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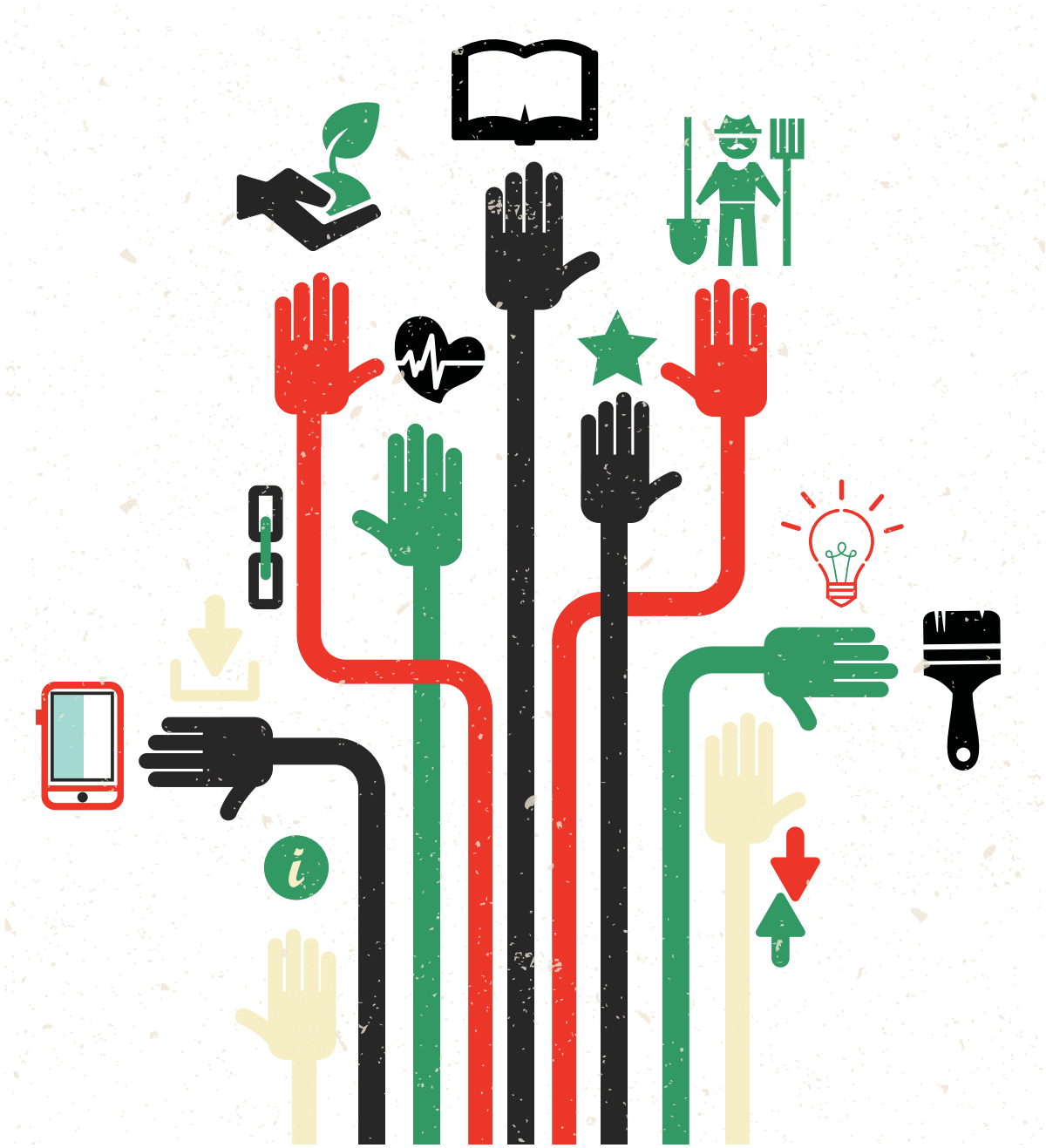

volunteers:
answering the call

IN THIS ISSUE: SOULFUL WHALES | 3-D MIRACLES | AMERICA ROCKS | DIPLOMATS TALK | SOUTHERN MEMORIES

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Volunteers at work building a hiking trail on Casa Grande Mountain.
CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA

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volunteers:
answering the call

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american values

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While researching this month's cover feature, I became absorbed by an important American value: volunteerism. I edited firsthand accounts by people who have volunteered around the world (see pp. 12–17), and I couldn't help feeling proud. Volunteerism is woven into the fabric of our society. For generations, Americans have committed themselves to helping those in need at home and abroad.

The staff here is no exception; in one way or another, each of us has given freely to others. Graphic designer Lauren Russell taught underserved preschool students to read, and Julia Maruszewski used her design skills to create brochures for a foundation supporting at-risk youth. Writer Lauren Monsen began devoting time to the Lupus Foundation of America after a loved one was diagnosed with the disease. I teach English to U.S. immigrants.

If you're looking for a way to get involved, think about your skills. If you're good at construction, seek out a neighbor who needs home repairs. If you like crunching numbers, check with local organizations to see whether they could use help budgeting. Enjoy writing? Nonprofit groups often recruit volunteers to draft fundraising letters.

In these pages, you're bound to find inspiration as you look for the perfect opportunity.

– MacKenzie Babb

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Snapshots of America

Phones are for Talking?

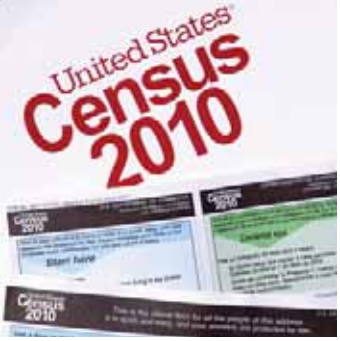
The simple text message, also known as short message service or SMS, continues to command the communication habits of U.S. teens. Results of "Teens, Smartphones & Texting," a 2012 Pew Research Center survey, show teens send an average of 60 texts a day, up from 50 in 2009, on mobile phones.

The survey indicates 75 percent of U.S. teens exchange text messages, with 63 percent texting every day. Older girls are the most enthusiastic texters, exchanging upwards of 100 messages a day. Talking on the phone, however, is so yesterday. Only 26 percent of teens report using mobile phones daily for talking, down from 38 percent in 2009.

Text at Your Own Risk

Can you walk and text? You probably can, but you probably shouldn't. A U.S. university student's recent research indicates that texters crossing intersections are the most likely group of technology-tethered pedestrians to disobey lights, cross in the middle or fail to look both ways.

Leah Thompson, a student at Amherst College in Massachusetts, conducted the study while working as a 2012 summer intern at the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center in Seattle. She and two assistants observed 20 busy intersections. Nearly 30 percent of walkers they watched were dangerously distracted by texting, talking on the phone or listening to music, but texters broke the most rules.



Keeping up with the Garcias

Information from the U.S. Census Bureau's population count, which occurs every 10 years, has told many stories about the country. Consider, for example, last names (surnames).

In 1990, the top 10 were Anglo-European; Smith, Johnson and Williams were most common. At No. 18, Garcia was the most popular Hispanic name, with Martinez at 19. By 2010, the eighth and ninth most popular surnames in the U.S. were Garcia and Rodriguez, with Martinez 11th and Hernandez 15th.

What's the story? Jeffrey Passel of the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center said the U.S. Hispanic population grew from about 14 million in 1980 to more than 50 million in 2010, mostly from immigration in the first 20 years. "By the 2000s we actually started to see ... growth coming from new births ... the culmination of a lot of immigration."

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Top 10 College Majors

The university degrees that many U.S. students pursue may not attract the hottest jobs in the current market but may offer more long-term career options, according to the 2013 *Princeton Review.*

The 10 most popular majors are business administration; psychology; nursing; biology; education; English language and literature; economics; speech and rhetoric; political science and government; and computer science.

Academically challenging, these majors help develop skills that can apply to different careers. The *Review* advises students to "cultivate existing passions and explore new interests" while deciding which degree (eventually) will earn them a living.

Old Souls

LAUREN MONSEN

Eskimo whaling, practiced the same way since time immemorial, offers clues about some of the world's largest animals

In the Arctic waters off Alaska's coast, bowhead whales — hunted nearly to extinction a century ago — are now thought to be the world's longest-lived mammals.

Scientists estimate that Alaska's bowheads number about 14,000, up from the 1,200 that survived hunting expeditions hosted by companies based in the New England region of the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Remarkably, some of today's whales lived during that earlier era.

Craig George, a biologist with the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management in Barrow, Alaska, said it wasn't until the 1990s that scientists suspected bowheads can live more than 200 years. Clues surfaced during a subsistence whale hunt by Alaskan Eskimos. (Alaska Natives are allowed 67 bowhead strikes annually, but rarely harvest that many.)

Natives work with scientists to protect the local bowhead population, and when they harvested a bowhead in 1992 that showed signs of advanced age, they called on George to examine it.

"Old whales have really tough blubber, and they're heavily scarred," George said. "They're marked with killer-whale bites, ice scars and puncture marks" that testify to the long, eventful lives they've led.

