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AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

U.S. Embassy Helsinki

LOOKING AHEAD

40th Anniversary of Earth Day

April 22, 2010

Celebrated on April 22, Earth Day is a day to promote awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. It was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) as an environmental teach-in in 1970 and is celebrated in many countries every year. The first Earth Day was in 1970 so this year marks the 40th anniversary. Earth Day is spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.

Forty years after the first Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity – an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

Earth Day 2010 can be a turning point to advance climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs.

(Sources: Wikipedia and <http://www.earthday.net/>)

PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF

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

The Atlantic is an American magazine founded (as *The Atlantic Monthly*) in Boston in 1857. It was created as a literary and cultural commentary magazine. Though based in Boston, it quickly achieved a national reputation, which it held for more than a century. It was important for recognizing and publishing new writers and poets, and encouraging major careers. It published leading writers' commentary on abolition, education, and other major issues in contemporary political affairs.

Its current format is of a general editorial magazine. Focusing on "foreign affairs, politics, and the economy [as well as] cultural trends," it is primarily aimed at a target audience of "thought leaders."

(Source: Wikipedia)



Guest Lecture by Ms. Rainey Tisdale

Women's Identity in History - Museum Perspective

To commemorate Women's History Month, the ARC is hosting a guest lecture by a Fulbright Scholar who is researching city history, city identity, and city museums in Helsinki.

You are cordially invited to the lecture at the Auditorium of the National Library on **Tuesday, March 30, at 16:30.** (Yliopistonkatu 1, 3rd floor)

Ms. Tisdale has worked in history museums in the U.S. for 15 years. Before arriving in Finland, she worked for Boston's city historical organization as Director of the Old State House Museum, one of the primary historic sites on Boston's Freedom Trail. She has also worked for the U.S. Senate Curator's Office and the George Meany Memorial Archives & Museum, and taught in the graduate Museum Studies program at Tufts University. Her areas of interest include city history, exhibition development, small museum management, Museums 2.0, material culture, and collections management.



WEB PICKS

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American Life

Between Two Worlds: How Young Latinos Come of Age in America. Pew Hispanic Center. December 11, 2009. Hispanics are the largest and youngest minority group in the United States. <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/117.pdf>

Imaginary Fiends by Joe Keohane. Boston Globe, February 14, 2010.

In 2009, crime went down. In fact it's been going down for a decade. But more and more Americans believe it's getting worse. Why? http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/02/14/imaginary_fiends/

It's the Content, Stupid by Steven Smith and Holly Mercer. American Libraries, January/February 2010.

The authors, both associated with Texas A&M University Libraries, believe that libraries and librarians have an important stake in the development of online scholarship. <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/12012009/it%E2%80%99s-content-stupid>

The Millennials: Confident. Connected. Open to Change. Pew Research Center. February 24, 2010.

They are more ethnically and racially diverse than older adults. They're less religious, less likely to have served in the military, and are on track to become the most educated generation in American history.

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1501/%20millennials-new-survey-generational-personality-upbeat-open-new-ideas-technology-bound>

Publishing: The Revolutionary Future by Jason Epstein. The New York Review of Books, March 11, 2010.

The transition within the book publishing industry from physical inventory stored in a warehouse and trucked to retailers to digital files stored in cyberspace and delivered almost anywhere on earth as quickly and cheaply as e-mail is now underway and irreversible.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/23683>

The State of the News Media: An Annual Report on American Journalism. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. March 15, 2010.

The report takes stock of the revolution occurring in how Americans get information and provide a resource for citizens, journalists and researchers to make their own assessments. <http://www.stateofthedia.org/2010/>

What Makes a Great Teacher? by Amanda Ripley. Atlantic Monthly, January-February 2010.

Ripley writes that educational systems in the U.S. "have never identified excellent teachers in any reliable, objective way ... Instead, we tend to ascribe their gifts to some mystical quality that we can recognize and revere -- but not replicate."

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/201001/good-teaching>

Economy and Politics

Bill Gates No Longer World's Richest Man. Forbes, March 10, 2010.

A Mexican businessman garners the top spot in Forbes' annual wealth ranking.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/03/09/worlds-richest-people-slim-gates-buffett-billionaires-2010-intro.html>

China's Zombie Growth. Christian Science Monitor, March 8, 2010.

China's stimulus has spurred colossal overbuilding – of empty shopping malls, office buildings – even empty cities.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Money/The-Daily-Reckoning/2010/0308/China-s-zombie-growth>

The Financial Crisis and the Scientific Mindset. New Atlantis, Fall 2009 / Winter 2010.

The U.S. economy has been driven by a financial system that relies on a complicated structure of speculative debt, is totally dependent on abstractions and mathematical formulas and, as it turned out, can only be kept alive by the intervention of the government.

<http://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-financial-crisis-and-the-scientific-mindset>

From ABBA to ZZ Top, All the Good Band Names Are Taken. Wall Street Journal, February 17, 2010.

For aspiring rock musicians, it's becoming harder to come up with a band name that hasn't already been used.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703357104575045584007339958.html>

How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America. Atlantic Monthly, March 2010.

The official unemployment figures in the U.S. understate the magnitude of the jobs crisis; the percentage of unemployed and

underemployed have approached the highest figure since the 1930s. <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/201003/jobless-america-future>

Poverty, Disconnected. Finance & Development, December 2009.

Ravi Kanbur notes that relying on official statistics such as GDP numbers often paints too rosy a picture of the incidence of poverty.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2009/12/kanbur.htm>

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

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

Another Blizzard: What Happened to Global Warming? Time, February 10, 2010.

How can three feet of snow be global warming? Extreme weather such as “Snowmagedon” in Washington, D.C. may in fact become more common as the climate changes. <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1962294,00.html>

Beyond Copenhagen: Why Less May Be More in Global Climate Talks. Foreign Affairs, February 22, 2010.

For many climate-change experts, the Copenhagen summit was something of a failure. In order to make real progress on pressing climate issues, policymakers must give up on a binding deal and begin to look outside the UN process.
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65985/michael-levi/beyond-copenhagen>

Bill Gates: the Most Important Climate Speech of the Year. WorldChanging, February 15, 2010.

The world's biggest geek, Bill Gates, has a new goal: getting humanity to zero climate emissions.
<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/010976.html>

In Educating Girls, Oprah Winfrey Struggles “to Get It Right”. America.Gov, February 26, 2010.

Nothing in Oprah Winfrey's life has made her prouder than creating her school for girls in Henley-on-Klip, South Africa.
<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2010/February/20100226134921SBlebahCo.1619335.html?CP.rss=true>

Labor Shortage. Newsweek, February 1, 2010.

Some 225,000 Haitian children are living as indentured servants -- known as “restaveks” -- and their conditions may become worse in the aftermath of the Jan. 12 earthquake. <http://www.newsweek.com/id/232865>

Nearly 100 Nations to Reduce Emissions Under Copenhagen Accord. America.Gov, February 18, 2010.

Nearly 100 countries have signed on to the Copenhagen Accord, a nonbinding agreement crafted in the final hours of the U.N. climate change conference in December 2009.
<http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/February/20100218142001lcnirellepo.854397.html#ixzzofyVaOSxA>

Under the World's Greatest Cities, Deadly Plates. Washington Post, February 23, 2010.

Port-au-Prince is not alone. Over 400 million people worldwide live in large cities that face major seismic hazards.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/22/AR2010022204828.html>

International Relations

The Cairo Conundrum. Democracy, Winter 2010

Egypt is the linchpin to America's Middle East policy—a policy that must make interests reinforce ideals, rather than conflict with them.
<http://www.democracyjournal.org/article.php?ID=6726>

Crocker Looks Back. Foreign Policy, March 10, 2010.

Ryan Crocker, former U.S. ambassador to Iraq, on the recent elections and why we still need to have a presence there.
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/03/10/crocker_looks_back

Foreign Policy in an Age of Austerity. American Interest, January/February 2010.

The former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft predicts that the U.S. is at the end of a period of growing defense and national-security budgets regardless of the state of the economy. <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=733>

How to Win the War of Ideas. Foreign Policy, March 10, 2010.

Former public diplomacy undersecretary James K. Glassman argues that a focus on defeating common enemies is more effective than trying to dress up our image. http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/03/10/how_to_win_the_war_of_ideas

The Logic of the Nuclear Arsenal. Strategic Studies Quarterly, Winter 2009.

The diversity of thought on nuclear issues may be divided into two categories: the modernizers and the abolitionists.
<http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/2009/Winter/lowther.pdf>

Planet Pakistan. Wilson Quarterly, Winter 2010.

Robert Hathaway, director of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Asia Program, writes that for half a century, the U.S.-Pakistani relationship has been one of repeated disappointments. http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=590894

A Segregated Peace: Is This How Northern Ireland Was Supposed to Turn Out? Boston Globe, March 14, 2010.

A culture of intolerance remains entrenched in Northern Ireland.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/03/14/a_segregated_peace/

Three Meals in Afghanistan. The Walrus, March 2010.

Nostalgia may be keeping Afghanistan's leaders from focusing on the future.
<http://www.walrusmagazine.com/articles/2010.03-travel-three-meals-in-afghanistan/>



AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

American Architecture poster show on display at the ARC collection room through April 2010



Initiating Dialogue on Integration of Immigrant Students into the School System



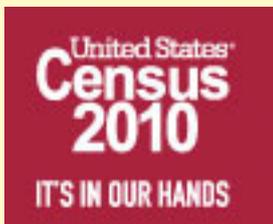
The U.S. Embassy collaborated with the National Board of Education in inviting Dr. Nancy Commins to Finland to speak on the integration of immigrant students into the school system -- both policies and programs -- with an emphasis on best practices that have been successful in the United States.

During her visit to Finland March 9-16, 2010, Dr. Commins gave presentations and met with educators in Helsinki, Turku and Tampere. She visited the Käpylä Comprehensive School and the Maunula Elementary School in Helsinki to learn more about Finnish practices.

One of her presentations was held at the American Resource Center on March 10. For more information (including her presentation materials) please visit http://finland.usembassy.gov/ev_031010.html.

Dr. Nancy L. Commins has worked with linguistically diverse students in a variety of capacities for more than three decades. She has been a classroom teacher, university professor, program director, and school district administrator. Currently she is an independent consultant assisting schools and districts in their efforts to improve instruction for linguistically diverse populations and she is Senior Instructor at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Exploring the U.S. Census 2010



The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The 2010 Census aims to count all U.S. residents—citizens and non-citizens alike.

The Census Bureau has delivered a short 10-question form to every household in America and is expecting to receive the forms back by April 1, 2010.

The 2010 Census will help U.S. communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects, and emergency services.

The data collected by the census also help determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more information, log on to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/index.php>.

The American Resource Center

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

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