

United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter

C O L L A G E



Global articles for your interest

Issue 1

January 1 - January 31, 2009

Contents:

1. Barack Obama Becomes 44th President of the United States

On January 20, Barack Obama took the presidential oath of office, becoming the 44th president and first African-American leader of the United States. Millions of Americans, joined by millions more from nations around the world, watched a moment many viewed as a milestone in U.S. history. ...

2. Crowds Pack Washington for Obama's Inauguration

On January 20, more than a million Americans made a pilgrimage to Washington to witness history. America.gov talks with some of the spectators to find out why so many braved freezing weather, long lines and crowded conditions to be a part of the Obama inauguration. ...

3. US Vice Presidency: An Understudy's Appointment with History

The U.S. vice presidency, despite being a frequent target of ridicule, has played a significant role in the history of the United States. Presidents in Waiting, a new exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery, examines the office and its occupants. ...

4. Black History Month Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph

John Fleming, head of black history study group, tells America.gov Black History Month should focus on positive and negative aspects of the black experience. "We were not slaves prior to being captured in Africa, and while slavery was part of our experience ... we have a hundred-and-some years in freed ...

5. Religious Freedom Day Marks American Tradition of Good Will

Americans are a religious people, but — consistent with principles in the Constitution — they view faith as a freedom reserved to individuals, regardless of their particular beliefs, and one protected from government interference. Each year, the president proclaims January 16 as Religious Freedom Day ...

6. House Passes Economic Bill with Huge Boost for Education

The U.S. House of Representatives passes an \$819 billion economic stimulus bill that provides significant new sums of money for education. The bill would increase student aid and loans, provide tax credits for higher education, allocate billions for the repair and renovation of campus and research...

In case you missed it:



Ambassador Reeker with the winners of awards for covering the NGO sector (LP)

 **video** - A1 TV News coverage/8.7MB

The Importance of Free Media in a Democracy

January 22, 2009

At an event to award media coverage of nongovernmental organizations, Ambassador Reeker discussed the critical role a free media plays in protecting democracy by promoting the free flow of ideas. To view a transcript of his speech, please [click here](#).

To see news coverage on A1 TV, please [click here](#) (WMV file-size 8.7MB).



Ambassador Reeker addresses the guests (LP)

 **video** - (WMV size 19.5MB)

Celebrating the New President

January 20, 2009

Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker hosted a reception in their home to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States. The guests at the event were representatives of volunteer groups and nongovernmental organizations who work throughout Macedonia. In his remarks, Ambassador Reeker commended them for their service to the country and pointed out that similar organizations in the United States were a key part of

President Obama's success in the US elections. To read his remarks, please [click here](#). To see his speech (video footage - WMV file size 19.5MB), please [click here](#).



Barack Obama waves to a crowd at the Democratic National Convention

Barack Obama: 44th President of the United States

[Barack Obama](#), elected the 44th President of the United States, has lived a truly American life, and has opened a new chapter in American politics. This publication tells the story of Obama's life, describes how he captured the presidency, and portrays his vision for the future. It also introduces readers to the Obama family and to the new [Vice President, Joseph Biden](#).

◇ **Publication:** [View PDF](#) (774 KB) | [Get Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

◇ **Video:** [2008 Elections, Witnessing History](#).

◇ [Meet the Obama Family](#).



Ambassador Reeker and Prime Minister Gruevski and their teams after the discussion on U.S. assistance to Macedonia. (LP)

The US Embassy Meets with the Macedonian Government to Discuss Assistance Goals

January 22, 2009

On January 22, Ambassador Reeker led an Embassy team in presenting to Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and his Cabinet Ministers an outline of U.S. assistance programs aimed at helping Macedonia meet its development and transition challenges. The presentation and discussion highlighted successes achieved by the approximately one billion dollars

the United States has invested in Macedonia since independence and also addressed areas where collaboration could be improved. Among the highlights are the increased capabilities of the Macedonian military, improved competitiveness in many business sectors, and improvements to schools and curricula throughout Macedonia. To see a short video highlighting the school improvement program, please [click here](#). To learn more about the USAID programs in Macedonia, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker gives Peace Corps volunteer Melissa Hauke a certificate of appreciation (LP)

American Corner Tetovo Celebrates First Anniversary

January 14, 2009

American Corner Tetovo celebrated its first anniversary with speeches by Ambassador Philip Reeker; Elizabeta Kanceska Milevska, the Minister of Culture; and Hazbi Lika, the Mayor of Tetovo. The crowd—American Corner members, other distinguished guests, Peace Corps volunteers, and local residents--spilled out of the room and into the hallway. Ambassador Reeker praised the Corner, which now has more than 1,300 members, for “taking a small slice of a building and creating an American presence that far exceeds its physical space.” The Minister of Culture emphasized that the Corner has built a stronger bridge between the U.S. and the Republic of Macedonia, especially by providing opportunities for high school students to interact with American culture. The celebration ended with performances by students from Tetovo’s music high school.

To read Ambassador Reeker’s remarks to the press at the anniversary, please [click here](#).



Consul Lauren May talks to A1 TV reporter
video - A1 TV video footage - 3.4MB

Consul Clarifies Visa Issues and Discusses the Electronic System for Travel Authorization

January 5, 2009

In an interview with A1 TV on January 5, Consular Section Chief Lauren May discussed the criteria that countries must meet for eligibility in the visa waiver program and explained where Macedonia stands in that regard. One key reason why Macedonia has not yet been considered for the visa waiver program is because too many travelers from Macedonia do not return from the U.S on time. Consul May also reviewed the procedures for the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) for travelers from visa waiver countries. To view the interview, [please click here](#) (A1 TV video footage - size 3.4 MB).

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

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

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