



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

# Yerevan Times

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## U.S. EMBASSY DONATES AMERICAN STUDIES TEXTBOOKS

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that on April 22, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch and representatives of Yerevan State Linguistic University named after Brusov, Russian-Armenian Slavonic University, and Yerevan State University participated in a book donation ceremony at the U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center. The U.S. Embassy, through its American Corner program, is donating almost \$50,000 (18 million dram) in American Studies textbooks for area studies programs at the three schools.

The U.S. Embassy provides American Studies seminars, trainings, and exchange opportunities to university faculty throughout Armenia. This is the first large scale donation of American Studies textbooks, which cover themes in American government, history, culture, and literature. The books present a diverse view of America and will strengthen American Studies curricula in Armenia. Multiple copies of five different titles are being donated to each university so that students are able to work with the texts during class as well as outside the classroom.



Alexander Grigoryan, Vice Rector of the Yerevan State University thanking for the embassy's contribution

In her remarks, Ambassador Yovanovitch noted that, "Learning about other cultures is the key to ensuring mutual understanding between nations," and expressed a hope that the English-language



Yerevan American Corner Inauguration Cake

books will be a valuable contribution to the efforts of university faculty and administrators, who are actively incorporating American Studies content into their classes.

## U.S. EMBASSY CELEBRATES FOURTH ANNIVERSARY, NEW LOCATION OF THE YEREVAN AMERICAN CORNER



Yerevan American Corner Inauguration

On April 14, the U.S. Embassy marked the re-opening of the Yerevan American Corner at the City Central Library's new location by the Republic Square Metro Station. The inauguration also marks the Corner's fourth year of operations in Yerevan.

In her remarks, Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch said, "The United States has a longstanding commitment to spreading the ideas and values of American democracy, and to engaging and maintaining an open dialogue with people throughout the world."

The American Corner program officially began in Armenia in April 2005 when the U.S. Embassy inaugurated the first Corner in Yerevan. Over the past four years, over 35,000 people have visited the corner.

For more information about the American Corners in Armenia, please visit page 3.

# Information Resource Center

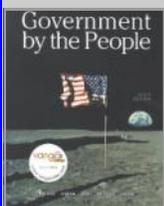


APAO Susan Bridenstine Reading to Students at the National Children's Library

## U.S. Embassy Celebrates Armenian National Library Week at the National Children's Library

In celebration of Armenian National Library Week, on April 17, APAO Susan Bridenstine read illustrated stories at the National Children's Library to an audience of over 30 young students. The APAO gave an animated presentation of three popular children's books including "Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm," "Jumanji," and "How I Became a Pirate." Teachers expressed their appreciation for the creative way in which students were able to hear spoken English and further develop their interest in English language literature. Vienna IRO Catherine Marsicek also attended the program and introduced the International Children's Digital Library Project to Library Director Rusanna Tonoyan.

## New Resources at the Information Resource Center



22nd edition, Upper Saddle River, N.J. : Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2008.

**Government by the people** /David B. Magleby , David M. O'Brien , Paul C. Light , J. W. Pel-tason , Thomas E. Cronin , Basic ed.,

This book discusses the make-up and function of the U.S. system of government. Its primary focus is on the modern political system in the United States. This focus centers on how the federal and state governments are constructed and the comparative political ideologies that influence how those governments operate.

**American cultural studies** : an introduction to American culture /By Neil Campbell and Alasdair Kean ; 2nd edition, New York : Routledge, 2006.



This much-needed American Cultural Studies textbook provides an introduction to the central themes in modern American culture and explores how these themes can be interpreted.

**The Norton Anthology of American Literature**, Shorter Version, Sixth Edition /by Nina Baym (Editor). - W.W. Norton & Co.; 2007. -3024 pages.



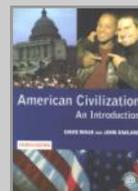
Firmly grounded in the core strengths that have made it the best-selling undergraduate survey in the field, The Norton Anthology of American Literature has been revitalized in this Seventh Edition through the collaboration between three new period editors and five seasoned ones. Under Nina Baym's direction, the editors have considered afresh each selection and the entire apparatus to make the Shorter Edition an even better teaching tool for one-semester and brief two-semester courses.

**American Government: Power and Purpose**, Tenth Brief Edition by Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, and Kenneth A. Shepsle. -W. W. Norton, 2007. -516 pages.



American Government, Brief Tenth Edition, is the only brief text that offers an analytical approach, comprehensive coverage of the core concepts and major topics of American politics, and lots of pedagogical help for students.

**American Civilization**: An Introduction by David Mauk. - Routledge; 4 edition (August 9, 2005). -375 pages



American Civilization is a comprehensive introduction to contemporary American life. It covers the key dimensions of American society including geography and the environment, immigration and minorities, government and politics, foreign policy, the legal system, the economy, social services, education, religion, the media and the arts. American Civilization is a vital introduction to the crucial and complex identities of America.

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>



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# What's New at The American Corners?

