



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: Seamus M. McKeon
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 7-29-2023 Return: 8-6-2023
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Washington Destination: Israel Return City: Washington
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
Survey of policy-relevant locations in Israel. Meetings with relevant members of Israeli and Palestinian government, defense, and civil society.
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 did not join the optional event from 6:00 AM-7:00 AM on Friday, August 4, because I chose to rest more to be prepared for the day's other activities.

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

Signature of Traveler: Date: 8/21/2023

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: Jimmy Bonetta Date: 8-21-2023

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 29, 2023 Date of Return: August 6, 2023

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Seamus McKeon

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	\$4,388.13	\$2,502.62	\$1,028.01	\$4,566.59 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: 8/17/2023 | 06:14 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.

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

July 26, 2023

Mr. Seamus McKeon
Office of the Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Mckeon:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for July 29 to August 6, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and loops around the first few letters of the name.

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "S" being particularly large and stylized.

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:rp



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TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Seamus M. McKeon
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 29, 2023 Date of Return: August 6, 2023
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.
Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
I am a legislative assistant handling issues including immigration, refugee policy, and general government. This trip will include educational events relating to these topics as they pertain to the U.S.-Israel relationship, which is a priority for my employer, Rep. Jimmy Panetta.
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 06/28/2023



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 Inc. (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 29, 2023 Date of return: August 6, 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: _____)
- 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: Mamilla City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$412
Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability
- Hotel Name: Sheraton City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: \$402
Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability
- Hotel Name: Magdala City: Tiberias Cost Per Night: \$249
Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability
17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking 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	\$3,933.94	\$2,289.00	\$1,190.00
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	\$4,966.67	please find breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a


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

19. Check only one:

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

20. I certify 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: 6/28/2023 | 14:13 EDT

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)

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

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

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

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 29 – August 6, 2023

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

As 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. Hadar Azari, Operations Director, Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
2. Morgan Cintron, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)
3. Brad Decker, Legislative Director, Rep. Keith Self (R-TX)
4. Ryan Dilworth, Legislative Director, Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX)
5. Eric Haley, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX)
6. Jay Kronzer, Legislative Director, Rep. Mark Green (R-TN)
7. Kathy Mahan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)
8. Seamus McKeon, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
9. Caitriona Rafferty, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL)
10. Ian Spears, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)

18. Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per person
Security	\$1,533.33
Speaker Fees	\$1,000.00
Room Rentals	\$666.67
Hotels for contract staff	\$466.67
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$400.00
Tour Guide	\$300.00
Security - West Bank	\$233.33
Transportation for contract staff & speakers	\$133.33
Airport Assistance	\$80.00
Entrance Fees	\$60.00
Photography	\$46.67
Misc.	\$33.33
Tips	\$13.33
Total per person =	\$4,966.67

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 29 – August 6, 2023**

Post-trip Addendum

4. List of Invitees

1. Hadar Arazi, Operations Director, Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
2. Morgan Cintron, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)
3. Brad Decker, Legislative Director, Rep. Keith Self (R-TX)
4. Ryan Dilworth, Legislative Director, Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX)
5. Jay Kronzer, Legislative Director, Rep. Mark Green (R-TN)
6. Kathy Mahan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)
7. Seamus McKeon, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
8. Caitriona Rafferty, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL)
9. Ian Spears, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)

5. Breakdown of other expenses

Other costs	Cost per person
Security	\$1,821.94
Speaker Fees	\$925.67
Hotels for contract staff	\$501.34
Room Rentals and Setup	\$396.04
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$358.95
Meals for contract staff/guests	\$259.39
Airport Assistance	\$196.88
Photography	\$54.39
Transportation for contract staff/speakers	\$24.16
Misc.	\$16.38
Entrance Fees	\$11.45
Total =	\$4,566.59

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 29 – August 6, 2023**

Itinerary

Saturday, July 29, 2023

10:55 PM United #90 departs Newark Airport

Sunday, July 30, 2023

4:05 PM United #90 arrives at Ben-Gurion Airport

4:45-5:45 PM Transfer to Jerusalem

5:45 PM Check in to the Mamilla Hotel

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-9:30 PM

Setting the Stage

Welcome and Orientation with:

- Deryn Sousa, Southwest Political Director, Houston, TX
- Penny Katsch, Assistant Director for Policy and Administration, Jerusalem

