



# Mosaico

Volume 3

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The American Citizen Newsletter

# Happy New Year, 2010

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter dedicated to U.S. citizens living in Brazil. Find news, updates from your local U.S. embassy or

### From Mission Brazil...

The United States Embassy in Brasilia along with the Consulates and Consular Agents throughout Brazil would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the American citizens living and working in Brazil a very happy New Year. It was our great privilege to work with you in 2009. We look forward to a continued strong and cooperative relationship between the U.S. mission in Brazil and the American community. Thank you and have a healthy, happy and successful 2010.



### 2010 CLOSURES WITH A JOYFUL GOLDMAN REUNION



On December 24, 2009, after a protracted legal battle with Sean's maternal grandparents and stepfather, Sean Goldman reunited with his father, David Goldman, at the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro. They flew to a theme park in Florida, where Sean was able to see his paternal grandparents, aunt and cousins for the first time in more than five years. They are all currently back home in New Jersey.

*(more on the Sean Goldman case on page 5)*

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Photo: AP/NBC



## Consul General's Corner

Every day around the world natural and man-made disasters happen with little or no warning. In the last year alone there was a typhoon in the Philippines, a bombing in Indonesia and the Air France plane crash off the coast of Brazil. Just last week, there were terrible mudslides in Rio de Janeiro state that destroyed multiple buildings and took the lives of over 50 people. During events like these communication is critical for the safety of all. With communication and safety in mind, the U.S. Mission in Brazil has established a warden system designed to disseminate information during times of crisis.

### **What is the warden system?**

The term "warden" is derived from the World War II "air raid warden" who alerted the public to danger. A warden system provides a reliable way for U.S. Mission in Brazil to reach U.S. citizens/non-citizen nationals in the event of an emergency, disaster or threat and to distribute other information of interest to the private U.S. community. The Brazil warden system is broken up into four consular districts with each post (Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Rio and Recife) responsible for a certain geographic area.

### **What is a warden?**

Wardens are usually, but not always U.S. citizens/non-citizen nationals resident in the host country

who volunteer their assistance to the U.S. citizen community. For example, the principal of the International School or the manager of a hotel frequented by U.S. citizens may not be a U.S. citizen, but are in excellent positions to serve as wardens.

### **What do wardens do?**

Wardens assist consular sections in disaster preparedness by alerting U.S. citizens via warden messages to emergency situations and passing on information from the Consulates, Embassy or the State Department..

*A warden system provides a reliable way for U.S. Mission Brazil to reach U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency...*

### **What are warden messages?**

Warden Messages (WM) issued by the Embassy and Consulates are an integral part of our Consular Information Program. U.S. Mission Brazil often issues warden messages about routine topics, such as voting and taxes. It also issues warden messages to provide timely and important safety and security information to

American citizens living or traveling in its districts.

In 2010, the U.S. Mission in Brazil is looking to expand and strengthen its already existing Warden System. If you would like more information on the Warden Program or are interested in becoming a warden volunteer, please contact your nearest Embassy or Consulate (contact details on page 8).

### REGISTER WITH THE EMBASSY OR A CONSULATE

You should register with the Embassy or Consulate that has jurisdiction over the state you reside in or are visiting and update your information every five years or when departing Brazil. Please see the list below of what states are covered by each post to determine with which post you should register. And see page 8 for a list of consular agents in other Brazilian cities. You may register online at; <http://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>

U.S. Embassy Brasilia covers: Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, and Roraima.

U.S. Consulate Rio de Janeiro covers: Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Sergipe.

U.S. Consulate São Paulo covers: Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraná, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, and Santa Catarina.

U.S. Consulate Recife covers: Alagoas, Ceará, Fernando de Noronha, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, and Rio Grande do Norte.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

São Paulo is a fantastic city. It has countless wonderful restaurants, great cultural activities and amazing museums.

However, like any big city, São Paulo also has its share of problems – crime being one of them. Among the types of crime perpetrated in São Paulo, home invasion is perhaps one of the most unsettling.

