

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

Teacher Training Workshops, Presentations, and Youth Discussion Club Schedule

Please sign up in advance to attend a particular seminar or presentation at the circulation desk, by phone (044) 238-6610, or by e-mail: etrc_kyiv@yahoo.com.

Monday, April 19 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM Langston Hughes: American Poet of the People

Presenter: **Hortense Simmons**, Fulbright Senior Specialist at Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University, Professor Emerita of English at California State University, Sacramento

Langston Hughes chose as the primary subjects of his poetry African Americans of low socioeconomic means. In his poems, he memorializes their resilience and courage in facing adversity, as well as the humor and pleasures of their lives. This interactive presentation will focus on several of Hughes' classic poems.

Wednesday, April 21 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM Certificate Series: Teaching Presentation Skills 2

Presenter: **Thomas C. Tasker**, Senior English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

This workshop explores the presentation sub-skill of defining a concept, how to develop an outline, and create a first audio 'draft' of the presentation and use the technology needed to produce it.

Thursday, April 22 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM Youth Discussion Club Meeting

Moderator: **Thomas C. Tasker**, Senior English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

A discussion of how the world of work influences our lives, and our expectations about work.

Tuesday, April 27 from 5:00 – 6:00 PM Technology Work Group

Moderator: **Thomas C. Tasker**, Senior English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

The group will talk about using technology in education. Participants will select classroom technology projects they would like to do with their students, and we will discuss ways to implement those ideas. We will meet twice per month. Participation is limited to 10 people.

Wednesday, April 28 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM Certificate Series: Teaching Presentation Skills 3

Presenter: **Thomas C. Tasker**, Senior English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

This workshop examines the presentation sub-skill of visual aids and conclusions, and considers assessment and peer editing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Film Club at ETRC on Fridays at 3:00PM

In April every Friday afternoon, teachers and their university and high-school students are invited to watch and discuss popular American movies within Youth Film Club meetings (free of charge).

Peter Wohlgemuth, an English language teacher from the U.S. will moderate the Film Club. He has been living in Ukraine for 15 years now, teaching English and TOEFL to students. Peter will introduce each movie to participants. The screening will be followed by a discussion. To help the participants get to know more about the movies, the moderator will provide them with handouts containing useful expressions and idioms, information about cast of actors and characters.

On coming to the Youth Film Club, each guest will get a number to participate in a book raffle. After the screening and discussion, the moderator will name 3-5 winners of the raffle chosen at random. The winners will get fiction books in English.

*Note: Those who attend Youth Film Club meetings will qualify for the privilege to become a **Junior ETRC member** and receive a library card valid for one academic year. Junior members will be allowed to borrow fiction, videos in English with subtitles, and periodicals from the ETRC library.*

Below please see a schedule of screenings for April.

Watch best classic and contemporary movies at ETRC!

DATE	TIME	FILM TITLE	DESCRIPTION
16 April, Friday	3:00 – 5:30 PM	River Wild (Runtime 112 min.)	Meryl Streep takes on a pair of armed killers while navigating a spectacularly violent river. <i>English subtitles</i>
23 April, Friday	3:00 – 5:30 PM	Hoot (Runtime 91 min.)	To mark the Earth Day A young man moves from Montana to Florida with his family, where he's compelled to engage in a fight to protect a population of endangered owls. <i>English subtitles</i>
30 April, Friday	3:00 – 6:00 PM	Mr. Holland's Opus (Runtime 143 min.)	A frustrated composer finds fulfillment as a high school music teacher. <i>English subtitles</i>

c) 15 TESOL-Ukraine National Conference, Rivne, 15-17 April 2010

TESOL-Ukraine, Ukraine's professional organization for teachers of English, would like to invite English teachers to participate in the 15th TESOL-Ukraine National Conference, Rivne, 15-17 April 2010. Please see detailed information on [TESOL-Ukraine Website](#) and in the attachment.

d) III International Scientific and Practical Conference, April, 21-23, 2010

The Department of Foreign Languages and Applied Linguistics of the National Aviation University and Linguistic Society "Ukraine-Language-World" invite you to participate in the III International scientific conference "Language, Literature and American Studies Problems" on April 21-23, 2010 in Kyiv, which will be held at Department of Foreign Languages and Applied Linguistics of the National Aviation University. Attached please find more information and an application form.

e) CIS Tour to Eurasia – Tour Director's Visit to Ukraine

Jackie Vogl, from SUNY Plattsburg, will visit Kyiv for the first time May 3-4, after the CIS tour of Eurasia (she'll travel to Kyiv from Tbilisi). CIS is considering adding Ukraine to their Eurasia tour, and this visit will be "exploratory" to assess the level of interest and potential for recruitment.