-at Touro

9:30 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 31, 2023

7:30-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel, main dining hall

8:00-9:00 AM

Pulse of the Nation

Coffee with Herb Keinon

Senior Contributing Editor, *The Jerusalem Post*

-at Mamilla Hotel

9:15 AM Depart for Old City of Jerusalem

9:45 AM-12:45 PM	Historical Survey of Jerusalem: The Historic and Holy Basin Guided survey of the Old City of Jerusalem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City of David ▪ Robinson's Arch ▪ Western Wall ▪ Church of the Holy Sepulchre
12:45-1:15 PM	Depart for lunch
1:15-1:45 PM	Lunch -at Eucalyptus
1:45-2:45 PM	Israeli Political Primer Conversation with Haviv Rettig Gur Senior Analyst at <i>Times of Israel</i> -at Eucalyptus
2:45 PM	Depart for Gilo
3:15- 4:15 PM	Strategic Survey of Jerusalem: Post-1967 Neighborhoods -at Gilo
4:15 PM	Depart for hotel
4:45-5:30 PM	Change attire
6:00 – 6:45 PM	A View from the Coalition Conversation with The Honorable Boaz Bismuth Member of Knesset, Likud party -at Mamilla hotel
7:00 PM	Depart for dinner
7:30-9:15 PM	Dinner -at Andalucia
9:15 PM	Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast on own - at the hotel, main dining hall
8:00 AM	Depart for Yad Vashem
8:30-10:30 PM	The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum
10:45 AM	Depart for the Vert Hotel
11:15-12:15 PM	Overcoming Obstacles to Peace Conversation with Dr. Tal Becker Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs -at the Vert Hotel/ meeting room
12:15-12:45 PM	Lunch -at the Vert Hotel
12:45-1:45 PM	Understanding Palestinian Politics Conversation with Ibrahim Dalalsh Executive Director, Horizon Center for Political Studies -at the Vert Hotel
2:00 PM	Depart for Ramallah
3:00-4:00 PM	A View from the Palestinian Authority Conversation Mr. Ziad Hab Al Reeh Minister of Interior Palestinian Authority -at PLO Headquarters
4:00 PM	Depart for Tel Aviv
5:30 PM	Check in to the Sheraton Hotel
5:30 PM	Break
7:00-9:30 PM	Israeli Innovation Solving Global Challenges Dinner with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Danielle Abraham, Executive Director, Volcani International▪ Eran Pollak, CEO, N-DRIP -at Studio 5
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, main dining hall

8:00-9:30 AM **Regional Strategic Threats**
Briefing with Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director of the Counter Terrorism Bureau, Prime Minister's Office
-at the hotel, Studio 5 (AV)

9:45 AM Depart for the Gaza Envelope

10:45-11:15 AM **Kibbutz Kfar Aza**
Gaza overlook briefing

11:15 AM-12:30 AM **Life in the Gaza Periphery**
Walking tour with local resident Chen Abrahams
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

12:30 PM Walk to private dining room

12:45-1:45 PM Lunch
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

1:45-2:45 PM **Overcoming the Challenges of Life in the Gaza Periphery**
Conversation with Ayelet Shmuel
Director, Sderot Resilience Center
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

2:45 PM Depart for Givim

3:00-3:30 PM **Missile Defense: U.S.-Israel Strategic Cooperation**
Visit Iron Dome battery
-at Givim

3:30 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

4:45-6:15 PM Return to hotel and break

6:15-7:15 PM **Fruits of Peace: The Abraham Accords**
Conversation with Ksenia Svetlova
Executive Director, ROPES
-at the Sheraton Hotel

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM **The Israeli Mosaic**
Dinner with

- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Political and Regional Analyst
- Ashager Araro, Founder of Ethiopian Israeli Heritage Center
- Ofer Erez, LGBTQ Activist

-at Darya

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

Thursday, August 3, 2023

7:15-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel

8:00-9:15 AM **Iran's Nuclear Program: Status Update**
Conversation with Yaakov Katz
Author, Former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*
-at the hotel, Studio 5

9:30 AM Depart

10:30-11:00 AM **Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns**
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

11:15 AM Depart for lunch

12:00-1:30 PM **Lunch**
-at Tanduka

1:30 PM Depart for Zarit

2:00 – 3:00 PM En route briefing: **The Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee**

3:00 – 3:30 PM **Visit to Hezbollah Terror Tunnel**
-at Zarit

5:00 PM Depart for Mt. Adir

4:45 – 5:45 PM **Israel's Northern Border Concerns I: Lebanon and Hezbollah**
Briefing with Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus
Former IDF International Spokesperson
-at Mt. Adir

