



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
**JERUSALEM**

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

# WEEKLY MAILING

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**Official Websites:**

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

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

<http://gaza.usvpp.gov>

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

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**Thank You!**

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## Consul General Rubinstein at the Palestinian American Chamber of Commerce



Consul General Rubinstein: "In a very difficult environment, you have created jobs and value for your shareholders, and built strong business relationships with companies spanning the globe. And as representatives of Palestinian and American companies, you are among the most effective ambassadors that the American people and the Palestinian people have."

As Secretary Clinton told business leaders from around the world – including AmCham chairman Said Baransi – during the February 21 Global Business Conference in Washington, 'Increasing trade and growing prosperity will benefit people everywhere. Our economies are interdependent as never before, and so are our fates.'

We at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem are committed to encouraging and facilitating the U.S.-Palestinian economic and trade relationship to the greatest extent possible."



## America House in Jerusalem

is pleased to announce the following upcoming program

### **“Striving for Justice: Searching for Common Ground”**

Presentation and discussion with

Ms. Naomi Tutu



**April 4, 2012, 5:30 PM at America House**

The challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa has led Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to her present role as an activist for human rights. Her experiences have taught her how much we all lose when any of us is judged purely on physical attributes.

Join us at America House on April 4 at 5:30 PM to learn more about Ms. Tutu’s experiences growing up in South Africa and the work that she is doing now to promote human rights for all people.

Tutu has served as a development consultant in West Africa and a program coordinator for programs on Race and Gender and Gender-Based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. She has also taught at the Universities of Hartford and Connecticut and Brevard College.

Tutu is a consultant to two organizations which reflect the breadth of her involvement in issues of human rights, including the Spiritual Alliance to Stop Intimate Violence, founded by renowned author Riane Eisler and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Betty Williams, and the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Venue:** America House Office, Al-Zahra Street, opposite to Rockefeller Park, East Jerusalem

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Please Note:** The presentation will be delivered in English with Arabic interpretation.

*Please let us know if you can join us for this program by e-mailing [JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov](mailto:JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov)*

To be added to America House’s mailing list, please e-mail [JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov](mailto:JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov)

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

## American Hip Hop Dance Company Performs in the West Bank



Celebrating the hip hop culture common to Americans and Palestinians, the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem hosted American hip hop dance company Rennie Harris Puremovement (RHPM) for performances on March 20 at Al Kasabah Theater in Ramallah and a joint American-Palestinian performance on March 24 at the Prince Turki Auditorium at An Najah University in Nablus. After their high-energy hip hop performance for a packed house of over 350 youth from throughout the West Bank at Al Kasabah Theater, RHPM conducted an intensive four-day hip hop dance camp for 60 Palestinian dancers, in cooperation with the Nablus-based arts organization Dar al Fanoon wa al Turath. RHPM's five-day tour ended with an incredible performance that showcased the talents of the Palestinian dance camp participants alongside the ten-member RHPM group.

Speaking of the success of this cultural exchange program, U.S. Consul for Press and Public Affairs Frank Finver stated, "This is one of many cultural exchange programs sponsored by the U.S. Consulate General which serve to strengthen the ties between Americans and Palestinians, and remind us all that we have more in common with each other than we have differences." Artistic Director Rennie Harris said, "We came here to share our experience in hip hop. We will be glad if we can share this culture with the Palestinian youth because our message is that we all have the right to live."

### فرقة الهيب هوب الأمريكية رينيه هاريس في رام الله ونابلس

استضافت القنصلية الأمريكية العامة في القدس فرقة الهيب هوب الأمريكية رينيه هاريس لإحياء عروض في مسرح القصبية برام الله وتقديم عرض راقص فلسطيني أمريكي مشترك بمسرح الأمير تركي بجامعة النجاح بنابلس.

فبعد إحيائهم لعرض شيق بمسرح القصبية حضره ما يزيد عن ٣٥٠ شخص من مختلف انحاء الضفة الغربية، شاركت الفرقة بمخيم رقص مكثف مع ٦٠ راقص فلسطيني لمدة اربعة ايام بالتعاون مع مؤسسة دار الفنون والتراث الفنية بنابلس. كما اختتمت الفرقة زيارتها بعرض مذهل شاركهم فيه الراقصين الفلسطينيين وأظهر المواهب المتعددة للمشاركين في مخيم الرقص إلى جانب راقصي الفرقة العشرة.

