

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: Micael Lowry
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: July 1, 2023 Return: July 9, 2023
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: N/A **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Israel Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation Inc.
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: See Attachment.
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: 7/24/23

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: Robert Aderholt Date: July 21, 2023

Signature of Supervising Member: 

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

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

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

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

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: July 1, 2023 Date of Return: July 9, 2023

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Please find attached

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	\$6,856.52	\$2,523.20	\$1,152.10	\$3,437.59 breakdown attached
Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

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

Signature:  Date: 7/21/2023 | 06:22 PDT

Name: Arne Christenson Title: Managing Director

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)

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

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

Telephone: 202.639.5266 Email: achristenson@aiefdn.org

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

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



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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: July 1, 2023 Date of return: July 9, 2023
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.
b. Destination(s): Israel
c. City of return: Washington, D.C.
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 educating policy makers and opinion leaders about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: 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):
\$170
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
The trip is in Israel to educate participants about the U.S.-Israel relationship.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hotel Name: <u>Mamilla</u> | City: <u>Jerusalem</u> | Cost Per Night: <u>\$423</u> |
| Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u> | | |
| Hotel Name: <u>Sheraton</u> | City: <u>Tel Aviv</u> | Cost Per Night: <u>\$375</u> |
| Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u> | | |
| Hotel Name: <u>Magdala</u> | City: <u>Tiberias</u> | Cost Per Night: <u>\$249</u> |
| Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u> | | |
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	\$7,667.65	\$2,268	\$1,190
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$4,382.35	Please see addendum for breakdown
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a


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

19. Check only one:

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

20. I certify 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: 5/30/2023 | 08:54 PDT
 Name: Arne Christenson Title: Managing Director
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
 Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001
 Email: achristenson@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 639-5266

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



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Michael Lowry

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
American Israel Education Foundation Inc.

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Israel

4. a. Date of Departure: July 1, 2023 Date of Return: July 9, 2023

b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

If yes, list dates at personal expense: N/A

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): _____

(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:
N/A

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.

As chief of staff, this trip is an opportunity to learn about the Israel/U.S. relationship in greater detail, including foreign aid spending that is considered annually by the House Appropriations Committee of which Congressman Aderholt is a member. This trip also provides an opportunity to learn further about Israel's security needs and the current situation in the Middle East and what role the U.S. plays in that process.

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 05/31/2023

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
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, 2023

Mr. Michael Lowry
Office of the Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Lowry:

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, 2023, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

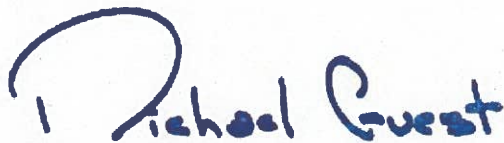
You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you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

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

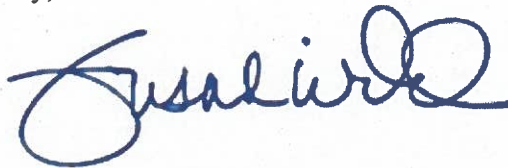
¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your 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,

Handwritten signature of Michael Guest in blue ink.

Michael Guest
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Susan Wild in blue ink.

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:rp

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 1-9, 2023**

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

1. Jake Dumas, Chief of Staff, Rep. Mike Flood (R-NE)
2. Justin German, Chief of Staff, Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)
3. Liana Guerra, Chief of Staff, Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)
4. Rebecca Keightley, Chief of Staff, Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)
5. Carolyn King, Chief of Staff, Rep. Robert Wittmann (R-VA)
6. Michael Lowry, Chief of Staff, Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)
7. Amy Soenksen, Chief of Staff, Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY)
8. Pete Spiro, Chief of Staff, Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
9. Lauren Toy, Chief of Staff, Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV)

5. Breakdown of other expenses

Other costs	Cost per person
Security	\$1,391.23
Speaker Fees	\$563.91
Room Rentals and Setup	\$372.72
Hotels for contract staff	\$366.01
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$324.24
Meals for contract staff/guests	\$202.11
Airport Assistance	\$102.14
Entrance Fees	\$33.93
Photography	\$33.48
Transportation for contract staff/speakers	\$23.63
Misc.	\$17.33
Tips	\$6.88
Total =	\$3,437.59

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
July 1-9, 2023

Itinerary

Monday, July 1, 2023

- 3:25 PM Amtrak departs Union Station
- 6:21 PM Amtrak arrives at Newark
- 11:50 PM El Al 26 departs Newark

