



August 2008 News

Information Resource Center (IRC)

Public Affairs Section - U.S. Embassy

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Visit our booth at
the As'ad Library
International
Book Fair 2008

The Information Resource Center (IRC) at the American Cultural Center will participate in the Annual As'ad Library International Book Fair. This year, the IRC has new titles of American books translated into Arabic, in addition to some of your favorite old titles.

What is new this year?

In addition to our classic Arabic language books for adults, the IRC is selling Arabic books for children from grades one to six. This collection of books is called **"My Arabic Library"** and they were developed by Scholastic Inc., the global children's publishing, education and media company. Scholastic's corporate mission is to help children around the world to read and learn.

My Arabic Library:

"My Arabic Library" is a unique educational project developed by Scholastic to encourage a love of reading and learning in children across the Arabic-speaking world. The program was been created to fill a well-documented need for high-quality Arabic-language classroom titles with great appeal to children.

Each grade library is comprised of a selection of fiction and nonfiction titles, carefully chosen and translated by Arabic education professionals. "My Arabic Library" includes a complete classroom library for grades one through six. Each of these classroom libraries consists of 30-40 titles with subjects ranging from science, geography, biography, history, folk tales, to contemporary and classic fiction.

At the Assad library bookfair we will sell the individual books for 50 SYPs a piece. We also have information for teachers on ordering the complete set.

Bookfair timing:

Please note new hours

From August 1 – 15

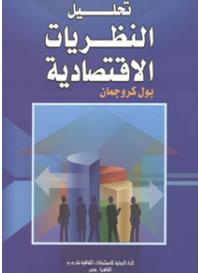
Morning from 10 am – 1:30 pm and evening from 6 pm – 11 pm

Book fair is not open on Friday mornings



كعادتنا كل عام، سيشارك مركز مصادر المعلومات في معرض مكتبة الأسد الدولي للكتاب هذا العام، مع مجموعة جديدة من الكتب الأمريكية المترجمة الي العربية المتنوعة، كالكتب ذات المواضيع الاقتصادية والتجارية والاعلامية والسياسية و كتب الأدب وقصص اليافعين.

من العناوين الجديدة:

<p>بول جرومان</p> <p>هو خليفة جالبريث Galbraith ووريثه الشرعي.</p>  <p>بعض هذه المقالات سيجعلك تبتسم، و البعض الآخر سيجعلك تجفل، وجميعها سيجعلك تفكر. ان كلمات كروجمان لاذعة و حادة كذهنه.</p>	<p>تأليف / والتر إيزاكسون</p>  <p>كان بنجامين فرانكلين طوال حياته التي بلغت 84 عاما ، أفضل من في أمريكا من علماء ومخترعين ودبلوماسين وكتاب. كما كان أيضا واحدا من أكثر مفكريها السياسيين واقعية ، وإن لم يكن أعمقهم فكرا. وكان الرجل الوحيد الذي صاغ جميع وثائق تأسيس أمريكا ، من خطة ألباني للاتحاد إلى إعلان الاستقلال ، ومعاهدة التحالف مع فرنسا ، ومعاهدة السلام مع إنجلترا ، ودستور الولايات المتحدة . وكان طوال حياته يثق بالطبقة العاملة أكثر من ثقته بطبقة الصفوة. وكان يرى في قيم الطبقة الوسطى مصدرا للقوة الاجتماعية. وكان المبدأ الذي يسترشد به " كراهية كل قد يؤدي إلى الحظ من قدر روح الجماهير ". وكان في ذلك يفوق كل زملائه المؤسسين.</p>
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<p>تأليف / لويس لاوري الناشر / نهضة مصر</p> <p>عالم جوناثان عالم مثالي ، يخضع كل شئ فيه للسيطرة التامة. ليس هناك مكان للحروب أو الخوف أو الألم ، وليس هناك مجال للاختيار كذلك ، كل فرد مكلف بدور يؤديه داخل المجتمع . وحين يبلغ جوناثان الثانية عشرة من العمر يتم اختيار ليتلقى تدريبا خاصا على يد الواهب ، الواهب وحده يملك من ذكريات الام الحياة وتمتعها على الحقيقة . وقد حان الوقت كي يستقبل جوناثان تلك الحقيقة ، وليست أمامه فرصة للتراجع .</p>	<p>تأليف / باتريشيا ماك لاكلان</p> <p>توفيت أمهم في اليوم التالي لمولد كاليب. أصبح منزلهم الكائن في البراري هادئا الآن، ولم يعد الأب يغني. أعلن أبي في الصحيفة عن طلب زوجة . تلقى خطابا من سارة إليزابيث ويتون التي تعيش في "مين". رد عليها الأب وأنا وكاليب. سأل كاليب إن كانت تستطيع الغناء. قررت سارة أن تزورهم لمدة شهر ، كتبت لأبي : ساتي بالفطار ، سأضع قبة صفراء ، أنا فارعة الطول ومتوسطة الجمال ، من فضلك قل لهم إنني أستطيع الغناء . انتظر أنا وكاليب وأخذنا يفكران .. هل ستكون سارة طيبة ؟ هل سنظل معهم ؟</p>
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جديدنا هذا العام:

