



February, Issue 2 - 2010
AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER
U.S. Embassy Helsinki

LOOKING AHEAD

March is Women’s History Month

National Women’s History Month’s roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women’s Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn’t until 1981 that Congress established National Women’s History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women’s History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

(Source: Census.Gov)

Iron Jawed Angels

“Lead, follow or get out of the way”

Taking a fresh and contemporary look at a pivotal event in American history, *Iron Jawed Angels* tells the true story of how defiant and brilliant young activists Alice Paul, played by Hilary Swank and Lucy Burns, played by Frances O’Connor, took the women’s suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.

Iron Jawed Angels, 50 minutes, produced in 2005, DVD format. Available for loan at the ARC (video shelf 191).

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**Guest Lecture by
Dr. Nancy L. Commins**

Integrating Immigrant Students into the School System - Best Practices in the U.S.

on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at
15:00-17:00 at the Auditorium of the
National Library (Yliopistonkatu 1,
3rd floor, Helsinki)

**More information and
registration by March 1:**
mcintiremh@state.gov

PEEK INTO THE ARC’S MAGAZINE SHELF

Journal of the Month

The National Journal has provided since 1969 thorough nonpartisan reporting on the current political environment as well as emerging political and policy trends. *The National Journal* delivers beneath-the-surface coverage not available anywhere else. It covers a diverse range of issues—such as Congress, defense, lobbying, politics, health care, and national security—and profiles the people involved in shaping relevant policy.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/>



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 or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.

American Life

Are Next-Generation Journalists the Future for a Profession in Transition? Carnegie Reporter, Fall 2009.

Can a new crop of journalists awaken interest in news where older and more experienced journalists have failed?

<http://carnegie.org/publications/carnegie-reporter/single/view/article/item/229/>

The Changing Definition of African-American. Smithsonian, February 2010.

How the great influx of people from Africa and the Caribbean since 1965 is redefining what it means to be African-American.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-Changing-Definition-of-African-American.html>

Middle Class in America. U.S. Department of Commerce. January 25, 2010.

The Commerce Department's Economics & Statistics Administration issued a report for Vice President Biden's Middle Class Task Force.

http://www.commerce.gov/s/groups/public/@doc/@os/@opa/documents/content/prodo1_008833.pdf

Public Radio Celebrates Its Centenary, from FDR's "Fireside Chats" to the Internet Age. Smithsonian, January 26, 2010.

Since its inception, public radio has had a crucial role in broadcasting history – from FDR's "Fireside Chats" to the Internet Age.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Radio-Activity-The-100th-Anniversary-of-Public-Broadcasting.html>

Social Networking Experiment Shows Effects of Mass Mobilization. America.Gov, January 20, 2010.

DARPA randomly placed 10 balloons across the continental United States and challenged social networking teams to locate them.

<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2010/January/20100120140653esnamfuako.4658777.html>

Standards for a New Century. Carnegie Reporter, Fall 2009.

The Obama administration is focused on education reform, particularly on the upgrading of standards.

<http://carnegie.org/publications/carnegie-reporter/single/view/article/item/232/>

Volunteering in the United States, 2009. Bureau of Labor Statistics. January 26, 2010.

Both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate rose over the year ended in September 2009.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nro.htm>

Economy and Politics

\$123,000,000,000,000: China's Estimated Economy by the Year 2040: Be Warned. Foreign Policy, Jan/Feb 2010.

The Future Colossus. By the year 2040, China's economy could reach \$123 trillion – double current global GDP.

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/01/04/123000000000000>

The Better Half: Helping Women Help the World. Foreign Affairs, January/February 2010.

Efforts to help women gain more economic and political power is more than a worthy moral crusade.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65728/isobel-coleman/the-better-half>

Davos 2010: Sarkozy Calls for Revamp of Capitalism. BBC News, January 27, 2010.

At Davos, French president Nicolas Sarkozy urges profound changes in capitalism. The captains of finance are not amused.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8483896.stm>

Leading Economics Bloggers Share Bleak Outlook by Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, February 2, 2010.

The first-ever survey of econobloggers, an opinionated group with diverse viewpoints on one of the vital issues of the day.

<http://www.kauffman.org/newsroom/economics-bloggers-share-bleak-outlook-according-to-kauffman-foundation-survey.aspx>

The Leased Life: Why Own Anything? Boston.com, posted January 24, 2010.

Rent to own? How about owning to rent? Soon we may be renting windows, chairs, or "feet transportation insurance" from each other.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/01/24/the_leased_life/

Global Challenges

After the Earthquake. New America Media, January 15, 2010.

Want to make the greatest impact? Direct aid to Haitian women.

http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=7b06137c2c1eb819b74036115ba8434b

Earth Matters: Author Shares His Advice on Living Local. Seacoast Online, January 25, 2010.

Climate activist Bill McKibben on how to reduce our carbon footprint by obtaining sustenance from local sources.

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20100125-NEWS-1250342>

Energy Update. Rasmussenreports.com, January 22, 2010.