Sunday July 2

- 5:15 – 8:00 PM El Al 26 arrives at Ben Gurion
Depart for Jerusalem
Check into the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 8:00-9:30 PM **Welcome and Orientation**
 - Darren Kendall, Southeast Political Director
 - Renee Sharon, Director of Content Development, AIEF Israel
 -at Kedma
- 9:30 PM Overnight at The Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 3, 2023

- 7:30-8:00 AM **Breakfast**
-at the hotel
- 8:00-9:30 AM **Pulse of The Nation**
with Matti Friedman
Author and Journalist
-at the Mamilla Hotel
- 9:15 AM Depart
- 9:30-12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem**
Part I: The Origin Stories
 - City of David
 - Robinson’s Arch/Southern Steps
 - Western Wall
 - Church of the Holy Sepulchre

12:30 – 1:15 PM	Lunch -at Golden Panorama
1:15 PM	Depart
1:45 – 3:00 PM	Strategic Survey of Jerusalem Part II: Watershed Moments: 1948, 1967, 2000 -at Gilo
3:00 PM	Depart, return to hotel
4:15 – 4:45 PM	Depart for Knesset En route briefing: Introduction to Israeli Politics
4:45 -6:00 PM	Israeli Democracy in Action: Meetings with Members of Knesset <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Honorable Gila Gamliel, Minister of Intelligence, Likud party ▪ The Honorable Idan Roll, Yesh Atid party -at the Knesset
6:30 PM	Depart
6:45 – 8:00 PM	The U.S.-Israel Relationship U.S. Embassy honors the Fourth of July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Honorable Isaac Herzog, President of Israel ▪ The Honorable Benjamin Netanayhu, Prime Minister of Israel ▪ His Excellency Thomas Nides, U.S. Ambassador to Israel -at the Israel Museum
8:00 PM	Depart
8:45-10:00 PM	Evening with Senior Knesset Staffers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gili Haushner, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Yair Lapid, Leader of the Opposition, Chairman, Yesh Atid ▪ Dr. Yeela Raanan. Parliamentary Advisor, The Honorable Mansour Abbas, Head of the United Arab List ▪ Ronni Tal, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Amir Ohana, Speaker of The Knesset, Likud -at Andalicia
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM **Breakfast**
-at the hotel
- 8:30 – 9:45 AM **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**
Conversation with Tal Becker
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the Mamilla Hotel
- 9:45 AM Depart
- 10:15 AM-12:30 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum
- 12:30 PM Depart for Tel Aviv
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM **Understanding Palestinian Politics**
Ibrahim Dalalshe
Executive Director, Horizon Center for Political Studies
-at the Sheraton Hotel
- 3:00 PM Check into Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
- 5:30 – 6:30 PM **The Origins of Zionism: Why a Jewish State?**
Conversation with Dr. Einat Wilf
-at the Sheraton Hotel
- 7:00 PM Depart
- 7:15 – 9:15 PM **Innovation Nation: Israel's Solutions to Global Challenges**
 - Galit Sasson, Water Engineer, Mekorot – National Water Company
 - Eytan Schwartz, Vice President of Global Strategy, BeeHero
 - Yotam Politzer, CEO, IsraAID-at Market Smoker
- 9:15 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

- 7:30-8:00 AM **Breakfast**
-at the hotel
- 8:00-9:15 AM **Strategic Regional Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau, PMO
-at the Sheraton Hotel

9:30 AM	Depart
11:00 AM-12:15 PM	Between Israel and Gaza: Erez Border Crossing Briefing with Lior Salama, Head of Foreign Relations Department, Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) Civil Administration -at the Erez Border Crossing
12:15 PM	Depart
12:45 – 1:15 PM	A Situational Analysis of the Gaza Terror Tunnels -at Kibbutz Kfar Aza Dinning Hall
1:15 – 2:00 PM	Lunch -at Kibbutz Kfar Aza
2:00 – 3:15 PM	Life in the Gaza Periphery Briefing with local resident Chen Abrahams -at Kibbutz Kfar Aza
3:15 PM	Depart
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Israel: A Nation of Resilience Meeting with Ayelet Shmuel Director, Sderot International Resilience Center -at The Founders Center
4:30 PM	Depart for Tel Aviv
3:45 – 4:15 PM	Visit to the Iron Dome
6:00 PM	Return to hotel
7:45 PM	Depart
8:15 – 10:00 PM	Israel: A Kaleidoscope of Cultures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Political and Regional Analyst ▪ Ashager Araro, Social Entrepreneur and Ethiopian-Israeli activist -at Darya
10:00 PM	Overnight at The Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, July 6, 2023