Jackie Vogl would like to meet with administrators and/or teachers to see who could be a partner for the CIS tour if it comes to Kyiv (they usually hold their education fairs in schools, when possible). The attached poster lists the schools participating this year, so you'll get an idea about who might participate next year. If your school is interested in having presentation of the SUNY Plattsburg or just meet with Jackie Vogl on May 3 or 4, please contact Tetyana Kotko at (044) 483-25-32, 483-91-38 or email at receptionieac@americancouncilskyiv.org.ua.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Ukrainian teachers and educators have opportunities to participate in different exchange programs. In the beginning of the year the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State announced an open competition for **Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program** that will bring outstanding secondary-level school teachers to the U.S. for a professional development opportunity. They will develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States.

In this issue we have included an article forwarded by the U.S. Embassy-Kyiv. It tells about Olena Urazova, a teacher from Ukraine, who participated in TEA program in February-March 2010. She was one of 24 teachers from 12 countries who had received fully-funded fellowships from federal officials to come to Tampa for a six-week teacher training program at the University of South Florida.

Please look for future announcements about TEA and other programs at <http://kiev.usembassy.gov>.

Teachers Lend International Perspective

By Kenneth Knight | The Tampa Tribune at

<http://northeast2.tbo.com/content/2010/mar/05/051750/teachers-lend-international-perspective/>

Published: March 5, 2010

NEW TAMPA – The students in Karen Derflinger's algebra II honors class furiously tapped the keys on their calculators. They were seeking the answer to a question using the continuously compounded interest formula.

But their usual teacher wasn't at the chalkboard. She was seated at a desk alongside her students observing a lesson plan being taught by an algebra teacher from Latvia.

"A calculator is very good, but the computer is much better," said Biruta Pjalkovska, cracking a smile. Pjalkovska is inspired by students. The algebra and geometry teacher enjoys working with young people as much now as when she began teaching 26 years ago in a small town in eastern Latvia.

Last month, Pjalkovska and 23 other teachers from 12 countries received fully-funded fellowships from federal officials to come to Tampa for a six-week teacher training program at the University of South Florida.

The local program, hosted by the Patel Center of Global Solutions and the Department of Secondary Education in USF's College of Education, uses in-depth seminars and hands-on training to equip international teachers with the skills and strategies to prepare their students to flourish in a globalized world.

After spending weeks in local classrooms, where they have taught, interacted and exchanged ideas with American students, Pjalkovska and her colleagues have come away with a universal perspective on school children: They are the same everywhere.

"They are very much the same," Pjalkovska said. "They are polite. They are open and want to talk."

Olena Urazova, a teacher from Ukraine, agreed: "What is similar is they want to be loved, respected and (are) people who want to be liked."

She also offered a unique take on the expectation of American students.

"I think they are expected to make their decisions more independently," Urazova said. "Here you have to be prepared for toughness and independence."

The concept may be similar to the intensive training the teachers are taking part in at USF.

The international teachers are studying new education methods in various disciplines to use in the classroom when they return home.

The teachers are from Argentina, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, India, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Senegal and Ukraine.

They were required to have at least five years of teaching experience and speak fluent English.

Most of them – 19 - teach English as a foreign language in their country. Three others are math teachers, and the remaining two teach science.

The program is sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the International Research & Exchanges Board. IREX is a nonprofit organization, which supports education programs, independent media and the development of civic participation worldwide.

Other international teachers are taking part in the program at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, the University of Nebraska and the University of California at Chico said Rebecca Harris, assistant academic director at the Patel Center of Global Solutions located on the USF campus.

