

# Consular Round Up



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## Consul General Visits Migdal Ohr Youth Village



From left to right: Matiyahu Cheshin, Consul General Andrew Parker and Rabbi Yitzchak David Grossman meet with children at Migdal Ohr.

Consul General Andrew Parker and several Embassy staff members visited Migdal Ohr, one of Israel's largest youth villages, in Migdal HaEmek on June 21.

Under the direction of Rabbi Yitzchak David Grossman, Migdal Ohr houses and educates more than 6,500 orphaned and impoverished children.

The organization also runs prisoner rehabilitation programs and a soup kitchen that produces 15,000 meals a day.

Parker and Embassy staff toured the facility and learned about the good work of Rabbi Grossman and his staff. Learn more about Migdal Ohr at [www.migdalohr.org](http://www.migdalohr.org).

## New Fees for Visa Waiver Travelers

The Department of Homeland Security has announced a new ESTA fee of \$14 for visa waiver travelers. ESTA is an electronic travel authorization all nationals of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries must obtain prior to traveling to the United States.

Payments for electronic travel authorization by VWP travelers must be made by credit or debit card. Collection of fees began Sept. 8. More details are available at: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>.



## IDF Briefs Consular Section Staff on Keva Corps

Captain Shuki Hassan of the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) Personnel Division, briefed the Consular Section on the IDF's Keva program on July 22. *Keva* is the Hebrew word for the IDF's permanent corps.

Army service is an important part of the Visa Section's evaluation of young Israelis' ties to Israel. Vice Consuls had the opportunity to learn more about the criteria for entrance and contractual obligations of soldiers serving in keva.



Lt. Col. Michael Murphy of the Embassy's Defense Attaché Office facilitated the briefing.

## Vice Consuls Speak to Fulbright Participants



Several Vice Consuls spoke to Israeli Fulbright program participants and answered questions about student visas on June 17.

This flagship international exchange sponsored by the U.S. government is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. Participants are chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential.

For more information about applying for a Fulbright scholarship, visit the Fulbright program website at <http://fulbright.state.gov/>.

## Vice Consul Speaks to Students at Israel's Model UN Conference



Student participants in ISRAMUN 2010. Photo Credit: Leslie Smith.

On August 18, one of the Consular Section's Vice Consuls spoke to more than 200 university students from around the world at Israel's 2010 Model UN Student Conference, ISRAMUN.

Model United Nations is an academic simulation that teaches participants about civics, effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy.

The panel focused on careers in diplomacy and included speakers from the Irish, Egyptian, German and Mexican embassies. The Vice Consul spoke about how to join the U.S. Foreign Service and how to prepare for a career in international relations.

For more information about careers in the Foreign Service, visit <http://careers.state.gov>.

## Myths and Facts about B1/B2 Visitor Visas to the United States

**Myth:** *A B1/B2 visa allows visitors to travel indefinitely in the United States.*

**Fact:** Not true. A B1/B2 visa only allows you to travel for brief visits to the United States as a tourist, including visits with friends or relatives, medical treatment, and activities of a fraternal, social, or service nature.

The Department of Homeland Security determines the amount of time you can spend in the United States. The maximum length of stay usually authorized by Customs and Border Protection is six months.

For more information about permitted activities on a B1/B2 visa, visit the U.S. State Department website at: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1265.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1265.html).

**Myth:** *It is legal to work in the United States on a B1/B2 visa.*

**Fact:** Wrong again. Travelers are not allowed to work in the United States on a B1/B2 visa, whether they are being paid or not. However, a B1/B2 visa does allow applicants to travel to the United States for a short period of time to conduct certain kinds of business-related activities.

This may include visiting clients; conducting business meetings and negotiations; attending a conference; some speaking engagements; and short-term research for which the applicant does not receive pay.

To ensure that your purpose of travel is included under a B1/B2 visa, review the guidelines at the following link: <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/consular/niv/Business.aspx>.

Applicants who plan to work in the United States must apply for a petition-based visa. More information about petition-based visas is available at: <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/consular/niv/Petitionhome.aspx>.

**Myth:** *B1/B2 travelers are allowed to attend university or English language courses.*

**Fact:** This is also incorrect. There are several visa categories for applicants who wish to study in the United States: F, M and J visas. In order to qualify for a student visa, applicants must show sufficient knowledge of English and prove they have funds to cover all expenses while studying in the United States.

F and M visas require an I-20 form from the school or institution in the United States, and J visas require form DS-2019 from the applicant's sponsor. In addition, all applicants must pay the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee.

More information about F and M visas is available online at: <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/consular/niv/FMhome.aspx>.

Find more information about J visas at <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/consular/niv/Jhome.aspx>.

Advisers at the U.S.-Israel Educational Foundation are standing by to answer questions about opportunities in all fields of study, from short-term courses to PhD programs. Contact them today at [www.educationusa.info/Fulbright-TelAviv](http://www.educationusa.info/Fulbright-TelAviv).

Still have questions? Send an email to [NIVTelAviv@state.gov](mailto:NIVTelAviv@state.gov) and we will be happy to answer your specific questions.

## Got Visa Questions? Ask the Consul on Facebook

Consular staff members are available to answer your visa questions on our Facebook wall. To join, log in to your Facebook account and click on the following link: [www.facebook.com/ConsularSectionUSEmbassyTelAviv](http://www.facebook.com/ConsularSectionUSEmbassyTelAviv).



## Passport and Citizenship Services Fees Increase

The Department of State recently announced increases in consular services fees, including passport and notarial fees, effective July 13. The new fees are:

- An adult passport (using form DS-82) will change from USD 75 to USD 110.
- A minor passport (under age 16, using form DS-11) will change from USD 85 to USD 105.
- An adult passport (using form DS-11) will change from USD 100 to USD 135. Please refer to [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) to determine which form is appropriate.
- The application fee for passport cards will increase, from USD 20 to USD 30 for adults, and from USD 10 to USD 15 for minors.
- A new fee of USD 82 for additional passport pages will be imposed.
- The fee for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad will change from USD 65 to USD 100.

Find the complete list of fee increases online at [http://travel.state.gov/passport/fees/fees\\_5079.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/fees/fees_5079.html).

## Travel Warnings for U.S. Citizens

American citizens in Israel should regularly monitor the Embassy's website <http://telaviv.usembassy.gov/>, and the Department of State's website [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), where travel warnings and country specific information may be found.

To subscribe to warden messages from the Embassy, go to the following link and enter your email address in the yellow box on the right-hand side of the screen: <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/consular/acs/index.aspx>.

To read recent Warden Messages, visit <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/consular/acs/TravelInformation.aspx>.

## U.S. Citizen Services to Visit Eilat

Staff members from the American Citizen Services section of Embassy Tel Aviv will visit Eilat October 10-11 to provide consular services to American citizens.

U.S. citizens who reside in Eilat will have the opportunity to meet with the Consul General, apply for passports and reports of birth, and also receive information about federal benefits, among other consular services.

Look for more details on our website in the coming weeks at <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/consular/acs/index.aspx>.

## Get Out the Vote!

The 2010 mid-term elections are fast-approaching. All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 36 out of 100 seats in the U.S. Senate will be contested in this year's elections on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

New regulations for overseas voting are in effect for 2010. Overseas voters are strongly encouraged to re-file the official registration/ballot request every election year.

For more information, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), or the non-partisan Overseas Vote Foundation at [www.overseasvotefoundation.org](http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org).

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