Wednesday, November 10, 2010

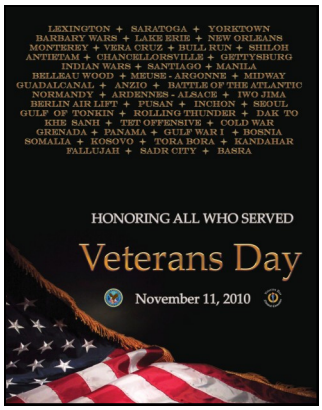
DeRiga

The Newsletter of the U.S. Embassy to Latvia

Honoring America's Veterans Nov. 11
"Because Freedom is Not Free"

Veterans Day is an annual, federal United States holiday honoring military veterans. It is observed Nov. 11 each year.

In other parts of the world it is sometimes known as Armistice Day. When the Treaty of Versailles was signed June 28, 1919, officially ending World War I, fighting had actually ceased seven months earlier when an "armistice," or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied forces and Germany went into effect on the 11th hour or the 11th day of the 11th month. For this reason, Nov. 11 is celebrated.



President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day saying, "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 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 U.S. Congress passed a resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue a concurrent proclamation observing Nov. 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A May 13, 1938 act officially made Nov. 11 a legal holiday, "a day to be dedicated to world peace."

In 1953, and Emporia, Kan. shoe store owner named Alfred King had the idea to expand "Armistice Day" to include all veterans, not just those who served during WWI. King was actively involved with American War Dads during World War II. He began to turn the day into "All" Veterans Day. The Emporia Chamber of Commerce supported King after determining that 90 percent of Emporia merchants as well as the Board of Education supported closing their doors Nov. 11 to honor veterans.

With the help of an Emporia resident, U.S. Rep. Ed Rees, a bill changing the name was pushed through Congress and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into law May 26, 1954.

When Congress first signed "Veterans Day" into law, it was

("Veterans Day" continued on page 3)

"War is as much a punishment to the punisher as to the sufferer."

~ Thomas Jefferson

Weekend Weather

Thursday: *Cloudy*
High 44 F / 7 C
Low 37 F / 3 C

Friday: *Rain*
High 48 F / 9 C
Low 43 F / 6 C

Saturday: *Cloudy & breezy*
High 51 F / 11 C
Low 47 F / 7 C

Sunday: *Cloudy & mild*
High 51 F / 11 C
Low 36 F / 2 C
From AccuWeather.com

Take a Look at What's Inside:

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Little Ghouls and Spirited Boys Had a "Monster Mash" at the Marine House Oct. 31



Which witch is which?





Wrap-a-Mummy







Pretty-Pretty Princesses







And our "Mummy Daddys" - what good sports they were!



Kelly Busby



Scott Simpson



Hagen Moroney

How About A Tasty New Dining Experience?

New restaurants from the October-November *Riga in Your Pocket*

Just: At night, and especially on the weekend, this stylish brown and beige space with a central rectangular bar caters to the cocktail crowd, but during the day it offers a great two-course business lunch for about 3 Ls, attracting both tourists and locals alike. In the summer a huge terrace with hammocks and views of the nearby river is available. Open 10 a.m.-11 p.m., 10 a.m.-3 a.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 a.m. Friday, noon-5 a.m. Saturday, noon-11 p.m. Sunday. 11 Novembra Krastmala 17, 2955-4614, *http://www.justbar.lv*.

Olive: At first this black and white café/club seems to be dominated by a curvy, winding bar with painted olive branches, but upon further inspection and even larger room with a stage is available in the back. Although the place has an overwhelming cocktail lounge vibe, it also has a full menu of international staples from Caesar salads and pastas to steaks and salmon fillets. The girl behind the bar had a tough time pouring a pint so you might want to stick to mixed drinks. Open 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Gertrrudes 56, 2704-3010.