63% say developing new energy sources is more important than conservation.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/environment_energy/energy_update

The Foreshocks of Haiti's Disaster. Foreign Policy, posted on January 13, 2010.

While Haiti's latest tragedy is the earthquake, its real roots are two centuries of misfortune and neglect.

http://rothkopf.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/13/learning_from_the_foreshocks_of_the_haiti_disaster

Nations Work Together Despite Slow Progress on Copenhagen Accord. America.Gov, January 27, 2010.

Major economies partner on advances critical to climate-change mitigation.

<http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/January/20100126081441lcnirellepo.6686975.html?CP.rss=true#ixzzodztWzjdk>

The Other Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis in Global Land Use. Yale Environment 360, October 5, 2009.

The environmental impact of our current agricultural practices rival that of climate change.

<http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2196>

US Must Transition to Clean Power by 2012 or Miss the Chance. CleanTechnica.com, January 26, 2010.

Global demand for rare-earth elements for green technologies is soaring. The U.S. may miss a critical transition window.

<http://cleantechnica.com/2010/01/26/us-must-transition-to-clean-power-by-2012-or-miss-the-chance/>

International Relations

Al Qaeda Threat Escalates. Wall Street Journal, January 4, 2010.

Although Yemen is clearly an increasingly important incubator for terrorists, it is not clear how U.S. forces would be involved in any new military action against al-Qaeda in that country.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126256082159914117.html?mod=article-outset-box>

Among the Mullahs. The Atlantic, January/February 2010.

In Qom, the site of Iran's secret uranium-enrichment facility, the Islamic Revolution remains as strong as ever.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/201001/mullah-qom>

Finding Comedy in the Muslim World: Arabs Are Funny! A Popular Stand-up Comedy Festival in Jordan Proves It. In

These Times, January 15, 2010.

Funny in Arabic. Laughter unites Arabs from New York to Amman.

http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/5415/finding_comedy_in_the_muslim_world/

Haiti Loses Feminist Leaders: Three Women's Rights Activists Are Among the Earthquake's Casualties. Broadsheet,

January 21, 2010.

Remembering Women's Rights Leaders.

http://www.salon.com/mwt/broadsheet/feature/2010/01/21/haiti_feminists/index.html?source=rss&aim=/mwt/broadsheet/feature

How Gaza Could Help Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks. Foreign Policy, January 14, 2010.

There's something of a buzz right now about a U.S.-led push to once again try to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

http://lynch.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/14/hamas_and_the_rumoured_push_to_revive_israeli_palestinian_talks

Satellites Uncover North Korea. BBC News.

Satellite images reveal parts of North Korea's hidden world.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8110093.stm>

Was the U.N. Really Founded on a Lofty Democratic Ideal? Foreign Policy, posted January 25, 2010.

U.N. Founders: Idealists or overlords? A new book argues that the architects of the U.N. Charter aimed to use the U.N. to preserve the British imperial order.

http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/25/was_the_un_really_founded_on_a_lofty_democratic_ideal



Living Books

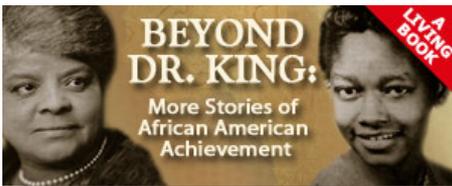
Hidden Heroes - Who Have We Missed?

The “living book” *Beyond Dr. King: More Stories of African American Achievement* has launched its first chapters available at <http://www.america.gov/notable-african-americans.html>.

In this format, readers are invited to identify subjects for future chapters. Beginning in March, a new chapter is added each month.

The book will showcase outstanding individuals such as journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett, teenage civil rights activist Claudette Colvin, and “black founding father” Richard Allen.

The living book *Beyond Dr. King: More Stories of African American Achievement* is produced by Bureau of International Information Programs at the U.S. State Department.



ARC Celebrates African-American Cinema

February is National African-American History Month in the United States and on February 10, the American Resource Center arranged a lecture on the history of the African-American cinema with the title “Mustat amerikkalaiset Yhdysvaltain elokuvahistoriassa.” Lecturer Pirkka Kivenheimo, who specializes in black American culture and cinema, provided an enlightening overview of the African-American film history with samples from a wide array of movies. More information is available on our website at http://finland.usembassy.gov/ev_021010.html.



National Public Radio (NPR) - Happy Birthday!



National Public Radio (NPR) is a privately and publicly funded non-profit membership media organization that serves as a national syndicator to 797 public radio stations in the United States.

NPR produces and distributes news and cultural programming. NPR’s flagships are two drive time news broadcasts, Morning Edition and the afternoon All Things Considered; both are carried by most NPR member stations, and from 2002–2008 they were the second and third most popular radio programs in the country.

National Public Radio was founded on February 24, 1970. It replaced the National Educational Radio Network. NPR aired its first broadcast in April 1971, covering the United States Senate hearings on the Vietnam War. Shortly thereafter, the afternoon drive-time newscast All Things Considered began, on May 3, 1971, first hosted by Robert Conley.

(Source: Wikipedia)



The American Resource Center

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

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<http://twitter.com/ARCHelsinki>

