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Embassy Celebrates American Independence Day

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Exhibition of American Books and Photographs

The American Culture Week dedicated to the American Independence Day and to the 10th anniversary of American-Turkmen diplomatic relations began with an exhibition of books and photographs in Ashgabat on July 1, 2002. Representatives of various organizations and companies in Turkmenistan, as well as private people, visited the exhibition held at the National Library by the U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan.

Visitors received books and brochures, watched video films, and learned about (continued on page 2)



Visitors listen to U.S. Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy opening the Exhibition

Concert of American and Turkmen Music



First Secretary John Jacobs singing a surprise song

On July 3, 2002, U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan and the National Cultural Center organized a concert of American and Turkmen music at "Mekan" Palace in Ashgabat. The "Altyn Asyr" orchestra of the National Cultural Center conducted by Arslan Nepesov performed famous American jazz melodies and some Turkmen music. The song "What a Beautiful Morning" from the musical "Oklahoma" performed by U.S. Embassy First Secretary John Jacobs came as a special surprise for music-lovers who came to the concert. Some of them stayed after the concert to get an autograph by him.

U.S. Ambassador in Turkmenistan Laura E. Kennedy, Deputy Minister of Culture Jemal Saparova, Director of the National Cultural Center Juma Tirkeshov, and famous Turkmen composer Rejep Allayarov attended the concert. (continued on page 2)

Independence Day Reception

The U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat celebrated the American Independence Day with a reception on July 4, 2002. U.S. Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy hosted the event at her residence and Vice Prime Minister Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov were the guests of honor representing the Government of Turkmenistan. A number of other government officials and representatives of embassies, international organizations, businesses and private citizens attended the event. (continued on page 2)



Ambassador addresses guests while Mr. Meredov and Mr. Berdimuhammedov listen

Embassy Celebrates American Independence Day

Exhibition of American Books and Photographs

(continued from page 1)

computer programs featuring American culture, arts, history and geography. Forty-three enlarged photos displayed at the exhibition created a broad picture of American activities in Turkmenistan during the past ten years, which include U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs, humanitarian aid shipments to Afghanistan, the Anau Mosque Restoration Project, the donation of a U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, and various activities of USAID, Peace Corps, and American businesses in Turkmenistan. The presentation of the second edition of "The Echo of America" Cultural

Magazine in Turkmen and Russian was a highlight of the exhibit. Visitors also had an opportunity to learn about various other resources available at the Information-Resource Center of the U.S. Embassy.

U.S. Ambassador in Turkmenistan Laura E. Kennedy attended the event. "Books and libraries are at the heart of education, and this is so important for the future of any country," said Ambassador Kennedy addressing the visitors. She encouraged everyone to use the exhibition's resources.

Concert of American and Turkmen Music

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Opening the concert, Ambassador Kennedy said, "Music is a universal language for the nations of the world. And, probably, among many ways of cooperation, it is the most simple and enjoyable one."



"Altyn Asyr" orchestra of the National Cultural Center conducted by Rovshen Nepesov performs American melodies

It is symbolic that at the same time the Concert was held in Ashgabat, three Turkmen "bakhshi" musicians performed national Turkmen melodies at the Silk Road Festival in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Embassy in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan sponsored the group so that Turkmenistan would be represented at the Festival (see p.4).

The American Embassy pays close attention to the development of cultural ties between Turkmenistan and the U.S. The Anau Mosque mosaic tile restoration project funded by the U.S. Department of State Cultural Preservation Fund is a highlight of such cultural cooperation. The U.S. Embassy sponsored "American Voices" artists CoCo York and Mike Del Ferro for a week of concerts and masterclasses April 15-18, 2002. An American Jazz Trio group will visit Ashgabat in September to perform for jazz fans of the Turkmen Capital.

Independence Day Reception

(continued from page 1)

It is a special pleasure to celebrate our national birthday along with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan... We are pleased that cooperation between our countries has flourished in many fields but believe that it can be substantially increased in the months and years ahead, in terms of our official relations, our private ties, our educational exchanges and our trade," said Ambassador Kennedy in her opening speech.

