

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Joshua Riley
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 7th, 2025 Return: August 12th, 2025  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Ithaca, NY Destination: Tel Aviv Return City: Syracuse, NY
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour of Oct. 7th massacre sites, tour of Israel's air defense capabilities, meeting with Palestinian National Authority, meeting on an humanitarian aid update, meeting with the President of the State of Israel.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.** I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 8/29/25

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: August 7, 2025 Date of Return: August 12, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): The Hon. Josh Riley

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$11,351.90	\$1,994.77	\$1,484.52	\$5,005.64
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signed by:  Date: 8/26/2025 | 16:44 EDT

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.**

Address: 251 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 246-0519 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Joshua Riley
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: August 6, 2025 Date of Return: August 12, 2025  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
  - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**  
As a member of Congress, this trip will provide firsthand insight into the regional security, diplomacy, and US - Israel relations, enhancing the ability to make informed legislative decisions.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee’s website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee’s Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:  
American Israel Education Foundation, Inc.
2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
  - a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
  - b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
  - c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.  
 If “c” is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): Please find attached
5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: August 6, 2025 Date of Return: August 14, 2025
7. a. City of departure: Washington D.C. or home district  
 b. Destination(s): Israel  
 c. City of return: Washington D.C. or home district
8. **Check only one.** I represent that
  - a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
  - b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
  - c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee’s travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**

- a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
- b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
- c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
- d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. \_\_\_\_\_

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor’s interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

AIEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a charitable and educational mission which includes, among other things, educating policy makers and opinion leaders about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: charter bus in Israel)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If “b” is checked:

1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$175.14

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_

The trip is in Israel to educate members of Congress about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: The King David Hotel City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$431

Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: Magdala Hotel City: Galilee Cost Per Night: \$257

Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$12,423.71	\$1,421.50	\$1,126
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$12,423.71	\$1,421.50	\$1,126

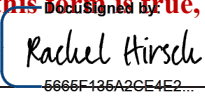
	<b>Other</b> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$2,408.76	Breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$2,408.76	Breakdown attached

19. **Check only one:**

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 7/2/2025 | 12:55 EDT  
5665F135A2CE4E2...  
 Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel  
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
 Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 246-0519

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
Democratic Members of Congress  
August 6-14, 2025**

**Addendum**

**4. List of Invitees**

1. The Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
2. The Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
3. The Honorable Brad Schneider (D-IL)
4. The Honorable Wesley Bell (D-MO)
5. The Honorable Gil Cisneros (D-CA)
6. The Honorable Herb Conaway (D-NJ)
7. The Honorable Laura Gillen (D-NY)
8. The Honorable Tim Kennedy (D-NY)
9. The Honorable Greg Landsman (D-OH)
10. The Honorable George Latimer (D-NY)
11. The Honorable Johnny Olszewski (D-MD)
12. The Honorable Nellie Pou (D-NJ)
13. The Honorable Josh Riley (D-NY)
14. The Honorable Luz Rivas (D-CA)
15. The Honorable Eugene Vindman (D-VA)
16. Boris Medzhibovsky, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
17. Victoria Rivas, National Security Advisor, Office of the Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
18. Hadar Arazi, Director of Operations, Office of the Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
19. Many-Jean Gitter, National Security Advisor, Office of the Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
20. Margaret Mulkerrin, Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications Director, Office of the Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD)

## 8. Breakdown of other expenses

<b>Other Cost</b>	<b>Cost per participant</b>
Room rentals	\$1,768.25
Security	\$1,120.32
Speaker Fees	\$414.76
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$413.97
Hotels for contract staff and guests	\$380.33
Miscellaneous	\$325.40
Tour Guide	\$307.23
Airport Assistance	\$178.24
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$33.97
Photography	\$33.22
Entrance Fees	\$29.95
<b>Total per participant</b>	<b>\$5,005.64</b>

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)**  
**Educational Seminar in Israel**  
**Democratic Freshman Members of Congress**  
**August 6-14, 2025**

**Addendum**

**4. List of Invitees**

1. The Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
2. The Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
3. The Honorable Brad Schneider (D-IL)
4. The Honorable Yassamin Ansari (D-AZ)
5. The Honorable Wesley Bell (D-MO)
6. The Honorable Janelle Bynum (D-OR)
7. The Honorable Gil Cisneros (D-CA)
8. The Honorable Herb Conaway (D-NJ)
9. The Honorable Sarah Elfreth (D-MD)
10. The Honorable Shomari Figures (D-AL)
11. The Honorable Laura Gillen (D-NY)
12. The Honorable Adam Gray (D-CA)
13. The Honorable Julie Johnson (D-TX)
14. The Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA)
15. The Honorable Tim Kennedy (D-NY)
16. The Honorable Greg Landsman (D-OH)
17. The Honorable George Latimer (D-NY)
18. The Honorable Sarah McBride (D-DE)
19. The Honorable April McClain-Delaney (D-MD)
20. The Honorable Dave Min (D-CA)
21. The Honorable Kelly Morrison (D-MN)
22. The Honorable Kevin Mullin (D-CA)
23. The Honorable Johnny Olszewski (D-MD)
24. The Honorable Nellie Pou (D-NJ)
25. The Honorable Josh Riley (D-NY)
26. The Honorable Luz Rivas (D-CA)
27. The Honorable Lateefah Simon (D-CA)
28. The Honorable Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)
29. The Honorable Derek Tran (D-CA)
30. The Honorable Gabe Vasquez (D-NM)
31. The Honorable Eugene Vindman (D-VA)
32. The Honorable George Whitesides (D-CA)
33. Boris Medzhibovsky, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
34. Victoria Rivas, National Security Advisor, Office of the Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
35. Hadar Arazi, Director of Operations, Office of the Honorable Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
36. Manya-Jean Gitter, National Security Advisor, Office of the Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
37. Margaret Mulkerrin, Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications Director, Office of the Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD)

