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AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER U.S. Embassy Helsinki

LOOKING AHEAD

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian-Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian-Pacific Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

This year's theme is "Lighting the Past, Present and Future."

Source: <http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html>

PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF

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

Environmental Magazines Subscribed by the ARC

Audubon concentrates on subjects related to nature, with a special emphasis on birds.

E - The Environmental Magazine is a bimonthly "clearinghouse" of information, news and resources for people concerned about the environment who want to know "What can I do?" to make a difference.

Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development analyzes the problems, places, and people where environment and development come together, illuminating concerns from the local to the global.

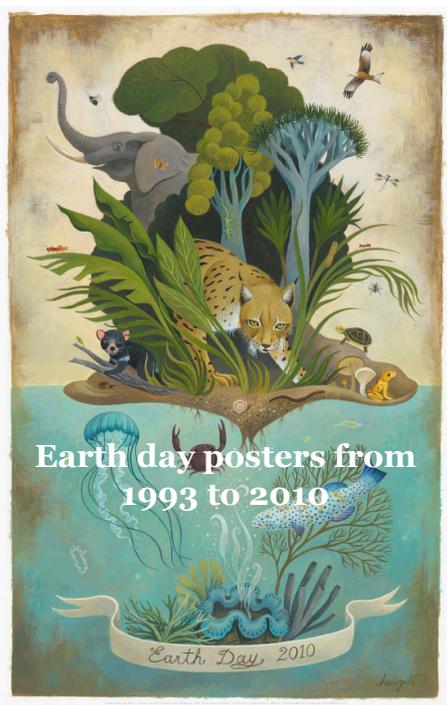
Green Source covers the sustainable design of commercial buildings and green homes, environmental building projects, LEED projects, and green-building.

Mother Earth News provides wide-ranging, expert editorial coverage of organic foods, country living, green transportation, renewable energy, natural health and green building.

As the magazine of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES), **Solar Today** is the trusted source for the latest technology, policy advances and analysis.

For more information, please visit http://finland.usembassy.gov/root/pdfs/env_resources.pdf.

Earth Day Poster Show at the ARC through May



WEB PICKS

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American Life

American Dream in Decline? Atlantic Monthly online, March 15, 2010.

Most Americans think attaining the “American Dream” -- opportunity, home ownership, financial success -- is getting harder, according to a poll conducted in February by Xavier University.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/03/american-dream-in-decline/37472/>

The Impact of the Internet on Institutions in the Future. Pew Internet & American Life. March 31, 2010.

While their overall assessment anticipates that humans’ use of the internet will prompt institutional change, many elaborated with written explanations that expressed significant concerns over organization’s resistance to change. http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Future%20of%20internet%202010%20-%20institutions%20-%20final.pdf

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Future%20of%20internet%202010%20-%20institutions%20-%20final.pdf

The Luxury Imports Are Here. Sports Illustrated, March 1, 2010.

Foreign players are becoming as valuable to college teams as the top U.S. recruits.

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1166491/1/index.htm>

A Next Social Contract for the Primary Years of Education. New America Foundation. March 31, 2010.

The report calls for a bold transformation of the country’s public education system to prioritize early learning.

<http://earlyed.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/The%20Next%20Social%20Contract%20for%20Education.pdf>

The Ripple Effect: Widening the Library’s Circle of Influence. Next Space, January 2010.

Libraries, out of necessity, have had to extend their reach beyond traditional boundaries in order to better reach users in new and compelling ways. <http://www.oclc.org/nextspace/014/1.htm>

Economy and Politics

Can China Become the World’s Engine for Growth? International Economy, Winter 2010.

Are China’s impressive growth prospects enough to keep the global economy going? Fifty experts weigh in.

http://www.international-economy.com/TIE_W10_ChinaEngineGrowth.pdf

Can You Learn to Be an Entrepreneur. Fortune Magazine online, March 11, 2010.

Can you learn to be an entrepreneur? Yes, says Gregg Fairbrothers, a former academic who is now the founding director of Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. http://money.cnn.com/2010/03/10/smallbusiness/entrepreneur_b_school.fortune/index.htm

Crisis? What Crisis? Foreign Policy online, April 5, 2010.

