



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

# IRC Yerevan Times

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## IRC Yerevan joins National Library Week Program with numerous events

**DID YOU KNOW?** *First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.*



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Library Week (NLW) was celebrated in Armenia from April 11th to April 18th. IRC Yerevan participated with various reading programs and public presentations.

The Armenian Library Association adopted this public campaign with support from the American Library Association and Carnegie Foundation. The first NLW was organized in April 2002. Since then Armenian libraries celebrate the week every year in April, having one day difference with American NLW. Numerous public programs such as lectures, presentations, story hours, exhibition openings, seminars, workshops, discussions, are held.

This year IRC Yerevan organized five story programs at



at

On Monday April 11, 2011, U.S. Embassy Development Assistant Program Coordinator RaeJean Stokes read “*How I Become a Pirate*” by Melinda Long and gave a lively presentation to an audience of 5th grade

students at the Yerevan Secondary School No.130.

On Tuesday April 12, 2011, U.S. Embassy Economic Officer Megan Bouldin read three popular children’s books at the Yerevan American Corner. Media coverage of this event can be found at [PanArmenian Photo](#) news agency.



The next day's story hour was organized together with the National Children's Library of Armenia. U.S. Vice Consul Laura Conaway read two books for school students from Yerevan schools #35 and #114. Over 30 students and 5 teachers participated in the interactive reading program.

On Thursday April 14, 2011, Assistant CLO Coordinator Teresa Johnston read "Cups for Sale" by Esphur Slobodkina and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" by Dr. Seuss. Many Armenian school students have become quite familiar to the works of Dr. Seuss thanks to the IRC donations.

The fifth story hour conducted by Embassy family member Brenda Pinne at Yerevan School #78 on the last day of NLW. Mrs. Pinne read "Cock-A-Doodle Doo, The Story of a Little Red Rooster" by Berta and

Elmer Hader.

Upon every visit IRC donated different American Children's books to support English language programs at schools.

Six schools, over 150 school students and 15 English language teachers participated in a reading series initiated by IRC Yerevan. Storybook reading is an easy way to connect with local school kids, share some American literature, and promote reading.

IRC participation in NLW helped expose Armenian audiences to U.S. literary values and family reading traditions. The whole series brought attention to the importance of libraries as centers of civil society, and the availability of English-language news sources at libraries through the American Corners and IRC.



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE AMERICAN CORNERS?

### Student life at an American University



On April 13, 2011 American Corner Gyumri organized a public lecture in English entitled “Student life at an American University.” The guest speaker was U.S. Embassy Pol/Econ Administrative Assistant Sрни Seetharahn. Mr. Seetharahn shared his own experience of being an international student at the American University. He used Google maps to compare the scales of a large University campus in the U.S. campuses and the whole Downtown Yerevan, thus making a point about the huge territories some American campuses occupy. He also named the various facilities most universities have: their own

museums, libraries, swimming pools, police departments and hospitals. He also spoke about the International Student Association and its activities that may interest an international student. This was followed by questions and answers.

About 25 people participated in the lecture, including students, as well as Peace Corps Volunteers. Students learned many helpful and interesting facts about American student life. The lecture also improved their English language skills.

### Presentation about American Jazz at Vanadzor American Corner

On April 15, 2011, American Corner in Vanadzor organized a public presentation within the framework of "Americans at the American Corner" public lecture series. The featured American speaker was Sean O’Hara, U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer. The topic he chose to present was jazz music.

Mr. O’Hara is a big fan of jazz and also an amateur saxophone player. For this event, the host library invited three local student musicians to help Mr. O’Hara demonstrate the musical elements of jazz. Vahe Poghosyan (bass guitar), Gor Tadevosyan (Solo guitar), and Samson Ghumashyan (drum) joined Mr. O’Hara on stage. The presentation included stories, photographs, music performance, and active audience participation as well.



