



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

# Yerevan Times



## **International Women's Day** **Observed on: March 8**

Celebrating the collective power of women past, present and future, International Women's Day, on March 8, is the day connecting all women around the world, and is aimed at inspiring them to strive to reach their full potential. In 1908, oppression and inequality spurred 5,000 women to march through New York demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights. Started as a political event, the holiday blended in the culture of many countries. In some celebrations, the day lost its political flavor and became simply an occasion for men to express their sympathy and love to the women around them - somewhat similar to Western [Mother's Day](#) and [St Valentine's Day](#)

mixed together.

IWD on March 8 is now an official holiday in **Armenia**, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

## [The United States Celebrates Women's Achievements in March](#)



In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and has since passed such a resolution every year. Congressional action is followed by a U.S. presidential proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.

Since its founding in 1980, the National Women's History Project has recognized and celebrated the rich and varied contributions of women to the history and culture of the United States.

The 2007 Women's History Month theme, Generations of Women Moving History Forward, celebrates the wisdom and tenacity of prior and future generations of women and recognizes the power of generations working together.

According to the National Women's History Project, "the year 2007 presents special opportunities to highlight some critically important events in women's history, including the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the 30th anniversary of the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas."

USINFO offers a series of articles to celebrate National Women's History Month, 2007 at: [http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history\\_geography\\_and\\_population/population\\_and\\_diversity/women\\_in\\_the\\_us/womens\\_history\\_month.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us/womens_history_month.html)

## What's New at The American 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

"Fighting Corruption in American Politics," by Adam Vogelzang, March 17, at 14:00.

"Travel to the U.S. and Community Service in the U.S.," Sirarpi Khojabaghyan and Mikael Mat-sakyan, March 14, at 14:00

"History of Chicago in the XX Century," Victor Ciapas, April 21, at 14:00

"On/off Campus life in the U.S.," Marietta Hovhannisyan and Barsegh Barseghyan, April 11, at 14:00.

#### American Corner Gyumri

"Life in Alaska," by Masha Herbst, March 21, at 15:00.

"Internship activities in the U.S.," Shushan Hovhannisyan, March 29, at 15:00.

David McFarland, April 18, at 15:00.

**For more information please visit Yerevan and Gyumri American Corner  
Websites at: [www.americancorners.am](http://www.americancorners.am)**

#### IRC Patrons Letters

I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank you for the interesting and enjoyable discussion of the film School Ties, which was shown as part of Monday Movie program at the U.S. Embassy. I highly appreciate your time and efforts for bringing the principles of democracy to the hearts and minds of our students.

All the films shown at the Embassy present humanistic and universalistic values and this is very important since it greatly helps to correct the misconceptions on American values. Besides, the students gain valuable knowledge about lifestyle in the U.S. and improve their language skills.

The Embassy staff members always make us feel welcome and we are much obliged to all of you.

Looking forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

Karine Davoyan  
Yerevan Branch of the  
Moscow State University of Services

### 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.**

**“Runaway Jury,” 2003, Directed by Gary Fleder**

**March 19 at 16:00**

When an attorney is shot in cold blood at his workplace, his widow sues a major gun manufacturer. Holding them responsible for his death, she dispatches idealistic lawyer Wendell Rohr to oversee the case. A good man of principle, Wendell takes charge while, on the defense team, another man will take charge. Rankin Fitch is the individual: a powerful and ruthless jury consultant riding high on his frequent successes. But in the middle of it all is the jury. Wendell and Rankin are determined to sway their opinion for the winning team. But what they're about to discover, is that one man and one woman stand in their way. Nicholas Easter is one of the jurors, and he's the one collaborating with Marlee, his girlfriend, on the final outcome of the case.



**"A Beautiful Mind," 2001, Directed by Ron Howard**

**April 16 at 16:00**

After a brilliant but asocial mathematician accepts secret work in cryptography, his life takes a turn to the nightmarish. The true story of prominent mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. is the subject of this biographical drama from director Ron Howard. Russell Crowe stars as the brilliant but arrogant professor Nash, who seems guaranteed a rosy future in the early '50s after he marries beautiful student Alicia (Jennifer Connelly) and makes a remarkable advancement in the foundations of "game theory," taking him to the brink of international acclaim. When he is recruited by a CIA agent (Ed Harris) to provide assistance to the military with top-secret code-breaking duties, however, the stress of Nash's demanding new covert activities leads to the shattering of his fragile grip on reality, and he becomes a paranoid schizophrenic. Battling decades of illness with the loyal Alicia by his side, Nash is ultimately able to recover his mental health and eventually goes on to triumphantly win the Nobel Prize.



The IRC Yerevan has many other movies which have been made available for future viewings. These exciting films include *The Untouchables* (drama, 1987); *A Few Good men* (drama/thriller, 1992), *Seabiscuit* (drama, 2003) ; and many, many more.

## **IRC Establishes U.S. Alumni Round Table Program**

On February 26 the Embassy's public affairs section hosted twenty students from the journalism departments of four different universities to meet with professional television journalists who had recently participated in a U.S. government sponsored study tour to the United States through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The professional journalists, who traveled in the United States for three weeks, meeting with American media outlets during the Fall 2006 mid-term elections, shared their knowledge and experience obtained during the U.S. program on the role of media in facilitating free and fair elections. The roundtable concluded with an animated question and answer session about freedom of the press and the restraints that journalists encounter in the Armenian Media environment. The student journalist audience found the event useful to both learn the U.S. approach to journalism during election time and to meet and hear from Armenian professionals. Both journalists and students expressed a desire to meet again for a discussion after the May 12 elections. The Embassy plans to hold similar types of events on a regular basis in the near future with other participants in the IVLP and alumni of the Fulbright and other professional exchanges.



