



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

# Yerevan Times

## THANKSGIVING DAY

(fourth Thursday in November)



A variant of the harvest festivals celebrated in many parts of the world, Thanksgiving is popularly traced to a 1621 feast enjoyed by the English Pilgrims who founded the Plymouth Colony (located in present day Massachusetts) and members of the Wampanoag Native American tribe. Over the years that followed, state and federal governments declared numerous days of Thanksgiving to mark important public events. In 1817, New York became the first state to declare an annual Thanksgiving Day. In 1863, during the long and bloody civil war, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November "a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." Congress made Thanksgiving a legal federal holiday in 1941 and moved the holiday from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday, in hopes of stimulating the economy by lengthening (in some years) the Christmas shopping season. The holiday is typically celebrated at home and remains the occasion for a large and festive meal, and for expressing thanks for that bounty.

Read more on Thanksgiving at: <http://www.america.gov/st/pubs-english/2005/November/20051108163712jmnamdeirf0.3664057.html>

## VETERANS DAY (November 11)

Veterans Day originated in the Armistice Day holiday commemorating the November 11, 1918, armistice at 11



### 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. A 30 minute English-language discussion follows each movie. Upcoming movies will be shown on November 17 and December 15 at 14:30pm.

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

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 ...."

Many states quickly began to observe this holiday, and Congress proclaimed a federal holiday in 1938. In 1954, Congress changed the holiday's name to Veterans Day, in recognition of those who served during the Second World War and the Korean conflict. Today it recognizes all members of the armed forces, living and dead, who served during times of peace or war. (Memorial Day, by contrast, honors those who gave their lives.) While Veterans Day was among the holidays moved to Mondays beginning in 1971, Congress in 1978 restored the holiday to its original November 11 date. Among the annual ceremonies is one at the Tomb of the Unknowns at the Arlington National Cemetery.



Read more on Veterans Day at: <http://www.america.gov/st/pubs-english/2005/November/20051103172549jmnamdeirf0.4275629.html>



**Internet Public Library**  
[www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)

The Internet Public Library (IPL), from the University of Michigan School of Information, contains 40,000 well-organized "librarian-approved resources," including ready reference resources, books, magazines, newspapers, and other special collections. IPL also offers a free "ask a question" reference service.

The IPL provides 10 subject areas (each with from six to 30 subcategories), plus sections of links for Ready Reference, Reading Room (magazines and newspapers online), KidSpace, TeenSpace, Special Collections, and Searching Tools. Annotations are provided for each item.

To search the site, you can use either the search box on the main page or the advanced search form found under the Search this Site link on the menu. In either the main search box or the advanced search form, you can use multiple terms, but they are **ORed**, rather than **ANDed**. The advanced search form enables you to limit your retrieval to one or more of the following: Subject collections, Magazines, Newspapers, KidSpace, TeenSpace, Associations on the Net, Pathfinders, IPL Resources. Search results are organized into those categories.



*Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.*

**Groucho Marx**

### FREE ACCESS TO THESES AND DISSERTATIONS ONLINE

#### Books on Business from the Small Business Administration

<http://www.sba.gov>

The Small Business Administration offers free E-Books and Publications on How to Start your Own Business, How to Finance a Business, How to Manage Your Business, How to Market, How to Write a Basic Business Plan,, etc. Although these resources are primarily meant for U.S. Citizens, nonetheless, there are a lot of useful ideas and suggestions that will easily apply to any international business or company.

#### American and English Literature: The Cambridge History of English and American Literature

<http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge/>

Considered the most important work of literary history and criticism ever published, the *Cambridge History* contains over 303 chapters and 11,000 pages, with essay topics ranging from poetry, fiction, drama and essays to history, theology and political writing. The set encompasses a wide selection of writing on orators, humorists, poets, newspaper columnists, religious leaders, economists, Native Americans, song writers, and even non-English writing, such as Yiddish and Creole.

#### Foreign Press Center

<http://fpc.state.gov>

Includes *Congressional Research Service Cutting Edge Reports* on the Middle East, Egypt, global affairs and all the hot topics of the day.

### Theses and Dissertations from Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<http://dspace.mit.edu>

DSpace at MIT contains Massachusetts Institute of Technology Research in digital form, including preprints, technical reports, working papers, theses, conference papers, images, and more.