6:00 PM Depart for hotel

7:00 PM	Check in to the Magdala hotel
8:00 PM	Depart for dinner
8:15-10:00 PM	Reflections on the Week Dinner and discussion - at Decks
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

Friday, August 4, 2023

6:00 AM-7:00 AM	Magdala's Ancient Ruins (optional) with Father Kelly, Vice Director, Magdala -at Magdala Hotel
7:15-8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at the hotel, main dining hall
8:00 AM	Depart for Christian sites
8:30-9:30 AM	Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee Survey of Capernaum
9:45 AM	Depart for the Golan Heights
10:45 AM-12:15 PM	Israel's Northern Border Concerns II: Syria Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria With Capt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman -at Ein Zivan
12:15 PM	Depart for lunch
12:30-2:00 PM	Minority Rights in Israel Lunch with Mohammad Darawshe Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Living Givat Haviva Educational Institute -at Habokrim
2:15 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
5:15 PM	Check in to the Mamilla Hotel
7:00 PM	Depart for dinner

7:30 - 10:00 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem**
Traditional Sabbath evening dinner with Daniel Taub
Director of Strategy and Planning, Yad Hanadiv Foundation
- at his home in Jerusalem

10:00 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, August 5, 2023

8:30 -9:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

9:00 AM Depart

9:15 - 9:45 AM **Visit to the Garden Tomb**
-at Garden Tomb

10:00 AM Depart

10:00 – 10:45 AM En route briefing: **Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor**

10:45 AM-12:00 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
-at Kalia Beach

12:00-1:00 PM **Lunch**
-at Kalia Beach

1:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

2:30-6:00 PM Return to hotel, prepare for departure

Checkout

6:00-7:30 PM **Closing Dinner: Bringing It All Together**
-at the Mamilla Hotel

7:30 PM Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

11:25 PM United #91 departs Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, August 6, 2023

4:20 AM United #91 arrives at Newark Airport

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 29 – August 6, 2023**

Itinerary

Staff accompanying trip:

- Julie Peretz, Israel Seminars Director, AIPAC¹
- Penny Katsch, Assistant Director for Policy and Administration, AIPAC²-AIEF
- Daniella Geffen, Tour Guide (self)

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Afternoon	Amtrak train departs Union Station
Afternoon	Amtrak train arrives Newark Airport
10:55 PM	United #90 departs Newark

Sunday, July 30, 2023

4:20 PM	Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport
5:45-6:45 PM	Transfer to Jerusalem
6:45-7:45 PM	Check in to the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner

^{1 2} AIEF, as a 501(c)(3) public charity, pays directly for all costs associated with congressional travel. AIEF does not have any of its own employees; however, through a shared services relationship with AIPAC, AIEF shares in the cost of employees who engage in educational and charitable work pursuant to AIEF's mission. This would include all AIPAC staff from the Washington D.C. office (and staff from AIPAC-AIEF Jerusalem office) who accompany the trip. (Other attendees on the trip include the tour guide, security team, and bus driver.) Thus, any AIPAC employees who participate in congressional travel are operating as representatives of AIEF pursuant to the shared services relationship. Please note that AIEF policy prohibits the involvement of registered AIPAC lobbyists in the planning, arranging, conducting, or attending any component of AIEF congressional trips in contravention of the House or Senate ethics rules.

8:00-9:30 PM **Setting the Stage**
Welcome and Orientation with Penny Katsch,
Assistant Director for Policy and Administration
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

9:30 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 31, 2023

7:30-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel, main dining hall

8:00-9:00 AM **Pulse of the Nation**
Coffee with Herb Keinon
Senior Contributing Editor, *The Jerusalem Post*
- at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Herb Keinon is the Senior Contributing Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, the leading English daily newspaper in Israel. Mr. Keinon will provide staff with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

9:15 Depart for Old City of Jerusalem

9:45-12:45 AM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem: The Historic and Holy Basin**
Guided survey of the Old City of Jerusalem:
▪ City of David
▪ Robinson's Arch
▪ Western Wall
▪ Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Throughout its 4,000-year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

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.

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.

12:45-1:15 PM Depart for Joy

1:15-1:45 PM **Lunch**
-at Joy

1:45-2:45 PM **Israeli Political Primer**
Conversation with Haviv Rettig Gur, Senior Analyst, *Times of Israel*
-at Joy

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Haviv Rettig Gur 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.

