

# 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](mailto: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: Harry Fones
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ OR  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 5/29/2024 Return: 6/7/2024  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ OR  None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: Israel Return City: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Foundation for Defense of Democracies
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: I attended a number of meetings related to the the security of Israel in post October 7th conflict, to better learn how the the attacks and war afterwards are being covered.
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: Harry Fones Digitally signed by Harry Fones Date: 2024.06.24 12:55:09 -04'00' Date: 6/24/24

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: Andy Ogles Date: 6/24/24

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.**

- Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), DL Revocable Trust Dated February 21, 2018, co-Trustees David Alan Barish and Linda Shemtob Jayaram
- Travel Destination(s): Israel
- Date of Departure: May 29, 2024 Date of Return: June 7, 2024
- Name(s) of Traveler(s): Harry Fones

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

- 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	\$2,345.93	\$3,370.00	\$1,236.99	\$233.24 (Entrance fees \$55 (Yad Vashem, Kalia Beach, and Qaser el Yahud), insurance \$90, refreshments during sessions and bus snacks \$88.24)
Accompanying Family Member				

**\*\*Kindly see below addendum for cost explanations.**

- 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: 6/20/24

Name: Clifford D. May Title: Founder and President

Organization: The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)

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

Address: 1800 M St NW, Suite 800S, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: 202-368-0539 Email: swalsh@fdd.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.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

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

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

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

Name of Traveler: Harry Fones

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

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

Signature: Harry Fones

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep Andy Ogles

Office Address: 151 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202-961-0485

Email Address of Contact Person: Harry.fones@mail.house.gov

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

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

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

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

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Harry Fones
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Foundation for Defense of Democracies
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: May 29, 2024 Date of Return: June 7, 2024  
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, invitation, 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.**  
This trip is focused on the intersection between national security and how the media covers it.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Learning more about this issue will help me craft better messaging as communications director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Rep Ogles when national security news cycles arise.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in 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 c

Signature of Employing Member: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 4/29/2024

# 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's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies

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, services, or in-kind assistance 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: DL Revocable Trust Dated February 21, 2018, co-Trustees

David Alan Barish and Linda Shemtob Jayaram

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: May 29, 2024 Date of Return: June 7, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Israel

c. City of return: Newark, NJ

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. \_\_\_\_\_
- 

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 the statement is true by clicking the 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:  
 \*\*see additional page Q12 \_\_\_\_\_

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13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: Jeep ride in the North, Boat briefing in the North)
  - b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 

14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
  - b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
    - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

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

Hotel Name:	<u>Mamilla Hotel</u>	City:	<u>Jerusalem</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$435</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>Close proximity to site visits and meetings</u>				
Hotel Name:	<u>David's Harp Hotel Galilee</u>	City:	<u>Tiberias</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$265</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>Close proximity to site visits and meetings</u>				
Hotel Name:	<u>Royal Beach</u>	City:	<u>Tel Aviv</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$375</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>Close proximity to site visits and meetings</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.*

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	\$2,188.96	\$2,990.00	\$1,098.00
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$208.18	Entrance fees, activities, insurance, beverages, bus snacks **see additional page 18
For each Accompanying Family Member		

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.**

X Signature:  Date: 4/25/24  
 Name: Clifford D. May Title: Founder and President  
 Organization: Foundation for Defense of Democracies  
 Address: 1800 M St NW, Suite 800S, Washington, DC 20009  
 Email: swalsh@fdd.org Telephone: 202-368-0539

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

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

May 28, 2024

Mr. Harry Fones  
Office of the Honorable Andrew Ogles  
151 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Fones:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for May 29 to June 7, 2024, sponsored by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and DL Revocable Trust.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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,



Michael Guest  
Chairman



Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:eme



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.

**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. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor: The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)

2. Name of your organization: DL Revocable Trust Dated February 21, 2018, co-trustees David Alan Barish and Linda Shemtob Jayaram

3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?

4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?

5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:

a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**

b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: Israel on Date: May 29-June 7, 2024  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**

c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).

6. **Check only one:**

a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**

b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.

