



## Embassy of the United States

Bucharest • Romania

## ACS eNewsletter 2013 2nd Issue

### Emergency Messages for U.S Citizens

The Department of State has issued this Worldwide Caution to update information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. To read the World Wide Caution message on the Department of State's website, please use the following link: [World Wide Caution Message](#).

All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)) to register their presence in Romania with the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest.

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Brătia - Vederea Generală.

Photo courtesy of the Romanian Academy

### The Early Years of United States and Romanian Diplomatic Ties

[The following are excerpts from a pamphlet published by the American Cultural Center, Bucharest, Romania, February 2006.]

Informal contacts between Romania and the United States can be traced back to the earliest days of American history. News about Romania occasionally appeared in the United States as early as the 1700s, while Romanian publications also discussed developments in America, first publishing the works of Benjamin Franklin in the 1800s. In 1846, one of the future leaders of the Romanian Revolution of 1848, Simion Barnutiu, translated the American Declaration of Independence. A number of Romanian immigrants to the U.S. fought in the American Civil War, and one, Gheorghe Pomut, attained the rank of Brigadier General.

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### Exchange Rate

1.00 USD = 3.362 RON

1.00 USD = 0.769EUR

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

4-6 LIVIU LIBRESCU BLVD., SECTOR 1 BUCHAREST

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(Continued from page 1)



Queen Marie was warmly received during her 1926 visit to the United States, where she met with New York Mayor James Walker and other officials. (Courtesy of the Royal Family).

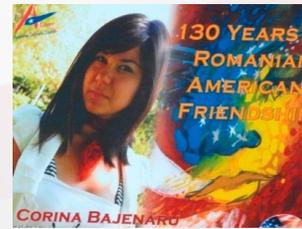
Commercial and consular contacts can be traced back to the 1830s and 1840s, after the Romanian principalities had begun to win increased autonomy from Constantinople. In 1843, the first U.S. commercial ship anchored at Braila Harbor in Romania's Dobrogea area. In 1858, the United States appointed its first U.S. Consul, Henry Romertze, to the town of Galati to assist with naval travel, and in 1867, Louis J. Czapkay, the first American Consul to Bucharest, was appointed.

## The First American Diplomat

Following Romania's independence in 1878, U.S. Secretary of State W.M. Evarts upgraded America's representation in Bucharest to that of a Legation by appointing Eugene Schuyler as Diplomatic Agent and Consul General on June 11, 1880. Schuyler wrote Secretary of State Evarts thanking him for the appointment, saying "The history and condition of Rumania have long interested me, and I feel highly honored to be the first on the part of the United States to begin regular diplomatic relations with that country. I

shall leave nothing in my power undone to further the good relations between the two countries." The following year, Schuyler's rank was upgraded to that of Resident Minister. Shortly after Schuyler's arrival in August 1880, Romanian General Sergiu Voinescu left for the United States on a mission to convey news of Romania's independence to American officials, including President Rutherford B. Hayes, who received him that November. Back in Bucharest, Schuyler, then one of America's most distinguished diplomats who was known for having translated Turgenev and Tolstoy into English and for his biography of Peter the Great, applied his talents to the task of developing U.S. and Romanian relations. During the next four years, Schuyler negotiated a bilateral commercial treaty, a consular convention as well as another for the protection of trademarks, promoted bilateral trade, wrote countless dispatches on Romanian political and economic issues, traveled extensively, mastered Romanian, and gained the respect and admiration of leading Romanians. Schuyler left Romania in August 1884 after the U.S. Congress failed to appropriate continued funding for diplomatic missions in Greece, Serbia and Romania as part of a cost-saving measure. The mission in Bucharest was thus downgraded to a consular post, which it remained until Congress authorized the reopening of the Legation in 1891. Nevertheless, Schuyler's successful tenure laid the groundwork for a strong bilateral relationship that was to grow and mature over the coming decades.

[In Celebration of 125 Years of United States and Romanian Diplomatic Relations](#), Bucharest, Romania. American Cultural Center, 2006. Print.



## CONTEST

Design for 4th of July Invitation

The U.S. Embassy for the fourth year is sponsoring a contest to design our 4th of July Invitation. The theme this year is **Red, White, and Blue**.

The competition is open to all high school students in Romania who wish to create an artistic work to illustrate the invitation for the annual 4th of July Reception marking American independence. The artistic renderings can be abstract or figurative and be expressed in drawing, painting or graphics (**digital works are excluded**), but they have to be clearly related to the theme. The originals will be sent back to their authors after the competition is over.

[For Rules visit the U.S. Embassy's website](#)

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## Tax Question of the Month

**Question: I am a U.S. citizen working for a U.S. firm in a foreign country. Are any of my wages or expenses tax deductible?**

**Answer:**

In preparing your U.S. income tax return, U.S. citizens and residents working abroad must correctly report their income and calculate their deductions and credits. U.S. citizens and resident aliens are taxed on their worldwide income.

You must report your wages and other earned income on the correct lines of your [Form 1040](#) (PDF).