#### Electoral Vote

<http://www.electoral-vote.com/>

#### CNN Election center 2008

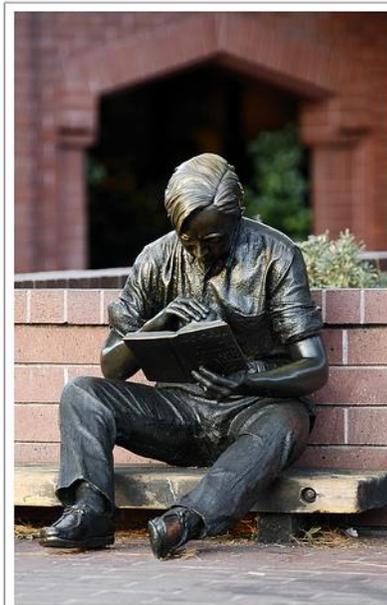
<http://edition.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/>

#### New York Times Election Page

<http://politics.nytimes.com/election-guide/2008/election/index.html>

#### Electoral College map for 2008

<http://www.270towin.com/>



The statue of reader in front of Sunnyvale

# What's New at The American Corners?

## IN VANADZOR: AMBASSADOR MARIE L. YOVANOVITCH VISITS AMERICAN CORNER

On October 15, 2008, Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch and Public Affairs Officer Tom Mittnacht visited the American Corner in Vanadzor to meet with USG educational and exchange program alumni. This was the Ambassador's first visit to Lori.

During the meeting there were 16 alumni. The alumni introduced themselves and talked about their impressions of the States. They asked the Ambassador questions. The Ambassador described the alumni as the connecting bridges between Armenia and the United States.



## IN GYUMRI: MEETING WITH ARMENIAN OLYMPIC HEROES

On September 24, 2008, an interesting meeting was organized by Gyumri American Corner Coordinator Amelia Stepanyan and a member of the American Corner English Club, Gohar Ghalachyan. Members of the American Corner English Club met with 4 Armenian weightlifters and their trainer, who are among the most famous sportsmen in the country. The weightlifters



included Tigran G. Martirosyan (Men's 69kg), Tigran V. Martirosyan (Men's 85kg), Ara Khachatryan, Gevorg Davtyan (Men's 77kg), and their trainer Ashot Mkhitarian.

In the European Weightlifting Championship in Liano, Italy, this same group of men won 13 medals. They also participated in the Olympic Games in Beijing, China, and Gevorg, and both Tigrans won bronze medals. All of the men are from Gyumri and a source of the city's pride.

During the meeting, club members asked a lot of questions about the weightlifter's training, championships and the Olympic Games. The sportsmen shared humorous anecdotes and also asked questions about the American Corner.

## IN YEREVAN: DISCUSSION ABOUT AMERICAN HOLIDAYS

In October, Americans celebrate two different holidays, Halloween and the Day of Christopher Columbus. The discussion was led by Joanne Munisteri. Beforehand, the American Corner Coordinator carried out a survey among the participants about American Holidays. Then Joanne joined the group and told about Halloween, how Americans prepare for it, and what kind of costumes they wear and what the word Halloween means.

The film was followed by an hour long discussion. Participants expressed the wish to keep the topic of American Holidays on the English Club agenda and continue discussions about traditional American holidays in November and December as well. Twelve members participated in English Club meeting.

## LECTURE SERIES ABOUT U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

To support the American Corners speaker program, U.S. Embassy Pol/Econ Officer Steve Banks initiated a public lecture series about the 2008 Elections.

On October 3, 8 and 11, the American Corner in Vanadzor, Gyumri and Yerevan hosted this lectures. Mr. Banks gave the first lecture to a student group and Peace Corps volunteers. The second lecture was guided by U.S. Embassy Financial Management and Human Resource Officer Benjamin Pierce. Mr. Pierce spoke about the history of the Electoral College and the U.S. electoral system in general, which is quite different from the organizational structure of Armenian elections. He also presented the candidates and spoke about each of them. After the presentation, participants had the opportunity to watch a part of the first presidential debate and discuss the importance of national TV broadcasts. In the States, the televised presidential debates are mega-events in the 2008 campaign.



The final lecture was held at the Yerevan Corner, which also was conducted by Mr. Banks.