## 8. Breakdown of other expenses

<b>Other Cost</b>	<b>Cost per participant</b>
Room Rentals and Setup	\$847.56
Security	\$508.47
Speaker Fees	\$254.24
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$194.92
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$154.52
Hotels for contract staff	\$152.54
Airport Assistance	\$118.64
Miscellaneous	\$50.85
Tips	\$50.85
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$33.90
Photography	\$25.42
Entrance Fees	\$16.95
<b>Total per participant</b>	<b>\$2,408.76</b>

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
Democratic Members of Congress  
August 6 – 14, 2025**

**Itinerary**

**Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

All day                      Flights depart the United States

**Thursday, August 7, 2025**

All day                      Flights arrive Tel Aviv

6:15 – 7:30 PM            **Welcome and Orientation Dinner**

7:45 – 8:45 PM            **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**  
Opening Conversation with Dr. Tal Becker  
Former Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

9:00 PM                      Depart for City of David

9:30 – 10:30 PM          **Late-Night Visit: The City of David**

10:45 PM                    Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Friday, August 8, 2025 – Bipartisan Day**

7:00 – 8:00 AM            Breakfast  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 – 9:00 AM            **October 7 Overview**  
Briefing with Yossi Garr, Director of Education  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

9:15 AM                      Depart for Gaza Envelope

9:30 – 10:30 AM          **En route briefing – History of Gaza and Israel**

11:00 – 11:30 AM        **Overlook into Gaza – Status Update**  
Briefing with Yossi Garr, Director of Education  
– at Kobi outlook, Sderot

11:45 AM Depart

12:00 – 1:15 PM **October 7 Ground Zero**  
– at Kibbutz Nir Oz, Kibbutz Be’eri, and Kibbutz Kfar Aza

1:15 PM Depart

1:30 – 2:15 PM Lunch  
– at Kibbutz Alumim

2:30 PM Depart

2:45 – 3:45 PM **Re’im: Site of the Nova Festival Massacre**  
– at Re’im Forest

4:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

6:30 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:45 PM Depart for local host families

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem**  
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Jerusalem families

10:00 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Saturday, August 9, 2025**

7:45 – 8:45 AM Breakfast  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:45 AM Depart for the YMCA, Jerusalem

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Israeli Politics 101**  
Briefing with Cameron Brown  
Director, AIEF Jerusalem  
– at the YMCA, Jerusalem

10:15 AM Depart for the Old City

- 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem: The Holy Basin**
- Old City of Jerusalem
  - Davidson Center
  - Western Wall
  - Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- 1:15 – 2:00 PM Lunch  
– at Golden Panoramic restaurant
- 2:30 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 4:00 PM Depart
- 4:15 – 5:30 PM **Strategic Regional Overview**  
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel  
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau, Prime Minister's Office  
– at the YMCA, Jerusalem
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM **Bring them Home**  
Meeting with Ilay David, Brother of hostage Evyatar David  
– at the YMCA, Jerusalem
- 7:00 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 7:15 – 8:00 PM **Bipartisan Dinner**  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 8:00 PM Depart
- 8:00 – 8:30 PM Dessert  
– at the YMCA, Jerusalem
- 8:30 PM Group Photo  
– at the YMCA, Jerusalem
- 8:45 – 9:45 PM **The Sound of Resilience**  
with October 7 Survivor Daniel Wais, Resident of Kibbutz Be'eri  
Moderated by Yoni Leviatan, Educational Seminar Leader  
-at the YMCA, Jerusalem
- 9:45 PM Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 10:00 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Sunday, August 10, 2025**

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 8:15 AM Depart
- 9:45 – 10:30 AM **Israel’s Air Defensive Abilities**  
Tour of Arrow  
Briefing by Col Rom Unger, Head of Upper Tier Division
- 10:45 AM Depart for Ramallah
- 12:45 AM–1:45 PM **Meeting with the Honorable Mohammad Mustafa**  
Prime Minister, Palestinian National Authority  
– Ramallah
- 1:45 PM Depart for Jerusalem  
Lunch en route
- 3:00 – 4:15 PM **Humanitarian Aid Update**  
Briefing with Brig. Gen. Elad Goren,  
Head of Humanitarian – Civilian Effort in Gaza,  
Coordinator of Government Affairs in the Territories (COGAT)  
Moderated by Marilyn Rosenthal  
– at the Museum of Tolerance, Jerusalem
- 4:15 PM Depart
- 4:45 PM – 6:15 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**  
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum
- 6:30 PM Depart for dinner
- 7:00 – 8:45 PM **The Israel-Iran War 46 Years and 12 Days**  
Dinner and Panel discussion with:  
▪ Dr. Tamar Eilam Gindin, Iran Specialist at the Ezri Center,  
University of Haifa  
▪ Maj. General Tamir Hayman, Former Head of IDF Military  
Intelligence and Head of INSS  
Moderated by Phil Friedman  
– at Modern restaurant
- 9:00 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Monday, August 11, 2025**

