

# 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\*.

<http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/Holidays/celebrate/thanksgi.html>



## 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:**

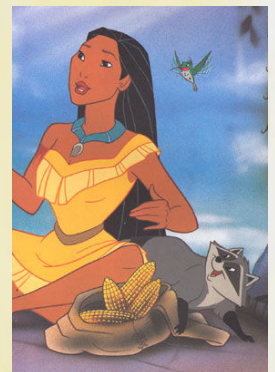
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aihmnames1.html>

## Pocahontas



**Pocahontas** (pōkuhɒn'tʌs) [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)

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**AMERICAN CORNER BITOLA**  
**MONTHLY PROGRAM – NOVEMBER 2007**

🇺🇸 Tuesday November 6th at 18:00 o'clock

**English Conversation Hour \*PLEASE SIGN IN TO ATTEND\***

🇺🇸 Thursday November 8th at 19:00 o'clock

**A Play performance “Make It Stop”**

**This play deals with discrimination and other challenges faced by youths.**

Venue: Small hall of the Center for Culture

Performed by High school students from Resen and organized by Marita Robinson, US Peace Corps volunteer in Resen

🇺🇸 Tuesday November 13th at 18:00 o'clock

**English Conversation Hour \*PLEASE SIGN IN TO ATTEND\***

🇺🇸 Thursday November 15th at 18:00 o'clock

**“Wild Alaska”**

Presentation by Chris and Molly McGee, US Peace Corps volunteers from Sveti Nikole

🇺🇸 Friday November 16th at 14:00 o'clock

**Video Showing” The Living Edens: Denali, Alaska’s Great Wilderness”**

🇺🇸 Tuesday November 20th at 18:00 o'clock

**English Conversation Hour \*PLEASE SIGN IN TO ATTEND\***

🇺🇸 Wednesday November 21st at 18:00 o'clock

**Children Story Telling Hour \*PLEASE SIGN IN TO ATTEND\***

🇺🇸 Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 13:00 – 15:00 o'clock

**Individual Education Consultations \*\*YOU MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT\*\***

🇺🇸 Tuesday November 27th at 18:00 o'clock

**“U.S. Presidential Elections”**

Presentation by Myra Michele Brown, Information Resource Officer from U.S. Embassy Rome

**Please note: The American Corner will be closed on Monday November 12<sup>th</sup> in honor of Veterans Day and Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup> in honor of Thanksgiving Day**

## Highlights from October Programs



American Corner Bitola organized the presentation “**Student Visas**” on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with guest presenter James Catto, Consular Officer from the US Embassy Skopje. Mr. Catto provided the audience of over 70 people with practical information on visa types, the visa process and much more. Various brochures were also provided for the students such as “See You in the U.S.A” and “Colleges and Universities”. Also the students were encouraged to visit the American Corner and take advantage of the valuable resources to assist them in their research for study in the US. The

presentation was an ideal opportunity for students who are interested to continue their higher education in the United States to learn first hand from a consular officer the rules, regulations and steps in the visa process as well as the EducationUSA center now available in their city.



**English Conversation Hours** are continuing weekly at the American Corner with functional activities that give the opportunity to members to converse in English, expand their vocabulary as well as give them confidence to speak English. The activity pictured was titled “Press Conference” where two teams were formed. One was the company the other the journalist. The teams had to converse with each other about a defected product. This activity proved very successful.



## Highlights from October Programs



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy for Europe and Eurasia Colleen Graffy visited the American Corner while on her visit to Macedonia on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The staff of the AC was delighted to have this opportunity to personally share the work of the AC and the great success we have had over the years. The same day Ms. Graffy also visited the City Museum and the Biotechnical Faculty and held an interview with TERA TV.

The popular American holiday **Halloween** was celebrated in Macedonia at the American Corner Bitola on October 31<sup>st</sup> with a grand Halloween party. Over fifty children ranging from preschool age to middle school age came to the AC Bitola in costume to have a unique Halloween experience. To add to the festivities, activities were organized such as pumpkin drawing and the game “Pin the Nose on the Witch” for the children to play. A costume contest took place where three age groups were formed and prizes given to the “best” costumes. Each child had to introduce themselves and their costume in English. The AC was decorated with various Halloween decorations and had ghost suckers, candies and refreshments for the children.



## *Highlights from October Programs*



American Corner Bitola and the community of Bitola together celebrated four years of prosperous work on October 30th. A celebration was organized and was attended by over 60 people whom included Mr. Ryan Rowlands, Public Affairs Officer from the US Embassy Skopje, Mr. Vladimir Talevski, the Mayor of Bitola, municipality representatives, NGO's, various city institutions representatives, media and many devoted members of the AC Bitola.

Mr. Rowlands delivered remarks that noted the success of the American Corner program and gave his gratitude to the many institutions and citizens of Bitola for welcoming the AC into their city and for their active participation in the AC program. Mr. Talevski also delivered remarks and expressed the significance of the American Corner in Bitola and his support in continuing building bridges of understanding between Macedonia and the United States.

An award ceremony followed for the participants and winners of the contest that was organized titled "American Corner Bitola: Building Bridges of Understanding Between The United States and Macedonia." Entries included essays, poems and pictures that all expressed what the members have gained from the AC in the past four years and how they view the mission being accomplished. PowerPoint presentations were displayed for viewing during the reception that following that also included live jazz music from two local well known musicians. The event was covered by both local TV stations TERA and ORBIS and was presented in the daily news.

