

Macedonian Tribune - Tribune Excerpts

Photos instill positive sense of Macedonia and its people at MPO Convention Banquet

The following article appeared in the **October 2009** Edition of the *Macedonian Tribune*

To say banquet speaker Patrice Koerper was captivating would be an understatement. During a nearly hour-long presentation, she walked through a myriad of slides in a PowerPoint presentation that described her last three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in Macedonia.

Her observations of our people and their lives in this extremely beautiful country were enlightening, as was her description of the Peace Corps process.



She began by reminding everyone the first place she ever danced an oro was at the 2006 MPO Convention in her hometown of Cleveland.

"My heart is so full of the people, the traditions, the music and the food of Macedonia. And it all started with the MPO."

She began our illustrated tour outside of Veles in a small village of Chaska, "a stunningly beautiful little cup in the mountains" where she lived with a host family for three months to learn the language, customs and way of life.

...

"If you think you are going to do great things in the Peace Corps, you soon learn you are going to do small things with great love.

"I met people who literally have changed my life. It was the experience of a lifetime. I cannot begin to tell you what a beautiful country you are from, or how kind the people are, how caring.

"Most conversations I had in Macedonia in broken Macedonian, in English, whatever the language, were emotional transfers of information."

"People in Macedonia have a soul and a perspective on life much deeper than ours."