



AMERICA—WAY 2U

Dolj County Library

THE AMERICAN CULTURE AND
CIVILIZATION PUBLICATION

Number 1, January 2009

Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Newsletter American Corner
Craiova

* JANUARY 19th, 2009

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught – the timeless values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit.

Barack Obama Becomes 44th President of the United States



Chief Justice John Roberts administers the oath of office to Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States.

In 1950's America, the equality of man envisioned by the [Declaration of Independence](#) was far from a reality. People of color — blacks, Hispanics, Asians — were discriminated against in many ways, both overt and covert. The 1950's were a turbulent time in America, when racial barriers began to come down due to Supreme Court decisions, like *Brown v. Board of Education*; and due to an increase in the activism of blacks, fighting for equal rights.

Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister, was a driving force in the push for racial equality in the 1950's and the 1960's. In 1963, King and his staff focused on Birmingham, Alabama. They marched and protested non-violently, raising the ire of local officials who cast water cannon and police dogs on the marchers, whose ranks included teenagers and children. The bad publicity and breakdown of business forced the white leaders of Birmingham to concede to some anti-segregation demands.

Thrust into the national spotlight in Birmingham, where he was arrested and jailed, King helped organize a massive march on Washington, DC, on August 28th, 1963. His partners in the march on Washington for Jobs and Freedom included other religious leaders, labor leaders, and black organizers.

The assembled masses marched down the Washington Mall from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial, heard songs from Bob Dylan and Joan Baez and heard speeches by actor Charlton Heston, NAACP president Roy Wilkins, and future U.S. Representative from Georgia, John Lewis.

King's appearance was the last of the event; the closing speech was carried live on major television networks.

On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial,

King evoked the name of Lincoln in his "I Have a Dream" speech, which is credited with mobilizing supporters of desegregation and prompted the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The next year, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/martin-luther-king-jr/activities/32832.html>

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/king.htm>

Martin L. King Jr., the Electronic Classroom

<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/mlk/>

Martin Luther King Day on the Net

<http://www.holidays.net/mlk/>



Americans Heed Barack Obama's Call to Service

Washington — across the country, Americans marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 19th with community service projects. Among those volunteering was President-elect Barack Obama.

Obama encouraged Americans to use the day honoring the late civil rights leader, a federal holiday on which most schools and businesses are closed, to give back to their communities. People participated in more than 11,000 service projects such as feeding the homeless or tutoring children.

(See "[Americans Urged to Do Volunteer Work on Martin Luther King Day.](#)")

Dr. Martin Luther King's life was lived in loving service to others. As we honor that legacy, it's not a day just to pause and reflect — it's a day to act," Obama said in a statement.

Obama and King's son, Martin Luther King III, volunteered at a homeless shelter for teens in Washington. "This country is great because of its people. And when all of our people are engaged and involved in making the community better ... we can accomplish anything," Obama said as he helped paint the shelter's walls.



Barack Obama takes part in a renovation of a homeless shelter for runaway teenagers in Washington on January 19.

Barack Obama Stands up for Librarians

Barack Obama is clearly an avid reader and literature has massively influenced his politics. He talks about books at the drop of a hat, is frequently seen with a book in his hand and, of course, has penned two worldwide best-sellers himself.

President-Elect Barack Obama keynoted the opening general session at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 23–29, 2005, while a U.S. senator from Illinois. This article, published in the August 2005 issue of *American Libraries*, is an adaptation of that speech, which drew record crowds and garnered a standing ovation.

"Guardians of truth and knowledge, librarians must be thanked for their role as champions of privacy, literacy, independent thinking, and most of all reading".

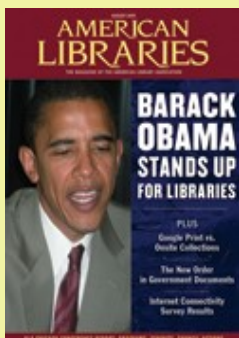
You can find the speech on the link: <http://www.ala.org/ala/online/resources/selectedarticles/obama05.cfm>

Martin Luther King and Barack Obama

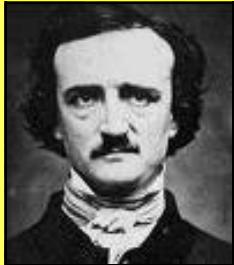


On Wednesday the 21st of January, American Corner Craiova celebrated Martin Luther King's day. We organized a book exhibition and displayed the movie "The March".

On this occasion, all the participants saluted the naming of Barack Obama as USA President and watched the documentary: Barack Obama. This was followed by a discussion on democracy in the USA with Peace Corps Volunteer, Melissa Culkin. All the present were thrilled by the event and expressed their wish to return to American Corner Craiova so as to take part to other activities.



Inside Story Headline



Edgar Allan Poe (January 19th, 1809 – October 7th, 1849) was an American poet, short-story writer, editor and literary critic, and is considered part of the American Romantic Movement. Best known for his tales of mystery and the macabre, Poe was one of the earliest American practitioners of the short story and is considered the inventor of the detective-fiction genre. He is further credited with contributing to the emerging genre of science fiction. Monday, January 19th, 2009, a group of students came to watch the movie screening: "An evening with Edgar Allan Poe". They learned about the opportunities offered by American Corner Craiova to inform and received brochures and bookmarks with the American Corner Craiova and American.gov. Madalina Bailesteanu, librarian, talked them in English about the writer. All were delighted to visit the library and American Corner.