Caryl, contributing editor to Foreign Policy, writes that when the financial crisis hit in 2008, there were dire predictions that millions of people in developing countries would fall back into poverty as a result of the collapse.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/05/crisis_what_crisis?page=0,1

The Growing Movement for Publicly Owned Banks. Yes! Magazine, March 17, 2010.

Local economies have collapsed from the Wall Street credit freeze. State-owned banks could help reinvigorate businesses.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/the-growing-movement-for-publicly-owned-banks>

It’s China’s World – We’re Just Living in It. Newsweek, March 22, 2010.

Beijing has begun to push harder to reshape international systems to make them more China-friendly and, in the process, to raise the regime’s chances of survival. <http://www.newsweek.com/id/234928>

A Simple Market Mechanism to Clean Up Our Economy. Solutions, January-February 2010.

A progressive and revolutionary plan for reducing carbon emissions called “cap-and-dividend” is outlined by the authors. Carbon permits would be auctioned, monthly dividends paid to citizens to help defray costs of sustainable energy development and use.

http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/feature_article/2009-01-14-simple-market-mechanism-can-clean-our-economy

Software: The Unsung Hero of the Energy Revolution. GetREALlist, March 19, 2010.

Software is revolutionizing everything in the energy field, from solar system design to smart grid management.

<http://www.getreallist.com/software-the-unsung-hero-of-the-energy-revolution.html>

What is “Unsustainable” Really? Motley Fool, March 15, 2010.

Everything is unsustainable Economic growth can’t continue indefinitely; for the first time, we are pushing the limits of what the earth can support. <http://caps.fool.com/Blogs/ViewPost.aspx?bpid=354244&t=01009137708954838515>

Global Challenges

Coffee, an Alternative Fuel? ‘Car-Puccino’ Runs on Espresso. USA Today, March 11, 2010.

A converted Volkswagen Scirocco runs on gas made from used coffee grounds. Its fuel economy? Fifty-six espressos per mile.
<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/greenhouse/post/2010/03/alternative-fuel-car-puccino-runs-on-coffee-grinds/1>

Country Measurements Critical to Greenhouse Gas Tracking. America.Gov, April 5, 2010.

New guidelines available to help world’s cities monitor their emissions.

<http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/April/201004051534571cnirellepo.8611719.html?CP.rss=true#ixzzokIabAFUd>

Lessons in a Land of Wind and Ice. National Wildlife, February/March 2010.

Noah Strycker writes about his three-month stay at Cape Crozier, Antarctica, to study and photograph Adélie penguins.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2010/Lessons-in-a-Land-of-Wind-and-Ice.aspx>

New Policies Help U.S. Address Climate Change. America.Gov, April 5, 2010.

Fuel efficiency standards for light vehicles go into effect in early 2011

<http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/April/20100405171121kseviro.5813867.html?CP.rss=true#ixzzokIaWKRKe>

Obama Administration Recording Greenhouse Gas Emissions. America.Gov, March 24, 2010.

Environmental Protection Agency proposes expanded reporting system.

<http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/March/20100324111854abretnuho.194607.html?CP.rss=true#ixzz0jf43LUUq>

A Risk of Poisoning the Deepest Wells. The New York Times, March 15, 2010.

Seeding the oceans with iron promotes growth of plankton that take in carbon dioxide – but that also produce a neurotoxin.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/16/science/16obiron.html>

International Relations

False Democracy--Or What To Expect From The Upcoming Elections in Sudan. Dissent Magazine, April 6, 2010.

Decision 2010, Sudan’s elections Sudan’s upcoming elections are fraught with controversy and problems says one observer. What are the realities on the ground and how will they affect stability in Sudan? <http://www.dissentmagazine.org/online.php?id=344>

Kabul’s New Patron?: The Growing Afghan-Chinese Relationship. Foreign Affairs, April 13, 2010.

So far, China has pursued a relatively understated role in stabilizing Afghanistan. But security and trade concerns are causing Beijing to build up its ties with Kabul -- a growing relationship that may have long-term implications for U.S. strategy.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66194/christian-le-miere/kabuls-new-patron>

Man Versus Afghanistan. The Atlantic, April 2010.

Determinism vs. Agency Do factors such as culture, geography and history pre-determine the fate of a country or can human agency overcome them? Journalist Robert Kaplan turns to General Stanley McChrystal to apply this debate to the U.S. in Afghanistan.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/04/man-versus-afghanistan/7983/>

The Next American Century. Time, March 22, 2010.

