



November-December, Issue 10 - 2010 AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

LOOKING AHEAD

Once Upon a Time...



The U.S. Embassy Helsinki has been donating collections of American books to Finnish regional libraries since 2005. The donations include non-fiction and fiction titles with topics ranging from American contemporary society, political trends, and history to cultural diversity and both classic and modern American fiction.

This year, a large donation of five sets of books was given to Helsinki City Library. The donation was presented to the Pasila Library and four branch libraries located in the cultural centers in Itäkeskus, Vuosaari, Malmi, and Kannelmäki.

In conjunction with this year's book donation the Embassy started a charming new addition to the [America@YourLibrary](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/finland/788/pdfs/dvd_catalog_2010.pdf) (AYL) program: good old-fashioned story hours. Arranged in the English language, the story hours bring together children and native English speakers reading stories aloud. So far story hours have been arranged in Malmi and Itäkeskus libraries, with possibly many more to come.

More information about the AYL donation to Helsinki City Library is available on our website at http://finland.usembassy.gov/ev_102710_b.html.

ARC's DVD Collection

Did you know that there are about 400 video programs and over 60 DVDs available from the American Resource Center for home and educational use free of charge?

Some of the most recently added DVDs include e.g., *Grand Canyon: America's Scenic Treasure*, *Yosemite: Inspiration for Conservation*, *Our Common Purpose: Addressing Climate Change*, *Naturally Obsessed: The Making of a Scientist*, and *Shooting Women*, a documentary about the lives and work of over 50 camerawomen around the world.

The updated DVD catalog is available on our homepage at http://photos.state.gov/libraries/finland/788/pdfs/dvd_catalog_2010.pdf.

A full listing of our video programs can be accessed at <http://finland.usembassy.gov/video-collection.html>.

PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF

Columbia Journalism Review's mission is to encourage and stimulate excellence in journalism in the service of a free society. It is both a watchdog and a friend of the press in all its forms, from newspapers to magazines to radio, television, and the Web.

Founded in 1961 under the auspices of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, CJR examines day-to-day press performance as well as the forces that affect that performance. The magazine is published six times a year, and offers a deliberative mix of reporting, analysis, criticism, and commentary.

(Source: <http://www.cjr.org/>)



Thank you for the past year!

We have now been publishing our monthly newsletter for a year. We'd love to hear from you how we have succeeded! Please let us know your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions. Do you find the compilation of online articles useful in your work or leisure time? Have you found new treasures (e.g., rarely found magazines from our magazine shelf) or other useful resources through our newsletter?

Please share your thoughts with us either by e-mail (arc@usembassy.fi) or through our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/AmericanResourceCenter>). We will reward new ideas with an early (or belated - depending on the holiday mail) Christmas gifts!

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

Brave Thinkers. The Atlantic, November 2010.

For more than 150 years, *The Atlantic* has celebrated the moral and intellectual bravery of leaders who espouse unpopular or controversial positions. In this special report, our second annual, we highlight men and women who embody this great tradition today.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/special-report/brave-thinkers-2010/>

Can GM Get Its Groove Back? The Atlantic, November 2010.

Buyers remain wary, and Washington is unlikely to recover all its bailout cash. But the colossus has slashed costs and spiffed up its cars—and is rejoining the global race. <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/11/can-gm-get-its-groove-back/8247>

Fulbright Puts Money Where Problems Are. The Chronicle of Higher Education, October 29, 2010.

The U.S. State Department wants its premier fellowship program to help develop creative responses to problems as serious as climate change and pandemics. <http://chronicle.com/article/Fulbrights-Putting-Money/125053/>

How Broadway Conquered the World. The Atlantic, November 2010.

America's most energetic art form owes its success to compulsive singability.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/11/how-broadway-conquered-the-world/8242>

The Least We Can Do. The Atlantic, October 2010.

Self-absorbed, self-indulged, and self-loathing, the Baby Boom generation at last has the chance to step out of the so-called Greatest Generation's historical shadow. <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/10/the-least-we-can-do/8228/>

A Murder in Salem. Smithsonian, November 2010.

