4>

Musician Pat Metheney (b. August 12, 1954) performing “And I Love Her;”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYcZ6s3z1jg>

Tech Section: Upcoming Programs:

Listing of upcoming digital literacy programs at the library for the month of September.

Thursday, September 5: **Senior Personal Technology Series: Program 1: An Introduction to Computers:**

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We'll go over the basic things you can do with a Windows 8 or Mac computer.

Tuesday, September 10: **iPad Workshop:** Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Learn how to use your iPad!

Wednesday, September 11: **Pinterest:** Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a craft and a delicious dish we'll make – both the recipe and craft will be items found on the social website Pinterest.

Thursday, September 12: **Senior Personal Technology Series: Program 2: Skype:** Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Learn how to make video phone calls!

Wednesday, September 18, 2013: **Digital Literacy Program:** Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Come and try out a variety of tablets, e-readers, touch screen laptops and more and ask questions about how to use them! Staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Tech Section: Upcoming Programs Continued:

Thursday, September 19: **Senior Personal Technology Series: Program 3: Tablets & E-Readers:** Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. We'll offer a tour of tablets and e-readers and discuss the differences and similarities between the two tech items.

Friday, September 20: **Teen Tech: Prezi:** Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. This teen program offers an introduction to the free cloud based presentation software Prezi.

Tuesday, September 24: **American Dream Monthly Program for September!** Time: 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Join us to learn a bit about American popular culture, history and music.

Thursday, September 25: **Senior Personal Technology Series: Program 4: An Introduction to the Internet & Email Basics.** Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This program will offer an overview of what you can do online and how to send and receive emails.

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