



The American Dream Starts @your library



July 25, 2013 Program

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

In the next year the library will be offering
new programs & services 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 July 2013
formal, but very informal,
American Dream program!

Southeast Steuben County Library
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American Popular Culture Section

Events That Occurred In American History During The Month of July

July 4 – Independence Day & The Anniversary of the Deaths of Presidents John Adams & Thomas Jefferson

July 9 – The Anniversary of Inventor Elias Howe's Birth

July 9 – Actor Tom Hanks Was Born

July 13 – Actor Harrison Ford Was Born

July 19 - Is The Anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention held at Seneca Falls, New York in 1848.

July 21 - The Anniversary Of Author Ernest Hemingway Birth

Also of note July is National Ice Cream Month & National Hot Dog Month – so have some ice cream or a hot dog this month to celebrate!



On This Day In American History: July 4: Independence Day & The Anniversary of the Deaths of Presidents John Adams & Thomas Jefferson

July 4, 1776 is the date in American history when the thirteen British Colonies in America declared their independence to the world. Colonial era American artist John Trumbull famously painting the "Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776;" which is seen on this page. The painting shows the Congressional Committee, that is the group of men responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence. The committee members pictured are, from left to right – John Adams, Roger Sherman, Thomas Jefferson (who is holding the document) and Benjamin Franklin. And seating at the desk in front of the committee is the President of the Continental Congress John Hancock.



<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/images/trumbull-large1.jpg>

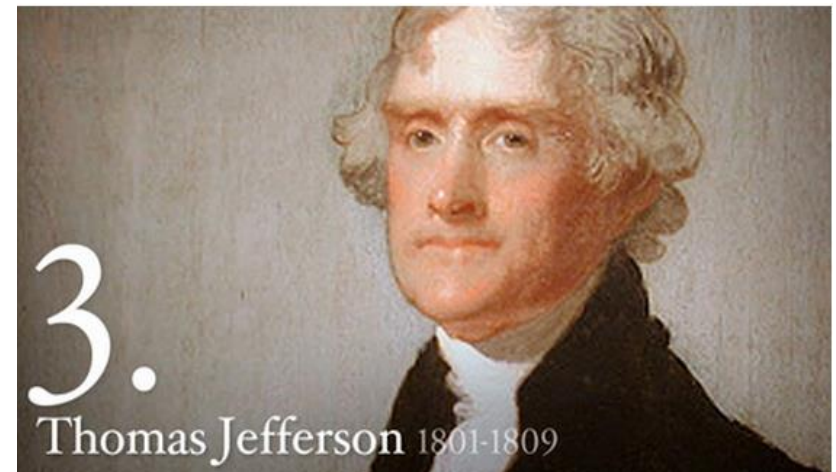
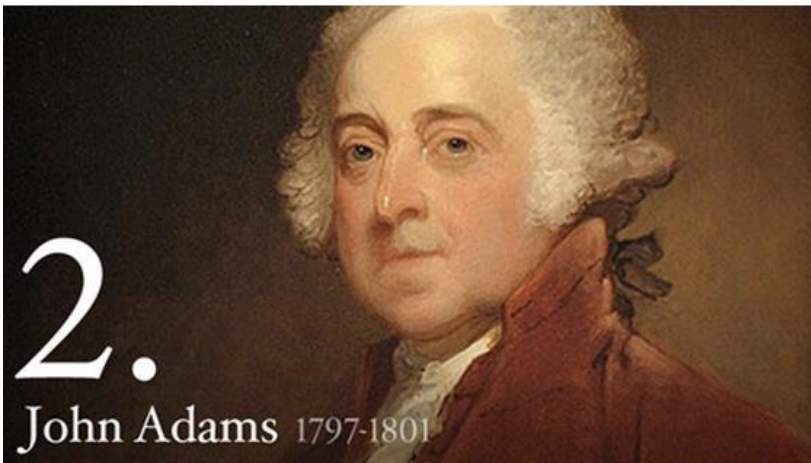


On This Day In American History July 4 Continued

By a very great coincidence two of the men who helped draft and signed the Declaration of Independence, and both of whom went on to become presidents of the United States, died on the very same day, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1826!

Those two men were, respectively the second and third presidents of the United States – John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

In fact the last words John Adams ever spoke on July 4, 1826 were “Jefferson survives.” Adams died without realizing that Thomas Jefferson had died earlier on that same day – and that fact is quite a coincidence!



On This Day In American History – July 9, 1819 Elias Howe Is Born

Elias Howe is an American of great importance because he invented the modern sewing machine! Howe was born into a world where most people, unless they were rich enough to employ a tailor, had to make their own clothes with fabric, needles and thread! Howe changed all that with his invention of the sewing machine which made it possible for clothes to be made in large quantities and commercially sold in stores. Additionally, the invention of the sewing machine meant that women could make clothing at home in much less time than it took to hand sew clothing.