7:30-8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at the hotel
8:00 -9:00 AM	Deterring a Nuclear Iran: U.S. – Israel Strategic Interests Meeting with Yaakov Katz Author, Former Editor of <i>The Jerusalem Post</i> -at the Sheraton Hotel
9:15 AM	Depart
9:30 – 10:45 AM	The Abraham Accords Meeting with the Honorable Abderrahim Beyyoudh, Moroccan Ambassador to Israel -at Alexander Hotel
10:45 AM	Depart
10:45 – 11:30 AM	En route briefing: Settlements – Historic and Political Overview
11:30 -12:00 PM	Israel’s Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders Strategic briefing -at Alfei Menashe Overlook
12:00 PM	Depart
1:15-2:00 PM	Lunch -at Tanduka
2:00 PM	Depart
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Northern Border Concerns – Hezbollah Next Door Briefing with Miri Eisen, Associate, International Institute for Counterterrorism, Reichman University -at Misgav Am
4:30 PM	Depart
5:30 PM	Check into the Magdala Hotel, Sea of Galilee
7:00 PM-9:15 PM	Dinner and Discussion -at Decks
9:15 PM	Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Sea of Galilee

Friday, July 7, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at the hotel
8:00 AM	Depart
8:15 – 9:15 AM	Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee: The Town of Jesus -at Mount of Beatitudes
9:15 AM	Depart for Golan Heights
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Northern Border Concerns – Syria Part I: The Strategic High Grounds -at Mitzpeh Gadot
11:15 AM	Depart
11:45 AM–1:15 PM	Northern Border Concerns – Syria Part II: Iran and Russia Next Door Strategic Briefing with Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman, Northern Border Expert -at Ein Zivan
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Lunch -at Habokrim, Merom Golan
2:45 PM	Depart
3:15 – 4:15 PM	En route briefing: Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Syrian Refugee Crisis
6:00 PM	Return to hotel
7:00 PM	Depart for Sabbath Dinner
7:30 – 9:30 PM	Reflections on The Sabbath Eve in Jerusalem with the Klitsner family -at their home in Jerusalem
9:45 PM	Overnight at Orient Jerusalem

Saturday, July 8, 2023

7:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at Hotel Dining Room
7:30 AM	Depart for the Dead Sea Region
8:00 – 9:00 AM	En route briefing: Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor
9:00-11:30 AM	History and Geo-politics of the Roman Empire Guide visit to Masada National Archeological Park
11:30-12:00 PM	Depart
12:00-1:45 PM	Exploration of the Dead Sea Region Followed by lunch - at Hod
1:45 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
3:45 PM	Return to hotel, prepare for departure
5:30 PM	Depart for Dinner
6:15 PM-8:15 PM	Bringing it all Together: Closing Dinner - at Pizza Porto
8:15 PM	Depart for airport

Sunday, July 9, 2023

1:00 AM	El Al 25 departs Ben Gurion
5:45 AM	El Al 25 arrives at Newark
8:27 AM	Amtrak departs Newark
11:33 AM	Amtrak arrives Union Station

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 1-9, 2023**

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

As senior congressional staff to a U.S. Representative, these invitees are consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. These issues—along with issues more broadly related to the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel—will be explored during the AIEF Israel Seminar, which is focused on educating congressional staff on events throughout the region by providing on-the-ground context.

1. James Bernhard, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA)
2. Jake Dumas, Chief of Staff, Rep. Mike Flood (R-NE)
3. Justin German, Chief of Staff, Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)
4. Liana Guerra, Chief of Staff, Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)
5. Rebecca Keightley, Chief of Staff, Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)
6. Carolyn King, Chief of Staff, Rep. Robert Wittmann (R-VA)
7. Michael Lowry, Chief of Staff, Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)
8. Cesar Prieto, Chief of Staff, Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX)
9. Steve Ruhlen, Chief of Staff, Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)
10. Amy Soenksen, Chief of Staff, Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY)
11. Pete Spiro, Chief of Staff, Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
12. Lauren Toy, Chief of Staff, Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV)
13. Yardena Wolf, Chief of Staff, Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)

