



The Sphinx

An American Citizen Services Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1 Edition 1

November 2014

American Citizen Services (ACS)

8 Kamal El Din Salah Street
Garden City, Cairo

(20-2) 2797-3300 (24 hour number
for emergencies* only)

*ACS emergencies include: arrests,
hospitalizations, welfare and where-
abouts requests, child custody cases,
repatriations, lost and stolen pass-
ports, and deaths.

For all other services, including
passport renewals, consular reports
of birth abroad, and notarial re-
quests, please send an email to:
ConsularCairoACS@State.gov

U.S. Embassy Cairo is not a Federal
benefits post. For all Federal bene-
fits questions please contact U.S.
Consulate Jerusalem directly at:
FBU.Jerusalem@SSA.gov



Egyptian Emergency Services Numbers

122 Police and Fire Department

123 Ambulance

140 National Phone Directory

16000 Child Emergency Line

Welcoming Remarks from U.S. Consul General Sean Murphy

*Welcome to the first edition of The Sphinx, the U.S. Em-
bassy's quarterly newsletter for the American community in
Egypt! I am the incoming Consul General; my wife, our
two children, and I arrived in August. We have spent most
of our time overseas in Latin America, but are thrilled to be
in Egypt. I know many of you knew and admired my
predecessor, Richard Walsh, who returned to Washington
this past summer. I am very grateful for the strong consu-
lar foundation Richard left in Cairo, a testament to his
leadership and good work during an especially challenging
time.*

*This summer was a period of transition at the Embassy
and much of the consular management team is new, includ-
ing Deputy Consul General Anthony Clare and American
Citizen Services Unit Chief Scott Norris. We share a strong
commitment to providing the best possible consular services
to Americans in Egypt. This newsletter is a tangible ex-
pression of that commitment. We hope you find it useful
and will be happy to receive your comments and sugges-
tions on how the document might be improved and what
topics you might like covered in future editions.*

*I look forward to meeting as many of you and as possible
and to providing you with the services, information, and
support you need to be safe and productive while in Egypt.*



The ACS Unit

Hours of operation are 9:00 to 16:00; Sunday-Wednesday.

*Anyone requesting an ACS service **MUST** have an appointment and must have the proper appointment type for the service being requested.*

Do you want to help your fellow Americans? Do you have comprehensive knowledge of Egypt?

Become a Warden!

Wardens act as the Embassy's first line of communication and assistance for quickly reaching Americans in Egypt, especially in emergencies. ACS is looking to recruit new wardens across Egypt. ACS is especially interested in recruiting wardens from American schools and American companies. Fluent Arabic/English speakers are particularly encouraged to become wardens.

Contact us today for more information and to sign up: ConsularCairoACS@State.Gov. Help protect and inform your fellow American citizens.

A strong warden system makes the American community safer.

Warden Meeting Spring 2015

The U.S. Embassy is gearing up for its 4th annual warden meeting!
Stay tuned for highlights in the next issue of *The Sphinx*.

How to Make an Appointment with ACS

1. Visit <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/appntmnt.html> and follow the instructions on the screen. Select the type of appointment you require and an available date and time that is convenient for you.
2. Print out your appointment confirmation page and bring it with you to the Embassy. Each individual seeking a service needs his/her own separate appointment and confirmation letter (this includes each child). ACS will not provide services before seeing proof that you have scheduled an appointment for the correct service that you are requesting.

We look forward to assisting you.

Practice Good Safety

The U.S. Embassy reminds you that regardless of location, it is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high. Please follow these good personal security practices:

- Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public.
- Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence.
- Identify safe areas in your area and how to get to them quickly.
- Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return.
- Minimize your profile while in public.

Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have important emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as U.S. Embassy Cairo (20-2) 2797-3300.

Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities due to personal safety concerns. Report concerns you may have to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

Advice for Living in Egypt

Check your Passports and Visas!

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and that means most Americans are gearing up to travel. Don't let your vacation be ruined at the airport by being turned away for not having a valid U.S. passport or a valid Egyptian visa. Check your passports now!