After the official presentation of the flag at the reception, Ambassador Kennedy encouraged all guests to celebrate America's Independence Day as a birthday party, enjoying barbeque and great dance music. "Please feel free to get rid of ties and jackets, and kick off your shoes and dance!" she urged the guests.



The traditional march-past by the Marine Security Guard Detachment

Ambassador Kennedy Addresses the Turkmen People On the Occasion of America's Independence Day

U.S. Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy gave a televised address on the occasion of U.S. Independence Day on July 4, 2002. The following is the text of the address:

"On behalf of the American Government and people, I would like to extend greetings to President Niyazov and the people of Turkmenistan on the occasion of America's Independence Day.

"This is a very important day for Americans. On July 4, 1776, a group of colonial Americans signed a Declaration of Independence, pledging their "lives, fortunes and sacred honor" to the cause of an independent nation based on democratic principles.

"Americans cherish their tradition of democracy and we are, and always will be, firm advocates for the virtues of democratic governance. Democracy may not always be perfect but it is the most stable form of government, and we think the best, because all citizens are involved and have a stake in its success.

"Democratic societies agree on a framework of individual rights and freedoms: that all citizens are equal before the law, that they have the right to openly express their opinions, to practice their own religious beliefs, to assemble freely and to petition the government. Americans also agree that everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed. That is, a person's success should depend on his or her work ethic and motivation.

"But a successful democracy is not only one in which citizens have rights and freedoms, it is one where they also have duties and responsibilities. One of things that has made democracy work in America is our emphasis on education. Our education system has schooled generations of Americans in civic virtues.

"Many people say we are a rich society and therefore can afford a good education system. On the contrary, I believe that our investment in our education system is what has made our country prosperous. Because our education system provides education for all citizens, a diverse set of leaders has emerged in the United States. Americans of all backgrounds - Hispanics, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, white Americans, Native Americans, and others - now hold leading positions in business, Government, and public organizations. We have tapped the talents of all Americans, and have benefited greatly.

"Like America, Turkmenistan has great human resources, which should be developed by investing in a strong education and health system. Your young people are your future. They are talented and motivated to help develop their country. If they are given a good education, Turkmenistan's future is indeed bright.

"Our two nations have developed cooperation in many fields over the past ten years. Most recently, we have worked together to provide humanitarian aid to the Afghan people. We have also cooperated on educational exchange programs, which have brought over 600 citizens of Turkmenistan to study and live in America and also brought American scholars and professionals here. This remains a critical priority for the U.S. Government and for me personally. These exchanges reflect our commitment to Turkmenistan's future and to closer ties between our two nations.

"It is a pleasure to be able to celebrate the Fourth of July here in Turkmenistan as well as the first decade of the U.S. Embassy in independent Turkmenistan. We look forward to further cooperation with the people and Government of Turkmenistan and we stand ready to assist your further development in any way we can."

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Conducts a Forensic Chemist Seminar on Narcotics With the Government of Turkmenistan

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducted a one-week forensic chemist seminar on narcotics with Government of Turkmenistan law enforcement officials in Ashgabat from July 15 to 19, 2002. Attending the seminar were a total of 19 participants representing the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Committee for National Security of Turkmenistan. Two DEA Forensic Chemists came to Ashgabat as instructors for this training to share their expertise and experiences related to the forensic analysis of various drug samples with their Turkmen counterparts. The DEA Trainers enthusiastically noted that the training seminar was a mutually beneficial experience for the U.S. trainers and the Turkmen participants. This DEA training seminar is an example of meaningful cooperation between the two governments in the area of law enforcement liaison and training, and will

help further improve the capability of Turkmen law enforcement agencies in their efforts against narcotics trafficking and organized crime.



U.S. Ambassador Laura Kennedy with organizers, trainers and participants of the forensic chemist seminar

Embassy Holds a Press Conference for Turkmen Participants of the Silk Road Festival

On July 19, 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat held a press conference with the participation of three Turkmen "bakhshi" musicians who represented Turkmenistan at the two-week Silk Road Festival in Washington, D.C., in June-July 2002. Eight journalists from local and international media outlets, such as Reuters, Radio Liberty, Delovaya Nedelya (Kazakhstan), and Zaman (Turkey), attended the press conference. Musicians Maksat Begnazarov, Lale Begnazarova and Osman Gujimov discussed and answered questions about their participation in the Festival. Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy attended the press conference.