Over 70 people participated in the lecture series at three corners. They actively asked questions and gained knowledge about the American electoral system.

# Education Resource Center



## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

International Education Week (IEW) was first held in 2000 and today, is celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide. The Departments of State and Education initiated IEW as part of their efforts to move ahead on the issue of implementing U.S. international education policy.

- IEW is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint annual initiative is part of an effort to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange, as well as encourage the development of programs that prepare Americans to live and work in a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United

States.

- Exchanges are critical in developing mutual understanding and respect, building leadership abroad, fostering an appreciation for the U.S., and investing in the future relationship between Americans and citizens around the world.
- International education prepares U.S. citizens to live, work, and compete in the global economy.
- More than 565,000 international students from over 200 countries study in the U.S. each year.
- International education is also a vital service industry, bringing more than \$13 billion into our country annually.
- 88% of American college students believe international education will give them a competitive advantage in the workplace.
- Almost 90% of American col-

lege students believe having international students on campus enriches their own learning experience.

- The more than 32,500 students, scholars and other exchange participants that the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports are in the vanguard of the hundreds of thousands of students and scholars who come to the U.S. each year and the 191,000 Americans who study abroad.
- International cooperation on education contributes to education reform and education solutions for the U.S. and for our partner nations.



### Education USA

[educationusa.state.gov](http://educationusa.state.gov)

Visit EducationUSA if you would like to go to the U.S. for further education. The site is managed by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.



## EDUCATION RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

### Education World

[www.education-world.com](http://www.education-world.com)

Education World contains a browsable and searchable database of more than 500,000 education-related sites. The site itself is more portal than merely a directory and contains much original content by the producers of the site (such as articles and lesson plans) as well as the links to other sites.

### Education Index

[www.educationindex.com](http://www.educationindex.com)

Education index contains more than 3,000 sites with annotations, arranged in 66 categories and covering all levels of education. You can browse either by subject area or by "Lifestage." The "Coffee Shop" section is a collection of online discussion groups.

### Education Atlas

[www.educationatlas.com](http://www.educationatlas.com)

Education Atlas is a clearly organized resource guide containing 8,000 education web

sites arranged in four major sections (Early Childhood, K-12 Education, Higher Education, Teacher's Corner). It also has categories for various levels of education as well as for topics such as home schooling and Regional (international).

### ANNUAL EDUCATION FAIR

On October 10, 2008, American Corner Yerevan Coordinator Lianna Amirkhanyan, together with U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center Director Nerses Hayrapetyan, participated in the 13th annual U.S. Educational Fair hosted by the American Councils for International Education (ACCELS) Educational Advising Center.

The American Corner Coordinator introduced the core resources, programs, and services to a wide audience of students and faculty members from Armenian universities and institutes of higher learning. Lianna presented American Corner programs to over 600 students, 32 teachers and 250 other people. More than 100 students filled out the American Corner Patron Registration Form to subscribe to Yerevan American Corner elec-

tronic services and, in addition to AC announcements, to receive America.gov weekly postings about American Life, Education and Study in the USA.

IRC and AC brochures, InfoUSA CDs and many of the Bureau of International Information Programs at the U.S. Department of State publications, such as "Outline of American Government," "Democracy is a Discussion," "The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008" were distributed among the participants.



Lianna Amirkhanyan and Nerses Hayrapetyan

## EDUCATORS CALENDAR 2008

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



American Indian Heritage Month

Diabetes Month

Stamp Collecting Month

1 - Family Literacy Day

3 - National Sandwich Day

4 - Election Day

5 - Young Reader's Day

9th-15th American Education Week

9 - Berlin Wall Opened (1989)

10 - Marine Corps Birthday (1775)

11 - Veterans Day

12th-18th National Children's Book Week

13 - International Day of Kindness

14 - American Teddy Bear Day

15 - America Recycles Day

16 - International Day of Tolerance

18 - Mickey Mouse's Birthday (1928)

21 - First Hot-Air Balloon Flight (1763)

22 - Thanksgiving

29 - Electronic Greetings Day

30 - Mark Twain's Birthday (1835)



Stress-Free Family Holiday Month

Universal Human Rights Month

1 - World AIDS Day

2 - International Day of Disabled Persons

5 - International Volunteer Day

9 - Computer Mouse Invented (1968)

10 - Human Rights Day

15 - Basketball Invented (1891)