The harvested bowhead was determined to be 130 years old through an age-analysis technique developed by Jeffrey Bada, a marine chemist at the University of California, San Diego. Bada studies whales' eye lenses, which contain amino acids that increase at predictable rates over time.

When scientists sent eyeballs from additional harvested Alaska bowheads to Bada's laboratory, Bada found that several came from whales more than 100 years old and judged one whale to be 211 years old. "Those figures are conservative; the whales are probably older," Bada said.

Bada's findings are supported by additional evidence. Some harvested bowheads had antique harpoon tips in their bodies, indicating they survived skirmishes with 19th-century whalers.

Not everyone was surprised. An Eskimo whaling captain told George, "We've long known that bowheads live two human lifespans."

According to George, "Scientists tend to know a lot of very technical things — genetic sequences, structure of the retina, hormone levels — but in terms of practical and general knowledge of bowheads, the Alaska Native hunters are the experts."

Geared for Longevity

Bowheads have blubber measuring 50 centimeters thick that helps them survive for a long time if food is scarce. In addition,

A bowhead whale surfaces from a dive at the edge of an ice floe.

© PAUL NICKLEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE

bowheads have virtually no heart disease, liver disease or tumors, said wildlife veterinarian Cheryl Rosa.

Females go through menopause, but are still fertile at age 100, and males remain fertile at age 150.

But Eskimos worry climate change could undermine the recovery in Alaskan whales' numbers. As Arctic ice disappears, terrain becomes more accessible, so oil drilling — plus development — increases. The Bering Strait, a narrow waterway used by migrating bowheads, is attracting more shipping traffic, raising the risk of accidental strikes on whales.

Alaska Natives are working with the U.S. Coast Guard to prevent the ship strikes, and the International Maritime Organization monitors the situation, said Michael Tillman of the Marine Mammal Commission.

Rising temperatures are a concern, Tillman said, but that phenomenon is challenging scientists' assumptions: "We thought that bowheads were ice-dependent. Despite warming in the Arctic, the bowheads are doing well. They may be more adaptable than we thought." ▧

Whaling Culture

"THE BOWHEAD WHALE IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR WAY OF LIFE. I ALWAYS THINK THAT OUR WHALING CULTURE IS THE LAST GREAT NATIVE CULTURE IN THE U.S. THAT IS FULLY ALIVE. ... SO MANY OTHERS ARE DISAPPEARING."

— JOHNNY AIKEN OF THE ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION

© PAUL NICKLEN/AP IMAGES

A crowd in Barrow gathers around a bowhead whale, which will provide food to the community.

BARROW, ALASKA ●

- Alaska has about **160 whaling captains**, each with small crews that often include brothers and sisters.
- Whale meat is distributed throughout the Native community, and more than half of North Slope's **8,500 people depend on the annual bowhead harvest.**
- **The United States is one of four countries of the International Whaling Commission whose indigenous peoples engage in subsistence whaling**; the others are Russia, Denmark (on behalf of Greenland's indigenous population), and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Eskimos share their quota (an allowance to strike 67 whales per year) with Russian neighbors. The U.S. shares harvest reports and scientific data on whales.

Listening is one way scientists count whales.

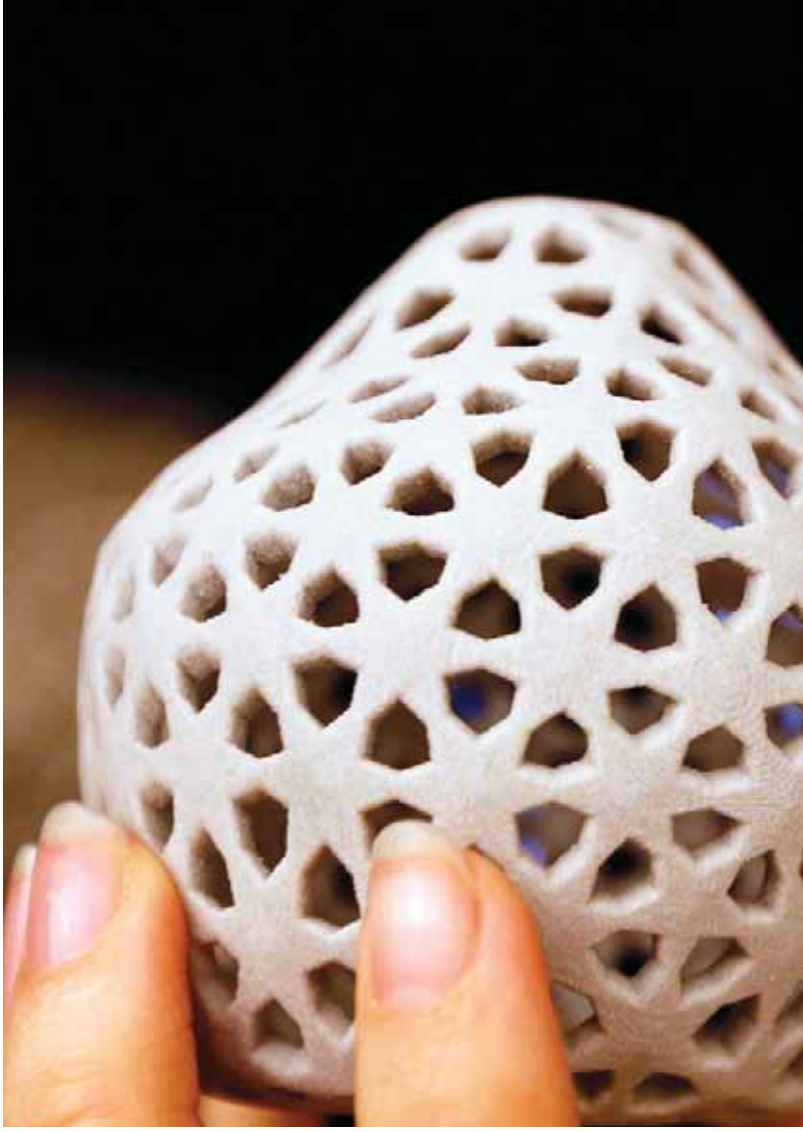
"BOWHEADS CAN POKE HOLES THROUGH ICE THAT'S THREE FEET [91 CENTIMETERS] THICK, AND THEY JUST PUSH IT UP ENOUGH TO BREATHE," SAID JOHNNY AIKEN OF THE ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION.

"YOU CAN'T ALWAYS SEE THE WHALES, BUT YOU CAN HEAR THEM." BOWHEAD WHALES ARE HIGHLY VOCAL, AND NO TWO VOICES ARE ALIKE.

Scan the QR code with your phone, or click here: http://goo.gl/pEUoA

Are 3-D Miracles Around the Corner?

ANDRZEJ ZWANIECKI



Terry Wohlers is an expert and president of Wohlers Associates Inc., a Colorado-based consulting firm that has advised industry on technology for more than two decades. Yet he admits to being personally frustrated when it comes to his firm's own special focus, additive manufacturing, or 3-D printing. It is a process of making solid objects from a three-dimensional digital design.

Wohlers experiments with an inexpensive personal 3-D printer he owns, last winter printing Christmas ornaments, for example. The machine has proven to be "anything but rock solid," he said. So when the media and enthusiasts rave about a 3-D industrial revolution, he prefers to call it an "evolution" that can eventually lead to radical changes in manufacturing, entrepreneurship, health care and other areas.

"We're not quite there yet," Wohlers said.

The Boeing Company is a 3-D printing pioneer. It has been using the technology developed in the late 1980s to produce parts. The technology is particularly fit for complex or customized parts made in limited quantities. This characteristic combined with falling costs of 3-D printers has gotten the attention of other manufacturers.

A Business Owner's Dream

With the arrival of smaller, cheaper printers, the interest in 3-D printing has exploded among business owners and artists, who can now make design changes to inexpensive products and run small, yet profitable, batches. Since 2008, sales of personal 3-D printers have increased 65-fold to more than 23,260 in 2011, according to a recent Wohlers Report.

Wohlers compares the expansion of 3-D to the advent of the personal computing era. "Initially only few had access to large machines," he said. "Now we have [smaller] systems that anybody can purchase."

Some businesses print small, ordinary goods, such as iPhone cases and doorknobs, or action figures. Others make more serious products such as surgical tools, prosthetics, medical implants and hearing aids that are tailored to patients' unique bone or organ structures.

Creative types, like Summer Powell, find other applications. A jewelry designer from San Francisco, Powell discovered 3-D printing, she said, due to her desire for massive diamond earrings. "There was nothing on the market like the picture in my head," Powell said. So she printed her own diamonds. 3-D allows her to create amazing shapes, she said, ones that would be "difficult or impossible to produce with other media."

A number of startups claim that they are developing breakthrough products that range from gourmet food to drug-delivery systems to human tissue. (See "Into the Future" on the next page.)

"3-D printers are going to change everything in our lifetime," said the Black Eyed Peas frontman, fashion designer and technology innovator Will.i.am at the 2013 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January.

But Wohlers said many projects are 10, 20 or more years away from marketable results. Nevertheless, he continues to experiment with his printer because he believes in the technology's potential. Eventually, he said, "3-D printing will help many people realize their dreams." ▧

Designer Penelope Kupfer displays a biscuit made from a 3-D printing process.