7. 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;

c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and

d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 4/25/24

Name: David A. Barish Title: Trustee

Organization: DL Revocable Trust Dated February 21, 2018, co-Trustees David Alan Barish and Linda Shemtob Jayaram

Address: 20 SUNSET PARK LN., SUGAR LAND, TX 77479

Email: DBARISH@CHAMPKING.COM Telephone: 281-969-5793

**Q 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):**

FDD's Barish Center for Media Integrity Trip to Israel is a seven-day trip that offers a fact-based, nuanced understanding of a country that faces unique strategic communications and public diplomacy challenges. Throughout the week, trip participants will travel around Israel to participate in off-the-record high-level meetings with Israel's top national security brass; current and former Israeli, Palestinian, and American national security decision makers; journalists; military officials; and leaders in the private sector. These in-depth conversations will be supplemented by experiential exercises, including visits to elite military installations. FDD believes that Israel serves as a useful laboratory for teaching the next generation of U.S. national security leaders' best practices in national security, public diplomacy, and counterterrorism. The trip will offer a fact-based, nuanced understanding of a country that faces unique public diplomacy and strategic communications challenges. Participants will do a deep dive into the complex issues that a democracy confronts in the face of ongoing national security threats to the homeland. It is part of FDD's strategic mission to provide educational opportunities for the next generation of U.S. national security leaders and communicators. The invitee below would benefit from the trip experience and visiting the region. As a Communications staffer, the invited participant below is responsible for communicating to his Caucus regarding complex national security and foreign policy issues. Additionally, he is consistently engaged with issues directly involving the US-Israel relationship, including U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, national defense and cybersecurity. These issues along with others will be explored on FDD's Barish Center for Media Integrity Trip to Israel, which is focused on providing a deeper understanding of the intersection between media, strategic communications, public diplomacy, misinformation, disinformation, and national security through firsthand experiences in a country that faces unique strategic communications and public diplomacy challenges.

1. Harry Fones, Communications Director, House Freedom Caucus
  - a. The following is an example of a statement from the Board of the House Freedom Caucus:  
<https://twitter.com/freedomcaucus/status/1754259844540838028>
  - i. The trip will explore many facets of the U.S.-Israel relationship and defense cooperation. A firsthand understanding could help Harry to better advise House Freedom Caucus Members on these issues.

**Q 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:**

David A. Barish (of the DL Revocable Trust Dated February 21, 2018, co-Trustees David Alan Barish and Linda Shemtob Jayaram) is on FDD's Board of Advisors. FDD believes that Israel serves as a useful laboratory for teaching the next generation of U.S. national security leaders best practices in national security and counterterrorism. David provided ideas for speakers and activities which were then incorporated into the trip. The DL Revocable Trust Dated February 21, 2018, co-Trustees David Alan Barish and Linda Shemtob Jayaram have previously contributed to organizations that sponsor a range of educational activities designed to educate Americans about the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, including congressional trips to Israel. These organizations include the American Israel Education Foundation, American Jewish Committee, Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, Shirley Barish Educators Institute, and teen trips to Israel for Congregation Emanu El.

FDD recruited, selected, and confirmed the trip participants. We worked together with our additional sponsor on organizing the itinerary, trip speakers, site visits, and content.

**Q 16 (Continued):**

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

Hotel Name: Beresheet Hotel City: Mitzpe Ramon Cost Per Night: \$640

Reason(s) for Selecting: Close proximity to site visits and meetings. The hotel exceeds the per diem rate. We need to include this hotel because it is the only reasonable secure facility that is available near the sites we would like to visit. Staying at a hotel further away would not enable us to visit all the sites that are part of the trip agenda.

**Q 18: Total Expenses for Each Participant**

Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)

Activities and Entrance fees (Yad Vashem, Kalia)	\$50
Insurance	\$90
Refreshments during sessions	\$22.73
Snacks on the bus	\$45.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$208.18</b>



**FDD's Barish Center for Media Integrity Trip to Israel  
May 29-June 7, 2024**

*Note: This is our optimal itinerary and is flexible according to federal travel restrictions and speaker availability.*

*\*\*Please do not circulate.\*\**

**Guides: Iftah Burman, Enia Krivine, Shannon Walsh**

**Wednesday, May 29**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
12:45	Group meets at Washington Union Station for train trip to Newark Liberty International Airport
14:05	Travel by train to Newark Liberty International Airport on Amtrak Northeast Regional 94
17:03	Arrive to Newark Liberty International Airport on Amtrak Northeast Regional 94
21:00	Group flight on El Al Flight LY0026 from Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) to Ben Gurion Airport (TLV)