Ambassador Kennedy and musicians (from left) Osman Gujimov, Lale Begnazarova and Maksat Begnazarov during the press conference

"The American Embassy is proud to have played a role in helping to send a very talented group of Turkmen musicians to represent Turkmenistan at the Smithsonian Silk Road Festival in Washington, D.C.," said Ambassador Kennedy. In turn, the musicians expressed their enormous appreciation to the U.S. Embassy and to

the Ambassador personally for creating the opportunity to participate in such a cultural exchange.

The three Turkmen musicians performed traditional Turkmen music at the Festival "The Silk Road: Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust". The U.S. Embassy with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan sponsored the participation of this group so that Turkmenistan would be represented in the Festival. This talented trio was selected from an outstanding group of "bakhshi" performers.

The musicians' participation at the Festival generated extensive coverage by the Turkmen media. "Watan", "Zaman", "Neytralniy Turkmenistan" national newspapers and some international media outlets released articles and reports on the Festival. Jemile Kurbanova of "Neytralniy Turkmenistan" attended the Silk Road Festival as a participant of the Press Center Reporting Tour for journalists, and began a series of articles on the Festival.

The 36th annual Smithsonian Institution Folklife Festival, which this year was dedicated to Silk Road cultures, gathered nearly 400 musicians, artisans, storytellers and dancers from 25 countries. Nearly two million visitors to the National Mall in Washington saw the various exhibits. Participants from the legendary routes of the Silk Road from Nara, Japan, to Venice, Italy, demonstrated the artistic achievements of their cultures, which included such diverse areas as Turkmen carpet weaving, Mongolian throat singing, Chinese storytelling, Italian papermaking, martial arts presentations, glass blowing, silk-making, and Pakistani truck-painting. The two-week festival in Washington emphasized the intercultural exchange of ideas, art, food, music, and commerce that continues to shape the cultures of the world today.

Ambassador Kennedy Visits Balkan Welayat

On July 30 and 31 Ambassador of the United States Laura E. Kennedy conducted a trip to the Balkan welayat, including the Caspian port city of Turkmenbashi. While there, Ambassador Kennedy met with the Mayor of Turkmenbashi, Ashirberdy Cherkezov. Together she and the Mayor opened an exhibit of photographs depicting 10 years of American Embassy activities in Turkmenistan. The Ambassador also met with representatives of regional NGOs, and with alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchanges. Ambassador Kennedy took a boat-tour of the Caspian harbor aboard a cutter donated to Turkmenistan by the United States' government.

Ambassador Kennedy's trip to the Balkan welayat also included a meeting with the Hakim of the welayat, Rustem Artykov, and the mayor of Balkanabat, Parakhat Durdiev. The Ambassador was treated to a lunch with

farmers and USAID - Winrock partners at the Eskander peasants' association of Serdar etrap.



Eskander farmers welcome Ambassador Kennedy

FLEX Alumni Conduct a Charity Auction

Alumni of the FSA FLEX program conducted a Charity Art Auction at the Sheraton Grand Turkmen Hotel in Ashgabat, on July 13, 2002. The auction was aimed at raising funds to support the Buzmein Boarding School. About a hundred attendees from different organizations, companies and embassies of Ashgabat bid on 43 paintings drawn by children from the Boarding School and students of the Ashgabat Arts Academy. The exciting event jointly sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat, the American Councils for International Education (ACCELS) and the Sheraton Grand Turkmen Hotel collected \$3,260, which will be used for repairing the heating system of the Boarding School.

The Auction was opened by reading the address of U.S. Ambassador in Turkmenistan Laura E. Kennedy to all participants of the event, in which Ambassador Kennedy underlined the important role of the community work that the FLEX alumni carry out in Turkmenistan and in the Buzmein Boarding School in particular. Using his opportunity to address the participants, Director of the Buzmein Boarding School Ashir Germanov stated, "The staff of the U.S. Embassy and young alumni regularly visit our school and provide financial and other kinds of assistance to the children. On behalf of all teachers and children of the Boarding School, I would like to express our endless thanks to all of you."

