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American Spaces

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

June 2023

With just over 600 locations, ECA's Office of American Spaces engages people worldwide through programming and resources. American Spaces support U.S. foreign policy goals and strategically promote public diplomacy.

As always, thank you for sending in your comments and suggestions to americanspaces@state.gov. We hope you enjoy this issue!

FOR ALL...

The Office of American Spaces Newsletter seeks to provide content for future programming--while also highlighting the great work of our colleagues and partners around the world.

This month, as we head into the Fourth of July, we are focusing on the theme of "for all." "For all" comes from the last line of the [Pledge of Allegiance](#) and is a key component of the values of the United States.

DIPLOMACY FOR ALL! The Office of American Spaces would like to congratulate Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Liz Allen, on her recent confirmation!

U.S. Culture

Fourth of July for All

REPS Amy Smith joined the Office of American Spaces in January 2023 and shares her plans for an epic 4th of July in Washington, D.C. Please enjoy her (virtual) tour!

As summer officially begins, Independence Day looms large here in Washington, D.C. Crowds of hundreds of thousands flock downtown to experience the holiday in the nation's capital. I have been a D.C. area resident for many years, but this is my first one where I can take part as a spectator.

In my previous career as a military musician, the 4th of July was never a day off from work – in addition to fireworks, apple pie, and parades, outdoor band concerts are an essential part of the festivities. Even during the pandemic, the band could not escape the [1812 Overture](#). Free from that obligation, this year, I have my sights set on some iconic holiday events in the D.C. area:

[National Archives](#): Beginning at 10:00am, take a seat and enjoy a reading of the Declaration of Independence from the steps of its home at the archives, followed by the Independence Day parade.

[Baseball](#): Nothing says summer quite like baseball, and the Washington Nationals host an annual Independence Day home game at 11:05am. This year, they will be taking on the Cincinnati Reds at Nationals Park. I'm looking forward to watching the [President's Race](#) during the fourth inning. Go Teddy!

[Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#): This huge annual cultural event takes place over two weeks on the National Mall, including the 4th of July. Enjoy musical performances, traditional crafts, and educational events. At 2:30pm,

check out "[De Libertate: Songs of Freedom and Hope](#)", featuring four performing groups from Ukraine.

[A Capitol Fourth](#): No D.C. 4th of July experience is complete without this PBS-sponsored musical event, complete with a spectacular fireworks display with the U.S. Capitol building serving as a backdrop.

This is an ambitious itinerary for one day, so if you would rather kick up your feet and take a well-deserved rest, I have good news! Each of these events is either livestreamed or televised, so everyone can enjoy a slice of D.C.'s Independence Day from the comfort of home.

Just be sure to whip up some homemade apple pie (George Washington's favorite) from this historic Mount Vernon [recipe](#).
Happy 4th of July, everyone!



REPS Amy Smith, circa 2004, wearing white and holding a French horn, two activities she will not do this year!

Spotlight:

Social Media Transformation for All

Bridging the Gap: From Troll to Coach



Troll or Coach? Click on the image to learn more!

In the dynamic world of social media, where engagement and audience connection are paramount, it is essential to have individuals who can guide and empower social media managers. One such individual, who has been actively involved behind the scenes, is making waves in the American Spaces closed Facebook group. However, his approach has raised questions: Is this person a troll or a coach? To delve into the intriguing story and understand why perceptions may be skewed, [click here](#).

From the Field:

Positive Social Change for All through Gaming



Starting May 11, the U.S. Embassy and the *American Spaces' American Youth Corner of Kuala Lumpur* hosted the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Game Changers Regional Workshop. The four-day event brought together 75 video-game designers from across Southeast Asia for a unique opportunity while aiming to create video games with positive social messages. In addition, the event featured a two-day training session followed by a thrilling "game jam" and pitch competition. Major industry players, including Microsoft Xbox and Sony PlayStation, helped support the program, and renowned game developers shared their expertise. [Read more here!](#)



American Spaces' American Youth Corner of Kuala Lumpur hosted the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Game Changers Regional Workshop.

Faces of American Spaces:

Learning for All

Meet Altynai Arstanbekova, from the American Corner, Talas, Kyrgyzstan.