© AP IMAGES/KRISTY WIGGLESWORTH

"3-D printing will help many people realize their dreams."

How to 3-D Printing Explained

1. **A three-dimensional design of an object is created with graphic design software, which controls the entire manufacturing process.**
2. **The design is sent to a printer and materials such as plastics or rubber are selected.**
3. **The printer makes passes, dispensing materials in a layer-upon-layer process.**
4. **Once all layers are added, the object is fully formed.**

© AP IMAGES

Into the Future

1 **Food.** Jeffrey Lipton at Cornell University has developed a 3-D machine that prints edible meals: chocolate, cheese, hummus, scallops and celery. The company Modern Meadow LLC, is working on a 3-D bio-printing technology to produce meat.

Homaro Cantu, a chef at Moto Restaurant in Chicago, has used a 3-D printer to make sushi. In the future astronauts may be able to print their food in space.

2 **Body.** A number of researchers and startups, including Patrik D'haeseleer at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab and the company Organovo, claim they have developed 3-D printers that can print human cells and tissue. University of Iowa says it is researching 3-D processes for printing human organs.

3 **Medicine.** Biotech companies, such as TeselaGen Biotechnology and Parabon NanoLabs, plan to use 3-D printing in drug development. Aprecia Pharmaceuticals uses a drug-related technology originated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for its precision drug delivery system.

4 **Airplanes.** A General Electric executive told *USA Today* in February 2012 that the company's energy turbines and aircraft engines could be 3-D printed in 10 years.

FEATURE

Volunteers: Answering the Call

Community service in America is promulgated by presidents and practiced by students, firefighters, business leaders and everyday people. Peace Corps members, while they volunteer around the world, come to understand others as individuals.

© AP IMAGES; COURTESY PEACE CORPS

Peace Corps: A Bold Experiment

CHRISTOPHER CONNELL

Five decades after the famous exhortation by President John F. Kennedy to "ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country," the Peace Corps remains the embodiment of that ideal, a program that sends 8,000 mostly young American volunteers each year to live with and help people in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Kennedy created the Peace Corps by executive order 39 days after issuing that challenge in his inaugural address, and Congress passed the Peace Corps Act six months later.

Some 210,000 Americans have answered Kennedy's call since 1961, teaching children, working with farmers, improving water and sanitation in villages and working on the front lines in the fights against malaria and HIV/AIDS.

In a nation that compels neither military nor civilian service of its young people, the Peace Corps remains an enormous source of pride. Colleges and universities vie to see which produce the most volunteers. The University of Washington and the University of Florida shared that honor in 2012, each with 107. Historically, the University of California, Berkeley, stands first with 3,544 graduates who joined the Peace Corps.

Chris Matthews, the political commentator, said on his MSNBC talk show *Hardball* in September 2011, "At one time the Peace Corps was Kennedy's bold experiment. After 50 years we can safely say the experiment worked, leaving a global legacy of goodwill." Matthews, who worked on trade development in Swaziland from 1968 to 1970, called his fellow Peace Corps volunteers "America's best grass-roots ambassadors."

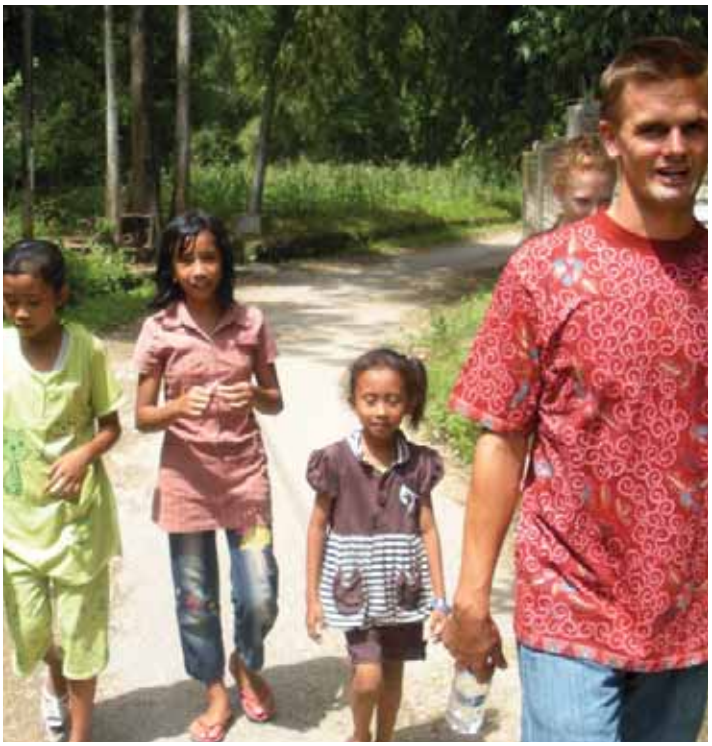
Other notable alumni include travel writer Paul Theroux; former U.S. senators Chris Dodd and Paul Tsongas; Alberto Ibargüen, president of the Knight Foundation and former publisher of the *Miami Herald*; Donna Shalala, president of the University of Miami and a former Cabinet secretary; and Lillian Carter, mother of former President Jimmy Carter, who signed up at age 68 to nurse leprosy patients in India.

While most volunteers are in their 20s and single — the average age is 28 — the Peace Corps says 7 percent are 50 or older. Women outnumber men by more than 3-to-2.

CONNECTING THE DOTS:
SEATTLE
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

First-Class Send-off

Tom Katus was among the first to go, interrupting civil engineering studies at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1961 to head to Tanganyika, now Tanzania. He



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: © AP IMAGES; COURTESY PEACE CORPS

Clockwise, from top: First batch of Peace Corps volunteers to leave for overseas duty waves goodbye on August 29, 1961; Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver greets students during his 1964 visit to Turkey; volunteer dances with students in Malawi; volunteer walks with children in Indonesia.

still has vivid memories of President Kennedy's send-off in the Rose Garden.

Katus, now 73, worked on water and flood control projects in Tanganyika. Once he returned home, he switched colleges and fields and for a time trained Peace Corps volunteers bound for Africa. Later, he worked with foundations on community development in Africa and with tribal colleges in the United States.

The Peace Corps changed the trajectory of his life and many others, the business consultant said, and the language and cultural skills the volunteers gained have served the United States well. Katus, who went on to serve a term in the South Dakota Senate, called his time in the Peace Corps a "very good investment."

Most volunteers serve in Africa (43 percent) and Latin America (21 percent). Those shares are followed by Eastern Europe/Central Asia (15 percent), Asia (10 percent), the Caribbean (4 percent), North Africa and the Middle East (4 percent) and Pacific Islands (3 percent).

The work has never been easy.

Tim Glaza, 28, spent two years as a forestry extension agent working with subsistence farmers in Hamabbonka Village in Zambia. He lived by himself in a small brick house with a grass roof but spent a lot of time with his host family, who lived next door in two houses. "I shared my meals with them," he said. His host father had two wives and 15 children. There was no electricity, and the water supply was a 15-minute walk away.

Glaza taught the farmers how to improve their crops with conservation techniques and by planting agro-forestry trees. He had one big disappointment.

"One demonstration plot I did was maize, beans, peanuts and sunflower," he said. "We got everything planted, everything germinated nicely. The crops looked great, and I woke up one morning and was told somebody's cattle had eaten all of the crops."

"It was kind of heartbreaking," Glaza said.

Undeterred, Glaza reached out to an organization that teaches conservation farming, and it came out to the village and trained 60 farmers.

"That was kind of like my magnum opus, if you will," said Glaza, now working on a master's degree in political science at Illinois State University. After working through problems in the village, Glaza stayed on in Zambia for a third year to impart what he had learned by helping train the next cohort of Peace Corps volunteers. ▧

Help from the Top

American presidents who have started volunteer organizations:

- Franklin Roosevelt: **Civilian Conservation Corps**
- John F. Kennedy: **The Peace Corps**
- Lyndon Johnson: **VISTA**
- George H.W. Bush: **The Points of Light Foundation**
- Bill Clinton: **AmeriCorps**

Upon leaving office, President Jimmy Carter became a regular volunteer with **Habitat for Humanity**.

Transforming Bangladesh

COURTESY KORVI RAKSHAND

Korvi Rakshand can pinpoint exactly when his life changed. It was in 2007, when he encountered a child in his native Bangladesh who asked him to be her parent.

Rakshand, who grew up in a privileged sector of Bangladesh, was finishing his undergraduate degree and preparing to take over his family's successful business. He had been involved in some philanthropic activities during his college years, but seldom saw the hardships suffered by many Bangladeshis until he spent a day working among a group of street children, and came face to face with a little girl who told him she had been orphaned as a toddler.

Rakshand established the JAAGO Foundation, which provides poor children with education free of charge. (The word "jaago" means "wake up" in Bengali, Hindu and Urdu.) "For us, JAAGO is not just an organization; it's a wake-up call for the nation … by the young people of Bangladesh."

