



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

Yerevan Times

July-August, 2009
Volume 5, Issue 4

U.S. Independence Day

Americans celebrate July 4, 1776, adoption of Declaration of Independence



Independence Day, or the 4th of July, is probably the most important national holiday in the United States. It commemorates the formal adoption of the Decla-

ration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The declaration is a powerful statement of the American colonies' intention to become an independent nation.

The Fourth of July also is a time when elected officials and other public figures give speeches extolling American traditions and values.

On July 4, 1788, Founding Father James Wilson addressed a Philadelphia gathering that was, at that time, possibly the largest July 4 celebration in the young nation's history.

On July 4, 1852, the black journalist and abolitionist Frederick Douglass decried the evils of slavery, still prevalent in the American South at that time, but identified forces "drawing encouragement from the Declaration of Independence, the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions in operation" that "must inevitably work the downfall of slavery."

Ninety years later, in the darkest moments of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded the nation that July 4 symbolized "the democratic freedom which our citizens claim as their precious birthright:"



The Fourth of July was declared a legal holiday in 1941, and today it is celebrated each year in all states and territories of the

United States. It is a reminder of the ideals on which the United States was founded, and on July 4 Americans celebrate their freedom and independence with great fanfare -- it is a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks.

Read more on U.S. Holidays at: http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays.html



Did you know... that Independence Day is one of ten federal holidays?



The other federal holidays are New Years Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

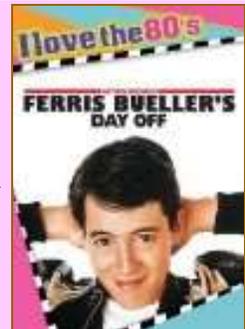


Did you know... that of the original thirteen colonies that attended the Continental Congress and voted on the Declaration of Independence, only nine voted in favor of it?

Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted against the Declaration, while New York abstained.

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 July 20 and August 17 at 15:00pm.



On July 20 to be shown is Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) by John Hughes. Ferris is a street-wise kid who knows all the tricks. Today he decides to take the day off school. When Ferris takes the day off, so must his best friends, Cameron and Sloane. The film is nominated for Golden Globe.

Please contact: ircyerevan@usa.am if you plan to attend the movie series.

Information Resource Center



"Libraries as Centers of Civil Society" workshop participants actively discussing library advocacy issues.

Workshop for Aragatsotn Province Librarians

Librarians of the Aragatsotn province attended a comprehensive presentation on the importance of civil society and the role libraries play in their creation on June 24 in the city of Ashtarak. Nerses Hayrapetyan, the Information Resources Center Director at the U.S. Embassy, began by giving a short presentation on libraries all across the globe. He then drew the link between libraries as centers of learning and as bastions of an active civil society, and explained the need for library advocacy on the part of local community members.

As patrons and employees from the **area's provincial, community, and school libraries** listened in, Liana Sahakyan, a Grants Specialist at the U.S. Embassy, expounded the process of grant funding, a resource which libraries may tap into in order to solve a number of present and future issues that they face.

There are a substantial number of issues concerning the libraries of the province. Among these the most pressing are a need for adequate facilities, basic maintenance and augmentation of book collections, a lack of electronic resources, and finally but no less importantly, a

level of patronage by community members that is strikingly deficient.

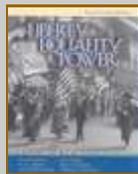
The informative presentation was organized by the Information Resources Center of the U.S. Embassy and the Aragatsotn Region of Armenia Provincial Library after Vardges Petrosyan.

New Resources at the Information Resource Center



American History: A Survey, with Primary Source Investigator and Powerweb, 12th edition /by Alan Brinkley (Author). - McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Alan Brinkley's American History provides students and instructors with a reliable, comprehensive account of the American past in which no single approach or theme predominates. The book explores areas of history such as social, cultural, urban, racial and ethnic history, the history of the West and South, environmental history, the history of women and gender, and American history in a global context.



Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People, Concise Edition /by John M. Murrin. - Wadsworth Publishing, 2006.

This is one of the best US survey texts on the market today. It combines strong research and coverage with a high degree of readability at a reasonable price. Students will certainly benefit by reading this book, as it makes US history come alive.

America: A Concise History, 3rd Edition /by James A. Henretta, David Brody, Lynn Dumenil. - Bedford/St.



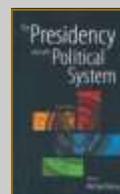
Martin's, 2005.

America: A Concise History has become the best-selling brief book for the U.S. History survey because of the uncommon value it offers instructors **and students alike. The authors' own abridgement preserves the analytical power of the parent text, America's History, while offering all the flexibility of a brief book.** The latest scholarship, hallmark global perspective, and handy format combine with the best full-color art and map program of any brief text to create a book that students read and enjoy.