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast – at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
8:15 AM	Depart
9:15 – 10:15 AM	<b>Meeting with The Honorable Isaac Herzog</b> President of the State of Israel – at the President’s Residence
10:30 AM	Depart
12:00 – 1:45 PM	<b>Distributing Humanitarian Aid</b> Visit to World Food Program (WFP) storage facility Briefing with local staff – Ashdod
1:45 PM	Depart
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Lunch – at Air Café
3:30 PM	Depart
3:15 – 4:45 PM	<b>En Route Briefing: History of Lebanon and Israel</b>
5:30 – 7:15 PM	<b>U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation</b> Visit to Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Briefing with Gideon Weiss, Vice President for International Business Development, Rafael – at Rafael David Institute, Haifa
7:15 PM	Depart
8:00 – 9:30 PM	<b>Dinner and Reflections</b> – at Magdalena restaurant
9:45 PM	Check-in to Magdala hotel, Tiberias
9:45 AM	Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

- 7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast  
– at the Magdala Hotel, Tiberias
- 8:30 AM Depart
- 9:00 – 10:15 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**  
▪ Mount of Beatitudes  
▪ Capernaum
- 10:15 AM Depart for the Golan Heights
- 11:00 – 11:45 AM **Strategic Briefing on the Syrian Border**  
Briefing with Maj. Ilan Shulman  
Local resident, geopolitical expert  
– at the Mt. Bental outlook
- 11:45 AM Depart for Kibbutz Merom Golan
- 12:15 – 1:15 PM **Northern Border Concerns: The Changing Landscape of Syria**  
Briefing with Maj. (res) Ilan Shulman  
Kibbutz Merom Golan resident and geopolitical expert  
– at Kibbutz Merom Golan
- 1:15 – 2:15 PM **Ethics in the IDF**  
Lunch with IDF soldiers  
– at Habokrim, Kibbutz Merom Golan
- 2:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM **Understanding the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation**  
Meeting with Chapin Fay  
Spokesperson, Gaza Humanitarian Foundation  
Moderated by Marilyn Rosenthal  
– at Mamilla auditorium, Jerusalem
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM **Grassroots Political Activism: Engaging with Israeli Civil Society**  
Dinner and evening program  
▪ Yoav Adomi, Miluimnikim (reservist) Movement  
▪ Ella Ringel, CEO, Fourth Quarter  
▪ Reuven Taub, Co-Founder and CEO, Aleinu  
Moderated by Tova Serkin  
– at Rooftop Mamilla, Jerusalem

10:00 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

7:30 – 8:30 AM Breakfast on own  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Meeting with the Honorable Mike Huckabee**  
U.S. Ambassador to Israel  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

9:45 – 10:45 AM **A Shared Society in Time of Crisis**  
Meeting with  
▪ Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Activist and Writer  
Moderated by Cameron Brown  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

10:45 PM Depart

12:00 – 1:00 PM **Meeting with The Prime Minister**  
The Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister of the State of Israel  
-at the Prime Minister’s Office, Jerusalem

2:00 – 2:45 PM Lunch  
– at HaAgam restaurant

3:15 – 4:15 PM **Meeting with The Leader of the Opposition**  
The Honorable Yair Lapid\*  
Leader of the Opposition and Chairman, Yesh Atid Party  
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

4:15 – 6:15 PM Prepare for departure

6:15 – 8:15 PM **Reflections on the Week**  
Closing Dinner  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

9:00 PM Depart for Ben-Gurion International Airport

**Thursday, August 14, 2025**

All day Flights depart Tel Aviv

All day      Flights arrive in the United States

**August 2025 Democratic Freshmen  
Flights to Israel**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Departure</b>	<b>Arrival</b>
Rep. Pete Aguilar	August 6 departs Los Angeles at 2:00 PM	August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 1:55 PM
Rep. Steny Hoyer	August 6 departs Washington, D.C. at 10:10 AM August 6 departs Newark at 3:30 PM	August 6 arrives Newark at 11:30 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 8:55 AM
Rep. Brad Schneider	August 6 departs Chicago at 9:29 AM August 6 departs JFK at 5:30 PM	August 6 arrives JFK at 12:59 PM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 10:50 AM
Rep. Greg Landsman	August 6 departs Cincinnati at 11:00 AM August 6 departs JFK at 5:30 PM	August 6 arrives JFK at 1:13 PM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 10:50 AM
Rep. Tim Kennedy	August 6 departs Buffalo at 11:40 AM August 6 departs JFK at 5:30 PM	August 6 arrives JFK at 1:08 PM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 10:50 AM
Rep. Gil Cisneros	August 6 departs Los Angeles at 2:00 PM	August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 1:55 PM
Rep. Wesley Bell	August 6 departs St. Louis at 6:00 AM August 6 departs Newark at 1:30 PM	August 6 arrives Newark at 9:35 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 6:55 AM
Rep. Herb Conaway	August 8 departs Newark at 3:30 PM	August 9 arrives Tel Aviv at 8:55 AM
Rep. Laura Gillen	August 6 departs JFK at 5:30 PM	August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 10:50 AM
Rep. George Latimer	August 6 departs Westchester at 9:00 AM August 6 departs JFK at 1:29 PM	August 6 arrives JFK at 10:00 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 6:50 AM
Rep. Johnny Olszewski	August 6 departs Baltimore at 2:43 PM August 6 departs Newark at 9:00 PM	August 6 arrives Newark at 4:57 PM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 2:25 PM
Rep. Nellie Pou	August 6 departs Newark at 9:00 PM	August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 2:25 PM
Rep. Josh Riley	August 7 departs Ithaca at 5:36 AM August 7 departs JFK at 10:30 AM	August 7 arrives JFK at 6:59 AM August 8 arrives Tel Aviv at 3:50 AM
Rep. Luz Rivas	August 6 departs Los Angeles at 2:00 PM	August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 1:55 PM
Rep. Eugene Vindman	August 7 departs Washington, D.C. at 11:10 AM August 7 departs Newark at 3:30 PM	August 7 arrives Newark at 12:29 PM August 8 arrives Tel Aviv at 8:55 AM
Boris Medzhibovsky	August 6 departs San Diego at 9:59 AM August 6 departs Los Angeles at 2:00 PM	August 6 arrives Los Angeles at 11:09 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 1:55 PM