Dagira: Aquamarine and orange walls are pretty much the only kind of decoration you'll find at the small kebab shop that serves up a cheap durum kebab lunch that includes fries and a drink for 2.30 Ls. Although filling, the food is hardly worth getting excited about, but the girl behind the counter was friendly and even tried to explain what a "zapekanka" sandwich is - which is no mean feat. Open 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, closed Sunday. Grecinieku 7, 6721-11-73.

Mimino: The infamous Latvian expression "nasing speshal" certainly applies to this small dive that has the audacity to call itself a server of authentic Georgian shashliks. Not only was the chewy, fatty meat sub par, but there really wasn't much else on the menu except the harcho soup and cheese khachapuri, which they had already run out of at lunchtime. The cheap, laminate floor, the ugly red interior and Russian pop music, which gets considerably louder when a "good" song gets airplay, doesn't make the experience any better. Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m., 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday and Saturday.Caka 59, 2966-2233.

Svada: In case you're wondering, "Svada" means "Taste" in Sanskrit and the Indian owner of this tiny vegetarian bistro not only serves up tasty samosas, chapati and pakora, but he doesn't charge an arm and a leg for them, either. You can also sample some spicy mains and soups from the subcontinent as well as authentic sweets and even beer and cocktails, which you can enjoy into the wee hours on the weekend. Although it opens at 8 a.m., you shouldn't expect a full selection of food until lunch. Open 8 a.m.-11p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 24 hours. Raina Bulv. 17 (entrance from Inzenieru).

Veterans Day

(Continued from page 1)

observed the fourth Monday of October in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which was intended to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees. (Other holidays included in the act are President's Day, Memorial Day and Columbus Day.) These weekends were put in place to encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities to stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. However, many states didn't agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays, such as Washington and Lincoln's birthdays and Veterans Day on their original dates.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a bill returning Veterans Day to its original Nov. 11 date, to begin in 1978. Today, it is observed, no matter which day of the week it falls. Although the federal government and banks are closed, some schools, businesses and local governments choose to remain open. But no matter how they, and you, choose to remember Veterans Day, consider it is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Out & About
Mark Your Calendars!

Beware of the Mouse King
The Nutcracker Opens in Riga Nov. 14

It is the night before Christmas when miracles become possible and the dream of a little girl comes true. There is excitement in the Stahlbaum house as everyone gets ready for the Christmas party. Dancing begins and Father Christmas brings a sack of toys. Everyone must perform a dance to receive a present. When only a strange Nutcracker doll remains in the sack, Father Christmas disappears. Nobody likes the doll, except of little Marie. She falls asleep in the ballroom with the doll and experiences some strange dreams … or does she?



Ticket information is available at *http://www.opera.lv/en*.

Lacplesis Day Nov. 11



Nov. 11, also known as Lacplesis Day, marks a turning point in Latvian history when the newly formed national army, with the help of civilian volunteers, won a decisive victory in 1919 over enemy troops driving them from Riga. Traditionally, the event, which honors the nation's freedom fighters, is commemorated by lighting candles in apartment windows throughout the city at the Riga Castle wall on 11 Novembra Krastmala.

The day's events include an hour-long church service at 9 a.m. at Riga's Dome Cathedral followed by a wreath-laying ceremony by the Eternal Fire at Riga Brethren Cemetery at 11 a.m. At 1 p.m. at military parade will take place in front of the Freedom Monument followed by a ceremonial changing of the guard at 2 p.m. in front of Riga Castle. At 3 p.m. a torch procession will depart Riga Brethren Cemetery, stop by Freedom Monument and finish in Strelnieku Square.

The evening includes various concerts, military combat demonstrations, singing and the procession of bringing the "sacred fire" to the River Daugava. Concerts will take place at St. Peters and St. Saviour's Anglican Churches. For more information visit *http://www.lv90.lv*.

