



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: Richard Erkel
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): N/A
3. a. Dates: Departure: July 1, 2022 Return: July 9, 2022
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Tel Aviv, Israel Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: J Street Education Fund
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
Met with Israeli and Palestinian government figures, civil society leaders, and NGOs to learn more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the realities on the ground.
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: 07/14/2022

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: Nydia M. Velazquez Date: 07/14/2022

Signature of Supervising Member:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Richard Erkel

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
J Street Education Fund

3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Israel and the West Bank

4. a. Date of Departure: July 1, 2022 Date of Return: July 9, 2022

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: N/A

(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): N/A

(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.**

Richard Erkel is Representative Velazquez's Deputy Chief of Staff and a foreign policy advisor to the Congresswoman. Richard advises her on issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Meetings with government officials and briefings from NGOs in Israel and the West Bank will inform his duties with the Congresswoman.

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 Nydia M. Velazquez Digitally signed by Nydia M. Velazquez Date: 2022.05.27 11:48:48 -04'00' Date 05/27/2022



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:
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):
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: _____ Date of return: _____
7. a. City of departure: _____
b. Destination(s): _____
c. City of return: _____
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:



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:
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking 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):
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
- Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
- Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- 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.*

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

June 21, 2022

Mr. Richard Erkel
Office of the Honorable Nydia Velázquez
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Erkel:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for July 1 to 9, 2022, sponsored by J Street Education Fund.

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 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 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>.

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:ew

ATTACHMENT: ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

\$394 Logistics Coordinator fee

\$35 Tour Guide

\$388 Tour bus for duration of trip

\$438 Programming Costs (Meeting room rentals, AV, etc)

\$246 Speaker honoraria

\$54 Printing

\$120 Security

\$20 Covid Testing

In addition to the above Traveler Form, please note the following attachments:

- I. PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM
- II. PARTICIPANT LIST
- III. ADDITIONAL EXPENSES
- IV. ORIGINAL INVITATION
- V. DELEGATION ITINERARY

ATTACHMENT II: PARTICIPANT LIST

As Congressional staff, the following trip participants are asked to advise their bosses on legislation related to the issues that will be addressed on this trip surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, US foreign aid, and other policies related to Middle East issues.

Izmira Aitch, office of Rep. Gwen Moore
Hector Colon, office of Rep. Strickland
Richard Erkel, office of Rep. Velazquez
Alex Ginis, office of Rep. Hayes
Chloe Hunt, office of Rep. Casten
Dan Lemire, office of Rep. Morelle
Nishith Pandya, office of Rep. Rush
Lilah Pomerance, office of Rep. Jayapal
Samantha Price, office of Rep. Carbajal
Tara Rountree, office of Rep. McEachin
Julie Tagen, office of Rep. Raskin
Eli Taichman, office of Rep. Trahan
Nd Ubezou, office of Majority Whip Clyburn
Todd Valentine, office of Rep. Beatty

ATTACHMENT III ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

\$360 Logistics Coordinator fee

\$30 Tour Guide

\$350 Tour bus for duration of trip

\$330 Programming Costs (Meeting room rentals, AV, etc)

\$160 Speaker honoraria

\$50 Printing

\$130 Security

\$170 Covid Testing



Richard Erkel
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rick,,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of congressional staffers for an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank sponsored by the J Street Education Fund (JSEF). The trip, which will be on the ground in Israel and the West Bank for six days, will depart on Friday, July 1 and return on Saturday, July 9.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for congressional staffers to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The trip will enhance your knowledge of the region and the dynamics behind one of the most vexing foreign policy challenges facing the United States. In addition, it will explore the essential role of active, engaged and sustained US diplomatic leadership in bringing about a two-state solution. The program will also include:

- Meetings with leading Israeli and Palestinian government officials and non-governmental voices;
- Visits to Sderot on Israel's Gaza border and to Ramallah, in the West Bank;
- A visit to historic sites including Jerusalem's Old City;
- A briefing on Israel's security and the Iron Dome missile defense system.

This delegation enables congressional staffers to have a one-of-a-kind experience that gives a unique perspective on what is at stake in the region and how American leadership can help bring about peace. Participants in past JSEF delegations are more than happy to speak with you in greater detail about their experiences and the importance of attending the July delegation.