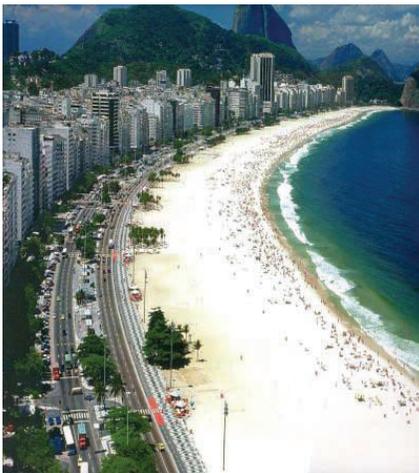
Unfortunately, in São Paulo, home invasion is not an uncommon crime. Home invasion happens when a group of criminals forces its way into an apartment complex and systematically robs each apartment.

While safety can never be guaranteed, there are steps we can all take to reduce the risk of falling victim to a home invasion. The Regional Security Office (RSO) at the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo has put together some suggestions that will help reduce the risk.

Remember, criminals are smart and they will use any and all means necessary to achieve their goal. Therefore, there is no set profile for a criminal and they can be any sex, race or age.

São Paulo is a great city. With a little planning and precaution we can all stay safe and enjoy it.

## RIO PACIFICATION PLAN



In recent months, Rio de Janeiro’s State Secretary for Public Security has launched a program called the *Favela Pacification Plan*, with the aim of entering and occupying, and thereby “pacifying” various favelas (slums) in Rio in order to provide public services and security to law abiding citizens. Rio’s police have already successfully entered at least five favelas, including several – Cantagalo, Pavao-Pavaozinho, and Morro da Babilonia – located near popular beaches and tourist sites commonly visited by U.S. citizens. The incursions of the police into favelas can frequently lead to gunfire and violence and can lead to retaliation attacks by criminals against public transportation.

The U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro advises U.S. citizen visitors and residents in Rio to continue to pay close attention to their surroundings and to exercise prudence when moving about the city. Additionally, U.S. citizens in Rio should continue to take their personal safety seriously and, as always, obey any instructions they are given by Rio’s police.

## HOME INVASION

*Never provide a stranger with information about the building residents without specific authorization.*

*Never allow anyone access into any apartment or the building without prior authorization from the apartment owner.*

*Service providers, such as cable TV services, telephone, water and electricity, should always provide a protocol number for the work that they will be doing. They should have the name of the apartment owner. If the information does not match, you should not allow them to access the building.*

*Never leave both sets of entry doors or garage doors open at the same time. Keeping one door open at a time is the best way to guarantee that criminals do not easily enter the building or garage.*

*Always verify who is inside the vehicles needing access to the garage.*

*If you see a suspicious person waiting at the entrance for a vehicle or pedestrian, do not open the doors/gates until that person clears the area.*

*Do not hesitate to call the police if there is something or someone suspicious in the area.*

*Immediately report any broken security systems and/or doors to the building manager.*

*Do not be afraid to prevent someone from accessing the building if you are not sure who they are. It is better to err on the side of caution and verify someone’s identity rather than letting them pass.*

**EMERGENCY!!**

**1—9—0**

**Brazilian 911 !!**



## It's That Time of Year Again.....

Now that the holiday season has passed, we can now set our sights on the next great American tradition, Tax Season. As much as we may wish it to be true, living outside the United States does not exempt us from filing U.S. tax returns. An American citizen living abroad is required to file a tax return. The following information has been provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in order to facilitate this yearly endeavor.

If you are a U.S citizen, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

### When to File

If you reside overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension until June 15 to file your return. However, any tax due must be paid by the original return date (April 15) to avoid interest charges.

If you are unable to file your return by the due date, you can request an additional extension to October 15 by filing *Form 4868* before the return due date. However, any payments made after June 15 would be subject to both interest charges and failure to pay penalties.

### Taxpayer Identification Number

Each taxpayer who files, or is claimed as a dependent on a U.S. tax return will need a social security number (SSN) or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). To find out if you are eligible for a social security number, contact a Social Security Office or visit Social Security International Operations ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)). If you, or your spouse, are not eligible for an SSN, you can obtain an ITIN by filing form W-7 along with appropriate documentation.

### Exchange Rates

You must express the amounts you report on your U.S. tax return in U.S. dollars. If you receive all or part of your income or pay some or all of your expenses in foreign currency, you must translate the foreign currency into U.S. dollars. Taxpayers generally use the yearly average exchange rate to report foreign-earned income that was received regularly throughout the year. However, if you had foreign transactions on specific days, you may also use the ex-

change rates for those days. Exchange rates can be found at [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com). Yearly average currency exchange rates for most countries can be found at *Yearly Average Currency Exchange Rate* on the IRS site.