**Thursday, May 30**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
14:25	Arrive to Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) on LY0026
15:25-16:45	Travel by bus to the <b>Mamilla Hotel</b> in Jerusalem
16:45-17:15	Check-in to the hotel
17:15-19:30	Prep for dinner
19:30-20:00	Travel by bus to dinner
20:00-22:30	Dinner briefing with <b>Yaakov Katz</b> , former editor-in-chief of The Jerusalem Post and senior fellow at The Jewish People Policy Institute, on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and the Iran threat  Yaakov Katz is an Israeli-American author and journalist. Between 2016 and 2023, Yaakov was editor-in-chief of The Jerusalem Post where he continues

	to write a popular weekly column. He is the author of three books - “Shadow Strike – Inside Israel’s Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power”, “Weapon Wizards - How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower” and “Israel vs. Iran: The Shadow War”. Yaakov served for close to a decade as the paper's military reporter and defense analyst and was a lecturer at Harvard University where he taught an advanced course in journalism. He also served as Israel correspondent for Jane’s Defense Weekly.
22:30-23:00	Walk to the hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Mamilla Hotel Shlomo ha-Melekh St. 11, Jerusalem +972 2-548-2200

### Friday, May 31

Time	Activity
07:30-08:45	Breakfast at the hotel
08:45-10:00	Travel by bus to <b>Kibbutz Kfar Azza</b>
10:00-11:15	Briefing on the attacks of October 7 and Israeli resiliency with <b>Chen Kotler Abrams</b> , resident of Kibbutz Kfar Azza  Chen Kotler Abrams is a member of Kibbutz Kfar Azza located on Israel's border with the Gaza Strip where she raises her son - Orr. Chen's aunt and uncle are among the founders of the kibbutz. Chen will show participants the aftermath of the October 7 attacks on her Kibbutz, as well as rockets and other explosive devices that Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza have fired into the Kibbutz. She will also discuss the future of her community amidst the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.
11:15-11:30	Travel by bus to <b>Sderot</b>
11:30-12:45	Visit to <b>Sderot</b> and briefing on southern Israeli security dynamics with <b>Mayor Alon Davidi</b>  Alon Davidi is the Mayor of Sderot. He founded the “Headquarters for the Security of Sderot,” which aims to restore security to the residents of Sderot. He was elected to the city council in 2008, and since 2013, he has served as mayor of Sderot. Alon will speak to participants regarding the security challenges that face the cities on the border with Gaza and what life is like for residents of Sderot after the October 7 massacre.
12:45-13:30	Lunch on own in <b>Sderot</b>
13:30-14:00	Travel by bus to <b>Nova Party Memorial</b> in Reim
14:00-14:45	Briefing on the attacks of October 7 with Nova Party survivor, <b>Yoni Diller</b> , at the <b>Nova Party Memorial</b> in Reim

	The Supernova Music Festival in Reim was one of Hamas' primary targets in the brutal massacre that took place on October 7 in the Gaza envelope. Yoni will share his story of the events that took place in the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust.
14:45-15:45	Travel by bus to Jerusalem
15:45-18:30	Prep for dinner
18:30-19:30	<b>Moderated group discussion to review the day's activities</b>  We will use this opportunity to discuss the realities of the aftermath of the October 7 attacks and the resulting security implications. We have found giving our participants the opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them as a group helps in their ability to understand Israel's complex realities.
19:30-20:00	Walk to dinner
20:00-22:00	Traditional Shabbat dinner and briefing on Israeli society post-October 7 attacks with <b>Gil Troy</b> , Israeli historian  Distinguished Scholar in North American History at McGill University currently living in Jerusalem, Gil Troy is an award-winning American presidential historian and a leading Zionist activist. He is the author of a number of books on American presidential history and Zionism.
22:00-22:30	Walk back to the hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Mamilla Hotel Shlomo ha-Melekh St. 11, Jerusalem +972 2-548-2200

### Saturday, June 1

Time	Activity
07:00-08:00	Breakfast at the hotel
08:00-08:15	Travel by bus to <b>Jerusalem Overlook</b>
08:15-09:00	<b>Strategic Depth Overview of Jerusalem with Iftah Burman at Jerusalem Overlook</b>  Jerusalem is of immense strategic importance for the State of Israel's national security posture. At this briefing, participants will receive an overview of Israel's topography, border threats, and security imperatives with respect to the greater Jerusalem envelope.