FLEX alumnae Milana Kuliyeveva and Tatyana Aleksandrova received a grant from the FLEX Alumni Grants Program of the U.S. Embassy for the Charity Art Auction to raise funds for the improvement of the heating system of the Buzmein Boarding School. Assisted by other alumni and U.S. Embassy staff members, they organized the auction, which required extensive preliminary work such as conducting art workshops for the children of the School and providing them with painting materials. FLEX alumni have been visiting the school for more than a year and have established friendly relations with the administration and students of the school.



Organizers of the Charity Art Auction demonstrate pictures presented at the event

"Social Partnership" NGO Roundtable Held in Ashgabat

Representatives of local initiative groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as state, business and international organizations gathered at the Nissa hotel on July 17, 2002, for a roundtable aimed at discussing ideas for cooperation between these three sectors. The roundtable was organized by the NGO

"Charity Without Borders" as a project supported by the U.S. Embassy Small Grants Program for Local Initiative Support.

Participants debated methods of promoting NGO activities in social welfare and education areas, and of strengthening the dissemination of information on healthy life-styles, youth leadership, and community problem solving. Representatives of the NGO "Charity Without Borders" and of the Ministry of Social Welfare and the City Hospital named after S. Niyazov provided examples of successful cooperation when pensioners and the disabled have been provided free services. "Charity Without Borders" provides free services and does charity work for the Ministry and the Hospital. Roundtable participants also discussed the need for an NGO forum where representatives of different state agencies, businesses and international organizations would be invited to get a better understanding of benefits from involvement of civic organizations and volunteer groups in the development of the country.



Chairman of NGO "Charity Without Borders" Selbi Akmuradova leading the roundtable

New Embassy and Peace Corps Staff Members Arrive in Ashgabat



Bob Tansey

Robert J. Tansey began his assignment as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Ashgabat in July 2002.

Bob has been a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State for the last 17 years. An economic officer within the career service, he has served in Guatemala; Calgary, Canada; the Office of Pacific Island Affairs; and Beijing and Chengdu in China. Most recently he was Senior Watch Officer in the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center. His foreign languages are Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and some Turkmen. He has degrees in public affairs and public administration from George Washington University. Prior to joining the foreign service he worked for a customs house broker, at the Department of Energy and the Patent and Trademark Office, and for two consulting firms.

In his spare time, Bob enjoys basketball and camping, studying and discussing philosophy, and assisting local programs aimed at creating a sense of community.

Bob's wife Stephanie will be joining the American Embassy team here in September. Bob and Stephanie have two children. Their daughter Alena is a university junior currently studying in London, and their son David will be entering Antioch College this fall.

Sharon Sugarek

Sharon is a native Texan and calls Dallas her home. She comes to Ashgabat as the new Country Director for Peace Corps. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Gambia, West Africa in the early 1970's where she was a Science teacher.

Sharon received a BA in Biology from Rice University in Houston, Texas, and an MBA in International Business from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. After completing her Peace Corps service, she entered the business sector and spent her career first in management consulting and then with several Fortune 500 companies in the aerospace, oil & gas and telecommunications sectors. She has held a number of positions in marketing, strategic planning and business development, with an emphasis on international opportunities business development and marketing. She has traveled in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. This is her first time in Central Asia.

Sharon is here in Ashgabat with her dog, Lulu. In her spare time, she likes to dance, cook (and eat), read and garden. And she thinks carpet shopping may become a new hobby!

Jennifer Hall Godfrey

Jennifer Hall Godfrey is the new Vice Consul at the Embassy, replacing Sasha Kasanof.

This is her second assignment with the State Department. Prior to her posting in Ashgabat, she worked as Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. Jennifer studied biological anthropology in college and graduate school, and taught high school chemistry and calculus for two years before joining the State Department.

Jennifer enjoys cooking, reading, and watching old movies. She has a black belt in tae kwon do, and she hopes to learn to ride horses well during her time in Turkmenistan.

Jennifer's husband is also a Foreign Service Officer at post - John Godfrey, Political/Econ Officer. They were married almost two years ago in Jordan.