All trip related expenses will be paid for by JSEF in compliance with ethics rules. At least 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting the "Primary Trip Sponsor Form," filled out by JSEF, as well as the "Traveler Form." Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for participants in preparation for their visit.

I hope that you will be able to join us on this important, thought-provoking and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Cooper Boyar at (917) 312-1869, or at cooperboyar@jstreet.org, at any time to discuss the details of the sponsored trip and our organization.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami President
J Street Education Fund

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that does not hire or retain registered lobbyists. JSEF is a member of the J Street family of pro-Israel, pro-peace organizations.



The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policymakers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy

July 2 - 9, 2022

ITINERARY

Saturday, July 2

Mid-Afternoon

Flights land in Tel Aviv
Drive to the hotel and check-in

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Group Dinner - Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101
An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.

Speaker:
Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst

Hotel:

Carlton Tel Aviv | Eliezer Peri St 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo, +972-3-520-1818

Sunday, July 3

9:00 – 10:00 AM

J Street Conflict 101
This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography and political dynamics in the region.

Speaker: Yariv Oppenheimer, The Two State Coalition

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Vision of Zionism
The modern State of Israel was born in 1948, based on an idea of reclaiming Jewish history and the Jewish people's right to

self-determination. At lunch, we explore the Israeli founding fathers' vision and reflect upon where we are today.

Speaker: Dr. Orit Rozin, Tel Aviv University

11:30 - 12:00 PM

Walk to Ben Gurion House

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Ben Gurion House Visit

A docent will lead us through the Ben Gurion House, which presents two parallel stories: the history of Israel and Israeli society, and the biography of Ben Gurion. The Museum exhibits focus on historical turning points in the country's development, presenting the conflicts, social challenges and dilemmas the country faced at that time.

1:00 - 1:30 PM

Drive to Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Lunch Discussion - Overview of the Current Affairs

This session will serve as an orientation to Israel's current affairs and political overview

Speaker: Tal Schneider, Globes

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Drive to HaKiryat (IDF Headquarters) and Security Clearance

3:30 - 4:30 PM

IDF briefing

The security briefing by the IDF will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces.

Speaker: TBD

Location: HaKiryat, Tel Aviv

4:30 - 5:00 PM

Drive to hotel

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Executive time

7:00 - 7:30 PM

Drive to Dinner

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Dinner with Parliamentary Assistants

At dinner, we will be joined by parliamentary assistants. Congressional staff will have the opportunity to converse and network with their Israeli counterparts who work in the Knesset.

Hotel:

Carlton Tel Aviv | Eliezer Peri St 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo, +972-3-520-1818

Monday, July 4

- 8:15 - 9:45 AM Drive to Gaza Envelope Region
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM Kfar Aza Kibbutz visit
We will be led on a tour by local residents in Kfar Aza to discuss Kibbutz life in the Gaza perimeter and the effects of the continuous escalations and rocket-fire from Gaza.
- Speaker:
Chen Kotler, resident of Kfar Aza
- Location: Kfar Aza
- 11:00 - 12:30 PM Lunch Session: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza
In this briefing, we will learn about life in Gaza, and the variety of humanitarian issues Gazans face, such as restrictions on freedom of movement and access to healthcare.
- Speakers:
Tania Hary, Executive Director, Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement
Others TBD
- Location: Kfar Aza
- 12:30 - 2:00 PM Drive to Jerusalem
- 2:00 - 3:30 PM Check-in and Executive Time
- 3:30 - 4:15 PM Drive to Knesset + Security Clearance
- 4:30 - 6:30 PM Meetings with Israeli Political Officials
- 6:30 - 7:00 PM Drive to dinner
- 7:00 - 9:00 PM Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights Leaders
At dinner, we will be joined by Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights leaders who will provide us with insights into the work they are doing to advance people-to-people cooperation and the protection of human rights for those affected by the ongoing Israeli- Palestinian conflict.
- Speakers TBD

Hotel:

Herbert Samuel Jerusalem Hotel | Shamai St 25, Jerusalem +972-2-560-0600

Tuesday, July 5

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Drive to Ramallah - Seminar on the Bus: Palestinian Politics 101
On the way to Ramallah, we will go through a quick history of major developments in Palestinian politics,

Speaker: Bashar Azzeh

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Briefing: The Palestinian National Movement
We will learn about the development of the Palestinian National Movement, including the institutions and political parties that exist today.

Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Director

10:30 - 11:00 AM

Drive to political meeting

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Meeting with the Head of the General Authority of Civil Affairs of the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Hussein Al-Sheikh
We will discuss the current state of affairs in Palestine and the Palestinian Authority and PLO's political interests and priorities with regard to the US-Palestine relationship, as well as the diplomatic resolution of the conflict.

12:30 - 1:00 PM

Drive to Rawabi

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Lunch with Mr. Bashar Masri, Founder of Rawabi City
Rawabi is the West Bank's first Palestinian planned development community. It seeks to provide opportunities for home ownership, employment, education, and leisure. We will have lunch with and then tour the community with the founder.

2:30 - 3:15 PM

Tour at Rawabi

Tour Guide: Bashar Masri

3:30 - 4:00 PM

Drive to Eli

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Meeting with Binyamin Regional Council
An opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have and what their hopes are for the future.

Speaker:

Eliana Passentin, Head of International Relations, Binyamin Regional Council

Location: Eli

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Drive to hotel

6:00 - 7:15 PM

Executive time

7:15 - 8:30 PM

Group Dinner

Hotel:

Herbert Samuel Jerusalem Hotel | Shamai St 25, Jerusalem +972-2-560-0600

Wednesday, July 6

8:30 - 9:15 AM

Drive to Efrat - Intro to Settlements briefing on the bus

9:15 - 10:00 AM

Outlook - Givat Hadagan

We will have an on the ground visit to settlements; understanding settlement blocs, illegal outposts, and ideological settlements, the legal and international ramifications of settlement expansion, as well as potential territorial and security solutions.

Guide: Yehuda Shaul

10:00 - 10:45 AM

Drive to Hebron

10:45 - 12:30 PM

Walking tour of Hebron

On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area, see checkpoints in the city and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.

Guide: Avner Gvaryahu

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Walking tour of Hebron H1 area

During the walking tour of Hebron, we will visit H1, the Palestinian Authority-controlled section of the city.

Guide: Issa Amro

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Drive to Susya - Lunch on the bus

2:30 - 4:00 PM

Palestinian Susya Site Visit

Learn about the situation of Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders. We will be joined by Palestinian and Israeli activists to hear firsthand about life and activism in the region.

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Drive to hotel

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Freshen up before dinner

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Group Dinner

We will reflect on the day and discuss the ways the United States can play a constructive role in the region.

Hotel:

Herbert Samuel Jerusalem Hotel | Shamai St 25, Jerusalem +972-2-560-0600

Thursday, July 7

8:00 - 11:00 AM

Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem

We will visit the major holy sites of Jerusalem, including the Al Aqsa Mosque / Temple Mount, the Western Wall, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and learn about their religious, historic, and political significance. We will discuss how the situation in the Old City of Jerusalem impacts the developments on the ground in the region, specifically in relation to the most recent escalation in May 2021.

11:00 - 1:00 PM

East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour

The final status of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the key issues to be negotiated in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the 1967 war, Israel annexed all of East Jerusalem, land which is beyond the Green Line and is inhabited predominantly by Palestinians. On this tour, we will visit areas of contention in East Jerusalem and evaluate the developments in Jerusalem and their impact on a potential solution for the core issue of Jerusalem.

Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Founder, Terrestrial Jerusalem

1:00 - 1:45 PM

Group Lunch

Participants will share thoughts about the morning's tours in Jerusalem and have the opportunity to debrief and ask questions about the holy city.