2:45 PM Depart for Gilo

3:15-4:15 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem: Post-1967 Neighborhoods**

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.

4:15 PM Depart for hotel

4:45-5:30 Break

5:30-6:15 **A View from the Opposition**
Conversation with The Honorable Sharren Haskel
Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

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 Sharren Haskel represents Yair Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid party; which is currently in the opposition.

6:30-7:15 **A View from the Coalition**
Conversation with The Honorable Nir Barkat
Chair, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Likud party
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

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 Nir Barkat represents Bibi Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, and the current coalition.

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:45-9:15 PM Dinner
-at Jacko's

9:15 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, main dining hall

8:00 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

8:30-10:30 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Visit to 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.

10:45 AM Depart for the Vert Hotel

11:15-12:15 PM **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**
Conversation with Dr. Tal Becker
Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the Vert 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.

12:15-12:45 Lunch
-at the Vert Hotel

12:45-1:45 **Understanding Palestinian Politics**
Conversation with Ibrahim Dalalsha
Executive Director, Horizon Center for Political Studies
-at the Vert Hotel

Ibrahim Dalalsha is the director of Horizon Center for Political Studies and Media Outreach, a private Palestinian think tank and consultancy firm in Ramallah. The center compiles political, legal, security and economic studies and other topics related to the Israeli -Palestinian conflict. Dalalsha has played an integral role in peace negotiations across the Middle East. His former career as a senior Palestinian political advisor at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem stretched across two decades. During this session he will provide an insider's view of the Palestinian political landscape.

2:00 PM Depart for Ramallah

3:00-4:00 PM **A View from the Palestinian Authority**
Conversation with Ziad Abu Amr
Deputy Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority
-at PLO Headquarters

During each seminar, we invite a representative of the Palestinian Authority to address the group. Deputy Prime Minister Ziad Abu Amr 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.

4:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

5:30 PM Check in to the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

5:30 PM Break

7:00-9:00 PM **Israeli Innovation Solving Global Challenges**

Dinner with:

- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director, Volcani International Partnership
 - Lauren Guy, CTO & Co-Founder, Asterra
- at Studio 5

One of the major tenets of Judaism is “Tikkun Olam”, to “repair the world”. This dinner will focus on representatives from organizations seeking to make the world a better place in various sectors. This evening will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. The delegation will be meeting with innovators that are global leaders in hi-tech agriculture, and artificial intelligence.

9:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, main dining hall

8:00-9:30 AM **Regional Strategic Threats**
Briefing with Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director of the Counter Terrorism Bureau, Prime Minister’s Office
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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.

9:45 AM Depart for the Gaza Envelope

10:45-11:15 AM **The Israel-Gaza Border**
Strategic survey at Gaza overlook

The tour guide will provide an overview of the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip. During this briefing, she will discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's efforts to improve it; and the process of getting from Gaza into Israel.

11:15 AM-12:30 AM **Life in the Gaza Periphery**
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.

12:45-1:45 PM Lunch
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

1:45-2:45 PM **A Nation of Resilience**
Conversation with Ayelet Shmuel, Director, Sderot Resilience Center
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

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. Ayelet Shmuel, Director of the Sderot Resilience Center, will discuss creative solutions available for residents today. The resiliency tools developed in Israel have potential to help other populations, including in the United States.

2:45 PM Depart for Ibim

2:55-3:15 PM **Missile Defense: U.S.-Israel Strategic Cooperation**
Visit Iron Dome battery
-at Givim

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.

3:15 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

4:45-5:45 PM Return to hotel and break

5:45-6:45 PM **The Foundations of Modern Zionism: Why a Jewish State**
Conversation with Dr. Einat Wilf,
Former Member of Knesset and author
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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.

7:00 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM **The Israeli Mosaic**
Dinner with

- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Director of Alumni Relations and Tourism, ROPES
- Ashager Araro, Founder of Ethiopian Israeli Heritage Center
- Hila Peer, Chairwoman at Aguda, The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel

-at Darya

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

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel

Thursday, August 3, 2023

7:15-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel

8:00-9:15 AM **Iran's Nuclear Program: Status Update**
Conversation with Ambassador Joshua Zarka
Deputy Director of Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs formulates and implements Israel's foreign policy. During this session, Deputy Director of Strategic Affairs Joshua Zarka will focus on Israel's policy toward Iran. This includes the threat of Iran's nuclear program, as well as their support for terror groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

