



WORKING TOGETHER

Tiyende Pamodzi

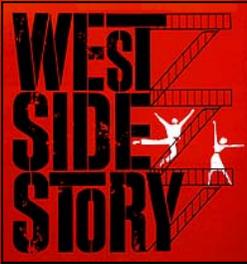
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March 2007

NEW!

Introducing Biweekly
Film Screenings



March 1: *West Side Story*
March 15: *Bird*
March 29: *Lady Sings the Blues*

All films **FREE**. 5:30 PM.
American Center
Auditorium

Getting in Touch

Editors Note: We encourage you to keep your messages and suggestions coming. How can we make *Working Together* even better?

LusakaNews@state.gov

See you in April!

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ZAMBIANS LEND 'VITAL VOICES' TO WORLD

The Vital Voices Global Partnership, a U.S.-based NGO devoted to empowering women around the world, recently held a summit for women in Cape Town, South Africa. The U.S. Mission to Zambia sponsored three Zambian women at the five-day conference—all of whom distinguished themselves as wonderful ambassadors for Zambia. The summit, designed to bring together emerging and established women leaders, covered a host of topics, including economic development, trade, violence against women, HIV/AIDS and good governance. Dr. Cheswa Vwalika from the Zambia HIV/AIDS Emory Project and Ms. Enala Phiri from the Kalusha Bwalya Foundation represented Zambia as trained mentors. U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Assistant Betty Nalungwe represented both the U.S. Mission and Zambia. All gave excellent presentations on their work in Zambia. Meanwhile, five Zambian girls, representing the Girl Guides Association of Zambia, attended the conference as mentees. Misozi Kumwenda, from Samfya, gave a vote of thanks to the entire conference on behalf of all mentees. The youngsters gained invaluable experience from the large assembly of highly accomplished women from 48 different countries.



Mentor Dr. Cheswa Vwalika walks Zambian Girl Guide Linda Mwanga through a mock television interview in Cape Town.

A Message from Ambassador Carmen Martinez



I am delighted to announce the beginning of regular biweekly film screenings at the American Center. If there's one thing that brings all people together, it is the love of movies! For many, Hollywood provides the lens through which people view America. Now this is not always a great thing: America is much more complex than a Hollywood movie. But, when it comes to conveying great universal themes around the world, Hollywood at its best is hard to beat! So mark your calendars—every other Thursday, starting March 1st. I hope to see you there.

As you can see, we've had another busy month, full of hard work, accomplishments and new opportunities. Whether sponsoring Zambians for international conferences or exchanges, providing online access for Zambians at both the American Center in Lusaka and the American Corner in Kitwe, or helping to make profitable a venture that produces world class chili peppers and reduces human/elephant conflicts (and results in one of my spicy favorites: Tabasco Sauce!), the U.S. Mission remains committed to helping Zambians help themselves and to sharing the democratic ideals that make our two cultures so similar.

GETTING TO KNOW...

Linda Simbeye



Linda Simbeye has been the Coordinator of the American Corner, in Kitwe, since it opened in 2005. The American Corner, which is located on the campus of the Mindolo Ecumenial Foundation (MEF), houses a host of resources about the United States. The Corner has abundant print and electronic resources, including databases and other research materials, and is free to the public.

Linda also directs the Corner's busy program schedule, working closely with the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Mission to Zambia. She conducts numerous outreach efforts, including educational advising workshops, training for business professionals, seminars on the U.S. and various topical programs, such as events surrounding the elections, 9/11, and most recently, the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Linda has been with MEF since 2001. She has a certificate in hospitality and extensive training in marketing and public relations. Recently, she has completed training in web development. She is also a trained HIV/AIDS peer educator. She's used all of these skills in guiding the American Corner to success. For more information, go to: http://zambia.usembassy.gov/zambia/American_Corner_Kitwe.html

Memorial:

Professor Alfred Chanda, 1958-2007

News of the death of Professor Alfred Chanda, who died in a tragic road accident, was received with great shock and sadness by the U.S. Mission, and indeed by all of Zambia. Professor Chanda, who taught law at the University of Zambia and was the Director of Transparency International Zambia, had dedicated his life to making the world a better



place. His strong convictions led to a lifelong campaign for social justice and protecting those less privileged. He was a relentless organizer, promoting good governance, human rights, constitutional reform, transparency and accountability. A radiant scholar and author, his work and speeches made him a leading figure in the fight against corruption, in Zambia and abroad.