1:45 - 2:15 PM

Drive to Shuafat Refugee Camp

2:15 - 3:15 PM	<p>Visit UNRWA facility at Shuafat Refugee Camp</p> <p><i>We will have the chance to speak with the UNRWA representatives and school staff at the Shuafat Refugee Camp School and learn about the challenges of running a school in a refugee camp.</i></p>
3:15 - 4:00 PM	Drive to hotel
4:00 - 6:00 PM	Executive time
6:00 - 7:00 PM	<p>Meeting with the United States Embassy in Israel</p> <p><i>Hear from the US Embassy in Israel regarding U.S. policy in the region - the current approach and priorities of the Biden Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance a resolution to the conflict.</i></p>
7:00 - 7:30 PM	Drive to dinner
7:30 - 9:00 PM	<p>Musical Performance and Dinner and Discussion with Palestinian and Israeli Jerusalemites - TBC</p> <p><i>Mekudeshet is an award-winning cultural organization that creates original art and music to reimagine Jerusalem from a center of conflict into a laboratory for connection between people of all kinds. Each Wednesday Mekudeshet hosts a variety of musical artists from East and West Jerusalem to perform outdoors. We will join the weekly music festival to experience the moments of creative collaboration between Jerusalemites of various walks of life.</i></p> <p>Location: Feel Beit</p>

Friday, July 8

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Drive to Yad VaShem
9:00 - 10:30 AM	<p>Tour at Yad Vashem</p> <p><i>On this tour, we will visit the museum commemorating the Holocaust and the loss of six million Jews.</i></p>
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Drive to Jordan Valley - Lunch on the bus
12:30 - 2:00 PM	<p>Jordan Valley Tour</p> <p><i>Experts will lead a tour focusing on the southern Jordan River and regional water management. This includes an overview of the religious, economic and agricultural significance of the river. We will hear about regional environmental cooperation</i></p>

Speakers:
Gidon Bromberg - EcoPeace
Nada Majdalani - EcoPeace

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Drive to hotel + Executive time

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Discussion: The US Role Moving Forward
This session will focus on the potential role that the US can play in furthering the two-state solution under the current circumstances.

Speaker:
Shira Efron, Director of Research at Israel Policy Forum

4:30 - 5:15 PM

Freshen up

5:15 - 6:00 PM

Load Luggage onto the bus + Drive to Farewell dinner

6:00 - 7:45 PM

Farewell Dinner

7:45 PM

Depart for Ben Gurion Airport



The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policymakers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy

July 2 - 9, 2022

ITINERARY

Saturday, July 2

Mid-Afternoon

Flights land in Tel Aviv
Drive to the hotel and check-in

8:00 - 10:00 PM

Group Dinner - Overview of the Current Affairs
This session will serve as an orientation to Israel's current affairs and political overview

Speaker: Tal Shalev

Hotel:

Carlton Tel Aviv | Eliezer Peri St 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo, +972-3-520-1818

Sunday, July 3

9:00 – 10:00 AM

J Street Conflict 101
This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography and political dynamics in the region.

Speaker: Yariv Oppenheimer, The Two State Coalition

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101
An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.

Speaker:
Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst

11:30 - 12:00 PM	Walk to Ben Gurion House
12:00 - 1:00 PM	<p>Ben Gurion House Visit</p> <p><i>A docent will lead us through the Ben Gurion House, which presents two parallel stories: the history of Israel and Israeli society, and the biography of Ben Gurion. The Museum exhibits focus on historical turning points in the country's development, presenting the conflicts, social challenges and dilemmas the country faced at that time.</i></p> <p>Speaker: Bar Galin, Vice President of Education and OOO, Ben Gurion House</p>
1:00 - 1:30 PM	Drive to Lunch
1:30 - 3:00 PM	<p>Lunch Discussion - Vision of Zionism</p> <p><i>The modern State of Israel was born in 1948, based on an idea of reclaiming Jewish history and the Jewish people's right to self-determination. At lunch, we explore the Israeli founding fathers' vision and reflect upon where we are today.</i></p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Orit Rozin, Tel Aviv University</p>
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Drive to Hotel
3:15 - 4:30 PM	Meeting with the DCM Jonathan Shrier, United States Embassy
4:30 - 6:30 PM	Executive time
6:30 - 7:15 PM	Dr. Nimrod Novik, Israel Fellow, Israel Policy Forum
7:15 - 7:30 PM	Drive to Dinner
7:30 - 9:30 PM	<p>Dinner with Israeli Parliamentary Assistants</p> <p><i>At dinner, we will be joined by parliamentary assistants. Congressional staff will have the opportunity to converse and network with their Israeli counterparts who work in the Knesset.</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Yuval Schaffer Kaveh, Bureau Chief of Minister of Public Security Ori Nachmani, Head of Office to Minister of Environmental Protection Gal Bejerano, Spokesperson and media advisor to leader of the Labour Party and Minister of Transport and Road Safety Dorin Kern, Spokesperson and Advisor for Chairman of Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Shimri Negbi, Parliamentary Adviser, MK Alon Tal Tavor Lahat, Chief of Staff to Minister of Health Alon Hutter, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Minister of Economics</p>