سيضم جناحنا لهذا العام مجموعة جديدة من الكتب الموجهة الي أطفال المدارس من السنة الأولى الي الخامسة وهي بعنوان "مكتبتي العربية". هذه الكتب قامت بنشرها "دار سكولاستك" الأمريكية للنشر.

تعتبر دار سكولاستك انترناشونال للنشر أوسع موزع عالمي، وأضخم ناشر لكتب الأطفال في العالم، ليس فقط باللغة الإنكليزية، وإنما بلغات أخرى مختلفة. وخلال مسيرة طولها 85 سنة، حرصت على تثقيف الطفل وتشجيعه على المطالعة، مراعية قدراته مهما اختلفت مهاراته أو تنوعت ميوله.

ما هي مكتبتي العربية؟



إنها "مكتبة صف" أعدت للسنوات الأولى حتى السادسة من التعليم الأساسي. وتضم المكتبة الواحدة من ثلاثين إلى أربعين عنواناً شيقاً، وخمس نسخ من كل عنوان، فضلا عن دليل معلم وملصق. وقد اختيرت هذه الكتب من قبل تربويين واخصائيين عرب وترجمت في العالم العربي وصدقت عليها وزارات التربية في كل من المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية ولبنان ومملكة البحرين والمملكة المغربية .
تتناول الكتب مضامين متنوعة: علمية، هزلية، قصص من واقع الحياة، قصص خرافية وخيالية، سير ذاتية، وحكايات من حول العالم... ولقد أخرجت هذه الكتب بأسلوب أنيق وشيق يشد الطفل بالألوان الفرحة، والصور الطريفة، والرسوم المعبرة.

A look at the Information Resource Center (IRC):

The Information Resource Center is a specialized reference and research facility located in the American Cultural Center. Through a wide variety of online databases, we provide you with free, comprehensive and authoritative information on all aspects of the U.S. We have access to documents on domestic and foreign policies, media issues, legislative developments, as well as social, economic and political issues.

The IRC is the place to access research and reference materials. The staff responds to inquiries for in-depth information from a diverse group of people including journalists, professors, authors, scientists, and business people. IRC staff can also provide individualized instruction for researchers, scholars and journalists, using the IRC's traditional and electronic resources.

