



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

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, by email at 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: Brian Romick
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 2/19/22 Return: 2/27/22
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Tel-Aviv Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
 Met with Israel government and community leaders and visited government, security and cultural sites.
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 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 statement is true by checking the 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: _____ Date: 03/14/2022

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: Steny H. Hoyer Date: 3/14/22

Signature of Supervising Member:



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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: February 19, 2022 Date of Return: February 27, 2022
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Mark Iozzi, Margaret Mulkerrin, Brian Romick

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	\$6,266.45	\$2,032	\$1,879.94	\$3,470.94 breakdown attached
Accompanying Family Member				

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: Arne Christenson Digitally signed by Arne Christenson
DN: cn=Arne Christenson, o=AIEF, ou=Managing Director,
email=achristenson@aiefdn.org, c=US
Date: 2022.03.11 12:18:09 -0500 Date: 03/11/2022

Name: Arne Christenson Title: Managing Director

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

Email: achristenson@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 639-5266

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.



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COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

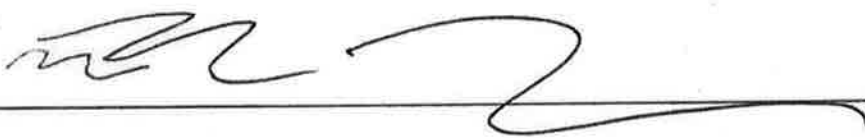
This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.

Name of Traveler: Brian Romick

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

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

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Majority Leader

Office Address: H107, The Capitol

Telephone Number: 202-225-3130

Email Address of Contact Person: brian.romick@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

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



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TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Brian Romick
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
American Israel Education Foundation
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel : Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: 2/19/22 Date of Return: 2/27/22
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, 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.
I am the Majority Leader's Deputy Chief of Staff and one of my roles is advising the Leader on issues related to Israel. Additionally, one of my roles is assisting Members of the Caucus and a number of them will be on the trip.
9. Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved 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 01/19/2022



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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 find attached
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: February 19, 2022 Date of return: February 27, 2022
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC or member district
b. Destination(s): Israel
c. City of return: Washington, DC or member 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:



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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 education 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: taxis)
- 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 the 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):
\$152
- 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: King David City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$359
Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability
- Hotel Name: Galei Kinneret City: Tiberias Cost Per Night: \$357
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.*



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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	\$8,058.86	\$2,691	\$1,067
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	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	\$3,559.26	Please find attached
For each Accompanying Family Member		

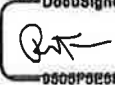
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

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 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: 01/17/2022
0508P0E6FDZE+20...
 Name: Richard Fishman Title: Executive Director
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
 Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC, 20001
 Email: rfishman@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 639-5233

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

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

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov

Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Chairman
Jackie Walorski, Indiana
Ranking Member

Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Dean Phillips, Minnesota
Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mondaire Jones, New York

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Dave Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota



ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

David W. Arrojo
Counsel to the Chairman

Kelle A. Strickland
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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

February 14, 2022

Mr. Brian Romick
Office of the Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Romick:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for February 19 to 27, 2022, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

This approval represents the Committee's determination that the proposed trip complies with relevant House rules, federal laws, and Travel Regulations promulgated by the Committee. You should engage in your own assessment of the risks and implications of engaging in travel during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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 \$415 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 \$415] 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

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 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. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

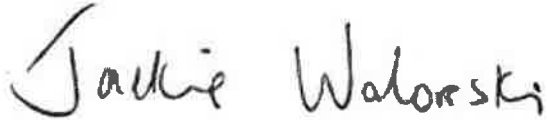
government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman



Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member

TED/JW:tn

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
February 19-27, 2022**

Breakdown of Other Expenses

COVID-19 PCR Testing: \$908.30 per person

Security: \$796.90 per person

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

Room Rentals: \$383.91 per person

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

Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): \$319.86 per person

Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$297.66 per person

Speaker Fees: \$278.20 per person

-Honoraria for guest speakers

Miscellaneous: \$253.72 per person

-tips, assistance at airport, briefing materials

Tour Guide: \$124.28 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

Photography: \$53.29 per person

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

Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$47.62 per person

Transportation for Speakers and Guests: \$47.62 per person

Entrance Fees: \$7.20 per person

-Several sites require an entrance fee, including sites in the Old City of Jerusalem, and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
February 19– 27, 2022**

Final Itinerary

Saturday, February 19, 2022

All Day Flights depart from the United States

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Afternoon Flights Arrive
United flight is delayed +1 day, arrives Monday, 2/21
Leader Hoyer, Reps. Cherfilus-McCormick, Escobar, Schneider
COVID testing
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check-in to the King David Hotel .