Mr. O'Hara highlighted several American jazz legends and discussed their contributions to the music. For example, he displayed photographs of Louis Armstrong and asked the audience to sing with him in a call-and-response game. This was followed by an instrumental performance of the song "When the Saints Go Marching In" by the presenter and guest musicians.

Mr. O'Hara involved the audience throughout the presentation. Almost all the 60 attendees were regularly called upon to perform. At one point, Mr. O'Hara asked members of the audience to try singing in the "scat" style like Ella Fitzgerald. Later, he led them in imitating the trumpet, trombone, and cymbal parts to Count Basie's swing hit "One O'Clock Jump."

Mr. O'Hara's presentation in Vanadzor was a lively, interactive, and thoroughly enjoyable introduction to jazz, a music born in America and played throughout the world. Two local TV stations positively highlighted the event.



### Teaching English through American Pop Music

In honor of National Library Week on Saturday, April 16, U.S. Embassy Information Officer Jay Treloar gave a lecture on "Teaching English through American Pop Music" at the Yerevan American Corner.

Mr. Treloar introduced the audience to popular music genres, including jazz, blues, rock, country, hip-hop and R&B, and he discussed popular American music groups and artists.

Mr. Treloar spoke about how American pop music often borrows elements from many different genres. At the end of his presentation, Mr. Treloar presented Lady Gaga's song "Just Dance" to the audience and encouraged the crowd to sing and just dance! Mr. Treloar accompanied them on the guitar, and after the lecture, he played one of his own songs. His enthusiasm spread not only to the participants but also to IRC director Nerses Hayrapetyan and City Central Library director Hasmik Karapetyan, who contributed with an Armenian folk song.

The audience of around 60 participants was composed of university and school students, lecturers, and professionals of different different fields. All of them were very active and undoubtedly enjoyed the interactive English lesson.



## IRC ALUMNI ROUNDTABLE ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS: Success Stories

On 30 March, 2011, as a part of Women History Month, the Information Resource Center hosted an alumni roundtable program for 40 economic students from Yerevan State University, the American University of Armenia, the Armenian-Russian (Slavonic) University, the European Regional Academy, the Armenian State University of Economics, “Gladzor” Management University, and the Agrarian University.

The three speakers were successful Armenian businesswomen: Margarita Hakobjan, owner of Modus Consulting LLC; Lilit Avetisyan, Director of Al-Tandem Ltd real estate agency; and Anahit Mkrtchyan, owner of 5<sup>th</sup> Element” cinema. All three are alumni of educational and exchange programs sponsored by the U.S. Government.

The topic of the discussion was “Women in Business: Success Stories.” The featured speakers shared their knowledge and experience in the field of business management and lobbying obtained in the United States, as well as their life stories. Megan Bouldin, Economic Officer at the U.S. Embassy, also addressed participants and introduced the main activities of the Economic section. IRC staff also screened a video of a TED presentation by Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operations Officer at Facebook, on the topic

“Why we have too few women leaders.”



Both on IRC Facebook page and in their acknowledgement letters students rated the meeting as excellent.

In particular, Aghavni Hakobyan, Head of Academic Administration Department of “Gladzor” Management University wrote:

*“I want to express my gratitude for inspiring our students. They are so impressed and excited by the session! We do appreciate your professional commitment and readiness to assist the new generation by organizing such round-tables.”*



## **IRC ROUNDTABLE on Management of Water Resources and Lake Sevan**

On 29 April, 2011 the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center hosted a roundtable program for 35 students from Yerevan State University, the State University of Economics, and Yerevan State Pedagogical University. In honor of Earth Day, the topic for the discussion was "Management of Water Resources and Lake Sevan."

Our guest speakers were Lusine Taslakyany, MUSKIE 2001-2003 Alumna and an expert on the EU Trans-Boundary River Management Project, Boris Gabrielyan, Director of the Institute of Hydro ecology and Ichthyology of National Academy of Sciences, and Seyran Minasyan, Director of Environmental Impact Monitoring Center, Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia.

