

# United States Embassy Macedonia

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



*Global articles for your interest  
Issue 13  
August 15 - September 1, 2009*

### **Contents:**

#### **1. Senate's Liberal Lion Mourned by Political Friends and Foes**

Everyday Americans join political leaders past and present in bidding farewell to a legendary statesman and orator. Edward Kennedy is mourned in Massachusetts, Washington and across the nation as his body makes its final journey to join those of his brothers at Arlington National Cemetery. ...

#### **2. Obama Reappoints Bernanke as Federal Reserve Chairman**

Amid the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s, President Obama reappoints economist Ben Bernanke to a second term as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank. Bernanke's reappointment will have to be approved by the U.S. Senate. ...

#### **3. US Marks World Humanitarian Day, Announces Additional Aid**

The United States commemorates the first World Humanitarian Day with an announcement that it is contributing an additional \$160 million to humanitarian aid activities and calling for safeguarding of humanitarian workers in conflict areas around the world who are increasingly becoming targets. ...

#### **4. Diversity, Faith Define Evolving Identity of Muslim Americans**

Muslims in the United States come from 80 different countries. Diversity and faith define the evolving identity of Muslim Americans, and taken together they constitute part of a remarkable community that in large measure mirrors the diversity of the United States. ...

#### **5. Obama Awards Medals of Freedom to "Agents of Change"**

Sixteen individuals, defined by President Obama as "agents of change," received Presidential Medals of Freedom in an East Room White House ceremony August 12. The medalists are from diverse backgrounds and are passionate and persistent in professional pursuits ranging from politics to the arts. ...

#### **6. Hip-Hop Music an Outlet for Self-Expression**

According to one expert, hip-hop music is the single most important melding of black and white cultures that has ever existed in the United States. Although hip-hop has remained close to its roots, the musical and cultural impact of this musical genre can be seen worldwide. ...

## In case you missed it:



Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#)

### [Working Together for a Better Future](#)

*Op-Ed Piece for Education by U.S. Ambassador Philip T. Reeker*

September 1, 2009

**Ambassador Reeker:** "The United States has been working with the people of Macedonia for over 15 years to support improvements in education. Through USAID, we are partnering with the Government of Macedonia to renovate over 120 schools to create quality and energy-efficient learning environments. We are training thousands of teachers from the pre-school through university level in new student-centered methodologies and use of computers in the classroom."...[full text](#).



[Concert schedule](#)

### [American Jazz Quartet to Perform Free Outdoor Concerts in Macedonia](#)

September 3, 2009

The US Embassy is proud to sponsor a three-city tour of the Ari Roland Jazz Quartet. The first concert will be held at Kumanovo's City Square on Monday, September 7 at 21:30. On Tuesday, September 8, the group will travel to Veles for a performance at the Youth Park amphitheater at 19:30. The final concert will be held on Wednesday, September 9 at Gostivar's City Square. Based in New York City, the Quartet features Ari Roland on double bass, Chris Byars on tenor saxophone, Sacha Perry on piano, and Keith Balla on drums.

◇ **To learn more about these free outdoor concerts in Macedonia, please [click here](#).**



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA. / [video](#)

### [President Obama Delivers Message on Ramadan](#)

August 21, 2009

**President Obama:** "I know...that Ramadan is a time of intense devotion and reflection – a time when Muslims fast during the day and perform *tarawih* prayers at night, reciting and listening to the entire Koran over the course of the month. These rituals remind us of the principles that we hold in common, and Islam's role in advancing justice, progress, tolerance, and the dignity of all human beings." - [Full Text](#).



## Poet Li-Young Lee Headlines at the Struga Poetry Festival

August 20-26, 2009

*US Poet Li-Young Lee, special guest of the U.S. Embassy to Macedonia for the 48th annual Struga Poetry Evenings Festival. (LP)*

The Struga Poetry Festival hosted eighty international poets to a week-long poetry festival from August 20-26. The U.S. Embassy was especially pleased to bring over Poet Li-Young Lee and saw to a selection and translation of his works for the Festival audience. The Poet was presented with the book of his works in Macedonian at a reception in his honor. The opening ceremony in Struga, Meridians, highlighted the

round the world offerings including poets from Syria, Thailand, Slovenia, Venezuela, Mongolia, Australia and scores of other countries. The Festival ended with the traditional reading from the bridge of the fast-flowing river Crni Drim in Struga and included a Poetry Slam event, readings in Bitola and at the soaring Matka Gorge near Skopje.

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

◇ A link to his bio and a selection of poems: [http://www.universeofpoetry.org/usa\\_p2.shtml](http://www.universeofpoetry.org/usa_p2.shtml)



## Macedonian and Albanian Football Camp in Ohrid

August 22-26, 2009

*Youth of different genders, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds play together at OFFS regional camp in Ohrid. (LP)*

**You Tube** video.

One hundred twenty schoolchildren from Macedonia and Albania came together to participate in the Open Fun Football Schools (OFFS) regional camp in Ohrid over the last week of August. In addition to playing football and building new friendships, the participants cleaned waste from the shores of beautiful Lake Ohrid in a project focusing on the environment. The Embassy collaborated with OFFS, a project implemented by the Cross Cultures Project Association - Copenhagen (CCPA) in cooperation with the Norwegian

Football Association (NFF) that is active in youth and community projects throughout Macedonia. The diverse group of participants hailed from the SOS Children's Village in Skopje, the Mala Prespa region in Albania, and the municipalities of Suto Orizari, Kavadarci, Sveti Nikole, Dracevo, and Ohrid.

◇ To see more photos from the event please [click here](#).

◇ To see a short video about this OFFS regional camp in Ohrid, please check out our Embassy **You Tube** video channel. | More videos on the Embassy **You Tube** channel.



Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#) / (LP)

## [Ambassador Reeker Gives Interview to Stit, Magazine of the Macedonian Ministry of Defense](#)

August 20, 2009

The new magazine of the Macedonian Defense Ministry, Stit (Shield) features an interview with Ambassador Reeker. With the headline, "We are Looking Forward to Welcoming Macedonia as Full NATO Member," Ambassador Reeker discusses developments in the process of Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic integration, the name issue, U.S. policy towards Macedonia, Macedonian Army participation in multi-national troops, and bilateral military cooperation. He also discusses his impressions of Macedonia over the last decade since his last tour in Skopje and how the arc of his career has brought him back to Macedonia.

◇ To see a transcript of the interview (as published in Macedonian/PDF file), please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker enjoys his visit to Ednooki with director Boris Damovski. (LP)

## **Ednooki Studios host Ambassador Reeker**

August 19, 2009

Ambassador Reeker visited the studio and offices of the Ednooki team on Wednesday, August 19. The Ambassador met the entire staff including the computer graphics team, the voice-over actors and the creative minds behind the cartoons – Boris Damovski and Aleksandar Rusjakov. Mr. Damovski and the Ambassador discussed the history of the Ednooki cartoons from their origins as well as the current business situation with television media in Macedonia. The Ambassador noted how much he enjoyed the political commentary in the Ednooki cartoons, how they are relevant and insightful and how important it is for even the targets of the satire to be able to laugh at the situations and laugh at themselves.

◇ To see Ambassador Reeker's statement to the media at the EDNOOKI office, please [click here](#).

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

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