

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM 2019 JUN 14 PM 3:47

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, 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: Michael Grider
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ or None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: 5/25/2019 Return: 6/2/2019
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____ or None
4. Departure city: Knoxville, TN Destination: Israel Return city: Knoxville, TN
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): American Israel Education Foundation
6. Describe meetings and events attended: Attended meetings with members of the Israeli Knesset, business and government leaders,
as well as individual Israelis and Palestinians residents affected by the political dynamic that exists in the region.
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 Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 - c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the employee; **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 that statement is true by checking box):
 b. If not, explain: _____

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

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER: Michael Grider DATE: 6/14/2019

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Rep. Tim Burchett DATE: 6/14/2019

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: [Signature]



U.S. House of Representatives

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 on the trip *within ten 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 for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: May 25, 2019 Date of Return: June 2, 2019

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Michael Grider

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	\$8,667.14	\$1,840.23	\$1,172.39	\$3,459.76 breakdown attached
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.

Signature: *Rachel Hirsch* Date: June 14, 2019

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: In-House Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

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

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC, 20001

Telephone: (202) 639-5248 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.



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Michael Grider
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
3. Travel Destination(s): Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: May 25, 2019 Date of Return: June 2, 2019
 b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
 If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? Yes No If yes:
 (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
 (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 (3) Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. 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)? Yes No
 b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No

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.**

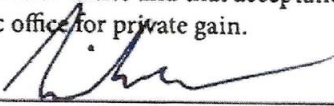
Rep. Burchett serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. My participation in this seminar will enhance my understanding of issues that affect the Middle East, Israel and the United States' relations in the region. As Chief of Staff, this enhanced understanding will allow me to better fulfill my duties to Rep. Burchett.

9. **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?** Yes No

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 04/24/2019



U.S. House of Representatives

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 website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

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.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
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 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 see attached
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of Departure: May 25, 2019 Date of Return: June 2, 2019
7. a. City of departure: Knoxville, TN (Michael Grider only)
b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv, Israel
c. City of return: Knoxville, TN (Michael Grider only)
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:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - 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: _____



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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 that the statement is true by checking 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 non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the fundamental purpose of 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. This includes the Sabbath dinner hosted by the Singer family on Friday night.

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

a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: taxi)

b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: charter bus)

c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

n/a

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):

\$149 (includes meals, snacks, and water on the bus)

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: The trip will take place in Israel in order to educate Congressional staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

Hotel Name: Orient City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: 1348.75

Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: Carlton City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: 308.76

Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: Eurota City: Tiberias Cost Per Night: 150.66

Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

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 box:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$9,638.68	\$1,814.43	\$1,046
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$2,809.63	Please see breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a

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

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 that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

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

Signature: *Rachel Hirsch* Date: April 23, 2019

Name: Rachel Hirsch

Title: In-House Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC 20001

Telephone: (202) 639-5248

Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics

U.S. House of Representatives

1015 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202-225-7103 General Fax: 202-225-7392

Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Chairman
Kenny Marchant, Texas
Ranking Member

Grace Meng, New York
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Dean Phillips, Minnesota
Anthony Brown, Maryland

John Ratcliffe, Texas
George Holding, North Carolina
Jackie Walorski, Indiana
Michael Guest, Mississippi



ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

David W. Arrojo
Counsel to the Chairman

Christopher A. Donesa
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone (202) 225-7103
Facsimile (202) 225-7392

May 24, 2019

Mr. Michael Grider
Office of the Honorable Tim Burchett
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Grider:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for May 25 to June 2, 2019, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) 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. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 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 employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$390] 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.

¹ 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 Sergeant at Arms (SAA) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. SAA may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or 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,

Handwritten signature of Theodore E. Deutch in blue ink.

Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Kenny Marchant in blue ink.

Kenny Marchant
Ranking Member

TED/KM:adw

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 25 – June 2, 2019

Final Breakdown of Other Expenses

Security: \$1,333.12 per person

-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.

Speaker Fees: \$567.39 per person

-Honoraria for guest speakers

Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): \$379.61 per person

Tour Guide: \$320.53 per person

-As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.

Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$219.85 per person

Room Rentals: \$174.75 per person

-The cost of renting rooms at hotels and restaurants for meetings and meals with speakers.

Hotel Commission \$138.51

-We pay a 7% hotel room commission to the company that books our hotels.

Other: \$106.75 per person

-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

Airport Assistance: \$81.89

-We use a service to help participants navigate passport control and customs.

Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$61.38 per person

Entrance Fees: \$37.07 per person

-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

Photography: \$31.57 per person

-On each trip we take a group photo with a professional photographer

Tips: \$7.34 per person

-Tips for hotel staff

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Senior Congressional Staff
May 25 – June 2, 2019**

House Invitees and Explanations

Eric Amidon, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Lee Zeldin (R-NY)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran's affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Foreign Affairs Committee.

John Bivona, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Antonio Delgado (D-NY)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran's affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas.

**Gideon Braglin, Executive Director, House Democratic Caucus,
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)**

As Executive Director of the House Democratic Caucus, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran's affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas.

Michael Grider, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Tim Burchett (R-TN)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran's affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide

educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Joshua Grogis, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Tom Cole (R-OK)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Appropriations Committee.

Asha Jones, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Steven Horsford (D-NV)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas.

David Kennett, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Kenneth Calvert (R-CA)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Appropriations Committee.

Kyle Robertson, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Greg Pence (R-IN)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Lindsay Ryan, Chief of Staff, The Honorable John Moolenaar (R-MI)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Appropriations Committee.

Kathryn Sorenson, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Elaine Luria (D-VA)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Armed Services Committee.

Caren Street, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Karen Bass (D-CA)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Clay White, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Chris Stewart (R-UT)

As a Chief of Staff for the U.S. House of Representatives, this invitee is consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. The AIEF Israel Seminar will explore these issues in depth on the trip, in order to educate the staffer and provide them on-the-ground context for events throughout the region, as well as the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF strives to provide educational programming to all Congressional staff that work in relevant issue areas. The member also serves on the relevant House Appropriations Committee.

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 25 – June 2, 2019

Breakdown of Other Expenses

Security: \$1,083.33 per person

-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.

Speaker Fees: \$611.11 per person

-Honoraria for guest speakers

Tour Guide: \$250.00 per person

-As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.

Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): \$183.33 per person

Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$177.78 per person

Room Rentals: \$166.67 per person

-The cost of renting rooms at hotels and restaurants for meetings and meals with speakers.

Hotel Commission \$136.57

-We pay a 7% hotel room commission to the company that books our hotels.

Transportation to the Syrian Border: \$55.56

Entrance Fees: \$50 per person

-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$33.33 per person

Photography: \$27.78 per person

-On each trip we take a group photo with a professional photographer

Other: \$27.78 per person

-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

Tips: \$6.39 per person

-Tips for hotel staff

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Senior Congressional Staff
May 25-June 2, 2019**

Itinerary

Saturday, May 25, 2019

3:20 PM Depart Union Station (Amtrak)
6:21 PM Arrive Newark
10:45 PM Depart Newark

Sunday, May 26, 2019

4:20 PM Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport
Transfer to Jerusalem
6:30 PM Check-in to the Orient Hotel
7:15 PM Depart for dinner
7:30-8:00 PM *Setting the Stage*
Orientation with Becky Strapp, Director of Educational Initiatives
- at Touro
8:00-10:00 PM *State of the Nation*
Dinner with David Horowitz
Editor, *Times of Israel*
- at Touro

State of the Nation

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.

10:00-10:30 PM *Shalom Jerusalem*
Introduction to the history of the city
Brief walking survey

Shalom Jerusalem

Throughout its 4,000-year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains

the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

10:30 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Monday, May 27, 2019

7:30 AM Breakfast is served
-at the hotel

7:45-8:45 AM *Israel's Political Map*
Professor Reuven Hazan
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- at the hotel

Israel's Political Map

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

9:00 AM Depart for Strategic Survey of Jerusalem

9:15 AM-1:00 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part I:*
The Historic and Holy Basin and City of David
Guided Survey of the Old City of Jerusalem with Ze'ev Orenstein

The Historic and Holy Basin and City of David

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. During the Camp David II talks, the Palestinians and Israelis differed on the Jerusalem question, namely the Old City, the status of Arab neighborhoods just outside the Old City, and religious sites such as the Temple Mount.