### NEED HELP?

The IRS in Philadelphia provides international tax assistance. This office is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. EST and can be contacted by;

Phone: (215) 516-2000 (not toll-free)  
 FAX: (215) 516-2555  
 Website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)  
 Mail: Internal Revenue Service  
 P.O. Box 920  
 Bensalem, PA 19020

**MORE ON THE SEAN GOLDMAN CASE...**



**Secretary Clinton’s Comments from December 24th:**

I am thrilled that 9-year-old Sean Goldman was reunited with his father, David Goldman, earlier today in Rio de Janeiro and that they are flying home to New Jersey.

I want to thank everyone who helped bring this long process to a successful conclusion, including a number of members of Congress and many concerned parties both here and in Brazil. We also appreciate the assistance and cooperation of the government of Brazil in upholding its obligations under the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction.

***Hague Cases Continue***

While the Goldman case has come to a close, there are still many pending Hague cases in Brazil and over one thousand world wide.. For additional information on child abduction, please see the Hague [Convention](#) on the Civil Aspects of Parental Child Abduction or the U.S. [Department](#) of State websites. Before traveling, parents of Brazilian children or dual nationals should carefully review Brazil’s strict exit [requirements](#) for leaving the country, as no child may depart the country without the express consent of both parents or a Brazilian court order authorizing the child’s departure. For general travel information please visit the [Brazil](#) page of [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) .

David Goldman’s open letter to the U.S. and Brazilian press and public is reprinted below:

December 24, 2009  
1:30 am

Please accept my most sincere and humblest gratitude for getting the truth to Brazilian and American citizens alike and for your help to make our reunion possible.

I am grateful for the so many truly amazing and wonderful people who have put forth an extraordinary and tremendous effort to reunite our family with our beautiful Sean.

Please know that my love and the rest of Sean’s family’s love for him knows no boundaries and we will go to the ends of the Earth to protect him and shower him every ounce of love that we have.

It is now time for our new beginning, the rebirth of our family at such a special time of year. I hope the momentum keeps growing and the attention does not fade because there are more fathers and mothers and children to reunite.

God Bless you all,  
David



## NEWS AND NOTES

### ONLINE APPOINTMENTS

The Embassy in Brasilia and the Consulates in Rio and Sao Paulo require appointments for all American Citizen Services to be scheduled online. It's a very easy process. First, go to our website at <http://brasilia.usembassy.gov>. Then select the "U.S. Citizen Services" tab. Finally, select the desired location of the service (Brasilia, Sao Paulo or Rio) and schedule an appointment.



The Consulate in Recife requests that appointments for registering the birth of an American child be made via its email address at [RecConsular@state.gov](mailto:RecConsular@state.gov). All other American citizen services in Recife are available from 1:30 to 4:00 Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary.

For emergency services, please contact the nearest Embassy or Consulate directly. Contact information is located on page eight.

<b>Services That Are Scheduled Online</b>	Add visa pages to an undamaged, valid U.S. Passport.	Request notary and other services not mentioned above.
	Passport services other than adding visa pages; renewal, replacement, etc.	<i>*It is important to note that registering a child as an American is a lengthy process. You should be prepared to spend several hours in the Consulate / Embassy to complete the process.</i>
	Report the birth abroad of a child of a U.S. citizen and/or apply for the child's first passport. Report of birth and Social Security number.*	

## How to Renew a Child's U.S. Passport

The following documents are required to renew a passport for a minor under 16 years of age with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate:

- **Completed DS-11 (passport application form). Please complete all sections *except* Section 23. You need to sign this in front of the Consular Officer.**
- **Child's original birth certificate**
- **One (1) photo 2x2 inches (5x5 cm or 5x7cm)**
- **Parents/guardians' evidence of identity**
- **US \$85 (application fee)**

Both parents must be appear before the Consular Officer to sign for the minor's passport.

If only one parent is present, the other parent must submit a written statement (in English) of consent authorizing passport issuance for the child.