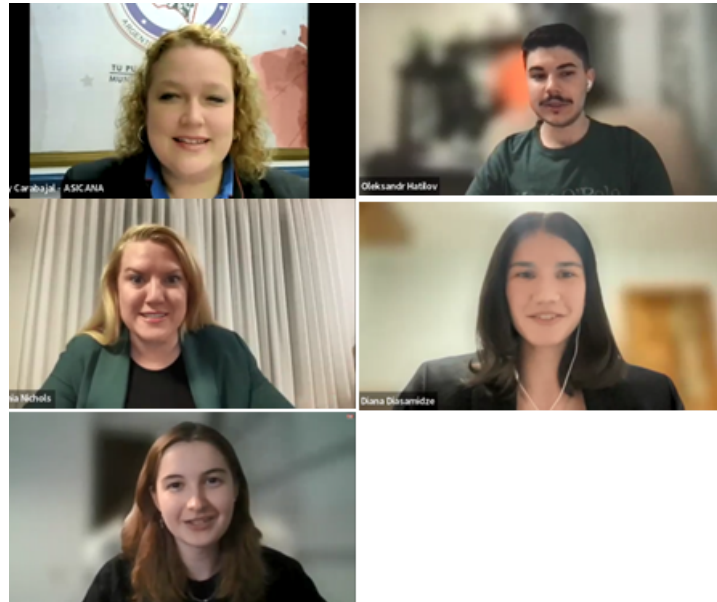


We sat down with Altynai Arstanbekova, the American Spaces Coordinator at the American Corner in Talas, Kyrgyzstan, during her recent training visit to Vienna. Altynai has been a coordinator with American Spaces for four years – and we are excited to share what she had to say during our Q&A (questions and answers) session with her.

[Read the full story](#)

From the Field:

American Spaces Bring Connections for All



In April, two participants in *PY351, the American Spaces Tradecraft* course in Vienna, Austria, met and conceived of a joint program at their respective spaces. **Adriana Alvarez** from the **ASICANA Binational Center in Santiago del Estero, Argentina** and **Mariia Ocheretiana** from **America House Kyiv, Ukraine** shared ideas and possibilities in Vienna. Together with **ASICANA Academic Director Katherine Carabajal**, they organized the webinar “Youth Perspectives: Life in a Time of War” on May 31 for an audience of more than 70 Argentines (with more than 280 participants watching the recording later). The program built on the photo exhibit of Russia's war against Ukraine that is currently touring BNCs in Argentina, and it provided a glimpse into the lives of young people living through Russia's invasion of Ukraine. [Learn more here!](#)

Did You Know?

Opportunity to Host Sustainability-Focused Programming

The Department of State's Office of Global Partnerships has recently launched the Climate Solutions and Sustainable Entrepreneurship Fund. This funding opportunity will support expert entrepreneur-support organizations in order to drive sustainability-focused programming in partner organizations such as community centers, technology labs, makerspaces, and possibly American Spaces, in developing economies that strive to capacitate local entrepreneurs and increase their ability to scale climate solutions to market.

Entrepreneur-support organizations that apply to receive funding will be looking for partner organizations where they can implement the programming. We want to alert coordinators that you might be approached to use American Spaces as venues to implement projects.

If a particular American Space is interested and has capacity to host project implementers, we encourage this as a great opportunity to harness U.S. government funding to support policy-driven, economic-focused programming to benefit your local audiences and grow your institutional ties. It is up to each Space, consulting with your Public Affairs colleagues at your local embassy or consulate, to decide whether you have capacity to support, and up to the implementer to set out exactly what they would need from the American Space. We understand that the implementer receiving the grant would be responsible for all major organizing, presentations, supplies/equipment, etc., and that the American Space would provide the venue for the event to take place. Coordinators should contact their REPS with any questions or for help in engaging on such proposals, as needed.

If you have an existing relationship with an organization you think might be a good fit to apply for funding, please encourage them to apply!

Applications for the initial portion of the selection process (Statements of Interest) will be open until July 14. The Funding Opportunity can be found on Grants.gov and Sams Domestic at this link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=348662>. Or you can search it on Grants.gov as SFOP0009848 Climate Solutions and Sustainable Entrepreneurship. If you have any questions about the process or opportunity, feel free to reach out to climatehubfund@state.gov.

U.S. Speaker Spot

As a partnership with the [Office of the U.S. Speaker Program](#), the American Spaces Newsletter is featuring selected speakers available for virtual programs with professional audiences on priority themes. For more information about the U.S. Speaker Program, and to submit a program request, please reach out to your local Public Diplomacy Section.