IRC service:

Outreach Program: Our outreach program includes:

1. The creation of specialized information packages in response to institutional or individual inquiries.
2. Daily electronic distribution of news, articles and research papers on a wide range of topics such as political, economic, social and cultural issues. Interested Syrian professionals can join this service by contacting the IRC staff to enroll and start receiving materials in their chosen field of interest.
3. **E-Docs alert service:** provides an annotation and URL for reports, studies and papers. It includes documents from: (1) U.S. executive agencies and the Congressional branch; (2) think tanks; (3) professional associations; and (4) international organization. IRC will send you these annotations classified by themes, with the URL to access the full report. If it is inconvenient for you to print out long reports, IRC invites you to visit us and get the full text report in hard copy free of charge.

Internet Café: The IRC Internet Café has eleven computers with free Internet.

The computers are available to the public from 12:00 - 4:30 pm Sunday through Thursday. If you are unfamiliar with the Internet, IRC staff can help with individualized training.

The IRC staff provides quick assistance and research using our resources. Queries are accepted by phone at 3391-4118/3391-4195, email at ircdamas@state.gov, or by appointment during working hours.

All IRC services are free of charge. A nominal fee per page is charged for printing from the IRC computers and for photocopying. The IRC is open to anyone age 18 and older. Entry to the Center requires a valid identification card for Syrians or a valid passport for non-Syrians.

Service Hours:

Sunday–Thursday
12:00pm – 4:30pm

Please note:

**IRC has extended its hours and services
from 4:30 pm till 6:00 pm.
Stop by and see us on your way to
the [Wednesday Night Movie!](#)**

Our online databases:

IRC offers you free access to the following online database which is available only through IRC computers. Research is free and you only pay 1 Syrian Pound for printed page. Please contact us to learn more about this free service and arrange for an appointment.

Ebscohost Online Database:

It is a collection of online journal databases containing thousands of journal articles that cover a wide variety of topics. This multi-disciplinary database provides full text for more than 4,500 journals, including full text for more than 3,700 peer-reviewed titles. PDF back files to 1975 or further are available for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references are provided for 1,000 titles. If you need to find journal articles for a research paper or project, EBSCOhost is a great place to begin your search.

Become an IRC Fan!

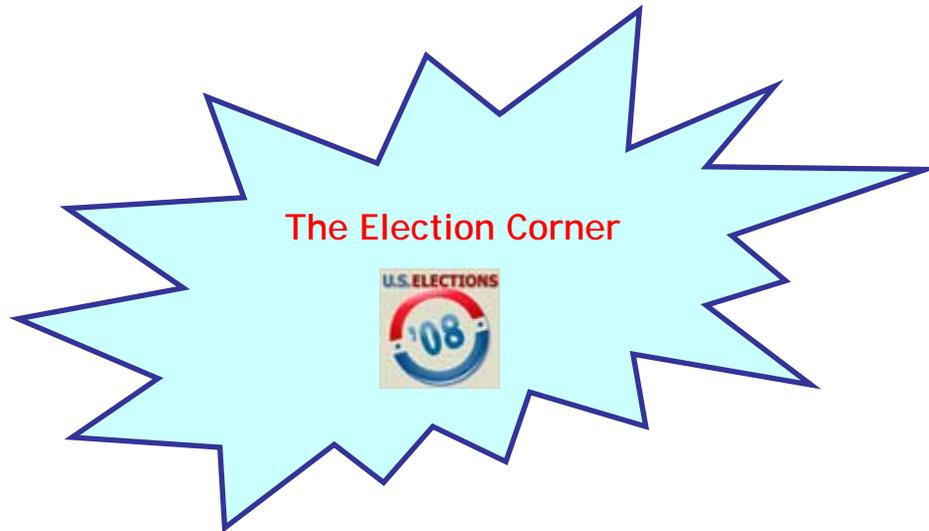


Visit our Facebook page and become one of our Fans!
Be the first to invite to our cultural events, learn more about studying in USA, read our news and announcements, join our discussion board, send us questions and queries, and write on our wall.

IRC Damascus on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Damascus-Syria/IRC-Damascus/19451965179>

See you there!



