



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

Yerevan Times

U.S. Independence Day

Americans celebrate July 4, 1776, adoption of Declaration of Independence

Independence Day, or the 4th of July, is probably the most important national holiday in the United States. It commemorates the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The declaration is a powerful statement of the American colonies' intention to become an independent nation.



The Fourth of July also is a time when elected officials and other public figures give speeches extolling American traditions and values.

On July 4, 1788, Founding Father James Wilson addressed a Philadelphia gathering that was, at that time, possibly the largest July 4 celebration in the young nation's history.

On July 4, 1852, the black journalist and abolitionist Frederick Douglass decried the evils of slavery, still prevalent in the American South at that time, but identified forces "drawing encouragement from the Declaration of Independence, the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions in operation" that

"must inevitably work the downfall of slavery."

Ninety years later, in the darkest moments of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded the nation that July 4 symbolized "the democratic freedom which our citizens claim as their precious birthright:"

The Fourth of July was declared a legal holiday in 1941, and today it is celebrated each year in all states and territories of the United States. It is a reminder of the ideals on which the United States was founded, and on July 4 Americans celebrate their freedom and independence with great fanfare -- it is a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks.

On July 4, 2001, President George W. Bush spoke outside Independence Hall, Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence. That document, he said, continues to represent "the standard to which we hold others, and the standard by which we measure ourselves. Our greatest achievements have come when we have lived up to these ideals. Our greatest tragedies have come when we have failed to uphold them."

Across the nation, civic leaders at all levels echo these words, and their audiences give thanks for the freedom and liberties that the founding generation won for all Americans.

Read more on U.S. Holidays at: http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays.html

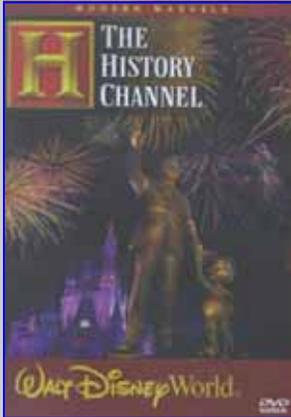
Monday Movies at the Information Resource Center

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. A 30 minute English-language discussion follows each movie. Upcoming movies will be shown on July 21 and August 18 at 15:00pm.

Please contact to ircyerevan@usa.am if you plan to attend the movie series.



NEW ARRIVALS: WALT DISNEY WORLD



The History Channel production documents the largest and most visited recreational resort in the world. It contains four theme parks, many themed hotels and numerous shopping and dining areas. It is also the most technologically advanced park in the world.

From a network of underground tunnels connecting various regions of the park, to the space age propulsion technology of linear synchronous motors, the Disney dynasty has been on the leading edge of theme park innovation since the opening of Disneyland in 1955. Disneyland was a dream come true. The dreamer of this "magical little park" was Mr. Walt E. Disney. Walt wanted to create a kind of family park where kids and parents could have fun together. Disney's incredible achievement eventually captured the hearts and minds of millions of guests and forever changed the very definition of entertainment, let alone the amusement park industry.

Disney World is a magical place, full of animated storybook characters, majestic castles, thrilling rides and colorful parades. With soaring castles, sleek monorails, and life-like animatronics, this program takes a behind-the-scenes look at the ingenious industry and incredible engineering feats that went into building the renowned Disney World complex.

We have public performance and educational rights for this video. Patrons who are interested in watching this video can apply either to the IRC or to the nearest American Corner. The video is available at all American Corners in Armenia.



IRC Launches a New Service for Researchers

Article Alert is a new electronic outreach service. Article Alert is a compilation of articles and reports published by different journals and think tanks. Journals include the Economist, Foreign Affairs, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, and think tanks include the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Congressional Research Service. The following topics are covered by this electronic publication: Foreign Policy, Economic Issues, Democracy and Global Issues, U.S. Society and Values, U.S. Elections 2008, U.S. Government and Think Tank Reports, Policy Papers, Stratfor's Geopolitical Diary on Regional Developments and Oil Issues and Reports on Armenia. If you are interested in receiving this alert on monthly bases, please contact us at: mkrtychyan@usa.am

Do you know?

Where does the word **salary** come from?

It evolved from *salarium argentium*, or "salt money," fees paid to Roman soldiers to buy the then precious commodity.

