



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center  
**Yerevan Times**

**Monday Movies at the Information Resource Center**

As part of its movie series, an English-language movie is shown at the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center every third Monday of the month.

Please mark your calendars and RSVP to [ircyerevan@usa.am](mailto:ircyerevan@usa.am) if you would like to attend any of the movies listed below.

**An approximately 30 minute English-language discussion will follow each movie.**

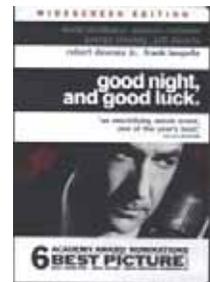
**“School Ties”**  
**January 22 at 16:00**

An assemblage of young Hollywood actors poised for stardom marked this tale of anti-Semitism at a 1950s prep school. Brendan Fraser stars as David Greene, a working-class Jewish quarterback who is offered a senior year scholarship to a prestigious New England academy. But David's ticket to an Ivy League education, and the way out of his Rust Belt hometown comes with a price; the school's elders ask him to be discreet about his religion. David's popularity grows while he struggles with his decision, but when a jealous classmate exposes the school's new gridiron hero, he faces the full force of religious intolerance.



**"Good Night, and Good Luck"**  
**February 19 at 16:00**

In his second turn as director, George Clooney pays homage to one of the icons of American broadcast journalism, Edward R. Murrow (David Strathairn). Set in the “red scare” days of the early 1950's, the film chronicles the real-life battle between the truth-seeking Murrow and the scaremongering House Un-American Activities Committee, led by Senator Joseph McCarthy.



The IRC Yerevan has many other movies which have been made available for future viewings. These exciting films include *Million Dollar Baby* (drama, 2004); *A Beautiful Mind* (biography, 2001); *Runaway Jury* (drama, 2003); and many, many more.

## What's New at the America Corners?

Each month, the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center organizes "American at the American Corners," and "Armenian at the American Corners" lectures. All presentations are free of charge and open to the public.

### Upcoming Presentations:

#### **American Corner Yerevan**

"Religion in the US: Examples of Trends in Faith Unique to America," by Daniel Renna, January 24 at 14:00 pm.

"Collective Memory in the Structure of the Armenian National Identity," by Harutyun Marutyan, February 14 at 14:00 pm.

"Suffering and Suffrage: A History of Voting Rights in America" by Philip Gale, February 17 at 14:00 pm.

#### **American Corner Gyumri**

"Suffering and Suffrage: A History of Voting Rights in America" by Philip Gale, January 10 at 15:00 pm.

"Volunteering and Charity in the United States" by Timothy O'Connor, February 21 at 15:00 p.m.

### In Conjunction with U.S. Embassy, Gyumri American Corner Launches Website.

On December 15, the Gyumri American Corner, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Armenia, launched its website: [www.americancorners.am](http://www.americancorners.am). The bilingual English-Armenian webpage provides information about the American Corner's mission, services, and upcoming events. It also includes an electronic database of the resources available at the American Corners in Armenia, allowing patrons to search for materials on the web.

American Corners are small American-style libraries located throughout the world that help increase mutual understanding between the United States and the host country. Run by the U.S. Department of State, there are over 360 American Corners operating globally to serve the general public free of charge. The Corners provide information about America in a variety of formats, including reference books, works of fiction, journals, and videos. These resources focus on such topics as studying in the United States, American society and history, conducting business in the U.S., and English as a Second Language. The American Corners also provide computers with Internet access, and offer a variety of public programs including speakers and workshops.

In Armenia, there are currently American Corners in Gyumri and in Yerevan, and the U.S. Embassy hopes to open additional Corners in the future. American Corner Gyumri officially opened on June 28, 2005, and at the moment houses four computers and over 500 books. The Corner also holds a variety of public events, including movie showings, presentations by Armenians who have lived or studied in the United States as part of the "Armenian at the American Corner" series, and lectures by an American every third Wednesday of the month as part of the "American at the American Corner" series.

For more information, please visit [www.gyumri.americancorners.am](http://www.gyumri.americancorners.am).

## American Corner Establishes English Conversation Club

With the support of Peace Corps Volunteers Sarah Simmons, Brian Harper, Scott Demyan, and Dominic Manley, the Gyumri American Corner in partnership with the Gyumri Education Advising Center is excited to announce its new “English Conversation Club”. The first meeting was held on November 16, with more than 15 students from several universities in attendance. During the meeting, the students and Peace Corps volunteers got to know each other, while developing ideas for the future of the club. Later the group was divided into small groups of 4 people for open discussions on many subjects. All participants enjoyed this first meeting. The club is slated to meet every Thursday.



**The U.S. Embassy Yerevan Information Resource Center Wishes all of our Patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!**

### **When did trees become part of Christmas celebrations?**

Evergreen trees and wreaths have been used as symbols of eternal life since the ancient times of the Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. After the coming of Christianity, evergreens were still used in Scandinavia - to scare away the devil. In the Middle Ages, the Christmas tree, decorated with candles and wafers (symbols of Christ and the Host), became popular, as did the gaily decorated wooden Christmas pyramid. By the sixteenth century, the two objects merged into what we now know as the Christmas tree. By the nineteenth century, the Christmas tree was popular across Europe.



### **What is a Christmas tree bill?**

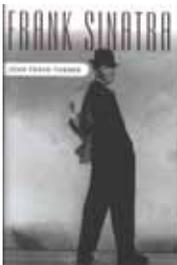
Louisiana Democrat Russel B. Long claimed he originated this type of bill in 1966. As Senate Finance Committee chairman, he helped adorn a trade bill with unrelated special interest amendments (riders), which were likened to ornaments on a Christmas tree. His bill aided, among others, presidential candidates, hearse owners, and scotch whisky importers. Such bills, often enacted as Congress prepares to adjourn at the end of the year, became less common in the 1980s and 1990s. Legislators have since tacked special interest amendments onto emergency funding bills and other legislation likely to win approval. and the United States.