18. Breakdown of other expenses

Other costs	Cost per person
Security	\$1,352.94
Speaker Fees	\$882.35
Room Rentals and Setup	\$588.24
Hotels for contract staff	\$411.76
Meals for contract staff/guests	\$352.94
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$264.71
Security going to West Bank	\$205.88
Transportation for contract staff/speakers	\$117.65
Airport Assistance	\$70.59
Entrance Fees	\$52.94
Photography	\$41.18
Misc.	\$29.41
Tips	\$11.76
Total =	\$4,382.35

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
July 1-9, 2023**

Itinerary

Monday, July 1, 2023

Afternoon Amtrak departs Union Station

Afternoon Amtrak arrives at Newark

11:50 PM El Al 26 departs Newark

Sunday July 2

5:15 – 8:00 PM El Al 26 arrives at Ben Gurion
Depart for Jerusalem
Check into the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

8:00-9:30 PM **Welcome and Orientation**

- Darren Kendall, Southeast Political Director
- Renee Sharon, Director of Content Development, AIEF Israel

-at Touro

9:30 PM Overnight at The Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 3, 2023

7:30-8:00 AM **Breakfast**
-at the hotel

8:00-9:30 AM **Pulse of The Nation**
with Matti Friedman
Author and Journalist
-at the Mamilla Hotel

Matti Friedman is a renowned reporter with a career that has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow and Washington, D.C., and to conflicts in Israel in the Caucasus. Mr. Friedman is a dynamic and insightful speaker who provides a journalist's perspective on how Israel's story is told by the international media, and how that media portrayal impacts the stories taking place on the ground.

9:15 AM Depart

9:30-12:30 PM

Strategic Survey of Jerusalem

Part I: The Origin Stories

- City of David
- Robinson's Arch/Southern Steps
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The City of David

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

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

12:45-1:45 PM

Lunch

-at Happy Fish, Mamilla Hotel

3:30-4:30 PM

Introduction to Israeli Politics

with Haviv Rettig Gurr

Senior Contributing Analyst, *The Times of Israel*

-at the Mamilla Hotel

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Haviv Rettig Gurr will explain how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

4:45 PM

Depart for Knesset

5:00-6:15 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action: Meetings with Members of Knesset**
▪ The Honorable Gila Gamliel, Minister of Intelligence, Likud party
▪ Idan Roll, Yesh Atid party
-at the Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members of the Knesset from different parties, to hear their perspective on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. The Honorable Gila Gamliel, Minister of Intelligence, is from Bibi Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party; and The Honorable Idan Roll represents Yair Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid party.

6:30 PM Depart

7:00-8:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem**
Part II: Watershed Moments: 1948, 1967, 2000
-at Gilo

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

8:00 PM Depart

8:15-9:45 PM **Dinner with Senior Knesset Staffers**
-at Jacko's

During this dinner the participants will have the opportunity to hear from their counterparts in Israel – staffers serving different members of the Israeli Knesset. The discussion will explore the difference between the American and Israeli political systems; the role of political staffers; and the views of the various Knesset members they serve on current issues affecting the region.

9:45 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 AM **Breakfast**
-at the hotel

8:30 – 9:45 AM **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**
Conversation with Tal Becker
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the Mamilla Hotel

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.

9:45 AM Depart

10:15 AM-12:30 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

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

12:30 PM Depart for Ramallah

1:45 – 3:00 PM **A View from the Palestinian Authority**
The Honorable Jibril Rajoub
Secretary General, Fatah Central Committee
-Ramallah

During each seminar, we invite a representative of the Palestinian Authority to address the group. Mr. Rajoub 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

5:00 PM Check into Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

6:45 – 8:00 PM **The Origins of Zionism: Why a Jewish State?**
Conversation with Dr. Einat Wilf
-at the Sheraton Hotel

Dr. Einat Wilf is a leading intellectual and original thinker on matters of foreign policy, economics, educations, and Israel and the Jewish people. A member of the Israeli Parliament from 2010-2013, Dr. Wilf is considered one of Israel's most articulate representatives on the

international stage. She is the author of six books that explore key issues in Israel Society. She will discuss the origins of Zionism, and the importance of a Jewish State.

