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About Us



The Consulate General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region

The Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia is headed by Consul General Daniel Kutner and Deputy Consul General Raslan Abu Rukun. The office supports the Mid-Atlantic region and includes: Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and West Virginia. There are mainly two distinct departments: the Consular Department and the Public Diplomacy Department.

The Consular Department offers a wide range of services to both Israeli citizens and non-Israelis citizen. These services include: issuing visas to Israel, renewal/extension of Israeli passports and travel documents, registration of children born to Israeli citizens abroad, change of name and/or marital status, information regarding military service, notarization and authentication services.

The Public Diplomacy Department fosters positive diplomatic relationships between the U.S. and Israel and consists of three divisions: academic and speaker's bureau; culture; and media and governmental affairs.

The Consulate Office of Academic Affairs operates as a resource for private and public secondary schools to provide speakers, information and exhibits on Israel. Please contact Lou Balcher, Director of Academic Affairs & Speaker's Bureau, at academy@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il or 215-977-7600, Ext., 512.

The Consulate Office of Cultural Affairs promotes Israeli artists throughout the region and strengthens cultural ties between Israel and local communities. Please contact Deborah Baer Mozes, Director of Cultural Affairs, at culture@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il or 215-977-7600, Ext., 514.

The Consulate Office of Media & Governmental Affairs provides information about Israel to the media and government in the region. Please contact Michelle Effron Miller, Director of Media & Governmental Affairs, at press@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il or 215-977-7600, Ext., 511.

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of our new, contemporary e-newsletter! We hope that you enjoy this new format and welcome your feedback at press@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il.

We, at the Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia, look forward to serving the needs of our Mid-Atlantic Region in: DE, KY, Ohio, PA, Southern NJ and WV.

Thank you for your continued support of Israel!

Shalom!

Israeli Consulate News

This section includes articles on topics of interest to you about Consulate activities.

CG Kutner in Delaware

Consul General Daniel Kutner met with Jewish community officials in Delaware on Tuesday. At the Jewish Federation of Delaware in Wilmington, he briefed the Incoming JFD President Robin Kauffman Saran, JCRC Chair John Elzufon and Federation CEO Seth Katzen about critical events.

From there, Mr. Kutner went to the office of Delaware's Attorney General Beau Biden. He answered questions about Mr. Biden's upcoming Ministry of Foreign Affairs mission to Israel.

"Word from Jerusalem" Briefing

On Wednesday morning, May 4, Consul General Daniel Kutner gave a "Word from Jerusalem" briefing to Tri-State Israel Advocacy Executives on the possibility of another Gaza Flotilla, scheduled to set sail the end of May. He also discussed the implications of the newly signed Hamas - Palestinian Authority Agreement and U.N. efforts to declare Palestinian Statehood in September. Along with 15 tri-state Israel advocacy leaders at the Philadelphia Consulate, in attendance was a guest from Jerusalem: American Jewish Committee's Edward Rettig, Associate Director for Legislative Affairs and Education.

The Consulate and Bnai Zion

On Wednesday evening, Mr. Kutner and Dr. Shirley Kutner (right) hosted a reception at their home for the Bnai Zion Foundation (bnaizion.org), a non-profit organization whose medical, educational, social-service and cultural humanitarian projects in Israel benefit thousands in need across the economic, religious and cultural spectrum.



(L-R) Avner Lahat, Senior Director at Vishay Inter-technology, Inc; Sharona Durry; Sigal Bar Strauss; Benjamin Strauss, at Pepper Hamilton LLP; Dr. Shirley Kutner and The Hon. Daniel Kutner.

The event was also attended by David Gitlin, the Bnai Zion regional chairman of the board, and Ed Caine, the regional vice-chairman. Mr. Kutner introduced Jack Gronspan, the executive vice-president of Bnai Zion, and Sharona Durry, the new Bnai Zion Mid-Atlantic director. He added, "We are fortunate to now have this vibrant Bnai Zion presence in Philadelphia and appreciate the fine work that Bnai Zion is doing to benefit Israel."

Lawyers & Learning

"Ivan the Terrible," the notorious Nazi death camp guard, was the topic of conversation at this Philadelphia lecture led by Eli Gabay, Ivan John Demjanjuk's former prosecuting attorney. Thirty lawyers came to Mikveh Israel Congregation on May 4th to learn about The State of Israel vs. Ivan John Demjanjuk.

