

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Office of Public Affairs Newsletter

Issue 13, February 2010

American Corner Sarajevo organizes Festival of Diversity in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday



On Friday January 15 the American Corner Sarajevo organized a “Festival of Diversity” in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday. Close to fifty children of all ages (from pre-school to seniors in high schools) and other American Corner members participated in this program. Cultural Attaché, Ronald E. Hawkins, Jr. opened the program with a review of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and the “historic journey” from MLK to President Barack Obama. He drew parallels with the U.S. experience to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and encouraged BiH citizens to embrace and cherish their diversity. Posters with quotes by Martin Luther King, Jr., that emphasized diversity and tolerance bedecked the interior space. American Corner Director Amra Pandzo organized a program for young people who wore costumes and masks of different nations (United States, Brazil, Italy, Japan, Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina...) and impersonated the most important cultural/artistic elements of the nation they represented.



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS EVENTS DEDICATED TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



On the occasion of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday marked on Monday, January 18, and the coming Black History Month, Cultural Attaché, Ronald E. Hawkins, Jr. and Deputy Cultural Attaché, Roger Webb held a series of presentations dedicated to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States at the United World College and Gymnasium in Mostar, American Corner in Zenica and American Corner Doboje.

They spoke to the audiences about the slow but steady progress of the civil rights movement in the U.S. over the years and also touched upon the current state of civil rights in the U.S. They spoke about the importance of President Lincoln and why he is considered one of the greatest U.S. Presidents and also drew a parallel between President Obama and President Lincoln. The stories of Obama and Lincoln have become entwined by history, geography and symbolism. They discussed the fact that their paths are viewed as not just their own, but the country's as well — a lineage from the man who freed the slaves to the first black president in U.S. history. Their remarks also focused on the role of individuals in the Civil Rights Movement.



Following the presentation, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Webb answered wide range of questions on life and race relations in the United States.

First Academic Exchange Information Session at the University of Zenica

U.S. Embassy Sarajevo Office of Public Affairs staff, including Roger Webb, Melissa Scherer, and Elizabeta Delalic, and Education USA Adviser Aleksandra Vljakovic held an Information Session on academic exchange programs at the University of Zenica in an attempt to increase the number and quality of applications from this city. Zenica TV and "Nasa Rijec" weekly journal covered the event, which was attended by a small, but inquisitive crowd of students, professors and alumni from United States Government programs.



BiH Youth Task Forces Conference Brought Together 100 Young People



BiH Youth Task Forces came together for their first meeting in Sarajevo, January 22-24. Among the 180 young people age 16-24, 100 of them were chosen to be a part of the initial phase of forming the Youth force in Vogosca from January 22nd through January 24th. The theme of the conference was “Civic Participation In A Local Community.” Divided into four groups, each group focused on a different issue: education, health issues, employment and social policy toward young people. The overall goals were to create a national strategy for youth policies and action plan for its implementation. In addition, to develop a significant group of young experts who will continue to promote tolerance and sustain their activism long after the project is finished. The Director of the Office of Culture, Education, and Public Affairs, Janet W. Miller opened the conference and Cultural Attaché, Ronald E. Hawkins, Jr. participated in the closing sessions.

Ambassador Charles L. English gives interviews Vecernji List and TV Hayat



During these two interviews, Ambassador Charles L. English encouraged BiH unity, discussed constitutional reform and the importance of EU and NATO membership for BiH and its citizens. He also stressed the United States' ongoing commitment to BiH and he urged BiH to continue the government reform process to make membership to NATO and the EU possible.

Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan M. Moore does live interview with BH Radio in Sarajevo

On January 14, 2009, DCM Jonathan Moore did a live interview with BH Radio in Sarajevo, BiH in local language. During the interview, DCM Moore answered questions regarding BiH politics and US policy in BiH from both the BH Radio host and members of the listening audience.



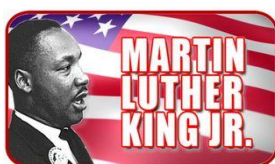
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FEBRUARY EVENTS:



- **FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**
- **FEBRUARY 12 – LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY**
- **FEBRUARY 14-VALENTINE'S DAY**
- **FEBRUARY 15– WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY**
- **FEBRUARY 16 – MARDI GRAS**



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The IRC provides current, comprehensive information about the United States, its institutions, its foreign and domestic policies, its social and political processes, legislative developments, economic issues, history and culture.

The IRC has several commercial on-line databases available, including Lexis-Nexis, ProQuest, Ebsco, and Factiva. It also had a non-circulating book collection. The collection consist of volumes, including encyclopedias, handbooks, and titles in fields such as government, politics, history, economics, education and sociology. The ARC also regularly receives periodicals in related subject areas (Foreign Affairs, Time, Newsweek, The Economist, The New Republic, Harvard Business Review, American Spectator, The New Yorker...)