The Election Corner

This feature will allow those of you interested in U.S. Elections to get updated information, look at related governmental and non-governmental websites, get statistical resources, and help you learn more about the U.S. Elections process.

Should Women Worry Obama?

by Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Research Associate, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

July 17, 2008

Whether female voters, who largely favored Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination, will give broad support to Barack Obama this fall remains a key to the outcome of the election. The latest survey from the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press finds that Obama is, in fact, performing quite well among this key voting bloc, largely as the result of his substantial lead among politically independent and younger women. However, a significant numbers of older women, especially those who backed Clinton for the Democratic nomination, are not yet ready to throw their support behind Obama.

The presumptive Democratic nominee currently holds a double-digit advantage over John McCain among women voters (51% to 37%), a considerable improvement from May, when Obama held a much narrower 47% to 42% margin. And his lead among this group is wider than those

held by John Kerry (47% to 46%) and Al Gore (50% to 41%) over George W. Bush at this stage in 2004 and 2000, respectively.

	June 2000		June 2004		June 2008		'00-'08 Dem change	2008 N
	Gore %	Bush %	Kerry %	Bush %	Obama %	McCain %		
All women voters	50	41	47	46	51	37	+1	798
Republicans	12	82	8	91	11	81	-1	239
Democrats	82	12	83	11	79	9	-3	336
Obama backers	--	--	--	--	95	3	--	14
Clinton backers	--	--	--	--	69	14	--	172
Independents	39	52	45	45	47	36	+8	204
White	45	46	40	54	43	43	-2	632
Non-white	75	18	79	5	79	11	+4	158
Married	42	50	35	58	46	42	+4	43
Not married	60	31	59	34	56	30	-4	367
18-29	51	41	61	39	58	37	+7	126
30-49	48	45	43	49	58	32	+10	225
50-64	50	42	43	51	48	37	-2	246
65+	53	36	48	43	35	42	-18	190
College grad+	55	37	48	48	50	39	-5	325
Some college	44	48	44	51	49	40	+5	224
HS or less	51	41	47	43	52	33	+1	249
\$75,000+	46	52	41	57	48	41	+2	228
\$50-\$74,999	48	48	47	48	56	34	+8	107
\$30-\$49,999	50	42	41	53	48	43	-2	152
Under \$30,000	58	32	56	36	55	30	-3	185

Based on women who are registered to vote. Figures read horizontally.

In particular, Obama is running better among politically independent women than did either Gore or Kerry at this point in their campaigns. Independent women now favor Obama over McCain by a 47%-to-36% margin; four years ago Kerry and Bush were tied among independent women (45% each) and, eight years ago, Bush held a 13-point lead over Gore among this group (52% vs. 39%).

Younger women also express significantly more support for Obama than they did for Kerry or Gore. Obama leads McCain by 24 points among women ages 18-49. By comparison, women in this age group were about evenly split in June 2004 -- 47% preferred Kerry while 46% chose Bush -- and they preferred Gore by a slim 49%-to-44% margin in June 2000.

Still, Obama is falling short with some segments of the women vote. In particular, he currently polls considerably worse than his predecessors among all women age 65 or older. About one-third (35%) in this group support Obama, while 42% support McCain. In June 2000, Gore enjoyed a 53%-to-36% lead among women over 65, while in June 2004; Kerry held a more modest 48%-to-43% lead. Currently, nearly one-quarter of women 65 and older (23%) remain undecided about whom to support or say they will vote for another candidate, more than double the share that said that was the case at this point in 2004 (9%) and 2000 (11%).