## IN GYUMRI: EMBASSY SUPPORT AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTED AT AMERICAN CORNER



Cultural Assistant Lusine Mkrtchyan

On April 27, 2009, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section representatives Liana Sahakyan and Lusine Mkrtchyan delivered a presentation at the Gyumri American Corner on "U.S. Embassy Programs in Armenia." The presentation covered Democracy Commission Small Grants, U.S. Government Exchange Program Alumni Outreach, the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program, the H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, and the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation program. More than 30 participants from different NGOs were present for the presentation. The event was highlighted by GALA TV.

## U.S. EMBASSY CELEBRATES EARTH DAY AT THE GYUMRI CORNER



Adela Renna with AC patrons.

On April 22, 2009, the U.S. Embassy IRC and the Gyumri American Corner organized a public lecture in celebration of Earth Day. U.S. Embassy Political Section Administrative Assistant Adela Renna spoke about "U.S. National Parks" to over 20 students from the Gyumri American Corner's English Club. Ms. 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 the Grand Canyon. Every year over 300 million people visit the parks and more than 100 people from all over the world volunteer in parks around the United States. The National Park Service is the U.S. government agency in charge of preserving natural resources.

## IN KAPAN: JOBS AND THE INTERNET

The Kapan American Corner, together with the Syunik Regional Public Library, organized a training seminar for future accountants. Participants learned useful resources on the Internet. The AC Coordinator, Garik Hovhannisyan, discussed with participants the basics of electronic commerce and communication and how to apply for online job openings.



AC Kapan Patrons' Group Study

## IN VANADZOR: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS GROWTH IN AMERICA

On April 8, 2009, the Vanadzor American Corner, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, organized a public lecture about American entrepreneurship and business. U.S. Embassy Financial Management and Human Resource Officer Benjamin Pierce led the discussion.

Mr. Pierce spoke about the Intel Corporation (**INT**egrated **E**lectronics), which is the largest semiconductor company in the world and famous for its microprocessors. He also discussed the world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, which runs a chain of large, discount department stores in America, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and the United Kingdom, and the Charles Schwab Corporation, one of the largest brokerage companies in the U.S. Mr. Pierce covered the rise and success of these companies. He also identified core elements for achieving business success in America, such as innovation, hard work, investment, perseverance, luck, good timing, and other factors. Over 15 participants asked questions and gained knowledge about American entrepreneurship and business.



Group picture with Vanadzor American Corner patrons

# Information Resource Center

## Webpage recommendations!



### International Children's Digital Library

The mission of the International Children's Digital Library Foundation is to excite and inspire the world's children to become members of the global community – children who understand the value of tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages and ideas -- by making the best in children's literature available online.

Visit the ICDL webpage at: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

### The Special English Web site is an excellent tool to practice and improve your American English

Learn American English and Much More

VOA Special English radio programs are broadcast every day of the year on the VOA network. Each broadcast starts with world news, followed by a short feature report and a 15 minute feature.

Throughout this site you will find radio scripts from these feature programs and the matching audio file of the text as it was delivered on the



radio. They also offer both Real-Audio and MP3 downloadable audio files that you can save and play over and over again.

Find a report that interests you. You can find scripts by topic or by the name of the radio program.

Read along and listen to the audio report. At the same time you will learn new information about a variety of subjects from issues in the news to American history.

Please visit: <http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/index.cfm>

**Read, Listen, Learn!**



## EARTH DAY 2009

### USEFUL LINKS FOR CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

<http://www.earthday.gov/> is a portal for U.S. Governments events and information related to Earth Day;

<http://www.earthday.net/> provides information on worldwide Earth Day events, activities and actions ;

<http://www.epa.gov/> is the website of the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

<http://www.planetpals.com/earthday.html> offers a complete list of Earth Day activities and teaching materials that can help you make every day Earth Day;

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/earth-day/> suggests several ideas for Earth Day crafts and games.

## Do you know?



### How did 7UP get its name?

The 7 stands for the soft drink's original 7-ounce bottle, the UP for the bubbles from its carbonation. In 1929, when the drink was first introduced by Saint Louis Businessman Charles L. Grigg, it was called Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Soda. The name was derived from one of its original ingredients, lithium salts.



### Why did bottles of Dr. Pepper bear the number 10, 2 and 4

They represented the times between meals when a person's energy is at its lowest and can be revived by Dr. Pepper.

## Announcement for librarians and information specialists

The Association for Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) accepts applications for the Award Course Online program for library professionals from developing countries. Registration is open for the 4th session (beginning in August) of online based continuing education courses. Only one free seat per session will be offered to eligible individuals. See criteria of eligibility at the ALCTS Web site: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/awards/grants/onlinegrant.cfm>

TO APPLY, YOU MUST USE THE WEB FORM AT THE FOLLOWING LINK CREATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS AWARD PROGRAM:

<http://alctsprogram.wufoo.com/forms/alcts-web-course-offering-application-form/>

**Registration will be open until June 5th.**

## EDUCATORS CALENDAR 2009

There's something worth commemorating every day. Find fun and educationally relevant holidays, events, and celebrations for each day. Visit at: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/>

### MAY

- 1 Space Day
- 2 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 3 World Press Freedom Day
- 3-10 Nat'l Music Week, Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5 First American in Space (1961)
- 8 World Red Cross Day
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11-18 Children's Book Week
- 14 First Olympic Games Held in U.S. (1904)