The IRC is opened every day from 08:00 until 16:30, except on Saturdays, Sundays, American and BiH holidays. The center is accessible by appointments via:

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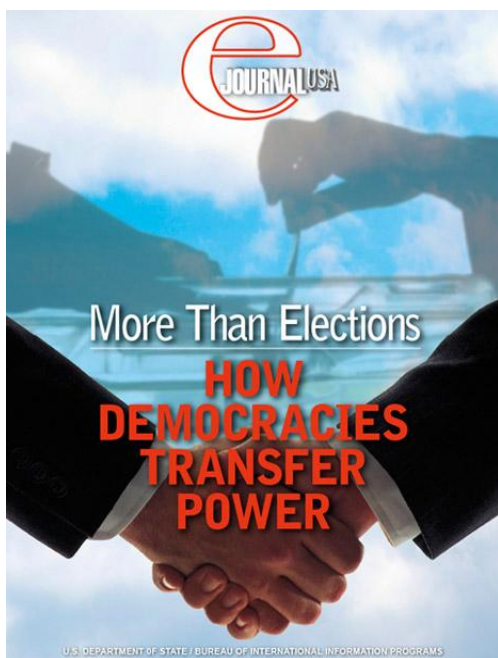
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ARTICLE ALERT

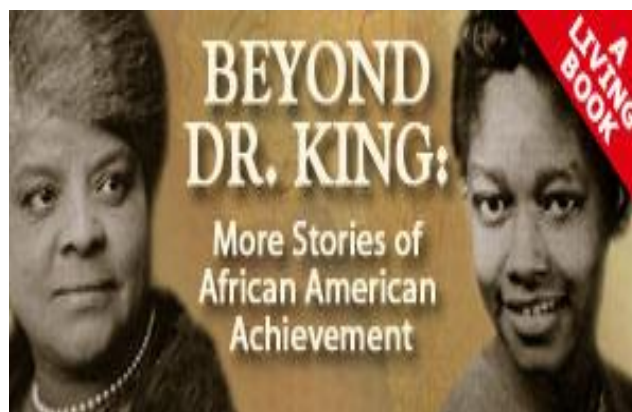
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farms.

- In 1807 The Clermont made its maiden voyage from New York City to Albany making the vessel the first successful steamboat.
- New York City has 722 miles of subway track.
- Chittenango is the home of L. Frank Baum, author of the "Wizard of Oz". It features a yellow brick inlaid sidewalks leading to Auntie Em's and other Oz-themed businesses. Chittenango is the location of an annual Munchkins parade.
- The first daily Yiddish newspaper appeared in 1885 in New York City.
- The first international sports hero, boxer Bill Richmond of Staten Island, was born August 5, 1763.
- The "New York Post" established in 1803 by Alexander Hamilton is the oldest running newspaper in the United States.
- John Babcock invented both the indoor rowing machine and the sliding seat during the winter of 1869/1870.
- The first railroad in America ran a distance of 11 miles between Albany and Schenectady.
- The Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island near Manhattan served as a symbol of freedom to immigrants seeking a better life in the United States.
- One might think that the city of Buffalo was named after the animal, but historians think otherwise. In 1780, Seneca Indians established a village on the site of the future city in an area long visited by French explorers, and named it for a nearby stream known as Buffalo Creek. But the likely origin of the stream's name was not the animal, but a corruption of the French term beau fleuve, which means a beautiful river.
- The first capital of the United States was New York City. In 1789 George Washington took his oath as President on the balcony at Federal Hall.
- Hartsdale has a pet cemetery established in 1896 and containing 12,000 plots.
- In November for Boy Scouts and in March for Girl Scouts the annual Urban Camp-Outs are hosted at the Empire State Building.
- The Catskills are the home of the legend of Rip Van Winkle, brown trout and fly-casting.
- The first presentation of 3D films before a paying audience took place at Manhattan's Astor Theater on June 10, 1915.
- The Genesee River is one of the few rivers in the world that flows south to north.
- Rochester is known as both the Flour City and the Flower City. The community is home to the first abolitionist group, bloomers, marshmallows, Jell-O, French's Mustard, baby shoes, gold teeth and the mail chute.

- Gennaro Lombardi opened the first United States pizzeria in 1895 in New York City.
- On July 28, 1945 an Army Air Corps B-25 crashed into the Empire State Building at the 79th floor level.
- New York's largest lake in Oneida measures 79.8 square miles.
- New York's highest waterfall is the 215 foot Taughannock.
- The Erie Canal, built across New York State in the 1820s, opened the Midwest to development and helped New York City become a worldwide trading center.
- European settlers who brought seeds to New York introduced apples in the 1600s.
- The Big Apple is a term coined by musicians meaning to play the big time.
- Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp in Narrowsburg is the largest council owned camp in the country.
- Wade Boggs and Cal Ripken Jr. played against each other in Rochester vs. Pawtucket Red Sox in the longest game in baseball history. The game went a total of 33 innings.
- The oldest cattle ranch in the US was started in 1747 at Montauk on Long Island.
- Adirondack Park is larger than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Olympic Parks combined.
- New York was the first state to require license plates on cars.
- Niagara Reservation became the first state park in the United States.
- Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh was the first publicly owned historic site.
- New York has over 70,000 miles of rivers and streams.
- The first public brewery in America was established by Peter Minuit at the Market (Marckvelt) field in lower Manhattan.
- Mount Kisco's landmark, a statue of Chief Kisco, was once an elaborate fountain for watering horses. The statue stands at the intersection of Routes 117 and 133. D.F. Gorham, a strong supporter of prohibition, presented it to Mount Kisco in 1907. The inscription on the base to the statue reads "God's Only Beverage for Man and Beast."