The foundation, at its start, consisted of 17 students, one classroom and a tattered rug. JAAGO now has six schools in the districts of Dhaka, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Gaibandha. Rakshand said the foundation hopes to launch three more schools in Madaripur, Sylhet and Bandarban within the year.

JAAGO's growth can be traced to Rakshand's 2010 visit to the Washington headquarters of AmeriCorps, a U.S. government program that places young volunteers in intensive community service all across the United States. (Rakshand's visit to the U.S. was made under the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.)

"The idea of a volunteer-supported organization model came up during one of the discussions we had," Rakshand said. Inspired, he created Volunteer for Bangladesh as the volunteer wing of JAAGO, and today Volunteer for Bangladesh is the largest volunteer platform in Bangladesh, with more than 10,000 volunteers.

Rakshand said he knows that educating children from low-income families strengthens Bangladeshi society and protects the country's future. But, he said, on a more personal level, "I couldn't be happier. I realized my calling when I least expected to." ▧

– Lauren Monsen

On The Ground

Americans volunteer around the world to improve the global community.

PHOTOS: COURTESY FIONA MARTIN

Fiona Martin (right).

Fiona Martin

During the first of my two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay, I met Jorge Chamorro, who was eager to practice his self-taught English skills.

We planted zucchini and cucumber in my garden. A few months later, I had several vines climbing around with large, heavy green fruit. Pleased, I picked what I thought was a ripe cucumber. It tasted awful. I picked another, only this time sautéing it in butter and salt before tasting it. Still awful. Frustrated, I asked Jorge why my cucumbers and zucchini tasted nasty.

"Those are luffa plants. ... You aren't supposed to eat them, you're supposed to wash yourself with them!" he said.

I was in Paraguay to teach sustainable agricultural techniques, but clearly I had a lot to learn as well. I soon got better at plant identification and went on to create a diverse garden to demonstrate the variety of fruits and vegetables community members could grow on their own instead of buying them.

Jorge saved my taste buds, and also helped the work I started to last. If my project had fallen apart after my service was up, what would have been the point? Here's what we did on a tree-planting project with local schools: Jorge, who studies crop sciences at a university in a nearby pueblo, came along to the first class and watched me talk with the students and teachers about reforestation and how to properly plant seedlings. A few days later, with the next batch of classes, he taught with me. Finally, Jorge conducted the workshop on his own, while I stood by. He engaged the students with humor and patience. I know that even though I am no longer in Paraguay, Jorge is there to continue the work. His joy and commitment will make the project a lasting success.

ILLUSTRATIONS: © HUHU/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

27%

of Americans volunteer.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Jorge Chamorro (left) and Fiona Martin.

Jorge Chamorro

Fiona Martin and I worked together during her time in Paraguay to improve local agricultural production. We built together a fuel-efficient cooking stove, and I also helped her plan a garden and build the fences around it.

She helped me speak English and prepare for my teaching job at a local school. I now teach how important gardening is, and not just that. Thanks to help from Fiona, I tell kids about organic gardening, the importance of deforestation and reforestation, and global warming. Other teachers are engaged too. This isn't only talk: At the end of Fiona's stay, students and teachers planted almost 100 trees. It was our "goodbye" to Fiona.

Americans give roughly

8 billion

hours of volunteer service per year.

SOURCE: CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INDEPENDENT SECTOR

Jorge Chamorro (left).

STAMPS: © SHED ARTWORKS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Alina Kadhila (left) and Julie Hyman.

PHOTOS: COURTESY JULIE HYMAN

Julie Hyman

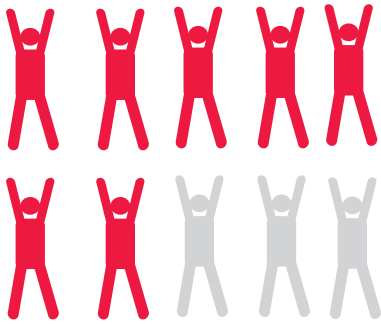
When I arrived in Ekulo Village in the rural northern part of Namibia, nervous giddiness came over me because everything was unfamiliar.

I would live in a compound of buildings and a farm. *Mahangu* (millet) fields stretched for miles, and wild spinach grew in the front yard. Chickens pecked at the sand underneath my feet. Goats and cows roamed outside of the tree-trunk fence. I could hear pigs oinking while in bed under my mosquito net. Water taps didn't always work. There was no electricity. My host family spoke a language I couldn't understand. They cooked food I had never seen. They washed clothes by hand. I struggled to comprehend nearly everything that was happening. How would I ever be able to befriend people who seemed so different?

I found out later that soon after my arrival, my *tate* (tah-tay), or father in the local language, Oshindonga, called a village meeting. He told everyone that when they saw an *oshilumbu* (white person), to greet me just like everyone else because I was learning to speak Oshindonga. He told them that he had given me the name Nyanyukweni, which means "be happy," because my attitude was positive, that I was like his daughter, and that he hoped everyone would treat me that way.

At night, when the stars shone above us and donkeys brayed, I sat with my host siblings around a fire. As Lynette cooked us porridge for dinner, I helped Fillimon, Kabila and Sakeus with homework. They taught me about food like *oshikwila*, traditional Namibian bread, and ways to prepare it. They taught me about hot-pink-and-black-striped, traditional Owambo tribal fabric and how to ululate to celebrate a wedding. They helped me speak Oshindonga or at least laughed good-naturedly with me as I struggled to learn. For two years, our "lessons" became a nightly ritual. Four African teenagers, with whom I earlier felt I had nothing in common, became close friends.

Soon after my arrival, I began work at Omuthiya Community Library. Just like the kids I babysat for in the United States, the Namibian kids who came to the library loved watching movies, playing Scrabble and being read to. I'm proud of improvements I made to the library's services and the effort I put in organizing Camp GLOW, a youth development program.



70%

of U.S. firefighters are volunteers.

SOURCE: U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION

Alina Kadhila

Until I met Julie Hyman, I had never touched a computer. I wanted to learn to use a computer, but had no one to teach me. Julie helped me, and I am now very comfortable with computers. (At first, you can't believe how she watched me struggle even with using a mouse!)

Julie, like the other volunteers, was assigned to a region where I was attending Ekulo Senior Secondary School. I would often walk for about 20 kilometers (12 miles) to the library so I could spend time with her.

Julie helped to open Omuthiya Community Library, reaching even the rural areas that have been left out of development. I am the eldest in a family of four. It has always been hard for my unemployed and illiterate parents, who never had the chance to attend school, to help me advance in my education. It was hard for me to apply for admission to tertiary institutions. Julie helped me apply to the University of Namibia, where I am now enrolled.

Julie exposed me to people of different origins through Camp GLOW. Before then, I lived with fear of white people (including Americans), due to the colonial history of our country. My views have changed. I look at what these volunteers have done for my country and smile for it.

33%

of volunteers are most likely to donate their time through a religious organization.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Julie Hyman (left) and Alina Kadhila.

PHOTOS: COURTESY PEACE CORPS

A Peace Corps volunteer in Tiflet, Morocco, works with a sewing group.

Leah Squires

A couple years ago, I stepped off the plane at Mohammed V Airport in Casablanca, Morocco. It might have been California: mild temperatures, bright sunshine and palm trees. Little else registered, particularly not the language I was hearing. I hadn't studied Arabic, and could only rely on my secondary school French.

Initial encounters with Moroccans followed a predictable script, as translated from Darija (Moroccan Arabic): ***Are you French?*** No, I'm American. ***What's your name?*** Leila. ***Is that your name in America?*** No, but it's close. In America, it's Leah. ***And you speak Arabic?*** A little. ***Do you pray?*** No. ***Are you Muslim?*** No. ***Are you married?*** No. ***I have a son who would like to marry you.*** Thank you, but no. I'm here to work, not get married.

At first, I could barely communicate in Darija beyond these basic questions. Now, I can plan a program with the Dar Chabab (youth center) director, tell the story of how my parents met, and reassure my young host brother that humpback whales do not eat people. (We watched IMAX's *Alaska: Spirit of the Wild* on my computer.)

As a youth development volunteer, I work at the Dar Chabab teaching English. While lessons are primarily conducted in English, I sometimes rely on Darija for clarification. Sometimes these attempts fail, like the day I intended to ask students to work with their neighbors (jiran) but instead asked them to work with their frog (jrana).

Today, I'm hitting my stride, due in large part to collaborative projects with Moroccans. I recently taught a creative writing class as part of a program hosted by the Moroccan Association of Teachers of English. Earlier, I measured success by the number of jars of marmalade I made for my neighbor, but that day, I reached 55 teachers at my presentation during the association's workshop.

Later, I introduced the International Youth Foundation's "Passport to Success" program at the Dar Chabab. My friends Hassan and Jamal now teach the curriculum of life skills lessons. After our first meeting, three girls were concerned they would miss the Sunday sessions — it's the time they usually help their mothers to clean the house. I walked them home and held an impromptu meeting with their parents over tea and bread. After I had secured parental consent, the girls turned to me: ***Do you ever discipline students? Is it scary to live alone?*** I can give more nuanced answers to questions now that I speak Darija with greater confidence. As I find my Arabic voice I also find understanding and acceptance.