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Monday, July 4

- 8:15 - 9:45 AM Drive to Gaza Envelope Region
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM Tour of Sderot
We will be led on a tour by a local resident in Sderot to discuss life in the Gaza perimeter and the effects of the continuous escalations and rocket-fire from Gaza.
- Guide: George Stevens, Dror Israel
- 11:00 - 12:30 PM Lunch Session: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza
In this briefing, we will learn about life in Gaza, and the variety of humanitarian issues Gazans face.
- Speakers:
Tania Hary, Executive Director, Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement
Mohammed Azaiza, Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement
- Location: Sderot
- 12:30 - 2:30 PM Drive to Jerusalem
- 2:30 - 3:10 PM IDF briefing
The security briefing by the IDF will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces.
- Speaker: BG Dr. Oren Setter, head of the Israeli military's Strategic Division
- 3:10 - 3:50 PM Check-in and Executive Time
- 3:30 - 4:15 PM Drive to Knesset + Security Clearance
- 4:30 - 5:00 PM MK Mossi Raz, Meretz
- 5:00 - 5:30 PM MK Benny Begin, New Hope
- 5:30 - 6:00 PM MK Gilad Kariv, Israeli Labor Party
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meetings with Ambassador David Roet, Deputy Director General and Head of the North American Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel
- 7:00 - 7:30 PM Drive to dinner

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights Leaders
At dinner, we will be joined by Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights leaders who will provide us with insights into the work they are doing to advance people-to-people cooperation and the protection of human rights for those affected by the ongoing Israeli- Palestinian conflict.

Speakers:

Dr. Yudit Oppenheimer, Executive Director, Ir Amim

Rana Salman, Palestinian Executive Director of Combatants for Peace

Shira Livne, Director of the Human Rights in the Occupied Territories Unit, ACRI

Adnan Jaber, Board Member, Tech2Peace

Hamza Awawde, Palestinian Regional Director, Hands of Peace

Tehila Wegner, Deputy Director, the Geneva Initiative

Eran Nissan, Executive Director, Mehazkim

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Tuesday, July 5

8:00 - 9:15 AM

Drive to Psagot Winery

9:15 - 10:15 AM

Meeting with Binyamin Regional Council

An opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have and what their hopes are for the future.

Speaker: Ruth Liberman

Location: Psagot Winery

10:15 - 10:45 AM

Drive to Ramallah

10:45 - 11:45 AM

Briefing: The Palestinian National Movement

We will learn about the development of the Palestinian National Movement, including the institutions and political parties that exist today.

Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Director

11:45 - 12:15 PM

Drive to PMO - Seminar on the Bus: Palestinian Politics 101

On the way to Ramallah, we will go through a quick history of major developments in Palestinian politics,

Speaker: Bashar Azze

12:15 - 1:30 PM

Meeting with the Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority

Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh

We will discuss the current state of affairs in Palestine and the Palestinian Authority and PLO's political interests and priorities with regard to the US-Palestine relationship, as well as the diplomatic resolution of the conflict.

- 1:30 - 2:30 PM Drive to Rawabi
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM Lunch
- 3:30 - 4:00 PM Tour at Rawabi
Rawabi is the West Bank's first Palestinian planned development community. It seeks to provide opportunities for home ownership, employment, education, and leisure. We will have lunch with and then tour the community with the founder.
- 4:00 - 4:45 PM Meeting with Mr. Bashar Masri, Founder of Rawabi City
- 4:45 - 6:00 PM Drive to Jerusalem
- 6:00 - 9:30 PM Fourth of July Celebration at the US Embassy