وفي حديثه عن النجاح الباهر لبرنامج التبادل الثقافي هذا، قال القنصل الإعلامي و الثقافي بالقنصلية الأمريكية فرانك فنفر، "إن هذا واحد من عدة برامج تبادل ثقافي تدعمها القنصلية الأمريكية العامة لتعزيز الروابط بين الأمريكيين والفلسطينيين بذكرنا جميعا ان هناك العديد من الأمور التي نتشارك فيها أكثر من تلك التي نتختلف فيها".

تأسست الفرقة بفيلادلفيا في عام ١٩٩٢ وتشمل على تقاليد إفريقية أمريكية متنوعة وغنية من الماضي فيما تعرض بنفس الوقت صوت الجيل الجديد من خلال الأنماط المختلفة من الرقص. الفرقة ملتزمة بتقديم صورة صادقة لروح رقص الهيب هوب والاحتفال بهذه الثقافة بطريقتهم الخاصة. وخلال العروض قال المدير الفني للفرقة رينيه هاريس لمعجبي الفرقة والفنانين الفلسطينيين، "جننا هنا لنشارك هذه الثقافة مع الفلسطينيين لأن رسالتنا لهم اننا جميعا لنا الحق ان نعيش".

## [Vice President and Dr. Biden Celebrate Women's History Month](#)



As Women's History Month comes to a close, the Vice President and Dr. Biden hosted a reception on March 26, in honor of Women's History Month to celebrate the history, accomplishments, and contributions of women across the spectrum of American life, from academia and science, business and labor, philanthropy and advocacy, athletics and the arts, to the military and government.

Speaking to a distinguished crowd of women (and some men) who are at the pinnacle of their careers, the Vice President applauded their courage and achievements over the last few decades, saying "you've empowered entire generations" of women. He continued, "I've learned it from Jill, I learned it from my sister, and I've learned from the over thousand hours of hearings we held in the Violence Against Women Act that the single most important thing that empowers young women is powerful women – powerful women."

Dr. Biden praised the guests for their "courage, strength and resilience." The Vice President and Dr. Biden also installed this [photo exhibit of Female Engagement Teams at work in Afghanistan](#) on the walls of the Naval Observatory.

President Obama's proclamation for Women's History Month 2012 is available [here](#).

See Also – Celebrating the Achievements of Palestinian-American Women:

[Arab-American Politician Succeeds Through Community Service](#)

[Award-Winning Palestinian-American Writer Inspired by Two Worlds](#)

## [Upcoming Webchats: Let Your Voice Be Heard!](#)

### [WEBCHAT: New Galleries for the Art of the Arab Lands...](#)

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm (local time)**

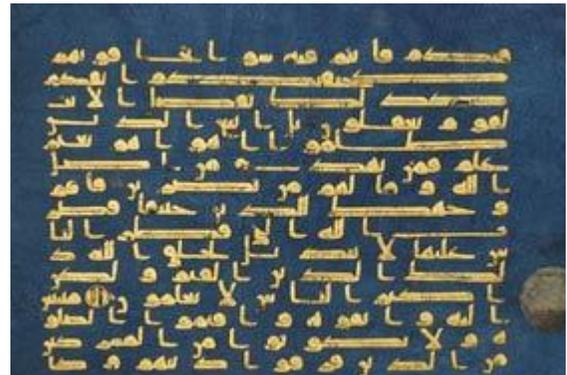
In November 2011, more than one thousand works of art from the preeminent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of Islamic Art returned to view in a completely renovated and expanded suite of 15 galleries. The galleries demonstrate the rich diversity of the Islamic world and cover a span of thirteen hundred years.

Join us for a live webchat with Navina Najat Haidar, Curator in the Metropolitan Museum's Department of Islamic Art, as she provides a virtual tour of the galleries, discusses the contributions of Muslim artists and craftsmen, and answers your questions about this impressive collection of art from the Islamic world.

This will be a video webchat in English. Please click on the URL above to participate



[See Video of the Exhibit](#)



[See a Photo Gallery of the Exhibit](#)

### [WEBCHAT: Hope and Change through Street Art](#)

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012 9:00pm until 10:30pm (local time)**

American Graffiti is not just a classic American film. Street art is a unique language and a powerful medium for social commentary. Join Caleb Neelon, a renowned artist and author from Massachusetts, for a conversation on communicating hope and change through street art. Neelon will describe the emerging street art scene and how it has filtered its way into popular culture. He will also share experiences, techniques and ideas, and entrepreneurial possibilities. Share your thoughts, ask questions, and learn to express yourself in creative ways!

This will be an interactive webcast in English. Please click on the URL above to participate.