The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, which is believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and 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.

1:00-2:15 PM *Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations: How Wide is the Gap?*
Lunch with Tal Becker
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at Caffit Botanical Gardens

Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations: How Wide is the Gap?

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. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is 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 prospects for peace in the current political climate. He will also discuss the complex challenges that have prevented a final status agreement thus far.

2:15 PM Depart

3:15-4:30 PM *Meetings with Members of Knesset*
▪ The Honorable Amir Ohana, Likud
▪ The Honorable Stav Shaffir, Labor
-at the Knesset

4:30 PM Depart

4:45-5:30 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part II:*
Post-1967 Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier

Post-1967 Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier

When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, following 19 years of division, the State of Israel extended the city's boundaries to include the strategic hills surrounding Jerusalem. These hills served as launching pads between 1948 and 1967 for sniper and mortar attacks on Israeli parts of the city by the Jordanian Army. Since 1967, these hills have become vibrant neighborhoods, fully integrated into the fabric of Jerusalem. It is vital for those discussing the issue of Jerusalem to understand these neighborhoods' strategic importance and their relationship to the areas in the immediate vicinity.

5:30 PM Depart for hotel

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:45-9:45 PM *Israelis from Different Walks of Life*
Dinner with:
▪ Chen Arieli, Chairperson, Aguda-National LGBT Task Force
▪ Avi Samuels, SHALVA

Israeli's From Different Walks of Life

"The Israeli Mosaic" will be a dinner discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – 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.

9:45 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

7:45 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel

8:00-9:00 AM *Minority Rights in Israel*
Breakfast with Aiman Saif
Former Director,
The Authority for Economic Development of the Minorities Sector
Prime Minister's Office
-at the hotel

Minority Rights in Israel

As of the 2015 census, approximately 21% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all citizens. Currently 14 Israeli Arabs and 2 Druze serve in the 120-member Israeli Knesset. During this session, the speaker will discuss the current challenges facing minority groups in Israel, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

9:15 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

9:45-11:45 AM *Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust*
Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

Yad Vashem

One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program 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, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations. Located on Har Hazikaron (the Mount of Remembrance) in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a sprawling complex of museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials.

Every foreign leader that travels to Israel visits Yad Vashem. 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 group through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

11:45 AM	Depart for Ramallah Lunch boxes en route
12:30-1:30 PM	<i>A View from the Palestinian Authority</i> Meeting with Dr. Saeb Erekat Chief Negotiator, Palestinian Authority - at his office
1:45 PM	Depart
2:45-3:45 PM	<i>A View from the Prime Minister's Office</i> Meeting with Reuven Azar Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister - at the Crowne Plaza Hotel
4:00 PM	Depart for Tel Aviv
5:15 PM	Check-in to the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner
7:45-9:45 PM	<i>Start-Up Nation</i> Dinner with <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dovie Meisel, United Hatzalah• Cathy Sebag, Head of Products, Mobile ODT - at Spoons

Start-Up Nation

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. This evening's Start-Up Nation dinner will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad.

9:45 PM Overnight at the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

7:00 AM Breakfast on your own

7:45 AM Depart

8:15-9:45 AM *Save a Child's Heart*
Meet with Dr. Hourii and Visit the Recovery Home
-Wolfson Hospital

Save a Child's Heart

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli-based international, non-profit organization. SACH is committed to saving lives by improving the quality of cardiac care for children from developing countries and creating centers of medical competence in these countries. SACH Israel has saved the lives of over 3,700 children from 50 countries where adequate medical care is simply unavailable. Approximately 50% of these children are from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco (countries with whom Israel has either no diplomatic relations or who are in a state of war with Israel). More than 30% are from Africa, and the remainder are from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Americas. These children are treated at the Wolfson Medical Center and housed at the Legacy Heritage Children's Home of Save a Child's Heart, both located in Holon.