Deputy Consul General Raslan Abu Rukun and Academic Affairs Director Lou Balcher also attended the event. They also provided an invitation for local attorneys to attend an upcoming, New York Israel Advocacy Legal Conference on June 27-28.

Lawyers who are interested in attending this conference titled "Legal Challenges in Israeli Policy and Advocacy" may contact Lou at: academy@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il.

On the Air!

Yesterday, CG Kutner spoke at the PhillyIsrael radio program about Yom Hazikaron - Israel's official Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism. The ceremony is this Sunday at Philadelphia's at Congregation Rodeph Shalom (see flyer below). [To listen to this program, please click here.](#)

Consulate Events

Yom Ha'zikaron Memorial Day Ceremony

for Israel's Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism

יום הזיכרון
לחללי מערכות ישראל
ולנפגעי פעולות האיבה



8 במאי 2011
בשעה 19:30
בית הכנסת חרדף שלום
615 North Broad Street,
Philadelphia PA 19123

למידע נוסף: 215-977.7600 שלוחה 515 או
IH@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il

For more information: 215.977.7600 ext 515
or IH@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il
PLEASE BRING A PHOTO ID

Memorial Day Ceremony
for Israel's Fallen Soldiers
and Victims of Terrorism

Sunday, May 8, 2011 • 7:30 pm
Congregation Rodeph Shalom
615 North Broad Street, Philadelphia PA 19123

For more information: 215.977.7600 ext 515
or IH@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il
PLEASE BRING A PHOTO ID

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Use English for Commemoration and the Hebrew for Jewish Identity

The Anna Community Resource Center of Southern New Jersey

הקונסוליה הכללית של ישראל בפילדלפיה בשיתוף עם הסדרגה היהודית של פילדלפיה וה-JCRC של דרום ניו-ג'רסי מסמינים את חגיגות לזכרתם בסנקס

The Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey cordially invite you to attend

Beyond the Headlines

Look here to find good news about Israel and interesting facts!



Yes, they can: Israeli call center employs the disabled



Tourists discover Israel's Negev desert

Consulate Links

[Our Website](#)
(Under construction. Look for updates this summer!)

[Key Consulate Personnel](#)



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The Consulate General of Israel to the Mid - Atlantic Region invites you to...

An evening with JANNA GUR, author of

"The Book of New Israeli Food"

Thursday, May 12, at Zahav Restaurant in Phila. Cost: \$50

Cocktail Reception: 5 p.m., with Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres & Cookbook Signing

Dinner: 7 p.m., 5-Course Cookbook Dinner includes: Chargrilled Eggplant (tehina & pine nuts), Gondi (chicken & chickpea dumplings in broth), Chraime (Moroccan fish stew with halibut and fresh couscous), "El Baboor" Kebab (lamb, tomatoes, nigella), Chocolate & Halvah Coffee Cake (Turkish coffee ice cream)

Reservations required at zahavrestaurant.com or by calling the restaurant at 215-625-8800.



Janna Gur

Chef Michael Solomonov

Reservations required at zahavrestaurant.com or by calling the restaurant at 215-625-8800.

In the Region

This section includes articles on topics of interest to the Mid-Atlantic region.

Yesterday, U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) attended a Foreign Relations Committee hearing to consider the nomination of Daniel Shapiro to serve as Ambassador to Israel. During this critical time in the region, Sen. Casey asked questions to the administration on key issues with respect to Palestinian international statehood efforts, support for assistance to Israel, the threat from Iran and unrest across the Middle East. [Click here to read more.](#)

Israel & World

These articles contain information of national and international significance.

Israel Congratulates U.S. on Osama Bin Laden operation -The State of Israel joined the American people in celebrating the operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al Qaeda, and a terrorist who is responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women and children. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulates U.S. President Barack Obama, America's military and its intelligence services, on this great accomplishment. Click the box below to see Bibi's video message.



Netanyahu Congratulates Obama on Bin Laden Killing

• **Palestinian ceasefire violations since the end of Operation Cast Lead** - Since the end of Operation Cast Lead, 372 rockets and 333 mortar shells have been fired into Israel. [Click here to read more.](#)

• **Opening ceremony of Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day at Yad Vashem - Peres:** "Israel is the historical commemoration to the victims of the Holocaust." Netanyahu: "The first and most important lesson that we must take from the Holocaust is that if someone threatens to annihilate us, we cannot ignore those threats." [Click here to read more.](#)