



December 30, 2011

Page 2 – America House Upcoming Events

Page 3 – Our Latest Video – LEGACY Lights Up Jerusalem and the West Bank

Page 4 – Happy New Year!

Page 5 – Success Stories: Palestinians in America

Page 6 – Educational and Cultural Exchange Opportunities

Page 7 – Important Changes to Visa Application Procedures

Page 8 – International and Regional News

Official Websites:

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://arabic.jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://gaza.usvpp.gov>

<http://arabic.gaza.usvpp.gov>

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/UsConGenJerusalem

www.twitter.com/USCGJerusalem

www.youtube.com/UsConGenJerusalem

To subscribe to this Weekly Mailing list, please send an email to

UsConGenJerusalem@state.gov

Thank You!

U.S. Consulate General Sponsors Concert Performance by Shebat in Bethlehem



On December 20, Palestinian rock band “Shebat” performed a concert sponsored by the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem for an audience of 400 enthusiastic fans at the Intercontinental Hotel in Bethlehem. The concert included a mix of cover songs of American artists, including icons such as Elvis Presley, and holiday favorites sung by several up-and-coming Palestinian performers. The concert attracted an audience from Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jerusalem.



America House in Jerusalem

is pleased to invite you to the following upcoming programs in Jerusalem

American Classic Films Series "Oklahoma"

Screenplay by Rodgers & Hammerstein
January 11, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

America House, Al Zahara Street (across from Rockefeller Park)



In the Oklahoma territory at the turn of the twentieth century, two young cowboys battle with an evil ranch hand and a traveling peddler for the hearts of the women they love. Come and enjoy the singing and dancing in this classic American musical, set in Oklahoma at the beginning of the 1900s.

This movie will be screened in English, with English subtitles.

Due to limited seating, please RSVP to AmericaHouseJerusalem@state.gov

Focus on the U.S. Presidential Election System

January 20, 2011, 10:30 A.M.

America House, Al Zahara Street (across from Rockefeller Park)

U.S. Elections: Primary Elections and Political Party Caucuses

U.S. presidential elections will be held in 2012, but the election process has already begun!

In the presidential election year, from January through June, candidates participate in primary elections and political party caucuses trying to gain their political party's nomination long before the November general election. During this program, participants will learn how the primary system works, and how Americans choose the candidates from the two major political parties.

This lecture and Q&A will be delivered in English. If you are interested in attending, but prefer Arabic interpretation; please e-mail America House so we can arrange for interpretation.

المحاضرة والاسئلة والاجابات ستكون باللغة الانجليزية. إذا كنت ترغب بالحضور ولكنك تفضل وجود ترجمة للغة العربية، الرجاء إرسال رسالة بالبريد الإلكتروني للبيت الأمريكي كي يتم اتخاذ الترتيبات اللازمة لتوفير الترجمة.

If you are unable to attend this event, but your organization is interested in receiving this program at your location in Jerusalem, please contact us at America House! We would be happy to arrange it with you.

To be added to America House's mailing list, please e-mail JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov

*America House is the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem's cultural center
In East Jerusalem and was established in 2010.*



Check out our latest video!!

LEGACY Lights Up Jerusalem and the West Bank



Rhythm Road's Legacy Lights Up Jerusalem and the West Bank

The Rhythm Road's hip hop ensemble Legacy visited Jerusalem and the West Bank from December 1 to 3 for an all-out jam-packed program. The program included intensive training sessions with young Palestinian singers, cultural workshops with dozens of young local musicians -- where local talents were fused with those of Legacy's in an arabesque hip-hop mash up, and two evening concerts. See it now on our official YouTube Channel!

2011 Year in Review: The White House Online

2011 Year in Review: The White House on Facebook

Here are the top 10 stories people commented on in 2011

2011 Year in Review: The Most Popular White House Videos from YouTube

Check out the top 10 most popular videos of the year from YouTube.

2011 Year in Review: Top Photos from the White House Flickr Feed

Check out 10 of the year's most viewed photos from the White House Flickr feed.

Wishing You a Happy New Year!



[As 1 million people crowd into New York's Times Square to watch the New Year's Eve ball descend, millions of other Americans choose different ways to mark the end of 2011.](#)

New Year's Day: A Time for Fresh Beginnings

New Year's Day in the United States is a time for fresh beginnings, hope for a better future and resolutions to change one's behavior for the better.

Observed January 1, New Year celebrations actually begin the night of December 31 with parties, concerts, fireworks and special events of all kinds. The day of January 1 is marked in many U.S. towns and cities with parades and college-level, U.S.-style football games.

In many communities, the first baby to be born on New Year's Day is honored with gifts. The New Year itself is often symbolized in drawings as a baby wearing just a diaper, a festive hat and a sash imprinted with the year. In contrast, the concluding, or "old year," is depicted by illustrations of an old man wearing a robe and a long, white beard. Known as "Father Time," he is often shown carrying an hourglass.

