



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

Yerevan Times

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Thanksgiving Day

A variant of the harvest festivals celebrated in many parts of the world, Thanksgiving is popularly



traced to a 1621 feast shared by the English Pilgrims.

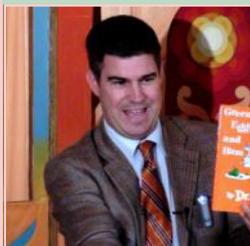
The Pilgrims had arrived in 1620. Arriving at Plymouth Colony too late to grow many crops, and lacking fresh food, the Pilgrims suffered

terribly during the winter of 1620-1621. Half the colony died from disease. The following spring, local Wampanoag Indians taught the colonists how to grow corn (maize) and other local crops, and also helped the newcomers master hunting and fishing. Because they harvested bountiful crops of corn, barley, beans and pumpkins the Pilgrims had much to be thankful for in the fall of 1621. The colonists and their Wampanoag benefactors held a harvest feast to express gratitude for God's blessings.

The legacy of giving thanks, particularly with a shared feast, has survived the centuries. Thanksgiving presently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has been an annual tradition in the United States since president Abraham Lincoln's 1863 proclamation.

Storytelling Program at the Children's Library

On October 5, 2010, CAO Sean O'Hara read children's stories for students at the National Children's Library in Yerevan, Armenia. The storybook reading was part of the "Back to Book" Festival initiated by the National Children's Library. Every day for one week rep-



resentatives of foreign diplomatic missions in Armenia performed a Story Hour for local schools. Over 40 students, teachers and parents from the Yerevan Chekhov School and the International Co-operative Pre-school of Yerevan actively partici-



pated in the event.

Mr. O'Hara gave a lively presentation of two popular children's books.

He started his storytelling with "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss. The second book was "Blueberries for Sal" by Robert McCloskey. The children loved both stories and responded enthusiastically to Mr. O'Hara's invitation to act out scenes in the books. Kids became a mama bear and a daughter bear, as well as a spirited girl named Sal who set off with her mother and the bears in search of blueberries. The children and their parents, English teachers, and librarians thoroughly enjoyed the story hour.

The Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) has donated over 1000 children's books and videos to the National Children's Library over the last five



years to support the Library's English language programs.

Read more about the Embassy participation in the "Back to Book" Festival on pages 2.

IRC PARTICIPATES IN THE BACK TO BOOK INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The Back to Books Festival (October 1-7) sought to raise society's awareness of the value of books and reading. The festival came to light through the initiative of the Armenian Book Center and the Khnkoper National Children's Library. They found support from the Artbridge Bookstore, Antares Holding, the National Publishers Association, and the Ministry of Culture of Armenia. During the week, IRC Yerevan participated in an open air book festival and presented two public lectures, a story hour program, and a documentary film screening. Embassy and American corners staff distributed information on IIP publications, as well as IRC and American Corner programs and services to exhibition attendees, including students, teachers, and general public.

IRC disseminated over 400 IIP publications in Armenian, English and Russian, and more than 500 IRC and American Corner brochures. More than 30 people signed up for IRC information distribution lists.

DESIGNING LIBRARIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



To mark the 'Back to Book' International Festival in Yerevan, on October 5, 2010 the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center organized a public lecture at the Armenian National Children's Library. The guest speaker, Fulbright Scholar Jane Britt Greenwood, presented a lecture entitled "Designing Libraries for the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities."

Mrs. Greenwood presented an informative lecture about the history and current developments of library architecture and design. She prepared a power point slides to show some of the magnificent library buildings in the USA and the United Kingdom.

More than 70 librarians from the capital city Yere-

van and provincial libraries, as well as two groups of students from the Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction attended the lecture and became acquainted with current trends in library architecture and design.

LECTURE ABOUT THE LITERATURE AND POETRY OF THE BEATS

On October 5, 2010 U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center organized a public lecture at the Armenian National Children's Library.

The guest speaker, U.S. Embassy Political Officer Charles Lobdell, presented a lecture entitled "The literature and poetry of the Beats in 1950s America."