Professor Chanda was chosen as a Fulbright Scholar in 1988, studying legal issues at Georgetown University and later at Yale, where he earned his doctorate degree. An active member of the U.S. Mission's Zambia Fulbright-Humphrey Alumni Association (ZFHAA), he had been chosen to give the first in a series of ZFHAA lectures at the American Center later this year. A vital and inspirational part of Zambian society, Professor Chanda will be greatly missed by all of us.

GETTING TOGETHER



(Below): How do you say "But when will the rainy season end?" in Nyanja? New Peace Corps volunteers learning a local language at the new training facility in Chongwe.

(Above): U.S. Defense Attaché Lt. Col. David Dougherty presents medical equipment to Maina Soko Military Hospital. The U.S. Dept. of Defense, through a grant to JHPIEGO, donated goods worth \$30,000 to the Lusaka hospital.



(Above): U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Specialist Betty Nalungwe meets Hollywood actress Renee Zellweger at the Vital Voices Women's Summit in Cape Town. The U.S. Embassy sent three Zambian women to the prestigious conference.

Peace Corps Opens New Training Center in Chongwe

In January, the U.S. Peace Corps moved from a location outside Kitwe, to share space at the Farmers Training Institute in the Chongwe district of Lusaka Province. Peace Corps moves its training center every few years to involve more rural areas in the cross-cultural exchange that takes place between Peace Corps trainees and host families. The move also brings the training site closer to the Peace Corps' Lusaka headquarters.



New trainees take a break from learning a Zambian language, at the new Peace Corps training center in Chongwe.

Training began on January 26, for the new Rural Education Development and Community Action for Health project trainees. After orientation and a week in the field with current Peace Corps volunteers, the trainees were eager to return to Chongwe to be posted with their host families and begin their training.

In order to become Peace Corps volunteers, trainees must successfully complete an intensive nine week training program. The program incorporates local language training, as well as cross-cultural and technical training. During this time the trainees live with a Zambian host family in a village environment. They walk or ride mountain bikes (provided by the Peace Corps) to their daily classes. During training they receive weekly HIV/AIDS training—and throughout their time here they have ongoing HIV/AIDS training. All Peace Corps volunteers in Zambia participate in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Peace Corps was created in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, who articulated three guiding principles for the Peace Corps: 1) To promote a better understanding of other people in the world on behalf of Americans; 2) To promote a better understanding of Americans on behalf of other people; and 3) To help the population of interested countries to meet the needs for qualified people. The Peace Corps in Zambia was established in 1993, and has since grown regularly.

The next batch of volunteers will arrive later this year in June.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Women's History Month

In 1987 the U.S. Congress officially designated March as Women's History Month. Students in the U.S. study women like the great abolitionist Sojourner Truth (right) who, in the 1840's, transcended race and gender to draw the entire nation's attention to the injustices of slavery.



SPOTLIGHT:

African Spices/Elephant Pepper

African Spices and the Elephant Pepper Development Trust (EPDT) represent great opportunities for USAID's PROFIT and MATEP programs (see below). The related ventures, which have their headquarters in Livingstone, serve to help farmers raise and market chili peppers—a crop that is unpalatable to the local elephants but also more and more profitable for Zambian farmers.

African Spices/EPDT have created new economic opportunities for farmers and are helping to reduce the conflict between humans and elephants in Africa. The ventures bring sustainable financial, social and environmental benefits to Zambians by linking local farmers to a global marketplace and raise awareness about elephant conservation issues.

African Spices/EPDT have partnered with a Livingstone company, and have secured a guaranteed market in the U.S. with McIlhenny Co., makers of the world famous Tabasco Sauce. African Spices is the only African provider of chili mash to McIlhenny Co. Currently the products are packaged in South Africa, but there are future plans to move that operation to Zambia.

250 smallholder farmers in the Zambezi Valley make up the producer base for African Spices/EPDT. With demand on the rise, another 100 farmers were recently contracted to grow intensive plots of chili. Not only are the peppers making money, they also provide a protective, elephant-proof buffer around traditional maize, sorghum and millet fields.

