

# Estamos Juntos

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FEBRUARY 2009

**FEBRUARY  
IS**

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

**Come  
Celebrate  
With Us!**

**Check the film series  
schedule on page 4**

**President  
Obama  
so far...**

**Check out  
the blog**

<http://blogs.america.gov/>

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## Quotes from President Barack Obama

**Inaugural address – January 20, 2009 - Washington, DC**

“On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.”

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“And so to all other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: Know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more.”

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“We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews, Hindus and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this earth.”

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“To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect.”

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“To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow, to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds.”



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“What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility – a recognition, on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly.”

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“This is the price and the promise of citizenship.”

## Message from the Chargé d’Affaires



Todd C. Chapman

On January 20<sup>th</sup> hundreds of millions of people in the United States and around the world watched the peaceful transfer of political power from former President George W. Bush to President Barack Obama, our 44<sup>th</sup> President. This historic event, full of meaning and symbolism for the American people, inspired many as President Obama challenged Americans to evidence the high principles and values to which we as a nation aspire. In his Inaugural Address, President Obama spoke of

a “new era of responsibility” recognizing that Americans have responsibilities “to ourselves, to our nation, and to the world.”

Our new Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has also been clear in her early statements that the U.S. intends to have a robust foreign policy in Africa. Secretary Clinton said that the U.S. will “support the African democracies...[and] work hard with our African friends to reach the Millennium Development Goals in health, education, and economic opportunity.” We look forward in 2009 to continuing our strong partnership with Mozambique and its people.

## Hillary Clinton is President Obama's Chief Diplomat

**F**ormer First Lady Hillary Clinton is now the nation's top diplomat as the new U.S. Secretary of State, replacing Condoleezza Rice.

Secretary Clinton was President Obama's top contender for the position of Democratic presidential candidate in 2008; that he selected her for such a prestigious position shows the strength and openness of the U.S. democratic system for party rivals to move beyond differences and seek to achieve common goals for the country.

President Obama joined Secretary Clinton at the State Department on only his second day in office and told State Department officials that he had given them an "early gift -- Hillary Clinton... to underscore my commitment to the importance of diplomacy in renewing American leadership."



The strength of the United States "comes not just from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from our enduring values," President Obama said. "And for the sake of our national security and the common aspirations of people around the globe, this era has to begin now."

At her welcoming reception, Clinton said her job will not be easy, but she described the current global climate as one of "potential and possibility."

"I don't get up in the morning just thinking about the threats and the dangers, as real as they are. I also think about what we can do and who we are and what we represent," Secretary Clinton said.

## Words from a Peace Corps Volunteer



*Alison assisting in the vote that the HIV-positive group arranged: "I listen to voters whispering their choice into my ear, record each vote, and finally read the results out loud."*

**M**y name is Alison, and I am a Peace Corps Volunteer working for an international non-governmental organization (NGO) in central Mozambique supporting a group of HIV-positive community members. They volunteer to strengthen ties between the health centers and their communities in an effort to promote adherence to HIV treatment facilities. I get to interact with both small town citizens and city professionals. Despite the differences that exist between the rural and the urban, HIV is a challenge that unites all Mozambicans and foreigners as well, perhaps best put by a volunteer I work with: "*Estamos todos no mesmo machimbombo.*" (We are all in the same bus.)

When I'm not working I like to spend time at home with others. My neighbors have taught me how to make several different Mozambican dishes, and I've been helping two of my friends improve their reading and writing skills. My friendship with them has been the best doorway I could have hoped for into Mozambican culture and a more authentic lens through which to learn about and appreciate life here.



*Alison with Maria, her counterpart at a Positive Prevention Training*

## Family Planning Can Help Families Who Choose It

In the community of Capitão-Mor, Milange district, Zambezia province, Maria, mother of seven, wanted to start family planning but faced challenges. "In my community, we believed that the use of [formal] medicine for family planning was not good. I was told that birth control medicine would not allow us to carry a child - that the child would come out too early, just like an abortion. Also, I was told that birth control medicine would make me sick and eventually mean my death during an eventual premature birth," Maria explained.