Describing the meaning of the word "beat," a generation of crazy, illuminated hipsters, Chas Lobdell talked about the characteristics of Beat writing: dedication to spontaneity, open-form composition, spiritual yearning, challenging limits of free expression, etc.

Lobdell introduced outstanding representatives of the beat literature and poetry such as Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, William S. Burroughs, and Gregory Corso. The lecturer also read several lines from the poems of the authors.

Around 50 students, Armenian writers, different professionals, and librarians were present at the auditorium to become acquainted with the beat generation. The IRC director compiled a handout about the Beats poetry which was disseminated to audience.



IRC ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



IRC PARTICIPATES IN THE 15TH ANNUAL U.S. EDUCATION FAIR

On October 12, 2010, staff from the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center and the Yerevan American Corner participated in the 15th annual Education Information Fair hosted by the American Councils for International Education (ACCELS) Educational Advising Center.

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan administers a variety of educational and cultural programs in the Republic of Armenia. During the opening session, the U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer Sean O'Hara welcomed the audience and spoke about the value of studying overseas and the unique educational opportunities available in U.S. Ann Merrill, Regional Education Adviser Coordinator for Europe and Eurasia made a presentation on how to pursue education in the USA.

The fair, which took place at 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 introduced their resources, programs, and services to a wide audience of students and faculty members from different Armenian universities and institutes of higher learning.

MONDAY MOVIE PROGRAM AT THE IRC

On 18 October, during the Monday Movie program, the IRC screened "The Milagro Beanfield War" by Robert Redford. This movie shows a side of the United States that the audience had never seen before: a small community of Mexican-Americans in the state of New Mexico. The movie tells of one man's struggle as he defends his small beanfield and his access to water



against the big business interests of land developers. After the movie a 30 minute long discussion moderated by Sean O'Hara, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Yerevan.

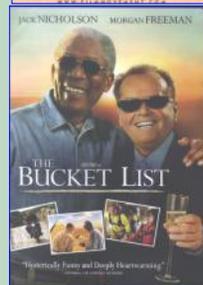
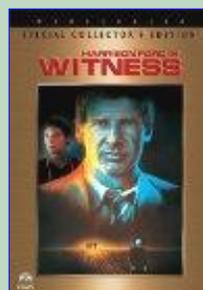
IRC FALL MOVIE CALENDAR

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.

The next movie will be shown on November 15 at 14:30pm. The IRC will feature "Witness" (1985) by Peter Weir. **Storyline:** Samuel Lap is a young Amish boy who witnesses a murder in Philadelphia while traveling with his mother Rachel. A good cop named John Book must go with them into hiding when the killers come after them. All three retreat to Amish country and Book has to adjust to the new life style, and his feelings for the boy's mother. Of course, the killers are still on their trail.

Read more about the movie at: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0056217/>

Please contact: ircyerevan@usa.am or call 49 44 11 or 49 42 65 if you plan to attend the movie series.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE AMERICAN CORNERS?

IN YEREVAN: A LECTURE ABOUT COMMUNITY-BASED DESIGN AND PLANNING

On October 16, 2010, Yerevan American Corner



organized an "Americans at American Corner" public lecture entitled "Community-based Design and Planning." Our guest speaker was U.S. Fulbright Scholar Jane

Britt Greenwood.

The lecturer presented the main aspects of planning community design in the US, its development, the way it exists now and the necessary improvements. She also talked about the problems existing in Armenian communities. She asked the participants to put their ideas in sheets of paper and to share them with all. Mrs. Greenwood noted community planning ideas that were particularly important to Armenian communities, such as the preservation of parks and gardens, churches, libraries, schools, historic buildings, as well as the need to maintain community cohesiveness and to create equity.

She also mentioned the importance of education in community-based design and planning, noting that all of us are architects and are able to change the way our communities are designed.



The audience actively participated in the question and answer session. They discussed the creation of NGOs that could organize special classes or seminars to help people and communities un-

derstand the issues and implement design ideas. As Mrs. Greenwood mentioned, there is a lot of diversity in opinion and interests among community residents, and it is important to draw out everyone's input.