Riga Shines Nov. 18 to 21

Every year around Latvia's independence day festivities in November, Riga puts on an amazing light festival for a few nights which is seen by tens of thousands of people. Dozens of buildings, squares, bridges, streets, and monuments throughout the city disappear into the autumn grey and are illuminated with photographs, games, film and other artistic creations - often transforming into entirely different appearances. This year's theme is "Optical Illusions." The old town is usually flooded with people, taking on a festive atmosphere; it's a great night out for families, groups of friends or individuals who'd like a glimpse of something truly unique. This year's celebration will begin Nov. 18 and will be visible every night until Nov. 21. The objects can be viewed from close up or as part of a whole city, like from the top of St. Peter's Church. For more information about light installations and specific routes around the city, visit *http://www.staro.lv/en*.



Cultural Agenda

Are you interested in intricate music? Riga's cultural music scene has much to offer. Here are a couple of upcoming performances:

Nov. 12: Chamber Symphony Concert "Zoom In" - conducted by Normunds Shne; participants: Altera Veritas and Sinfonietta Riga. Program includes works by John Adams, Vilnis Shmidbergs and Martinsh Vilums. The Great Guild Hall, 6 Amatu iela, 6721-3798

Nov. 13: Chamber Music Concert at Latvian National Opera - featuring soloists Inga Slubovska, Aira Rurane, Ieva Parsa, Andris Ludvigs, Viesturs Jansons, Raimonds Bramanis and Krisjanis Norvelis. 3 Aspazijas Bulv., *http://www.opera.lv*, boxoffice@opera.lv, 6707-3777

Independence Day



On Nov. 18, 1918, a group of Latvian intelligentsia declared their nation's independence from the disintegrating Russian empire. Dominated by foreign powers since the arrival of Teutonic knights at the end of the 12th century, Latvians finally had their own state. Unfortunately, rogue German military units and the new Bolshevik government in Russia didn't take the declaration seriously and fighting continued until, with the help of the Polish and Estonian armies, all of Latvia's enemies were expelled from the country in 1920. Independence Day is celebrated with various events and concerts in Riga, a military parade on 11 Novembra Krastmala and a speech by the Latvian president.

(From the October-November 2010 Riga In Your Pocket)



FYI

In honor of the Latvian National Day Nov. 18, most Latvian government offices will be closed for business Nov. 18 through 21. To accommodate this long holiday, Saturday, Nov. 13 they will be working and open for business.



Important Hours to Keep in Mind

Mail Room



Monday: 3 to 4 p.m. (DPO, In/Out Pouch-if available)
Tuesday: 9 to 10 a.m., 3 to 4 p.m.
Wednesday:3 to 4 p.m. (DPO, In Pouch)
Thursday:9 to 10 a.m., 3 to 4 p.m.
Friday: 3 to 4 p.m., (DPO, In/Out Pouch-if available)

CLO Office

Dawn Nice, CLO: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Liene Jelinska, CLO Assistant: Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Health Unit



Mondays: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. - Anna Cunningham
Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Olga Lozovska & Dr. Livija Caune,
10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. - Anna Cunningham
Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. - Olga Lozovska,
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Anna Cunningham
Thursdays: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. - Olga Lozovska,
1-5 p.m., Dr. Livija Caune
Fridays: 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. - Anna Cunningham

November 2010

We do our best to keep this info. updated, but if you see a birthday or name day that's missing, please let us know: smithkc@state.gov

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 **Hagen Moroney** **Aivars Biezins**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** **Martins Snepsts**
7 **Ivo Sildegs**	**8** **Artis Svilans**	**9**	**10** *Martins* *Bernans &* *Zervens*	**11** **Sanita Sidorane** **Kristine Sprice** *Ojars Skarulis* **Veterans Day** **Embassy** **Closed**	**12**	**13** **Aldis** **Kaparkalejs** **Kristine Kreile**
14 **Ilmars Kaiva**	**15** **Guntars** **Vicmanis**	**16**	**17**	**18** **Latvian** **National Day** **Embassy** **Closed**	**19** **Scott Holcomb**	**20** **Olegs Gancevs**
21	**22**	**23** **Dinars Lubins** **Edmunds** **Glebavics**	**24** **Embassy** **Awards** **Ceremony** **4 p.m.**	**25** **Matt Lappe** **Thanksgiving** **Day** **Embassy** **Closed**	**26**	**27**
28 *Rita Krumina*	**29**	**30** *Andris* *Kanepe* *Lapins &* *Purvlicis*		**Birthday** *Name Day*		

