



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

IRC Yerevan Times

September-October, 2011 Volume 7, Issue 5

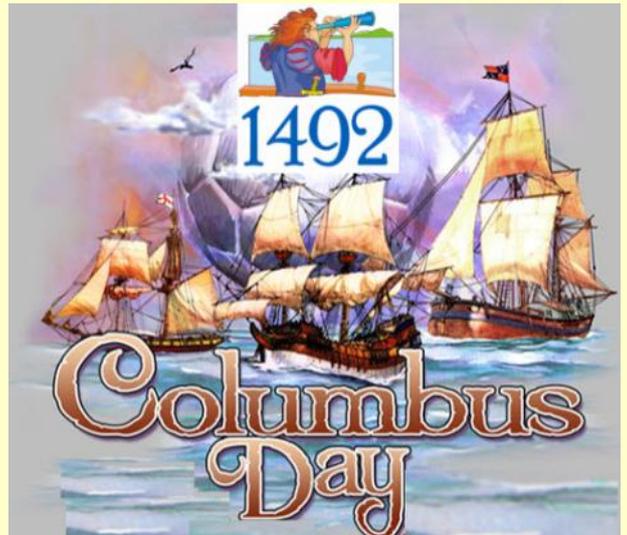
September 05, 2011— U.S. Federal Holiday, Labor Day

Observed on the first Monday in September, Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. The first Labor Day was held in 1882. Its origins stem from the desire of the Central Labor Union to create a holiday for workers. It became a federal holiday in 1894. One of the reasons for choosing to celebrate this on the first Monday in September was to add a holiday in the long gap between Independence Day and Thanksgiving. Many people mark Labor Day as the end of the summer season and a last chance to make trips or hold outdoor events. Forms of celebration include picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, water sports, and public art events.



Did you know? It is interesting to note that some fashion specialists consider Labor Day to be the last day of the year when it is fashionable for women that in high society to wear white.

October 10, 2011—Columbus Day!



Columbus Day is a U.S. holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World on October 12, 1492. It was unofficially celebrated in a number of cities and states as early as the 18th century but did not become a federal holiday until the 1937.

Officially, the people of the USA are invited to celebrate the anniversary of the discovery of the “New World” with church services and other activities. In some towns and cities, special church services, parades and large events are held. Most celebrations are concentrated around the Italian-American community, as Columbus is considered to be from Génova (Italy) by origins

This event is also celebrated as Day of the Race in many countries in Latin America, as Discovery Day in the Bahamas, as the Day of the Hispanic World in Spain, and as the Day of the Americas in Uruguay.



FLEX Future Leaders Exchange Program

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) is a US federal government program that provides opportunities for high school age students from Eurasia to spend a year in the United States, living with a family and attending a U.S. high school. This scholarship program is fully funded by the United States government and administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The scholarship is awarded through a merit-based competition, open at no cost to secondary school applicants from Armenia and other NIS countries. Its goal is to provide an opportunity for high school students from Eurasia to experience life in a democratic society in order to promote democratic values and institutions in Eurasia as well as to extend a hand of friendship from the people of the United States of America to the people from NIS countries. The program package is available for download at <http://www.usa.am/announce/flex.zip>.

Resilience and Partnership in the Face of Tragedy 10th Anniversary of 9/11



At those dark moments ten years ago the American people came together. We showed the best of the community spirit and sense of unity. People offered a hand to their neighbors and once again proved their love of community and country. On that day, no matter what race or ethnicity American people were, they united as one American family. The sense of responsibility that we felt for one another was not a fleeting passion – but a lasting virtue.

Tonight we also commemorate all victims of terrorism, in every nation around the world. We honor and celebrate the resilience of individuals, families, and communities on every continent, whether in New York, Mumbai, or Oslo. Resilience takes many forms, including the dedication and courage to move forward. While we must never forget those who we lost, we must do more than simply remember them – we must sustain our resilience and remain united to prevent new attacks and new victims.

We celebrate the resilience of communities across the globe. Worldwide, terrorists have failed to achieve their goals. Individuals, communities, and nations have shown that they are stronger than fear. Far from being paralyzed by the violent actions of a few, the vast majority of people around the world are focused daily on pursuing ambitions for themselves and for their children: achieving greater levels of education; creating new economic opportunities; and improving the systems that govern them.

