

# United States Embassy Macedonia

## Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



*Global articles for your interest*  
*Issue 7*  
*April 17 - May 4, 2009*

### **Contents:**

#### **1. Obama Marks His First 100 Days**

Washington — Marking an odyssey that began 100 days ago when he became the first African-American president in U.S. history, President Obama reflected for long moments before the nation on what his presidency has achieved and what still needs to be done. ...

#### **2. U.S. Economy Should Improve in Late 2009, Fed Chair Bernanke Says**

Washington — While domestic unemployment is likely to increase in the coming months, there are indications that the pace of the U.S. economic crisis may be slowing, ...

#### **3. A Nation of Volunteers Enters a New Era of Service**

A new law expands national and community service opportunities for Americans. The act will usher in a “new era of service,” says President Obama. The law expands volunteer opportunities for Americans, whether with a formal organization like AmeriCorps or in their local neighborhoods. ...

#### **4. Poetry as Oral Art Form Builds on Popularity of Slam Poetry, Rap**

There’s no such thing as too much practice, says William Farley. Farley, 18, of Arlington, Virginia, is talking about reciting poetry. Farley’s recitation of “Danse Russe” by William Carlos Williams led the secondary school senior to victory in the 2009 Poetry Out Loud national championship. ...

#### **5. Pulitzer Prize for Drama Honors Play About Women in Wartime Congo**

Ruined, Lynn Nottage’s play about Congolese women brutalized by war, wins the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Also honored in arts and letters are novelist Elizabeth Strout, composer Steve Reich, poet W.S. Merwin, historians Annette Gordon-Reed and Douglas A. Blackmon, and biographer Jon Meacham. ...

## In case you missed it:



### [Our New Location](#)

April 27, 2009

On April 27, the United States Embassy moved from the location on Ilinden Boulevard to the new facility built on Skopje's "Gradiste."

*The first day of work at the new embassy.  
(LP).*

◇ To learn more about the new embassy and to see photos of its features, please [click here](#).



### [World Press Freedom Day](#)

Op-ed by Ambassador Philip T. Reeker

May 4, 2009

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the media for their work during the recent Presidential and local elections. Many independent analysts recognized the excellent job journalists did in covering the campaign and informing the public about the candidates and their stances on the important issues the country faces. I am certain the citizens of Macedonia benefited from the hard work of the media and went to the polls better informed as a result of the extensive coverage we witnessed. ...[full text](#).

*Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#)*



### ***President Crvenkovski Visits the New Embassy***

May 5, 2009

*Ambassador Reeker presents the U.S. flag to President Crvenkovski. (LP)*

May 5--President Crvenkovski toured the new US Embassy in Skopje. The tour began with a formal ceremony with the US Marines and then wound through the complex. As a token of his appreciation, Ambassador Reeker gave President Crvenkovski a flag that had flown over the old US Embassy facility, while President Crvenkovski in return gave the Ambassador a beautiful sculpture. President Crvenkovski was impressed with the view from the new Embassy and the state-of-the art compound.



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki signed a joint Declaration of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation [photo by A1 TV Skopje] ([large photo](#))

## [First Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation between the U.S. and Macedonia](#)

May 8, 2009

Today marks one year since the U.S. and Macedonia signed the Declaration of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation. The Declaration was signed with the aim of expanding and deepening the close partnership between the two countries based upon common goals, interests, and values. Part of the Strategic Partnership is the U.S. continued assistance to Macedonia's reforms until the country achieves its goal of becoming member of NATO and the European Union. [...more.](#)



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Go Pink! Walk Against Breast Cancer - logo

### **Go Pink!**

In cooperation with local partners BORKA, Integrity Alpha Omega, Avon, the Ministry of Health, and the Agency for Youth and Sports, US Embassy Skopje will host "Go Pink! Walk Against Breast Cancer" on Sunday, May 17, starting at 11:00 am. The walk will begin at the "Skolka" at the City Park in Skopje and will be followed by a concert with some of Macedonia's most-loved musicians. Cancer does not recognize national boundaries, ethnicities, or religions. It can strike anyone. The May 17 walk will be a chance for people of all ages to walk together to raise funds for the health of their mothers, their wives, their sisters, and their daughters. If we work together to fight this disease, we nurture the common interests and values that we share as human beings. The fight against breast cancer is important for all of us. For more information about how you can donate to this important cause and join in the walk, please visit [BORKA's website](#).



*Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Bocevski and MAAA President Atanas Kocov listen as Ambassador Reeker gives his remarks.(LP)*

## ***Alumni Association Spearheads Regional Conference in Cross-Border Disaster Preparation***

May 4, 2009

May 4--Ambassador Philip T. Reeker spoke at the opening ceremony of the two-day regional workshop, "Cross-border Disaster eResponse in the eRegion: Interoperability of Information Systems of the Organizations," jointly sponsored by the Macedonian American Alumni Association (MAAA) and the Slovenian Fulbright Association. The conference was a collaboration among the alumni groups, the Offices of Public Affairs at the US Embassies in Skopje and Ljubljana, the Office of Defense Cooperation, and participants from three countries, two universities, two ministries, several diplomatic missions, many NGOs and governmental agencies, and even a doctor from Vermont who gave a live demonstration of the benefits of telemedicine. Ambassador Reeker praised the selfless devotion of the alumni association members to making their own countries safer through regional cooperation.

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**Small Grants information: [http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small\\_grants\\_program.html](http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html)**

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