## Visa Processing Fees to Change on April 13, 2012

Effective April 13, 2012, the Department of State will adjust visa processing fees. The fees for most nonimmigrant visa applications and Border Crossing Cards will increase, while all immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

The Department is required to recover, as far as possible, the cost of processing visas through the collection of application fees. For a number of reasons, the current fees no longer cover the actual cost of processing nonimmigrant visas. The nonimmigrant visa fee increase will support the addition and expansion of overseas facilities, as well as additional staffing required to meet increased visa demand.

Although most categories of nonimmigrant visa processing fees will increase, the fee for E visas (treaty-traders and treaty-investors) and K visas (for fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens) will decrease.

### **Nonimmigrant Visa Processing Fees**

Type of Visa	Previous Fee	New Fee
Tourist, Business, Transit, Crew Member, Student, Exchange Visitor, and Journalist visas	\$140	\$160
Petition-Based visas (H, L, O, P, Q, and R)	\$150	\$190
Treaty Investor and Trader visas (E)	\$390	\$270
Fiancé(e) visas (K)	\$350	\$240
Border Crossing Cards (age 15 and older)	\$140	\$160
Border Crossing Cards (under age 15)	\$14	\$15

Because of a reallocation of costs associated with immigrant visas, all categories of immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

### **Immigrant Visa Processing Fees**

Type of Visa	Previous Fee	New Fee
Immediate Relative and Family Preference Applications	\$330	\$230
Employment-Based Applications	\$720	\$405
Other Immigrant Visa Applications	\$305	\$220
Diversity Visa Program Fee	\$440	\$330
Determining Returning Resident Status	\$380	\$275

The proposed fees were published in the Federal Register today, and will take effect in 15 days. To view the interim final rule, visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Comments will be accepted until 60 days after publication. At that time, the Department will consider the public comments, and the published final rule will include the Department's response to any comments received.

Fee information may also be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov), and on the websites of U.S. embassies and consulates.

**The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces the 2012 International Writing Program**

**Deadline: April 6, 2012**

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce the International Writing Program (IWP) for 2012. In partnership with the University of Iowa, this program offers a ten-week residency in Iowa City that brings together a wide range of international and U.S. writers to examine current trends in literature. IWP provides a unique intercultural experience for established writers who have achieved literary distinction in their own countries, as well as for rising stars who have demonstrated literary talent, broad appeal and/or an interest in contributing to the creative writing culture in their home countries. The residency in Iowa City will tentatively begin on August 25, 2012, and end on November 13, 2012.

The international writers will spend ten weeks in residence at the University of Iowa in Iowa City presenting their work to local audiences, working with translators, and participating in university level classes and workshops. This aspect of the program will help participants bring their countries' literary works to a wider audience and learn more about U.S. literature. The 2012 program will feature increased opportunities for writers to participate in optional collaborative projects with artists from other disciplines, including theater and dance. The residency will also include field trips to attend literary events. Participants will travel for a total of 10 days within the United States to meet with local writers and collaborate with artists in other fields.

**Application Deadline and inquiries: Please submit your CV and a 10-15 page writing sample in English or English translation by **April 6, 2012****

**Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants:** Email CV and writing sample to [Exchanges@state.gov](mailto:Exchanges@state.gov) and copy Miral Siriani ([SirianiMY@state.gov](mailto:SirianiMY@state.gov)); call 02-622-7107 for more information

**Gaza Applicants:** Email CV and writing sample to Essam Mattar ([emattar@palnet.com](mailto:emattar@palnet.com)); call 08-286-4623 or 059-967-7317 for more information

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## International and Regional News

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[Secretary Clinton on Assistance to Tunisia](#)

[كلمة المبعوثة الأميركية لدى مجلس الأمم المتحدة لحقوق الإنسان](#)

[State Department on U.N. Human Rights Council](#)

[بيان وزارة الخارجية حول الدورة الـ ١٩ لمجلس حقوق الإنسان](#)

[Key U.S. Outcomes at the UN Human Rights Council 19th Session](#)

[بيان وزارة الخارجية الأميركية حول الدعم الأميركي لمصر](#)

[Secretary Clinton's Remarks on World Water Day](#)

[بيان البيت الأبيض حول التعاون في مجال مكافحة تهريب المواد النووية](#)

[Water Challenges Tagged as Security Problems](#)

[فحوى مكالمة مستشار البيت الأبيض مع الرئيس اليمني](#)

[State Department Fact Sheet on U.S. Water Partnership](#)

[التحديات المائية تُصنّف كمشاكل أمنية](#)

[State Department on U.S. Support for Egypt](#)

[U.S. Treasury Dept. Exposes Iranian "Lethal Aid"](#)