

United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



*Global articles for your interest
Issue 11
July 1 - July 31, 2009*

Contents:

1. Obama Calls for Global Nuclear Summit in March 2010

President Obama, at the G8 Summit in Italy, adds another element to his goal of a nuclear-free world by calling for a global nuclear summit in March 2010, White House aides say. The purpose of the summit would be to achieve the highest levels of nuclear security. ...

2. Clinton Plans Seven-Nation Africa Trip

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will begin a seven-nation trip to Africa on August 5 to highlight the U.S. commitment to sub-Saharan Africa's economic development while also emphasizing Africa as a place of opportunity, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly says. ...

3. Access to Government Information Going Digital

Many people today expect everything to be available online, but in reality, governments are leaving a lot of empty architecture in cyberspace. Freedom of information advocates are looking at online record access as the next advance in the movement for more transparent and democratic government. ...

4. Victims of Communism Receive Tribute

Twenty years after the Berlin Wall fell, an event seen by many as the beginning of the end of communism in Europe, people in the United States still honor and recognize those who stood up against communist oppression. ...

5. US-Russian Talks Increase Cooperation, Enhance Security

A fresh start to U.S.-Russian relations requires more than warm words. It requires a commitment to deliver results, and President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev are working hard to do that, a senior U.S. diplomat tells the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe. ...

6. The Greening of US Architecture: Building a Sustainable Future

Architectural programs at many U.S. universities have begun offering courses on sustainable design, often at the insistence of students. Two noted architecture professors discuss how environmental concerns are shaping the next generation of architects. ...

In case you missed it:



Ambassador Reeker, Defense Minister Konjanovski, Chief of Staff, General Stojanovski and Command Sergeant Major Boban Stojanovik with his family at the award ceremony. (LP).

 **video** - SITEL TV video (3.7MB)

[Recognizing Excellence in the Macedonian Army](#)

July 15, 2009

Ambassador Reeker joined Defense Minister Konjanovski and Chief of Staff General Stojanovski to congratulate Command Sergeant Major Boban Stojanovik for being placed in the Hall of Fame at the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. Sergeant Major Stojanovik is one of only three soldiers from outside the United States to have received this distinction in the Academy's 36 year history. In that time, more than 500 soldiers from 66 countries have received training from this flagship academy for training senior noncommissioned officers. Both Minister Konjanovski and General Stojanovski also took the opportunity to thank Lt. Col. Tom Wilson and Lt. Col. Wes Gould for their cooperation with the Macedonian military in efforts to modernize the capabilities of the Macedonian armed forces.

- ◇ To see Ambassador Reeker's Speech at the event, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To see photos of Sergeant Major Stojanovik being recognized at Fort Bliss, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To view local coverage (SITEL TV video footage- WMV file, size 3.73 MB) of this event, please [click here](#).
- ◇ **USASMA opens International Student Hall of Fame.**



Ambassador Reeker and his spouse Solveig with Bitola Museum Program Director Irena Ruzin in the Jewish cemetery exhibition. (LP)

[Ambassador Reeker Visits Mayor of Bitola, Jewish Cemetery](#)

July 23, 2009

On July 23, Ambassador Reeker met with Mayor Vladimir Taleski of Bitola and toured the historic "City of Consuls." The Ambassador also visited the Bitola Jewish Cemetery that was founded in 1497 and was destroyed during the Second World War. The cemetery's monumental entrance gate was recently renovated with funding from the Government of Macedonia and U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. A small exhibition inside the gate organized by the Bitola Museum sheds light on the history and culture of Bitola's lost Jewish community.

- ◇ To see Ambassador Reeker's remarks to the press, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To see photos from his visit, please [click here](#).



Students from primary schools collect plastic waste, promoting the concept of recycling under the motto "Collect PET for a better world". (LP) / - [YouTube](#) video.

USAID Plastic Recycling Project

A few years ago, illegal dump sites and scattered plastic bottles were regular scenery throughout Macedonia—in the capital, along main roads, and even at tourist locations. This desperate situation could only be changed through the commitment and engagement of local governments, public utility companies, NGOs and citizens. The American people, through USAID, invested \$1.3 million toward the Plastic Recycling Project. Today, after only a few years, plastic waste collection has increased dramatically and an estimated 5000 people earn a living in the recycling industry.

◇ To see a short video about this USAID Plastic Recycling Project, please visit our Embassy You Tube video channel ([YouTube](#) video).



Ambassador Reeker holds a wheel of aged cheese inside the IMB Dairy plant in Bitola. (LP)

Ambassador Reeker Tours IMB Dairy in Bitola

July 23, 2009

On July 23, Ambassador Reeker was hosted by IMB Dairy's President of the Managing Board, Predrag Cvetkovic, and General Manager, Roko Vodopija, at the company's modern new facility in Bitola. IMB Dairy is the largest producer of milk, dairy products, and natural fruit juices in Macedonia, including their BiMilk and BiFruit product lines. The directors discussed with the Ambassador how they are expanding their export markets and have recently begun exporting their high-quality Pecorino cheese to the United States.

◇ To see photos from his visit, please [click here](#).



Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#)

[Enjoy Today, Protect Tomorrow](#)

July 20, 2009

Daily Newspapers *Dnevnik* and *Koha* published a column from Ambassador Reeker highlighting recent changes to US law to help preserve our natural resources and also calling for a joint effort to protect our planet.

◇ To read what he wrote, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker speaks with the director of a local organization for the disabled. (LP)

Ambassador Reeker Meets With Political and Religious Leaders in Tetovo

July 20, 2009

On July 20, Ambassador Reeker met with Tetovo Mayor Sadi Bexhati at the city's recently-opened McDonald's. They were joined for lunch by the representatives of a local organization for the disabled to discuss issues facing the handicapped, most notably street and building accessibility. The Ambassador was pleased to learn that McDonald's is one of the most accessible facilities for wheelchairs in Tetovo. Ambassador Reeker also met with all the candidates from the recent mayoral campaign to congratulate them on a successful election. In his first visit to the Bektashi community of Tetovo, Ambassador Reeker met with community leader Baba Edmond Brahimaj.

- ◇ **To read Ambassador Reeker's comments about the lack of implementation of the Law on Religious Communities, please [click here](#).**
- ◇ **To see photos from his visit, please [click here](#).**



Ambassador Reeker and the Deputy Director Muniz unveil the dedication plaque for the New U.S. Embassy in Skopje. (LP)/

Photo slideshow - [YouTube](#) video.

[Fourth of July Reception and Dedication of the New American Embassy](#)

On July 2nd, Ambassador Reeker and the Deputy Director of the Overseas Building Office, Lydia Muniz, were joined by over 800 guests at a reception held to honor the American Independence Day. The celebration also served as a formal dedication of the New U.S. Embassy in Skopje. Ambassador Reeker spoke about the importance of Independence Day to Americans as a celebration of American ideals. He also indicated that the new embassy is a sign of the commitment of the U.S. Government to its partnership and friendship with the Republic of Macedonia. The Ambassador highlighted the strengths of the U.S. relationship with Macedonia over the years and announced continued support and cooperation with Macedonia into the future.

- ◇ **To see full text of Ambassador Reekers speech please [click here](#).**
- ◇ **To see more photos from this event, please view a video slide show on the Embassy channel on [YouTube](#) .**
- ◇ **View the local coverage of this event on [([TELMA TV - WMV file, size 3.85 BM](#)) & ([ALSAT TV - WMV file, size 3.38MB](#))].**
- ◇ **PAO Ryan Rowlands talks about the Fourth of July - Celebrating U.S. Independence Day, on [A1TV, July 2, 2009](#).**



Ambassador Reeker shares a laugh with Ljupco Karov, Branko Ognjanovski and Vasko Todorov of K-15. (LP)

Ambassador Reeker Congratulates the K-15 Team on its 15th Anniversary

July 31, 2009

K-15 hosted Ambassador Reeker for a tour of their studio and the chance to talk about the role of political humor. The K-15 team told stories about the beginnings of their career and noted that a USAID grant for recording equipment had helped get them started fifteen years ago. The Ambassador agreed that political satire has an important role to play in a healthy democracy and a vibrant media. He went on to say that poking fun at public figures is an American tradition and that K-15 has been essential in giving satire deep roots in Macedonia.

◇ **To see more photos from his visit, please [click here](#).**



Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker, APAA John Surface, and Bitola Mayor Talevski take picture with Cultural Envoy Merrilee Cunningham, AC Bitola staff and the children of the Creative Writing Workshop in Bitola. (LP)

The Tradition Continues – 2009 Summer Creative Writing Workshop: The Art of Words

With Professor Merrilee Cunningham

July 20th – 24th, 2009

The Tradition Continues! Inspired by the excellent feedback from last year, the U.S. Embassy in partnership with Writers in the Schools of Houston, Texas, this summer again organized the Creative Writing Workshop for children and teenagers and hosted Professor Merrilee Cunningham at the American Corner Bitola. Cunningham, an accomplished poet, university professor, and experienced creative writing teacher from Houston, Texas, was delighted to see some of her former students and to teach many new “young authors” in Bitola. During this free-of-charge five-day writing camp, 30 children, aged 7 to 14, engaged in writing stories, poetry, essays, and plays, as well as directing and acting their own plays. On the fourth day of the workshop, the United States Ambassador to Macedonia Mr. Philip Reeker and Mrs. Solveig Reeker came, with the Mayor of Bitola, to give certificates to the children. Beside their great memories from this summer camp, the children went home with a stage performance of their plays, many awards and certificates and anthology CDs with pictures and all writings completed during the workshop.

- **To read more about the workshop go to:** <http://witsblog.org/>

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Ul. Samoilova 21. 1000 Skopje /**Telephone** (+389)(2) 3102 -000—2379; **Fax**(+389(2) 3102 499

E-mail: ircskopje@t-home.mk