9:30 AM Depart

10:30-11:00 AM **Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns**
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

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

11:15 AM Depart for lunch

12:45-2:00 PM **Minority Rights in Israel**
Lunch with Mohammad Darawshe
Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Living
Givat Haviva Educational Institute
-at Tanduka

Approximately 22% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all citizens. Our speaker, Mohammad Darawshe is currently the director of planning, equality and shared living at Givat Haviva Educational Institute—a non-profit organization founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in Israel. His focus throughout his career is promoting

coexistence and quality among Israel's Jewish and Arab-Palestinians citizens. He will discuss the current challenges facing minority groups in Israel, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

2:15 PM Depart for Zarit

3:00 – 4:00 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.

4:30-5:00 PM **Visit to Hezbollah Terror Tunnel**
-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.

5:00 PM Depart for Mt. Adir

5:30-6:15 PM **Israel's Northern Border Concerns I: Lebanon and Hezbollah**
Briefing with Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus
Former IDF International Spokesperson
-at Mt. Adir

Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus is the Former International Spokesperson of the Israel Defense Forces. In this role, he directed and oversaw the implementation of the IDF's international media efforts in traditional and social media. Conricus served in the IDF for 24 years as a combat commander in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, as a military diplomat, foreign relations expert and international spokesperson. He was the first IDF officer to be seconded to the UN Headquarters in New York where he provided strategic analysis for UN peacekeeping. He has extensive hands-on experience with international media, think-tanks, NGOs, legislators, militaries, industries and institutions. He will brief the delegation on security threats coming from the Lebanese border, and the role Iran plays in supporting Hezbollah terrorism against Israel.

6:30 PM Depart for hotel

7:30-8:00 PM Check in to the Magdala hotel, Tiberias

8:00 PM Depart for dinner

8:15-10:00 PM **Reflections on the Week**
Dinner
- at Decks

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.

10:00 Overnight at the Magdala hotel, Tiberias

Friday, August 4, 2023

6:00 AM-7:00 AM **Optional: Magdala's Ancient Ruins**
with Father Kelly, Vice Director, Magdala
-at Magdala Hotel

The ancient town of Magdala was established in the Hellenistic Period and grew to a thriving fishing village by the time the Romans invaded the Galilee in 67 AD. Situated on the shores of the Galilee along a major commercial trade route, the Via Maris, and on the way from Nazareth to Capernaum, Magdala was an active city filled with fishermen, shopkeepers and townspeople. Providentially uncovered in 2009, archaeological discoveries indicate the presence of an observant Jewish Community in Magdala, as is evidenced in its First Century Synagogue. This synagogue is one of seven in the world and the best preserved today. In the center of the synagogue archeologists found the Magdala Stone, a discovery they have quoted to be, "one of the most significant finds in the past 50 years." It is in Magdala where Jesus likely taught the multitudes and healed the afflicted including a woman who made her hometown famous, Mary Magdalene.

7:15-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel, main dining hall

8:00 AM Depart for Christian sites

8:30-10:15 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**
Survey of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee

- Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount
- Capernaum – Jesus' Village

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

10:30 AM Depart for the Golan Heights

11:15 AM-1:15 PM **Israel's Northern Border Concerns II: Syria**
Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria
With Capt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman
-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.

1:15 PM Depart for lunch

1:30-2:30 PM **Lunch**
-at Har Café

2:45 PM Depart for Jerusalem

3:00 – 4:00 PM **En route briefing: Israeli-Jordanian Strategic Cooperation**

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. Following our briefing on Israel's border with Syria, our guide will address how threats in the region impact Jordan internally, as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

5:00-6:45 PM Check in to the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

7:45 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem**
Traditional Sabbath evening dinner

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews

worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple. The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, August 5, 2023

7:00-7:30 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

7:30 AM Depart

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- 10:30 AM **History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire**
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada

Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world. Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. 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.

10:30 AM Depart for the Dead Sea

11:15 AM-2:00 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
Lunch
-at Herbert Samuel hotel

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.

2:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

3:30-6:00 PM Return to hotel
Prepare for checkout

6:00-7:30 PM **Closing Dinner: Bringing It All Together**
Closing dinner
-at the hotel

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.

7:30 PM Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

11:25 PM United #91 departs Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, August 6, 2023

4:20 AM United #91 arrives at Newark Airport

6:00 AM United #4184 departs Newark Airport

7:19 AM United #4184 arrives at Washington, D.C. (DCA)