USAID's PROFIT program (PROFIT = Production, Finance and Technology) has seconded a staff member to African Spices to assist the company to develop in the Livingstone area, and to bring third party input and service providers into the structures formed by the scheme. Another USAID project, MATEP (Market Access, Trade and Enabling Policy) supports African Spices with marketing assistance and by paying the costs of attendance at the U.S. Fancy Food Show in Chicago.

THURSDAYS AT THE MOVIES: BIWEEKLY FILMS AT THE AMERICAN CENTER

STARTING THURSDAY MARCH 1st, the American Center—at the COMESA Building—is pleased to announce the start of what we hope becomes a local tradition: free Hollywood movies at the American Center!

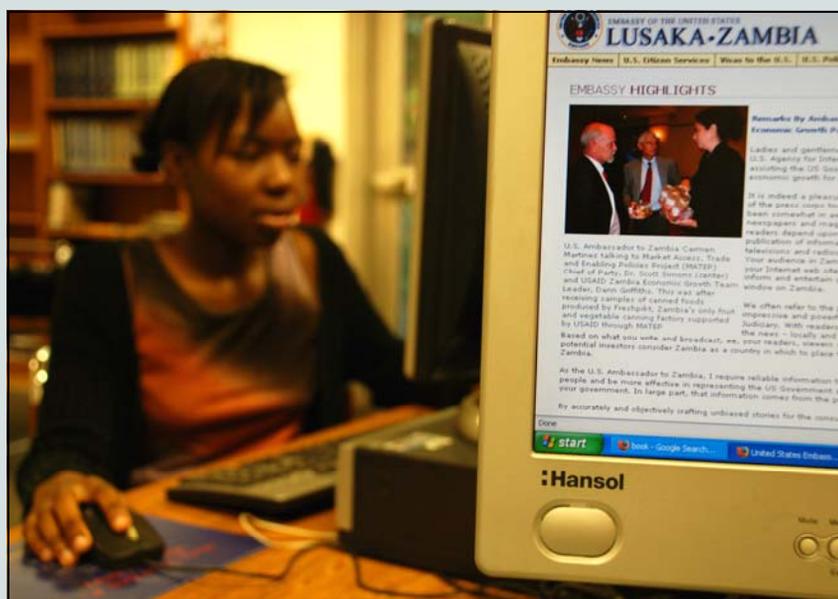
Films every other Thursday, at the American Center auditorium, in the COMESA Building. 5:30 PM. FREE!

Our first film series, which will go through May, celebrates music in the movies, and features a number of Academy Award-winning films. We hope you'll circle the dates on your calendar, and become a regular for what is sure to be a popular feature. We're proud to present the Oscar-winner *West Side Story* (below) on March 1st. *West Side Story* sets the ageless story of Romeo and Juliet against the backdrop of gang warfare in 1950's New York City. The story of the tragic love affair between Tony and Maria, and the hatred of two gangs,



the Jets and the Sharks has become arguably the greatest Hollywood musical ever. *Bird* (above, March 15) is the story of American jazz pioneer Charlie Parker, played wonderfully by Forrest Whitaker. The film, directed by jazz buff Clint Eastwood, is a gripping tale of a saxophone player whose singular skill and destructive excesses were in constant conflict. *Bird* skillfully blends Parker's one-of-a-kind solo recordings with modern musicians, on its Oscar-winning soundtrack. Finally, on March 29, we present Diana Ross' Academy Award nominated portrayal of legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday in *Lady Sings the Blues*. Billie Holiday was perhaps the greatest American female vocalist ever, and certainly the most unique. In *Bird* and *Lady Sings the Blues* you have the stories of two of America's greatest artists yet, sadly, perhaps two of America's most tragic artists as well. *Lady Sings the Blues* also features comedian Richard Pryor, at the height of his popularity.

AIRC Corner: What's Happening at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library



MLK LIBRARY DOUBLES NUMBER OF COMPUTERS, UPGRADES ACCESS TO INTERNET

The American Information Resource Center, also known as the MLK Library, at the American Center has increased the number of workstations with public internet facilities, from 6 to 11. This will allow internet access for up to 80 patrons a day.

The library provides high-speed internet service free of charge to library members and journalists. (Membership is also free!) In addition, the library provides numerous services, including resource materials, book lending, database searches, materials about studying in the U.S. and internet training—all

designed to provide the Zambian public with a wealth of information about American society, institutions and culture.

For more information on becoming a library member, go to: http://zambia.usembassy.gov/zambia/Information_Resource_Center.html