Even among older women voters who identify themselves as Democrats, significant numbers have yet to declare their support for their party's presumptive nominee. While Obama has a solid 69%-to-12% advantage over McCain among Democratic women over 50, nearly one-in-five (19%) remain undecided or would vote for another candidate. By comparison, just 4% of older Democratic men are undecided. Among younger Democratic women, fully 88% support Obama

	June 2000		June 2004		June 2008		'00-'08 Democrat change	2008 N
	Gore %	Bush %	Kerry %	Bush %	Obama %	McCain %		
All Democrats	81	13	85	10	82	9	+1	574
Men	78	15	89	8	85	9	+7	238
Women	82	12	83	11	79	9	-3	336
Men 18-49	77	19	89	7	89	5	+12	119
Women 18-49	79	14	85	11	88	6	+9	160
Men 50+	79	11	89	9	81	15	+2	118
Women 50+	85	11	80	12	69	12	-16	174

Based on Democratic registered voters. Figures read horizontally.

The reluctance of some older Democratic women to throw their support behind their party's candidate reflects, at least in part, the fallout from the drawn-out Democratic nomination contest. By nearly two-to-one, Democratic women over age 50 say they would have preferred Hillary Clinton (59%) over Barack Obama (32%) as the party's nominee. By contrast, Democratic men in the same age group supported Obama over Clinton by a 51%-to-37% margin.

Among all Democratic voters who preferred Clinton in the primary, Obama leads McCain by 70% to 15%, with another 15% saying they are

undecided or volunteering another candidate. Within this larger group of Clinton backers, there are no significant differences between men and women; 69% of women and 72% of men who supported Clinton say they will vote for Obama over John McCain.

More related election articles can be found in here:

Candidate McCain Aims to Revitalize U.S. Global Standing

<http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/July/20080725142235dmslahrellek0.8933222.html>

Arabic:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-arabic&y=2008&m=July&x=20080728150631bsibhew0.7892572>

Obama Emphasizes Multilateral U.S. Foreign Policymaking

<http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/July/20080725162819dmslahrellek0.840069.html>

Arabic:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-arabic&y=2008&m=July&x=20080728151825bsibhew0.2814447>

Videos of Campaign Speeches:

[Obama at the NAACP](#)

[McCain Speaks to La Raza](#)

[Obama Speaks to La Raza](#)



Upcoming web chats

Web chats are online, text-based discussions that allow audiences outside the United States to interact with American citizens on a wide range of topics. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do web chats on USINFO.

To participate, you only need a computer with Internet access and a browser. There is no special software to be downloaded.

For more information, please see the link below:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats/faq.html>

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Time: 09:00 am EDT (13:00 GMT)



U.S. Elections: Your Questions

http://www.america.gov/multimedia/askamerica.html#askamericagov_elections_2008

Wondering about how delegates are counted or how the Electoral College works? Curious where the presidential candidates stand on issues that impact your country? Join *America.gov's* elections experts Michelle Austein and George Burkes on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss the people, processes and issues that shape the U.S. presidential race. They will answer your questions and talk about the latest events on the 2008 campaign trail.

Transcript: July 1

<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2008/July/20080707193046eaifas0.6749384.html>

Transcript: June 3

<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2008/June/20080603173757eaifas0.6041681.html?CP.rss=true>

See also:

[U.S. Elections](#)

[America.gov's Elections Blog: Campaign Trail Talk](#)

[The Candidates](#)

[The Issues](#)

Past web chats

If you are looking for past web chats, please go to the below link where you can find them all:

http://www.america.gov/multimedia/askamerica.html#askamericagov_elections_2008

Blogs at America.gov

Welcome to the new “Blogs at America.gov”

Welcome to the new Blogs at *America.gov*. This new site offers readers a place to join in conversation on variety of topics with experts from the United States and around the world. We encourage you to share your thoughts with our bloggers and fellow readers in the comments section of each post.

Our Blogs

We are launching with three blogs on issues that have been at the forefront of recent news. Several more blogs will follow in the future.

Campaign Trail Talk

Campaign Trail Talk is your best source of information on the 2008 elections. We'll keep you posted on news, rumors and political chatter surrounding thousands of political races. Have questions about the electoral process? Or comments about the candidates? Let us know what you think - you decide what we talk about here.