This statement can be notarized before a Brazilian Notary Public or a U.S. Notary or a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. (The form is called the DS-3043, Statement of Consent, and can be downloaded on our website.)

The parent not present must also submit a notarized copy of an identity document that has their photo and signature.

Please refer to our website (<http://brasilia.usembassy.gov>) for complete instructions and links to the required documentation.





**DOCTORS, LAWYERS**

Do you have a great doctor here in Brazil? Does she speak English? Have you had a good experience with an English speaking lawyer? If yes, let us know. The U.S. mission in Brazil provides American citizens with lists of English speaking doctors and lawyers. We are always looking to expand this list with quality professionals. Please note that the U.S. Mission does not endorse the professionals on these lists. The purpose of the list is strictly to supply names of potential service providers. If you have a doctor or lawyer that you think could be of service to other American citizens, please submit their names, contact information and specialty to the American Citizen Services section at the Consulate of Embassy nearest you. *(Contact information on page 8)*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES !!**

Each year in November the U.S. Marine Corps commemorates the anniversary of its founding by hosting the annual Marine Corps Ball. This year’s Ball was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Sao Paulo on November 21. Similar Balls were held in Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia. The evening included the Marine Color Guard, a speech by Consul General Thomas White, a message from the Marine Commandant and recognition of the oldest and youngest marines in attendance. The attendees also enjoyed a wonderful dinner followed by an evening of dancing. It was a great opportunity to celebrate with our marines and show them our gratitude and support for all they do.



**NEW FEE FOR ARGENTINA**

As of December 28, 2009 the Argentine Government is now requiring a \$131 entry fee upon arrival at the Ezeiza Airport outside of Buenos Aires. The fee may be paid in US dollars, Argentine pesos, by credit card or with travelers’ checks. Once this fee is paid it allows for multiple entries into Argentina for ten years. The fee amount and its duration are in accordance with United States visa reciprocity. At this point, Ezeiza is the only Argentine port-of-entry implementing this cost and procedure.



**U.S. TRIVIA**

1. After Virginia, what state is the birthplace to the most U.S. Presidents?
2. Name the Great Lakes.
3. Which movie won the most Academy Awards?
4. Alaska and Hawaii were the 49th and 50th states respectively. Which state was the 48th to be granted statehood?

*(Answers on the following page)*



**American Citizen Services  
Contact Information**

Post	Email	Phone Number
Brasilia	BrasiliaACS@state.gov	61 3312-7000
Sao Paulo	ACSinfoSaoPaulo@state.gov	55 5186-7000
Rio de Janeiro	ACSRio@state.gov	21 3823-2000
Recife	RecConsular@state.gov	81 3461-3050
<b>Consular Agents</b>		
Belem	91 32594566	
Fortaleza	85 3486-1306	
Manaus	92 3611-3333	
Porto Alegre	51 3226-3344	
Salvador da Bahia	71 3113-2090	



**Travelling Soon??**

The United States Department of State has a wonderful travel tool at your disposal. Its travel website is a one stop guide to all your travel concerns. This site includes information on visa requirements for U.S. citizens, travel warnings, new TSA guidance, travel tips and much more. Bookmark the site and visit often

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

**Upcoming Holidays**

The U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, the U.S. Consulates in São Paulo, Rio and Recife will be closed on the following dates.

January 1 (Friday)	New Year's Day
January 18 (Monday)	Martin Luther King Day
January 20 (Wednesday)	San Sebastian (Rio de Janeiro ONLY)
January 25 (Monday)	Sao Paulo Foundation Anniversary (Sao Paulo ONLY)
February 15 (Monday)	Presidents' Day
February 15, 16 (Mon/Tues)	Carnival
February 17 (Wednesday)	Ash Wednesday
April 2 (Friday)	Good Friday
April 21 (Wednesday)	Martyrdom of Tiradentes
April 23 (Friday)	San Jorge (Rio de Janeiro ONLY)
May 31 (Monday)	Memorial Day
June 3 (Thursday)	Corpus Christi Day
June 24 (Thursday)	Saint John Day (Recife ONLY)



**Answers from previous page**

1. Ohio with 7: Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Harrison, McKinley, Taft, Harding.
2. Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, Ontario
3. 3 tied with 11 awards: Titanic, Ben Hur and Lord of the Rings: Return of the King.
4. Arizona in 1912