



American Resource Center Newsletter
U.S. Embassy Helsinki
April 2016, Issue 4

Golden State California

The ARC had the pleasure of hosting California Travel Night with Nuorten Aikuisten Amerikkaverkosto (<https://www.facebook.com/nuortenaikuistenamerikkaverkosto>) at the Helsinki University Kaisa Library on April 6th. Thank you to our presenters Fulbright Distinguished Teacher David Tow and NAME ladies Kirsi Rutonen and Ulla Alakangas!

As Mr. Tow pointed out in his presentation, California is an important state in so many aspects: its size and history give it great importance in the U.S.; its geography has the widest range of different climates and environments; it is an ideal place to travel because of the ease with which people can visit different destinations; and simply, California is the greatest state in the U.S.

Mr. Tow's top 10 San Francisco recommendations include Lombard Street; North Beach; Fisherman's Wharf; Embarcadero; Alcatraz; Haight-Ashbury; Mount Sutro and Sutro Tower; Golden Gate Park; Ocean Beach; and Golden Gate Bridge.

If you weren't bitten by a travel bug before the California Travel Night, all of the amazing photos and travel stories surely did the job. Pack your bags, pick up some materials from the ARC, and bon voyage - Golden State here we come!



WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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

American Shuffle by John Jeremiah Sullivan. The New York Times Magazine, March 27, 2016.
Minstrelsy. Blackface. Mugging. Out of this twisted past came one of the first successful all-black Broadway musicals. Now an ambitious revival is bringing it back.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/27/magazine/shuffle-along-and-the-painful-history-of-black-performance-in-america.html?_r=0

How 'Safe Spaces' Stifle Ideas by Robert Boyers. The Chronicle Review of the Chronicle of Higher Education, March 18, 2016.
Academic culture restricts the free thinking that the modern condition demands.

<http://chronicle.com/article/How-Safe-Spaces-Stifle-Ideas/235634>

The Matter of Black Lives by Jelani Cobb. The New Yorker, March 14, 2016.

A new kind of movement found its moment. What will its future be?

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/03/14/where-is-black-lives-matter-headed>

The Return of the Black Panther by Ta Nehisi Coates. The Atlantic, April 2016.

A behind-the-scenes look at the revival of Marvel's first black-superhero series—and an exclusive preview of the first issue.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-return-of-the-black-panther/471516/>

The Silicon Valley Boys Aren't Just Brilliant — They're Part of a Comedy Revolution by Brian Raftery. Wired, April 2016.

You've got a hit TV show! Great. Now go crush it on YouTube and everywhere else. Inside the new comedy economy.

<http://www.wired.com/2016/03/silicon-valley-new-comedy-economy/>

What We Talk About When We Talk About Batman and Superman by Abraham Riesman. New York Magazine, March 21-April 3, 2016.

Politics, mostly. And American empire. <http://www.vulture.com/2016/03/batman-v-superman-c-v-r.html#>

Economy & Politics

Bernie Sanders, the Foreign-Policy Realist of 2016 by Robert English. The Nation, February 19, 2016.

Of all the presidential candidates of either party, Bernie is actually the most sober and clear-eyed.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/bernie-sanders-the-foreign-policy-realist-of-2016/>

The Great Divide by Ryan Lizza. The New Yorker, March 21, 2016.

Clinton, Sanders, and the future of the Democratic Party.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/03/21/bernie-hillary-and-the-new-democratic-party>

The Obama Doctrine by Jeffrey Goldberg. The Atlantic, April 2016.

The U.S. President talks through his hardest decisions about America's role in the world.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-obama-doctrine/471525/>

The Rest of the World Is Disturbed and Confused by the GOP Race by John Nichols. The Nation, March 29, 2016.

"Everywhere I go, every leader I meet, they ask about what is happening in America." — Secretary of State John Kerry

<http://www.thenation.com/article/the-rest-of-the-world-is-laughing-at-the-gop-race/>

Toward a 21st-Century Labor Movement by David Rolf. The American Prospect, April 18, 2016.

The old model of collective bargaining can't be resurrected. Herewith, some new models of how workers can win and wield power.

<http://prospect.org/article/toward-21st-century-labor-movement>

Global Challenges

The U.S. is the Chair of the Arctic Council from May 2015 through May 2017. We will be highlighting Arctic issues in the WebPicks through the chairmanship.

How to Deliver on the Paris Climate Promises by Jonah Busch. Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, April 11, 2016. At the Paris climate conference last December, 196 governments unanimously agreed to work toward the near-elimination of greenhouse gas emissions by the second half of this century. Although this historic diplomatic achievement is cause for celebration, significant challenges remain. <http://journal.georgetown.edu/how-to-deliver-on-the-paris-climate-promises/>

An Insurance Salesman and a Doctor Walk into a Bar, and End Up at the North Pole by Guy Lawson. The New York Times Magazine, March 20, 2016.