Meet Ruby Short story written by

She is the littlest of five ducklings.
She is the last to eat... and the last
to swim.

Father Duck worries that Ruby
won't catch up.

But Mother Duck knows that Ruby
will flourish... in her own time.

RUBY in Her Own Time

Once upon a time, upon a nest
beside a lake, there lived two
ducks - a mother duck and a fa-
ther duck.

There were five eggs in the nest.
Mother Duck sat upon the nest all
day... and all night through howling
wind... and driving rain looking af-
ter the eggs - ALL five of them.

Then, one bright morning, the
eggs began to hatch.

One, two, three, four little beaks
poked out into the sunlight.

One, two, three, four little duck-
lings shook their feathers in the
breeze.

"We'll call them Rufus, Rory,
Rosie and Rebecca," said Father
Duck. And Mother Duck agreed.

But the fifth egg did nothing.
"Will it ever hatch?" said Father
Duck.

"It will," said Mother Duck, "in
its own time."

And - sure enough it did.

"She's very small," said Father
Duck.

"What shall we call her?"

"We'll call her Ruby," said Mother
Duck,

"Because she is small and pre-

cious."

Rufus, Rory, Rosie and Rebecca
ate whatever they were given.
They ate anything and everything.

But Ruby ate nothing.

"Will she ever eat?" said Father
Duck.

"She will", said Mother Duck, "in
her own time."

And - sure enough - she did.

Rufus, Rory, Rosie, and Rebecca
swam off whenever they were
able.

They swam anywhere and every-
where.

But Ruby swam nowhere.

"Will she ever swim?" said Father
Duck.

"She will," said Mother Duck, "in
her own time."

And - sure enough she did.

Rufus, Rory, Rosie and Rebecca
grew bigger.

And Ruby grew bigger too.

Her feathers grew out and her
wings grew broad and beautiful.

And when Rufus, Rory, Rosie, and
Rebecca began to fly...

... Ruby flew too!

Rufus, Rory, Rosie and Rebecca
flew far and wide. They flew out
across the water. They flew up
among the trees.

But Ruby flew farther and wider.
She flew out beyond the water.

She flew up above the trees.

Did you like the story?

You can read all the story at American
Corner Craiova



American Corner Craiova

A partnership between the U.S. Embassy, Bucharest and Alexandru & Aristia Aman County Library

Str. Mihail Kogalniceanu nr.9
200390 Craiova
Pfone/fax: 0251-523-177



The American Corner's Program seeks to promote understanding and cooperation between the United States of America and Romania, by providing accurate and diverse information about the United States on a variety of topics that will expand communication and exchange between our two countries.

The American Corner Craiova is interested in interacting with the public by using its resources in conducting cultural programs, including speakers and student advising, as well as art exhibits and professional development training.

This newsletter likes to inform American Corner users and also to be a tribune of expression of those who teach English as a second language.

On Our Planet—Bogdan Matican , National College Carol I

As the ages go on and human mentalities change we come to notice a rather unquestionable evolution in what the general population perceives as “common facts” with regards to our very own planet. For example, up until the 4th century AD, everybody “knew” the Earth was flat! Up until the 16th century AD, everybody “knew” the Earth was the centre of the Universe! Needless to say, as time goes on, overall understanding of our very own planet has been and will be evolving, however, until recently – be it the last hundred years – the general consensus has been that our magnificent blueberry will provide a safe haven for us for “all eternity”...

Regardless of such naive, reverie-like ideas, the terrible truth remains – and is now more than ever painstakingly obvious – that for too long have we taken our planet for granted and done very little to ensure its endurance. That is, we have always put our own sheer necessities before the very wellbeing of our habitat, caring very little about the actions and emphasizing merely the short

term benefits.

As an example, and one of the clearest possible ones for such general narrow-minded attitude is represented by the way we manage our resources. Useless to say, we, as a society, as a community, even as individuals, we always take more than we need, regardless of the subject matter; on a global scale this could not be more frightening or alarming! Furthermore, we are all very well aware of the fact that most of our planet's resources are NOT infinite and will eventually deplete - or for some, regeneration will come at a much slower rate than our consumption. However, despite such awareness, overall resource gain and usage remains at a very high and worrisome rate.

Moreover, as if exhausting our resources weren't an already immense global issue, the very action of using up what the planet has to give, on its own creates whole new sets of problems. For example, our general need for wood leads to massive deforesting which in turn leads to environmental issues of great magnitude, such as a decreased puri-

fication of our air; absurd to say that this, together with our extreme global consumption of fossil fuels - which in turn leads to further atmosphere deterioration - creates a compounding problem with serious effects on our life-standards.

Without a shadow of a doubt, it is clear that current mentalities with regards to our environment - our actions and their effects upon our surroundings -, as well as our very own welfare - in complete disrespect to that of our successors, or even our fellow Earth-inhabiting peers - have to change. Our planet will always be here for us! However, the indubitable fact remains that indifference brings upon dismay, and global indifference can only bring about global catastrophes. As the famous Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung once said,

“The only thing we have to fear on our planet is man”.

Teacher : Cristina Cosoveanu