What is the difference between a **preface** and a **foreword**?

At one time there was no difference. Preface was the Latin term and foreword, the Anglo-Saxon one for a brief opening comment about a book's purpose. Now, many consider an author's introductory comment to be the preface, and anyone else's comment to be the foreword.

Was there ever a real **Shangri-La**?

The setting for James Hilton's 1933 novel Lost Horizon supposedly has a real-life counterpart in Hundza, Pakistan. The community, which boasts of having the healthiest people in the world, many over 100 years old, is located on a shared border of Pakistan, China, and Tajikistan.



The Reader, c.1856
Ferdinand Heilbuth, French Academic
Painter, 1826-1889

What's New at the American Corners?

IN GYUMRI: "FOREST GUMP" AT THE AMERICAN CORNER IN GYUMRI

On June 18, 2008, the Yerevan Information Resource Center, in conjunction with the American Corner in Gyumri organized a movie program. "Forest Gump" by Robert Zemeckis was screened for patrons and American Corner friends. The movie won six Academy Awards and is considered to be one of the best movies of the 90s. This was the third successful program presented by English Language Fellow Jim Teepen in Gyumri. He opened the movie with a short introduction and later led a lively discussion about the film. He prepared a list of questions for discussion that were disseminated before the movie's showing. Many students discussed Forest Gump's life philosophy and his great love for his childhood friend Jenny. Attendees learned a lot about American society in the 60's and 70's. Over 15 students from the local pedagogical university, an NGO leader, one USG alumna, and two English language teachers attended the movie program.



"Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get."

IN VANADZOR: U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

On May 7, 2008, U.S. Embassy employee Adela Renna gave a public lecture



in Vanadzor entitled "U.S. National Parks." Renna prepared a power point presentation with a variety of pictures to illustrate the beauty of famous American National Parks including Yellowstone, Yosemite, Sequoia, Mount Rainer and Grand Canyon national parks. It was interesting to learn that there are 58 National parks, 93 National Monuments, 21 National Preserves and 42 Historical parks in America. Every year over 300 million people visit the national parks. A discussion followed the lecture, in which over 20 students from Vanadzor State Pedagogical University took part.

ARMENIAN AND AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

On June 4, 2008, the American Corner in Vanadzor hosted U. S. Embassy Regional Legal Advisor Steve Kessler. Mr. Kessler gave a lecture entitled "Ten Key Differences Between the Armenian and American Criminal Justice Systems."

During his talk, Mr. Kessler introduced the audience to the structure of the American justice system and explained the essential differences between American and Armenian laws. In particular, he spoke about the American jury system, which does not exist in Armenia. He also touched upon some of the cases that occurred in New York City during his career there. Mr. Kessler traveled to American Corners in Kapan and Gyumri as well to give lectures on the same topic.

IN YEREVAN: POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN POST SOVIET COUNTRIES

On June 7, 2008, the American Corner in Yerevan hosted University of Florida, Gainesville Assistant Professor Dr. Bryon J. Moraski, who delivered a very interesting lecture to an audience of over 30 attendees. Dr. Moraski is in Armenia under the auspices of an IREX visiting scholar program. He does research in the field of political transformations in post-Soviet countries.

Dr. Moraski discussed recent political transformations in four countries - Serbia, Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan - and identified six main factors in contemporary revolutions, which include massive mobilization in response to fraudulent elections, non-violent resistance, foreign support, reliance on youth movements, united opposition, and external pressure on election monitoring. He also discussed issues of corruption and prospects for democratic development and civil society in those countries.



AC Yerevan Coordinator Lianna Amirkhanyan introduces the American Corner collection.

At the Information Resource Center

YALE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL LIBRARIAN PRESENTS TO ARMENIAN LIBRARIANS

On June 26, 2008, the U.S. Embassy Yerevan Information Resource Center hosted Dr. Charles Greenberg, a Yale University Medical Librarian, who spoke about “Biomedical Libraries for the 21st Century Resources and Services.” Dr. Charles Greenberg is a visiting Fulbright scholar who is conducting a two-week extensive training program for Yerevan State Medical School librarians and faculty members.

The lecture was attended by 11 library administrators and leading librarians from the libraries of Yerevan State University, the American University of Armenia, Yerevan State Medical University, National Library of Armenia, and the Republic of Armenia Academy of Sciences Fundamental Library.