Bill of Rights Day

16 - Boston Tea Party Day (MA)

21 - Pilgrims Landed (1620)

25 - Christmas

28 - National Chocolate Day

30 - Rudyard

Kipling's Birthday

(1865)

31 - New Year's Eve

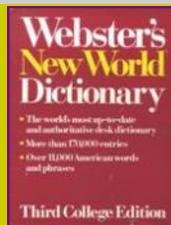


## Dictionary Day at the American Corners in Armenia

October 16 is National Dictionary Day, established to commemorate the birthday of American lexicographer Noah

Webster (born October 16, 1758), who is known as the father of the American dictionary. The year 2008 is Noah Webster's birthday year celebrating Noah's 250th birthday so The Noah Webster's House, Amherst College and other institutions are planning to make Noah Webster's birthday year special.

For the first time AC in Armenia joined the global call to celebrate the Dictionary Day through dictionary exhibits and other active forms of promotion of multiple language and other specialized dictionaries and glossaries available at the corners.



## English Learners Corner

Rosetta Stone Now Available at IRC & American Corners in Armenia Learning a language should be fun, easy, and effective. The Rosetta Stone software approach language learning the same way that we first learned a language—using a natural method that teaches new language directly, without translation. That means no more confusing grammar explanations or mind-numbing vocabulary lists to memorize.

In addition to a proven learning method that's been used by thousands of people worldwide, Rosetta Stone interactive software offers immediate feedback, vivid pictures with sounds, and real-life conversational simulations—all without translation. And with computer-based learning, you can learn whenever and wherever you like.

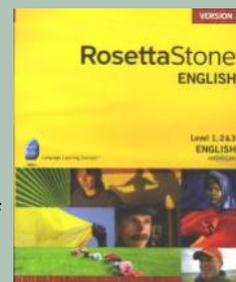
Learning a new language has never been easier than with Rosetta Stone language learning software! The Rosetta Stone has been selected by NASA, the Peace Corps, the U.S. State Department, and thousands of elementary schools, high schools, and universities worldwide for developing foreign language and ESL skills.



Ask IRC and AC staff for assistance!

Ask me my three priorities for Government, and I tell you: education, education and education.

**Tony Blair**



## THE CANDIDATES

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, October, 2008

Every presidential campaign is dramatic and historic, but as the fervor surrounding the 2008 election continues to build, U.S. voters and the rest of the world will want to consider the candidates' personal histories more closely. What sort of people rise to the top in the U.S. political system, what are their attributes, their sensibilities, and their strengths?



Writer and retired foreign service officer Domenick DiPasquale examines the lives of Barack Obama and John McCain, stressing each candidate's readiness to lead the country, their long campaigns to become their parties' nominees, and their aspirations and achievements as political leaders.

David Pitts, author of a book about President John F. Kennedy, introduces the vice presidential candidates, Joseph Biden and Sarah Palin. For greater context about the evolving role of the vice president, we include an excerpt from the article "Never Cared to Say Goodbye," originally published in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Kelly Bronk takes a look at the wives and families of Barack Obama and John McCain. Presidential historian Carl Sferrazza Anthony describes how several U.S. first ladies fulfilled a role that is highly visible — yet largely undefined — in their own unique style.

Michael Jay Friedman writes about the powers of the presidency, the duties of the president, and the limits of power in a divided system of government.

Also included are excerpts from Obama's and McCain's writings and speeches and their Facebook entries, a bibliography, and a filmography.

Two things about this election are certain: A new president of the United States will be sworn into office on Monday, January 20, 2009, and the peaceful transition of power, one of the most critical aspects of the democratic system, will prevail, whichever candidate is victorious.

This e-journal is available at the following web address: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>

## UPCOMING EJOURNALS

UN Human Rights Declaration - November

Choosing a Career - December

Transition to a New Administration - January



*Balloons and confetti fall after the presidential candidate accepts his nomination at a political party's national convention.*



## Gyumri American Corner Coordinator hosted by Local TV Station

On October 7, 2008, on Armenian Librarians Day, Gyumri American Corner Coordinator Amalia Stepanyan was invited to local GALA TV to participate in the station's "Good Morning Gyumri" program. Amalia introduced programs that Gyumri American Corner implements and also spoke about the US Government sponsored educational programs.

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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