9:45 AM Depart

10:45-11:45 AM *Life Under Threat of Rockets*
Visit Netiv Ha'asara and meet with local residents

11:45 AM-12:45 PM *Israel's Southern Front*
Overlook into Gaza and Visit to Peace Wall
-at Netiv Ha'asara

Israel's Southern Front

Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. The summer of 2014 witnessed Operation Protective Edge, which returned the issue of rocket fire from Gaza to international headlines. At Kibbutz Nir Am, participants will be able to see the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, to better comprehend the landscape of the region, as well as the unique challenges faced by this area. The visit to Kibbutz Kfar Azza and meeting

with a local resident will be an opportunity to better understand the reality of living just kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, to learn how almost 15 years of rocket fire has shaped those living in the communities most affected, to discuss the advent of Hamas "terror tunnels" into Israel's border towns and how communities have sought to cope with the threat on their doorstep, both physically and psychologically.

12:45 PM Depart
 Boxed Lunches en Route

1:00-1:30 PM *Israel's Missile Defense Systems*
 Visit to Iron Dome Battery

The Iron Dome

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) typically honors our request to visit an Iron Dome battery, the joint U.S.-Israel funded rocket defense program. The military typically approves any visit to an Iron Dome location the week before the trip due to the constantly shifting security situation on the ground. A visit to an Iron Dome battery includes meeting with the soldiers and the commanding officer. For security reasons, we do not receive the names of the IDF soldiers meeting with the group.

1:30 PM Depart

3:00-3:30 PM *360° Bird's Eye View*
 Briefing from the Azrieli Tower Rooftop

Azrieli Center Rooftop

From the rooftop of the Azrieli center, participants will be standing at the highest observatory in the Middle East. The panoramic view stretches from Ashkelon in the south to Hadera in the north. On a clear day one see almost 70 percent of the country, as far as Jerusalem to the East. The importance of this visit is to provide participants a geostrategic viewpoint from which to understand the narrow waistline of Israel, which at its narrowest spans 9 miles from the Mediterranean to the West Bank. Additionally, the area visible from this vantage point – referred to as the Gedera-Hadera corridor – comprises a small rectangle of land that can be covered lengthwise in under an hour. This section of Israel includes over 50% of Israel's population, economic infrastructure, as well as its only International Airport.

3:30 PM Depart

4:00-5:00 PM *Israel's Missile Defense Systems*
 Briefing with Ari Sacher
 -at the Hotel

Israel's Missile Defense Systems

Ari Sacher is a Rocket Scientist and has worked in the design and development of missiles for over twenty years. He has briefed hundreds of US Congressmen on Israeli Missile Defense and speaks regularly for the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Ari is highly regarded speaker, enabling even

the layman to understand the "rocket science". During this session, he will explain the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation that has led to Israel's development of multi-tiered missile defense system.

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM *1967: A Look Back*
- at Lumina

1967: A Look Back

2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, also known as the Six-Day War. The 1967 war has set the stage for every major event in the Arab-Israeli crisis since. The speaker will discuss how this event shaped the region, Israeli society, and the Arab-Israeli conflict over the past five decades.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

Thursday, May 30, 2019

8:00 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel

8:15-9:15 AM *Regional Strategic Threats*
Meeting with Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilead
Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS)
Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya
- at the hotel

Regional Strategic Threats

Gen. (Ret.) Amos Gilead is the Executive Director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) and Chair of the Annual Herzliya Conference Series at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya. Gilead is the immediate past director of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau at Israel's Ministry of Defense. Gen. Gilead served for over 30 years in uniform. He was Coordinator of Government Operations in the Territories, headed the Military Intelligence Research Division, and was responsible for the overall National Intelligence Assessment. He also served as Military Secretary to the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. Gen. Gilead has been one of the key figures in defining Israel's defense policy. During this session, he will provide participants with an overview of Regional Strategic Threats, including the threat of Iranian proxies near Israel.