رأس السنة الجديدة: الوقت المواتي لبدايات جديدة

إن حلول رأس السنة الجديدة في الولايات المتحدة هو وقت لبدايات جديدة وأمل لمستقبل أفضل وقطع الإنسان عهدًا على نفسه لتحسين مسلكه وعاداته وتصرفاته.

وفي حين يصادف رأس السنة الجديدة مطلع شهر كانون الثاني/يناير من كل عام، فإن احتفالاته تبدأ مساء الحادي والثلاثين من كانون الأول/ديسمبر، وتتميز بحفلات صاخبة وألعاب نارية وحفلات موسيقية وأحداث خاصة من كل نوع. كما يتميز اليوم الأول من كانون الثاني/يناير في العديد من المدن والبلدات الأميركية بمواكب واستعراضات بهيجة ناهيك عن مباريات الفرق الجامعية في كرة القدم الأميركية.

Success Stories: Palestinians in America

Palestinian-American Politician Succeeds Through Community Service



Rashida Tlaib's service to her community paid off in 2008 when she became the first Muslim woman elected to the state of Michigan's House of Representatives. Today, Tlaib supports her Detroit district by leading social service initiatives and providing a voice for her neighbors in the state capitol... The daughter of Palestinian immigrants, Tlaib is the eldest of 14 children. Inspired by her hard-working parents, she felt obliged from a young age to give back to her community.

سياسية عربية - أمريكية تنجح من خلال خدمة المجتمع الأهلي

أثرت خدمة رشيدة تليب لمجتمعها الأهلي في عام 2008 عندما أصبحت أول امرأة مسلمة تنتخب في مجلس نواب ولاية ميشيغان. واليوم، تدعم تليب دائرتها الانتخابية ديترويت من خلال قيادتها مبادرات الخدمات الاجتماعية والتحدث بصوت جيرانها نيابة عنهم في مجلس نواب الولاية. تليب هي ابنة مهاجرين فلسطينيين، وهي الأكبر سنًا بين 14 من الأبناء. استمدت إلهامها من والديها الكادحين اللذين كانا يعملان بجهد، وشعرت منذ حداثة سنها أن عليها أن ترد الجميل وتبذل العطاء إلى مجتمعها الأهلي.

Palestinian-American Writes Script to Bridge Cultures

Playwright Betty Shamieh has built her career at the intersection of Arab and American cultures, but she aims for a wider audience — and she's getting it, with acclaim in New York and translations and productions in countries far from Broadway... Shamieh, born in California to Palestinian parents, has made a cause of connecting the two cultures offstage as well. UNESCO recognized that in April 2011 by naming her one of 20 young artists who have made exceptional contributions in promoting dialogue between Arab and Western countries.



بنت الكاتبة المسرحية بتي شامية حياتها المهنية على تقاطع الثقافتين العربية والأميركية، ولكنها تهدف إلى كسب عدد أكبر من المشاهدين — وهي أصبحت تحقق ذلك، بالترافق مع الحصول على التقدير لها في نيويورك كما لترجمات وعروض مسرحياتها في بلدان بعيدة جداً عن مسارح برودواي. "قامت شامية، التي ولدت في كاليفورنيا لأبوين فلسطينيين، بتبني قضية الربط بين الثقافتين خارج المسرح أيضاً. ولهذا السبب كرمتها منظمة اليونسكو في نيسان/أبريل 2011، عندما اختارتها كواحدة من بين 20 فناناً شاباً قدموا مساهمات استثنائية في تشجيع الحوار بين العرب والبلدان الغربية.



[The 2012 NESAs Undergraduate Exchange Program](#)

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem is pleased to announce the annual competition of the 2012 NESAs Undergraduate Exchange Program that will provide fully sponsored scholarships for one full academic year (approximately 10 months) of non-degree undergraduate study at accredited two and four-year institutions. The goal of the program is to provide a substantive exchange experience at a U.S. college or university to a diverse group of emerging student leaders from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. All academic fields of study are eligible.

Deadline: January 10, 2012

[The 2012 Youth Summer Leadership Institute Program:](#)

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem is pleased to announce the Youth Summer Leadership Program: a fully-funded five-week intensive leadership training program in the U.S. for undergraduate students. The program will take place June 26 - August 7, 2012. Participants will develop leadership and collective problem-solving skills, while exploring U.S. history and culture. The Institute consists of hands-on leadership training workshops, academic sessions, site visits, community service projects, optional home stays and other opportunities for interaction with Americans peers.

Deadline: January 23, 2012

["Doors to Diplomacy" 2012 International Web Project Competition for Middle and High School Students:](#)

The Department of State and the Global SchoolNet Foundation announce the 2012 "Doors to Diplomacy" award competition, recognizing the student-created Global SchoolNet Web projects from around the globe that best teach others about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy.

To qualify, middle school and high school students will work in small teams with teacher-coaches. **Projects must be completed by March 15, 2012**, and winners will be announced in May 2012. Every team that enters a project will receive a special "Doors to Diplomacy" certificate recognizing their achievement. Each student member of the two winning teams – one American and one international – will also receive a \$2,000 scholarship and the winning coaches' schools will each receive a \$500 cash award.