Among the 60 participants were students, USG alumni, professionals of different fields, U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers, Fulbright scholars, and foreign students in Armenia.

IN GYUMRI: PUBLIC LECTURE IN GYUMRI ABOUT THE HISPANIC-LATINO DIASPORA

On Wednesday, October 13, 2010, the Gyumri American Corner, together with U.S. Embassy Yerevan, organized a public

lecture on "The Hispanic-Latino Diaspora: The increasing faces of United States cities". The guest speaker was Dr. Ana Gil Garcia, Professor of Northeastern



Illinois University and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar.

Dr. Ana Gil Garcia began the lecture by introducing herself, and speaking about her background. She mentioned that when she came to the United States she found out many facts about herself which she hadn't known previously. For example, she was Hispanic, a Latino, a minority, a person of color, an expatriate, a second language learner.

She discussed many issues during the lecture. First of all, she gave the definitions of the terms "Diaspora, Immigration, and Expatriate", and how these terms are related. Then she explained the reason for the fast growing rate of the Hispanics in the United States, and named the states which have the largest concentration of Hispanic populations. The overall Hispanic population is estimated to be 46.9 million, which is projected to hit 96 million by 2050—an increase of more than 200%. They comprise approximately 15 percent of the total U.S. population and they immensely affect the national economy.

Finally Dr. Ana Gil Garcia introduced well known Hispanics: actors, singers, politicians, which are known all over the world. About 20 people participated in the lecture, including students group from the Gyumri Pedagogical University, three U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, two NGO representatives and the IRC Director. Students learned many helpful and interesting facts about the increasing impact of Hispanic Americans in the United States.

For additional information about the American Corners in Armenia please visit:

<http://www.americancorners.am>

IN VANADZOR: A LECTURE ABOUT CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

On October 20 the Vanadzor American Corner hosted a public lecture entitled "Criminal Responsibility for Reckless Behavior". The guest speaker was US Embassy Legal Advisor Steve Kessler.



Mr. Kessler introduced many real cases that happened in the US and asked the participants to judge and try to find out who

was guilty or not guilty in each situation. The participants were very interested and active; everyone expressed his opinion. In the end, Mr. Kessler explained how each case was resolved according to U.S. law. About 13 students from Mkhitar Gosh University and Vanadzor Pedagogical Institute attended the lecture.

ROUNDTABLES AT THE IRC

U.S. NATIONAL PARKS AND ECOTOURISM

On October 13, 2010, the U.S. Embassy Yerevan Information Resource Center (IRC) hosted thirty eight tourism, geography, ecology and biology students at Yerevan State



University, Yerevan State Linguistic University, Yerevan State Pedagogical University, as well as representatives from

tour agencies and NGOs dealing with environmental issues. They met with local ecologists as a part of the U.S. Alumni Roundtable Program. The speakers, who participated in U.S. Government sponsored study through the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program, shared their knowledge and experience gained in the U.S. in the fields of ecotourism and national parks management. The meeting started with Ruzanna Martirosyan's presentation on National Parks and Ecotourism in the United States. As an alumna of the University of California she concentrated on examples from the state of California, in particular the Yosemite National Park, Red Rocks Colorado, and Glendale

parks. She also spoke about U.S. national recreation and park association standards, and compared the management of National Parks with the electricity chain.

Dshkhuhi Sahakyan, a leading specialist in the management of local hydro resources, concentrated her speech on the problems of Armenian national parks with a special emphasis on Sevan National Park. The subsequent group discussion focused on the improvement of ecotourism in Armenia and NGOs' involvement. Students also touched upon issues such as the prevention and fight against forest fires. One student was interested in the flexibility of local government officials in accepting new suggestions based on the American experience. Ruzanna noted that Californian American-Armenians actively participate in ecotourism and follow the rules. She concluded that rules should correspond to the local reality in order to be respected by citizens of any country.

ELECTORAL CODE AMENDMENTS

On October 21 the U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center hosted a discussion on proposed electoral amendments that are posted on the National Assembly website (<http://www.parliament.am/>).

Aghassi Yesayan, expert from International Foundation for Electoral Systems, presented details of the proposed amendments to Armenian Electoral Law.