7:00 PM Dinner in rooms
Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, February 21, 2022

7:00 AM Breakfast
-at the hotel, Ambassador Hall

8:00-8:15 AM *Welcome and Orientation*
▪ The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Democratic Leader
▪ Dr. Cameron Brown, Director of AIEF, Jerusalem
-at the hotel, Ambassador Hall

8:15-9:30 AM *Regional Threats Overview*
Briefing with Dr. Jonathan Spyer
Fellow, The Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies
-at the hotel, Ambassador Hall

9:30 AM Depart for Old City

American Israel Education Foundation – Democratic Program

- 10:00 AM-12:30 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem I: The Historic and Holy Basin*
Guided survey of the Old City of Jerusalem:
- City of David
 - Robinson's Arch
 - Western Wall
 - Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- 12:30 PM Depart for hotel
- 12:45 PM Lunch is served
- at the hotel, Ambassador Hall
- 1:15-2:00 PM *A View from the Minister of Defense*
Meeting with the Honorable Benny Gantz
Minister of Defense
-at the hotel, Ambassador Hall
- 2:00-3:00 PM *The Pulse of Israel Today*
Yonit Levi
Senior TV News Anchor and Journalist, Channel 12
-at the hotel, Ambassador Hall
- 3:00 PM Prepare for Knesset meetings
- 3:45 PM Security check
- 4:00 PM Depart for Knesset
- 4:30 PM Arrive at Knesset
Security Check
- 5:00-5:45 PM *A View from the Opposition*
Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu
Head of the Opposition and the Likud party
-at the Knesset, Negev Hall
- 5:45-6:15 PM *A View from the Meretz party*
Meeting with the Honorable Nitzan Horovitz
Minister of Health
-at the Knesset, Negev Hall

American Israel Education Foundation – Democratic Program

- 6:15-7:00 PM *A View from the Foreign Ministry*
Meeting with the Honorable Yair Lapid
Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister
-at the Knesset, Negev Hall
- 7:00-7:30 PM *Greetings from the Speaker of the Knesset*
Meeting with the Honorable Mickey Levy
Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid party
-at the Knesset, Negev Hall
- Leader Hoyer, Reps. Cherfilus-McCormick, Escobar, and Schneider arrive*
Dinner in rooms
- 7:30 PM Depart for dinner
- 8:00-9:30 PM *Start Up Nation: Greentech*
 - Liat Arad, VP of Marketing, UBQ Materials
 - Inna Braverman, Co-Founder and CEO, Eco Wave Power
 - Lior Neeman, CBO, SupPlant
 - Ofri Orgad, VP Products, Miriam's Well
 - Lee Recht, Vice President Sustainability, Aleph Farms-at Terasa
- 9:30 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

- 7:00 AM Breakfast on own
-the hotel, Ambassador Hall
- Leader Hoyer, Reps. Cherfilus-McCormick, Escobar, and Schneider join*
- 8:00 AM Depart
- 8:30-10:30 AM *Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust*
Guided survey of Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum
- 10:30 AM Depart for Ramallah
- 12:00-1:15 PM *Lunch with Palestinian Entrepreneurs*
-at the Carmel Hotel, Haifa Room, Ramallah
- 1:15 PM Session ends