The visiting educators spent two weeks at Freedom and Wharton high schools working in tandem with Hillsborough County teachers. They observed classroom instruction and were given opportunities to teach. Derflinger said she appreciated Pjalkovska stepping forward to teach the algebra II honors class.

While formulas for algebra are universal, Derflinger said it was a thrill to see how the subject is taught by a teacher from another country.

Natalya Patylitsyna, who teaches English in Kazakhstan, said she brought small tokens from her homeland — tiny flags, earrings, chocolates and refrigerator magnets – to share her heritage with local students.

"I have loved them," Patylitsyna said, referring to students in Debbie Grimm's classes at Freedom. "They are so sweet and grateful."

"They have learned a lot about Russian traditions."

Barbara Cruz, USF professor of Social Science Education, said exposing our teachers and students to diverse cultures benefits the entire community.

The visiting teachers also will return home better off for having taken part in the experience, she said.

"They are not just going back as master teachers, but teacher leaders," Cruz said.

Each one will be an exemplary instructor with the knowledge and skills to serve as a role model to effect positive change in their school environment, she said.

The teachers end their visit to Tampa March 18. They will reunite with all of the participants at the University of Nebraska for a wrap-up session before heading home March 21.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We are happy to bring to your attention another acquisition of English language materials donated by Marta Pereyma to the ETRC library this spring. Attached you will find a list containing brief descriptions of the books from the recent donation.

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION

Earth Day 2010 – April 22

By Senator Gaylord Nelson, Founder of Earth Day

What was the purpose of Earth Day? How did it start? These are the questions I am most frequently asked.

Actually, the idea for Earth Day evolved over a period of seven years starting in 1962. For several years, it had been troubling me that the state of our environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of the country. Finally, in November 1962, an idea occurred to me that was, I thought, a virtual cinch to put the environment into the political "limelight" once and for all. The idea was to persuade President Kennedy to give visibility to this issue by going on a national conservation tour. I flew to Washington to discuss the proposal with Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who liked the idea. So did the President. The President began his five-day, eleven-state conservation tour in September 1963. For many reasons the tour did not succeed in putting the issue onto the national political agenda. However, it was the germ of the idea that ultimately flowered into Earth Day.



I continued to speak on environmental issues to a variety of audiences in some twenty-five states. All across the country, evidence of environmental degradation was appearing everywhere, and everyone noticed except the political establishment. The environmental issue simply was not to be found on the nation's political agenda. The people were concerned, but the politicians were not.



After President Kennedy's tour, I still hoped for some idea that would thrust the environment into the political mainstream. Six years would pass before the idea that became Earth Day occurred to me while on a conservation speaking tour out West in the summer of 1969. At the time, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, called "teach-ins," had spread to college campuses all across the nation. Suddenly, the idea occurred to me - why not organize a huge grassroots protest over what was happening to our environment?

I was satisfied that if we could tap into the environmental concerns of the general public and infuse the student anti-war energy into the environmental cause, we could generate a demonstration that would force this issue onto the political agenda. It was a big gamble, but worth a try.

At a conference in Seattle in September 1969, I announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate. The wire services carried the story from coast to coast. The response was electric. It took off like gangbusters. Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in from all across the country. The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air - and they did so with spectacular exuberance. For the next four months, two members of my Senate staff, Linda Billings and John Heritage, managed Earth Day affairs out of my Senate office.

Five months before Earth Day, on Sunday, November 30, 1969, The New York Times carried a lengthy article by Gladwin Hill reporting on the astonishing proliferation of environmental events:



"Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation's campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam...a national day of observance of environmental problems...is being planned for next spring...when a nationwide environmental 'teach-in'...coordinated from the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson is planned...."

It was obvious that we were headed for a spectacular success on Earth Day. It was also obvious that grassroots activities had ballooned beyond the capacity of my U.S. Senate office staff to keep up with the telephone calls, paper work, inquiries, etc. In mid-January, three months before Earth Day, John Gardner, Founder of Common Cause, provided temporary space for a Washington, D.C. headquarters. I staffed the office with college students and selected Denis Hayes as coordinator of activities.

Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself.

