



July/August, Issue 7 - 2010

# AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER U.S. Embassy Helsinki

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Hispanic Heritage Month 2010: September 15 – October 15

America celebrates the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean on September 15 - October 15.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

#### Hispanic-Americans by the numbers

**48.4 million:** The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2009, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 16 percent of the nation's total population.

**132.8 million:** The projected Hispanic population of the United States on July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 30 percent of the nation's population by that date.

**47%:** The percentage of the Hispanic-origin population that lived in California or Texas in 2009. California was home to 13.7 million Hispanics, and Texas was home to 9.1 million.

(Source: Census.gov)

## PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF

For a full listing of the ARC's periodicals, please visit <http://finland.usembassy.gov/periodicals.html>

### Journal of the Month: Foreign Policy

*Foreign Policy* is a bimonthly American magazine founded in 1970 by Samuel P. Huntington and Warren Demian Manshel.

It is published by The Washington Post Company in Washington, D.C., USA. Its topics include global politics, economics, integration and ideas.

*Foreign Policy* publishes the annual Globalization Index, and Failed State Index. Its report "Inside the Ivory Tower" provides an annual comprehensive ranking of professional schools in international relations.

(Source: Wikipedia)



### A New Fee for Visa Waiver Program Travelers

Since the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) was implemented, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has had discretion to charge a fee to cover the administering of the program. The fee is to be implemented on **September 8, 2010**.

A fee of \$4.00 will cover the costs incurred by the DHS, Customs and Border Protection of providing and administering the ESTA system and is in addition to the mandatory \$10.00 travel promotion fee established by the Travel Promotion Act of 2009. **The total fee for a new or renewed ESTA will be \$14.00.**

Further information is available from the [CBP website](#).



# WEB PICKS

*Disclaimer: The views expressed on these websites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the ARC or the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, nor can we bear any responsibility for the accuracy, legality, functionality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.*

## American Life

**The Generation Gap on Government.** Center for American Progress. July 27, 2010.

Young Americans today across the ideological spectrum share a far more favorable view of the federal government than do their elders. [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/07/pdf/dww\\_millennials.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/07/pdf/dww_millennials.pdf)

**Harmony in divers(city).** CBS News.

Teaneck, New Jersey, whose population is 30% Jewish and whose mayor is Muslim, offers itself as a model of religious and cultural tolerance in a diverse community. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/08/11/eveningnews/main6764681.shtml?tag=latesthttp://>

**The Making of America: Thomas Edison.** Time, July 5, 2010.

We're surrounded by the fruits of his genius, from electric light to recorded sound, while the example of his "invention factory" at Menlo Park lives on in Silicon Valley. <http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/0,28757,1999143,00.html>

**Married Fathers: America's Greatest Weapon Against Child Poverty.** The Heritage Foundation. June 16, 2010.

The principal cause of child poverty in the U.S. is the absence of married fathers in the home. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/06/Married-Fathers-Americas-Greatest-Weapon-Against-Child-Poverty>

**Minorities and the Recession-Era College Enrollment Boom.** Pew Research Center. June 16, 2010.

The recession-era boom in the size of freshman classes at four-year colleges, community colleges and trade schools has been driven largely by a sharp increase in minority student enrollment. <http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/757-college-enrollment.pdf>

**Newspapers Hit New Low as an Information Source.** Gigaom, July 30, 2010.

The number of Americans who say that newspapers are an important source of information continues to decline. <http://gigaom.com/2010/07/27/newspapers-hit-new-low-as-an-information-source/>

**The Typical Modern Mother: There Isn't One.** Pew Research Center. June 11, 2010.

Today's mothers of newborns are more likely than their counterparts two decades earlier to be ages 35 and older, to have some college education, to be unmarried or to be nonwhite, but not all at once. <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1625/demographic-motherhood-no-typical-mother-older-education-unmarried-nonwhite?src=prc-latest&proj=peoplepress>

**Women of the Hudson River School.** Smithsonian. July 21, 2010.

Many of the mid-nineteenth century painters of America's landscapes were women – who are finally getting their deserved attention in a new exhibition. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/The-Grand-Women-Artists-of-the-Hudson-River-School.html>

## Economy and Politics

**But Will It Make You Happy?** The New York Times, August 7, 2010.

As recession forces consumers to re-evaluate spending, research shows that money spent on experiences rather than stuff generates longer-lasting fulfillment. [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/business/08consume.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=1&ref=general&src=me](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/business/08consume.html?_r=1&pagewanted=1&ref=general&src=me)

**Free Money.** Boston Globe, July 18, 2010.

It all comes down to money. Some countries are finding success simply in giving cash to the poor. [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/07/18/free\\_money/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/07/18/free_money/)