### August 2025 Democratic Freshmen

#### Flights to Israel

Hadar Arazi	August 6 departs Washington, D.C. at 6:05 AM August 6 departs JFK at 1:29 PM	August 6 arrives JFK at 7:29 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 6:50 AM
Victoria Rivas	August 6 departs Washington, D.C. at 6:05 AM August 6 departs JFK at 1:29 PM	August 6 arrives JFK at 7:29 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 6:50 AM
Margaret Mulkerrin	August 6 departs Washington, D.C. at 10:10 AM August 6 departs Newark at 3:30 PM	August 6 arrives Newark at 11:30 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 8:55 AM
Manya-Jean Gitter	August 6 departs Washington, D.C. at 10:10 AM August 6 departs Newark at 3:30 PM	August 6 arrives Newark at 11:30 AM August 7 arrives Tel Aviv at 8:55 AM

**August 2025 Democratic Freshmen  
Flights to the United States**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Departure</b>	<b>Arrival</b>
Rep. Pete Aguilar	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:05 AM	August 14 arrives Los Angeles at 6:00 AM
Rep. Steny Hoyer	August 13 departs Tel Aviv at 11:25 PM August 14 departs Newark at 7:00 AM	August 14 arrives Newark at 4:10 AM August 14 arrives Washington, D.C. at 8:22 AM
Rep. Brad Schneider	Booked travel home on personal account	Booked travel home on personal account
Rep. Greg Landsman	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:00 AM August 14 departs JFK at 8:00 AM	August 14 arrives JFK at 5:50 AM August 14 arrives Cincinnati at 10:12 AM
Rep. Tim Kennedy	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:00 AM August 14 departs JFK at 8:45 AM	August 14 arrives JFK at 5:50 AM August 14 arrives Buffalo at 10:20 AM
Rep. Gil Cisneros	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:05 AM	August 14 arrives Los Angeles at 6:00 AM
Rep. Wesley Bell	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 12:30 AM August 14 departs Newark at 9:00 AM	August 14 arrives Newark at 5:15 AM August 14 arrives St. Louis at 10:43 AM
Rep. Herb Conaway	August 13 departs Tel Aviv at 11:25 AM	August 14 arrives Newark at 4:10 AM
Rep. Laura Gillen	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 12:05 AM	August 14 arrives JFK at 4:55 AM
Rep. George Latimer	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:00 AM August 14 departs JFK at 6:30 AM	August 14 arrives JFK at 5:50 AM August 14 arrives Westchester 7:30 AM
Rep. Johnny Olszewski	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 12:30 AM August 14 departs Newark at 6:41 AM	August 14 arrives Newark at 5:15 AM August 14 arrives Baltimore at 8:50 AM
Rep. Nellie Pou	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 12:30 AM	August 14 arrives Newark at 5:15 AM
Rep. Josh Riley	August 12 departs Tel Aviv at 1:00 AM August 12 departs JFK at 9:04 AM	August 12 arrives JFK at 5:50 AM August 12 arrives Syracuse at 10:36 AM
Rep. Luz Rivas	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:05 AM	August 14 arrives Los Angeles at 6:00 AM
Rep. Eugene Vindman	August 13 departs Tel Aviv at 11:25 PM August 14 departs Newark at 7:00 AM	August 14 arrives Newark at 4:10 AM August 14 arrives Washington, D.C. at 8:22 AM
Boris Medzhibovsky	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:05 AM August 14 departs Los Angeles at 8:20 AM	August 14 arrives Los Angeles at 6:00 AM August 14 arrives San Diego at 9:18 AM
Hadar Arazi	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:00 AM August 14 departs JFK at 8:35 AM	August 14 arrives JFK at 5:50 AM August 14 arrives Washington, D.C. at 10:14 AM

**August 2025 Democratic Freshmen  
Flights to the United States**

Victoria Rivas	August 14 departs Tel Aviv at 1:00 AM August 14 departs JFK at 8:35 AM	August 14 arrives JFK at 5:50 AM August 14 arrives Washington, D.C. at 10:14 AM
Margaret Mulkerrin	August 13 departs Tel Aviv at 11:25 PM August 14 departs Newark at 7:00 AM	August 14 arrives Newark at 4:10 AM August 14 arrives Washington, D.C. at 8:22 AM
Manya-Jean Gitter	Booked travel home on personal account	Booked travel home on personal account

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
Democratic Members of Congress  
August 6 – 14, 2025**

**Itinerary**

**Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

5:36 AM	Delta #5265 departs Ithaca (Representative Josh Riley)
6:00 AM	United Airlines #3518 departs St. Louis (Representative Wesley Bell)
6:45 AM	Delta #2351 departs Dallas (Representative April McClain-Delaney)
6:59 AM	Delta #5265 arrives JFK (Representative Josh Riley)
7:00 AM	United Airlines #4515 departs Washington D.C. (Representative Steny Hoyer, Margaret Mulkerrin, Manya Gitter)
7:15 AM	United Airlines #5426 departs Fresno (Representative Adam Gray)
7:40 AM	American Airlines #6290 departs Portland (Representative Janelle Bynum)
8:20 AM	American Airlines #2783 departs Philadelphia (Representative Sarah McBride)
8:22 AM	United Airlines #4515 arrives Newark (Representative Steny Hoyer, Margaret Mulkerrin, Manya Gitter)
8:35 AM	United Airlines #5426 arrives Los Angeles (Representative Adam Gray)
9:29 AM	American Airlines #4590 departs Chicago (Representative Brad Schneider)
9:35 AM	United Airlines #3518 arrives Newark (Representative Wesley Bell)
9:39 AM	American Airlines #2783 arrives Boston (Representative Sarah McBride)
10:16 AM	American Airlines #6290 arrives Los Angeles (Representative Janelle Bynum)
11:00 AM	Delta #5096 departs Cincinnati (Representative Greg Landsman)