More information can be found at the following sites:

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0210.html>

<http://www.america.gov/global/environ.html>

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

SPECIAL DAYS IN APRIL

April 4 – Easter



The following are links to lesson plans and activities concerning Easter:

[The Lesson Plans Page](#)

[Mr. Donn](#)

[The Teacher's Guide](#)

[Teachnology](#)



April 7 – U.N. World Health Day. For more information, visit [here](#)

April 13 – Thomas Jefferson. Anniversary of Birth. Born 1743; Died 1826. Jefferson served as the third President of the United States (1801-1809). Visit the [Jefferson Timeline](#) at the American Memory Project. Take a virtual tour of Jefferson's home [here](#).



More books and, with anniversary remembered and reignited.



April 21 – Mark Twain Centennial Honors America's Greatest Writer

A hundred years ago next month, on April 21, 1910, one of the most famous men in the world died. He was born on November 30, 1835 in Florida, Missouri. His name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. have been published about Mark Twain than any other American writer this centennial year (also the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 125th of "Huckleberry Finn,"), the world's fascination with Twain will be

<http://interact.stltoday.com/mds/entertainment/html/3050>

<http://interact.stltoday.com/mds/entertainment/html/3048>

<http://www.twain2010.org/>

<http://www.online-literature.com/twain/>

April 23 – William Shakespeare. Birthday. Born 1564; Supposedly died April 23, 1616. The following sites offer a plethora of information about the Bard:



[Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet](#)

[Shakespeare Resource Center](#)

[Shakespeare for Kids](#)

If you are looking for a yummy way to celebrate Shakespeare, visit TeachersFirst's [Elizabethan Feast](#) page.

There are dozens of quality lesson plans concerning Shakespeare and his work on the Internet. Consider doing a Google search. The following links are a sampling of what is

available:

[Folger Shakespeare Library: Shakespeare Lesson Plans.](#)

[CNN: Shakespeare Rap](#)

[Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute: Working with Shakespeare.](#)

April 26 – Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Disaster. On this day in 1986, the worst nuclear power accident ever occurred when a nuclear power station at Chernobyl (in what was then the Soviet Union) experienced a meltdown, releasing radiation. A lesson plan for grades 9-12 may be found at [Science NetLinks](#).

April 28 – Harper Lee. Birthday. Born April 28, 1926. Lee won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 for the classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

<http://www.harperlee.com/>

TITBITS FROM THE INTERNET

Sometimes surfing the Internet you come across an interesting article, charming or astounding photos, fascinating presentations, wise thoughts and quotes. At times you receive such e-mails from your friend. You stop for a moment, put aside your chores for several minutes and enjoy with what you see or hear. Sometimes these are serious matters that make you cry or impel to contemplate. Sometimes you just burst into laugh enjoying funny, curious stories or jokes.

These emotional moments enlighten our day and inspire for work, giving us lots of energy. We can't help forwarding such information to our friends in order to share a piece of joy with them. A lot of virtuous fascinating stories we use in our English classes to add ethics and morality in our teaching.

That is why we have introduced to you a new section. You may contribute to it, too. If you have interesting inspirational stories, photos, or links please share with us. We in our turn will include some of them into our Newsletter.

Today please see below two links to the YouTube. The first is a clever video on the future of publishing, courtesy of the Penguin folks, who produced it for an internal presentation. Be sure to watch to at least halfway, when the "clever" gets visible.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Weg_sHxgchcg&feature=player_embedded

The second video is about a man who is known as the Human Camera. If you have never seen this before, you are in for a treat. Some of us wonder what the best computer is in the world - it's got to be the brain.

<http://video.stumbleupon.com/#p=0k4lsi1dqj>

USEFUL RESOURCES

All About Earth Day

Earth Day, Everyday

<http://earthday.wilderness.org/> - All About Earth Day for all ages
Print out and distribute, or read the history of Earth Day to your students.



<http://www.planetpals.com/earthday.html> - A complete list of Earth Day activities, teaching aids, earth science and history on Planetpals for grown-ups and kids.



<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/earth-day/teacher-resources/6612.html> - Use the lessons, printables, and references to teach your class about our environment and how to preserve our planet. Resources on global warming, recycling, and pollution will help you explore this important topic.



<http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/earth/about.htm> - Earth Day Resources



<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/earthday.php> - Earth Day Resource Page with lessons and worksheets, clipart and images, online activities



EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY!