

NEWSLETTER

November 2007

Celebrate! Holidays In The U.S.A.

Thanksgiving Day

Almost every culture in the world has held celebrations of thanks for a plentiful harvest. The American Thanksgiving holiday began as a feast of thanksgiving in the early days of the American colonies almost four hundred years ago.



In 1620, a boat filled with more than one hundred people sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the New World. This religious group had begun to question the beliefs of the Church of England and they wanted to separate from it. The Pilgrims settled in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Their first winter in the New World was difficult. They had arrived too late to grow many crops, and without fresh food, half the colony died from disease. The following spring the Iroquois Indians taught them how to grow corn (maize), a new food for the colonists. They showed them other crops to grow in the unfamiliar soil and how to hunt and fish.

In the autumn of 1621, bountiful crops of corn, barley, beans and pumpkins were harvested. The colonists had much to be thankful for, so a feast was planned. They invited the local Indian chief and 90 Indians. The Indians brought deer to roast with the turkeys and other wild game offered by the colonists. The colonists had learned how to cook cranberries and different kinds of corn and squash dishes from the Indians. To this first Thanksgiving, the Indians had even brought popcorn.

In following years, many of the original colonists celebrated the autumn harvest with a feast of thanks. After the United States became an independent country, Congress recommended one yearly day of thanksgiving for the whole nation to celebrate. George Washington suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving Day. Then in 1863, at the end of a long and bloody civil war, Abraham Lincoln asked all Americans to set aside the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving*.



Veterans Day...Remembrance Day...Armistice Day



The History of Veterans Day

1918 - World War I, then normally referred to simply as The Great War (no one could imagine any war being greater!), ended with the implementation of an armistice [temporary cessation of hostilities—in this case until the final peace treaty, the infamous Treaty of Versailles, was signed in 1919] between the Allies and Germany at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of November, 1918.

1919 - November 11: President Wilson proclaims the first Armistice Day with the following words: "To

us in America, the reflections of armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." The original concept for the celebration was for the suspension of business for a two minute period beginning at 11 A.M., with the day also marked by parades and public meetings.

1920 - On the second anniversary of the armistice, France and the United Kingdom hold ceremonies honoring their unknown dead from the war. In America, at the suggestion of church groups, President Wilson names the Sunday nearest Armistice Day Sunday, on which should be held services in the interest of international peace.

1921 - Congress passes legislation approving the establishment of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. November 11 is chosen for the date of the ceremony. According on October 20, Congress declares November 11, 1921 a legal Federal holiday to honor all those who participated in the war. The ceremony was conducted with great success.

1926 - Congress adopts a resolution directing the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the observance of Armistice Day. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, most states establish November 11 as a legal holiday and at the Federal level, an annual proclamation is issued by the President.

1938 - Congress passes legislation on May 13 making November 11 a legal Federal holiday, Armistice Day. The United States has no 'actual' national holidays because the states retain the right to designate their own holidays. The Federal government can in fact only designate holidays for Federal employees and for the District of Columbia. But in practice the states almost always follow the Federal lead in designation of holidays.

1941 - 1945 , 1950 – 1953 - World War II and the Korean War create millions of additional war veterans in addition to those of the First World War already honored by Armistice Day.

1954 - On June 1, President Eisenhower signs legislation changing the name of the legal holiday from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day.

1968 - Congress passes the Monday Holiday Law which established the fourth Monday in October as the new date for the observance of Veteran's Day. The law is to take effect in 1971.

1971 - 1975 - The Federal observance of Veterans Day is held on the fourth Monday of October. Initially all states follow suit except Mississippi and South Dakota. Other states changed their observances back to November 11 as follows: 1972- Louisiana and Wisconsin; 1974- Kentucky, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, South Carolina, West Virginia; 1975- California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming

1975 - Legislation passed to return the Federal observance of Veteran's Day to November 11, based on popular support throughout the nation. Since the change to the fourth Monday in October, 46 states had either continued to commemorate November 11 or had reverted back to the original date based on popular sentiment. The law was to take effect in 1978.

1978 - Veteran's Day observance reverts to November 11.

November is...



AMERICAN
INDIAN HERITAGE
MONTH **A. I. H. M.**

AMERICAN INDIAN PLACE NAMES

The name Tahoe (the lake in California/Nevada) is Washo for "big water."

The state name Utah is from the Ute tribe, meaning "people of the mountains."

by Borgna Brunner

Many American places have been named after Indian words. In fact, about half of the states got their names from Indian words. The name of **Kentucky** comes from an Iroquoian word (Kentahten), which means "land of tomorrow." **Connecticut's** name comes from the Mohican word (Quinnehtukqut), which means "beside the long tidal river." And the word "**Podunk**," meant to describe a insignificant town out in the middle of nowhere, comes from a Natick Indian word meaning "swampy place."

Alabama: may come from Choctaw meaning "thicket-clearers" or "vegetation-gatherers."

Alaska: corruption of Aleut word meaning "great land" or "that which the sea breaks against."

Arizona: from the Indian "Arizonac," meaning "little spring" or "young spring."

Arkansas: from the Quapaw Indians.

Chicago (Illinois): Algonquian for "garlic field."

Chesapeake (bay): Algonquian name of a village.

Connecticut: from an Indian word (Quinnehtukqut) meaning "beside the long tidal river."

Illinois: Algonquin for "tribe of superior men."

Indiana: meaning "land of Indians."

Iowa: probably from an Indian word meaning "this is the place" or "the Beautiful Land."

Kansas: from a Sioux word meaning "people of the south wind."

Kentucky: from an Iroquoian word "Ken-tah-ten" meaning "land of tomorrow."

Massachusetts: from Massachusett tribe of Native Americans, meaning "at or about the great hill."

Michigan: from Indian word "Michigana" meaning "great or large lake."

Minnesota: from a Dakota Indian word meaning "sky-tinted water."

Mississippi (state and river): from an Indian word meaning "Father of Waters."

Malibu (California): believed to come from the Chumash Indians.

Manhattan (New York): Algonquian, believed to mean "isolated thing in water."

Milwaukee (Wisconsin): Algonquian, believed to mean "a good spot or place."

Missouri: named after the Missouri Indian tribe. "Missouri" means "town of the large canoes."

Narragansett (Rhode Island): named after the Indian tribe.

Nebraska: from an Oto Indian word meaning "flat water."

Niagara (falls): named after an Iroquoian town, "Ongiaahra."

North Dakota: from the Sioux tribe, meaning "allies."

Ohio: from an Iroquoian word meaning "great river."

Oklahoma: from two Choctaw Indian words meaning "red people."

Pensacola (Florida): Choctaw for "hair" and

"people."

Roanoke (Virginia): Algonquian for "shell money" (Indian tribes often used shells that were made into beads called wampum, as money).

Saratoga (New York): believed to be Mohawk for "springs (of water) from the hillside."

South Dakota: from the Sioux tribe, meaning "allies."

Sunapee (lake in New Hampshire): Pennacook for "rocky pond."

Tahoe (lake in California/Nevada): Washo for "big water."

Tennessee: of Cherokee origin; the exact meaning is unknown.

Texas: from an Indian word meaning "friends."

Utah: from the Ute tribe, meaning "people of the mountains."

Wisconsin: French corruption of an Indian word whose meaning is disputed.

Wyoming: from the Delaware Indian word, meaning "mountains and valleys alternating"; the same as the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania.

Source: *O Brave New Words! Native American Loanwords in Current English*, by Charles L. Cutler.

Want to read more? Just visit the web page:

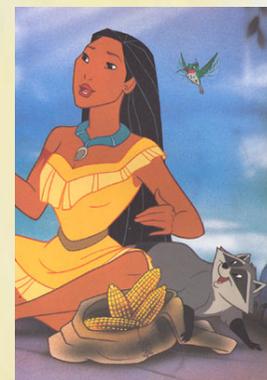
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aihmnames1.html>

Pocahontas



Pocahontas (pōkuhōn'tus) [[key](#)], c.1595–1617, Native North American woman, daughter of Chief [Powhatan](#). Pocahontas, meaning "playful one" (her real name was said to be Matoaka), used to visit the English in Virginia at Jamestown. According to the famous story, she saved the life of the captured Capt. John [Smith](#) just as he was about to have his head smashed at the direction of Powhatan. In 1613, Pocahontas was captured by Capt. Samuel Argall, taken to Jamestown, and held as a hostage for English prisoners then in the hands of her father. At Jamestown she was converted to Christianity

and baptized as Rebecca. John [Rolfe](#), a settler, gained the permission of Powhatan and the governor, Sir Thomas Dale, and married her in Apr., 1614. The union brought peace with the Native Americans for eight years. With her husband and several other Native Americans, Pocahontas went to England in 1616. There she was received as a princess and presented to the king and queen. She started back to America in 1617 but was taken ill and died at Gravesend, where she was buried. Pocahontas bore one son, Thomas Rolfe, who was educated in England, went (1640) to Virginia, and gained considerable wealth.



See P. L. Barbour, *Pocahontas and Her World* (1969); G. S. Woodward, *Pocahontas* (1969).

Learn more about the notable American Indians on

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0839424.html>

AMERICAN CORNER SKOPJE
MONTHLY PROGRAM – NOVEMBER 2007

 Saturday November 3rd at 08:30 o'clock

GRE Subject testing

 Monday November 5th at 17:00 o'clock

Video Showing in observance of American Indian Heritage Month
“The Last of the Mohicans” (Starring Daniel Day-Lewis)

 Monday November 5th

Book Display In observance of **American Indian Heritage Month**

 Wednesday November 7th at 18:00 o'clock

Conversation Club with PCV **Aryn Bloodworth**

 Sunday November 11th at 12:00 o'clock

TOEFL testing

 Tuesday November 13th whole day event

Paper show in observance of **Veteran's Day**, November 11

 Wednesday November 14th at 18:00 o'clock

Conversation Club with PCV **Aryn Bloodworth**

🌸 Thursday November 15th at 18:00 o'clock

International Education Week: American University Experience presentation by Fulbright students and **Amy Storrow**, Assistant Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy

🌸 Friday, November 16th at 18:00 o'clock

International Education Week: Education, Internships, Scholarships, presentation by **Bojana Nizamovska**, Coordinator of Network Scholarship Program

🌸 Saturday November 17th at 17:00 o'clock

TOEFL testing

🌸 Tuesday November 20th at 18:00 o'clock

Story telling hour and handouts in observance of Universal Children's Day

🌸 Wednesday November 21st at 18:00 o'clock

Conversation Club with PCV **Aryn Bloodworth** observance of Thanksgiving Day

🌸 Saturday November 24th at 10:00 o'clock

TOEFL testing (the American Corner will be closed on this day)

🌸 Wednesday November 28th at 18:00 o'clock

Public Speaking Class with PCV **Aryn Bloodworth**

🌸 Thursday November 29th at 18:00 o'clock

US Presidential Elections presentation by **M. Brown**, Information Resource Officer from U.S. Embassy Rome



The American Corner Staff would like to thank the former PCV – **Ms. Rachel Wilkinson** for being our most devoted PCV from August 2006 until October 2007. She hosted several of our activities: the Conversation hour and Public Speaking class (together with Aryn Bloodworth), as well as our last event the Halloween party. Unfortunately she is leaving Macedonia and as she embarks on another life journey to earn an MA, we want to wish her all the best and let her know that she will be sorely missed not only by the staff of the American corner, but by all of our members as well. She left several of her most favorite books for all of you to read, most of them bestsellers and we hope that you will find them as interesting as she did.