09:00-09:10	Photo at Jerusalem Overlook
09:10-09:30	Travel by bus to the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b>
09:30-11:45	<p>Explore the diversity and security installations of the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b> with Iftah Burman</p> <p>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, 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 these sites and others, educating trip participants about their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.</p>
11:45-12:30	Lunch on your own in the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b>
12:30-13:00	Travel by bus to American Colony Hotel
13:00-13:45	<p>Briefing over coffee on Palestinian politics and society with <b>Jalal Abu Khatar</b> at the American Colony Hotel</p> <p>Jalal Abu Khatar is a civil servant for the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and formerly reported for Al Jazeera. He will brief participants on the Palestinian Authority, Israel-Palestinian security cooperation, the Palestinian public sentiment in the wake of the October 7 Hamas attacks, and the future of the two-state solution.</p>
13:45-14:00	Short break
14:00-14:45	<p>Briefing over coffee on Israeli Arabs with <b>Khaled Abu Toameh</b>, journalist and Middle East expert at the American Colony Hotel</p> <p>Khaled Abu Toameh is an awarding-winning journalist and TV producer who covers Palestinian affairs for The Jerusalem Post. He previously worked as a senior producer for NBC in the Middle East and has reported on events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for several media outlets. Khaled will brief participants on Israel's Arab population, reporting and the media in Israel, and other topics of interest.</p>
14:45-16:00	Travel by bus to <b>Qaser El-Yehud</b> , traditional site of Jesus' Baptism
16:00-16:30	Explore Israeli-Jordanian military cooperation at <b>Qaser El Yehud</b> , traditional site of Jesus' Baptism

	<p>According to Christian tradition, Qaser El-Yahud is the site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan. It is one of the holiest sites in the Christian world. The site includes monasteries, churches, and lands belonging to eight different Christian denominations. The site sits along the Jordan river, which serves as the border between Israel and Jordan. The border is so narrow, while standing on the Israeli side of the site, one can speak with Jordanian soldiers on the Jordanian side. Participants will learn about Israeli-Jordanian military cooperation and border security while visiting this site.</p>
16:30-17:00	Travel by bus to <b>Kalia Beach</b>
17:00-18:00	<p>Explore water and border security dynamics along the Jordan Valley at <b>Kalia Beach</b>, at the <b>Dead Sea</b></p> <p>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 “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. Participants will receive a briefing on these issues, which has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation, helping them to better understand Israeli relations with Jordanians and Palestinians.</p>
18:00-19:00	Travel by bus to the hotel
19:00-19:30	Prep for dinner
19:30-20:00	Walk to group dinner at <b>Deja Bu Restaurant</b>
20:00-21:30	<p>Group dinner and moderated group discussion at <b>Deja Bu Restaurant</b></p> <p>We will use this opportunity to debrief on the geopolitical complexities of Jerusalem, the two-state solution, and the Israel-Jordan strategic partnership. We have found giving our participants the opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them as a group helps in their ability to understand Israel’s complex realities.</p>
21:30-22:00	Walk back to the hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	<p>Mamilla Hotel Shlomo ha-Melekh St. 11, Jerusalem +972 2-548-2200</p>

**Sunday, June 2**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
07:00-08:30	Breakfast at the hotel
08:30	Check out of Mamilla Hotel
08:30-09:00	Travel by bus to Yad Vashem
09:00-10:30	<p>Experience at <b>Yad Vashem</b>, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum</p> <p>To understand how Israelis view national security, one must understand the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s when the German Reich's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. By visiting the museum, participants will better understand how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iran's commitment 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. A visit to Yad Vashem provides historical context for the Jewish state. A professional docent from the museum will guide the participants through the museum's main exhibit and the children's memorial.</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Travel by bus to the <b>Knesset, Israel's Parliament</b> and briefing on the intersection between national security and Israel's legislative branch with Iftah Burman</p> <p>The Knesset is Israel's legislative body of government. In this briefing, participants will receive an overview of how Israel's lawmaking body interacts with its national security priorities, including with respect to the defense budget and the appointing of key national security-related cabinet positions.</p>
11:00-11:15	Security check at the Knesset
11:15-12:00	<p>Meetings with <b>Members of Knesset</b></p> <p>Participants will meet with two members of the Israeli parliament representing different parties in the Knesset, the coalition, and the opposition. The members will discuss the Israeli political system, their parties' priorities, views on the current governing coalition, and national security priorities in the region.</p>
12:00-12:30	Travel by bus to lunch
12:30-13:30	Lunch on own at <b>Beit Hakerem</b>
13:30-14:45	Travel by bus to <b>Gilot</b>
14:45-15:45	Visit the <b>Israel Defense Forces' Amshat Unit</b> in Gilot to view the collection of documents & technical spoils from the attacks of October 7