American Israel Education Foundation – Democratic Program

- 2:00-3:30 PM *A View from the Palestinian Authority*
Meeting with H.E. Mohammad Shtayyeh
Prime Minister, Palestinian Authority
-at the Carmel Hotel, Safad Room, Ramallah
- 3:30 PM Depart for Prime Minister's Office
- 4:30 PM Security Clearance
-at the Prime Minister's Office
- 6:45-7:15 PM *A View from the Prime Minister's Office*
Meeting with The Honorable Naftali Bennett
Prime Minister of Israel
-at the Prime Minister's Office
- 7:15 PM Depart for dinner
- 8:30-10:30 PM *The Fruits of Peace: The Abraham Accords*
 - Khaled Yousif al-Jalahmah, Bahraini Ambassador to Israel
 - Mohamed Al Khaja, UAE Ambassador to Israel
 - Abderrahim Beyyoudh, Moroccan Charge d'Affaires to Israel
 - Gabi Ashkenazi, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs-at the hotel, Ambassador Hall
- 9:30 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

- 6:45 AM Breakfast is served
-at hotel, Ambassador Hall
- 8:30-9:45 AM *A View from the Embassy*
Meeting with Ambassador Tom Nides
-at the hotel, Ambassador Hall
- 9:45 AM Depart for the Iron Dome
- 12:00-1:15 PM *Missile Defense Cooperation: US-Israel Strategic Cooperation*
Visit Iron Dome battery
- 1:15 PM Depart for Netiv Ha'Asarah

American Israel Education Foundation – Democratic Program

- 1:30-2:00 PM *Living Under the Threat of Rocket Fire: Life in the Gaza Envelope*
Meeting with Roni Keidar
Resident, Moshav Netiv Ha'Asarah
-at Netiv Ha'Asarah
- 2:00 PM Depart for lunch
- 2:30-4:00 PM *Debrief: Operation Guardian of the Walls and the Role of the Iron Dome*
Lunch with Lt. Col. Amnon Shefler, IDF International Spokesperson
-at Kibbutz Alumim
- 4:00 PM Depart for hotel
- 5:45 PM Return to hotel and break
- 7:15 PM Depart for dinner
- 7:30-9:30 PM *The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process*
Dinner with Dr. Tal Becker
Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at Angelica
- 9:30 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, February 24, 2022

- 7:45 AM Breakfast on own
-the hotel. Ambassador Hall
- 9:00 AM Depart for the North
- En route briefings: The Jezreel Valley – Strategic Land Bridge connecting
Africa and Asia, Israel's Relationship with Jordan*
- 12:30-2:00 PM *The Hezbollah Tunnel Threat*
Visit to tunnel
-at Zarit
- 2:00 PM Lunch
-Shula B'Shtula

American Israel Education Foundation – Democratic Program

2:30-3:30 PM *Northern Border Concerns I: Hezbollah in Lebanon*
Briefing with Lt.-Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi
Director, Alma Research Center
-at Shtula

3:30 PM Depart for Meghar

5:00-8:00 PM *A View from the United Arab List*
Meeting with Member of Knesset Mansour Abbas
Head, United Arab List Party
-at Meghar

Dinner

8:15 PM Depart for Galei Kinneret

8:45 PM Check in to Galei Kinneret Hotel
Overnight at Galei Kinneret Hotel, Tiberias

Friday, February 25, 2022

7:15 AM Optional: Depart for Mt. Beatitudes for Mass 7:45

Breakfast on own, checkout
- at Galei Kineret, Main Dining Hall

8:15 AM Depart

8:30-10:30 AM *Visit to Historical and Religious sites around the Sea of Galilee*

- Mt. of the Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount
- St. Peter’s Church – Primacy of Peter
- Capernaum – Jesus’s Village

10:30 AM Depart

11:30 AM-1:00 PM *Northern Border Concerns II: The Syrian Border*
Strategic Briefing with Cpt. (Ret.) Ilan Shulman
-at Merom Golan

1:00 PM Depart

American Israel Education Foundation – Democratic Program

- 1:15-2:15 PM *A View from the Israel Defense Forces*
Lunch with local soldiers
-at Habokrim
- 2:15 PM Depart for Jerusalem
- 6:15 PM Arrive at hotel and break
- 6:30 PM Antigen testing
-at the hotel, Oak Room
- 7:00 PM Depart for local host families
- 7:30-9:30 PM *Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem*
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by
Jerusalem families:
▪ Joe Gellman, lawyer
▪ David Horovitz, Founding Editor, *The Times of Israel*
▪ Wendy Singer, Former Executive Director, Start-Up Nation Central
- at their homes in Jerusalem
- 9:30 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, February 26, 2022