11:40 AM Delta #5426 departs Buffalo (Representative Tim Kennedy)

11:44 AM Delta #2351 arrives Boston (Representative April McClain-Delaney)

12:59 AM American Airlines #4590 arrives JFK (Representative Brad Schneider)

1:08 PM Delta #5426 arrives JFK (Representative Tim Kennedy)

1:13 PM Delta #5096 arrives JFK (Representative Greg Landsman)

1:29 PM El Al #10 departs JFK (Representative Josh Riley)

1:30 PM El Al #16 departs Boston (Representatives Sarah McBride)

1:30 PM El Al #28 departs Newark (Representative Wesley Bell)

2:00 PM El Al #6 departs Los Angeles (Representatives Pete Aguilar, Janelle Bynum, Gil Cisneros Jr, Adam Gray, Dave Min, Luz Rivas, George Whitesides, Boris Medzhibovsky)

3:05 PM United Airlines #4560 departs Washington D.C. (Hadar Arazi, Victoria Rivas)

3:29 PM United Airlines #4560 departs Washington D.C. (Representative Eugene Vindman)

4:36 PM United Airlines #4560 arrives Newark (Hadar Arazi, Victoria Rivas)

5:00 PM United Airlines #4560 arrives Newark (Representative Eugene Vindman)

5:00 PM El Al #16 departs Boston (April McClain-Delaney)

5:30 PM El Al #2 departs JFK (Representatives Laura Gillen, Tim Kennedy, Greg Landsman, Brad Schneider)

9:00 PM El Al #26 departs Newark (Representatives Sarah Elfreth, John Olszewski Jr, Eugene Vindman, Hadar Arazi, Victoria Rivas)

**Thursday, August 7, 2025**

5:50 AM El Al #10 arrives Tel Aviv (Representative Josh Riley)

6:30 AM	El Al #16 arrives Tel Aviv (Representative Sarah McBride)
6:55 AM	El Al #28 arrives Tel Aviv (Representative Wesley Bell)
10:00 AM	El Al #16 arrives Tel Aviv (April McClain-Delaney)
10:50 AM	El Al #2 arrives Tel Aviv (Representatives Laura Gillen, Tim Kennedy, Greg Landsman, Brad Schneider)
1:55 PM	El Al #6 arrives Tel Aviv (Representatives Pete Aguilar, Janelle Bynum, Gil Cisneros Jr, Adam Gray, Dave Min, Luz Rivas, George Whitesides, Boris Medzhibovsky)
2:25 PM	El Al #26 arrives Tel Aviv (Representatives Sarah Elfreth, John Olszewski Jr, Eugene Vindman, Hadar Arazi, Victoria Rivas)
	Transfer to Jerusalem Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
1:00 PM	Lunch – at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
4:00 PM	Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
6:15 – 7:30 PM	<b>Welcome and Orientation Dinner</b>

During the welcome and orientation, staff will lead a discussion about the objectives for the week ahead.

7:45 – 8:45 PM	<b>Pulse of The Nation</b> Briefing with David Horovitz Founding Editor, <i>The Times of Israel</i> – at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
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David Horovitz is the founding editor of *Times of Israel*, the leading current affairs website in Israel. Mr. Horovitz will provide staff with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

9:00 PM	Depart for City of David
9:30 – 10:30 PM	<b>Late- Night Visit: The City of David</b>

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city

of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sites in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

10:45 PM                      Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Friday, August 8, 2025 – Bipartisan Day**

7:00 – 8:00 AM              Breakfast  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 – 9:00 AM              **October 7 Overview**  
Briefing with Yossi Garr, Director of Education  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Yossi Garr will give participants a broad overview of the devastating events of October 7, the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. This introduction will provide the necessary context for the more in-depth topics participants will explore throughout the day.

9:15 AM                      Depart for Gaza Envelope

9:30 – 10:30 AM              **En route briefing – History of Gaza and Israel**

During this en route briefing, the tour guide will provide a brief history of the Gaza Strip, the small, coastal enclave that shares borders with Egypt and Israel, where Israel has been at war with Hamas since October 7, 2023. The guide will cover Israel’s unilateral disengagement from Gaza in 2005, and Israel’s efforts to deal with the onslaught of rockets from the terrorist group Hamas, in control of the Gaza Strip since 2007.

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM **Overlook into Gaza – Status Update**  
Briefing with Yossi Garr, Director of Education  
– in Sderot

This briefing will provide a status update on the Israel-Hamas war at an overlook into the Gaza Strip. Participants will hear about Israel’s efforts to remove Hamas from Gaza, as well as efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the civilian population.

11:30 AM                      Depart

12:00 – 1:15 PM      **October 7 Ground Zero**  
– at Kibbutz Nir Oz, Kibbutz Be’eri, and Kibbutz Kfar Aza

During this session, participants will bear witness to the Hamas invasion and massacre at the small farming communities on Israel’s border with the Gaza Strip. They will hear what happened to the communities on October 7, how the IDF regained control, and efforts to rebuild the south.