IRC ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

IRC Yerevan screened “Gran Torino”

On August 22, 2011, the IRC in Yerevan screened “Gran Torino” (2008) a drama film directed by, produced by, and starring Clint Eastwood.

“Few Americans make movies about this country anymore, other than Mr. Eastwood,” Manohla Dargis, the chief film critic for The New York Times says. “This film moves from comedy into drama and then tragedy and then into something completely unexpected.” “Gran Torino” was a critical and commercial success, grossing over \$260 million worldwide. Jay Treloar, the U.S. Embassy Information Officer, gave opening remarks with a short introduction and led a discussion after the movie.

About 25 students and English language teachers attended the movie program. The participants discussed many questions, including: What are the challenges and advantages of diversity? What effects does racism have on society? Why do gangs exist and how are they portrayed in Hollywood movies?



WHAT'S NEW AT THE AMERICAN CORNERS?

AMERICAN CORNER GYUMRI

MY UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

On Friday, August 26, 2011, the Gyumri American Corner, together with the U.S. Embassy, organized a public lecture titled “My University Experience.” The guest speaker was U.S. Embassy Political Officer Christopher Anderson, a newly-arrived American diplomat. Mr. Anderson introduced himself and spoke briefly about his background before beginning of his presentation on the U.S. university system. He spoke about teaching methods and compared the American model of university education with the European model. He mentioned that the American system emphasizes analysis rather than memorization, and features classroom discussions and a lot of contact time with professors. Mr. Anderson encouraged Armenian students to consider opportunities to study in the U.S., noting that there are opportunities for Armenian students to receive scholarships to pay for their education. Mr. Anderson concluded his presentation by urging all Armenian students, no matter where they study, to apply their knowledge and skills at home for the benefit of Armenia.

More than 20 people participated in the lecture, including students from Gyumri State Pedagogical University and U.S. Peace Corps volunteers. The students had many questions concerning student visas, scholarships and grants. For his part, Mr. Anderson enjoyed meeting the audience members and said he would visit the American Corner again for another presentation.



ENGLISH LEARNERS' CORNER

IRC Yerevan congratulates all the students on "Knowledge Day" and the beginning of the new academic year! We wish all the students a productive year, full of enlightenment and new wisdom! On this occasion, we would like to share some useful educational sources with you – the EducationUSA Advising Center (EAC) in Yerevan and some useful reading materials.

We remind you that IRC is open for public from Monday through Friday 13:00-18:00.



EducationUSA Advising Center

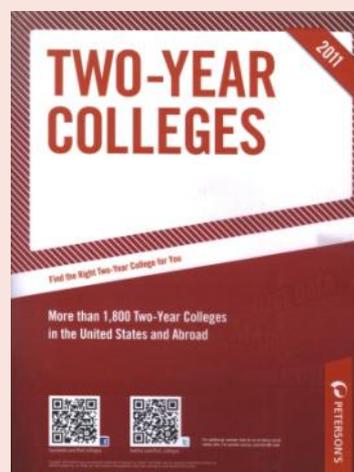
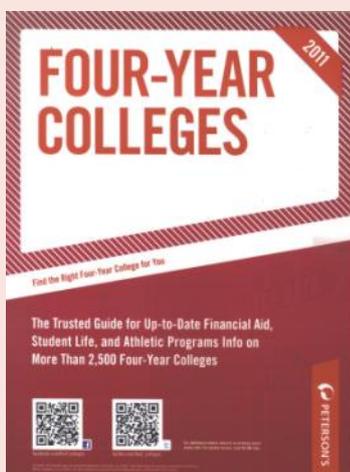
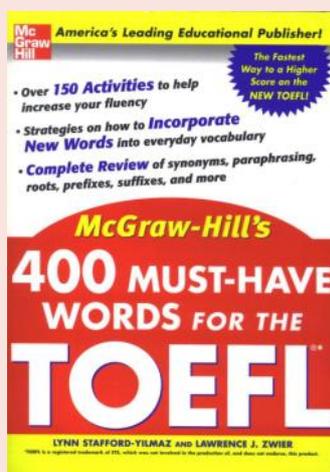
The EducationUSA advising center (EAC) in Yerevan welcomes individuals who are interested in study and research opportunities in the United States with an emphasis on undergraduate and graduate education. The center belongs to a network of Educational Advising Centers affiliated with the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural affairs and strives to provide accurate, comprehensive and impartial information on educational opportunities in the United States and about all accredited US higher education institutions. The center is open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 18:00 p.m. with additional evening hours on Wednesdays until 8:30 p.m. for everyone regardless of age and educational background. The Yerevan EAC was established in Armenia in 1992. The Center is administrated by the American Councils for International Education