- Many countries do not allow entry on U.S. passports that have less than 6 months validity remaining.
- Egyptian customs will deny exit if residents or visitors do not show proof that they held a valid Egyptian visa for the period of their stay.*

Travel can be stressful, save yourself a headache and your vacation by checking your and your family's passports today**. Happy travels!

To renew your passport make an appointment online at:

<http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/appntmnt.html>



Get to Know the Government of Egypt

In the first of a continuing series, ACS will give you tips for living in Egypt. In our first edition: **Getting an Egyptian Driver's License!**

Steps:

- 1) Make a notarial appointment with ACS in order to make an affidavit. Don't forget to bring your U.S. passport (with a valid Egyptian visa) and Egyptian address to your appointment.
- 2) Go to www.Egypt.Gov.eg/english/home.aspx and find your local traffic department (for residents of Cairo it is in Nasr City, and for Maadi residents it is in Degla).
- 3) Go to your local traffic dept., pick up and fill out the Egyptian driver's license forms, turn in your affidavit, and pay the fee. Remember to bring your U.S. passport, your U.S. driver's license (if you have one) and four photos. Drive safely!



At left, the Mogamma in Tahrir Square, Cairo, a government building where the immigration service is located. Do not/not take photos of military, police, or government buildings in Egypt, doing so could result in arrest (Photo is a stock image).

*If your Egyptian visa expires, you will need to renew it on the second floor of the Mogamma (pictured above), located in Tahrir Square, Cairo. This may take 2-3 days.

** Give yourself plenty of time when renewing U.S. passports. It takes 2-3 weeks for new passports to reach Egypt, so plan your travel accordingly, and schedule your passport appointment today.

A reminder for visiting the Sinai: If you enter Egypt through the Sinai, your visitor visa will only be valid for the Sinai. If you travel to the rest of Egypt, you will need a different visa. The Rafah border crossing is currently closed by the Egyptian Government.

Travel

The U.S. Embassy advises all Americans in Egypt to review their personal security plans and to remain alert to their surroundings at all times. Recent events in the Sinai, Western Desert, and near the Libyan border highlight the need for Americans to remain cautious when traveling in Egypt. The U.S. Department of State recently issued a worldwide travel warning, which can be found here:

http://egypt.usembassy.gov/em_101414.html

U.S. Embassy Cairo strongly advises against any travel to the North and Central Sinai Peninsula, the Western and Southern Deserts, and the border area with Libya. The U.S. Embassy does not issue travel permits or letters for any location, including Gaza.

For up-to-date security and travel alerts please check: <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/travpubl.html>



Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Sign up with the Department of State when you travel, both here in Egypt and elsewhere outside the U.S.

Signing up for STEP allows you to receive important information from the U.S. Embassy, allows ACS to contact you and/or your relatives in the event of an emergency, and allows you to receive timely warden and security messages via email.

Be a smart traveler, enroll in STEP!



Reminder

All persons requesting a service from ACS must have an appointment in advance. To make an ACS appointment visit:

<http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/appntmnt.html>

If you see something suspicious, say something: ConsularCairoACS@state.gov



Kid's Corner

Thanksgiving

In 1620, the Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean onboard the *Mayflower*, in search of religious freedom and hoping to start a new life in a new land. The journey was treacherous, but they made it, and landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and founded a new colony in a place they called New England.

The first winter in New England was very harsh. Many of the Pilgrims starved, got sick, or froze. Despite the hardships, the Pilgrims resolved to stay in their new home. The next fall, Squanto, a Native American from the local Wompanoag tribe, helped teach the Pilgrims how to successfully plant and harvest local crops. The Pilgrims were very thankful, and celebrated their harvest together with the Wompanoags. They had a big feast that lasted for three days and shared with each other what they were thankful for.