**The U.S. Embassy Yerevan Information Resource Center Wishes all of our Patrons a Happy Easter!!**

### **Easter (Zatik) in Armenia**

**Observed on: April 8**

Easter (Zatik) is the favorite and the most anticipated holiday in the Christian world. In Armenian it's called "Zatik", which means "Harutyun ton" (Resurrection holiday). After about 80 years of soviet atheism, now Easter is re-acquiring its importance with the Armenians. Everybody greets each other on this day: "Christ has arisen"- "Blessed is the resurrection of Christ". During the Lenten fasting season of 40 days before Easter, Armenian families put lentils or other sprouting grains on a tray covered with a thin layer of cotton, and keep it in a light place of the house until Easter when sprouts appear. These green sprouts, symbolizing spring and awakening of nature, are the "grass" on which people place colored eggs to decorate the Easter table. To the present day, Armenians have preserved the beautiful biblical lore which refers to red eggs and cheorek (sweet bread): "When Christ was crucified, his mother took some eggs and bread wrapped in the shawl. When the Mother saw her Son crucified and his arms bleeding, she knelt down and cried. The Mother's tears and Son's blood dropping on the shawl colored the eggs and bread. Then the Mother put the shawl on her head. Since that day people began coloring eggs red on Easter day and women began wearing shawls when visiting church. In Armenia the meals associated with Easter are fish, rice, vegetables. Fish is common, whether fried or boiled.

### **How is the date for Easter Sunday determined each year?**

Easter Sunday always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21, the vernal equinox. The holiday can occur any time between March 22 and April 25.

# 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>.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

33 American periodicals are available in the IRC's shelves with 8 new titles for 2007:

American Heritage, BM	International Economy, QR
Columbia Journalism Review, BM	Language Magazine: The Journal of Communication, MO
Chronicle of Higher Education, WK	Premier: The Movie Magazine, MO
Education Digest, MO	Wilson Quarterly, QR

## English Language Programs

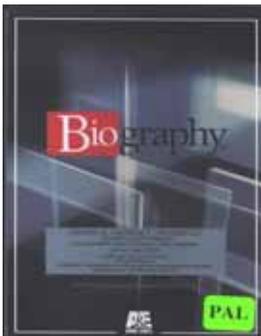
### *Do you speak American?*

This 3-part series travels around America exploring and celebrating the many different ways in which Americans speak. What will your audiences learn from the series? It is a celebration of Americans as seen - and heard - through the way American's speak. Here are just some of the topics they'll learn more about: Exposure to mass media is not homogenizing American language or making Americans all talk the same. Due to the huge migration to the South and Southwest and the national appeal of Country Music, Southern speech is now the largest accent group in the U.S. Despite decades of progress in civil rights, and the rise of a large black middle class, inner city African-Americans talk less like white Americans than they did two and three generations ago.



## VIDEO

### *General George C. Marshall, Soldier and Statesman*



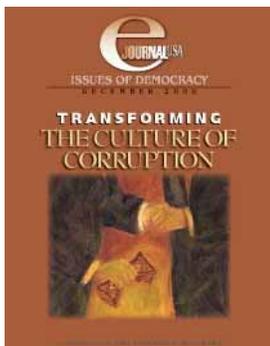
Produced by A & E Television Network in 1996. Length 50 minutes.

George C. Marshall is the only career soldier ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize. His military genius helped lead the Allied countries to victory in World War II, and his far-flung vision for helping nations get back on their feet after the war helped engineer the peace that followed.

During World War II, General George C. Marshall played such a strategic role in America's war efforts that President Roosevelt said, "I could not sleep if I did not know that George Marshall was in Washington." Churchill called him "the true organizer of victory."

## ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

### *The State Department at Work in the 21st Century: Global Actions*

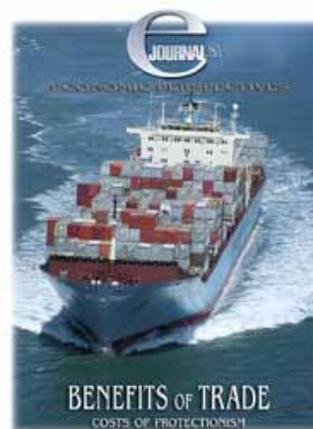


This edition of eJournal USA presents descriptions of how several State Department offices and bureaus work together to accomplish the department's mission—"to create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community." The "regional" bureaus described in the September 2006 eJournal USA have responsibility for particular regions of the world; these "functional" bureaus have worldwide responsibility for particular issues. This journal provides a picture of the "global actions" of these bureaus and their role in furthering U.S. policies.

This e-journal is available at the following web address:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0207/ijpe/ijpe0207.htm>

### *Benefits of Trade, Costs of Protectionism*

Removing trade barriers through World Trade Organization and other negotiations promises to lift millions of people around the world out of poverty. Maintaining protectionist practices hurts millions, especially in the developing world, by preventing sustained economic expansion. While developed countries need to drop their own protectionist practices, developing countries stand to gain the most benefits by removing their protectionist barriers to imports from each other. Protectionism bolsters the politically designated few while harming the many; the problem and the solution are political. This issue of eJournal USA has articles from authors inside and outside the U.S. government describing the benefits of trade and the costs of protectionism.



This e-journal is available at the following web address:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0107/ijee/ijee0107.htm>

Printed copies of the e-journals are available in the Information resource Center

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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