1:15 PM                Depart

1:30 – 2:15 PM      Lunch  
– at Kibbutz Alumim

2:30 PM                Depart

2:45 – 3:45 PM      **Re’im: Site of the Nova Festival Massacre**  
– at Re'im Forest

When Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, they also massacred and kidnapped hundreds of young civilians at a music festival taking place in the Gaza envelope area. Since then, family members created a moving memorial to their loved ones that will help the participants understand the enormity of the events of the days and the trauma experienced by Israeli society.

4:00 PM                Depart for Jerusalem

5:30 PM                Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:45 PM                Depart for local host families

8:00 – 9:30 PM      **Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem**  
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Jerusalem families

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple. The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

10:00 PM              Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Saturday, August 9, 2025**

8:00 – 8:45 AM      Breakfast  
                                 – at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:45 AM                      Depart for the Old City

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM    **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem: The Holy Basin**

- Garden of Gethsemane
- Old City of Jerusalem
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism’s holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today’s political discussions.

12:45 – 1:45 PM      Lunch  
                                 – at Golden Panoramic restaurant

2:00 PM                      Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

4:00 – 5:15 PM      **Strategic Regional Overview**

Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel  
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau, Prime Minister's Office  
– at the YMCA, Jerusalem

This strategic regional overview will be given by Brig. Gen (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel, the past director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at the Office of the Prime Minister, where he served until 2012. His duties included developing a national policy for border protection, cargo and aviation security, and advanced technology for public security. He is a veteran of the “Golani” Infantry Corp and held command positions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and South Lebanon. Today he is a Fellow at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at IDC Herzliya. During this session, he will discuss the strategic threats facing Israel from its borders with Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, the West Bank, and the greater Middle East.

5:30 – 6:45 PM      **Israeli Politics 101**  
Briefing with Professor Reuven Hazan  
Chairman, Political Science Department,  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
– at the YMCA, Jerusalem

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Reuven Hazan will explain how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics.

6:45 PM              Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:00 – 8:00 PM      **Bipartisan Dinner**  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

During this bipartisan dinner, participants will have a chance to reflect on the speakers and site visits they experienced during Bipartisan Day programming the day before.

8:45 – 9:45 PM      **The Sound of Resilience**  
with October 7 Survivor Daniel Wais, Resident of Kibbutz Be’eri  
Moderated by Yoni Leviatan, Educational Seminar Leader  
-at the Tower of David

During this session the participants will hear powerful testimony from Daniel Wais, a survivor of the October 7 attack on Kibbutz Be’eri. His story will provide a firsthand account about the resilience, loss, and strength of a community forever changed.

9:45 PM              Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Sunday, August 10, 2025**

7:00 – 8:15 AM      Breakfast  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:30 AM              Depart

9:15 – 10:30 AM      **Israel’s Air Defensive Abilities** (Members only)  
Iron Dome, David Sling, and Arrow  
Briefing with:  
▪ Brig. General Doron Gavish, Former Head of Israel Aerial Defense  
▪ Major Neta Bloom, Head of Cyber Section Defense Ministry  
– at Palmachim Base

Israel's defense system is multi-layered and includes three main air defense systems: The Iron Dome for short-range threats under 50 kilometers; David Sling for medium-range projectiles; and Arrow, which defends against long-range ballistic missile threats. The IDF will explain the individual systems, and how they work together to protect the state of Israel. Participants will visit the operation centers for these systems and learn how U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation ensures the safety of the Jewish State.

10:30 AM Depart for Ramallah

11:45 AM–12:45 PM **Meeting with the Palestinian Authority**

Meeting with the Honorable Hussein Al Sheikh, Vice President,  
Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)  
– Ramallah

During this session the participants will be briefed on the current state of Palestinian Authority Affairs, including the Palestinian perspective on the issues of the day, as well as relations with Israel and prospects for peace.

1:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

1:45 – 2:45 PM Lunch  
– at Terasa restaurant

3:00 – 4:15 PM **Humanitarian Aid Update**

Lt. Col. Yotam Sheffer, Head of Foreign Relations, Coordinator of  
Government Affairs in the Territories (COGAT)  
– at the Begin Center, Jerusalem

During this session the participants will receive a humanitarian update from Lt. Col. Yotam Sheffer, the Head of Foreign Relations and Coordinator of Government Affairs in the Territories. Lt. Col. Sheffer will provide insight into Israel's ongoing efforts to mitigate civilian harm, facilitate humanitarian aid, and navigate the complex realities on the ground.

4:30 PM Depart for the Prime Minister's Office

5:30 – 6:30 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu**

Prime Minister of the State of Israel  
– at the Prime Minister's Office

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with Israel's Prime Minister, to hear the official perspective of the State of Israel on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the Chairman of the Likud party. He previously served as Israel's Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He is Israel's longest serving Prime Minister.

6:45 PM Depart for dinner

6:45 – 8:45 PM **The Israel-Iran War 46 Years and 12 Days**

Dinner and Panel discussion with:

- Maj. General Tamir Hayman,  
Former Head of IDF Military Intelligence and Head of INSS
  - Professor Shaul Horev, Former Head of Atomic Commission
- Moderated by Yonah Jeremy Bob, Author and Journalist

On June 13, Israel launched a military operation to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and to attack its increasingly dangerous ballistic missile arsenal. This operation came after the IAEA officially declared Iran was not in compliance with its non-proliferation obligations and the regime ignored President Trump's 60-day deadline to reach a peaceful agreement to resolve the nuclear issue. During this session, an expert panel will discuss the history of the Iranian nuclear program, the 12-day war to prevent this threat, and how Israel plans to move forward.