BOOKS DONATED BY RACHEL WILKINSON



1. "Everything you need to know to succeed after college" by Gayle Kimball
2. "Gossip girl" by Cecily von Ziegesar (#1 New York Times Bestselling Series)
3. "Knitting for dummies" by Pam Allen
4. "Gutsy Women" by Marybeth Bond (travel tips and wisdom for the road)
5. "All I Want is Everything" by Cecily von Ziegesar (#1 New York Times Bestselling Series)
6. "Grammar of the Macedonian Literary Language" by Horace G. Lunt
7. "Hugo in 3 months Spanish" by Isabel Cisneros (beginner's language course)
8. "Under the Tuscan Sun" by Frances Mayes (#1 New York Times Bestseller)
9. "The Go-Girl Guide" by Julia Bourland
10. "Tender Is the Night" by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Penguin Popular Classics)
11. "How to Learn Any Language" by Barry Farber
12. "Lose up to 2 pounds a week - 8 Minutes in the Morning" by Jorge Cruise (New York Times Bestseller)
13. "He's Just Not That into You" by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo (from a writer and a consultant of Sex and the City)
14. "Bad cat" by Jim Edgar
15. "Positive Thinking Every Day" by Norman Vincent Peale
16. "Detox" by Richard Johnson
17. "Laughter the Best Medicine"
18. "The Power of Positive Thinking" by Norman Vincent Peale

Highlights from October Programs

The children's Video Showing "Matilda" raised a lot of interest. We were thrilled that the children were enjoying themselves a lot, laughing all throughout the movie and apart from their giggling no other sound was heard. After the movie was over, beverages were served to the joyful boys and girls while their parents were filling in their membership applications. In order not to leave our newcomers empty-handed we gave them catalogues as a small token of appreciation for coming to the American Corner.



The American Corner Skopje was honored to host the ceremony of giving certificates to the participants in the internship program run by the **Macedonian American Alumni Association (MAAA)**. We had the pleasure of welcoming **Ms. Colleen P. Graffy, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy** who was the one to present the 50 participants with the certificates and wish them all the best in their further career development. She also

stressed the fact that she started her career in an internship program as well, thus encouraging all of the participants to make the best of the experiences they have gained.

Last but not the least the American Corner staff would like to thank Ms. Graffy for expressing great interest in the activities we organise and the resources we have as well as for her support for the work done so far.



Highlights from October Programs

In observance of **UN Day**, the American Corner Skopje organized the UN lecture with **Mr. Filip Petrovski, M.Sci of International Politics**. In his lecture Mr. Petrovski focused on the importance of the UN, gave a summary on its formation and what is to be expected from the UN in the future. He stressed the importance of the collective security and the Security Council which is described in detail in his Master's thesis - "Reform of the System for Collective Security in the UN" and raised the issue whether a new similar organization should be formed or



some kind of reforms should occur within the UN. Numerous members of the audience had very interesting questions related to the role of the UN in maintaining the world peace, the debts of the UN and the most burning issue was about Macedonia's constitutional name and the fact that we are still being referred to as FYROM. The lecturer Filip Petrovski, Director of the City Library, as host institution for AC Skopje, proved that the good cooperation reflected such a good audience, interesting discussion and pleasure for AC Skopje members.



In observance of **Halloween**, we organized Halloween children's party. The event was organized by the AC Staff employees and was led by Rachel Wilkinson, former PCV and Aryn Bloodworth PCV. This was Rachel's last event in the American Corner since she will be leaving Macedonia very soon. Volunteers Rachel and Aryn were answering the trick or treat knocking on the AC door, giving treats to the children as they



arrived. The Party began with a short explanation on Halloween: what it represents and how it is celebrated. Afterwards, all the lights went out, and with just a flashlight, the children were read three scary Halloween stories. Two rounds of Halloween bingo followed, where the winners received candy and lollipops. The “Best Costume” award went to everyone, which overwhelmed the children even more. The party finished with the traditional popcorn and juices, and with Halloween paper based games: customize a pumpkin, adopt-a-ghost and drawing pages.



Please note that the American Corner will be closed on the following days:

- **Monday November 12th – Veterans Day**
- **Thursday November 22nd – Thanksgiving Day**
- **Saturday November 24th – TOEFL testing**