



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

Yerevan Times

Independence Day

Observed on: July 4

"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."
- words written on the Liberty Bell

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 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. The following photos provide a snapshot of some of the diverse ways in which Americans have celebrated the Fourth of July.



EDUCATORS CALENDAR JULY - AUGUST 2007

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| July 4 - Independence Day | August 1 - World Wide Web Anniversary (1990) |
| July 6 - Republican day (republican Party day formed 1854) | August 4 - Gestapo Arrest Anne Frank (1944) |
| July 7 - Pinocchio First Printed (1883) | August 6 - Hiroshima Day |
| July 8 - First Public reading of the Declaration of Independence (1776) | August 9 - President Nixon Resigned (1974) |
| July 11 - World Population Day | August 10 - Smithsonian Institution Founded (1846) |
| July 14 - Bastille Day (France) | August 12 - International Youth Day |
| July 16 - District of Columbia established (1790) | August 15 - Panama Canal Opened (1914) |
| July 17 - Disneyland Opened (1955) | August 18 - King Kong Premiered (1933) |
| July 18 - National Ice Cream Day | August 20 - National Radio Day |
| July 20 - First Moon landing (1969) | August 25 - Earth First Photographed from the Moon (1966) |
| July 22 - Parents Day | August 28 - Dream Day (Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a dream") Speech, 1963) |
| July 29 - NASA established (1958) | August 29 - Hurricane Katrina (2005) |

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

“History of New York City” by Douglas Peterson, July 21, at 14:00.

American Corner Gyumri

“English and the Internet: Resources for Independent Study” by James Teepen, July 11, at 15:00

A New American Corner in Kapan

On May 27, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Thomas Mittnacht, Information Resource Center Director Nerses Hayrapetyan and PAS Administrative Assistant Naira Gyulnazaryan visited Syunik Regional Library. The previous day, the American Corner in Kapan began to operate within the framework of a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Embassy. The guests were introduced to AC Kapan staff to whom they provided guidelines on how to successfully manage an American Corner and wished them success for the future. Training on Computer Literacy and Web Page Design was conducted by PAS Program Specialist Avetik Petrosyan. At the end of the training, Kapan AC successfully launched their own website.



From left: Gyumri AC Coordinator Amalia Stepanyan, Avetik Petrosyan, and Yerevan AC Coordinator Lianna Amirkhanyan



U.S. Embassy Yerevan Program Specialist Avetik Petrosyan presenting AC Armenia webpage

Armenian Delegation participates to AC conference in Yalta

On June 6-8, 2007 American Corners' Delegation from Armenia participated in AC Conference that was held in Yalta, Ukraine. Unfortunately because of flight delay the delegation missed the first day of a conference and arrived to Yalta only on June 6th.

On June 7th AC coordinators presented their libraries and talked about the programs and activities in their corners. They talked about English Language Clubs and demonstrated a PowerPoint presentation about AC in general.

American Corners' CMS presentation was held on June 8 and presented by U.S. Embassy Armenia Program Specialist Avetik Petrosyan. The presentation was followed by Q&A session.

For more information please visit Yerevan, Gyumri and Kapan American Corners websites at: <http://www.americancorners.am>

Monday Movies at the Information Resource center

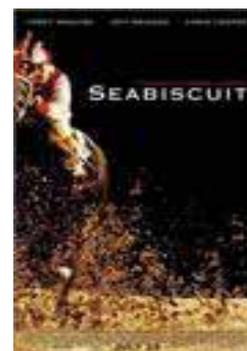
As part of its movie series, an English-language movie is shown at the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center every third Monday of the month.

Please mark your calendars and RSVP to ircyerevan@usa.am if you would like to attend any of the movies listed below.

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

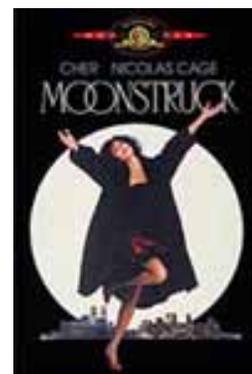
“Seabiscuit,” 2003, Directed by Gary Ross
July 16 at 15:30

In an era when Americans were in great need of heroic figures to help them forget their troubles, SEABISCUIT comes to the rescue. The picture relates a moving story of friendship and devotion in rehabilitating the main characters' fractured lives, as it interweaves the interactions between horse, jockey, trainer and owner and their adoring fans. The film accurately portrays the real people and events of those troubled times and how Seabiscuit "fixed us, every one of us."



"Moonstruck," 1987, Directed by Norman Jewison, Ann Petrie
August 20 at 15:30

Loretta Castorini, a Brooklyn bookkeeper in her late 30s whose husband died several years earlier in a bus accident, decides it's time to get married again. So she accepts the proposal of a nice, middle-aged fellow named Johnny Cammareri. Loretta is convinced her first marriage was cursed because she and her husband had gotten married at City Hall; this time, she's determined to do things right, even as she admits to her mother, Rose, that she's not really in love with Johnny. (To which Rose replies: "Good. When you love them, they drive you crazy, 'cause they know they can." Rose speaks from rueful experience; she suspects, with good reason, that her husband, Cosmo, is cheating on her.) Loretta is convinced that marrying Johnny is the safe and sure thing to do - until she meets his estranged younger brother Ronny, who tends the ovens in a neighborhood bakery. Loretta discovers that in startling contrast to the pleasant, mild-mannered Johnny, Ronny is moody and passionate; what follow are complications worthy of a comic opera.



The IRC Yerevan has many other movies which have been made available for future viewings. These exciting films include *Bobby, 2006* ; *Capote, 2005* ; *Freedom Writers, 2007* ; *Flags of Our Fathers, 2006* ; *Notes on a scandal, 2006* and many, many more.