Now I can sew my clothes in half
the time

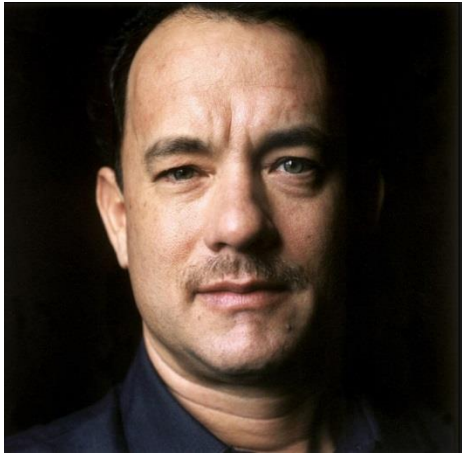


http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/nation/jb_nation_howe_1.html <http://www.biography.com/people/elias-howe-9345222>



On This Day In American History: July 9

Actor Tom Hanks was born on July 9, 1956 in Concord, California. Hanks began acting as a young man and moved to New York City to peruse the craft in 1977. Early in his career he starred on television in the comedy “Bosom Buddies” and then broke into the movie business by starring with Darryl Hannah in the 1984 comedy “Splash in which he portrayed and every-man character to Darryl Hannah’s mermaid character. By the time he starred in the 1988 hit film “Big” in which he played a 13-year-old boy who wishes a magical wish to become big and all of a sudden turns into a 35-year-old man Hanks had become a household name. Hanks is seen as a successor to the classic Hollywood actor Jimmy Stewart for his portrayal of the everyman type of character and eventually turned his talents to dramatic roles to complement his comedic film work.



Hanks’s most notable dramatic roles to date include “Saving Private Ryan,” in which he portrayed the commander of a troop of World War II soldiers on a mission to recover the Private Ryan named in the film title “Philadelphia” in which he played a lawyer with aids who sued his former employer for discriminating against him and firing him, “Forrest Gump” in which he portrayed the title character a simple man who participated in many important 20th century American events and “The Green Mile” in which he portrayed a prison guard who becomes convinced a convict in his prison is innocent.

<http://all-celebrity-photos.com/photos/tom-hanks/photo-6.html>

Here’s a link to a YouTube clip of a Tom Hanks in a scene from the film Big:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Yu62StIsMY>



On This Day In American History: July 13 – Harrison Ford Is Born

Actor Harrison Ford was born on July 13, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois. Ford attended Ripon College in Wisconsin and took a drama class in college because he thought he could earn an easy grade; and much to his surprise he discovered a love of acting. After he left Ripon College in 1960 Ford moved to California to pursue an acting career.

In the sixties and early seventies Ford concentrated on television work appearing in episodes of “The Virginian,” “Ironside,” “The Mod Squad,” and “Love American Style.” Ford broke into movies in 1973 with the role of Bob Falla in the nostalgic George Lucas film “American Graffiti.” And three later George Lucas cast Ford as Han Solo in a little science fiction film he was working on that has since become an international film classic called “Star Wars!” And the role of Han Solo made Harrison Ford a household name both in the United States and abroad. Ford has gone on to appear in many other popular films in the years since including: “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” “Regarding Henry,” “Blade Runner,” “Presumed Innocent,” and “What Lies Beneath.” Ford is also expected to star in the upcoming new series of Star Wars films and an Indiana Jones 5 film none of which have release dates as yet. Here’s a link to a YouTube clip featuring Ford as Han Solo in the 1977 Star Wars film:

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



<http://epdaily.tv/all/spotlight/harrison-ford-back-as-han-solo/>

<http://dotsonthei.blogspot.com/2011/12/harrison-ford-will-star-in-indiana.html>



On This Day In American History – July 19

On July 19, 1848 The Women's Rights Convention was held at Seneca Falls, New York. The convention which was organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and others was announced in the local Seneca County Courier on July 14 and described as: "A Convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of women will be held in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Seneca Falls, N.Y., on Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th of July current; commencing at 10 o'clock A.M." More than 200 women showed up for the first meeting to discuss the unequal status of women in 19th century American society and this event is seen as the starting point for the Women's Rights movement in the United States. And the suffragettes, as they became known, advocated for women to be allowed to vote -- this eventually came to pass via the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted women the right to vote in 1920. Seen in the photo below Suffragettes marching to protest the fact that women in U.S. didn't, at that time, have the right to vote.