9:30 AM Depart

10:30-11:15 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns*
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns

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 Gadera 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.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM *Settlements in Focus*

- Oded Revivi, Mayor of Efrat
- Yariv Oppenheimer, Former Head of Peace Now
-at Community Center, Alfei Menashe

Settlements in Focus

Israeli settlement policy is one of the more complex issues in the ongoing negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Mayor Revivi is the Mayor of a settlement in the West Bank; Yariv Oppenheimer is the former head of Peace now. This session provides an opportunity for members to get an insider's perspective on Israeli settlement policy, the differing views among Israeli citizens, and the role settlements play in the current political climate.

12:15 PM Depart

1:15-2:15 PM *Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq*
-at Tanduka

Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq

As the delegation leaves the Gaza border, and heads north to the borders with Lebanon and Syria, it is critical to understand the threats faced by Israel from these three areas, all Iranian proxies. The briefing will cover the unique situation at each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

2:15-3:30 PM Depart

En route briefings:

- *The Jezreel Valley –
The Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa*
- *Upper Galilee – Potential for Development*

The Jezreel Valley

Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel's center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country.

For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In modern times, during World War I, for example, the British and Turkish forces fought a number of pitched battles in the valley. In 1948, following Israel's establishment, the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan attempted unsuccessfully to capture the valley in order to split the just-born Israel into two parts. In the early 20th century, after decades of neglect, Jewish pioneers drained the swamps in the valley, transforming this region into Israel's "breadbasket" known for wheat, cotton, sunflowers and fish ponds. The Jezreel Valley is also home to historical and biblical sites including Tel Megiddo and Nazareth.

Today it is an important symbol of Israel's complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to the majority of Israel's Arab citizens. A survey of this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel's Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel's Supreme Court. These issues are not widely known and this segment gives trip participants the opportunity to understand Israel's relationship with its largest minority group.

Upper Galilee

The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel.

At the same time, the Upper Galilee is home to some of the most prominent industrial hubs. Best known among them is the Tefen Industrial area, home to numerous enterprises established by the region's residents – Jewish and Arab. In 2006, Upper Galilee's ISCAR Metal Working Company was purchased for \$5 billion by Warren Buffet's conglomerate holding company. Since then, a number of American investors have become partners in some of the region's hi-tech and bio-tech companies.

While time does not permit for sites visits, a drive through the region allows for expanding on the importance of the area in the context of the U.S. -Israel relationship.

3:30-4:30 PM

Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Lebanon and Hizballah
Briefing with Maj. (res) Sarit Zehavi
-at Mt. Adir

Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Lebanon and Hizballah

Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi served 15 years in the IDF in Military Intelligence –first in the Research and Analysis Branch, and later in the Northern Command. During her military service she briefed hundreds of delegations, ranging from U.S. Senators, Congressmen and politicians to global military commanders, senior journalists and visiting VIP delegations. She is the founder/director of Alma, an educational research center focusing on the security issues of Israel's northern border. Zehavi has authored many position papers focusing on Lebanon, Syria and Israel's national security challenges, and continues to brief delegations on these topics. She holds an MA in Middle East Studies from Ben Gurion University and is a resident of the northern Galilee region. She will brief the group on the current threats facing Israel by Iranian backed Hizballah in Lebanon.

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| 4:30 PM | Depart |
| 6:15 PM | Check-in to Europa Hotel |
| 7:45 PM | Depart for dinner |
| 8:00-10:00 PM | <i>Reflections on the Week</i>
- Dinner at Decks |

Reflections on the Week

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 discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

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| 10:00 PM | Overnight at the Europa Hotel |
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Friday, May 31, 2019

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|---------------|--|
| 8:00 AM | Breakfast at the Hotel |
| 8:30 AM | Depart |
| 9:00-11:00 AM | <i>Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee</i>
Survey of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount▪ St. Peter's Church▪ Capernaum – Jesus' Village |

Christian Sites at the Sea of Galilee

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group 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.