American Culture: An Anthology of Civilization Texts, 1st illustrated edition /by A. Bredlid and others. - Routledge, 1996.

American Culture, comprised of excerpts from the primary texts of American civilization, draws from such diverse sources as political addresses, oral histories and advertisements to provide a means of seeing and understanding the ways in which language and culture are closely related.



The Presidency and the Political System /by Michael Nelson (Editor). - CQ Press; 8th edition, August, 2005.

This book features thought-provoking original essays, **written by some of the field's most prominent scholars**, and reflects the best in presidential scholarship. The eighth edition combines new and time-tested essays to revisit the themes of presidential power and perceptions.

What's New at The American Corners?

IN GYUMRI: EVIDENCE OF CRIME OBTAINED UNLAWFULLY



Steve Kessler talking to Gyumri AC patrons

On June 10 AND 20, 2009, U.S. Embassy Regional Legal Advisor Steve Kessler gave a public lectures at the American Corners in Gyumri and Yerevan entitled “Evidence of Crime Obtained Unlawfully”.

In Gyumri Mr. Kessler spoke about a jury verdict system, which does not exist in the Armenian justice system. He explained who can be on a jury and how jury members are selected. Mr. Kessler also mentioned that in rare cases, the jury **system doesn't work properly. He also discussed** how people are arrested.

Over 30 patrons attended the lecture in Yerevan.

The participants discussed in details many aspects of the topic. The participants asked a wide range of questions to the presenter concerning the arrest process, the jury system and differences between the Armenian and U.S. jurisprudence. After the lecture IRC Director Nerses Hayrapetyan thanked the speaker with successful implementation of 7th public lecture at the American Corners in Armenia in 2008-2009.



Steve Kessler at the AC in Yerevan

IN YEREVAN: ENGLISH TRAINING COURSE GRADUATION CEREMONY

On June 5, 2009, the Intermediate Level English Proficiency Certificates were awarded to 11 participants for completion of the English training course organized by the American Corner in Yerevan.

The two months English training course was conducted by English language instructor Anna Grigoryan, who taught the group in twice-weekly sessions. Participants received English language instruction on everyday usage of spoken and writing techniques. The lessons enabled the group to become proficient in English grammar, and enhanced their listening comprehensions skills.

IRC Director Nerses Hayrapetyan participated in the graduation ceremony, providing each participant with **InfoUSA CD's and Democracy in Brief brochures. American Corner Coordinator Tamara Shcherbak and language** instructor Anna Grigoryan awarded certificates to the participants.

IN VANADZOR: PUBLIC LECTURE ABOUT THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS

On June 3, 2009, the Vanadzor American Corner, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, organized a public lecture about the City of New York. The U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officer, native newyorker, Gordon Goetz guided a very interesting virtual tour to New York from the time of its European discovery in 1524 by Giovanni da Verrazzano to current times.

Mr. Goetz's colorful presentation, energized with the great personal attachment of the speaker, deeply impressed all the participants. Attendees learned that the city consists of five boroughs: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island. Using a power point slides presentation Gordon illustrated entertaining portrait of the New York architecture, streets, museums, sports, cuisine, New York dialect, etc.

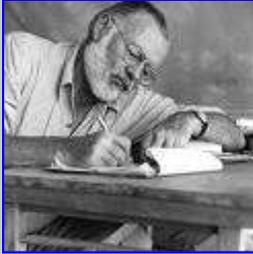
A live question and answer session followed the lecture. Over 15 participants from local universities asked a wide range of questions and gained knowledge about the City that Never Sleeps.



RSO Gordon Goetz together with Vanadzor American Corner patrons

Information Resource Center

ERNEST MILLER HEMINGWAY 110



One of the most famous American novelist, short-story writer and essayist, whose deceptively

simple prose style have influenced wide range of writers.

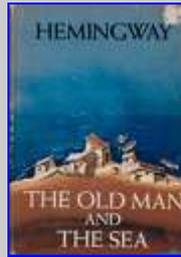
Hemingway was born on July 21, 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois.

After a disappointing reception of his 1950 novel, *Across the River and into the Trees*, Hemingway rallied producing *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952), a short work that earned him a 1953 Pulitzer Prize and ultimately the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Physically unnerved from two plane

crashes earlier that year, Hemingway was unable to attend the prize ceremonies. He would live another seven years.

In 1960 Hemingway was hospitalized at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for treatment of depression, and released in 1961. During this time he was given electric shock therapy for two months. On July 2, Hemingway committed suicide with his favorite shot-gun at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.