Estimated value of volunteer time:

$22.14

per hour.

SOURCE: CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INDEPENDENT SECTOR

Hassan Talagoza

Leah is cool and creative. No one else could learn to speak a local language in a very short time like her.

In "Passport to Success", my friend Jamal and I teach every Saturday and Sunday. I have learned the value of co-working.

In the beginning, some students did not understand the idea of coming on time. They were curious, but they thought they could come and go whenever they liked. Chaos and noise were everywhere. But Leah gave us instructions about how to work with the group.

Once Jamal wrote on the whiteboard with a permanent marker. After class, Leah, Jamal and I erased the board for hours!

The program can help students to get motivated to fight for their best. It's been 16 lessons up to now, and the participants are fully interested to carry on the experience.

A Peace Corps volunteer in Tiflet, Morocco, plays chess with a friend.

After **Hurricane Katrina** hit the New Orleans area, Tulane University made completion of **classes linking community volunteer work** to subject areas mandatory. Applications to Tulane have **more than doubled** since the graduation requirement was advertised.

SOURCE: TULANE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Lyrical America

DOUGLAS WOLK

American pop singers love to sing about the places they've been and the places they're going — the locations they mention can say a lot.

Los Angeles

Miley Cyrus's "Party in the USA" drops a few specific references to her journey from Nashville, Tennessee, to Los Angeles. In the first verse, Cyrus lands at LAX, the biggest airport in Los Angeles. She sees "the Hollywood sign," huge letters that mark the center of the American film and entertainment business. In the lyrics, she mentions Jay-Z and Britney Spears, implying an ambition to become world-famous.

San Francisco

Otis Redding sings in "The Dock of the Bay" about leaving his "home in Georgia/Headed for the Frisco Bay." In the 1960s, for a black American like Redding, that would have meant going to a place that represented social and economic opportunities, but also enormous uncertainty.

Colorado

The Rocky Mountains run 4,800 kilometers across North America, but their highest peak is Mount Elbert, in Colorado. John Denver, who lived 40 miles away in Aspen, Colorado, took his last name from the state's largest city, and his 1972 hit "Rocky Mountain High" describes watching meteor showers in the mountains.

Kansas

Glen Campbell's 1968 classic "Wichita Lineman" conjures up the vast, open stretches of land in the Midwestern United States and the telephone poles along their roads. However, Wichita is actually a busy, bustling city — the largest in Kansas. The song was actually inspired by songwriter Jimmy Webb seeing a telephone line repairman in wide-open Washita County, Oklahoma. Webb and Campbell changed Washita to Wichita because Wichita sounded better.

Watch! To view videos of songs in this article, scan the QR codes with your phone.

"Party in the USA"	"Empire State of Mind"	"All Summer Long"	"Ho Hey"
goo.gl/XO1WJ	goo.gl/eVzJ1	goo.gl/n6peU	goo.gl/gqVFU

Highway 61

Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited" is named after the interstate road (U.S. Route 61) that runs northward from New Orleans, Louisiana, roughly along the route of the Mississippi River. To mention it is to call up the history of the blues: It connects New Orleans with Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Memphis, Tennessee, as well as Clarksdale, Mississippi, and St. Louis, Missouri — not to mention, until 1991, Duluth, Minnesota, where Dylan was born.

Michigan

In 2008's "All Summer Long," where Michigan native Kid Rock sang "It was summertime in northern Michigan/Splashing through the sandbar/Talking by the campfire," he was setting his song in a place he knew well: Torch Lake, whose famous sandbar attracts vacationers from America's Midwest who might be seen "catching walleye from the dock."

If Journey's Steve Perry knew more about Michigan, he wouldn't have mentioned "*South Detroit*" in "Don't Stop Believin'." South from downtown Detroit, you'll find the Detroit River and then Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

New York

Jay-Z's duet with Alicia Keys, "Empire State of Mind," is very specific about locations. "560 State Street" is the address (in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Boerum Hill) where Jay-Z lived in the late 1990s. To be "out that Bed-Stuy ... down in TriBeCa," as Jay boasts, is to have moved up economically from Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood to the booming Manhattan zone whose name is short for "Triangle Below Canal," i.e. Canal Street.

Canal Street also turns up in The Lumineers' hit "Ho Hey." "If you took a bus to Chinatown," Wesley Schultz sings, "I'd be standing on Canal and Bowery." Cheap bus lines run between the Chinese neighborhoods of many American cities, and the intersection of Canal and Bowery is right in the middle of New York's Chinatown.

From left to right: Miley Cyrus, Otis Redding, John Denver, Glen Campbell, Bob Dylan, Kid Rock, Jay-Z, Wesley Schultz.

PHOTOS: © AP IMAGES; MAP OF U.S.: © SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

From the Mouths of Diplomats

6 ♠

"If women in the developing world do not have equal rights, they will not have equal health. … It is as simple as that; the empowerment of women is not a politically correct cliché, but a living, essential goal for everyone."

9 ♥

9 ♥

"We are not a perfect nation, but our Constitution allows us the right of civil disobedience as we evolve into a better nation."

6 ♠

7 ✦

"This organization [the U.N.] is created to prevent you from going to hell. It isn't created to take you to heaven."

7 ✦

10 ♠

"Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts."

10 ♥

2 ♣

"All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions."

2 ♣

8 ♠

"The battle of peace has to be fought on two fronts. The first is the security front, where victory spells freedom from fear. The second is the economic and social front, where victory means freedom from want."

8 ♥

4 ♣

"There is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women."

4 ♣

3 ♥

"There's not a bureaucracy in the world that couldn't be made leaner."

3 ♠

5 ✦

"A government is not legitimate merely because it exists."

5 ✦

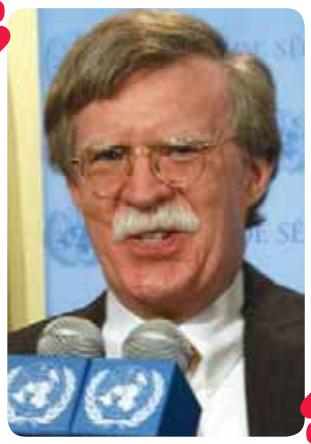
ILLUSTRATIONS: SONIA.EPS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Since 1945, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations has sent 27 men and women to the U.N. General Assembly to represent U.S. interests on issues such as human rights, disarmament and aid. Match the quotes with the ambassadors who said them.

Adlai E. Stevenson II

January 1961–July 1965

John R. Bolton



August 2005–December 2006

Madeleine K. Albright

February 1993–January 1997

Jeane J. Kirkpatrick

January 1981–April 1985

Richard C. Holbrooke

August 1999–January 2001

Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. (R)

January 1953–September 1960

Edward R. Stettinius Jr. (L)

December 1945–June 1946

Edward J. Perkins

May 1992–January 1993

Daniel P. Moynihan

July 1975–February 1976

PHOTOS: © AP IMAGES

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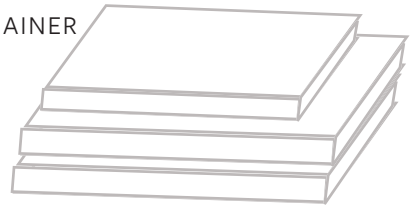
Scribes of the South

MARK TRAINER



The South covers 2.3 million square kilometers of the United States and has produced a rich body of literature that is closely tied to its culture and its history.

Before the Civil War, some writers such as William Gilmore Simms described the South — distinct from the rest of the nation for its wide use of slaves during the 19th century and the culture of the plantation associated with that slavery — in idealized terms. At the same time, escaped slaves, such as the social reformers Frederick Douglass and William Wells Brown, wrote eloquently of the horrors of slavery, and their stories contributed to the growing movement to end slavery.

Following the Civil War and the South's defeat, much popular Southern fiction focused on nostalgia for the pre-war days (Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind* being the most enduring).

In the first half of the 20th century, books such as William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* drew a vivid, unsettling picture of a region struggling with the history of slavery, the Civil War, and a sense that the traditions of the rural South were being trampled by modernity.

In some ways, the writing coming out of the South today reflects the region's recent struggles, changing economy and increasing diversity.

In some ways, the writing coming out of the South today reflects the region's recent struggles, changing economy and increasing diversity.

Jesmyn Ward won the 2011 National Book Award for *Salvage the Bones*, a novel narrated by a 15-year-old girl that follows an impoverished family on the Mississippi Gulf Coast during Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history.

Lee Smith, whose writing is often set in the Appalachian Mountains of southwestern Virginia, where she grew up, described to a book festival audience the changes in her current town of Carrboro, North Carolina, a former mill town. "The mill closed, the university expanded, professors bought the old mill houses, and Carrboro became 'the Paris of the Piedmont' with its boutiques and trendy cafes." Smith described the Thai, Japanese, African-American, Hispanic and Korean people she sees at the sushi restaurant she owns there with her husband. "All these people are Southerners, and who's to say the next great Southern novel won't be written by a Burmese? I'm waiting for the great Southern Hispanic novel. And there will be one."