The featured speakers presented the effects of exploitation of natural resources in Armenia, talked about the recent statistics and research in this field. They expressed their concerns about the dynamics of fish fauna development in Lake Sevan. "Development of the ecosystem means protection of the ecosystem. Ultimately, ecosystem development is aimed at bringing the environment as close as possible to its natural state", Boris Gabrielyan mentioned.

The Students found the presentations informative and participated in a lively discussion. Over 20 students registered for IRC daily dissemination listserves. IRC staff provided the guests IIP publications for dissemination, including biodiversity brochures and eJournals.



## **U.S. Embassy Yerevan Joins the English Language Day Celebration at UN Office in Armenia**

On April 28, 2011 students, university professors, local officials, diplomats and journalists learned about the United Nation's use of the English language, one of its six official languages, at UN-Armenian's first ever observation of English Language Day.



The event was organized by the UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI) jointly with the U.S. Embassy, the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Embassy of India, the NGO "Young Translators Union," and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

John Maher, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, stated, "The United States Embassy in Yerevan places great importance in promoting English-language learning in Armenia. We believe that English language proficiency helps Armenians gain access to a multitude of business, professional, and academic opportunities both in Armenia and around the world. In cooperation with the Government of Armenia, we facilitate English-language learning through our academic exchange programs, Peace Corps volunteers, and library partnerships."

IRC Yerevan together with Yerevan American Corner displayed over 200 IPP books, brochures and CDs. About 100 students and faculty members attended the event. Most of them received IIP publications and get registered for IRC different list serves.

## EJOURNAL USA: ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE POLICING



As enforcers of the law, police play a crucial role in upholding democracy. In democratic societies, citizens grant increased authority to police in order to live in a safe community.

They give police the power to detain, search, arrest citizens, and lawfully use physical force when situations dictate. In return, police departments must ensure that police officers adhere to high ethical standards. When they don't, the reciprocal trust between citizenry and police is disrupted, undermining the tacit social contract that is the basis of democracy.

This issue of *eJournal USA* examines the ways in which citizens and police strive to sustain the social contract.

### Highlights:

- "Policing Diverse Communities" by Joseph D. McNamara
- "Police Ethics" by James Q. Wilson
- Fighting Police Corruption: An Interview with Charles Campisi
- "The International Law Enforcement Academy in Thailand" by Varin Sachdev
- "Policing the Police: Citizens Encourage Ethical Policing" by Samuel Walker and Andrea Lorenz

The URL for the journal is: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/iipdigital-en/publications.html>

## IRC FEATURED MOVIES

### Advise & Consent (1962) by Otto Preminger



Senate investigation into the President's newly nominated Secretary of State, gives light to a secret from the past, which not only ruin the candidate, but the President's may character as well. The minor Treasury clerk testifies that the nominee was briefly in a Communist cell with at the University of Chicago. Perhaps the most realistic portrayal of American political workings ever put on film, Otto Preminger's Advise and Consent may be a tad tedious for those uninterested in the capital's foibles.

### The Insider (1999) by Michael Mann

Balls-out "60 Minutes" producer Lowell Bergman sniffs a story when a former research biologist for Brown & Williamson, Jeff Wigand, won't talk to him. When the company leans hard on Wigand to honor a confidentiality agreement, he gets his back up. Trusting Bergman and despite a crumbling marriage, he goes on camera for a Mike Wallace interview and risks arrest for contempt of court. Westinghouse is negotiating to buy CBS, so CBS attorneys advise CBS News to shelve the interview and avoid a lawsuit. "60 Minutes" and CBS News bosses cave, Wigand's hung out to dry, Bergman is compromised, and the CEOs of Big Tobacco may get away with perjury. Can the truth will out?



*Movies are scheduled on May 16 & 17, at: 14:30. For participation prior registration is must.*

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://armenia.usembassy.gov/irc.html>