- 6:00 AM Breakfast on own
-the hotel, Main Dining Room
- 9:00 AM Depart for Beit Guvrin
- 9:45-11:45 AM Beit Guvrin National Park
- Due to rain, the group was unable to travel to Masada and the Dead Sea*
- 11:45 AM Depart for hotel
- 12:30 PM Lunch at the hotel
-the hotel, Main Dining Room
- 1:15 PM Depart
- 1:30-3:30 PM Guided survey of the Church of the Nativity
-Bethlehem

American Israel Education Foundation – Democratic Program

3:15 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
4:00 PM	Return to King David Hotel – pack for departure
5:45 PM	Check out – Luggage in lobby
6:00-8:30 PM	<i>Reflections on the Week</i> Closing Dinner -at the hotel, Ambassador Hall
8:30 PM	Depart for airport
Late evening	Flights depart

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Morning	Flights arrive in the U.S.
All Day	Flights depart for domestic airports

January 19, 2022

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20001
TEL 202.639.5180

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Brian Romick, Deputy Chief of Staff
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Brian,

On behalf of the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), we would like to invite you to participate in our biennial educational seminar in Israel for Democratic freshmen members of Congress. The trip will depart on Saturday night, February 19, 2022 and return to the United States on Sunday morning, February 27, 2022.

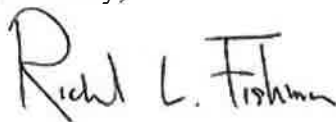
This seminar will delve into some of the most exciting and vexing issues facing Israel and the region, among them: the security threats confronting Israel on its Northern and Southern borders; the threat posed by a nuclear Iran; the opportunities presented by recent peace agreements between Israel and a number of Arab states; and the current prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Participants will hear a wide array of viewpoints, including discussions with: members of the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Authority; U.S. government officials; military leaders; heads of non-governmental organizations; and prominent academics and journalists. The program will also include visits to historic and religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee.

All trip-related expenses will be paid for by AIEF, and all aspects of the trip will be in full conformity with House Ethics rules. AIEF will provide additional information to assure your compliance with ethics requirements. Additionally, we are closely monitoring Israel's COVID-19 requirements for entering the country and will communicate those details to your office as they evolve. We do anticipate, as is currently the case, that Israel will require all visitors to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19.

We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful, and educational trip. If you have any questions, or to RSVP, please contact Julie Peretz at (202) 639-5192 or jperetz@aiefdn.org.

Sincerely,



Richard Fishman
Executive Director, AIEF

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
February 19-27, 2022**

List of Invitees

Founded in 1990, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, and other political leaders. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geopolitical context of the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country.

TITLE	MOC FIRST	MOC LAST
Representative	Pete	Aguilar
Representative	Shontel	Brown
Representative	Sheila	Cherfilus-McCormick
Representative	Ted	Deutch
Representative	Veronica	Escobar
Representative	Adriano	Espallat
Leader	Steny	Hoyer
Representative	Hakeem	Jeffries
Representative	Mike	Levin
Representative	Kathy	Manning
Representative	Kathleen	Rice
Representative	Brad	Schneider
Representative	Abigail	Spanberger
Representative	Ritchie	Torres
Representative	Debbie	Wasserman Schultz
Representative	Nikema	Williams
Deputy Chief of Staff, The Honorable Steny Hoyer	Brian	Romick
National Security Advisor, The Honorable Steny Hoyer	Mark	Iozi
Communications Director, The Honorable Steny Hoyer	Margaret	Mulkerrin

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
February 19-27, 2022**

Breakdown of Other Expenses

Room Rentals: \$1,018.52 per person

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

Security: \$870.37 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: \$314.81 per person

-Honoraria for guest speakers

COVID-19 PCR Testing: \$300 per person

Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): \$296.30 per person

Tour Guide: \$240.74 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: \$231.48 per person

VIP Service at Ben Gurion: \$111.11 per person

-Professional service to assist with customs and PCR testing at Ben Gurion airport