8:00 PM Depart

8:15 – 10:00 PM **Innovation Nation: Israel's Solutions to Global Challenges**

- Galit Sasson, Water Engineer, Mekorot – National Water Company
- Eytan Schwartz, Vice President of Global Strategy, BeeHero
- Rotem Arad, Director of Business Development, H2Pro
-at Animar

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. This session will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. Our three speakers represent companies in the water, agriculture, and environmental space.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

7:30-8:00 AM **Breakfast**
-at the hotel

8:00-9:15 AM **Strategic Regional Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau, PMO
-at the Sheraton Hotel

In order to understand the strategic threats facing Israel, participants must understand the unique situation facing Israel at the borders with the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, all Iranian proxies. This briefing will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

9:30 AM Depart

10:00 – 11:00 AM **En route briefing: A Situational Analysis of the Gaza Terror Tunnels**

During the 2014 Gaza conflict, Hamas used underground tunnels to terrorize Israel's civilian population. On April 16, 2016, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) discovered a new two-kilometers-long, concrete tunnel from the southern part of the Gaza Strip into Israel, near the border between Israel and Egypt. The discovery was made possible through the use of a new tunnel detection technology. Given the similar threats facing the United States, including on the Korean Peninsula, the U.S.-Mexico border and in various locations in the Middle East, this breakthrough technology holds significant potential for the United States.

11:00 AM-12:00 PM **Between Israel and Gaza: Erez Border Crossing**
Briefing with Lior Salama, Head of Foreign Relations Department,
Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT)
Civil Administration
-at the Erez Border Crossing

The Erez Crossing is located between the Gaza Strip and Israel, at the northern end of the Gaza Strip, between the Israeli kibbutz of Erez and the Palestinian town of Beit Hanoun. It is currently the sole crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel by land, and is the second option for Gazans when the Rafah Crossing with Egypt is closed. During this briefing, Mr. Salama will discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's efforts to improve it; and the process of getting from Gaza into Israel.

12:00 PM Depart

12:30 – 1:15 PM **Lunch**
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza Dinning Hall

1:15 – 2:30 PM **Life in the Gaza Periphery**
Briefing with local resident Chen Abrahams
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Participants will visit the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, and learn about the unique challenges faced by this area. 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. More recently, Hamas has built dozens of terror tunnels to attack Israeli civilians. The delegation will meet with local residents to better understand the reality of living kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, and how communities have sought to cope, both physically and psychologically.

2:30 PM Depart

2:45 – 3:45 PM **Israel: A Nation of Resilience**
Meeting with Ayelet Shmuel
Director, Sderot International Resilience Center
-at The Founders Center

Residents of the Gaza Envelope are consistently exposed to significant trauma due to rocket fire from the Gaza strip. Israel has developed a variety of tools to help young people deal with PTSD, including resiliency centers. The visit to this center will focus on creative solutions available for residents today. The resiliency tools developed in Israel have potential to help other populations, including in the United States.

3:45 PM Depart

3:45 – 4:15 PM **Visit to the Iron Dome**

More than a decade ago, Israel developed Iron Dome to protect its citizens from persistent and increasingly dangerous rockets fired by Iranian-backed terrorists. Since being deployed, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 90 percent of the rockets it has targeted—preventing war, saving countless lives, and reducing physical and psychological damage. Leaders in Congress have recognized the importance of Israel’s missile defense system and have allocated more than \$1.6 billion for this technology. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an Iron Dome site and speak with the soldiers responsible for its operation.

4:15 PM Depart

5:45 PM Return to hotel

7:45 PM Depart

8:15 – 10:00 PM **Israel: A Kaleidoscope of Cultures**

- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Political and Regional Analyst
 - Ashager Araro, Social Entrepreneur and Ethiopian-Israeli activist
 - Alex Rif, CEO of 1 Million Lobby and Immigrant Activist
- at Market Smoker

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

10:00 PM Overnight at The Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, July 6, 2023

7:30-8:00 AM **Breakfast on own**
-at the hotel

8:00 -9:00 AM **Deterring a Nuclear Iran: U.S. – Israel Strategic Interests**
Meeting with Yaakov Katz
Author, Former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*
-at the Sheraton Hotel

Ya’akov Katz is the former editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, Israel's most-read English news website and best-selling English newspaper. He previously served for close to a decade as the paper's military reporter and defense analyst. He is the author of “Shadow Strike: Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power” and co-author of two books: “Weapon Wizards - How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower” and “Israel vs. Iran - The Shadow War.” During this session he will discuss the strategic interest of the United States and Israel in preventing a nuclear Iran.

9:15 AM Depart

9:30 AM **The Abraham Accords**
Meeting with the Honorable Abderrahim Beyyoudh,
Moroccan Ambassador to Israel
-at Alexander Hotel

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, including – most recently - the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan – under the Abraham Accords. This session will explore the Abraham Accords, and prospects for regional peace following these historic agreements.