The U.S. may have been weakened by economic troubles at home and draining military commitments overseas, but the author believes it will remain a world power for the foreseeable future.

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1971133_1971110_1971104,00.html

Nigeria’s Smoldering Crisis in Jos: Dialogue Between Christians and Muslims Is Necessary to Prevent A Round of Violence. GlobalPost, April 14, 2010.

Neighbor against Neighbor in Nigeria In light of recent violence in central Nigeria, two scholars, a Nigerian and an American, argue that dialogue between Christian and Muslim leaders is urgently needed.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/africa/100407/nigerias-jos-violence>

Nuclear Posturing: Will the President’s New Policy Shift Make America More or Less Secure? National Review, April 7, 2010.

Nuclear Zero: A Zero-Sum Game for U.S. Security? Policy experts selected by one magazine offer their views of the Nuclear Posture Review. <http://article.nationalreview.com/430547/nuclear-posturing/nro-symposium>

On the Front Line of the Colombian Drugs War. BBC News, April 14, 2010.

Battling Narcotics on the Frontlines Cocaine production in Colombia has dropped in recent years thanks in large part to the country’s anti-narcotics elite forces. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8616092.stm>

‘Time Is of the Essence’. Foreign Policy, April 12, 2010.

Pulitzer Prize winner David Hoffman outlines the challenges in keeping nuclear weapons out of terrorists’ hands and the best methods to accomplish this important task. http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/12/time_is_of_the_essence

The World’s Ugliest Statues: When Bad Art and Bad Politics Meet. Foreign Policy, April 5, 2010.

Art Imitating Politics? A look at some of the most questionable political statues around the world and the policies behind them.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/05/the_world_s_ugliest_statues



ARC Commemorates Women's History Month



Fulbright Scholar Rainey Tisdale gave a guest lecture on **“Women’s Identity in History – the Museum Perspective”** at the American Resource Center on March 30. Ms. Tisdale’s presentation explored the five interactive phases of women’s representation theory created by Peggy McIntosh. The five phases of personal and curriculum change occur when new perspectives and new materials from Women’s Studies are brought into traditional curriculums or a traditional consciousness. The phases are: *Womanless History*; *Women in History*; *Women as a Problem, Anomaly, or Absence in History*; *Women as History*; and *History Redefined or Reconstructed to Include Us All*. Ms. Tisdale gave interesting examples of each phase from the perspective of museums and she showed the impact that the Guerilla Girls’ movement has had in the arts community. The enlightening presentation led to a lively discussion including comments on American Museums’ 2.0 projects.

Embassy’s Social Media Applications

Social media is media designed to be disseminated through social interaction, created using highly accessible and scalable publishing techniques. Social media uses Internet and web-based technologies to transform broadcast media monologues (one to many) into social media dialogues (many to many). It supports the democratization of knowledge and information, transforming people from content consumers into content producers (*Wikipedia*.)

In this spirit, the U.S. Embassy Helsinki can be found via two blogs, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Flickr. Log on to <http://finland.usembassy.gov/socialmedia.html> for links on how to find us online!

The blogs introduce you to the work of Ambassador Oreck and the U.S. Embassy Helsinki employees. YouTube and Flickr present Ambassador Oreck’s videos and photographs. On Facebook you can follow Ambassador Oreck or get the latest American Resource Center information and Twitter tells you in 140 characters or less what is happening with Ambassador Oreck or with the ARC.



[America@YourLibrary](#) (AYL) is a U.S. Embassy Helsinki project, which donates books to regional libraries around Finland. The donation includes over 100 non-fiction and fiction titles. The topics highlight American contemporary society, political trends, history, and cultural diversity and include both classic and modern American fiction.



So far, all of the Finnish regional libraries have received the AYL donation. The latest official donation was given by Information Resource Officer Valorie Lee from the U.S.



Department of State, Washington D.C., who visited the Kouvola City Library on April 16. She presented the AYL books to Kouvola City Library – Regional Library on behalf of the American Embassy in Finland and discussed education, multiculturalism, and the value of libraries in the U.S. with students from Kouvola Coeducational Upper Secondary School.



The American Resource Center

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

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