



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

AMBASSADOR KOUNALAKIS JOINS MARCH OF THE LIVING PROCESSION



Ambassador Kounalakis joined more than 15,000 marchers in a torchlight procession along the banks of the Danube on April 18 to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.

Organized by the Hungarian March of the Living Foundation, Hungary is the only country, other than Poland, where such a march takes place annually.

Prominent political and religious leaders marked the occasion by speaking out forcefully against modern-day intolerance.

(Left to right) Peter Feldmayer (Chairman of the Confederation of the Jewish Communities in Hungary), Ambassador Kounalakis and Minister without portfolio Peter Kiss (Embassy Photo)



Visit at Primavera Foundation

On April 19, Ambassador Kounalakis, accompanied by Mrs. Vera Blinken, wife of former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary Donald Blinken, visited the Primavera Foundation and its operational partner MaMMA Klinika in Budapest's 2nd District. Primavera was founded in 2000 by Mrs. Blinken and put into operation Hungary's first mobile breast cancer screening bus. [More](#)▶



Environmental Hurdle Race Celebrates Earth Day in Hungary

On April 22, U.S. Embassy Budapest staff came out to support an environmental competition in Gödöllő organized by the Green Club of Gödöllő University's Environmental Department. Jointly with the mayor of the town, Deputy Chief of Mission Jeffrey Levine opened the family event. [More](#)▶



'America Day' in Eger

Ambassador Kounalakis made an outreach visit to the city of Eger on Tuesday, April 20. She began her program by attending the 'America Day' event hosted by the István Dobó high school. After being briefed on the academic program of the school she met with 300 students in the school gym, where she encouraged them to study in the United States. [More](#)▶



Ambassador Kounalakis Visits Debrecen

Ambassador Kounalakis paid a visit to Debrecen with her family on April 12-15, to discover what Hungary's second largest city has to offer in terms of cultural and recreational activities. She also conducted an official program during her stay. [More](#)▶



Ambassador Kounalakis Observes Hungarians Going to the Polls

On April 11, Ambassador Tsakopoulos Kounalakis and her husband Markos Kounalakis visited several polling places in Budapest to observe the first round of Hungary's general elections.

[More ►](#)



Building Home for Autistic People

On April 1, Consul General Jeff Lodinsky participated in a groundbreaking ceremony and construction of the Miskolc Autistic Association's home for those with autism. The U.S. Embassy and the American International School of Budapest have joined with Habitat for Humanity for many years to construct housing for those in need.

[More ►](#)



Congressional Delegation in Budapest

A bipartisan delegation of five U.S. Senators, headed by Byron L. Dorgan of North Dakota, visited Budapest on April 3. In a meeting with senior representatives of the Government of Hungary, the Senators underscored the importance of close Trans-Atlantic relations and welcomed Hungary's continued commitment to NATO efforts.

[More ►](#)



Kate McGarry--Best of Jazz from New York

On March 31, American jazz singer, Grammy-award nominee Kate McGarry and her husband guitarist Keith Ganz, performed at Budapest's IF Café under the sponsorship of the U.S. Embassy. Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Levine delivered remarks at the start of the concert underlining the Embassy's efforts to promote mutual understanding through jazz. The concert was brimming with life and the full-house audience enjoyed a performance conveying the best of American contemporary jazz.



**VIDEO: The Embassy's Professional Fellowship Program for Multiply-Disadvantaged People
Testimonials of the second two fellows, April 27, 2010
(in Hungarian, with English and Hungarian transcript) ►**

From Washington

INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY (April 8)

**Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's Statement ►
United States Assistance for Roma Issues (Fact sheet) ►**

A New Beginning: The Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship

Overview: President Obama, with the Department of State and the Department of Commerce, hosted the event April 26-27 in Washington. Delegates from more than 40 countries on five continents had been invited to participate.

[Online archive of keynote speeches and panel discussions ►](#)



World Press Freedom Day: Monday, May 3, 2010. [Join us ►](#)

ATLAS CORPS is seeking nominations for rising leaders with 3-10 years of nonprofit experience, a college degree, and English proficiency. They offer a designated J-1 program that brings nonprofit leaders from around the world to the U.S. for a year of nonprofit training and development. After one year of volunteering in the U.S., the Fellows return to their home countries. **More** ▶

New Publications

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Economic Issues
 Business · Trade · Energy · Finance
 April 2010

"If we want to once again approach full employment; if we want to create broad, shared, and lasting wealth for our workers and our families; if we want an America that is ready to compete on the global playing field in the 21st century — then we can't slide back into an economy where we borrow too much and put off tough challenges. We can't return to an economy where too much of our prosperity is based on floating bubbles and rampant speculation. We have to rebuild our economy on a more, stronger, more balanced foundation for the future — a foundation that will advance the American people's prosperity at home, and support American leadership in the world. And that's precisely what we're going to do."

President Obama's Speech at Export-Import Bank Confirmation
 11 March 2010

President Barack Obama waves after speaking at the Export-Import Bank's Inaugural Conference in Washington, March 11, 2010. (AP Photo)

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Environmental Issues
 April 2010

April 22—Earth Day 2010

Every year after the first Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity — an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

Earth Day 2010 can be a turning point to advance climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs. Earth Day Network is galvanizing millions who make personal commitments to sustainability. Earth Day 2010 is a pivotal opportunity for individuals, entrepreneurs and governments to join together and create a global green economy. Join the more than one billion people in 190 countries that are taking action for Earth Day.

<http://www.earthday.org/earthday2010>

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Health Issues
 April 2010

On March 23rd, 2010, the President signed health reform into law, completing a task wrestled on by seven Presidents before him. He referenced many people that had not struggled with health care bills and reformers, including his mother, as his motivation for signing the bill.

Here, in this country, we shape our own destiny. That is after we do. That is after we are. That is after miles on the United States of America. And we have now just confirmed, as soon as I sign this bill, the core principle that everybody should have some basic security when it comes to their health care. — President Obama, 3/23/10

Zoom in on America
 April 2010
 Issue 27

A publication of the U.S. Consulate Krakow and the U.S. Embassy Budapest

American Birds

There are more than 500 species of birds that spend all or part of their lives in the United States. National Parks are among the best places to observe birds. Nearly every imaginable bird (except from arctic lands in tropical latitudes, are represented in American National Parks. National Parks provide critical breeding, roosting, dispersal and nesting habitat for a great variety of birds.

Bird watching is a popular pastime of Americans. Dedicated birdwatchers are willing to go far out of their way to observe birds in their natural habitat. They will spend hours and, standing motionless knee-deep in water, wrap up in the most uncomfortable cover-

ups, or freeze on viewing platforms mounted among the branches of trees to get the attention of birds. All who have done it know what patience and determination it requires. But patience is rewarded. Incredible "bursts" with camera clicks, great results. Fabulous pictures of birds flying, nesting, feeding their young, and hunting have been taken by ornithologist-photographers.

Today, in addition to making documentaries, photographs or paintings, we also have to make sure that these beautiful creatures are treated with due respect, and that their natural habitat is protected so that they live a long and healthy life, and our future generations will also have a chance to admire them.

Zoom In On America

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