In 1830, a brutal crime in Massachusetts riveted the nation—and inspired the writings of Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/A-Murder-in-Salem.html>

The Pop Charts' Native Roots. Smithsonian, October 2010.

From country music ballads to rock power chords, Native Americans left a lasting impression on the soundtrack of the 20th century.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/The-Pop-Charts-Native-Roots.html>

Economy and Politics

Building a Social Safety Net. Finance & Development, September 2010.

Despite the global financial crisis, China is making a serious effort to improve its pension and health-care systems.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2010/09/barnett.htm>

Congressional Favorability Ratings. Rasmussen Reports, November 23, 2010.

House Republican leader John Boehner has been regularly in the news since Election Day as the likely next speaker of the House, and that coverage has helped push his favorables to a new high. But all the major congressional leaders seem to be benefiting from a little good will since the elections.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/mood_of_america/congressional_favorability_ratings

Delivering the Next Economy: The States Step Up. Brookings, November 25, 2010.

Leadership at the state level will be crucial, as the political environment in Washington, DC is very likely to produce little more than partisanship and rancor. We must instead rely on the kind of innovation at the state level that has so often propelled our federalist system. http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/11/17_states_next_economy.aspx

The End of Growth. MuseLetter No. 222, November 2010.

Richard Heinberg, author, educator and speaker, notes that access to abundant and cheap fossil fuels over the last couple of centuries sparked a boom unprecedented in human history of growth in economic activity and human numbers, such that we have now become accustomed to thinking that continuous growth is a normal state of affairs. <http://richardheinberg.com/222-the-end-of-growth>

Just a Couple Hundred Trillion in Off-Balance-Sheet Liabilities... Bloomberg, August 11, 2010.

A Boston University economics professor's blunt prognosis on what needs to be done to close the U.S. fiscal gap.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-11/u-s-is-bankrupt-and-we-don-t-even-know-commentary-by-laurence-kotlikoff.html>

Public Knows Basic Facts about Politics, Economics, But Struggles with Specifics. PewResearchCenter Publications, November 18, 2010.

Before you read the report, we invite you to test your own News IQ by taking the latest interactive knowledge quiz. The short quiz

includes the same questions that were included in the national poll. Participants will instantly learn how they did on the quiz in comparison with the general public as well as with people like them.

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1804/political-news-quiz-iq-deficit-defense-spending-tarp-inflation-boehner>

Global Challenges

16th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Cancun, Mexico, November 29 – December 10, 2010. U.S. State Department website.

No nation, however large or small, wealthy or poor, can escape the impact of climate change. This is a global problem, and the Obama Administration is committed to leading the charge in a global effort to reduce the dangerous pollution that causes global warming, and to make the investments in the clean energy technology that will power sustainable growth moving into the future.

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/climate/cop16/index.htm>

2010 Report on International Religious Freedom. U.S. State Department, November 2010.

The International Religious Freedom report is submitted to Congress annually by the Department of State.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/index.htm>

Alexandra Cousteau's Expedition Blue Planet: A Journey to Preserve the Colorado River. America.Gov, Nov 2010.

The website includes videos and still images of the Blue Planet Expedition, an audio and text interview with Ms. Cousteau, and texts supplied by local "water heroes" who participated in the expedition. A PDF version of the feature is available for download.

http://www.america.gov/blue_planet.html

Brilliance in a Box. Slate, October 20, 2010.

Journalist Amanda Ripley travels the globe to find out what the best classrooms look like and how technology impacts learning.

<http://www.slate.com/id/2271733/>

Nagoya 2010: Report Puts Economic Value of Nature on the Global Political Radar. October 20, 2010. United Nations Environment Programme.

At a world conference on biodiversity, scientists release an economic value for the world's natural assets. Forests, soils and wildlife are priceless. <http://unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=649&ArticleID=6791&l=en&t=long>

International Relations

The Anatomy of Japan's Shifting Security Orientation. Washington Quarterly, October 2010.

