



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

# Yerevan Times

## Labor Day

Labor Day, celebrated in the United States on the first Monday of each September, is the nation's official commemoration of its workers' contributions to national strength, prosperity and well-being. It also marks for millions of Americans the unofficial end of summer, a long weekend to visit with family or friends, and, for many youth, a last day of summer vacation before a new school year begins.

The first Labor Day commemoration occurred in New York City, on September 5, 1882. The date was chosen because it was about halfway between the July 4th Independence Day holiday and Thanksgiving. The occasion was marked by a parade, sponsored by the Knights of Labor (an early U.S. labor organization), and about 10,000 workers marched. By 1894, 28 states celebrated Labor Day and in that year Congress adopted legislation establishing the national holiday.

## Columbus day

Columbus Day is the annual U.S. commemoration of Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World (at San Salvador island, also known as Waitling Island, today part of the British Bahamas) on October 12, 1492. Columbus was not the first European to successfully cross the Atlantic. Viking sailors are believed to have established a short-lived settlement in Newfoundland sometime in the 11th Century, and scholars have argued for a number of other possible pre-Columbian landings. Columbus, however, initiated the lasting encounter between Europeans and the indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere.



Italian-Americans observe Columbus Day as a celebration of their heritage. Columbus Day was introduced as a U.S. national holiday by a lawyer, a son of Genoese immigrants. During the 1850s, Genovese immigrants settled and built ranches along the Sierra Foothills. As the gold ran out, these skilled "Cal-Italians," from the Alpenino hills, were able to prosper as self-sufficient farmers in the Mediterranean climate of Northern California. San Francisco has the oldest Columbus Day celebration, with Italians having commemorated it there since 1869.

You can find more on Columbus Day at: [http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life\\_and\\_culture/holidays/columbus\\_day.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays/columbus_day.html)

### We recommend you also visit the following links:

IIP web site on U.S. Holidays at: [http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life\\_and\\_culture/holidays.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays.html)

Publication "Celebrate Holidays in the USA" at:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/symbols/celebrat.pdf>

Publication "Portrait of the USA: National Celebrations" at:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/factover/holidays.htm>

## 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 Americans at the American Corner Presentations are scheduled:

#### **American Corner Yerevan**

On October 20, November 17, and December 15.

#### **American Corner Gyumri**

On October 10, November 14, and December 12.

#### **American Corner Vanadzor**

On October 3, November 7, and December 5.

### The American Corner in Vanadzor

The American Corner Vanadzor (ACV) is a partnership between the Public Affairs Office of the Embassy of the United States of America in Armenia and the Lori Regional (Marz) Library. The membership is free and open to general public. Corner focuses mainly on educational, cultural and business issues connecting the two nations. Besides providing basic services, ACV organizes presentations, meetings, exhibitions, and video and DVD demonstrations. The collection includes books, pamphlets, and DVDs on America in English, Armenian, and Russian.

The ACV can serve a venue for local NGO's, state and public organizations for initiating various public programs, seminars, discussions, workshops and conferences. The Corner is in five minutes walking distance from the Vanadzor State Pedagogical University. Students and faculty members will find a numerous interesting materials for American and English study.

The ACV is subscribed to American journals. Since October-November 2007 ACV will receive "American Heritage," "Atlantic Monthly," "Business Week," "Discover," "Forbes," "National Geographic," "New Yorker," "Newsweek," and other titles. English language teachers can borrow the "English Language Forum Magazine" and Award winning American Fiction of 1980-2005.

The U.S. Embassy Yerevan is planning to inaugurate officially the Vanadzor American Corner in mid September. For more details and information all interested parties can visit ACV bilingual English-Armenian web site at: <http://vanadzor.americancorners.am>



On August 21 American Corner in Vanadzor hosted a special program on Children's Rights.

#### **New American Corner Staff Trained in**

**Vanadzor:** On August 8, 2007, IRC Yerevan Director Nerses Hayrapetyan provided a special training session on electronic cataloging involving a new American Corner coordinator and staffers from the Vanadzor American Corner. AC Vanadzor staff members gained knowledge on different issues such as how to create bibliographic records on new book titles and periodicals, how to write an annotation, how to classify items and select a subject fields, etc. In addition training participants learned how to coordinate their web resources with existing American Corners in Armenia.