"But then one day, a volunteer came to my home and we had a long conversation about family planning. After listening to me, the volunteer explained that practicing family planning doesn't interrupt children in womb, but it prevents a child to be generated during sex."

After this conversation I became aware about what is family planning. I talked with my husband and we concluded that we should try it out.



Maria, her husband and their seven children posing with the COACH project volunteer

Thanks to the program and this volunteer, Maria and her husband made a safe decision that supported their own wishes. Maria reports that the family planning injections haven't made her sick or miscarry any children; on the contrary, she is happy and healthy and enjoying time with her husband and seven children.

The volunteer in this story is part of a USAID-supported partnership with World Vision called the "COACH project." It links communities with health services, emphasizing strong community participation; promotes and supports key health behaviors and practices at the household level; and improves the quality of health services in communities across Zambezia province.

In Mozambique, reproductive infirmities are responsible for 1/3 of all deaths and illnesses among women of reproductive age. Between 1997 and 2003, contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 6% to 17%.

## Newest Graduates of Theater Group Thrill Crowd

Following their intensive, one-week training by instructors from the Grupo De Teatro Oprimido, or GTO (loosely translated as "Oppressed Theatre Group"), the newest group of 40 student actors and HIV educators displayed their skills to a thrilled crowd at the central market in downtown Vilanculos (Inhambane Province, southern-central Mozambique). Despite the midday sun and hot temperatures, a large crowd gathered to watch the young actors perform an HIV/AIDS related skit. The onlookers laughed and nodded, knowingly, as the typical teen dating/peer pressure scenario played out.

U.S. Embassy employees John Zak and Aissa Ibraimo attended the subsequent graduation ceremony, handing out certificates to the students and congratulating them on their fine performance.



Students from the "Grupo de Teatro Oprimido" performing at the central market in Vilanculos, Inhambane Province

This was just part of an on-going project supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) by GTO to train students to disseminate HIV/AIDS awareness and preventive behaviors information through theater activities in their own schools, communities and districts. In total, GTO plans to hold four separate week-long trainings, comprised of approximately 200 students from 32 schools in 32 districts, to help educate their fellow Mozambicans about the threat of HIV/AIDS.

## ?DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ George Washington gave the shortest inaugural address in history (135 words).
- ◆ Chief Justice John Marshall presided over nine inaugurations, from John Adams (1797) to Andrew Jackson (1833).
- ◆ In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was the first president to include African Americans in his inaugural parade.
- ◆ In 1917, Woodrow Wilson was the first president to include women in his inaugural parade.
- ◆ Inauguration Day was changed to January 20, from March 4, in 1933 by the passage of the Twentieth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In 1937, Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to be inaugurated in January.
- ◆ Harry Truman's 1949 inauguration was the first to be televised.
- ◆ Ronald Reagan's first inauguration (1981) was the warmest in history and his second was the coldest.
- ◆ Robert Frost was the first poet to participate in an inauguration (1961, John F. Kennedy).
- ◆ Bill Clinton's 1997 inauguration was the first inauguration to be broadcast live over the Internet.
- ◆ When January 20 is on a Sunday, the president-elect usually takes the oath of office privately and then repeats the ceremony in public on Monday.

## BHM Calendar

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM SERIES February 9 - 12th, 2009

\*\*\* all films are in English  
\*\*\* popcorn and soda served  
\*\*\* discussion to follow



**February 9<sup>th</sup> - Muhammad Ali: Made in Miami**  
Place: Public Affairs Section  
Time: 3:00pm  
Duration of film: 60 min



**February 10<sup>th</sup> - RIZE**  
Place: Public Affairs Section  
Time: 3:00pm  
Duration of film: 84 min



**February 11<sup>th</sup> - America's Dream**  
Place: Public Affairs Section  
Time: 3:00pm  
Duration of film: 60 min



**February 12<sup>th</sup> - Biography of Barack Obama and the Inaugural Ceremony**  
Place: Instituto de Linguas  
Time: 10:00am  
Duration: approx. 90 min

## Mozambique at a Glance



Photo by Michael Barrientos  
Taking advantage of the high tide, children cool off by diving off a boulder at the seawall. Bairro do Triunfo, Maputo.  
Sunday, January 25, 2009

Comments/Questions? Would you like to receive this publication by e-mail?

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