	<p>Amshat is the Hebrew acronym for “Document and Technical Means Collection Unit.” The laptops, flash drives, notebooks, maps, ledgers, and other items found in Hamas strongholds and on the bodies of Hamas terrorists after the October 7 attacks were sent to Amshat for robust intelligence analysis. At this visit, participants will learn about Israeli intelligence collection and the resulting operational implications.</p>
15:45-18:15	<p>Travel by bus to Tiberias and briefing on <b>Israel’s narrow waistline</b> with Iftah Burman</p> <p>In this 60 minute briefing, participants will learn about Israeli security considerations with respect to the West Bank, the Israeli settlement policy, and the calculations behind the location of the security barrier whilst driving alongside it.</p>
18:15-18:45	Check-in to the hotel
18:45-20:10	Prep for dinner
20:10-20:15	Walk to dinner
20:15-21:30	Dinner in <b>Tiberius</b>
21:30-21:35	Walk to hotel
21:35-23:00	<p><b>Moderated group discussion to review the day’s activities</b></p> <p>We will use this opportunity to discuss the Israeli political system, Israel’s security considerations with respect to the West Bank, and the IDF Amshat Unit. We have found giving our participants the opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them as a group helps in their ability to understand Israel’s complex realities.</p>
<b>Overnight</b>	<p>David’s Harp Hotel Galilee Kfar Nahum, Israel <a href="tel:+97298867777">+972 9 8867777</a></p>

### Monday, June 3

Time	Activity
07:00-08:45	Breakfast at the hotel
08:45-09:00	Check out of the hotel
09:00-10:00	<p>Briefing with <b>Shadi Khalloul</b> and <b>Neveen Elias</b> on Kinneret pre-military program for Christian and Muslim Israelis</p> <p><b>Capt. (Res.) Shadi Khalloul</b> is an Israeli Aramaic Christian Maronite from Kfar Birem and served as a lieutenant in a paratrooper division in the IDF. He is Chairman of the Aramaic Christian Association and acted for 2 years as</p>

	<p>spokesman for the IDF Christian Soldiers forum established by Christian Major Ehab Shlaian. He has a degree in International Business and Finance from the University of Las Vegas, Nevada. He has lectured in the United States about Aramaic Christian and Maronite history and about the history and language of early Eastern Christianity, as well as about Jews, Aramaic Middle Eastern Christians, and Zionism.</p> <p><b>Neveen Elias</b> is an advocacy fellow for The Philos Project and an Aramean Christian who serves as an IDF reservist. She recently became an IDF officer at the age of 39. Neveen assists with running the Kinneret pre-military program, and is the primary recruiter.</p>
10:00-10:30	Travel to briefing on the <b>Sea of Galilee</b>
10:30-11:30	<p>Travel by boat to southern Golan region and briefing by <b>Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jonathan Conricus</b> on the strategic security importance of the Golan Heights and border demarcation issues on the Sea of Galilee</p> <p><b>Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jonathan Conricus</b> is the former International Spokesperson of the Israel Defense Forces, responsible for the IDF's international traditional and social media operations, public affairs, and public diplomacy. In over 24 years of military service, Lt. Col. Conricus held a diverse array of positions in infantry, international relations, and military diplomacy. Prior to being appointed as the IDF's International Spokesperson, Lt. Col. Conricus was the first IDF officer to be seconded to the United Nations, serving in the UN Peacekeeping Operations' Office of Military Affairs in New York. Lt. Col. Conricus now serves as senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.</p>
11:30-12:30	Travel by bus to lunch
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:30	<p>Geopolitical Survey of the <b>Golan Heights</b> with <b>Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman</b>, owner and guide of 'No Other Land'</p> <p>Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geopolitical 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 Paratroopers Brigade, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a B.A. in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will discuss the border between Israel and Syria and</p>

	provide an overview of the Syrian civil war and Iran's involvement and use of proxies in the region.
15:30-18:30	<p>Travel by bus to <b>Tel Aviv</b> and briefing on the <b>Hezbollah Threat</b> from Iftah Burman</p> <p>In this 2-hour briefing, Iftah will discuss Israel's northern border in the wake of October 7 and the possibility for an escalation with Hezbollah. 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. The briefing will discuss Hezbollah's capabilities and terror infrastructure, its increased attacks on Israel since October 7, and Iran's relationship to the terror proxy. Participants will also learn about the evacuated border communities in the north that are still unable to return given ongoing security threats.</p>
18:30-19:30	Check in to the Royal Beach Tel Aviv Hotel
19:30	Dinner and evening on their own in Tel Aviv
<b>Overnight</b>	Royal Beach Tel Aviv Hotel HaYarkon St 19, Tel Aviv-Yafo +972 3-740-5000