The Education Advising Center in Yerevan maintains a library of written, audio-visual, and CD-ROM resources (including standardized test preparation materials). Lectures, seminars, and counseling services are also delivered. In addition, visitors can access the internet, practice sample computer-based tests, and attend group discussion meetings.

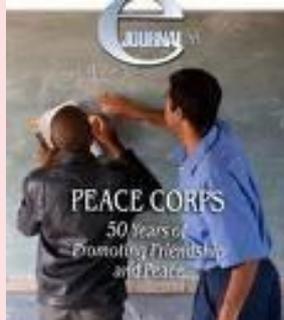
Several major events are also organized throughout a year. The Yerevan EAC holds an annual Education Information Fair in October. This year the EducationUSA Fair will be held on October 15, 2011 at 3 p.m. at the American University of Armenia. Free entrance for everyone.

For more information please go to: <http://www.americancouncils.am/educational-advising-center/>

Below you can see some of our books, that may be useful for your educational research, as well as for the development of your English language skills. You can search the rest of IRC collections here: <http://armenia.usembassy.gov/irc.html>



**EJOURNAL USA:
Peace Corps — 50 Years of Promot-
ing Friendship**



Since (AVELACNEL) more than 200,000 Americans have responded to Kennedy's challenge by serving as Peace Corps volunteers, helping people in 139 countries to raise fish and farm animals, learn English, and build basic water systems. In the process of helping others, these Americans have learned about the world and brought their enhanced understanding of other countries and cultures back to the United States.

In this issue of *eJournal USA*, we mark the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps with narratives written by past volunteers and we glimpse the future of the Peace Corps in an essay by current Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams.

Highlights:

50 Years of the Peace Corps

Joshua Berman , Travel Writer and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer

Peace Corps: The Next 50 Years

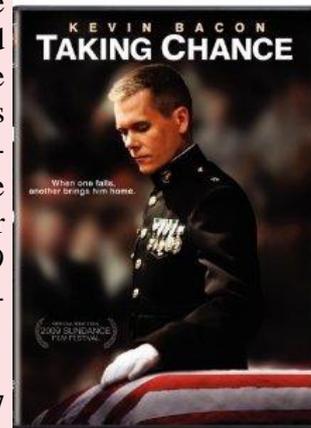
Aaron S. Williams , Director of the Peace Corps

Volunteers At Work

A group of Peace Corps Volunteers

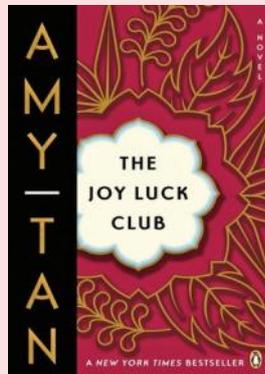
**IRC Monday Movie
Taking Chance
on September 19, 2011**

Taking Chance (2009) is a 2009 historical drama based on real-life events, Lt. Col. Michael Strobl, a volunteer military escort officer, accompanies the body of 19-year-old Marine Chance Phelps back to his hometown of Dubois, Wyoming. The film was selected for showing at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.



The film will last 77 minutes followed with the discussion moderated by Patrick Lacour. Please register by email ircyerevan@usa.am or phone: 49-44-11, 49-42-13.

**BOOK CLUB:
Featured Books**



Book Club program, organized at the American Corners, includes reading a book, watching a movie based on the book and then a discussion of both of them.

The featured book for the next discussion in October is "The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan. The book is available at the Yerevan American Corner.

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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