9:00 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

**Monday, August 11, 2025**

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:30 AM Depart

9:15 – 10:15 AM **Meeting with President Isaac Herzog**  
President of the State of Israel  
– at the President's Residence

It is customary for participants to meet with the President of Israel. Isaac Herzog was elected Israel's eleventh president in June 2021, with 87 votes of the Knesset's 120. He is the first Israeli president who is the son of a former president. His father Chaim Herzog was Israel's sixth president from 1983-1993. Herzog, previously head of the Jewish Agency, is also a former leader of the Labor party from 2013-2017.

10:30 AM Depart

11:30 AM–12:30 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Yair Lapid**  
Leader of the Opposition and Chairman, Yesh Atid Party  
– at Hevel Modiin Cultural Hall, Airport City

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with the Leader of the Opposition. Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and former journalist who is the Chairman of the centrist Yesh

Atid party, and Leader of the Opposition since January 2023. Previously he served as the 14th prime minister of Israel, the alternate prime minister of Israel and minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

12:30 – 1:15 PM      Lunch  
   – at Airport City

1:30 PM                      Depart

2:30 – 3:00 PM      **Israel’s Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders**  
   Strategic briefing  
   – at Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel’s narrow waistline. The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Hadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel’s population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel’s “silicon valley”, as well as Ben Gurion international airport. The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel’s narrow waistline.

3:15 – 4:45 PM      **En Route Briefing: History of Lebanon and Israel**

During the drive to Israel’s border with Lebanon, the guide will provide a history of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist group based in Lebanon dedicated to Israel’s destruction. The terrorist group’s influence in Lebanese politics, massive weapons arsenal and use of Lebanese civilians as human shields made the Iranian proxy a serious threat to Israel leading up to the current war. Hezbollah has a global reach and has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda.

4:45 – 6:45 PM      **U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation**  
   Briefing with Gidion Weiss,  
   Vice President for International Business Development, Rafael  
   – at Rafael David Institute, Haifa

Rafael is an Israeli defense technology company, founded as Israel's National R&D Defense Laboratory for the development of weapons and military technology within the Israeli Ministry of Defense. During this session, Mr. Weiss will explain the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation that has led to the country’s multi-tiered missile defense system. Participants

will also get to see the facilities, where Rafael produces notable defense systems including the David Sling, Iron Dome and Iron Beam.

6:45 PM Depart

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Dinner and Reflections**  
– at Decks restaurant

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them assists in their ability to understand Israel's complexities.

9:45 PM Check-in to Magdala hotel, Tiberias

9:45 AM Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

### **Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

7:30 – 8:30 AM Breakfast  
– at the Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

8:45 AM Depart

9:15 – 10:30 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**

- Mount of Beatitudes
- Capernaum

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

10:30 AM Depart for the Golan Hights

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM **Strategic Briefing on the Syrian Border**  
Briefing with Maj. Ilan Shulman  
Local resident, geopolitical expert

With the fall of the Assad regime, the situation in Syria is one of the most important stories in the Middle East. Maj. Ilan Shulman will discuss the implications for Israel's security while uncertainly reigns there. This outlook will give participants an opportunity to see the proximity to Syria and better understand the physical terrain.

12:30 – 1:30 PM      **Ethics in the IDF**  
Lunch with IDF soldiers  
– at Habokrim, Kibbutz Merom Golan

In Israel, military service is mandatory for everyone over the age of 18, with several exceptions. Most Israelis join the army right after high school, and serve for three years. As such, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) is an integral part of the fabric of Israeli society. During this lunch, participants will have the chance to meet with several soldiers and hear about their experiences in the army. They will discuss the values of the Israel Defense Forces – known as *Ruach Tzahal* (The Spirit of the IDF). This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operation resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war. During basic training, every IDF soldier studies and analyzes the code of ethics together with their commanders.

1:45 – 2:45 PM      **Northern Border Concerns: The Changing Landscape of Syria**  
Briefing with Maj. (res) Ilan Shulman  
Kibbutz Merom Golan resident and geopolitical expert  
– at Kibbutz Merom Golan

During this session, Maj. Ilan Shulman will brief the group on the recent developments in Syria since the fall of the Assad regime. After a brutal civil war, Syria is now a chaotic assembly of 198 disparate tribes, ruled by Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa (known as al-Julani), a Syrian politician and former rebel commander serving as the president of Syria since January 2025. Shulman will discuss the implications of al-Julani's leadership on the country of Syria, Israel's unique relationship with the Druze community, and the potential for Syrian relations with Israel.

3:00 PM              Depart for Tel Aviv

6:00 – 7:00 PM      **Understanding the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation**  
Meeting with John Acree,  
Interim Executive Director, Gaza Humanitarian Foundation  
-at Dubnov

During this session, the delegation will hear from John Acree, the interim Director of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). GHF is an American organization, established in February 2025 to distribute humanitarian aid during the ongoing Gaza humanitarian crisis. The "Humanitarian Aid Distribution Program in the Gaza Strip" is a joint American Israeli program

by the GHF designed to facilitate the entry and distribution of humanitarian aid to the civilian population in the Gaza Strip through four distribution centers. By distributing aid through the GHF, the United States and Israel aim to prevent Hamas from stealing aid, as it has done throughout the war. During the session Mr. Acree will discuss the unique challenges facing the distribution program.

- 7:30 – 9:30 PM      **Grassroots Political Activism: Engaging with Israeli Civil Society**  
Dinner and evening program
- Dr. Yoaz Hendel, Founder and Chairman of Miluimnikim (reservist) Movement
  - Ella Ringel, CEO of the Fourth Quarter
  - Reuven Taub, Co-Founder and CEO of Alenu
- Moderated by Tova Serkin, Deputy Director, Jerusalem

This dinner and discussion will be with Israelis representing various civil society groups – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

9:30 PM              Return to Jerusalem

10:30 PM            Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

7:30 – 8:45 AM      Breakfast on own  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

9:00 – 10:00 AM    **The US-Israel Relationship: A Closer Look**  
Conversation with the Honorable Mike Huckabee,  
U.S. Ambassador to Israel  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

During this meeting, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, the Honorable Mike Huckabee will share the U.S. perspective on the current war in Gaza, regional threats from Iranian proxies, and the potential for U.S.-Israel cooperation.

