



# Alumni Newsletter

## Spring '08

### MOUNTAIN CLEAN-UP



As we all know, spring tourist season negatively affects environment of Uzbekistan because of all the trash left after people's activities. Littering damages the nature, kills wildlife and destroys the natural beauty.

Alumni decided to celebrate the Earth Day (April 22) by holding a clean up project, a small grant received by YEO'07 alumna, Anastasiya Ni, from US Embassy in Tashkent. Alumni chose one of the most littered picnic zones in Chimgan Mountains, bought trash bags and gloves and went to clean up the nature. They had spent about 4 hours cleaning up the zone from different plastic bottles, paper, plastic bags and cans. A huge territory on the slopes of Chimgan Mountains was saved and got its natural beauty back. Later in the afternoon everybody had a nice break for lunch, games and presentations made by Youth Environmental Network of Uzbekistan. Alumni had a wonderful time helping the environment of Uzbekistan and also having fun, enjoying the beauty of Chimgan Mountains. This clean-up project was another opportu-



### "Ilkhom" Performance

The Ilkhom Theater was the place to be in Tashkent on May 30 and 31. On those days, a group of young and energetic students and alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs continued an alumni tradition of staging a play in English and performed a contemporary American play titled "All in the timing" by David Ives. It's a collection of short comedic one-acts, depicting everything from first dates and altered states of reality to made up languages and a man who thinks he's a typewriter. After 3 months of rehearsing, actors' hard work was apparent as these rookies delivered Ives' lines (with some local modifications) with spot on comedic timing and overwhelming energy. Two performances, 30-31 May, were well received by audience of about 300 people. All actors and directors had a great and unforgettable experience of working together. The project was funded by the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan and all money from tickets went to alumni fund for the further alumni and charity events.



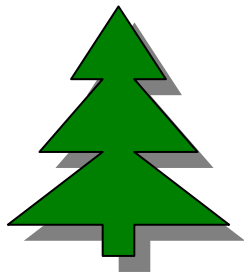
## ALUMNI CONFERENCE IN THE MOUNTAINS

On May 10-11, the U.S. Embassy sponsored Second Annual Alumni Conference with goals to improve skills and knowledge of alumni in some spheres, to bring more attention to alumni community and its activities, and provide a networking opportunity for the alumni. This year it took place in “Pyramids” resort in Charvak outside of Tashkent. Almost 100 alumni from nearly all regions of Uzbekistan participated in this event. The U.S. Ambassador Richard Norland and Global Alumni Coordinator Suzanne Weinerman welcomed alumni, after that the Public Affairs Section and alumni of different US Government-sponsored exchange programs made interesting and useful presentations on such topics as alumni grants, running a business, time managing, volunteering, educational opportunities, etc. In the evening everybody had free time for socializing, singing, dancing in Resort Club, bowling, taking nice walks along the coast. The impressions from the conference were unforgettable! All alumni enriched their skills and knowledge, got energized with alumni spirit, received great memories and made a lot of new friends.



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## BELDERSAY SCOUT CAMP



Second Scout Camp was held in Beldersay Mountains on June, 7-8. The purpose of the camp was to improve the relationship between the man and nature. This time the weather was nice and warm, so everybody stayed and slept in tents and experienced true feeling of mountain nature. Scouts from youth ecology organizations prepared presentations about global environmental issues, which were followed by games and discussion about our future activities toward the improvement of the present environmental situation in Uzbekistan. Some experienced young ecologists shared with alumni their surviving skills and nature knowledge, while some alumni showed their cooking and organizational skills. On the second day couple of alumni with scouts took a wonderful tour to the mountains. After two days of enjoying the spring nature everybody went home with a pleasant sun tan and load of positive emotions!



## U.S. Embassy Works with Local Community to Beautify Seattle Peace Park in Tashkent



To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Seattle and Tashkent, the U.S. Embassy organized a clean-up of the Seattle Peace Park in Tashkent on March 29. To help clean the park, U.S. Embassy staff gathered, along with more than 60 others, including alumni of USG-exchange programs, regular visitors to the Embassy's Information Resource Center and students from a nearby lyceum. The Embassy donated two dozen shrubs, 20 tree saplings and over a hundred flowers to plant in the park, while the Tashkent city mayor's office provided necessary equipment, including rakes, shovels, brooms, and



a truck to remove debris. U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Richard Norland and his wife Mary Hartnett also pitched in to beautify the park. Upon arriving at the park, they were greeted by local government and media representatives. Working with Deputy Hokim of Tashkent City Agzamjon Rizashev, the Ambassador planted several new trees himself. All participants could see the results of their hard work immediately - in less than two hours the group managed to plant all the trees and flowers, and the whole park was shining like new. This event set a perfect tone for future activities to commemorate the anniversary. This was the first time a foreign Embassy participated in this "Hashar" or spring cleaning, and everyone, both the Uzbeks and Americans, appreciated the significance of this act to help beautify Tashkent.

## International Children's Day

Whenever we think of children, the first thing that comes to our mind is innocence and naivety. A child is the purest form of a human being who hasn't met the harsh realities of life. All children's activities bring forth their true feelings and they are not bothered about what people think of them. It is sad though to see how many children are left without our attention nowadays. But all kids need is our care and love, which I believe all of us, could share. All together we should be putting the needs of our children first as they are our future, our tiny rays of light in the darkness. We have many orphanages in Tashkent and in other regions as well. And the orphanage Mehribonlik – 24" is one of them. We have been visiting the kids quite a lot there. June 1 in 2007 which was the International Children's Day was actually the start for our regular visits. We have also opened some interactive clubs for kids including English, Math and Outdoor Sports. Those kids embrace very positive energy and it always feels special to spend time with them. Let's bring some more happiness and joy to the lives of those orphaned kids and not only on International Children's Day. If any of you would like to join, have some ideas or projects to realize please feel free to contact me at: [marta\\_mustafina@yahoo.com](mailto:marta_mustafina@yahoo.com)



## Looking for contributors!

We encourage everyone to participate in creating the Alumni Newsletter. So, anyone who would like to share some interesting charity projects, alumni events, stories, photos or ideas on improving the newsletter— write us to [Anastasia\\_Nee@yahoo.com](mailto:Anastasia_Nee@yahoo.com)

Editor: *Anastasiya Ni*

Special Contributors:

*Sardor Djurabaeu, Nodira Turayeva and  
Marta Mustafina*