

LETTER FROM BUCHAREST

A quarterly report for Americans interested in Romania

Sept

AU VENIT AMERICANII... PE BUNE!

The Americans have come... for real!

As families and communities across the U.S. were visiting local firework stands and planning their neighborhood barbecue parties in preparation for July 4, several celebrations were already underway across Romania. This year for the first time, the Embassy helped volunteers plan Independence Day events in Bacau, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Ploiesti, Sibiu, Sinaia and Timisoara to show that Americans are participating in day-to-day life in Romania.

July 4 in Moldavia, Transylvania, and Wallachia

One of the largest July 4 events took place in **Bacau**. Over 5,000 eager Romanians celebrated Independence Day by attending a rock concert which featured two of Romania's most popular rock bands, Sphyx and Class. The concert was only a part of the daylong activities that were organized by Probac SA's president and vice-president, **Ovidiu Budeanu** and **Larentiu Rau**.

The Ambassador's Special Assistant, **Kristin Panerali**, attended the events. In Cluj, another large celebration was underway with the help of the **Ambassador**, his wife, **Sheilah Kast** and sister **Decie**. Approximately 400 people came to the Hotel Continental to attend a reception that highlighted American concert pianist Lance Wiseman, who entertained the crowd with his renditions of American Broadway favorites. **Carl Siebentritt**, **Tudor**



American church youth group joins in Independence Celebration in Iasi.

Seulean and **Emod Farkas** of Information Office organized the event. In the east, fireworks were lighting up the Iasi on July 4.

Down at the Little Texas restaurant, a reception showed a crowd of 125 people who, for many, the first fireworks they'd ever seen.

The evening began with a delicious meal, then was followed by line dancing and an inspiring version of the National Anthem while the fireworks went off overhead. The Mayor, Prefect, the President of the County Board, the General of the County Board, the General of the County Board, the President of the Chamber of Commerce in Iasi and the Embassy's Economic Officer, **Eric Alexander**, also attended the event.

Marine Corps Cpl. Tiffany McClary, Sgt. Brett Armstead, Sgt. Michael Bellino and Cpl. Ken Fetter present the colors while the National Anthem is sung at the July 4 reception at the Ambassador's residence in Bucharest.



For another Independence Day celebration, cleats and soccer balls were brought out of the closets. In **Ploiesti**, a series of soccer matches organized by **British-American Tobacco**, **Coca-Cola**, **Efes Pilsener**, **Raytheon**, **Timken** and **Unilever** had fans screaming and jumping to their feet. The teams were comprised of the comparable American and Romanian employees, who showed their employers that they were not only good workers but good soccer players as well.