http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/amendment_19/



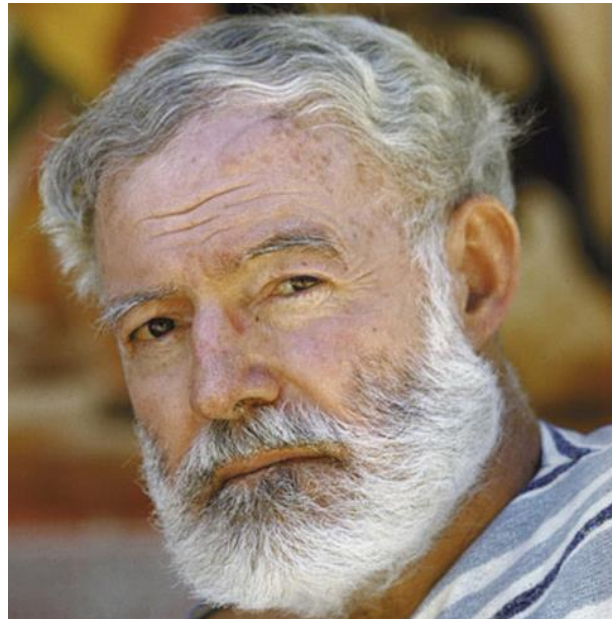
This Day In American History: July 21

In 1899 the great American author Ernest Hemingway was born in Cicero (now in Oak Park), Illinois. Hemingway fought in World War I and after the war became a professional writer.

Ernest Hemingway is considered one of the best American writers of all time. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his 1953 novel "The Old Man and The Sea" and a Noble Prize in Literature in 1954. Hemingway's works include: "The Sun Also Rises," "For Whom The Bell Tolls," "A Farewell To Arms," and "To Have And To Have Not."

Hemingway died in 1961.

If You haven't read any of Ernest Hemingway's works I urge you to do so as he was indeed a great writer!



<http://www.biography.com/people/ernest-hemingway-9334498>



Music Section: July 14

Classic American folk singer Woody Guthrie was born Woodrow Wilson Guthrie on July 14, 1912 in Okemah, Oklahoma and learned to play the guitar and sing at an early age. Guthrie evolved into a socially conscious folk musician whose songs highlighted how hard, and sometimes very unfair, the lives of hard working ordinary Americans were.

His wrote scores of songs during his life time including the following classics: "This Land Is Your Land," "So Long," "Roll On, Columbia," "900 Miles," and "Tom Joad." Guthrie died in 1967.



Music Notes: July 20th: Carlos Santa Is Born

Carlos Santana the great guitarist and bandleader was born in Navarro, Mexico on July 20, 1947. Santana moved to San Francisco, California with his family in the early nineteen sixties and became a U.S. citizen in 1965.

Santana formed the Santana Blues Band which eventually evolved into the group simply known as “Santana.” The group Santana has had many members over the years but the one continual member is the man who gave the band its name Carlos Santana. And Santana is known for its great music which incorporates Latin rhythms, touches of blues, rock and other musical styles and always features the top-notch guitar playing of Carlos Santana.

Here’s a link to a YouTube clip of Santana playing the song “Oye Como Va”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NsJ84YV1oA>



<http://www.sofeminine.co.uk/celebrities/carlos-santana/album840086/carlos-santana-fan-club-album-20758160.html>



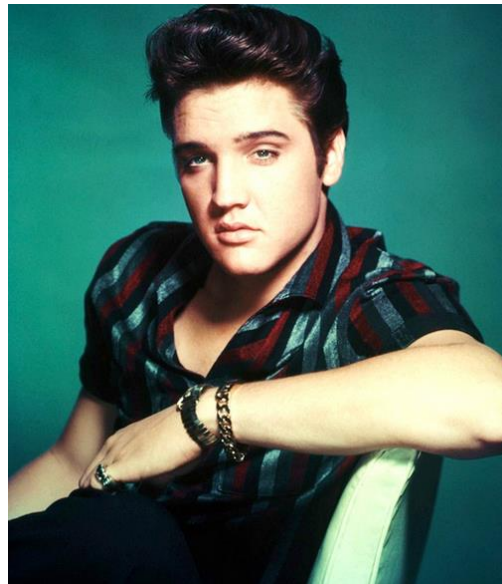
Music Notes: July 19

On July 19 1954, Elvis Presley, the quintessential American classic Rock N' Roll singer, released his first single "That's All Right (Mama).

Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi on January 8, 1935 and by the mid 1950s he had become one of the best known singers in the world. Elvis died in 1977.

Here's a link to YouTube clip of Elvis singing his first single "That's All Right Mama;"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWgprZu4Hk4>



<http://www.last.fm/music/Elvis+Presley/+images/48133595>



Tech Section: The Writer's Almanac

NPR sponsors a daily Writer's Almanac podcast. The Almanac podcast features stories about prominent writers, musicians, artists and famous persons. And each podcast features the reading of a poem. The podcasts usually runs 5-6 minutes and are fun and informative!

You can access the podcast of the program for free via the Writer's Almanac website found at: <http://writersalmanac.publicradio.org/>

Once at the site simply click the download button and the podcast will download and play.

And if you have an app device you can subscribe to the podcast through iTunes or the podcast app of your choice and automatically receive each new podcast.

The top portion of the Writer's Almanac webpage is seen below and the download link is bordered in red.



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