10:15 AM            Depart

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**  
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

One cannot understand Israel's worldview without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

12:45 PM                      Depart

1:00 – 2:00 PM              Lunch  
– at HaAgam

2:00 – 3:00 PM              **A Shared Society in Time of Crisis**  
Meeting with

- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Activist and Writer
- Rana Fahoum, Director of Center for Shared Society, Hartman Institute

In this session participants will hear from Arab Israeli Activist and writer Ibrahim Abu Ahmed and Rana Fahoum, Director of the Center for Shared Society at the Hartman Institute. Approximately 22% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. During this session, participants will hear about the experiences of the Arab-Israeli community, the largest minority community in Israel.

3:00 PM                      Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

3:30 – 5:45 PM              Prepare for departure

5:45 – 6:45 PM              **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**  
Closing Conversation with Dr. Tal Becker  
Former Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. For many years, Dr. Tal Becker was a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he was on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator,

and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will address the current political climate for Israel on the international stage, and the obstacles to a broader Arab-Israeli peace.

7:00 – 8:45 PM           **Reflections on the Week**  
Closing Dinner  
– at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; and the conflict plagued borders with Gaza, Syria and Lebanon. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

9:00 PM                   Depart for Ben-Gurion International Airport

**Thursday, August 14, 2025**

12:05 AM               El Al #2 departs Tel Aviv (Representatives Laura Gillen, April McClain-Delaney)

12:30 AM               El Al #27 departs Tel Aviv (Representatives Wesley Bell, Sarah Elfreth, Steny Hoyer, Sarah McBride, John Olszewski Jr, Eugene Vindman, Margaret Mulkerin, Manya-Jean Gitter)

1:00 AM                El Al #1 departs Tel Aviv (Representatives Tim Kennedy, Greg Landsman, Hadar Arazi, Representative Josh Riley, Victoria Rivas)

1:05 AM                El Al #5 departs Tel Aviv (Representative Pete Aguilar, Janelle Bynum, Gil Cisneros Jr, Adam Gray, Dave Min, Luz Rivas, Boris Medzhibovsky)

4:55 AM                El Al #2 arrives JFK (Representatives Laura Gillen, April McClain-Delaney)

5:15 AM                El Al #27 arrives Newark (Representatives Wesley Bell, Sarah Elfreth, Steny Hoyer, Sarah McBride, John Olszewski Jr, Eugene Vindman, Margaret Mulkerin, Manya-Jean Gitter)

5:50 AM                El Al #1 arrives JFK (Representatives Tim Kennedy, Greg Landsman, Hadar Arazi, Representative Josh Riley, Victoria Rivas)

6:00 AM El Al #5 arrives Los Angeles (Representative Pete Aguilar, Janelle Bynum, Gil Cisneros Jr, Adam Gray, Dave Min, Luz Rivas, Boris Medzhibovsky)

8:00 AM Delta #4985 departs JFK (Representative Greg Landsman)

8:00 AM Delta #5272 departs JFK (Representative Brad Schneider)

8:00 AM United Airlines #4500 departs Newark (Representative Eugene Vindman)

8:35 AM Delta #5657 departs JFK (Representative April McClain-Delaney)

8:45 AM Delta #5223 departs JFK (Representative Tim Kennedy)

8:55 AM Delta #5750 departs Newark (Hadar Arazi, Victoria Rivas)

9:00 AM United Airlines #4444 departs Newark (Representative Steny Hoyer, Margaret Mulkerrin, Manya Gitter)

9:00 AM United Airlines #3630 departs Newark (Representative Wesley Bell)

9:04 AM Delta #5436 departs JFK (Representative Josh Riley)

9:20 AM Delta #2766 departs Los Angeles (Representative Janelle Bynum)

9:22 AM United Airlines #4500 arrives Washington D.C. (Representative Eugene Vindman)

9:55 AM Delta #5272 arrives Chicago (Representative Brad Schneider)

10:12 AM Delta #4985 arrives Cincinnati (Representative Greg Landsman)

10:14 AM Delta #5657 arrives Washington D.C. (Representative April McClain-Delaney)

10:20 AM Delta #5223 arrives Buffalo (Representative Tim Kennedy)

10:25 AM Delta #5750 arrives Washington D.C. (Hadar Arazi, Victoria Rivas)

10:27 AM United Airlines #4444 arrives Washington D.C. (Representative Steny Hoyer, Margaret Mulkerrin, Manya-Jean Gitter)

10:30 AM United Airlines #5299 departs Los Angeles (Representative Adam Gray)

10:36 AM Delta #5436 arrives Syracuse (Representative Josh Riley)

10:43 AM United Airlines #3630 arrives St. Louis (Representative Wesley Bell)

11:42 AM Delta #2766 arrives Portland (Representative Janelle Bynum)

11:48 AM United Airlines #5299 arrives Fresno (Representative Adam Gray)

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
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*Ranking Member*

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Ashley Hinson, Iowa  
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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

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August 5, 2025

The Honorable Josh Riley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
128 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for August 6 to 12, 2025, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or [ohsstaff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ohsstaff@mail.house.gov). House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest  
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier  
Ranking Member

MG/MD:rp