



Happy Thanksgiving!



According to the traditional Thanksgiving story, in 1621, after a hard and devastating first year in the New World, the Pilgrims' fall harvest was plentiful. They found they finally had enough food to put away for the winter. Their Governor, William Bradford, proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving that was to be shared by all the colonists and the neighboring Native American Indians. The custom of an annually-celebrated Thanksgiving, held after the harvest, continued through the years. During the American Revolution in the late 1770s, a day of national Thanksgiving was proposed by the Continental Congress. In 1817, New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual event and by 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had appointed a national day of Thanksgiving. Since then, each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, usually designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the holiday.

Thanksgiving Day Service in Amsterdam

All are welcome to attend the annual Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, November 22, 2007, at the English Reformed Church, Begijnhof 48, 1012 Amsterdam. The Service will begin at 5 p.m. (17h00).

Thanksgiving Day Service in Leiden

Overseas Americans Remember (OAR) is pleased to invite you to a non-denominational service on Thanksgiving morning at 11:00 am at the historic Pieterskerk in Leiden. There will be a Catholic priest, Protestant ministers, a rabbi and a cantor. You are invited to bring your Dutch friends and friends from all nations. This is a service for everyone!

Thanksgiving at the Pieterskerk in Leiden is unique. In that church, the Pilgrims recorded their births, marriages and deaths. They lived in its surroundings from 1609 to 1620. In fact, some of their descendants still live in Leiden, and one Dutch woman, a direct descendent of a signer of the Mayflower Compact, will tell her story. Furthermore, there will be music and hymns to sing. The Mayor will welcome the attendees and a representative of the United States Embassy will read the annual Thanksgiving Day Proclamation.

For further information, please contact:

Roberta Enschede, Coordinator, 070-5118409, robertaenschede@yahoo.com;

Tove Ter Linden, (Flowers) 0651209569, Tove1@planet.nl; Anneke Beeuwkes (Treasurer) – 070-3242727, A.Beeuwkes@xs4all.nl; Jessie Rodell

(Ushers) 0625087326 – jrodell@ash.nl

OAR would appreciate contributions of cookies for coffee after the service.

If you would like to help with flowers, please contact Tove Ter Linden.

Mark your Calendars!

On Wednesday, December 12, 2007, a representative of the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam will visit the city of Maarheeze located in the province of Noord-Brabant, to provide consular services to American citizens. The representative is authorized to:

- accept passport applications;
- register children for U.S. citizenship; (Consular Report of Birth Abroad)
- provide notarial services.

Please note that he will not be able to provide any visa services.

Location: Maarheeze (Noord-Brabant)

Hours: 6:00 -8:00 pm. In order to register, please email USCitizenService-AMS@state.gov, providing your name, date and place of birth and service required. We will email you a confirmation in return, with details. *[Continues on Page 2]*

Adoption Information at the U.S. Consulate

The U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam is pleased to invite you to an information session on adoption-related issues. A representative from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services based in Frankfurt will brief attendees on U.S. accession to the Hague Convention on Adoption. This event will take place at 2:00 pm on November 7, 2007, at the Consulate General. Please email USCitizenServices@state.gov if you plan to attend.

The Consulate General will be **closed** on November 12, November 22, November 28, and December 25 and 26. On 11/23, 12/24 and 12/31, the Consulate General will remain open, but **only emergency services** for American citizens will be provided. In emergency cases involving American Citizens, please call 070-310 2209.



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Consul's Corner



[Continued from page 1] **Payments:** by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express, or Diner's Club). For payments in cash (Dollars or Euros), only exact change can be accepted. We do not accept PIN payments. Fees for the services to be provided are as follows:

Passports: The typical fee for an adult passport (16 and over) is \$67 or €53.60. A \$30 (€24.00) execution fee applies in some cases. Passports for children under 16 cost \$82 (€65.60). Please see the Consulate General's website at http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/passport_svcs2.html for details on what documents to bring to apply for or renew a passport (please note the special instructions for children under 14, especially that the child and both parents must be present and that the parents sign the application in the presence of a consular officer: http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/passport_minors.html).

Please bring two U.S.-size passport photos (5 cm. by 5 cm.). Photo specifications, and a list of some Dutch shops that make the proper size photos can be found at http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/us_photo_instr.html

Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs): The fee for a CRBA, primary evidence of U.S. citizenship for a child born abroad, is \$65 (€52.00). The child and at least one parent or legal guardian must be present to apply.

Please see <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/crba.html> for complete instructions on what to bring. If both parents are present, they can apply for the CRBA and the child's first passport simultaneously, for a total cost of \$147 (€117.60).

Notarial acts: The fee for the first notarial service (seal) is \$30 (€24.00) and for each additional seal provided for the same transaction is \$20 (€16.00). For more information please see http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/notary_svcs.html.

If you have any questions, please check the Consulate General's website at <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/>, write us an e-mail at USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov, or call 020-575-5309 between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

New: Ten-digit Fingerprint Collection

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is transitioning from collecting two fingerprints — already digital and inkless — to collecting ten fingerprints from foreign travelers to the United States.

This transition is being led by DHS's "US-VISIT" program, which provides the technology and carries out the analysis of the fingerprints. By collecting ten fingerprints, DHS supplies immigration and law enforcement officers with comprehensive, biometrics-based information upon which they can make decisions.

The ten-fingerprint enrollment process will take place either when a traveler enters the country (regardless if the traveler enters under the Visa Waiver Program or with a U.S. visa) or at a U.S. embassy or consulate when applying for a visa.

For more information on US-VISIT, including what travelers can expect upon arrival in, and departure from, the United States, US-VISIT exceptions, current ports of entry, privacy issues, and for multilingual information and brochures, please go to

www.dhs.gov/US-VISIT



New Travel Requirements

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is reminding air carriers and the traveling public that the temporary Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) accommodation allowing U.S. citizens to travel by air within the Western Hemisphere using a Department of State (DOS) official proof of passport application receipt, ended as scheduled at midnight on Sept. 30, 2007. However, U.S. citizens who departed the country under this travel accommodation prior to Oct. 1 with a Department of State official proof of passport application receipt and government-issued identification will be readmitted with these same documents if returning to the United States after Sept. 30.

Effective Oct. 1, 2007, U.S. citizens traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda must present a passport or other WHTI-compliant documentation to enter or depart from the United States. It is always strongly recommended that U.S. citizens verify the specific documentary requirements for their destination country.

WHTI was mandated by Congress in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, and addresses core 9/11 Commission findings for secure and reliable identification documents. It requires all travelers to and from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda to present a passport or other approved document that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality in order to enter or re-enter the United States. For more information about WHTI-approved travel documentation, please visit www.dhs.gov. For information on obtaining a U.S. passport please go to www.travel.state.gov.