- 18 Sally Ride First American Woman in Space (1983)
- 19 Juneteenth (Liberation of Slaves) (1865)
- 21 Father's Day
- 23 First Typewriter Patented (1868)
- 25 First Color TV Broadcast (1951)
- 26 Bicycle Patented (1819)
- 28 World War I Began (1914)
- 29 Remote Control Introduced (1964)

- 14 First U.S. Space Station Launched (1973)
- 15 Intn'l Day of Families
- 20 Christopher Columbus Died (1506)
- 21 American Red Cross Established (1881)
- 23 Intn'l Jazz Day
- 24 First Telegraph Message Transmitted (1844)
- 25 Memorial Day
- 31 World No Tobacco Day

Jazz



### JUNE

- 1 Stand for Children Day
- 1 CNN Debuted (1980)
- 2 Radio Patented (1896)
- 3 First U.S. Space Walk (1965)
- 5 U.N. World Environment Day
- 8 World Oceans Day
- 12 George H. W. Bush's Birthday (1924)
- 14 Flag Day
- 14 First Commercial Computer Introduced (1951)
- 16 Valentina Tereshkova First Woman in Space (1963)

### MONDAY MOVIES

As part of its movie series, an English language film 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 May 18 and June 15 at 15:00pm.

Please contact: [ircyerevan@usa.am](mailto:ircyerevan@usa.am) if you plan to attend the movie series.

### Greetings in English

There are many ways to say hello in English. Sometimes you say a quick hello as you are passing somebody. At other times a greeting leads to a conversation. Friends and family members greet each other in a casual way. Business greetings are more formal.

### Greetings in Business

Proper etiquette is important in business greetings. Make sure to use polite language such as "please" and "thank you." Appropriate titles and gestures should also be used. Shaking hands is common in most English speaking countries. It is also important to smile.

### Tips

- Introduce yourself with name and title.*
- Shake hands.*
- Express happiness to meet the other person.*
- Give or accept directions.*

### *English Learners Corner*



*Story Hour at the National Children's Library after Khnko Aper. During the past 3 years, the IRC has donated over 1000 books, magazines and videos to support the library.*



Useful Phrases:  
Please have a seat.

Thanks for agreeing to meet with me.

He'll be right with you.

Can I offer you something to drink?

My pleasure.



## EJOURNAL USA: “NONVIOLENT PATHS TO SOCIAL CHANGE”



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE - BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS

Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. and their followers did not accept oppression and second-rate status. They actively pursued practical, nonviolent ways to free their people.

An Anglo-American intellectual tradition of nonviolent thought goes back centuries, spreading to communities large and small in the United States and beyond. Today community organizers in the United States help people assert their rights before local elected governments. Individuals around the world lead nonviolent movements in a great variety of campaigns to save local forests from destruction, local villagers from death by landmine, and local children from lives of ignorance.

Internet-based social networking technology promises to give people even more powerful tools to promote change, as President Barack Obama demonstrated in his 2008 election campaign.

“Whenever you improve a group’s ability to communicate with one another, you change the things they are able to accomplish together,” Internet consultant Clay Shirky writes in this issue of eJournal USA.

A well-known example is a Facebook.com group started by young people from Bogota, Columbia, called No Mas FARC. Online they organized protest demonstrations against the FARC, a Colombian terrorist organization, turning out 12 million people in 190 cities around the world. In December 2008 the leaders of the anti-FARC group met with other youth groups from 15 countries in New York and formed the Alliance of Youth Movements, which is dedicated to helping these groups use online technology to counter violence.

The URL for the journal is: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0209lit.html>

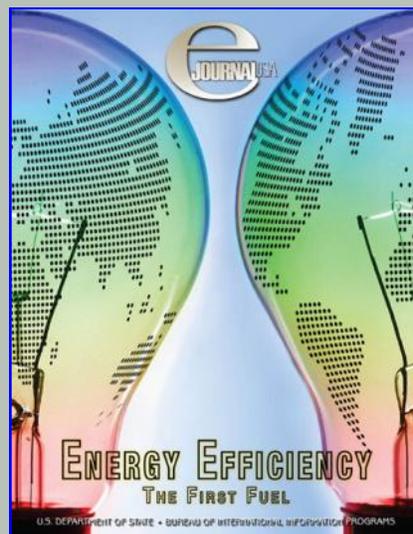
## EJOURNAL USA: “ENERGY EFFICIENCY: THE FIRST FUEL”

Increasing the efficient use of existing energy supplies is widely acknowledged as the fastest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet future energy needs. Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel examines the strong U.S. record of tapping efficiency as a resource, and the accelerated efforts by individuals, organizations, and governments to squeeze greater productivity from all energy sources.

The Obama administration boosted government spending on efficiency programs by almost \$17 billion in the economic stimulus package passed earlier this year, further affirmation of the national imperative to tap the resource of energy efficiency.

The URL for the journal is: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0409.html>

*The printed copy of the e-journal is available in the Information Resource Center and American Corners in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.*



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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