Ernest Hemingway's novels such as *A Farewell to Arms*, *To Have and Have Not*, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Fiesta*: *The Sun Also Rises* were translated **into Armenian since 1950's.**

SELECTED WEBSITES FOR ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Books and Writers: Ernest Hemingway

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/hemingwa.htm> <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/hemingwa.htm>

National Portrait Gallery: Ernest Hemingway

<http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/hemingway/ess-index2.htm> <http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/hemingway/ess-index2.htm>

The Nobel Foundation http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1954/hemingway-bio.html http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1954/hemingway-bio.html



PLEASE DON'T PLAGIARIZE!

Did you know that copying text from the Internet and posting it somewhere new without saying where you got it is a form of cheating? It's also called stealing. You also steal when you take an image that you find on the Internet and use it without permission. This kind of cheating and stealing is also known as plagiarism. Plagiarism is illegal and you can get in a lot of trouble for it. You can also get other people in trouble. For example, if you steal an article or image and post it in your blog without permission, you are probably breaking the terms and conditions of the host site. A host site is a site like EnglishClub.com that offers members a space of their own. Web sites with stolen material lose their reputation quickly. Often times plagiarism is unintentional. People think they are being nice by sharing an interesting

story or image with others. However, by pasting it on your blog or a discussion board without any citation, you are essentially pretending that it is yours. This is dishonest. It is also unfair to the creator. Many people do not understand the basic rules of fair use, especially when it comes to the Internet. Please take some time to read through these pages. We hope they will help you understand why it is important to give credit where credit is due.

Source: <http://www.englishclub.com/writing/plagiarism.htm>

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOON LANDING – JULY 20TH

Apollo 11 was the first manned mission to land on the Moon. The first steps by humans on another planetary body were taken by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969. The astronauts

also returned to Earth the first samples from another planetary body. Apollo 11 achieved its primary mission - to perform a manned lunar landing and return the mission safely to Earth - and paved the way for the Apollo lunar landing missions to follow.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY AUGUST 26

The U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1971 to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women in the United States the right to vote.

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/>

JULY

- 1 Canada Day (1867)
- 4 Independence Day (1776)
- 5 First Cloned Sheep Born (1996)
- 6 Republican Party Formed (1854)
- 7 Pinocchio First Printed (1883)
- 8 First Public Reading of Declaration of Independence (1776)
- 10 Coca-Cola Classic Returned (1985)
- 11 First Female Vice-Presidential Candidate Announced (1984)
- 12 \$100 Bill Became Largest U.S. Currency (1969)
- 16 District of Columbia Established (1790)
- 17 Disneyland Opened (1955)
- 20 First Moon Landing (1969)
- 21 Ernest Hemingway's Birthday (1899)
- 23 Pneumatic Tires Invented (1888)
- 26 Parents Day
- 29 NASA Established (1958)
- 31 In God We Trust Made U.S. Motto (1956)

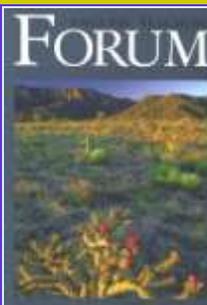


- (1776)
- 3-Nat'l Kids Day
- 5-Electric Traffic Lights First Installed (1914)
- 6-Atomic Bomb Dropped on Hiroshima (1945)
- 7-First Pictures of Earth Taken from Space (1959)
- 8-Nixon Announced Resignation (1974)
- 10-Smithsonian Institution Opened (1846)
- 12-Int'l Youth Day
- 13-Int'l Left-Hander's Day
- 17-Klondike Gold Rush Began (1896)
- 18-First American Child of English Parents Born (1587)
- 19-Nat'l Aviation Day
- 21-Mona Lisa Stolen (1911)
- 23-Int'l Day for Remembrance of Slave Trade & Its Abolition
- 24-Mount Vesuvius Erupted (79)
- 25-New Orleans Founded by French (1718)
- 26-Women's Equality Day
- 28-Barack Obama Became First African-American Presidential Nominee (2008)
- 29-Hurricane Katrina Devastated Gulf Coast (2005)
- 30-Committed Suicide (30 BC)
- 31-Princess Diana Died (1997)



AUGUST

- 2-Declaration of Independence Signed



ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM

English Teaching Forum, published by the United States Department of State for teachers of English, is distributed abroad by U.S. Embassies.

These journals

contain ready-to-use lesson plans and are suitable for students at the intermediate level. Each chapter contains background information, classroom-ready activities, and related resources and references. The English Teaching Forum is published four times a year, in January, April, July, and October.