Entrance Fees: \$64.81 per person

-Several sites require an entrance fee, including sites in the Old City of Jerusalem, and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$46.30 per person

Photography: \$37.04 per person

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

Tips: \$18.52 hotel staff, and hostesses

Other: \$9.26 per person

-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
February 19 – 27, 2022**

Itinerary

Saturday, February 19, 2022

All Day Flights depart from the United States

Sunday, February 20, 2022

All Day Flights Arrive

- COVID testing
- Transfer to Jerusalem
- Check-in to the King David Hotel

7:30 PM Dinner is served

8:00-9:00 PM *Welcome and Orientation*

- The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Democratic Leader
- Dr. Cameron Brown, Director, AIEF Jerusalem

-at the hotel

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

Monday, February 21, 2022

7:00 AM Breakfast is served
-at the hotel

8:00-9:00 AM *The Pulse of Israel Today*
with Yonit Levi
Senior TV News Anchor and Journalist, Channel 12
-at the hotel

The Pulse of Israel Today

For almost 15 years, Yonit Levi has been the lead anchor of Israel's top primetime news program on Channel 2, Israel's most popular television station. Levi made Israeli television history in 2007 when she became the first woman in Israel to hold this position, having started as the program's co-anchor in 2002. Ms. Levy will provide the group with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of Israeli voters at this particular moment in time.

9:00-10:00 AM

A View from the Government

Meeting with the Honorable Merav Michaeli
Minister of Transportation and Head of Labor party
-at the hotel

A View from the Government

The Honorable Merav Michaeli will provide an insider's perspective on the Israeli parliament and the current coalition. After four elections in two years, Ministers Yair Lapid, Naftali Bennett and Mansour Abbas formed the most politically diverse coalition in Israeli history. Michaeli serves as the Minister of Transportation, and heads Israel's labor party, a member of the coalition.

10:00 AM

Depart for Old City

10:15 AM-1:00 PM

Strategic Survey of Jerusalem I: The Historic and Holy Basin

Guided survey of the Old City of Jerusalem:

- City of David (Ze'ev Orenstein)
- Robinson's Arch
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

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.

Old City of Jerusalem & the Holy Basin

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 Sepulcher, 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.

The City of David

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has consumed an enormous amount of time and manpower from members of consecutive American Administrations as well as members of Congress. One of the most intractable issues in the conflict has been the question of the future of Jerusalem. Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of this 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. Additionally, Palestinian leadership has denied in their official statements the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

1:00 PM	Depart for hotel
1:30 PM	Lunch is served -at the hotel
2:00-3:00 PM	<i>Israeli Political Primer</i> Lunch with Professor Reuven Hazan Professor of Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem -at the hotel

Israeli Political Primer

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

3:00-4:00 PM	<i>Regional Threats Overview</i> Dessert with Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Amos Yadlin Former Director, Institute for National Security Studies -at the hotel
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Regional Threats Overview

During the trip, participants will visit the borders with the Gaza Strip, 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.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 4:00 PM | Change attire |
| 4:45 PM | Depart for Knesset |
| 5:15 PM | Security Check |
| 5:45-6:30 PM | <i>A View from the Foreign Ministry</i>
Meeting with The Honorable Yair Lapid
Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem Hall |

A View from the Foreign Ministry

The Honorable Yair Lapid currently serves as Alternate Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Lapid is the Chairman of the Yesh Atid Party, which he founded in 2012. Prior to entering politics, Lapid was a columnist at the Yediot Aharonot daily newspaper and hosted a current affairs talk show on television, which became the most watched news program in the country.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 6:30-7:30 PM | <i>A View from the Opposition</i>
Meeting with The Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu
Head of the Opposition and the Likud party
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem Hall |
|--------------|---|

A View from the Opposition

It is customary for participants to meet with the leader of the opposition party, to get a comprehensive view of the Knesset. During this session, the group will meet with The Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu, who served as Israel's Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He was Israel's longest serving Prime Minister.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 7:30 PM | Depart for dinner |
| 8:00-9:30 PM | <i>Tikkun Olam: Israel in the World</i>
-at Touro |

Tikkun Olam: Israel in the World

One of the major tenets of Judaism is "Tikkun Olam", to "repair the world". This dinner will focus on representatives from organizations seeking to make the world a better place in various sectors. This evening will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad.