**The Phantom Economy.** Hedgehog Review, Summer 2010.

Forget the Real Economy. The real volatility may arise from the "phantom economy." [http://www.iasc-culture.org/publications\\_article\\_2010\\_Summer\\_intro.php](http://www.iasc-culture.org/publications_article_2010_Summer_intro.php)

**Sweet Dreams.** The Economist, August 5, 2010.

*The Economist* analyses why a London-based hedge fund assumed physical control of 7% of the world's annual cocoa bean production. <http://www.economist.com/node/16743659>

**Tobacco Funds Shrink as Obesity Fight Intensifies.** The New York Times, July 27, 2010.

Fighting obesity is rapidly eclipsing antismoking efforts as the top-funded U.S. public health priority. [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/28/health/policy/28obesity.html?\\_r=1&src=me&ref=health](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/28/health/policy/28obesity.html?_r=1&src=me&ref=health)

**What the Great Recession Has Done to Family Life.** The New York Times Magazine, August 6, 2010.  
American writer Judith Warner refutes claims that the Great Recession will recalibrate our modern, frenzied lives to resemble the supposedly simpler Great Depression era. [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/magazine/08FOB-wwln-t.html?\\_r=1&ref=magazine](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/magazine/08FOB-wwln-t.html?_r=1&ref=magazine)

**Where Do Currency Symbols Come From?** Slate, July 15, 2010.

A Currency Query India recently announced that it is changing the symbol of its currency, the rupee. Where do currency symbols come from? <http://www.slate.com/id/2260617/>

**Would You Like a Tchotchke With Your Internet?** The New York Times, August 3, 2010.

A Guilty Pleasure? If a store offers free internet, should you feel guilty using it if you've no intent of patronizing the store? <http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/03/would-you-like-a-tchotchke-with-your-internet/>

## Global Challenges

**Are Email Attachments Bad for the Environment?** Mother Jones, August 9, 2010.

Email attachments may seem harmless, but the greenhouse gases they produce are real. <http://motherjones.com/blue-marble/2010/08/are-email-attachments-bad-environment>

**Could Dairies Double as Clean Power Plants?** The Atlantic, July 12, 2010.

A dairy farm in Vermont converts cow manure into clean energy. Methane from 40,000 daily gallons of manure could power 400 houses. <http://www.theatlantic.com/food/archive/2010/07/could-dairies-double-as-clean-power-plants/59476/>

**In Defense of Difference.** Seed, July 9, 2010.

Scientists offer new insight into what to protect of the world's rapidly vanishing languages, cultures, and species. [http://seedmagazine.com/content/article/in\\_defense\\_of\\_difference/](http://seedmagazine.com/content/article/in_defense_of_difference/)

**Investments in Renewable Energy Top Fossil-Fuel Projects.** America.Gov, July 26, 2010.

National renewable-energy policies encourage investments, reports say. <http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/July/20100726122734lenirellepo.290188.html?CP.rss=true#ixzzOuxOoJ2xH>

**National Park System Tackles Climate Change from Ground Up.** America.Gov, August 18, 2010.

Park visitors learn how their behavior affects natural treasures. <http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/August/20100818093359KseviRo.2100794.html?CP.rss=true#ixzzoxWK6ctUP>

**Wally's World.** Foreign Policy, August 3, 2010.

Thirty-five years ago this week, Wallace Broecker predicted decades of dangerous climate change caused by humans. Unfortunately, he was all too prescient. [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/03/wallys\\_world](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/03/wallys_world)

## International Relations

**The Costs of Pakistan's Floods.** CFR Analysis Brief, August 10, 2010.

Council on Foreign Relations enumerates the potential economic and political repercussions of this month's deadly floods in Pakistan. [http://www.cfr.org/publication/22784/costs\\_of\\_pakistans\\_floods.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/22784/costs_of_pakistans_floods.html)

**Is Yemen the Next Afghanistan?** The New York Times Magazine, July 6, 2010.

A New York Times correspondent numbers poverty, terrorism, and dwindling natural resources among the many problems facing Yemen. He asks, will the country become the next Afghanistan? <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/11/magazine/11Yemen-t.html?ref=magazine>

**La Vie en %\$!** Foreign Policy, July/August 2010.

Africa-based analyst argues that France's imperial history in Africa and its continuing support of corrupt African regimes are much to blame for the continent's problems. [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/21/la\\_vie\\_en](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/21/la_vie_en)

**The Networker.** New Yorker, July 5, 2010.

Mohseni Saad Mohseni is the chairman of Afghanistan's major media company, Moby Group. Some criticize Mohseni's vocal political views, while others see him as an important force for change in Afghanistan. [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/07/05/100705fa\\_fact\\_auletta](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/07/05/100705fa_fact_auletta)

**Night of the Living Wonks.** Foreign Policy, July/August 2010.

Tufts Professor Daniel W. Drezner expounds upon what zombies can teach us about international relations theory. [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/21/night\\_of\\_the\\_living\\_wonks?page=0,0](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/21/night_of_the_living_wonks?page=0,0)