Pulitzer Prize winner Natasha Trethewey, who was named U.S. poet laureate in 2012, was born to an African-American mother and a white father in Gulfport, Mississippi, a year before the Supreme Court struck down laws against interracial marriage. The *New York Times* wrote that Trethewey uses her poetry "to explore memory and the racial legacy of America."

"I think that Southern writers, regardless of race or gender or ethnicity, have a complicated love for the place they write about," said Michael Knight, director of the creative writing program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a native of Alabama whose own stories have close ties to the South.

Knight recalled a billboard he used to see when driving through Montgomery, Alabama, that portrayed Martin Luther King Jr. beside Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. "The tagline was something like 'Montgomery — Birthplace of the Civil War and Civil Rights.' I remember being shocked the first time I saw it — downright ashamed. But the more I passed it, the more it began to make a sort of sense. Without the terrible passion of the one, you wouldn't have the righteous and beautiful passion of the other, and both are products of the same region. And most Southern writing exists in those shadows whether the subjects are specifically addressed or not. It's all mixed up, and you have to love it or you leave." ▧

CONNECTING THE DOTS:

- GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI
- CARRBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
- KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
- MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
- APPALACHIAN (MOUNTAINS), NORTH CAROLINA
- FORT GORDON, GEORGIA

COURTESY ROSE MCLARNEY; PHOTO: © NAOMI JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Rose McLarney grew up in rural western North Carolina. Her debut collection, The Always Broken Plates of Mountains is set against the Appalachian landscape in which she still lives.

Salvage

After they clear-cut his family land
to put in the interstate,

the timber was left to lie and rot.
So he restores the tools his great-grandfather

used, harvesting a few trees
that were ancient even then.

He clamps the saws—rip saws,
coping saws—to steady them,

and sharpens. He mills the wood,
cuts it to length, and assembles it.

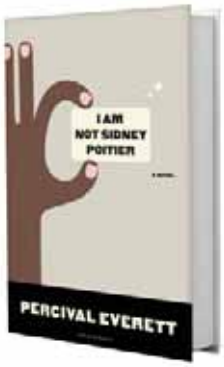
He twists pegs out of a scrap, pounds
them into screw holes, knocks the excess off,

and sands it all smooth.
Then layers on a dozen coats of finish.

When the table is dry,
he sits pots on it, straight from the stove.

No hint of the heat shows
in his thick polish,

and he says nothing against change,
or about missing that deep, familiar shade.



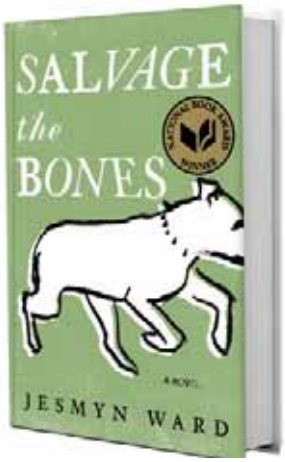
COURTESY PERCIVAL EVERETT

Percival Everett was born in Fort Gordon, Georgia, and grew up in South Carolina. In addition to his writing, he has worked as a jazz musician, a high school teacher, and a sheep-ranch hand. In I Am Not Sidney Poitier, the title character's eccentric mother gives the narrator the distinctive name of Not Sidney to distinguish him from the famous actor.

Though my mother, her name was Portia Poitier, was absolutely, unquestionably, certifiably crazy, she was not without resources.

Perhaps she simply was lucky, I will never know, and therefore neither will you. When I was two, in 1970, she invested every dime she had in a little-known company called the Turner Communications Group that would later become Turner Broadcasting System.

Every dime she had came to about thirty thousand dollars, most of a settlement from an elevator accident at her job with the phone company — a lot of money at that time, and for someone in our neighborhood it was a fortune. It turned out to be enough to make her filthy, obscenely, uncomfortably rich. Not as filthy rich as she would have been had she lived a little longer. Instead I became filthy and insanely rich. In fact, so much stock did she have that Ted Turner actually paid her a visit shortly before her death. I was seven and remember the manic white man exploding into our house like a pale, mustachioed, talking tornado.



COURTESY JESMYN WARD; PHOTO: © TONY COOK

Jesmyn Ward grew up in DeLisle, Mississippi. Salvage the Bones tells the story of a New Orleans family in poverty-stricken Mississippi as Hurricane Katrina strikes. Her novel won the National Book Award for fiction in 2011.

"The house," Randall says, and his voice is steady, calm, but I can hardly contain the panic I feel when the house tilts, slowly as an unmoored boat.

"It's the water," Skeetah says. "It's the water."

"[Expletive]!" Daddy yells, and then we are all bracing in the dark as the house tilts again.

"Water," I say.

"It never came back here." Daddy breathes. "The damn creek."

"Daddy," I say, and I'm surprised at how clear my voice is, how solid, how sure, like a hand that can be held in the dark. "Water's in the attic."

The water is faster this time; it wraps liquid fingers around my toes, my ankles, begins creeping up my calves. This is a fast seduction. The wind howls.

"There was a family . . . ," Randall says.

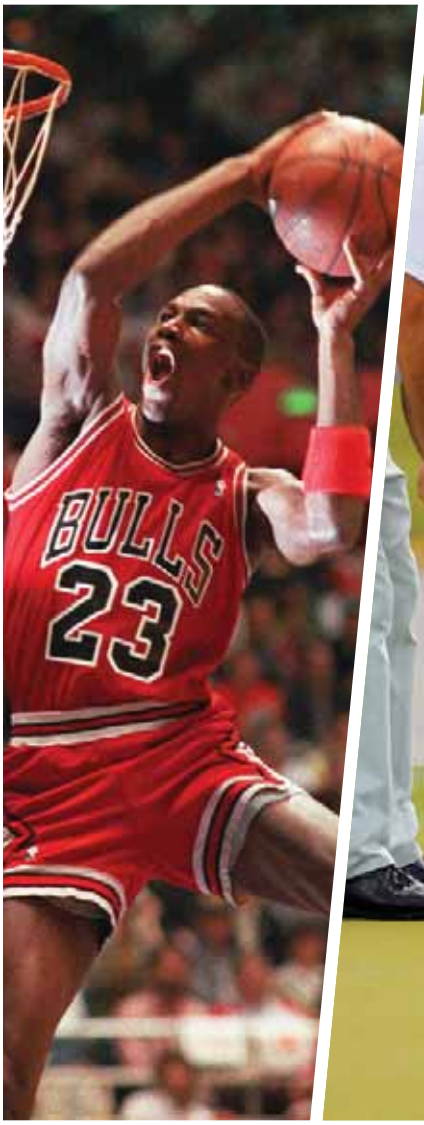
"We know," Daddy says.

Fourteen of them drowned in Camille. In their attic. The house lifts up off of its bricks again, and rocks.

Sports Talk

FRED BOWEN

Sports are a good way to learn American English.



Michael Jordan slam-dunks.

Phil Mickelson's excellent putts are par for the course.

"Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball." Jacques Barzun wrote that in 1954, almost 60 years ago. If the French writer and philosopher were around today, he might include some other sports.

America is sports crazy. More than half of America's 300 million people tune into at least part of the Super Bowl, the year's biggest professional football game. Almost 75 million fans attended Major League Baseball games in 2012. And restaurants are popping up on many American street corners where fans in team jerseys watch their favorite soccer, hockey or basketball teams on big-screen televisions.

So I guess if you want to know America, you want to know lots of sports. Or at least learn to speak the language. Because sports talk has seeped into the American language.

Paul Dickson, author of *The Dickson Baseball Dictionary* and several other books on sports and language, says sports talk is popular for several reasons. First, sports phrases allow people from different walks of life to talk to each other. After all, lots of people play and watch sports. It is something almost everyone shares. Finally, sports talk is very colorful.

Don't believe me? Try to pick out all the sports terms in this common work scenario.

Glossary of Sports Terms

Down for the count | When a boxer is knocked down and stays down. If you can't go on — maybe you are ill and cannot even get out of bed to go to work — you are *down for the count*.

Pinch-hit | In baseball, when a player takes the turn at bat of a teammate. If you can't give a speech at a conference, you might ask a friend to *pinch-hit* for you.

Blindsided | When a hard tackle in the back surprises the quarterback in football. You may be *blindsided* by a big repair bill or an assignment at school or work.

Drop the baton | In track and field, when a runner fails to pass the baton to the next runner in a relay. You *drop the baton* if you can't meet an important deadline or commitment.

Step up to the plate | When the batter in baseball enters the batter's box for his turn at bat. Whenever you take on a task or make a hard decision, you *step up to the plate*.

Knock it out of the park | A home run in baseball. When you do a great job at something, you *knock it out of the park*.