9:30 PM

Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

7:00 AM

Breakfast opens
-the hotel

8:00-9:00 AM

A View from the Palestinian Street
with Ohad Hemo
Correspondent for Arab Affairs, Channel 12
-at the hotel

A View from the Palestinian Street

For 15 years, as a reporter for all three of Israel's main channels, Ohad Hemo has taken the pulse of the Palestinian street and been the eyes and ears of ordinary Israelis hungry to understand the nuances of Palestinian society and politics. As a moment of enormous change in the Middle East and the rise of an Arab party in Israel's ruling coalition, Hemo will delve into the complexities of Gaza and the West Bank, into the thinking of Fatah and Hamas leaders, the reality of the Abraham Accords and young Palestinians in the West Bank and inside Israel itself.

9:00 AM

Depart

9:30-11:30 AM

Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust
Guided survey of 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.

MEMBERS ONLY / ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING FOR FAMILY GUESTS

- 11:30 AM Depart for Ramallah
- 12:30-1:45 PM *Lunch with Palestinian Entrepreneurs*
with Anna Gol
Program Director, Palestinian Internship Program (PIP)
-at the Millennium Hotel
- 1:45 PM Depart
- 2:00-3:00 PM *A View from the Palestinian Authority*
Meeting with Mahmoud Abbas
President, Palestinian Authority
-in Ramallah

A View from the Palestinian Authority

During each member seminar, participants hear from the Palestinian Authority. President Mahmoud Abbas will present 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.

- 3:00 PM Depart

GROUP REJOINS

- 4:00 PM Security Clearance
-at the Prime Minister's office
- 5:00-6:00 PM *A View from the Prime Minister's Office*
Meeting with The Honorable Naftali Bennett
Prime Minister of Israel
-at the Prime Minister's office

A View from the Prime Minister's Office

Every member delegation has the opportunity to meet with Israel's Prime Minister. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett was sworn into office on June 13, 2021, after Israel held its fourth election in two years.

- 6:00 PM Depart for hotel
- 7:15 PM Depart for dinner

7:30-9:00 PM

The Fruits of Peace: The Abraham Accords

- Khaled Yousif al-Jalahmah, Bahraini Ambassador to Israel
- Mohamed Al Khaja, UAE Ambassador to Israel
- Gabi Ashkenazi, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Abderrahim Beyyoudh, Moroccan Charge d'Affaires to Israel

-at the David Citadel Hotel

The Fruits of Peace: The Abraham Accords

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict, and a comprehensive regional peace. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and several Arab states under the Abraham Accords. Participants will hear from the Ambassadors to the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco, about the Abraham Accords, and opportunities for regional development and cooperation.

9:00 PM

Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

7:00 AM

Breakfast is served
-at the hotel

8:00-9:15 AM

A View from the Embassy
Meeting with Ambassador Tom Nides
-at the hotel

A View from the Embassy

Every member delegation has the opportunity to meet with the U.S. Ambassador to Israel. Thomas Nides was confirmed as the U.S. Ambassador to Israel on November 3, 2021 and was most recently the Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Morgan Stanley. A distinguished public servant as well as a business leader, Nides was the U.S. State Department's Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources from 2010 – 2013. Earlier, Mr. Nides was Morgan Stanley's Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Secretary of the Board, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Burson-Marsteller in New York, and the Chief Administrative Officer of Credit Suisse First Boston in Washington, D.C. He also served as the Senior Vice President of Fannie Mae in Washington from 1998 – 2001. Mr. Nides presented his credentials to President Isaac Herzog, who accepted them, on December 5, 2021.

9:15 AM

Depart for Gilo

9:45-10:15 AM

*Strategic Survey of Jerusalem II:
The Security Barrier and Outlying Neighborhoods*

Security Barrier

After scores of suicide bombings and daily terrorist attacks against its civilians launched following the breakdown of the Camp David II talks, Israel began construction of a security barrier near the pre-1967 "Green Line" between Israel and the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israeli population centers. Since its construction began, the number of attacks declined by more than 90% and the number of Israelis murdered and wounded decreased by more than 70% and 85%, respectively. The barrier is approximately 455 miles long. To Israel, the security barrier serves as a necessary obstacle to protect its people. To the Palestinians and others in the world, the barrier represents a physical and symbolic divide.