Daniel Hirsch

Daniel M. Hirsch arrived in Ashgabat on August 6 to assume his duties as Administrative Officer of the Embassy.

Mr. Hirsch was born in Washington DC, but grew up in Asia and Africa, as the son of a career USAID officer. He joined the Foreign Service in 1984, serving first as a reporting officer at the General Assembly of the United Nations. He then served as General Services Officer (GSO) at the U.S. Embassy in Bamako (Mali), Consular Officer in Praia (Cape Verde), GSO in Maputo (Mozambique) and Belgrade (Serbia), and Administrative Officer in Bissau, (Guinea Bissau), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Abuja (Nigeria), Calcutta (India) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). He has spent about a quarter of his life in Central Asia, including most of his early childhood. Mr. Hirsch attended the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and began a Masters program in Natural Resource Economics. He is fluent in French, Portuguese and English, and conversant in Russian. He has received two Superior Honor awards, five Meritorious Honor awards, two Meritorious step increases and was selected as the 2002 General Services Officer of the Year.

Mr. Hirsch is married to the former Rolanda de Fatima Cardoso da Silva Spencer, who was born in the island republic of Cape Verde, near West Africa. He has a daughter, Hannah, who was born during his tour in Tashkent, and a son Aleksandr.

In his spare time, Mr. Hirsch enjoys scuba diving, horseback riding, tennis, swimming and poker. He is also an accomplished cook and is well known in several countries for the excellence of his plov.

USAID/CAR Assists in Improving TurkmenHydroMet's Capacity

The Natural Resource Management Program (NRMP) administered by "PA Consulting" conducted two PC Basics trainings for a total of 24 operators, forecasters and midlevel management staff members of the Hydrometeorology Service of Turkmenistan in July 2002 in Ashgabat.

Last December, the NRMP, which operates within the framework of USAID/CAR, provided six computers, a server and other equipment to improve TurkmenHydroMet's communications and data exchange capacity. The technical support provided by USAID allowed TurkmenHydroMet to shift its focus from trying to improve the technical capacity of the central station to upgrading its regional stations to secure improved

hydrometeorological data exchange.

Consequently, TurkmenHydroMet has secured funds from the Government of Turkmenistan and purchased over 40 computers to upgrade its regional stations. Since most of the operators have never used a computer, the management of TurkmenHydroMet has requested NRMP's assistance in training its operators in basic computer skills. NRMP has conducted four trainings on PC basics with total of 48 TurkmenHydroMet operators during the past 3 months. Approximately 70% of the trainees were from several welayats of Turkmenistan. The trainings increased the work efficiency of the forecasters and operators, who used to perform most of their operations manually.

U.S. Embassy Ashgabat is happy to announce

A Jam Session by the Jazz Ambassadors

**in the Ak Altin Hotel
on September 19, 2002 at 7:00 pm**

Jazz Ambassadors David Gilmore (guitar), Eddie Allen (trumpet) and Mark Peterson (bass guitar) are performing a regional concert tour of Central Asian and Tran-Caucasian countries in September-October. Among various events the Jazz Ambassadors will conduct in Ashgabat, jazz fans of Turkmenistan will have the opportunity to take part in a Jam Session to be held in the Ak Altin Hotel. The Trio enjoys responding to audience requests, and offers you the chance to decide what you want to listen to from the list of works below. The Gilmore, Allen and Peterson Trio features the music of Louis Armstrong in this centenary year of his birth.

- Basin Street Blues - by S. Williams
- All Of Me - by Simons and Marks
- They Can't Take That Away From Me - by Gershwin
- Mack the Knife - by Weill and Blitzstein
- Hello Dolly - by Herman and Stewart
- Cabaret - by John Kander
- When the Saints Go Marching In - Traditional
- Indiana - by James Hanley
- Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans - by Eddie Delange and Louis Alter
- Black and Blue - by Thomas "Fats" Waller
- Struttin' With Some Barbeque - by Lilian Hardin Armstrong
- Softly As In A Morning Sunrise - by Hammerstein and Romberg
- Someday My Prince Will Come - by Churchill
- Stella By Starlight - by Victor Young
- There Is No Greater Love - by Jones
- Well You Needn't - by Thelonius Monk
- Goodbye Pork Pie Hat - by Charles Mingus
- Daahoud - by Clifford Brown
- Con Alma - by Dizzy Gillespie
- Ceora - by Lee Morgan

Tickets will be available at the Sheraton Grand Turkmen Hotel, Ak Altin Hotel and the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat beginning September 1, 2002.