- 11:00 AM Depart for the Golan Heights
- 12:00-1:00 PM *Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria*
Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria
With Maj. Ilan Shulman
- at Ein Zivan

Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria

Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will take participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

- 1:15-2:15 PM *Ethics in the IDF*
Lunch with IDF Soldiers
-at HaBokrim

Ethics in the IDF

Ruach Tzahal (Literally, 'Spirit of the IDF') represents the values of the Israel Defense Forces and stands as the foundation for the responsibilities of Israel's army. 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. It is customary for a framed copy of the code to be hung in every commander's office as a constant reminder of the IDF's values and guidelines. During lunch, participants will be joined by soldiers in the Northern Command, who will discuss the challenges of serving in a region overtaken by the Syrian civil war.

- 2:30-3:30 PM Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley
En route briefing:
Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis

Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts over 1.4 million Syrian refugees fleeing civil war. Following our discussion with Israeli soldiers patrolling the Syrian border, our guide will address how the influx of Syrian refugees and the threats in the region impact Jordan internally; as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

- 5:30 PM Check-in to the Orient Hotel
- 7:15 PM Depart for dinner
- 7:30-9:30 PM *Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem*
Traditional Sabbath evening dinner
With Wendy and Saul Singer
- at their home in Jerusalem

Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem

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.

- 9:30 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Saturday, June 1, 2019

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

8:30-10:00 AM Depart
En route briefing:
Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor

Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor

On the drive from Jerusalem to Masada, the group will travel on the highway known as the “Jericho Road” is the strategic importance of the area east of Jerusalem. In 1948 and in 1967, the Jordanian army attacked Jerusalem from the east – the 1948 attack resulted in the city’s division that lasted until 1967. Since then Israel has established the City of Ma’ale Adumim east of Jerusalem, today home to some 40,000 residents. To the Palestinians, however, Ma’ale Adumim is the largest settlement on the West Bank. When Israel attempted to expand Ma’ale Adumim’s boundary, into an area known as “E-1”, the U.S. State Department stepped in and asked that no construction take place there. The issue needs to be examined with those discussing the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

10:00 AM-12:00 PM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada

Masada

The Sabbath in Israel begins Friday afternoon and concludes on Saturday evening. During the Sabbath, virtually everything in the country is closed including all government offices, businesses, newspapers etc. Therefore, for years, we have used Saturdays to expose our congressional members and staff delegations to some of the key historical and cultural sites in Israel such as Masada. Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world.

Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. They refused to give in to the Romans and become their slaves.

The ancient story of Masada has important contemporary relevance for the modern State of Israel. “Masada shall never fall again” has become the watchword of the country which has faced existential threats since its founding in 1948. Israel’s elite military units, for example, are sworn in on top of Masada in a symbolic act of defiance against Israel’s contemporary enemies. These soldiers along with the thousands of Israeli school children who visit Masada each year learn the lesson that Israel should never become so weak again that it would ever face national suicide as an option.

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. touring the magnificent ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

During our trip to the Negev, we will also visit the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and a major source of minerals for both Israel and Jordan.

12:30-1:30 PM *Exploration of the Dead Sea Region*
- at Hod Hotel

Dead Sea Region

During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding the region, the country, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

It is important to note that the region is mostly desert. For decades, Israel has been challenging this arid area and developing its agricultural potential. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally "made the desert bloom." Some of this technology is already being shared with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. All sides realize that a comprehensive regional water policy will ensure food production necessary to satisfy the Middle East's growing population. For example, in late 2013, the three parties agreed to build a Red Sea-Dead Sea water project to address the shortage of fresh, clean water in the region and the rapid loss of water at the Dead Sea. This highlights the growing importance for Israel and her Arab neighbors to work together on joint environmental projects.

The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are also in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

1:30-2:30 PM Lunch
-at Hod Hotel

2:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem

4:00 PM Return to hotel
Check out

7:00-9:00 PM *The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing it All Together*
Closing dinner

Closing Dinner

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; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead Sea. 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 the Airport

Sunday, June 2, 2019

12:20 AM Depart Tel Aviv

5:50 AM Arrive Dulles