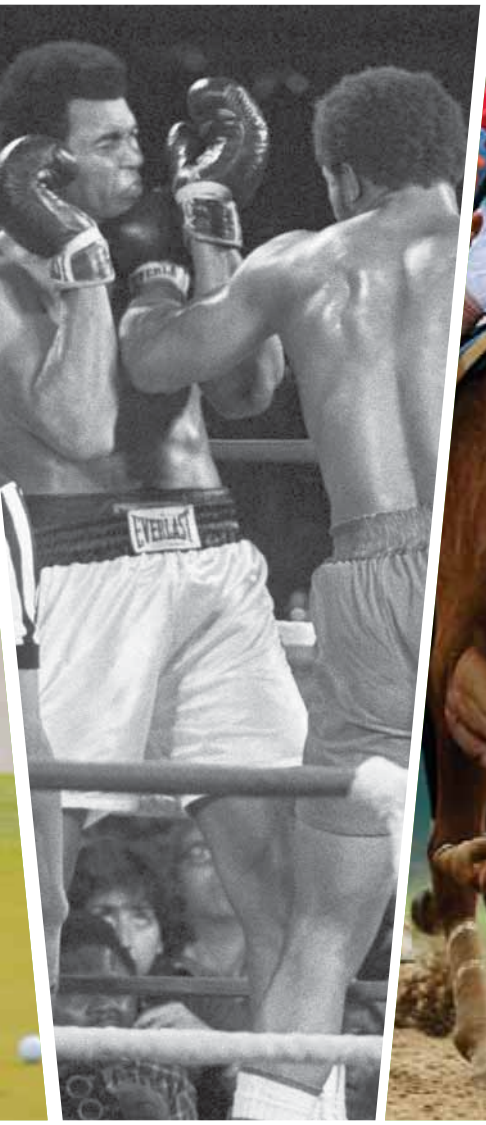
Right off the bat | This means immediately. The phrase refers to the speed at which a batted ball in baseball comes off the bat.

Game plan | In sports, coaches map out the best way to defeat their opponent before the game. A *game plan* might help you finish school or complete a complicated task. You need a financial game plan if you want to save enough money to travel or buy a car.

Move the goal posts | In football and soccer, players try to kick the ball between the goalposts. If someone were to *move the goalposts*, it would be more difficult, whether it applies to kicking a ball or to completing an assignment when, for instance, a teacher or boss changes her expectations.

Touch base | A runner in baseball or softball has to touch a base before he can move to the next base. You *touch base* with someone if you speak with him briefly before making a decision or doing something.

Heavyweights | The biggest fighters in boxing. A *heavyweight* is anyone who is important in her field.



Heavyweights Muhammad Ali and George Foreman roll with the punches.

Kentucky Derby horses race down to the wire.
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

© AP IMAGES

Let's say they need a big report at the office. But the usual report writer is down for the count with the flu. Your boss wants you to pinch-hit. You feel blindsided by the assignment, but you don't want to drop the baton. You better step up to the plate and knock it out of the park.

Right off the bat, you should come up with a game plan. Be sure to touch base with the key players, the heavyweights at work on the subject.

Once you get going and gain confidence, the report will be a slam-dunk. Of course, the boss may move the goal posts on you by wanting something different. But don't throw in the towel, just roll with the punches and keep working.

It will probably come right down to the wire, but that's par for the course in your office. And remember, if you hit a home run on this report, you'll be batting a thousand with your boss.

Now do you understand what I'm talking about?

The language of sports is so common it shows up in the most unlikely places. John Roberts used a baseball metaphor when he was at his confirmation hearing for chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and told Congress that he saw the justice's job to "call balls and strikes and not to pitch or bat."

Later, Roberts explained a Supreme Court decision to loosen campaign finance regulations with more baseball talk. "Where the First Amendment is implicated," Roberts wrote, "the tie goes to the speaker, not the censor."

Of course, be careful and don't overdo this sports talk stuff at work or any place else or you may strike out. And everyone knows what that means. ▧

ICONS: © SHUTTERSTOCK/SHED ARTWORK

Slam-dunk | In basketball, when a player throws the ball through the hoop from directly above the basket. Something that should be done easily is called a *slam-dunk*.

Roll with the punches | A boxer avoids getting hit directly by making small movements away from the blow. If you don't let things bother you that means you *roll with the punches*.

Throw in the towel | A boxer's handlers in the corner signal they want to stop the fight when they throw a towel into the ring. Any time you quit you *throw in the towel*.

Batting a thousand | In baseball, a batter is batting a thousand if he hits safely every time at bat. When you perform a series of tasks perfectly you are *batting a thousand*.

Par for the course | The expected score on a golf hole is called the par. So anything that is the usual or expected result is *par for the course*.

Home run | When a batter in baseball hits a pitch over the fence. When you do a great job at something, you hit a *home run*. See "knock it out of the park" above.

Down to the wire | Horses race to a finish line that is a wire hung above the racetrack. A close election that is decided by the final votes is said to go *down to the wire*. Your success isn't always certain; sometimes, an assignment's completion comes down to the wire.

Strike out | When a batter makes an out without hitting the ball. Any time you fail, you *strike out*.

Extra Credit

© AP IMAGES

What did Chief Justice John Roberts mean when he said his job was to "call balls and strikes and not to pitch or bat"?

Why does he say a tie goes to the "speaker, not the censor"?

(Hint: First Amendment says this: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.)

Word for Word

MARK TRAINER

© THINKSTOCK

Everyone relies on dictionaries to learn about words. We asked an expert what the words people look up say about them.

In 1996, Merriam-Webster, publisher of the most widely read dictionary in the United States, put its dictionary online. For the first time, the publisher had a way to tell what users were looking up and when they were doing it.

Peter Sokolowski, an editor-at-large for Merriam-Webster, tracks the words people look up.

Some words, regardless of when, just get looked up a lot. The top two are "affect" and "effect," which are so close people look them up to remind themselves that "affect" is most often used as a verb ("How will that affect me?") and "effect" is usually used as a noun ("What effect will that have on me?").

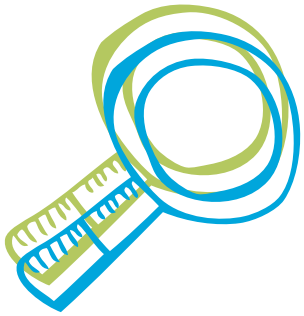
But Sokolowski noticed that often there is a relationship between the words people look up and what is going on in the world. Following the death of Princess Diana, "suddenly 'affect' and 'effect' weren't at the top of the list," Sokolowski said. "What we noticed was an incredible amount of traffic around three words: "paparazzi" (photographers who follow famous people to take their pictures and then sell them to the media), "cortege" (a line of people or cars moving slowly at a funeral) and "princess" (perhaps because of confusion about the divorced Diana's royal title). People were hearing these words in news coverage and going online to find out what they meant.

Since then, Sokolowski has tracked what's on Americans' minds by the words they're looking up. In mid-March, there was a spike in the word "vernal" (of, relating to, or occurring in the spring) consistently used to describe the equinox on the 20th. Sometimes people are looking up familiar words to clarify their sense of the definition. In recent years, as states and judicial courts in the U.S. have debated laws for or against same-sex marriage, the word "marriage" has had an increased number of look-ups. And every February 14, Valentine's Day, the most looked-up word is one most of us imagine we already know: "love."

Sometimes a little deductive reasoning is needed to figure why look-ups of a word spike at a specific time of day. Why would an inordinate number of Americans in the evening hours be looking up the definition of an ethereal substance from Chinese philosophy? Furthermore, why would most of those searches originate from mobile phones? Sokolowski said that in the post-work hours, after Americans have stepped away from their desktop computers, many enjoy playing Scrabble. Away from their computers, they're likely looking up "Xi" on their mobile phones in hopes of scoring an easy 11 points in the popular crossword game. ▧

A Vocabulary Event

"The largest single 'vocabulary event' that I've witnessed since I've been watching these things," said Sokolowski, "is the death of Michael Jackson, and six words tell this story over the course of three or four days. 'Stricken' [powerfully affected by disease, trouble, sorrow] was Saturday morning. 'Resuscitate' [to bring someone who is unconscious or close to death back to a conscious state again] was in the evening. 'RIP' [short for "rest in peace," often written on a gravestone] was Sunday. 'Condolences' [feelings or expressions of sympathy and sadness] by Sunday night. 'Icon' [a widely known symbol] was the word used in all the obituaries, and 'emaciated' [very thin because of hunger or disease] came out in the news accounts of the reported condition of his body."