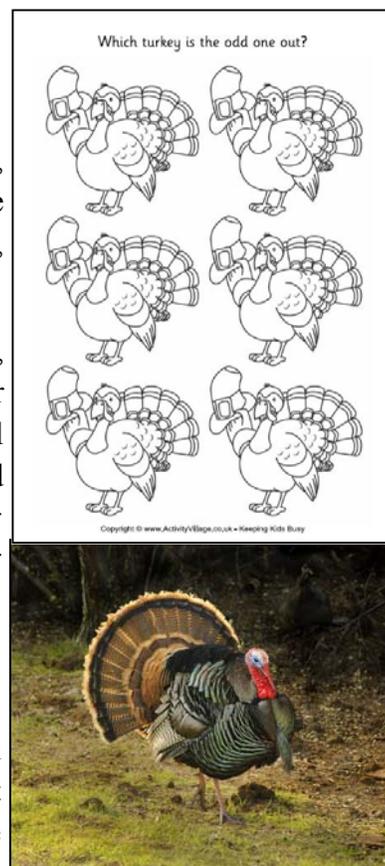
Today, we celebrate what we are thankful for in the same way. Traditionally, we gather with our family, eat lots of turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. We watch parades and American football. We play catch in the yard amongst the fallen leaves of autumn. Most



*The Macy's Thanksgiving Day
Parade in New York City*

importantly though, we share what we are thankful for with the ones that we love, and strive to help those less fortunate than ourselves. This is the

spirit of Thanksgiving. Overseas, as Americans, it is important for us to keep up these same traditions and spirits. ACS wants to know how your family celebrates Thanksgiving. Tell us, and your answer could appear on our website! Email us your answers at ConsularCairoACS@state.gov.



A turkey in the wild

The Presidents

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) is one of the greatest American presidents in history. He was the 16th President of the United States and during his time in office he preserved his country as a single nation during the American Civil War (1861-65), delivered the Emancipation Proclamation (1863) which ended slavery, and made Thanksgiving a Federal holiday (1863). He also presided over the passing of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, establishing the criteria for becoming a U.S. Citizen which we still use today. President Lincoln was assassinated four days after the Union won the American Civil War. Lincoln's assassination was one of the more tragic events in our country's history.



*President Abraham Lincoln
(pictured above) was America's tallest
president to date, historical records
place him standing at 6'4" or 6'5".*

See page 6 for more fun Thanksgiving activities!

Community Resources

Would your community organization like to be listed in *The Sphinx*? If so, send us an email with the name and contact information for your organization, along with a brief description of your activities, and your information could appear in this spot in the next issue!



ACS will be closed on the following dates for local and Federal holidays:

- November 27, 2014
- December 25, 2014
- January 1, 2015
- January 3, 2015
- January 7, 2015
- January 18, 2015
- January 25, 2015
- February 15, 2015

Try to find the words from the Word Bank in the below puzzle. The words can be spelled diagonally, backwards, horizontally, and sideways.

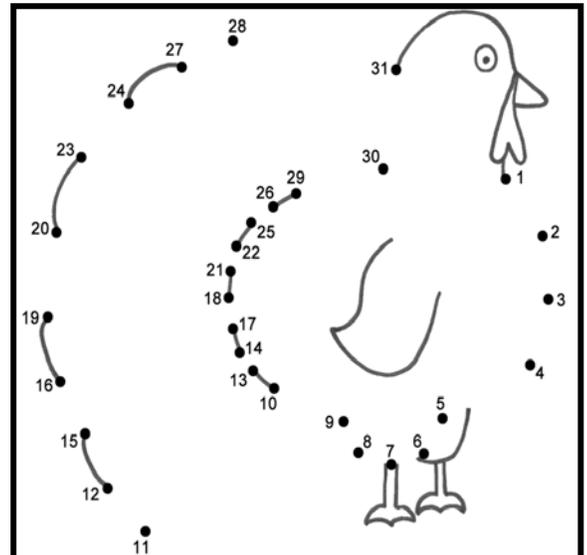
See if you can find all six words!

P	I	L	G	R	I	M
O	T	N	A	U	Q	S
O	H	U	R	S	Z	W
F	A	M	R	C	G	P
A	N	D	N	K	J	T
M	K	B	O	V	E	S
I	S	Q	W	O	K	Y
Y	L	I	M	A	F	T

Word Bank:

- Pilgrim
- Food
- Turkey
- Squanto
- Thanks
- Family

Connect the dots with a pencil starting from number 1 to make a Thanksgiving picture. Don't forget to color in your picture after you are finished connecting all the dots!



Want to be in the next issue of *The Sphinx*? Email us: ConsularCairoACS@State.Gov