Weekly Update

FLO Weekly Update is a compilation of news and information from the Family Liaison Office of the Department of State for U.S. government employees, their family members, and Members of Household (MOH) who are serving, have served, or will be serving at U.S. Missions overseas. Visit FLO on the Internet at: www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo. For questions or more information, email: FLO@state.gov; or call FLO at **(800) 440- 0397 or (202) 647-1076.**

FLO: Advocacy, Programs, Services. We're here for you.

November 9, 2010

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Ends December 15

Whichever of the over 4,000 charities you support, the CFC enables you to improve the quality of people's lives at home and abroad. Find the CFC Catalog at www.cfcnca.org. The CFC season ends on December 15. State Department employees can donate through Employee Express, www.employeeexpress.com. Below are several of the organizations that benefit State Department employees and their families:

Diplotots, **CFC # 49959**

Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), www.fsyf.org, **CFC # 39436**

Foreign Service Youth Scholarship, www.afsa.org/scholar/CFC11759.cfm, **CFC # 11759**

Fund for American Diplomacy, www.afsa.org/CFCFAD.cfm, **CFC # 10646**

Senior Living Foundation of the American Foreign Service, www.SLFoundation.org, **CFC # 40530**

Global Employment Initiative (GEI) Offers Virtual Resume Coaching

- Moving to a new post or back to the US?
- Have you been out of the job market for a while?
- Do you need a solid resume reflecting those years of volunteering or other non-paid work?
- Does your work history look like a cornucopia of skill sets?
- When was the last time you really looked at your resume?

FLO encourages you to take advantage of its virtual resume coaching service through the GEI program. Former Global Employment Advisor (GEA-Paris) and Foreign Service family member, Carol Brooke-Williams, is available to answer your resume questions. For a fresh look at your skill base and guidance on reworking your resume, contact Carol at GEAresume@gmail.com. Please provide your e-mail, Skype, Vonage or other local phone number along with the best time of day to be reached. To remain flexible with the various time zones, please note that Carol operates from a home office in Berlin, Germany. This service is especially intended for family members that do not have access to a Global Employment Advisor in their region.

Guarantee a Merry Christmas By Minding These Mailing Dates

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25 to APO/FPO/DPO and international addresses overseas, mail should be send by the recommended mailing dates below. Don't forget you can print postage, labels and customs forms online 24/7 using the Post Office's Click-N-Ship service at *http://www.usps.com/clicknship*.

Remember all mail addressed to military and diplomatic post offices overseas is subject to certain content, preparation and handling restrictions. APO, FPO and DPO addresses generally require customs forms. To see a table of active APO/FPO/DPO ZIP codes and their associated restrictions, visit *http://pe.usps.com* and click "Postal Bulletins."

APO/FPO/DPO Mail Addressed to DPO, AE 09748

First-Class Mail Letters & Cards:
Dec. 10



Priority Mail
Dec. 10

Dulles Pouch:
Nov. 26

Parcel Post:
Nov. 12



Tennis Anyone?



The CMR tennis court is available for use by embassy personnel on a first-come, "FIRST-SERVE" basis. How do you reserve the court? Easy! We have established a mailbox titled "Riga, CMR Tennis": *RigaCMRTennis@state.gov* Just e-mail that address and we will check the calendar to see if the court is free, then reply with a confirmation or suggest an

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We look forward to any comments, ideas or suggestions!