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all about english

ADDITIVE | something (such as a chemical) that is added in small amounts to a substance to improve it in some way, p. 6

ANGLO | a white person who lives in the U.S. and is not Hispanic — often used before another noun, p. 3

BATCH | an amount of something that is made at one time..., p. 6

BLUBBER | the fat on whales and some other animals that live in the water, p. 4

BOOMING | growing or expanding very quickly..., p. 19

CENSUS | the official process of counting the number of people in a country, city or town and collecting information about them — often used before another noun, p. 3

COMPOUND | something that is formed by combining two or more parts..., p. 14

DISOBEDIENCE | refusal or failure to obey rules, laws, etc. | a lack of obedience, p. 20

IMPROMPTU | not prepared ahead of time | made or done without preparation, p. 16

INTERSTATE | a major highway that connects two or more states | an interstate highway, p. 19

LEGACY | something (such as property or money) that is received from someone who has died..., p. 9 and 22

LEGITIMATE | ...real, accepted or official..., p. 20

LONGEVITY | long life | the fact of living for many years ..., p. 4

MAGNUM OPUS | a great work | the greatest achievement of an artist or writer, p. 11

NONPARTISAN | not supporting one political party or group over another | not partisan, p. 3

ORIGINATE | to begin to exist | to be produced or created..., p. 7 and 26

PEDESTRIAN | a person who is walking in a city, along a road, etc., p. 3

PLANTATION | a large area of land especially in a hot part of the world where crops (such as cotton) are grown..., p. 22

REGARDLESS | in spite of difficulty, trouble, etc. | without being stopped by difficulty, trouble, etc...., p. 7 and 26

ROAM | to go to different places without having a particular purpose or plan, p. 14

SANDBAR | a raised area of sand with a top that is near or just above the surface of the water in an ocean, lake, or river, p. 19

SAUTÉ | to fry (food) in a small amount of fat, p. 12

SPECIFIC | special or particular | clearly and exactly presented or stated | precise or exact..., p. 18, 19, 22, and 26

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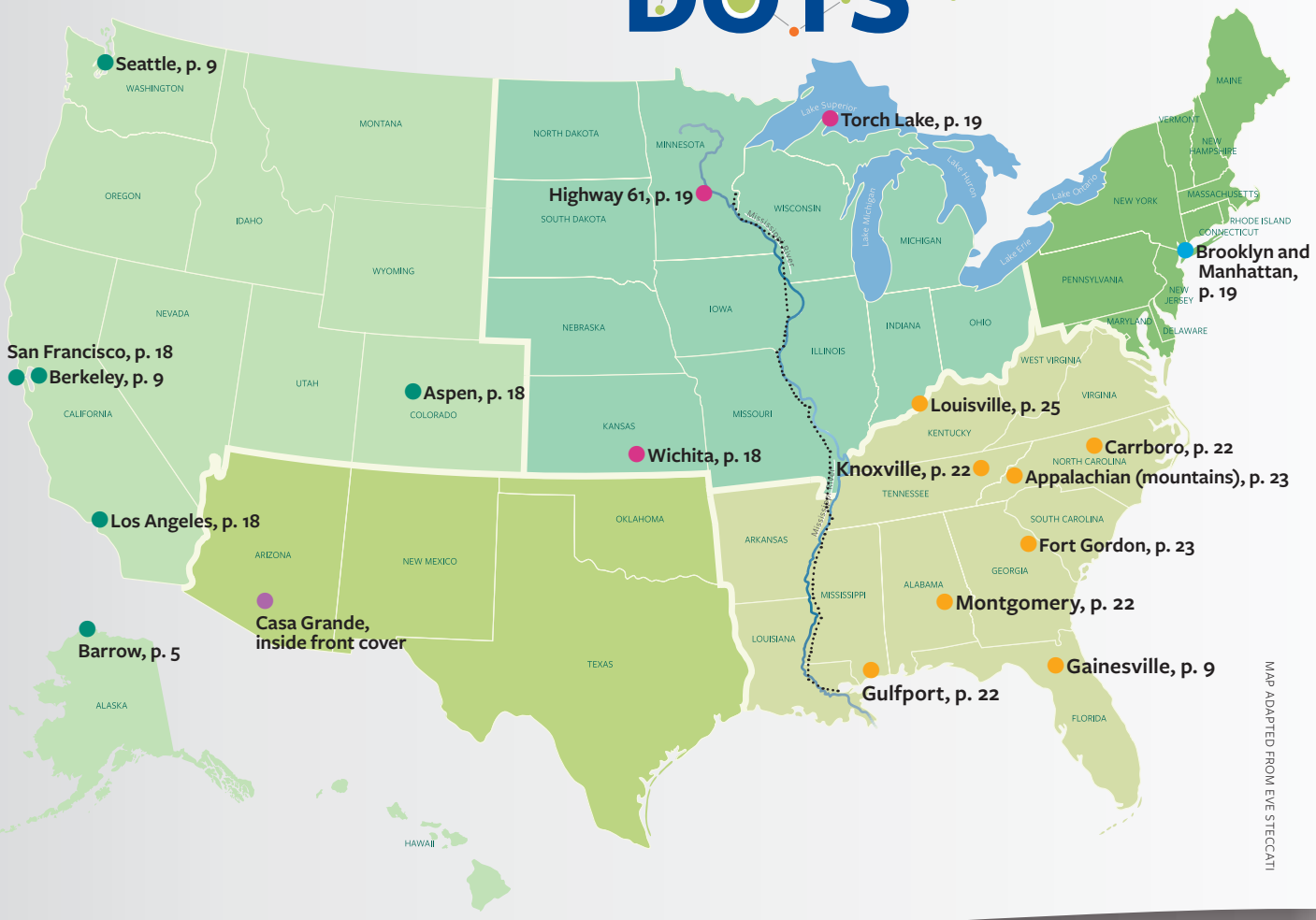
CONNECTING THE DOTS



MAP ADAPTED FROM EVE STECCATI

A Diplomatic Dynamo

THOMAS PICKERING

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Thomas Pickering served as U.S. ambassador to Russia, India, Israel, Nigeria, Jordan and El Salvador. As envoy to the U.N. in the early '90s, he took part in opening sessions of the U.N. General Assembly.

On September 17, Midtown Manhattan will be transformed. There will be three times the normal traffic around the United Nations complex, bounded by First Avenue on the west and the East River on the east between 42nd and 48th streets. As the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly gets under way, much of Midtown will be shut down to allow for the arrival of heads of state and accompanying delegations from 193 countries.

Like the diplomats featured on pages 20–21, I was the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations during earlier sessions, from March 1989–May 1992. It was remarkable to be a part of the opening of the General Assembly, at which the U.S. president and other world leaders speak.

It was challenging for participants and neighbors alike. Almost no one could function in the neighborhood without taking to walking. During much of my career, I served as ambassador to several countries and often found the customary security details cumbersome. But during UNGA, I really wanted a security detail just to help me get into the meetings I needed to attend!

If you are far from the hubbub, you might think there is no reason to pay attention to the meetings at the U.N. But believe me, actions by the U.N. still count. The international body can mold opinions among leaders around the world, create legitimacy for the use of force and protect human rights through its Human Rights Council. To best understand what's going on, watch or read the speeches given by important leaders. Pay attention to reports on Security Council meetings when heads of state attend them.

While the first General Assembly took place in 1946, today's assembly remains critical to peace, stability and security. In coming years, there are several things I think the U.N. can accomplish — political solutions in Syria and for the Arab-Israeli conflict, new coordination of the international financial community and actions to deal with diseases such as malaria. In the midst of this month's hubbub in Midtown, delegates will be stepping closer to those accomplishments. ▧

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A group of volunteers repainting the side of a building defaced by graffiti.

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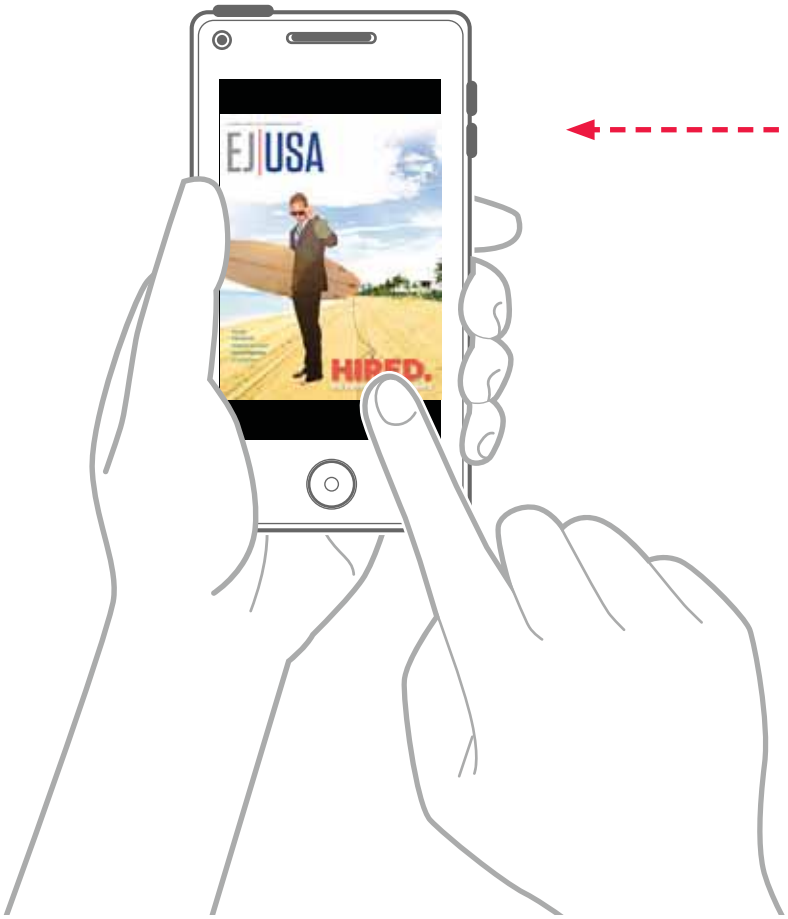

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