## 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.**

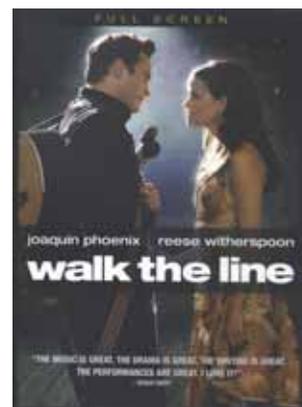
### **“Walk the Line,” 2005**

October 15 at 15:30

Director: James Mangold

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Ginnifer Goodwin

A chronicle of country music legend Johnny Cash's life, from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis, where he recorded alongside Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. Johnny Cash served in the Air Force in Germany, where he bought a guitar. His reputation growing from airplay and live performances, Cash became a star, touring with the likes of Jerry Lee Lewis and others. On tour, he suffered the effects of drug addiction. He also met June Carter, who would later become his wife. Responding in part to the fan mail he received from prisoners, Cash played a legendary concert for the inmates at Folsom Prison in California.



### **“The Devil Wears Prada,” 2006**

November 19 at 15:30

Director: David Frankel

Starring: Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway

The Devil Wears Prada is an Academy Award - nominated 2006 comedy-drama film, a loose screen adaptation of Lauren Weisberger's 2003 novel. In New York, the simple and naive just-graduated in journalism Andrea Sachs is hired to work as the second assistant of the powerful and sophisticated Miranda Priestly, the ruthless and merciless executive of the Runway fashion magazine. Andrea dreams to become a journalist and faces the opportunity as a temporary professional challenge. The first assistant Emily advises Andrea about the behavior and preferences of their cruel boss, and the stylist Nigel helps Andrea to dress more adequately for the environment. Andrea changes her attitude and behavior, affecting her private life and the relationship with her boyfriend Nate, her family and friends. In the end, Andrea learns that life is made of choices.



The IRC Yerevan has many other movies which have been made available for future viewings. These exciting films include *Capote*, *Bobby*, *Freedom Writers*, *Pursuit of Happiness*, *“Flags of Our Fathers*, *“The Shawshank Redemption”* ; and many, many more.

## RALPH J. BUNCHE LIBRARY



*Founded in 1789, this Library is the oldest in the federal government. In 1997, the Library was named in honor of Ralph J. Bunche -- statesman, scholar, and diplomat. Dr. Bunche was awarded the Nobel peace Prize for negotiating the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1949 and the first African-American to win the prize.*

The Library contains over 400,000 volumes devoted to the research needs of the State Department. Foreign policy, international law, economics, history, current events, leadership and management form a significant part of the collection.

The Bunche Electronic Library provides access to hundreds of online newspapers, over 30,000 e-journals, and over 2,000 e-books. The Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Newsweek, Foreign Policy, le Monde, The Economist, and so much more are instantly available and searchable.

The Bunche Electronic Library offers U.S. Embassy information resource centers worldwide direct access to dozens of important databases such as: International Financial Statistics, Proquest Policy File, Middle East Transcripts, and many more.

Upon request the IRC Yerevan staff can assist Armenian state and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions with providing needed information from Bunche Library print and electronic resources.

You can submit your requests to email: [ircyerevan@usa.am](mailto:ircyerevan@usa.am)

### Dear IRC Patrons,

[Webchat.state.gov](http://Webchat.state.gov) invites audiences outside the U.S. to engage with U.S. government officials and private citizens on a variety of topics. In order to participate in our webchats, please submit a valid e-mail address and a screen name. The screen name is the identifying mark that will appear on the chat screen for all participants to see. This is a one-time sign up that will be valid for all future webchats.



#### UPCOMING WEBCHATS

*September 25—T March Bell, The Fight against Human Trafficking: A discussion On International cooperation Efforts, Challenges and Achievements*

Human Trafficking is the "...recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons..." by improper means, such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion, for an improper purpose, such as forced or coerced labour, servitude, slavery or sexual exploitation." (Source: UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons)

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that affects many nameless people around the world through enslavement and forced labor. 80% of the victims of human trafficking are female. Sexual exploitation and forced prostitution is a common outcome for women who have been trafficked. To help the victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation comprehensive policies are necessary to fight the crime but also to treat the victim for sexual, physical, and emotional abuses.

T. March Bell, is experienced in developing policies to assist in fighting the crime of trafficking and caring for victims of trafficking and forced prostitution. Please join the discussion on past, present, and future policies and initiatives to curb the crime and assist its victims.

# 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 with full text articles:

### EbscoHost

EBSCO is a worldwide leader in providing information access and management solutions through print and electronic journal subscription services, research database development and production, online access to more than 150 databases and thousands of e-journals, a full-featured OpenUrl link revolver, and e-commerce book procurement. EBSCO has been serving the library and business communities for more than 60 years.