Democracy Roundtable

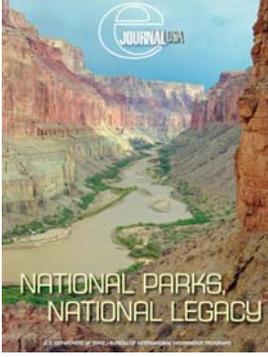
This conversation is about the challenges facing democratic governance around the world. Join experts from internationally respected nongovernmental organizations in talking about established, emerging and aspiring democracies – looking at progress and setbacks in individual nations with an eye on how a nation's unique history and culture influence the shape and face of its democracy.

Rumors, Myths and Fabrications

Todd Leventhal, a State Department expert on rumors and conspiracy theories, talks about false stories in the press and on the Internet.

Electronic Journals

National Parks, National Legacy



<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0708.html>

The people of the United States own and protect a sprawling system of national parks, including seashores, trails, monuments, and battlefields. All American citizens are, in a sense, stewards of sites where history unfolded, where mountains soar, and where rivers run. They keep these parks for the future, and they treasure them today. As former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people." This edition of e-Journal USA presents glorious views of the national parks, the history of this vast system, and its mission of conservation and public access.



حلول من أجل طاقة نظيفة

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0706/ijea/ijea0706.htm>

إن الزيادات المتوقعة لاستهلاك الطاقة في العقود القادمة ، المصحوبة بخطر أعلى لناحية التغير المناخي ، تتطلب رداً عالمياً شاملاً قائماً على الابتكارات التكنولوجية وقوة السوق . في هذه المجلة، يصف الخبراء والمسؤولون الحكوميون الخيارات المتوفرة أمامنا، بما فيها الطاقة المتجددة، المركبات الجديدة، و توليد الطاقة المتسم بانخفاض مستويات الكربون، ويبحثون أفضل السبل المؤدية الى مستقبل طاقة مستدامة.



الإعلام يصنع التغيير

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/1207/ijga/ijga1207.htm>

تمنح تكنولوجيا وسائل الإعلام الجديدة المواطن العادي القدرة على الوصول إلى كمية هائلة من المعلومات وشبكات واسعة من الناس. ويمكن للناس استخدام هذه الأدوات لتحقيق برامج اجتماعية وسياسية يضعونها بأنفسهم. ويتناول هذا العدد من مجلة إي جورنال يو إس إيه كيفية تأثير هذا التمكين الجديد على الدول في مختلف أنحاء العالم.

Photo Gallery and Videos

Telling America's story with photos and videos.

Offering an audio-visual tour of the stories and issues shaping our world, the photo gallery and videos are two of many invaluable services "America.gov" site offers for its audience.

Both, the gallery and videos can be browsed by the following subjects: Foreign Policy, U.S. Politics, American Life, Democracy, Science and Health.

Photo Gallery: Please visit the below galleries or go to the photo gallery direct link to see more photo collections.

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#7a78bf28-e356-4d21-a311-0c218ec8f6f8>

<p>Science & Health:</p>  <p><u>The Jewels in the Crown</u></p>	<p>American Life:</p>  <p><u>Foreigners in Film</u></p>	<p>Science & Health:</p>  <p><u>Wildlife at Risk</u></p>	<p>American Life:</p>  <p><u>Glaciers to Volcanoes: U.S. World Heritage Sites</u></p>
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Videos:

Please point the mouse on any picture then use "Ctrl" key and click on the link to take you the video you want to watch or go to the link below to see all the video collection.

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?playerId=1475282956>

 <p><u>Surfing Culture</u></p> <p>2:17 min.</p>	 <p><u>California BBQ</u></p> <p>2:32 min.</p>
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Websites of interest

1. U.S. Policy:

<http://www.uspolicy.be>

A quick glance at U.S. foreign policy. Revised daily.

2. Docuticker:

<http://www.docuticker.com>

The latest U.S. Government, NGO Reports and Think Tank documents.