**The Nuke in the Cargo Hold.** Hoover Institute Policy Review, August 2010.

An advisor to a nonproliferation NGO makes a case for overruling flag-state sovereignty if a vessel is suspected of shipping nuclear contraband. <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policy-review/article/43446>

**South Korea OKs Humanitarian Aid Trip to North Korea.** Christian Science Monitor, August 13, 2010.

South Korea sends the first humanitarian aid to North Korea since the sinking of a South Korean ship last March. <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2010/0813/South-Korea-OKs-humanitarian-aid-trip-to-North-Korea>



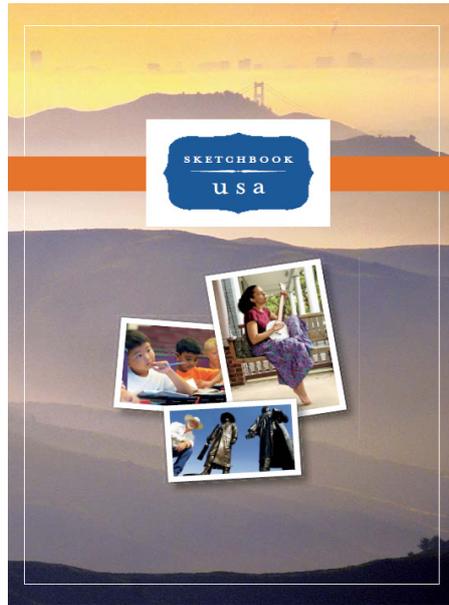
## Sketchbook USA: Yhdysvallat tänään

The U.S. Embassy Helsinki has recently published a Finnish translation of *Sketchbook USA*. The State Department produced publication describes the American society from all aspects, covering the American society and Americans as a nation, as citizens, at work, at school, in communities, and at play.

The Finnish language edition includes an expanded appendix with Finnish translations of the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence as well as brief facts of the United States and a historical timeline.

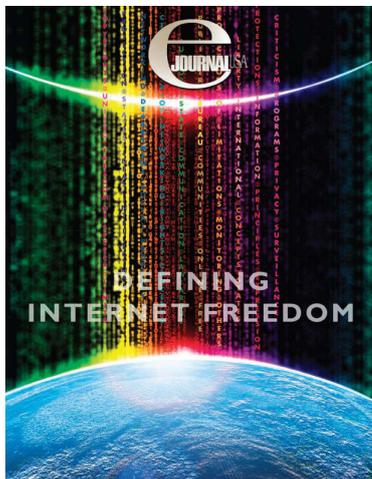
Numerous photographs, statistics, and informational feature boxes make the *Sketchbook USA* a valuable tool to anyone interested in learning more about the U.S.

The publication is hopefully a welcomed addition to basic facts published about the United States in the Finnish language and is available at the American Resource Center.



## The Latest eJournal USA: Defining Internet Freedom

Speaking in January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton likened the spread of Internet-driven information networks to “a new nervous system for our planet.” “In many respects,” she continued, “information has never been so free.” But also “we’ve seen a spike in threats to the free flow of information.” How different governments and societies confront these new and transformative technologies is the subject of this eJournal USA.



The eJournal also includes an article *Public Librarians Help Define Internet Freedom*, which discusses the public libraries as important sources of Internet access. According to the article, “librarians help defend intellectual freedom and work to balance intellectual property rights with public access to Internet content.” The article is available at <http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2010/July/20100727142800enelrahco.7130854.html>.

The entire eJournal is available online at [http://www.america.gov/defining\\_internet\\_freedom.html](http://www.america.gov/defining_internet_freedom.html).

## Labor Day 2010: September 6

The first observance of Labor Day is believed to have been a parade of 10,000 workers on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by Peter J. McGuire, a Carpenters and Joiners Union secretary. By 1893, more than half the states were observing a “Labor Day” on one day or another, and Congress passed a bill to establish a federal holiday in 1894. President Grover Cleveland signed the bill soon afterward, designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day.

### Whom Are We Celebrating?

154.4 million people aged 16 and older in the nation’s labor force (May 2010.)

### Work in Figures

#### \$46,367 and \$35,745

The 2008 real median earnings for male and female full-time, year-round workers, respectively.

#### 53%

Projected percentage growth from 2006 to 2016 in the number of network systems and data communication analysts. Forecasters expect this occupation to grow at a faster rate than any other. Meanwhile, the occupation expected to add more positions over this period than any other is registered nurses (587,000).

#### 25.5 minutes

The average time it takes people in the nation to commute to work. New York and Maryland had the most time-consuming commutes, averaging 31.6 and 31.5 minutes. (They are not significantly different from one another.)

(Source: Census.gov)

## The American Resource Center

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-16; Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

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