THE DIVERSITY VISA 2004 LOTTERY

The Diversity Visa 2004 Lottery was announced on August 21, 2002. The Diversity Visa Lottery makes available 50,000 permanent residence visas annually to people from countries with low rates of immigration. Applicants for Diversity Visas are chosen by a computer-generated random lottery drawing.

Applicants born in Europe (including Turkmenistan, Russia, and the former Soviet Union) must send their entries for the Diversity Visa 2004 Lottery to the following address:

DV		Program
Kentucky	Consular	Center
3003	Visa	Crest
Migrate,	KY	41903-3000
U.S.A.		

Applications must be received between October 7, 2002, and November 6, 2002. Applications received before October 7 or after November 6 will be disqualified. Applications sent to the wrong address will be disqualified. Applicants born outside of Europe should contact the Consular Section at the Embassy of the United States (35-00-45) for the correct mailing address.

Applicants for the Diversity Visa Lottery must have either a high school education or two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training. A list of such occupations is available at <http://travel.state.gov>. There is no age requirement for applicants, although the requirement of having obtained a high school education or relevant work experience makes most children ineligible to apply. (If a child's parent is selected, the child will be able apply for a visa as well.)

Applicants may submit only one entry. If more than one entry is received, the applicant will be disqualified.

THERE IS NO APPLICATION FORM. To apply, simply use a plain sheet of paper and type or clearly print **IN ENGLISH** the following information:

1. Full name, with the surname underlined.
2. Date and place of birth.
3. Country of birth.
4. Name, and date and place of birth of applicant's spouse and all unmarried children under 21 years of age, including stepchildren and legally adopted children. Failure to list all family members will result in disqualification.
5. Full mailing address.
6. Separate, recent photographs of the applicant and all family members listed in point 4 should be taped to the application. Do not staple photographs to the application. Print the name and date of birth of each family member on the back of each photograph. Group photos will be disqualified. Each photograph should be between 1.5x1.5 inches and 2x2 inches square (37-50 mm). The face should be turned directly toward the camera, and should cover about 50% of the photograph. The background should be a neutral, light color. The photograph must be in focus. Sunglasses or other items obstructing the face are not allowed. Head coverings are only allowed for religious reasons, and even then, may not obscure the face in any way. Military hats are not acceptable. Photos may be in color or black and white.
7. Each applicant must personally sign the application in his or her native alphabet. If an applicant signs in English but has a different native alphabet, he must also sign in his native alphabet. Block printing and initialing will be disqualified.

Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

Applications must be sent by regular or airmail to the address above. Entries sent by express or priority mail, second day airmail, fax, or any special handler will be disqualified.

Submit the applications in an envelope between 6 and 10 inches (15-25 cm) long and 3.5 and 4.5 inches (9-11 cm) wide. Postcards and oversized packages will be disqualified. In the upper left-hand corner of the envelope, the applicant should write his or her country of birth, followed by the full name and return address. The applicant should write both the country of birth and return address, even if the country is the same.

Applicants who are selected will be notified by mail and provided further instructions between May and July 2003. Persons not selected will not receive notification. The U.S. Embassy will not receive a list of successful applicants.

Spouses and children (unmarried children under 21 years of age) of successful applicants will be allowed to apply for visas with the principal applicant. Separate applications are not necessary, although a husband and a wife may each submit separate entries if they choose.

Visas will be issued between October 1, 2003, and September 30, 2004.

After being selected, applicants must still meet all the eligibility requirements under U.S. law.

No fee is charged to enter the Diversity Visa Lottery, although successful applicants will have to pay the appropriate fees for the processing of their visas.

Questions may be addressed to the Consular Section of the Embassy of the United States (35-00-45). The Consular Section cannot mail or fill out applications.