Deadline: March 15, 2012.

For a complete description of the competition and information about eligibility and judging criteria, please visit <http://globalschoolnet.org/gsndoors/>. For more information, contact Dr. Yvonne Marie Andres of Global SchoolNet by phone at (760) 635-0001 or by e-mail at diplomacy@globalschoolnet.org or Wanda Ramsey of the Department of State by e-mail at RamseyWC@state.gov.

[MEPI Information Technology \(IT\) Partnership Program](#)

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) announces the launch of the first-ever Information Technology (IT) Program that seeks to link MEPI grantees with major IT corporations. Through this new partnership, local NGOs will be able to access the latest computer software, hardware, and related training to improve the effectiveness of their projects, build organizational capacity, and assist with cementing the long-term sustainability of their work. For more information, please contact us at mepi-it-partnerships@state.gov

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES

On December 12, 2011, the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem will implement new visa application and appointment procedures. The new system will make it quicker and cheaper to apply for a U.S. non-immigrant visa. Applicants will no longer need to pay one fee to obtain information and schedule an appointment, another fee to apply for the visa, and a third fee for courier pass back service. By paying only the current machine-readable visa (MRV) application fee determined by visa classification, the following services will be provided to visa applicants:

- MRV fee collection, either by phone, online, or at any branch of the Israeli Postal Bank or Bank of Palestine. Applicants can pay using cash or credit card.
- Scheduling of visa appointments by telephone 02-5677833 or through the online appointment website: <http://Jerusalem.usvisa-info.com>. There is no need to purchase a pin number.
- Information on general visa inquiries either by phone or online.
- Courier services for applicants, who need to submit additional documents to the Consulate after their interviews.
- Choice of passport delivery options for approved visa applicants, including home delivery, at no additional cost to the visa applicant.

تغييرات مهمة على الاجرات المتعلقة في طرق تقديم التأشيرة السياحية الى الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

ابتداءً من تاريخ 12 12 2011 ستقوم القنصلية الامريكية في القدس بأدخال بعض التغييرات المتعلقة في تقديم التأشيرة السياحية للولايات المتحدة ونظام تحديد المواعيد. علماً بأن هذا النظام الجديد سيكون أسهل وأوفر على المواطنين الذين ينوون تقديم تأشيرة الدخول لهدف الزيارة.

وبهذا النظام لن يضطر مقدمي الطلبات الى : دفع أية رسوم منفصلة من أجل تحديد المواعيد والحصول على المعلومات العامة التي تتعلق في عملية تقديم الطلبات , أو دفع قيمة مالية أخرى تتعلق برسوم الفيزا , أو دفع أية رسوم من أجل خدمة التوصيل.

ومن خلال هذا النظام الجديد سيتوجب على متقدمي الطلبات في دفع رسوم الفيزا المتداول به حسب نوع التأشيرة المقدم اليها و سيحصل مقدمي الطلبات على الخدمات التالية:

- رسوم الفيزا ستدفع عن طريق الخطوط الهاتفية مباشرة أو عن طريق الانترنت أو من خلال احدى فروع بنك البريد داخل اسرائيل أو من احدى فروع بنك فلسطين في الضفة و القطاع. أو عن طريق بطاقات الائتمان .
- سيتمكن متقدمي الطلبات بتحديد المواعيد من خلال الرقم التالي 02-5677833 أو من خلال الموقع الإلكتروني <http://Jerusalem.usvisa-info.com> ولن يكون هنالك ضرورة الى شراء الرقم التعريفي الشخصي الخاص بتحديد المواعيد.
- خدمة معلوماتية حول التأشيرات السياحية عن طريق الهاتف أو الشبكة العنكبوتية.
- خدمة التوصيل الى القنصلية لمقدمي الطلبات الذين يحتاجون الى تقديم وثائق اضافية بعد مقابلاتهم .
- اختيار تسليم جوازات السفر للمتقدمين الذين تم الموافقة على طلب التأشيرة الخاصة بهم بما في ذلك خدمات التوصيل الى البيت دون اي تكلفة اضافية

International and Regional News

[U.S. Calls for Stop to Harassment of NGOs in Egypt](#)

[بيان وزارة الخارجية عن العنف الذي يمارسه نظام الحكم في سوريا](#)

[Special Joint Press Briefing On U.S. Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia](#)

[بيان للبيت الأبيض حول التفجيرات الإرهابية في العراق](#)

[State Department on Regime Violence in Syria](#)

[بيان وزارة الخارجية بشأن طلب تأشيرة أميركية لعلی عبدالله صالح](#)

[Ambassador Rice on Libya and Syria](#)

[جدول الانتخابات التمهيدية في الولايات المتحدة للعام 2012](#)

[State Dept. on U.S. Visa Application for Ali Abdullah Saleh](#)

[White House on Terrorist Attacks in Iraq](#)

[U.S. Elections: 2012 Primary Schedule](#)