10:45 AM Depart

10:45 – 11:30 AM **En route briefing: Settlements – Historic and Political Overview**

Israeli settlement policy is one of the more complex issues in the ongoing negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. During this en route briefing, the guide will discuss Israeli settlement policy, the differing views among Israeli citizens, and the role settlements play in the current political climate.

11:30 -12:00 PM **Israel's Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders**
Strategic briefing
-at Alfei Menashe Overlook

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.

12:00 PM Depart

1:15-2:00 PM **Lunch**
-at Walla Shawarma

2:00 PM Depart

2:00 – 3:00 PM

En route briefing: The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee

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 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.

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

3:00 -3:30 PM

Northern Border Concerns – Lebanon

Part I: The Hezbollah Tunnel Threat

-at Zarit

Virtually all 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, the delegation will have the opportunity to go into a Hezbollah tunnel discovered by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), to see firsthand the threat this terrorist army poses to Israel and the region. Hezbollah has created a network of tunnels hundreds of kilometers long to enable terrorists to stage an infiltration attack on military and civilian targets in northern Israel. The IDF conducted Operation Northern Shield between December 2018 and January 2019, to locate and destroy the tunnels. In January 2020, the IDF began installing a series of underground sensors along the northern border to detect any new subterranean tunnels being dug into Israeli territory from Lebanon. Participants will hear from an IDF officer who will guide them through the opening of the tunnel, and share the anti-tunneling technology Israel is using to detect new tunnels.

- 3:30 PM Depart
- 3:45 – 4:30 PM **Northern Border Concerns – Lebanon**
Part II: Hezbollah Next Door
Briefing with Sarit Zehavi

Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi

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. Lt. Col. Zehavi will brief the delegation on security threats coming from the Lebanese border, and the role Iran plays in supporting Hezbollah terrorism against Israel. As a lifelong resident of the North, she will also share her experiences living on the border with Lebanon.

- 4:30 PM Depart
- 5:30 PM Check into the Magdala Hotel, Sea of Galilee
- 7:00 PM-8:30 PM **Dinner and Discussion**
-at Magdalena

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

- 8:30 PM Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Sea of Galilee

Friday, July 7, 2023

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM **Breakfast on own**
-at the hotel
- 8:00 AM Depart
- 8:15 – 9:00 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee: The Town of Jesus**
-at Mount of Beatitudes

As part of the seminar’s focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the

Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. The Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, is the most studied and read speech of any religion in history.

- 9:00 AM Depart for Golan Heights
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM **Northern Border Concerns – Syria**
Part I: The Strategic High Grounds
-at Mitzpeh Gadot
- 10:45 AM Depart
- 11:15 – 12:45 PM **Northern Border Concerns – Syria**
Part II: Iran and Russia Next Door
Strategic Briefing with
Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman, Northern Border Expert
-at Ein Zivan

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 – 2:00 PM **Ethics in the IDF**
Lunch with soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)
-at Habokrim, Merom Golan

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

- 2:15 PM Depart

- 5:30 PM Return to hotel
- 7:00 PM Depart for Sabbath Dinner
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM **Reflections on The Sabbath Eve**
with Tamar and Tani Benovitz
-at their home 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.

- 9:45 PM Depart
Overnight at Orient Jerusalem

Saturday, July 8, 2023

- 7:00 AM **Breakfast on own**
-at Hotel Dining Room
- 7:30 AM Depart for the Dead Sea Region
- 8:00 – 9:00 AM **En route briefing: Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor**

Our tour guide will spend approximately one hour on the drive from Jerusalem to Masada – including the Jericho road – to discuss 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.

- 9:00-11:30 AM **History and Geo-politics of the Roman Empire**
Guide visit to Masada National Archeological Park

Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world. Masada was the site of the last

stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. The delegation will visit the magnificent ancient excavations; learn the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; and discuss the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

11:30-12:00 PM Depart

12:00-1:45 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
Followed by lunch
- at Hod

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 this desert region, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians. For decades, Israel has been developing the agricultural potential of the desert. 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." 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 in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

1:45 PM Depart for Jerusalem

3:45 PM Return to hotel, prepare for departure

5:30 PM Depart for Dinner

6:15 PM-8:00 PM **Bringing it all Together: Closing Dinner**
- at Pizza Porto

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.

8:15 PM Depart for airport

Sunday, July 9, 2023

1:00 AM El Al 25 departs Ben Gurion

5:45 AM El Al 25 arrives at Newark

Morning Amtrak departs Newark

Morning Amtrak arrives Union Station