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Wednesday, July 6

- 8:30 - 9:15 AM Drive to Efrat - Intro to Settlements briefing on the bus
- 9:15 - 10:00 AM Outlook - Givat Hadagan
We will have an on the ground visit to settlements; understanding settlement blocs, illegal outposts, and ideological settlements, the legal and international ramifications of settlement expansion, as well as potential territorial and security solutions.
- Guide: Yehuda Shaul
- 10:00 - 10:45 AM Drive to Hebron
- 10:45 - 12:30 PM Walking tour of Hebron
On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area, see checkpoints in the city and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.
- Guide: Avner Gvaryahu
- 12:30 - 1:30 PM Walking tour of Hebron H1 area
During the walking tour of Hebron, we will visit H1, the Palestinian Authority-controlled section of the city.
- Guide: Issa Amro

- 1:30 - 2:30 PM Drive to Masafer Yatta- Lunch on the bus
- 2:30 – 4:00 PM Palestinian Masafer Yatta Site Visit
Learn about the situation of Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders. We will be joined by Palestinian and Israeli activists to hear firsthand about life and activism in the region.
- 4:00 - 5:30 PM Drive to hotel
- 5:30 - 7:00 PM Freshen up before dinner
- 7:00 - 8:30 PM Group Dinner
We will reflect on the day and discuss the ways the United States can play a constructive role in the region.

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Thursday, July 7

- 8:00 - 10:30 AM Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem
We will visit the major holy sites of Jerusalem, including the Al Aqsa Mosque / Temple Mount, the Western Wall, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and learn about their religious, historic, and political significance. We will discuss how the situation in the Old City of Jerusalem impacts the developments on the ground in the region, specifically in relation to the most recent escalation in May 2021.
- Guide: Shalom Kleiman
- 10:30 - 12:30 PM East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour
The final status of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the key issues to be negotiated in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the 1967 war, Israel annexed all of East Jerusalem, land which is beyond the Green Line and is inhabited predominantly by Palestinians. On this tour, we will visit areas of contention in East Jerusalem and evaluate the developments in Jerusalem and their impact on a potential solution for the core issue of Jerusalem.
- Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Founder, Terrestrial Jerusalem
- 12:30 - 1:00 PM Drive to the Educational Bookshop
- 1:00 - 2:45 PM Lunch at the Educational Bookshop
Participants will visit the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem and eat a traditional lunch.

Speaker: Ahmad Muna, Assistant Manager, Educational Bookshop

2:30 - 3:30 PM

Drive to Shuafat Refugee Camp

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Visit UNRWA facility at Shuafat Refugee Camp

We will have the chance to speak with the UNRWA representatives and school staff at the Shuafat Refugee Camp School and learn about the challenges of running a school in a refugee camp.

Speaker: Dorothee Klaus, Acting, Director of UNRWA Affairs West Bank

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Drive to hotel

5:30 - 6:15 PM

Meeting with the Palestinian Affairs Unit (PAU)

Speaker: Matthew Totilo, Acting Office of Palestinian Affairs Political Counsel

6:15 - 7:15 PM

Executive time

7:15 - 7:45 PM

Drive to dinner

7:45 - 9:00 PM

Dinner and Cultural Experience with Mekudeshet Jerusalemites

Mekudeshet is an award-winning cultural organization that creates original art and music to reimagine Jerusalem from a center of conflict into a laboratory for connection between people of all kinds.

Location: Feel Beit

Friday, July 8

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Drive to Yad VaShem

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Tour at Yad Vashem

On this tour, we will visit the museum commemorating the Holocaust and the loss of six million Jews.

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Drive to Jordan Valley - Lunch on the bus

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Jordan Valley Tour

Experts will lead a tour focusing on the southern Jordan River and regional water management. This includes an overview of the religious, economic and agricultural significance of the river. We will hear about regional environmental cooperation

Speakers:

Gidon Bromberg, EcoPeace

Nada Majdalani, EcoPeace

2:00 - 3:30 PM	Drive to hotel + Executive time
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Discussion: The US Role Moving Forward <i>This session will focus on the potential role that the US can play in furthering the two-state solution under the current circumstances.</i>
	Speaker: Shira Efron, Director of Research at Israel Policy Forum
4:30 - 5:00 PM	Load Luggage onto the bus + Walk to Farewell dinner
5:00 - 7:45 PM	Farewell Dinner
7:45 PM	Depart for Ben Gurion Airport