Dr. Greenberg shared his experience working at the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library. He started his presentation by introducing the library’s web site, which he considers to be a gateway to a virtual library of electronic books and journals, databases. Dr. Greenberg introduced the audience to different IT tools to improve services available for students and staff. He demonstrated a LibGuide which he created for Emergency Medicine Department personnel. In addition to LibGuides, Dr. Greenberg covered a wide range of topics including RSS feeds, chat boxes, polling, and web videos.

The audience left with new insights into the U.S. medical library and education systems.



Charles J. Greenberg giving a lecture



Charles J. Greenberg with a group of librarians

THE PRESIDENCY

FACTS ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. PRESIDENCY

(The following article is taken from the U.S. Department of State publication, *Outline of U.S. Government*.)

Term of Office: Elected by the people, through the electoral college, to a four-year term; limited to two terms.

Salary: \$400,000 per year as of January 20, 2001.

Inauguration: January 20, following the November general election.

Qualifications: Native-born American citizen, at least 35 years old, and at least 14 years a resident of the United States.

Chief Duty: To protect the Constitution and enforce the laws made by the Congress.

Other Powers: To recommend legislation to the Congress; to call special sessions of the Congress; to deliver messages to the Congress; to sign or veto legislation; to appoint federal judges; to appoint heads of federal departments and agencies and other principal federal officials; to appoint representatives to foreign countries; to carry on official business with foreign nations; to exercise the function of commander-in-chief of the armed forces; to grant pardons for offenses against the United States.

HOW MANY U.S. STATE CAPITALS ARE NAMED AFTER PRESIDENTS?

Four: Jackson, Mississippi; Jefferson City, Missouri; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Madison, Wisconsin.

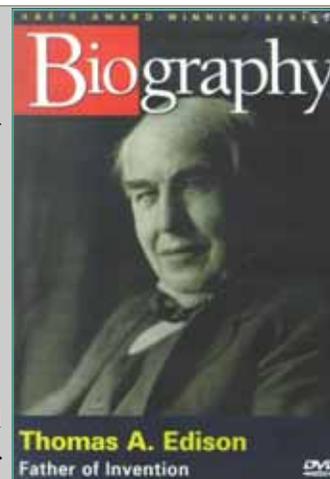
NEW ARRIVALS: THOMAS A. EDISON: FATHER OF INVENTION

This 50-minutes video from the BIOGRAPHY series was produced in 1995 by A&E Television Networks. Thomas Alva Edison rightly earned a place among the most important people in history when his inventions, such as the light bulb, phonograph, and movie camera, literally transformed the way the world functioned.

This program covers the complete story of the famous inventor, from his long quest to develop the light bulb to the devastating effect his growing fame had on his domestic life.

In an interview, Thomas Edison's great-grandson speculates that his famous relative's unflinching dedication to his work may have led to the suicide of Edison's first wife. Several scholars are interviewed, revealing little-known stories behind some of Edison's 1,093 patents.

IRC has public performance and educational rights for this video. Patrons interested in watching this video please apply either to IRC or to the nearest American Corner.



Armenian Library Webpage Addresses

If you are looking for particular information about Armenian libraries it's good to know that there are several libraries and library organizations which have created their own web pages. Here is a list of available web pages:

American University of Armenia Papazian Library <http://www.aua.am/library/> (Eng.)
Armenian Center for Scientific and Technical Information <http://www.acsti.am/> (Rus.)
Armenian Library Association <http://www.ala.am> (Arm., Eng.)

Armenian Library Consortium <http://www.libnet.am/> (Arm., Eng.)

Electronic Library Consortium of Armenia <http://www.elca.am/> (Arm., Eng., Rus.)

National Library of Armenia <http://www.nla.am/> (Arm., Eng.)

RA Academy of Sciences Fundamental Library <http://www.flib.sci.am/arm/index.php/> (Arm., Eng.)

Republican Scientific Medical Library <http://www.medlib.am/> (Eng.)

Yerevan State University Library <http://www.y-su.am/site/index.php?lang=1&page=23> (Arm., Eng., Rus.)