### Gale Infotrac One File

Information about international and U.S. associations, biographical information, publications and broadcast media. Title list includes Agriculture Collection, Biography Resource Center, Book Reviews, Business and Company Profiles, Communication and Mass media, Criminal Justice eCollection, Education, Environment, Arts and Music, Health, History, Law, Military and Intelligence, Religion, etc.

### ProQuest Research Library

ProQuest CSA is a world leader in collecting, organizing, and publishing worldwide for researchers, faculty and students in libraries and schools. ProQuest includes thousands of title of modules on Art, Business, Education, General Interest, Health, humanities, International, Law, Military, Multicultural, Psychology, Science, etc.

### Factiva

Provides same day, full text coverage from U.S. and world newspapers. Access to more than 10 000 sources from 152 countries in 22 languages, including more than 120 continuously updated newswires Dow Jones & Reuters collection of global content and services including full text access to the Wall Street Journal

*(To be continued)*

## EDUCATORS CALENDAR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

### September

- 2 - Great Fire of London (1666)
- 3 - Labor Day  
Wizard of Oz Published (1900)
- 4 - Henry Hudson Discovers Manhattan (1609)
- 8 - National Literacy Day
- 11 - Patriot Day
- 14 - Star-Spangled Banner Written by Francis Scott Key (1814)
- 15 - Alexander Fleming Discovers Penicillin (1928)
- 19 - "Mickey Mouse" Debuted (1928)
- 20 - International Student Day
- 23 - Native American Day
- 26 - National Good Neighbor Day
- 29 - U.S. Army established (1789)

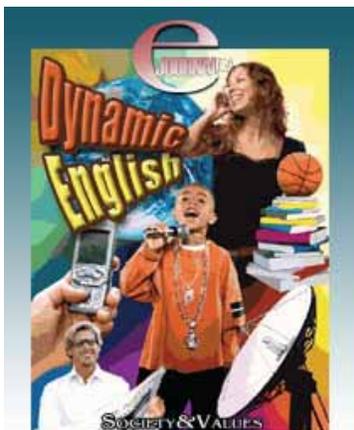
### October

- 1 - World Habitat Day
- 5 - World Teachers Day
- 8 - Columbus Day
- 14 - Peace Corps Birthday (1961)
- 16 - Dictionary Day
- 17 - Black Poetry Day
- 18 - Alaska Day
- 22 - Make a Difference Day
- 24 - United Nations Day ; International School Library Day
- 28 - Statue of Liberty Dedicated (1886)
- 29 - Internet Created (1969) ; First Oscar Night (1929)
- 31 - Halloween

## ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

### Dynamic English

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



This edition of *eJournal USA*, "Dynamic English," discusses forces that shape and change everyday English. From cultural and international influences, such as words that come directly, or in a changed form from another language, to popular media, including movies, music and sports, to changes arising from technological developments, the authors present examples of ways English changes daily. Other articles describe the process of language change, and tips for deciphering slang

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

#### English Learners Corner

English is easier to read and write than to speak since it has 26 letters but the actual number of sounds is 35 (11 vowels and 24 consonant sounds).

*Have a Nice Day!* Is one of the most overused expressions in the United States. Since the 1970's, it has been used to end a conversation in place of the traditional "goodbye." Does this goodbye phrase truly cheer someone up or does it force people to hide how they really feel? Customer service people are often expected to use this phrase to show enthusiasm to customers.

Are there any words in the English language that use all five vowels?

Several, including *sequoia* and *facetious*.

What is the difference between *e.g.* and *i.e.*?

The abbreviation *e.g.*, standing for the Latin *exempli gratia*, or "for the sake of example," means exactly that—series of examples: "large dogs, *e.g.*, Saint Bernards and Great Danes." The abbreviation *i.e.*, standing for *id est*, or "that is," explains the subject you have mentioned: "large dogs, *i.e.*, those over 3 feet tall and weighing over 50 pounds."

What is the difference between *et al.* and *et cetera*?

The Latin phrase *et al.*, short for *et alia* ("and other things") and *et alii* ("and other people"), is more specific than *et cetera* ("and the rest"). Only *et al.* can refer to people.

The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 13:00 to 18:00.  
1, American Ave., Yerevan 0082, Republic of Armenia  
Tel: (374-10) 49-44-11, 49-42-65  
E-Mail: [ircyerevan@usa.am](mailto:ircyerevan@usa.am) <http://www.usa.am/irc3.html>