The event assembled 34 students from two universities and was aimed at informing them about the draft and its content, promoting a discussion of proposed changes, and encouraging students to take an active part in ongoing public debate. Participants addressed a range of questions:

What are the benefits of the draft? What are its shortcomings? Does the draft address the main concerns that arose during previous elections? What can be done



to improve the current legislation, the proposed draft, and the administration of elections in practice?

It was a very lively debate. You can also contribute to the public debate. Don't stand aside! Send your comments and suggestions about the draft, the process of its adoption, the current law, and give concrete recommendations for improvements to the e-mail given by the National Assembly for recommendations to the draft: leg-com@parliament.am

Make your voice heard!

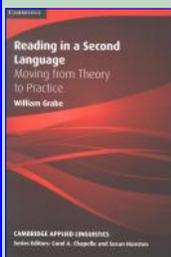
EJOURNAL USA: REFUGEES BUILDING NEW LIVES IN THE USA

Since 1980, millions of refugees have been resettled in the United States. Individual Americans welcome and help integrate refugees into U.S. communities large and small and, in turn, the resettled refugees enrich American culture. This edition of eJournal USA presents some background information and includes several personal stories.

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

IRC NEW ARRIVALS

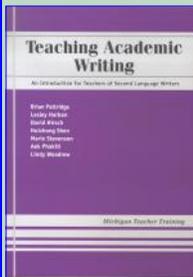
READING IN A SECOND LANGUAGE: MOVING FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE



This volume, through a detailed treatment of the cognitive processes that support reading, explains how reading really works. It offers a thorough overview of important and current research, including first language research, which is not often found in second language acquisition (SLA) publications. It is a valuable resource and reference for action researchers, curriculum designers, teachers, administrators, and those interested in exploring theoretical issues grounded in instructional contexts.

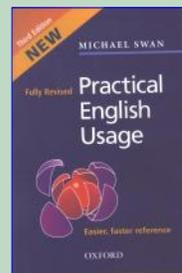
TEACHING ACADEMIC WRITING

Teaching Academic Writing combines research and practice to explore the questions that instructors may have about academic writing in the second language classroom. Whether for writing teachers new to the second language classroom or ESL teachers new to academic writing instruction, this textbook provides an accessible and detailed survey of the key issues and ideas that shape the teaching of academic writing to ESL students today.



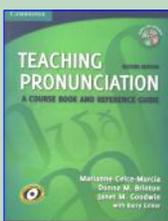
PRACTICAL ENGLISH USAGE

This unique reference guide addresses problem points in the language as encountered by learners and their teachers. It gives information and advice that is practical, clear, reliable, and easy to find. Most of the book is about grammar, but it also covers selected points of vocabulary, idiom, style, pronunciation, and spelling.



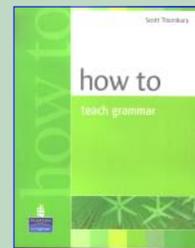
TEACHING PRONUNCIATION

This new edition of Teaching Pronunciation – undoubtedly the gold standard for pronunciation methodology texts – has been revised to reflect recent research into the sound system of North American English, as well as new practices in pronunciation pedagogy. Audio CDs with additional examples are now packaged with the book.



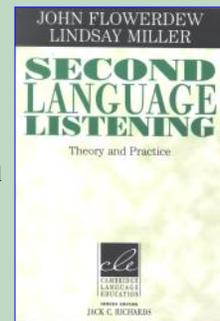
HOW TO TEACH GRAMMAR

Here you'll find a host of ways to develop or enhance your grammar teaching skills. How to Teach Grammar demonstrates methods for practicing a variety of grammar topics, dealing with errors, and integrating grammar instruction into general methodologies such as task-based learning.



SECOND LANGUAGE LISTENING: THEORY AND PRACTICE

The authors describe current models of listening theory and exemplify each with a textbook task. They address the role of technology in teaching listening, questioning techniques, and testing. Second Language Listening is designed to be used with both pre-service and in-service teachers who are involved in the teaching of listening or the design of pedagogic materials for listening.



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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