The story of an accidentally pioneering expedition.

www.nytimes.com/2016/03/20/magazine/an-insurance-salesman-and-a-doctor-walk-into-a-bar-and-end-up-at-the-north-pole.html

Arctic Issue: It's Not Just Antarctica — Why Greenland Could Also Melt Faster Than Expected by Chelsea Harvey. Washington Post, April 5, 2016.

Why sea level rise expectations could get bumped upward -- again.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/04/05/its-not-just-antarctica-some-experts-fear-greenland-could-also-melt-faster-than-we-thought/>

Poverty, Compounded by Gillian B. White. The Atlantic, April 16, 2016.

Staying poor isn't just a matter of having too little money—it's about a series of unstable circumstances that build upon each other. <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/04/how-poverty-compounds/478539/>

The Seas Will Save Us: How an Army of Ocean Farmers Is Starting an Economic Revolution by Bren Smith. Yes! Magazine, April 4, 2016.

Ocean farming isn't just about food, it's about transforming a workforce and restoring the sea.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/the-seas-will-save-us-how-an-army-of-ocean-farmers-is-starting-an-economic-revolution-20160404>

To Stop Global Warming, Change How We Eat? by Cristina Maza. The Christian Science Monitor, April 8, 2016.

Producing and cooking food is actually a huge contributor to global carbon emissions. How to take a bite out of the problem: Reduce food waste and change farm practices and eating habits.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy/2016/0408/To-stop-global-warming-change-how-we-eat>

For more Arctic related issues please check our **Scoop.it** site at <http://www.scoop.it/t/arctic-by-americanresourcecenter>. The site includes curated content that concentrates only on the Arctic.

International Relations

Europe: A Better Plan for Refugees by George Soros. The New York Review of Books, April 9, 2016.

The asylum policy that emerged from last month's EU-Turkey negotiations—and that has already resulted in the deportation of hundreds of asylum seekers from Greece to Turkey—has four fundamental flaws. First, the policy is not truly European; it was negotiated with Turkey and imposed on the EU by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Second, it is severely underfunded. Third, it is not voluntary. It imposes quotas that many member states oppose and requires refugees to take up residence in countries where they don't want to live, while forcing others who have reached Europe to be sent back. Finally, it transforms Greece into a de facto holding pen without sufficient facilities for the number of asylum seekers already there.

<http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2016/04/09/europe-how-pay-for-refugees>

The Ever More 'Complicated' U.S. Relationship with Saudi Arabia by David A. Graham. The Atlantic, April 18, 2016.

Just as President Obama prepares to travel to Riyadh, the kingdom has threatened to withdraw hundreds of billions in investments over a Senate bill related to 9/11.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/04/saudi-arabia-911-bill-congress/478689/>

National Security Strategies of the 21st Century: Five Minutes with Chuck Hagel. Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, April 14, 2016.

"Right now, we are dealing with security risks of numerous dimensions, such as terrorism, threats of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, pandemic health issues, and severe economic downturns. It will get no less complicated in the future".

<http://journal.georgetown.edu/national-security-strategies-of-the-21st-century-five-minutes-with-chuck-hagel/>

NATO's Not Obsolete, Says Joint Chiefs Chairman by Kevin Baron. Defense One, March 30, 2016.

In fact, the alliance soon could join the fight against ISIS, adds Defense Secretary Carter.

<http://www.defenseone.com/politics/2016/03/nato-joint-chiefs-chairman/127125/?oref=d-channeltop>

Why ISIS Is Winning the Social Media War by Brendan I. Koerner. Wired, April 2016.

ISIS is better at social media than you are. How the Islamic State is using the tools of the West against it.

<http://www.wired.com/2016/03/isis-winning-social-media-war-heres-beat/>

Yellow Library Goes America!



American Resource Center and the U.S. Embassy co-organized with Tammi a series of events highlighting the American literary masterpieces published in Tammi's Keltainen kirjasto (Yellow Library) book series. John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Moon Is Down*; Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and *God Help the Child*; and Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* were discussed by local specialists.

It was wonderful to conclude the spring literary gatherings with a book launch of a very new Yellow Library volume at the Kaisa Library on April 20. "Keltaiset esseen" (Yellow Essays) is the volume number 475 in the series which was established in 1954. The ARC had an honor to host the event where the essay writers, Ph.D. candidates representing several departments of the University of Helsinki, discussed their inspiration and research accordingly.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the events!



Did You Know?

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22!

"In 1970, the year of our first Earth Day, the movement gave voice to an emerging consciousness, channeling human energy toward environmental issues. Forty-six years later, we continue to lead with groundbreaking ideas and by the power of our example."

Read more at <http://www.earthday.org/>



AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

ARC at Kaisa House
P.O.Box 53 (Fabianinkatu 30)
00014 University of Helsinki
Finland

Telephone: +358-50-448 5704



arc@usembassy.fi



finland.usembassy.gov/arc.html



facebook.com/AmericanResourceCenter



twitter.com/ARCHelsinki