# New Resources at the Information Resource Center

Please check out the status of select books and newly arrived materials on our IRC web page at:  
<http://www.usa.am/irc/search.php>.

## NON-FICTION AND REFERENCE BOOKS

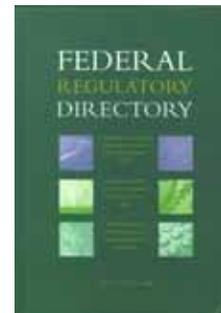
### *Frank Sinatra* By John Frayn Turner



In this fascinating biography, John Frayn Turner closely examines the life of the poor boy from New Jersey who went on to become one of the most popular entertainers the world has ever seen, an icon whose appeal spanned continents and generations. Long known for his alleged involvement with the mafia almost as much as his talents Sinatra, the singer, actor, and man is presented from every angle in this fresh and objective book.

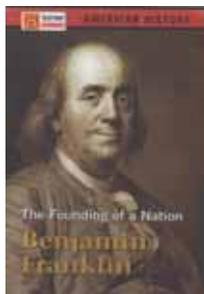
### *Federal Regulatory Directory, 12th Edition*

The *Federal Regulatory Directory, 12th Edition*, provides the latest, and most comprehensive material available on regulation, and regulatory agencies in the United States. This volume not only clarifies who the agencies are and what they do, but also helps to navigate the organizational transformations, new legislation, and judicial decisions that regulatory agencies commonly encounter. This essential resource also details every aspect of regulations themselves, including their origins, and the societal impacts of such legislation, which touch every aspect of American life.



## VIDEO

### *The Founding of a Nation: Benjamin Franklin*

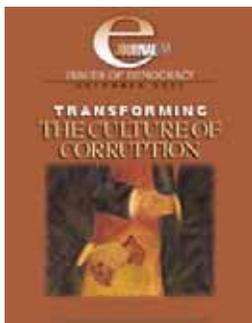


Perhaps it is Benjamin Franklin who best exemplifies the definition of an American renaissance man: a writer, a scientist, a politician, a ruthless competitor, a diplomat and a founding father of the United States of America. This program explores Franklin's key inventions, writings and political contributions. The video is produced for The History Channel.

This video is for official U.S. Embassy use and comes with Public Performance and American educational rights. Patrons can watch the video in IRC, and at the Yerevan and Gyumri American Corners as well.

## ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

### *Transforming the Culture of Corruption* An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State

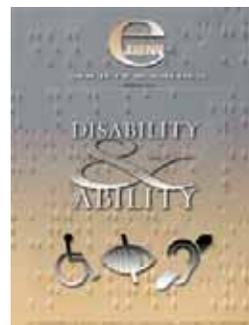


Introduced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, this electronic journal demonstrates the State Department's *Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)* battle to combat corruption across the world. It showcases the daily work of individuals from the public, private, and academic sectors, including INL officials John Brandolino and David Luna, Don Kettl of the University of Pennsylvania, John Sullivan and Aleksandr Shkolnikov of the Center for International Private Enterprise, John J. Danilovich, CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and Philip Urofsky, Special Counsel in the Business Fraud and Complex Litigation Group at Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP.

This e-journal is available at the following web address:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1206/ijde/ijde1206.htm>

### *Disability and Ability*

In its November issue, the *Disability and Ability e-journal* emphasizes three themes following President Bush's proclamation on the 16th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. "Guarding the Rights of Others" theme includes an article on the Act and its implementation, written by Prof. Peter Blanck of Syracuse University; articles about the ways communities and corporations have worked to meet the needs of people with disabilities; and an article about the University of Montana's Native American Disability Technical Assistance Program. "Building on the Progress" offers updates and links to many government and nongovernmental programs, including the New Freedom Initiative, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the new No Child Left Behind requirements. The "Celebrating the Contributions of Citizens With Disabilities" segment features 11 short stories and photos, including one about Michael Naranjo, the blind Native-American sculptor, and Marlee Matlin, a hearing-impaired actress and author of children's books.



This e-journal is available at the following web address:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/1106/ijse/ijse1106.htm>

# More Exciting News from the Yerevan IRC

## Gift Books Program Goes to Armenian Universities

On November 17, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Thomas Mittnacht, and Information Resource Center Director (IRC) Nerses Hayrapetyan visited Yerevan "Haybusak" University. Rector Anahit Harutyunian introduced guests with a brief history of the university, which is the first and the largest private university in Armenia. Originally a medical university, it now also offers an Economics and Humanities departments. Along with four other educational institutions in Armenia and in Lebanon, Yerevan "Haybusak" University is a founding member of the International Academy of Education in Yerevan, Armenia.

As part of the "Gift Books" Program, Embassy officials donated approximately 200 books to the University, both fiction and non-fiction. Many of these books include those on American history, culture and values, donated by the Southeast Florida Library and Information Network (SEFLIN). Students were so excited about what the IRC has to offer that they are sure to visit as soon as possible!



Public Affairs Office Thomas Mittnacht with students at Yerevan "Haybusak" University.

In addition, the IRC Yerevan recently donated over 250 books for children and young adults to two school libraries in Yerevan, at Yeghish Charents School and School #167. The U.S. Embassy and SEFLIN will continue the Gift Books Program to assist Armenian libraries in bringing more English language materials to students of all ages.

The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 13:00 to 18:00.  
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