#### Tuesday, June 4

Time	Activity
08:30-09:30	Breakfast at the hotel
09:30-10:45	<p>Briefing with <b>Dr. Michael Milshtein</b> on Hamas and the Israeli intelligence failures on October 7</p> <p>Col. (Res.) Dr. Michael Milshtein is a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy and Strategy at Reichman University. He is former advisor on Palestinian affairs to the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), and headed the Department for Palestinians Affairs in the Israel Defense Intelligence. He has published several books and dozens of articles on Palestinian and Israeli-Arab society.</p>
10:45-11:15	Travel by bus to <b>Machane Aviv</b> , headquarters of the IDF Spokesperson's Unit
11:15-11:30	Security check at <b>Machane Aviv</b>
11:30-12:30	<p>Briefing at <b>Machane Aviv</b> with <b>Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari</b></p> <p><b>RADM Daniel Hagari</b> joined the Israel Defense Forces in March 1995, and volunteered to the naval special operations unit, Shayetet 13. After completing the warrior course training in the Shayetet, he then went to the infantry officer course. At the end of the course he returned to the Shayetet,</p>

	<p>and was appointed a platoon commander during Operation Defensive Shield. He later served as deputy commander of the Gadsar Nahal between 2003 and 2004. After that he was appointed deputy commander of a fighter in Shayetet 13. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel (Sgan-Aluf) and appointed commander of a vessel squadron in Shayetet 13, and served in this position until 2009. He was then appointed commander of a training squadron in Shayetet 13 between 2009 and 2011. He later served as deputy commander of Shayetet 13 between 2011 and 2012. Afterwards he was appointed head of the Chief of Staff Benny Gantz's office, a position he served in between the years 2013-2015. In 2015 he was promoted to the rank of colonel (Aluf-Mishne) and appointed head of the operations directorate of the Israeli Navy, until 2017. In May 2017 he was appointed as Chief of Staff's Gadi Eizenkot's assistant, and served in the position during the Northern Shield operation, in this position he served until 2019. On July 31, 2019, he was appointed Commander of Shayetet 13, a position in which he served until June 15, 2021. For the activities of Shayetet 13 under his command, he was awarded the Chief of Staff Medal of Appreciation and the Chief of Staff's award for outstanding units in 2020, And the Chief of Staff's citation on June 16, 2021. At the end of his position, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General (Tat-Aluf) and on June 17, 2021, he assumed his position as the Chief of the Navy's Fleet. On March 29, 2023, he was appointed Chief of the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. RADM Hagari will brief participants on the IDF's communications strategy with respect to Israel's civilian population, as well as the international community.</p>
12:30-13:45	<p>Optional <b>viewing of October 7<sup>th</sup> footage</b></p> <p>Participants may elect to view the Israel Defense Forces' footage of the October 7<sup>th</sup> Hamas massacre obtained from Hamas bodycam footage. The footage documents the inhumane cruelty of the attacks perpetrated on Israeli civilians on October 7, and provides a rebuttal to deniers of the atrocities on social media.</p>
13:45-14:15	Travel by bus to hotel
14:15-16:30	Lunch on own in <b>Tel Aviv</b>
16:30-17:30	<p>Briefing on Sexual violence utilized as a weapon of war on October 7<sup>th</sup> with <b>Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy</b></p> <p>Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy is an expert on international law, human rights law, constitutional and administrative law, global governance, religion &amp; state matters, global sustainable development, and feminist theories. She is the Sophie Davis Fellow on Gender, Conflict Resolution and Peace at the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; She teaches human rights law, international law, climate justice and feminist theories at Hebrew U and at Reichman University; She is the Founding Head of Dvora Institute for Gender and Sustainability studies; A Senior Fellow, at</p>

