

Alumni Updates - Winter 2008

REPORTING FROM ANASTASIYA NI

NEW YEAR BASH!



The Alumni New Year Party, which was held in the Vacuum Club on December 28, was a celebration of another productive year of great ideas and great changes in our country and in the lives of alumni. Starting off with the official part of the party, we first gave a great round of applause for the most active alumni who, for their outstanding contribution to effecting positive changes in our country, were awarded with Certificates of Appreciation. The second part of the ceremony was held by ZAVA Mobile. Alumni who actively participated in an SMS contest received gifts from the sponsor. Then everyone raised their glasses for

a collective toast to the year that had just passed and to greet the upcoming year. After the official part of the party, crazy energetic dancing began! Father Frost and Snegurochka, who were played by alumni, hosted the celebration. The DJ played different types of music from R&B to popular hits of the 80's. Alumni showed their amazing dance and singing talent. The traditional features of New Year including shiny decorations, champagne and Bengal light combined with the energy of the alumni produced a fantastic festivity. Moreover, the party was also a charity event to help deaf children celebrate New Year. So, alumni had a blast and shared their happy mood, holiday spirit and cheerful emotions with others.



HOLIDAY CHARITY!



The next day after the celebration, the alumni coordinators and several alumni went to The Republican Palace of Culture for Deaf People in Tashkent to distribute the boxes full of alumni donations. Alumni Father Frost and Snegurochka brought a holiday spirit to audience. Along with the children, the alumni decorated a Christmas tree that they brought especially for the children and then they danced around it. Next, the kids recited poems and sang songs in sign language and received presents from Father Frost. The toys, books, goody bags, and clothes that alumni had

donated made children and their parents feel happy and loved. And in return, we received joy, happiness and appreciation from those amazing kids. The positive energy that we got from the children's eyes and smiles that were full of happiness made our New Year holidays so much brighter. Thanks to our alumni and their generous contributions, we made this holiday season very special for these kids. The project has also inspired us for further great projects and charity ideas in 2008!



BOOK SORTING EXTRAVAGANZA!



Since the American Corners in Uzbekistan have all closed, the US Embassy in Tashkent decided to give the leftover American books to different youth organizations, schools, universities, libraries, and independent educational centers. To sort the books for delivery, alumni and students that often visit the US Embassy Information Resource Center gathered for two days. Even though the building was cold, everybody had fun sorting the books, putting donation stickers on them, and just socializing with each other. In

the end we had a nice break for delicious pizza and some hot tea. As a result of 2 days spent in the warehouse, more than 7,000 new and used children tales, encyclopedias, test preparation materials, and fiction books were organized and sent to various organizations, schools, and alumni communities in Tashkent, Samarkand, Namangan and all around the country. Hopefully this charitable donation by the US Embassy will bring new opportunities for schools and students all over the country to expand their study and improve their English skills.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

AMERICAN MOVIE NIGHT — JANUARY 25, "A BEAUTIFUL MIND"

EARTH DAY — APRIL 2008 (exact days to be announced soon, so stay tuned!)

SCOUT-CAMP — APRIL 2008 (exact days to be announced soon, so stay tuned!)

SECOND ANNUAL ALUMNI CONFERENCE — TENTATIVELY MID-MAY

NEWSBOARD

DEMOCRACY OUTREACH/ALUMNI GRANTS: Proposals due February 11, 2008

More opportunities to support Alumni initiatives and projects! Your grant proposals are due to Alumni Coordinator on **Monday, February 11**. For more information or/and to download the application form please visit: <http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov/alumni>. For questions related to projects and grant applications please contact Alumni Coordinator at Tashkent-Alumni@state.gov.

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- ⇒ Find the latest research in your profession, plus career enhancing information
- ⇒ Participate in live Webchats with experts
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Future Leaders Exchange Program Photo Contest due February 1, 2008

(<https://alumni.state.gov/online-resources/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities/flex-photo-contest>)

Future Leaders Exchange Alumni Grant Program 2008 due February 29, 2008

<https://alumni.state.gov/online-resources/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities/flex-alumni-grant-program-2008>



We encourage everyone to participate in creating the Alumni Newsletters. So, anyone who would like to share some interesting charity projects, alumni events, photos or ideas on improving the newsletters - write me to Anastasia_Nee@yahoo.com.