HAROLD COURLANDER
AMERICAN CORNER HAITI

Harold Courlander - American Corner Haiti

Bibliothèque Monique Calixte, FOKAL - Haiti

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Inauguration
- Activities
- Film club
- Slam nights
- Jazz conference
- Harold Courlander

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Inauguration of the Harold Courlander American Corner

January 20th, 2011

The inauguration took place on January 20th under the patronage of the Ambassador of the United States, his Excellency Mr. Merten and FOKAL executive director Mrs. Lorraine Mangonès. Among the prestigious guests who attended the inaugural ceremony were the Minister of Culture and Communication Mrs. Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue, the director of French institute Mrs. Corinne Micaelli, the world known Haitian American artist Richard A Morse (who knew Harold Courlander).

K. Merten and L. Mangones

This American Corner is the initiative of the Public Affairs Sections (PAS) of the American Embassy, validated by a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008 signed by Mr. Ellickson-Brown, then head of the PAS and Lorraine Mangonès. Mr Ellickson-Brown also proposed the name Harold Courlander a well known American folklorist who wrote about Haiti's music, Folklore and religion

A Week long series of activities

Mrs. Feng Hua Wang, Information resource Officer suggested a week long program,
for the inauguration with exhibits, ceremonial ribbon cutting, chess tournament, conferences, films, and storytelling. This took place from January 20th to January 25th 2011. The main idea is to present Harold Courlander Three themes will be explored: Anthropology in Haiti, Music in Haitian Voodoo, Americans in Haiti (1930-1950's). A side exhibit on Martin Luther King Jr was displayed.

Harold Courlander American Corner Haiti

Inauguration Program

January 20th 2011
10 am : Inauguration speeches, ribbon cutting and tour of the space. Drum Concert and refreshments
1pm: Conference about Martin Luther King Jr.

January 21st 2011
2pm: Films: Katherine Dunham, an African American dancer, anthropologist
4pm : English Conversation club
6pm: Storytelling evening by Paula C. Pean.

January 22th 2011
10 am – 4pm (chess tournament
2 pm: film : La Nayif by Arnold Antonin

January 25th 2011
4pm: film: Divine Horsemen by Maya Deren.
5pm: Conference by Michèle Oriol, PhD: The pioneers of anthropology in Haiti.

January 26th 2011
4pm: film : From Mali to Mississippi » by Martin Scorsese.
5pm: Conference by Michèle D. Pierre-Louis. Haitian traditional music

February and March - Activities

(English club)

The events are very well attended

The American Corner started offering service to the public, access to computers and internet, film club every Thursday, English conversation club on Fridays and chess club on Saturday. The events are very well attended, between 30-40 participants every week.

The collection of the American Corner is often consulted. American Magazines such as : Essence, Time and Oprah are a big hit. Patrons consult mostly books about American Economy and biographies.

The Film Club

Films viewed in February: Amistad, When we were kings, Malcolm X. Lively discussions followed about the living conditions of the African Americans.

Films viewed in March: Akeelah and the bee, the constant Gardner, la Fiesta del Chivo, like water for chocolate

The film selection will be reflected the important dates of the month, either about spelling bees or phenomenal women that were trendsetters.

Chess Club

April - Poetry and Jazz appreciation Month

Slam Nights

On April 13 and 20, the Harold Courlander-American Corner gave two Slam Nights for the poetry month. It was the first time in Haiti we had a slam night and the public was excited.

Slam Night

For this event, Ajani Husbands from the U.S. Embassy participated, thanks to a new initiative called the Speaker's Bureau program in the Office of Public Diplomacy. Mr. Husbands gave to the public an introduction about slam and some examples

On the 20th, The Cultural Attaché Régine René was present.

Ajani Husbands

Women Concert

On April 29, to close the month of jazz and poetry, the American Corner organized a concert, where three young Haitian female artists sang jazz inspired traditional music of Haiti as well of ballads from the United States of America. Nirva jean Tamara Suffren and Renette Desir were able to show how music has no border. Kali C. Jones from the U.S. Embassy, in introduction spoke of jazz and its origins. Mrs. Kali Jones currently serves as the Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. She is originally from New Orleans, the birthplace of Jazz.

Speaker's Bureau program : current U.S. diplomats engage more intimately with Haitian audiences

IRC Initiatives, book of the month & jazz exhibit

On April 1st, The Information resource Center of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince in collaboration with the Harold Courlander-American Corner Fokal had a talk about Jacques London's Book, Croc Blanc.

The Information Resource Center Director, Nathalie Gardere, every month, from the Embassy to the American Corner for a small exhibit.

Jazz appreciation was the theme this month

Renette Desir at the Women Concert

Harold courlander
American corner Haiti

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Your business tag line here.

American corners are jointly sponsored partnerships between the public affairs sections of U.S. embassies or consulates and host-country institutions. They provide access to current, reliable information about the United States through book collections, the internet, and local programming

The Goals of the American Corner Are:

- To provide, accurate information about U.S. history, government, society, and values
- To maintain an open dialogue with host-country audience through programs that build bridges of understanding
- To provide access to English-language resources, computers, and internet
- To maximize the effectiveness of U.S. assistance and exchange programs in the host country

An American Corner serves as an information center similar to a U.S. public library reference service. The multi-media, book, and periodical collections are open to members of the host institution and, usually, to the general public. Meeting rooms are made available for program events and activities like author readings, lectures, films, workshops, and exhibits.

On the web
www.fokal.org/bmc

Jazz and Poetry Conference

On April 14, Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis, President of FOKAL and former Prime Minister of Haiti, a lover of jazz, gave a Conference on Jazz and Poetry. In this conference Ms. Pierre-Louis not only proved the importance of Poetry and the influence of such movement as the Harlem Renaissance on American jazz. She also explained the influence on the Haitian culture at that time. She illustrated the conference with musical excerpts that showed the diversity of jazz music. Many young people were enthusiastic to listen to this conference and also to know much more about the pioneers of jazz, like Louis Armstrong and many others .

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis