

United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 16
October 1 - October 16, 2009

Contents:

1. [Obama Urges Congress to Pass Health Care Reform](#)

In a nationally televised address to a joint session of Congress, President Obama implores representatives and senators to overcome doubts and considerable misinformation that has plagued debate on health care reform legislation and support his proposals. ...

2. [Obama “Humbled” by Award of 2009 Nobel Peace Prize](#)

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama “for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.” Obama tells reporters that “I am both surprised and deeply humbled by the decision of the Nobel committee.” ...

3. [On and Off the Court, Balkan Athletes Learn Conflict Resolution](#)

Although their countries used to be part of one nation, teenagers from Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia and Kosovo do not typically interact much with one another. But their shared interests — including enthusiasm for basketball are helping bridge differences. ...

4. [Clinton Optimistic About Russian Support on Iran, Missile Defense](#)

Secretary Clinton says the United State and Russia are committed to work together toward a non-nuclear Iran and that the Obama administration is making progress on persuading the Russian government to join with the United States in a global missile defense architecture. ...

5. [Influence and Independence: Role of Politics in Court Decisions](#)

A legal scholar discusses the fears that a given justice’s political opinions shape his or her rulings. These fears, she concludes, are greatly overstated. Many factors, both personal and institutional, outweigh a justice’s political leanings in explaining his or her decisions. ...

6. [Diversity Visa Lottery for 2011 Is Open Until November 30](#)

Registration for the 2011 Diversity Visa Lottery is open from October 2 to November 30, 2009. The government annually makes 50,000 permanent residence visas (“green cards”) available through the Diversity Immigrant Visa program. Applicants are selected through a computer-generated, random lottery. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page



U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker at the Painted Mosque in Tetovo with Ambassador and Mrs. Blinken and Director of the National Conservation Center, Behixhudin Shehapi. (LP)

Supporting Macedonia's Rich Cultural Diversity and Heritage

October 16, 2009

Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker hosted Ambassador Donald Blinken and Mrs. Vera Blinken for a visit to the Painted Mosque in Tetovo to share Macedonia's rich cultural heritage with their guests. Director of the National Conservation Center, Behixhudin Shehapi, provided a tour of the Painted Mosque as well as the Hamm An in Tetovo. The Hamm An was restored and converted to use as an art gallery with the assistance of a U.S. government grant from the Ambassadors

Fund for Cultural Heritage in 2005. The U.S. Embassy has shown its commitment to preserving cultural heritage in Macedonia, recently announcing a grant to help restore the Daut Pasha Hamam in Skopje and will be releasing news shortly about a major project to restore a Byzantine-era church and its frescoes in Ohrid.



Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#)

U.S. Embassy Welcomes Signing of Border Demarcation Agreement

October 16, 2009

The Embassy of the United States warmly welcomes the signing of a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Kosovo completing the demarcation of the border between both countries. The leadership of both countries has shown significant resolve and taken a major step forward to ensure regional stability. We look forward to the rapid establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

This agreement, as well as the European Commission's positive assessment of Macedonia of October 14, is a major step forward toward consolidating the country's Euro-Atlantic future. We wish to extend our thanks also to the International Civilian Office for its key mediation role in completing the border demarcation process.



Mrs. Solveig Reeker joined by Minister of Health State Secretary Zoran Stojanovski, Cultural Attache John Surface, Integrity Alpha Omega's Igor Netkovski, Biba Dodeva of BORKA, Oncology Clinic Director Simonida Crvenkova and Integrity Alpha Omega's Brian Richards at the unveiling of the plaque. (LP)

partnership with Macedonia.

Go Pink! Walk Organizers Honored for Contribution to Oncology Clinic

October 13, 2009

The Oncology Ward unveiled a plaque thanking the organizers of the Go Pink! Walk for their donation to the Oncology Clinic. The donation went to the purchase of chemotherapy chairs and equipment for the clinic. Mrs. Solveig Reeker highlighted the Embassy's participation in the Go Pink! Walk in coordination with the NGOs BORKA and Integrity Alfa Omega. Mrs. Reeker praised the coordination between government, medical and non-governmental institutions as a sign of success for health diplomacy and breast cancer awareness and the Embassy's strategic



Ambassador Reeker discusses the policy initiative with OSCE High Commissioner Knut Vollebaek, EU Ambassador Erwan Fouere and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski. (LP)

Committing to a More Diverse and Inclusive Educational System and Society

October 8, 2009

Ambassador Reeker provided opening remarks at the OSCE and USAID Launch of the Policy Paper, "Steps Toward an Integrated Education System." Ambassador Reeker stated that school is where our young develop their social values, that relations between communities in Macedonia are not a zero-sum game and that language differences must be respected. The Ambassador concluded his remarks with a challenge to all responsible parties to work together to find

harmony and to build success for this generation of young students

- ◇ **To read Ambassador Reeker's remarks, please [click here](#).**
- ◇ **To see more photos from the event, please [click here](#).**



Ambassador Reeker address the large crowd attending the Booz Allen Hamilton 10th Anniversary celebration. (LP)

[Investing in Macedonia: Booz Allen Hamilton's 10th Anniversary](#)

October 8, 2009

Ambassador Reeker gave opening remarks at a reception held at the National Gallery on Thursday, October 8 in honor of Booz Allen Hamilton's 10th Anniversary. Booz Allen Hamilton has invested in a wide variety of infrastructure and assistance projects in Macedonia since 1999, including the ongoing Macedonia Defense Reform Project and the Business Environment Activity project. The Ambassador stressed that the "U.S. has worked alongside the Republic of Macedonia through initiatives to implement the rule of law and to strengthen democratic institutions." The Ambassador also thanked the Macedonian authorities, represented by President Gjorgji Ivanov and Ambassador Zoran Jolevski at the gala event, for their contributions to joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

◆ To read Ambassador Reeker's remarks, please [click here](#).



The Ambassador converses with Ambassador Zoran Jolevski and High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek. (LP)

[Deepening our Strategic Partnership Through Cultural Preservation and the Arts](#)

October 7, 2009

Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker hosted a reception at their home on Wednesday, October 7, to exhibit the paintings in their home as a part of the Arts In Embassies program. The State Department curates exhibitions at Ambassador residences across the world, managing 3500 original American art works, ranging from 18th century portraits to contemporary multi-media works. In his speech, Ambassador Reeker also highlighted U.S. contributions to culture in Macedonia in bringing American artists to perform at the Skopje Jazz Festival and the Struga Poetry Festival. The Ambassador emphasized the U.S. commitment to cultural preservation in Macedonia, noting recent grants to restore the Daut Pasha Hamam in Skopje and the Hamam Baths in Tetovo, and informing guests of a major cultural heritage project to be announced later this month.

◆ To read Ambassador Reeker's remarks, please [click here](#).

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

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>

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook page](#)

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#)

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