The Box-office Numbers

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) has produced a 24-page report that summarizes box-office data, primarily using bold charts and graphs. To access the entire report. "2006 U.S. Theatrical Market Statistics," go to <http://www.mpa.org/2006-US-Theatrical-Market-Statistics-report.pdf>.

See also "The Movie Business Today," p.6

U.S. Alumni Round Table Program

On May 30, the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section hosted 24 students from the departments of political science, international relations and sociology of Yerevan State University, American University of Armenia, and Armenian State Economic University as apart of U.S. Alumni Round-table Program. The students met with Nerses Gevorgyan, a Fulbright scholar who conducted research at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution in Arlington, Virginia. Gevorgyan shared his knowledge and experience obtained during the program on conflict resolution and life in the United States. The lively discussion touched upon the sources and understanding of conflicts, principals of conflict resolution and the roles of regional states in conflict management.

As promised to journalists and students during a previous Elections and Election Monitoring Roundtable, the IRC convened a follow-up meeting on June 1 to discuss the media coverage of the May 12 elections in Armenia. Participants assessed the recent parliamentary election coverage in light of one of the most important principles of democracy: the right to free and fair elections. While many participants felt the parliamentary elections were a significant important upon previous elections in Armenia, others argued that there were serious allegations of fraud and that there is still much room for improvement in the elections process in Armenia.



Nerses Gevorgyan



Presentation of IRC Online Databases

On May 31, the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center (IRC) conducted a seminar on "Online Databases and Resources." The seminar was designed to increase awareness of the IRC's online resources among librarians and information resource specialists from the main libraries of Yerevan and Gyumri.

IRC staff presented several databases and electronic sources including Proquest Historical Newspapers, Books in Print, Leadership Directories, World of Learning, Biography Resource Center, Economist Intelligence Unit, Armed Conflict Database, and Terrorism Knowledge Database. These valuable resources provide readers with up-to-date directories, statistics, general references, country information, and news articles not necessarily available to the general public on the internet.

The audience was also briefed about the IRC's free services.

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>.

IRC ONLINE DATABASES

Here are IRC's online databases on country information:

[Armed Conflict Database](#)

In order to keep up-to-date on conflict-related matters around the world, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) has produced *The Armed Conflict Database*. It is a project that aims to provide an interactive and user-friendly source of information on armed conflicts worldwide.

As with the IISS Chart of Armed Conflict, the database seeks to cover international and internal conflicts, as well as terrorism. It provides an interactive and user-friendly source of information on 70 armed conflicts including terrorism, refugees/ and returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), weapons used, fatalities, historical backgrounds, annual updates and timelines.

[Economist Intelligence Unit](#)

EIU is the world's foremost provider of country, industry and management analysis. Founded in 1946 when a director of intelligence was appointed to serve *The Economist*, the Economist Intelligence Unit is now a leading research and advisory firm with more than 40 offices worldwide. For nearly 60 years, the Economist Intelligence Unit has delivered vital business intelligence to influential decision-makers around the world. The EIU extensive international reach and unfettered independence make it the most trusted and valuable resource for international companies, financial institutions, universities and government agencies.

[Terrorism Knowledge Database](#)

Developed by the [Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism \(MIPT\)](#), the Terrorism Knowledge Base offers in-depth information on terrorist incidents, groups, and trials.

(To be continued)

INFOUSA 2007-2008 Your Guide to the USA

InfoUSA was developed by the Bureau of International Information programs at the U.S. Department of State. These CDs provide a wealth of resources on U.S. business, education, government, media, and culture. InfoUSA aims to promote understanding of the principles and institutions that shape American values and the peoples who have come together to make up our population.

CD 1 includes thousands of documents in English organized by topic. Users with Internet access can also take advantage of hyperlinks to hundreds of websites on American society, government, culture, and more. CD 2 offers supplemental resources in over 20 languages, including English.

InfoUSA is available online in its entirety at:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/infousa/>

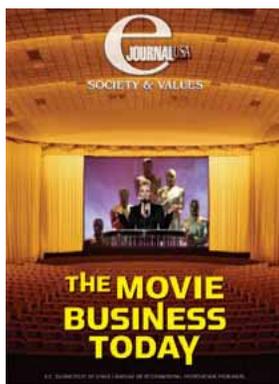


InfoUSA CDs are available free of charge for distribution to educational institutions and libraries. Send requests to:
ircyerevan@usa.am

ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

The Movie Business Today

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, June 2007



This issue of *eJournal USA* analyzes the increasing internationalization of the film industry, both in terms of audiences and filmmaking talent; the rise of a more personal style of independent filmmaking in recent years; the market for foreign-produced films in the United States; and the effects of the Internet and the digital revolution on how movies get made and distributed. Shorter pieces focus on film festivals like Sundance that seed young talent and some film studios' efforts to go green in making movies.

This e-journal is available at the following web address:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0607/ijse/ijse0607.htm>

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

DO YOU KNOW?

Is an airplane's black box actually black?

No, it is orange. Inside the box, a stainless-steel tape contains information on the airspeed, altitude, and vertical acceleration. A second orange box contains a tape of the last half-hour of conversation in the cockpit.



What was the actual case behind *An American Tragedy*?

The 1925 novel by Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945) was based on the murder of the pregnant Grace Brown by her boyfriend, social climber Chester Gillette, at Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks in 1906.

Was the author of the James Bond novels ever an agent himself?

Yes. Ian Fleming (1908-1964) began his intelligence work during World War II, when he served as the director of Naval Intelligence in Britain. After D Day, he was placed in charge of an assault unit that became known as Fleming's Private navy. It obtained German code books and equipment as British troops moved through France.



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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