This seminar will survey the security barrier at different points along its route to see first-hand the barrier's construction, the operation of crossing points in and out of Palestinian areas, and the technology that facilitates its operation. Both en route to the barrier and at the barrier itself, the group will explore the competing arguments raised by the Israelis, Palestinians and the international community.

10:15 AM Depart to Asaf Siboni

12:00 PM *Strategic Briefing: Gaza Strip*
-Asaf Siboni Outlook

Strategic Briefing: Gaza Strip

During the strategic overview 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.

12:30 AM Depart to Netiv Ha'Asarah

12:45-1:30 PM *Living Under the Threat of Rocket Fire: Life in the Gaza Envelope*
Meeting with Roni Keidar
Resident, Moshav Netiv Ha'Asarah
-at Netiv Ha'Asarah

Living Under the Threat of Rocket Fire: Life in the Gaza Envelope

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. Most recently, Israel engaged in Operation Guardian of the Walls, to thwart another barrage of rocket attacks from Hamas in Gaza.

During the visit to Kibbutz Netiv Ha'asara, participants will better understand the reality of living just kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, where residents have endured almost 20 years of

rocket fire, and more recently Hamas “terror tunnels”. The group will hear how residents have sought to cope with the threat on their doorstep, both physically and psychologically.

1:30 PM Depart

1:45-3:00 PM *Debrief: Operation Guardian of the Walls*
Lt. Col. Amnon Shefler, IDF International Spokesperson
-at Olive Way

Debrief: Operation Guardian of the Walls

In May 2021 Israel responded to a barrage of rocket fire from Hamas in Gaza with Operation Guardian of the Walls. Over 11 days, thousands of rockets were fired from Gaza at innocent civilians in Israel; and Israel responded by targeting strategic Hamas positions within the Gaza Strip. During this debrief, Lt. Col. Shefler will provide an overview of the operation and the Israel Defense Force’s strategy to combat Hamas terrorism.

3:00 PM Depart

3:30 PM *Missile Defense Cooperation: US-Israel Strategic Cooperation I*
Visit to Iron Dome battery

The Iron Dome

The Iron Dome is an important piece of Israel’s multi-tiered defense system. The Iron Dome is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets whose trajectory would take them to populated areas in Israel. It has been reported that the system is able to shoot down approximately 90% of the rockets launched from Gaza that would otherwise hit populated areas. A visit to an Iron Dome battery includes meeting with the soldiers and the commanding officer, and learning how the system works to protect innocent civilians.

4:00 PM Depart for hotel

5:45 PM Return to hotel and break

7:45 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-9:30 PM *The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process*
Dinner with Dr. Tal Becker
Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at Angelica

The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

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.

9:30 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, February 24, 2022

7:00 AM Breakfast on own, check out
-at the hotel

8:00 AM Depart for the North

10:00-11:00 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline*
Overlook at Alfei Menashe

Israel's Narrow Waistline

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.

11:00 AM Depart

11:30 AM-12:30 PM *En route briefing:*
The Jezreel Valley – Strategic Land Bridge connecting Africa and Asia

The Jezreel Valley – Strategic Land Bridge connecting Africa and Asia

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.

1:30 PM Lunch
-Shula B'Shtula

2:30 PM *Northern Border Concerns I: Hezbollah in Lebanon*
Briefing with Lt.-Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi
Director, Alma Research Center
-at Zarit

Northern Border Concerns I: Hezbollah In Lebanon

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.

3:15-4:00 PM *The Hezbollah Tunnel Threat*
Visit to tunnel
-at Zarit

The Hezbollah Tunnel Threat

Virtually all of southern Lebanon is a maze of underground bunkers, rocket-launching sites, and interconnected tunnels built by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization. Hezbollah is the most powerful terrorist organization in the world, stronger than most national armies. They receive around \$700 million annually from Iran, along with advanced weapons, training, and political support. During this visit, members will have the opportunity to go into a Hezbollah tunnel discovered by the Israel Defense Forces, to see firsthand this terrorist army poses to Israel and the region.