The author presents a detailed historical overview of the U.S.-Japan security relationship since the end of World War II and an analysis of current political thinking in Japan. http://www.twq.com/10october/docs/10oct_Sunohara.pdf

The Arab Tomorrow. Wilson Quarterly, Winter 2010.

David Ottaway sees two sharply contrasting possible futures for the Arab nations: "the highly materialistic emirate state obsessed with visions of Western-style modernity and the strict Islamic one fixed on resurrecting the Qur'an's dictates espoused by fundamentalists and Al Qaeda." <http://www.wilsonquarterly.com/article.cfm?aid=1565>

The Black Hole of Pakistan: Are Billions of Dollars of U.S. Aid Going to Waste? Foreign Policy, October 7, 2010.

Can money buy love? A recent survey in Pakistani areas hit by the 2005 earthquake found that international humanitarian assistance has created lasting good will. http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/10/07/the_black_hole_of_pakistan

Conflict or Cooperation? Three Visions Revisited. Foreign Affairs, November/December 2010.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66802/richard-k-betts/conflict-or-cooperation>

Crisis of Relevance at the UN. Council on Foreign Relations, September 20, 2010.

UNGA uncovered CFR's United Nations specialist Stewart M. Patrick discusses UN's concerns of irrelevance.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22968/crisis_of_relevance_at_the_un.html?cid=rss-backgrounders%2C_analysis_brief%2C_crisis_of_relevance_at_the_un-092010&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+cfr_foreignaffairs+%28CFR.org+-+FA+multi-pub%25

Most U.S. Air Travelers OK Sacrificing Privacy for Security. Gallup, November 23, 2010.

Despite a reported uproar about full-body screening procedures now in broader use at U.S. airports and calls for a boycott, Gallup finds that relatively few frequent U.S. air travelers are angry about the new procedures or inclined to cut back on flying as a result.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/144920/Air-Travelers-Sacrificing-Privacy-Security.aspx>

Success at the Lisbon Summit: The U.S. Perspective. Brookings, November 25, 2010.

President Barack Obama headed to Portugal on November 19-20 to join European allies for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit. http://www.brookings.edu/events/2010/1122_lisbon_summit.aspx

United Nations Report Focuses on Global Lot of Women. New York Times, October 20, 2010.

Women: How Are They Doing? The United Nations releases two reports on social progress for women. Women have made progress in education and health, but remain threatened by violence.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/21/world/21nations.html?_r=1&ref=world



ARCHIVE



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER!



I heard the bells on Christmas Day; their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the word repeat of peace on earth, good-will to men! (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that? (Bob Hope)

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph. (Shirley Temple)

“What is the oldest national park in the U.S.?” and many more...

The American Resource Center announced a “Test Your U.S. Knowledge” quiz on its [Facebook page](#) back in October. The questions ranged from “Who is portrayed in the US\$100 bill?” and “Where were the 2002 Winter Olympics held?” to “When was the American Resource Center established?” and many more.

Those who scored 68 % or higher were eligible to participate in a Thanksgiving raffle and three lucky winners received groovy prizes. Congratulations to all the winners and please keep checking the ARC Facebook page for future quizzes and raffles!

Politics, Please (Pizza on the Side)



Who said politics was boring?

It definitely wasn't for a good crowd of university students, media representatives, and others interested in the aftermath of the U.S. elections who gathered at a Pizza&Politics event on November 18. Pizza and soda were flowing and questions flying in a first-ever pizza social event held by the American Resource Center at the National Library of Finland.

The guest speaker, John C. Fortier, who is a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, talked about the historical background of elections and the upcoming Presidential elections but concentrated mostly on the recent mid-term elections – and especially about the direction where the U.S. is headed.

The Embassy had also invited two social media gurus to [tweet live](#) from the event and a [guest blogger](#) who writes about U.S. elections.

The American Resource Center

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

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