STEM FOR ALL! [Aisha Bowe](#) is the founder and CEO of STEMBoard, a certified economically disadvantaged woman-owned small business specializing in engineering and development, IT services, program and project management, data management, ingestion, and analytics. At STEMBoard, Bowe leads a workforce of engineers and programmers in addition to managing client relationships as well as execution of multi-million dollar contracts with Federal government and corporate clients. Bowe is also preparing to travel to space with the commercial space company Blue Origin. Previously, Bowe was an aerospace engineer at the NASA Ames Research Center.



VOTING FOR ALL! [Paul Sracic](#) is the chair of the Department of Politics and International Relations at Youngstown State University and a two-time Fulbrighter. He is the author of several publications including "Ohio Government and Politics," and "San Antonio v. Rodriguez and the Pursuit of Equal Education." Sracic's areas of expertise include American and international politics and law, constitutionalism, the U.S. Presidential campaign, U.S. trade politics, the U.S. primary and caucus systems, and the U.S. Supreme Court and constitutional interpretation.

To learn more about this month's speakers: please visit the full [FOR ALL! Speaker's Spot on the American Spaces website](#).

Calendar of Events

As always, the full calendar is available on the American Spaces [website](#).

June: LGBTQI+ Pride Month ([toolkit](#)) and National Caribbean-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

June 1: Global Day of Parents - see official [site](#)

June 3: World Bicycle Day - see official [site](#)

June 4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - see official [site](#))

June 5: World Environment Day - see programming [toolkit](#)

June 8: World Ocean Day (official [site](#)) and Best Friends Day (official [site](#))

June 12: World Day Against Child Labour - see official [site](#)

June 14: National Flag Day - see official [site](#)

June 15: Elder Abuse Awareness Day - see official [site](#)

June 17: The World Day to Combat Desertification - see official [site](#)

June 18: Father's Day - see official [site](#)

June 19: Juneteenth ([toolkit](#)) and International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (official [site](#))

June 20: World Refugee Day - see official [site](#)

June 26: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

June 27: Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (official [site](#) and [toolkits](#))

June 29: International Day of the Tropics - see official [site](#)

June 30: Meteor Watch Day - see official [site](#)

July 1: International Joke Day - see official [site](#)

July 4: US Independence Day - see official [site](#)

July 8: Video Games Day - see official [site](#)

July 11: World Population Day - see [Health and Environment Resources](#)

July 15: World Youth Skills Day - Here are STEAM resources and resources for [entrepreneurship](#)

July 17: World Emoji Day - see official [site](#)

July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day - see official [site](#)

July 20: Space Exploration Day

- [NASA Kids' Club](#)
- [NASA for Educators](#)
- [NASA American English language resources](#)

July 26: Americans with Disabilities Act - see official [site](#)

July 28: Milk Chocolate Day (official [site](#)) and World Hepatitis Day (official [site](#))

July 30: World Day against Trafficking in Persons - see [toolkit](#)

August is International Peace Month

August 6: Sisters' Day - see official [site](#)

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 12: International Youth Day - see official [site](#) and [Teacher's Guide on Volunteerism](#)

August 19: World Humanitarian Day - see official [site](#)

August 21: International Day of Victims of Terrorism - see official [site](#)

August 22: International Day Commemorating Victims of Violence based on Religion or Belief (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 26: Women's Equality Day - see [Photos](#)

August 29: International Day against Nuclear Tests - see official [site](#)

September: [National Wilderness Month](#)

September 2: End of WWII - [History Channel](#)

September 4: Labor Day - see official [site](#)

September 6: Read a Book Day

September 8: International Literacy Day - see official [site](#)

September 11: Patriots Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance (9/11 Anniversary) - see official [site](#)

September 15 - October 15: Hispanic Heritage - see [toolkit](#)

September 15: International Day of Democracy - see official [site](#)

September 17: Constitution Day - see [toolkit](#) and [English language resources](#)

September 21: International Day of Peace - see official [site](#)

September 22: World Rhino Day - see official [site](#)

September 25: Comic Book Day - see official [site](#)

September 27: World Tourism Day - see official [site](#)

September 29: World Heart Day - see official [site](#)

Thanks to all of you who have shared your programming ideas and highlights with your colleagues through our American Spaces FB page. You can continue to share your news and information by emailing us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov. If you have any questions or content to add, email Karlene Noel Jennings at JenningsKN@state.gov.

To add someone to this newsletter, email us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov.



American Spaces

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Office of American Spaces
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
SA-5, 2200 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
americanspaces@state.gov
<https://americanspaces.state.gov/>

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