4:00 PM Depart

5:30 PM Check in to Galei Kinneret Hotel

6:15-7:30 PM *Israeli-Arab Civil Society*
Meeting with the Mohammad Darawshe
Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Society,
Givat Haviva Educational Center
-at the hotel

Israeli-Arab Civil Society

Approximately 22% 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. Our speaker, Mohammad Darawshe is currently the director of planning, equality and shared living at Givat Haviva Educational Institute—a non-profit organization founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in Israel. His focus throughout his career is promoting coexistence and quality among Israel's Jewish and Arab-Palestinians citizens. He 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.

7:30-9:00 PM *Dinner and Discussion*
-at Lotte, Galei Kinneret

Dinner and Discussion

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.

9:00 PM Overnight at Galei Kinneret Hotel, Tiberias

Friday, February 25, 2022

7:30 AM

Optional: Depart to Mt. Beatitudes for Mass

Checkout

Breakfast on own

- at Galei Kineret, Main Dining Hall

8:15 AM

Depart

8:30-10:30 AM

Visit to Historical and Religious sites around the Sea of Galilee

- Mt. of the Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount
- St. Peter's Church – Primacy of Peter
- Capernaum – Jesus's Village

Visit to Historical and Religious sites around 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.

10:30 AM

Depart

11:30 AM

Northern Border Concerns II: The Syrian Border

Strategic Briefing with Cpt. (Ret.) Ilan Shulman

-at Merom Golan

Northern Border Concerns II: The Syrian Border

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.

1:00 PM

Depart

1:15-2:15 PM *Israel Defense Forces: The Mosaic of Israel*
Lunch with IDF Soldiers
-at Habokrim

Israel Defense Forces: The Mosaic of Israel

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is a true microcosm of Israeli society, as most young men and women are required to served directly after high school. It is also a great equalizer in Israel's diverse, multicultural society. Soldiers from various units will join the participants during lunch to share their individual experiences in the Israel Defense Forces.

2:15 PM Depart for Jerusalem

5:00 PM Arrive at hotel and break

7:00 PM Depart to local host families

7:00-9:00 PM *Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem*
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Jerusalem families

- Wendy Singer
- Joe Gellman
- David Horovitz

-at their homes 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.

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

Saturday, February 26, 2022

6:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel

7:15 AM Depart

7:30-8:00 AM

*En route briefing:
Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor: Strategic Concerns*

Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor: Strategic Concerns

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.

8:45 AM

*History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada*

History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire

Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel. 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 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.

11:00 AM

Depart for the Dead Sea

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Exploration of the Dead Sea Region
Followed by lunch
- at Herods

Exploration of the 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 PM

Depart for hotel

3:00 PM

Bathroom stop at the King David

3:20 PM

Depart for Bethlehem, or break at hotel

4:00-5:00 PM

OPTIONAL: Guided survey of the Church of the Nativity
-Bethlehem

Guided Survey of the Church of the Nativity

The Church of the Nativity in the city of Bethlehem is located just three miles from Jerusalem but is under full control of the Palestinian Authority. It is separated from Jerusalem by a security barrier and those traveling between Jerusalem and Bethlehem need to pass through a border checkpoint. By visiting Bethlehem, participants witness firsthand Palestinian self-rule. They also observe how the border checkpoint operates – this is especially important because each day

thousands of Palestinians enter through such checkpoints on their way to work in Israel. Additionally, the New Testament identifies Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus, making it one of the most significant religious sites in the world.

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| 5:00 PM | Depart for Jerusalem |
| 5:30 PM | Return to King David Hotel <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ pack for departure▪ COVID testing |
| 6:30-8:30 PM | <i>Reflections on the Week</i>
Closing Dinner
-at the hotel |

Reflections on the Week

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.

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| 8:30 PM | Depart for the airport |
| Evening | Flights depart Israel |

Sunday, February 27, 2022

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| All day | Flights arrive in the United States
Members return to Washington, D.C. or home districts |
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