3. Legal Research Exchange:

<http://www.llrx.com>

Especially valuable to legal (comparative law and international law) researchers and those researching Business and Trade topics.

4. Time & Life Pictures: Understanding American culture through photographs.

<http://www.timelifepictures.com/>

Time & Life Pictures is an unparalleled collection of striking imagery, documenting past and present events in politics, culture, celebrities and the arts.

5. CURRIKI:

<http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/WebHome>

Curriculum Guides and Lesson plans for hundreds of different topics: a great resource for educators and students and teachers which is funded in part by the US Department of Education.



American Holidays

Labor Day



Members of the operating engineers Local 547 march in Detroit's Labor Day Parade. (© AP Images)

Washington -- Labor Day, celebrated in the United States on the first Monday of each September, is the nation's official commemoration of its workers' contributions to national strength, prosperity and well-being. It also marks for millions of Americans the unofficial end of summer, a long weekend to visit with family or friends, and, for most of the young, a last day of summer vacation before a new school year begins.

While the holiday's origins have not been determined precisely, scholars typically credit either of two labor union officials -- Peter J. McGuire of the carpenters' union or Matthew Maguire of a machinists' local in Paterson, New Jersey -- with the idea.

The first Labor Day commemoration occurred in New York City, on September 5, 1882. The date apparently was chosen because it was about halfway between the July 4 holiday and Thanksgiving. The occasion was marked by a parade, sponsored by the Knights of Labor (an early U.S. labor organization) and about 10,000 workers marched.

The next day's *New York Times* reported that "those who rode or marched in the procession were cheerful, and evidently highly gratified with the display. ... The great majority smoked cigars, and all seemed bent upon having a good time at the picnic grounds." Banners called for "Eight Hours for a Legal Day's Work" and "Less Hours and More Pay."

The Knights organized another parade the following year, and in 1884 they adopted a resolution calling for recognition of the first Monday of September as Labor Day. By 1894, some 28 states celebrated Labor Day and in that year Congress adopted legislation establishing the legal holiday.

MAY DAY CONTRASTED

A number of European and other nations celebrate an International Workers' Day on the first of May, often known as May Day. Timed to commemorate the labor violence that culminated in the Chicago Haymarket Riot of 1886, May Day often featured organized street demonstrations and, on occasion, acts of political violence.

It was probably for this reason that U.S. political leaders came to support the movement for a September and not a May Day holiday. Regardless of its origins, American workers always have seen "their" holiday as an opportunity for rest, relaxation and fun. As the *New York Times* reported of the first Labor Day parade, "It was said that the absence of many members of the organizations was due to the fact that they preferred to enjoy the day in quiet excursions to Coney Island, Glen Island [resorts] and elsewhere."

THE UNOFFICIAL END OF SUMMER

Picnics, barbeques and sporting events are among today's holiday traditions. Labor Day traditionally has marked the end of the summer, and in much of the country, Americans crowd community swimming pools and beach facilities for one last dip before those facilities close until the following Memorial Day.

In sports, Labor Day begins the culminating phase of major league baseball's pennant race, and also the last weekend before the National Football League season begins. Many political experts suggest Labor Day marks the beginning of the election campaign season (U.S. elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, i.e. on the Tuesday that falls between November 2 and November 8) and many candidates oblige by delivering major speeches on the holiday.

Another tradition is the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) telethon. Held each year since 1966 and hosted by entertainer Jerry Lewis, the telethon intersperses performances by major entertainers with requests for donations to fund MDA's fight against more than 40 neuromuscular diseases. A quarter-million volunteers monitor the telephones to register pledges, which in 2005 totaled some \$54.9 million, while more than 50 million North Americans watch at least some of the show.

Speaking in Ohio in 2003, President George W. Bush captured the essence of Labor Day when he said, "This country prospers because of people who give their best effort every day to support their families, to go to work, to make America a better place."