In 2009 the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section subscribed 300 copies to support the English language programs in Armenia. The Forum is widely used by AELTA members and English teachers not only in Yerevan, but in many places in Armenia. According to our patrons feedback it is very useful addition to their English language programs.

The journal is also available online at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/forum/>

English Learners Corner

Recession versus Depression

What is a recession?

There are various definitions of what a recession actually is. Dictionaries define it as an economic decline, which means that there is a reduction in a country's industrial output and that the nation's trade or GDP (Gross Domestic Product) decreases. Economists put a time limit on this, stating that the situation needs to continue for at least six months. However, some experts feel that this definition does not take enough data into account. For example, this assessment does not include information about changes in the unemployment rate, sales figures and consumer confidence.

What is a depression?

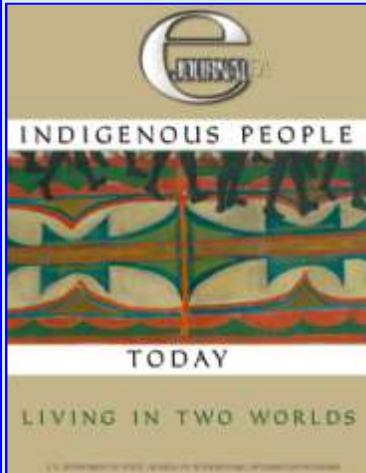
A depression is generally considered to be a long, sustained period of severe recession. The most famous depression started in 1929 in The United States of America on October 29th, when the stock market collapsed in the Wall Street Crash. This day came to be known as Black Tuesday. The Great Depression which followed had far-reaching consequences and sparked off depressions in many other countries around the world, affecting various business sectors, including industry, construction, farming, mining and the employment market in general. Global trade was crippled and individual nations struggled for years to rebuild their economies. The depression ended at different times in different countries – continuing until the 1940s and even the 50s in some places.

What's the difference?

So, "When does a recession become a depression?" one might ask. It's a good question and one that even experts such as economists and politicians have difficulty defining precisely. Nevertheless, it is generally accepted that a recession is when a country's GDP shrinks by less than 10% - anything more than 10% is classed as a depression. However, if that definition seems too technical for you there is a rule of thumb by which you can decide for yourself whether there is a recession or a depression in your country.



EJOURNAL USA: "INDIGENOUS PEOPLE"



Whether they are called tribal, Native, or Aboriginal peoples — First Nations, Adivasis, or American Indians — indigenous peoples are ethnic groups who have inhabited particular regions from ancient times. Another common term for these groups is "original inhabitants," because their residence in a place predates modern history.

As the authors in this issue of eJournal USA make clear, indigenous people worldwide have endured a long history of conquest and colonialism. Native peoples in many lands were decimated or wiped out by war and disease, relocated against their will, their children taken to boarding schools to inculcate "civilized" values. **European settlers, for the most part, did not understand or recognize the very different value systems and worldviews of indigenous people in colonized lands.** In recent decades a number of governments have acknowledged the damage done over centuries to their Native peoples and sought to redress past wrongs.

These countries have developed legal means for recognizing the rights of indigenous citizens and supporting their economic development and cultural preservation. Non-governmental groups have similarly worked toward these ends. This movement has created, in some places, a renaissance of Native cultures. Further empowerment came on September 13, 2007, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a document negotiated between governments and indigenous peoples over two decades.

Essays in this journal are written mostly by experts descended from indigenous tribes, who speak from the Native point of view. Former Chief of the Cherokee Nation Wilma Mankiller writes of using the past to achieve a **strong future for indigenous peoples, where "one of the greatest challenges will be to ... pass on traditional knowledge systems."** Yupiaq elder Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley says, "I grew up as an inseparable part of Nature." His tribe has harnessed its traditional knowledge to modern science in an effort to adjust to the impact of climate change on their fragile Arctic homeland.

The URL for the journal is: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0609.html>

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



Do you know?

Disneyland' is an American theme park in Anaheim, California, owned and operated by the Walt Disney Parks and Resorts division of The Walt Disney Company. It was dedicated with a press preview on July 17, 1955, and opened to the general public July 18, 1955. Disneyland holds the distinction of being the only theme park to be designed, built, opened, and operated by Walt Disney.

Currently the park has been visited by more than 515 million guests since it opened, including presidents,



royalty and other heads of state. In 1998, the theme park was re-branded "Disneyland Park" to distinguish it from the larger Disneyland Resort complex. In 2007, more than 14,800,000 people visited

the park making it the second most visited park in the world, behind the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World.

For more info visit: <http://disneyland.disney.go.com>

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 <http://www.usa.am/irc3.html>