



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

# Yerevan Times

## Veterans Day Honors Those Who Have Served



Veterans Day originated in the Armistice Day holiday commemorating the November 11, 1918, armistice at 11 a.m. (hence “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month”), which suspended active hostilities and effectively ended the First World War.

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919, the first Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations ...."

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

## Thanksgiving Is a Time for Tradition and Sharing

Thanksgiving in the United States is possibly the premier U.S. family celebration, typically celebrated at home and marked with a substantial feast. As the anchor of what is for many a four-day holiday weekend, Thanksgiving provides an occasion for family reunions, marks the beginning of the “holiday season” that continues through Christmas and New Year's Day and, as its name suggests, affords Americans a shared opportunity to express their gratitude for plentiful food and general abundance.

Many cultures traditionally have marked a plentiful harvest with a celebration of thanks. Long before the first English settlers reached North America, Western Europeans observed “Harvest Home” festivals and the British an August 1 Lammas (“Loaf Mass”) Day, celebrating the wheat harvest. The American Thanksgiving holiday began in 1621 with the first successful Pilgrim harvest, one that truly provided an occasion to give thanks.



You can find more on Thanksgiving Day at: [http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life\\_and\\_culture/holidays/thanksgiving\\_day.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays/thanksgiving_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:

AC YEREVAN	AC GYUMRI	AC VANADZOR
November 17, at 14:00	November 14, at 15:00	
December 15, at 14:00	December 12, at 15:00	December 5, at 15:00

### U.S. EMBASSY YEREVAN OPENS FOURTH AMERICAN CORNER

On October 1, Ambassador Rudolf Perina, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. cut the ribbon marking the official opening of the fourth American Corner in Armenia. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Rudolf Perina, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires a.i. said, "The United States has a longstanding commitment to spreading the ideas and values of American democracy and civil society to foreign audiences, and to engaging and maintaining an open dialogue with people throughout the world. The goal of this American Corners is to bring the true story of the United States to the people in Kapan – building bridges of understanding."

The Corner is located in the Syunik Regional Library. The Ambassador expressed the hope that, by expanding the material available on the United States, the Corner would complement the library's existing collections and enhance patron's interest in American history, culture and society.

Located in the Southern region of Armenia, the Kapan American Corner will allow a large segment of the Armenian population to access resources on the United States. The opening ceremony was attended by approximately 80 teachers, students, NGO representatives, librarians, and Peace Corps volunteers. It received local media coverage. The Ambassador's welcome remarks were followed by remarks made by the library directors and by Armen Karapetyan, the Mayor of Kapan. The same day, the Corner conducted its first public lecture in English which was presented by Information Resource Officer Bill Middleton, who traveled to Armenia from Vienna.

For more details and information all interested parties can visit ACV bilingual English-Armenian web site at: <http://vanadzor.americancorners.am>



Ambassador Perina and Library Director Minasyan signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

### Learn about America's Beautiful Nature:

On October 9, 2007, at the American Corner in Kapan, a presentation entitled "Learn about America's Beautiful Nature" took place as part of an "Americans at the American Corner" presentation series. The lecture was given by U.S. Peace Corps volunteer Sarah Snowbarger. Ms. Snowbarger spoke about the peculiarities of America's Nature. She showed beautiful images of America, including pictures of both American flora and fauna.

## THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



*The Library was founded in 1800, making it the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation. On August 24, 1814, the Library's core collection of 3,000 volumes was destroyed when the British burned the Capitol, where the Library was housed.*

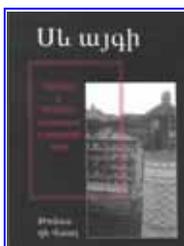
The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with more than 134 million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 32 million books and other printed materials, 2.8 million recordings, 12.5 million photographs, 5.3 million maps, 5.5 million music items and 59.5 million manuscripts.

The Library of Congress occupies three buildings on Capitol Hill. The Thomas Jefferson Building (1897) is the original separate Library of Congress building. The John Adams Building was built in 1938 and the James Madison Memorial Building was completed in 1981.

The Library receives some 22,000 items each working day and adds approximately 10,000 items to the collections daily.

At the turn of the twenty-first century, the core of the Armenian collections, numbered approximately 26,000 items; it is housed in the Near East Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division, whose beautifully renovated reading room in the magnificent Thomas Jefferson Building offers a calm refuge for those studying Armenia from its beginnings to the present.

For more information about the Library of Congress please visit: <http://www.loc.gov> ; and for Armenian collection please visit: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/nes/cty/cai/caihome.html>



### **Armenian translation of Thomas De Waal's Book "Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War"**

Black Garden is the definitive study of how Armenia and Azerbaijan got sucked into a conflict that helped bring them to independence, bringing to an end the Soviet Union, and plaguing a region of great strategic importance. It cuts between a careful reconstruction of the history of Nagorno Karabakh conflict since 1988 and on-the-spot reporting on its convoluted aftermath.

Part contemporary history, part travel book, part political analysis, the book presents a careful reconstruction of the history of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and its aftermath, based on six months traveling through the South Caucasus, more than 120 original interviews, and unique archives.

The widely-read book was first published in English in 2004. A Russian translation of the book came out in November 2006 and discussions were held in Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku.