	the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem; SJD and former Human Rights Scholar of the University of Pennsylvania Law School; Former Perry World House Fellow; A Salzburg Global Fellow for Outstanding Scholars in International Law, Washington DC; and a member of the President's new Climate Forum.
17:30-17:45	Short break
17:45-19:15	<p>Briefing on military ethics and humanitarian aid with <b>Daniel Reisner</b></p> <p>Daniel Reisner is one of Israel's leading Public International Law experts, a result of his 19-year career in government in this field, 10 years of which he served as Head of the Israel Defense Forces' International Law Department. In this capacity, Daniel was the senior lawyer responsible for advising the Israeli leadership on a wide variety of international-law related issues. He currently serves as Herzog, Fox, &amp; Neeman's Public International Law, Defense, and Homeland Security Partner.</p>
19:15-19:45	Travel by bus to dinner
19:45-21:15	<p>Dinner at <b>Darya</b> and briefing with Israel Defense Forces reservists <b>Ashager Araro, Roi Yanovsky, Lazar Berman, and Yadin Gelman</b></p> <p>At this dinner briefing, participants will have the opportunity to chat with current Israel Defense Forces reservists that have careers outside of the reserves in the media field. The reservists will discuss their careers post-October 7 and how their background in the media has informed their military service.</p>
21:15-21:45	Travel by bus to the hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Royal Beach Tel Aviv Hotel HaYarkon St 19, Tel Aviv-Yafo +972 3-740-5000

### Wednesday, June 5

Time	Activity
09:00-10:00	Breakfast at the hotel
10:00-10:30	Check out of Royal Beach Hotel
10:30-12:00	<p>Briefing at the hotel on normalization between Israel and the Arab world with <b>Dr. Yoel Guzansky</b></p> <p>Dr. Yoel Guzansky is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) specializing in Gulf politics &amp; security. Dr. Guzansky is a non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington D.C. He was a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, an Israel Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, and a Fulbright Scholar. He served on Israel's National</p>

	Security Council in the Prime Minister's Office, coordinating the work on Iran and the Gulf under four National Security Advisers and three Prime Ministers. He is currently a consultant to several ministries.
12:00-12:30	Travel by bus to lunch in <b>Old Jaffa</b>
12:30-13:45	Group lunch in <b>Old Jaffa</b>
13:45-15:00	Travel by bus to <b>Tze'elim Urban Warfare Training Base</b> and briefing en route on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war  In this 1-hour briefing, Iftah will discuss the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and considerations regarding a potential Rafah ground operation. He will also discuss the IDF's reserves model.
15:00-16:00	IDF briefing at <b>Tze'elim Urban Warfare Training Base</b>  Tze'elim Urban Warfare Training Base is a mock city built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and used to prepare the IDF and U.S. Army troops for urban warfare operations. It includes mock shops, a grand mosque, a hospital and more. During this visit, participants will see how the IDF conducts its training exercises for urban operations in a realistic setting and speak to an IDF officer about how the facility enhances both IDF and U.S. military capabilities in the region.
16:00-16:45	Travel to <b>Beresheet Hotel</b> and briefing on Urban Warfare with Iftah Burman  In this 45-minute briefing, Iftah will discuss the challenges of an urban warfare environment, particularly with respect to the Gaza Strip. The group will discuss the vast tunnel network underneath civilian infrastructure in Gaza, said to be roughly half the size of the New York City subway system.
16:45-20:00	Check-in and prep for dinner
20:00-21:00	Dinner at hotel
21:00-23:00	<b>Group debrief</b> on key takeaways from the trip  We will use this opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to throughout the trip. We have found giving our participants the opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them as a group helps in their ability to understand Israel's complex realities.
<b>Overnight</b>	Beresheet Hotel Mitzpe Ramon, 80600, Israel +972 08-659-8000