English Learners Corner

Punctuation: the Comma

A **comma** in writing is like a pause inside a sentence when speaking. We use commas **inside** sentences. Commas separate parts of a sentence into logical elements. Commas have no meaning, but they help us to see the structure and therefore the meaning of the sentence.

Put a space **after** a comma. Do not put a space before a comma.

1. Use a comma between items in a series or **list**. In a sentence, the last two items usually do not need a comma between them as they are separated by "and." However, if one or both of the last two items are long, a comma may be useful.

- **coffee, tea, sugar, milk, eggs, butter, salt**
- My favorite sports are **football, rugby, swimming, boxing and golf**.
- Nadia was wearing **blue jeans, black shoes, his brand new white shirt, and a brown and green cap**.

2. Use a comma between three or more **adjectives** or **adverbs**.

I like the **old, brown, wooden** table.

He bought an **old, red, open-top** Volkswagen.

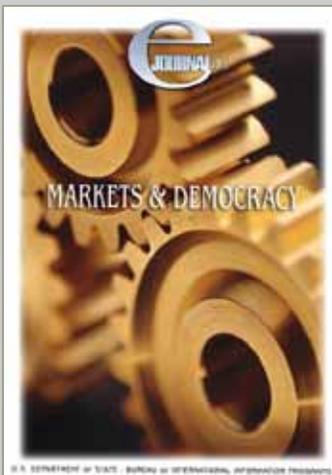
He ran **quickly, quietly** and **effortlessly**.



ELECTRONIC JOURNALS Of the U.S. Department of State

MARKETS AND DEMOCRACY

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, June, 2008



The World Bank's Commission on Growth and Development recently released a report analyzing the factors that make for economic growth in developing countries. The group of international experts, including two Nobel Prize winners, found that one key is "credible, inclusive, and pragmatic governments." Other factors the commission identified were "the quality of the debate" in a country on public policy, vigor in fighting corruption, and equality of opportunity – all characteristics popularly associated with democratic systems.

The chart makes a similar point. Place the top 20 countries listed in the Index of Economic Freedom next to the top 20 in the Index of Democracy, and what do you see? Much overlap. Thirteen countries appear on both lists. There would appear to be, at a minimum, an association between a productive free market and a democratic form of government.

Michael Mandelbaum, author of the new book *Democracy's Good Name*, is more emphatic. "The principal source of political democracy," he writes in this issue of eJournal USA, "is a free-market economy. While there have been, and continue to be, countries that practice free-market economics but not democratic politics, no country in the 21st century that is a political democracy lacks a free-market economy." Yet an article last year by public policy professor Robert Reich in the respected journal *Foreign Policy* is titled "How Capitalism Is Killing Democracy."

Clearly, the connection between markets and democracy is not a straight line. Since Adam Smith's *An Inquiry into the Causes and Nature of the Wealth of Nations* appeared in 1776, such big economic thinkers as Max Weber, Joseph Schumpeter, and Lester Thurow have been debating this complex relationship. Is it possible to have free markets without democracy? Which develops first? Can the powerful, universal incentive of economic growth lead to greater democracy in countries that are not democratic? -- The Editors

This e-journal is available at the following web address: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0608.html>

VENTURE CAPITAL MEETS HI-TECH

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, May, 2008

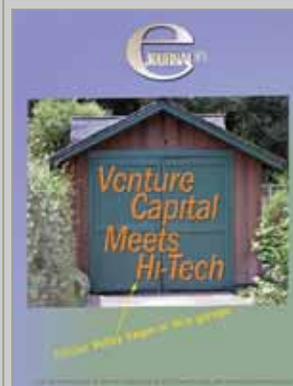
This eJournal explores the phenomenon that drives uncouth Americans — and now citizens of other nations — to create fledgling "start-up" businesses that explore and exploit the latest developments in high technology. It also investigates the closely related "venture capital" phenomenon. How investors match their funds to (hopefully) winning ideas is a big part of the start-up story.

This e-journal is available at the following web address:
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0308.html>

UPCOMING EJOURNALS

National Parks - July

Religious Minorities - August



This humble garage, also pictured on the cover of this issue of eJournal USA, may tell us more about the American people than the proud marble monuments that adorn the

National Mall in Washington, D.C. In 1938, the garage housed no automobile, but rather the Hewlett-Packard Company, founded by William Hewlett and David Packard with \$538 in borrowed capital.

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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