Thomas de Waal is editor of the Caucasus Reporting Service of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. He is also known as co-author of "A Small Victorious War", a book on the conflict in Chechnya. De Waal completed a degree in Russian and Modern Greek at Oxford, has worked for the BBC, The Moscow Times and The Times in London and Moscow.

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section will disseminate all the print run of Armenian translation. All research, educational and cultural establishments, NGOs' and libraries that are interested in obtaining a copy of Black Garden please apply to IRC at: [ircyerevan@usa.am](mailto:ircyerevan@usa.am) or via phone: **49-44-11 or 49-42-65**

## 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 PARTICIPATED IN THE 12TH ANNUAL U.S. EDUCATION FAIR



On October 19, 2007, the staff from the Yerevan IRC and the Yerevan American Corner participated in the 12th annual Education Information Fair hosted by the American Councils for International Education (ACCELS) Educational Advising Center. The fair, which took place in the American University of Armenia, was a wonderful opportunity to disseminate information on the services offered by the IRC and the American Corners in Armenia.

Staff members of the IRC and the American Corner in Yerevan each introduced their resources, programs, and services to a wide audience of students and faculty members from different Armenian universities and institutes of higher learning.

IRC Director Nerses Hayrapetyan conducted a Power Point interactive quiz with questions about U.S. history and politics. Every 15 minutes, participants from different universities, NGOs, and teachers participated in the game and the winners received IIP outline series publications.

The IRC received more than 30 e-services registration forms for its distribution list. The information fair attracted more than 1000 students, scholars and representatives of different academic institutions. Over 417 students, 30 teachers, and 18 international visitors, including 10 Americans, visited the IRC and AC booths. All the participating teachers were given copies of the English Language Teaching Forum magazine, along with IRC and AC Yerevan brochures. The fair was a great opportunity to advertise IRC Yerevan services and activities.

### EDUCATORS CALENDAR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

#### November

- 5 - Young Reader's Day
- 9 - Berlin Wall Opened (1989)
- 10 - marine Corps Birthday (1775)
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 12 - Elizabeth Cady Staton's Birthday (1815)
- 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> - National Children's Book Week
- 13 - Robert Louis Stevenson's Birthday (1850)
- 16 - International Day of Tolerance
- 18 - Mickey Mouse's Birthday (1928)
- 22 - Thanksgiving
- 22 - JFK's Assassination (1963)
- 27 - Anders Celsius's Birthday (1701)
- 29 - Electronic Greetings Day
- 30 - Mark Twain's Birthday (1835)

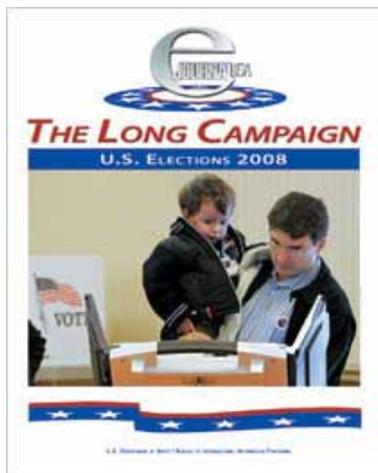
#### December

- 1 - AIDS Awareness Day
- 5 - International Volunteer Day
- 7 - Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
- 9 - Computer Mouse Invented (1968)
- 10 - Human Rights Day
- 14 - South Pole Discovered
- 15 - Bill of Rights Day
- 16 - Boston Tea Party Day
- 17 - Wright Brother's Day
- 21 - Crossword Puzzle Created (1913)
- 25 - Christmass
- 28 - National Chocolate Day
- 30 - Rudyard Kipling's Birthday (1865)
- 31 - New Year's Eve

## ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

### The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008

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



This newly released edition of eJournal USA presents an introduction to the upcoming 2008 U.S. elections. In these elections, U.S. voters will have the opportunity to vote for president and vice president, congressional representatives, state and local officials, and ballot initiatives. The journal describes aspects of this election which make it different from most recent elections and includes a pro-con debate of the Electoral College.

This e-journal is available at the following web address:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1007/ijde/ijde1007.pdf>

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

## English Learners Corner



What is *the oldest letter in the alphabet*? The most recent?.

The oldest is *o* - first used by Egyptians in about 3000 B.C. The newest letters are *j* and *v*. The constant *j* was not distinguished from the vowel *i* until the 1960s, and not until the Renaissance was the consonant *v* distinguished from the vowel *u*.

From what does the term *minutes of a meeting* derive?

Rather than measuring the time that passes during a meeting, the word *minutes* refers to the Latin *minutes*, or “small.” This is because the occurrences of the meeting are meant to be noted

shortly and quickly—not that the events themselves are unimportant.

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

At one time there was no difference: *Preface* was the Latin term, *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.

What is the significance of *looking a gift horse in the mouth*?

The phrase, as old as the fourth century A.D., once had a literal meaning. Up to a certain number of years, a horse’s age can be determined by examining its teeth. To perform such an examination on a horse you’ve been given is *looking a gift horse in the mouth*.

Do you know?

There may be only 26 letters in the English alphabet, but there are 52 sounds in English. And you need to know them all to speak and understand English well. Luckily, Pronunciation Power teaches you all the 52 sounds and lets you record and play back to check how well you learned. [Learn more about Pronunciation Power here and get your FREE e-book and shipping.](#)

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>