



## U.S. OFFICE PRISTINA

Dragodan, N. Hikmet 30  
Pristina, Kosovo

*April 2008*

### *Monthly Newsletter*

## **Kosovo: U.S. "Office" Becomes U.S. Embassy Pristina April 8, 2008**

In a ceremony on April 8, 2008, Charge d'Affaires Tina Kaidanow announced the transition of the U.S. Office into the U.S. Embassy in Pristina. CDA Kaidanow cited the U.S.' work to promote Kosovo's democratic and economic development, and praised Kosovo's commitment to all its ethnic communities. Kosovo's President, Prime Minister, Assembly Speaker and Pristina Mayor attended the ceremony, at the end of which, the President and Prime Minister assisted CDA Kaidanow in unveiling the new Embassy of the United States of America plaque. The ceremony was the top news story on all Kosovo-wide broadcast and print media..



**Charge d'Affaires, Tina Kaidanow** unveils the U.S. Embassy plaque with **Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu** and **Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi**



Charge d'Affaires, Tina Kaidanow views the exhibit, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### **EMBASSY HIGHLIGHTS CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AT LANDMARKS OF NEW YORK EXHIBIT**

At the opening of the State Department-sponsored photo exhibit to commemorate the 1965 law to protect New York's historic buildings, Charge d'Affaires Tina Kaidanow highlighted the Embassy's commitment to preserving Kosovo's cultural heritage, regardless of its ethnic affiliation. Citing how New York's buildings have come to define the city as a place of multiple ethnicities, religions and traditions, all powerfully expressed through art, architecture and culture, she asked that this exhibit serve as an inspiration for Kosovo to develop its own cultural heritage in a similarly tolerant

manner, respectful of all ethnicities and their diverse histories and traditions. The opening took place at the Kosovo Gallery. Over 100 local architects, representatives of the Kosovo Ministry of Culture, the International Civilian Office and other diplomatic missions attended the opening, which was widely covered in Kosovo media.



Deputy Chief of Mission, Alex Laskaris dedicates the Pristina American Corner at the National and University Library of Kosovo, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Photo: Zana Tropoja, Embassy Pristina.

### **EMBASSY AND NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY DEDICATE THE PRISTINA AMERICAN CORNER, APRIL 14TH, 2008**

As part of Kosovo Library Week, Deputy Chief of Mission, Alex Laskaris dedicated the newly-renovated American Corner in Pristina. Now fully incorporated into the National and University Library's collection and activities, the American Corner boasts a newly update collection, including resources for English language learners and children. The space is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9am – 4pm. Special programs are periodically held in the American Corner in the evenings.

American Corners are partnerships between U.S. embassies and host institutions all over the world. They are modeled on typical American public libraries, and they provide access to current and reliable information about the United States via book collections, periodicals, and the Internet. Kosovo has three American Corners: in Prizren, in north Mitrovica, and Pristina. In addition to creating these American

Corners, the U.S. Embassy has supported Kosovo's libraries through training programs in library science and by hosting visiting experts to address key library issues during Kosovo Library Week.



Karen Coyle talks with Kosovo librarians about the role of libraries in the founding of the USA. Photo: Laura Hochla, Embassy Pristina, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### **U.S. SPEAKER KAREN COYLE ASSISTS KOSOVO LIBRARIANS WITH DIGITAL LIBRARY TOOLS**

As part of Kosovo Library Week 2008, sponsored by the National and University Library of Kosovo, Embassy Pristina sponsored U.S. Speaker Karen Coyle, a specialist in digital libraries and digitalization of books. She worked with Kosovo librarians on implementing open source cataloguing resources, coordinating with other libraries in the region on the expensive process of digitalizing library resources that can be shared, and on digital repositories for university research publications. Since this was the first Library Week in an independent Kosovo, Ms. Coyle also talked with librarians about the role of libraries in the newly independent United States. In Prizren, a town with rich cultural and literary tradition, she advised the municipal library on ways to digitalize a recent community initiative to document rare

and old books owned privately and by the library. Ms. Coyle will continue her support to and consultation with key librarians in Kosovo...digitally.

Embassy Pristina's continued work with Kosovo's libraries is part of our work to support democratic development through free access to information, as well as the development of education.



A year of groundbreaking press conferences hang on the wall of the Media Center. Photo: Merita Musmurati, Embassy Pristina, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### **CAGLAVICA MEDIA CENTER CELEBRATES A YEAR OF BRINGING ALBANIANS, SERBS AND INTERNATIONALS TOGETHER**

The U.S. Embassy-sponsored Caglavica Media Center celebrated its first anniversary on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Located in a Kosovo Serb community immediately outside Pristina, the Center has become a neutral gathering point for Kosovo Albanian politicians, Kosovo Serb leaders and international representatives. The Center gives Kosovo-based media— particularly Kosovo Serb media—access to leaders from all of Kosovo's communities, as well as the tools and resources they need to file their stories. The only space of its kind, where it's safe to disagree about controversial and contentious issues, the Center represents Embassy Pristina PD's most grassroots support for minority media in Kosovo.

## **KOSOVO'S CLEAN CASTLE: ENGLISH STUDENT PICK UP TRASH TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY**



Volunteers happy with their full bags of trash. Photo: Kirsten Mashinter, English Language Fellow, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, English Language Fellows Kirsten Mashinter and Michelle Foshee led a group of student volunteers in Prizren on a trash clean up of the Ottoman Castle ruins above the city. Despite the curious and puzzled onlookers, fourteen volunteers removed thirty large bags of trash from the popular picnic area and lookout point. Local supermarket, Ben Af generously donated garbage bags and latex gloves for the clean up. The English Language Fellows and student volunteers hope to turn this into a semi-annual event.