Some taxpayers may qualify to exclude a limited amount of their foreign earned income and either claims the housing exclusion or deduction. To qualify:

Their tax home must be in a foreign country, and either:

They must be U.S. citizens who are a bona fide resident of a foreign country or countries for an uninterrupted period that includes an entire tax year;

They must be U.S. resident aliens who are a citizen or national of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty and who is a bona fide resident of a foreign country or countries for an uninterrupted period that includes an entire tax year; or

They must be U.S. citizens and resident aliens who are physically present in a foreign country or countries for at least 330 full days during any period of 12 consecutive months.

Taxpayers may be able to claim a foreign tax credit if required to pay a foreign income tax to the foreign country, if he or she has not elected the foreign earned income exclusion with respect to that income.

Taxpayers may also qualify to deduct away from home expenses (for travel, meals, and lodging), but not against excluded income.

Additional forms and information:

1. [Form 2555-EZ \(PDF\), Foreign Earned Income Exclusion](#)
2. [Foreign Income Exclusion](#)



The IRS has updated their website for U.S. taxpayers living overseas. This website contains the basic tax information plus links to other detailed topics such as:

- foreign earned income exclusion
- foreign tax credit
- reporting foreign bank accounts
- Fulbright grants
- state taxes
- and [much more](#)

Visit the IRS website for [U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad](#)

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# CONSULAR CORNER

## General Information

### Important Announcement

All non-emergency American Citizen Services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and Notarial services) will be provided by appointment only.

### Telephone inquiries:

Please call our American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit in the afternoon between 1:30 and 4:30, Monday through Friday. The morning hours are reserved for visitors with appointments. Therefore, only emergency phone calls (see instructions below) will be answered during the morning hours.

The number to call is (+40 21) 270-6000.

### Emergencies:

In case of an emergency, i.e. to call about the arrest, hospitalization or death of an American citizen, call the above number between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. In case of an emergency outside these business hours, i.e. evenings, weekends or holidays, please call the after hours Duty Officer: Tel.: (+40 21) 200-3300. However, please be aware that no immigration visa or ESTA information is available at this number.

E-mail: [acsbucharest@state.gov](mailto:acsbucharest@state.gov) (general U.S. citizen inquiries, not related to US visas)



Scams involving U.S. citizens have led to the loss of considerable amounts of money, ranging from a few hundred dollars to hundreds of thousands. Read more about [Dating and other International Financial Scams](#) and what to do if you believe you are a target.



Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program

Please enroll or update  
your Information by  
visiting

[travelregistration.state.gov](http://travelregistration.state.gov).

### New to Romania?

Check out these websites to learn more about Romania's famous tourist destinations, interesting events, and connect with other expats!

**ExpatriArrivals**  
local info for global expats



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# HEADLINE NEWS

THAT YOU CAN USE



## [Ceremonial Swearing-in for Secretary Kerry](#)

Secretary Kerry (Feb. 6): "I am proud to take on this job because I want to work for peace and because the values and the ideals of our nation are really what represents the best of the possibilities of life here on earth." (Photo: State.gov)



## [State of the Union](#)

President Obama announced plans to launch talks for a free-trade agreement with the European Union. The President also pledged that the U.S. will remain "a beacon to all who seek freedom" during his State of the Union address.



## [LGBT Rights Are Human Rights](#)

Op-Ed / blog post by Charge d' Affaires a.i. Duane Butcher



## [Pope Benedict XVI resigns](#)

## [The choosing of a New Pope Continues](#)

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## March 2013



8-International Women's Day

10-Daylight Savings Time

17-St. Patrick's Day

29-Good Friday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### Four Fun Facts about March

1. March's name is derived from the Roman word Martius.
2. It was also named in honor Mars, the Roman god of war.
3. Before the change to the New Calendar, March was the beginning of the according to the Older Roman calendar.
4. March is also known as the "Borrowing Month," a named it earned in a fable written by E. Cobham Brewer, 1894.

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## **Is my U.S. driver's license valid in Romania?**

U.S. driver's licenses are only valid in Romania for up to 90 days. Before the 90-day period has expired, U.S. citizens must either obtain an international driving permit in addition to their U.S. driver's license or a Romanian driver's license. If your American driver's license has been lost or stolen, the Embassy cannot assist you in obtaining a new one. You will be advised to contact the DMV of your state of residence to request a new driver's license. The contact information for your state's DMV may be found at [http://www.dmvnv.com/50\\_state\\_dmv\\_list.html](http://www.dmvnv.com/50_state_dmv_list.html).

Occasionally, the Romanian traffic police turns in American driver's licenses that were lost or stolen to the consular section. If your license was lost or stolen and you are registered with us, we'll make every attempt to return it to you. If, however, your American driver's license was confiscated from you by the traffic police for traffic violations, we recommend that you contact us to find out how you may be able to recover it. All unclaimed driver's licenses are forwarded to the DMV of the state of issuance.

If you have any questions, please, email us at [ACSBucharest@state.gov](mailto:ACSBucharest@state.gov).

**We continue to encourage all U.S. citizens to register their trips and residence abroad to facilitate our communications with them in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions about the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), please, email us at [ACSBucharest@state.gov](mailto:ACSBucharest@state.gov).**



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