Thursday, June 6

Time	Activity
07:30-10:15	Breakfast at the hotel
10:15-10:30	Check out of Beresheet Hotel
10:30-11:30	<p>Travel by bus to <b>Kerem Shalom</b> Border Crossing and briefing from <b>Iftah Burman</b> on IDF liaison units and military cooperation with Israel's neighbors</p> <p>The IDF Liaison Unit maintains continuous and direct communication (including meetings, direct phone and fax lines) with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) members both in the Sinai and in Tel Aviv. The Liaison Units' objectives with regard to the MFO include representing the IDF and the Israel defense establishment in all issues related to operations, logistics, administration and budget of the MFO. The Liaison Unit also deals with violations of the Peace Treaty and organizes forums to tend to these problems. Iftah will brief participants on Israeli-Egyptian military cooperation and securing the Southern border.</p>
11:30-12:30	<p>Briefing on Israeli-Egyptian relations and military cooperation at <b>Kerem Shalom Border Crossing</b> with <b>Ami Shaked</b></p> <p>IDF soldiers in the liaison division and other units stationed along the Israel-Egypt border will brief participants on threats along the border, including Jihadi groups such as ISIS, drug smuggling, and more. They will also discuss Israeli humanitarian aid to Gaza amidst the Israel-Hamas war.</p>
12:30-13:30	Travel by bus to Rahat
13:30-14:30	Group lunch in Rahat
14:30-15:30	<p>Briefing with <b>Bedouin Community Representative</b> on the Bedouin experience pre- and post- October 7<sup>th</sup> Attacks</p> <p>Participants will discuss what life was like in the Bedouin community prior to the attacks of October 7, the Bedouin IDF soldiers who fought against Hamas terrorists that infiltrated into Israel, and the aftermath of the attacks on the community.</p>
15:30-16:15	Travel by bus to <b>Karmi Gat</b> , current home to evacuees from Israel's southern border
16:15-17:15	<p>Briefing at <b>Karmi Gat</b> with <b>Amir Tibon</b> and other <b>Kibbutz Nahal Oz Evacuees</b></p> <p>Amir Tibon, Israeli journalist and writer, and other evacuees from Kibbutz Nahal Oz, will discuss what life was like in the closest Kibbutz to the Gaza border prior to October 7, the details of the Hamas infiltration into the Kibbutz and the community and IDF response, and the possibility of returning to the Kibbutz pending robust security reforms.</p>
17:15-18:45	Travel by bus to Tatti's Loft

18:45-20:45	<p>Closing dinner and briefing on the U.S.-Israel relationship with <b>Ambassador Michael Oren</b>, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.</p> <p>Amb. Michael Oren is an American-born Israeli historian and author and was Israel's ambassador to the United States from 2009 to 2013. As a Member of Knesset and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, he interacted with foreign leaders and defended Israel in the media. He also spearheaded efforts to strengthen Israel-diaspora relations, develop the Golan Heights, and fight BDS. He will brief participants on the future of the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship and other topics of interest.</p>
20:45-21:15	Travel by bus to Ben Gurion Airport

**Friday, June 7**

Time	Activity
00:30	Depart Israel on El Al LY0027
05:15	<p>Arrive to Newark Liberty International Airport on United Airlines UA91</p> <p>House staffer has personal travel scheduled, so he will depart from the group in Newark and travel at his own expense to a separate destination from Newark. FDD will not be assisting him with this travel.</p>

## **Post-Travel Disclosure Form Addendum: FDD's Barish Center for Media Integrity Trip to Israel**

### **Question 5:**

- **Hotel Costs:** The actual hotel cost is higher than initially expected in the primary trip sponsor pre-travel form due to a flight delay on our return flight (El Al 27 on June 7). The flight was delayed from 12:30am IDT to 7:30am IDT. As a result, we reserved an additional night at Royal Beach on June 6 so that the group did not spend the night sleeping in the airport. The additional night was \$380 per person.
- **Transportation Costs:** As mentioned above, the actual transportation cost was also higher than initially expected in the primary trip sponsor pre-travel form due to a flight delay on our return flight (El Al 27 on June 7). The flight was delayed from 12:30am IDT to 7:30am IDT. We reserved a bus to bring participants from the hotel we booked for the evening to the airport on the morning of the 7th. Additionally, initially Harry Fones planned to depart from the group at EWR, but due to the schedule shift, he needed to return to DC with the group, so we booked him a train ticket along with the group to return from EWR to Washington Union Station. Due to these changes, as well as a decrease in the expected number of participants on the trip, the transportation costs increased from our initial estimates.
- **Meal Costs:** Our actual meal cost was slightly higher than expected as we added a group lunch on May 31, and at two of the dinners, the beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks) were not included in the initial quoted costs. So, we added those costs up, and divided by the number of dinner participants.

## *Participants*

**Harry Fones** is the communications director for the House Freedom Caucus. He has been on Capitol Hill since 2021, serving previously as communications director for the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness and Growth and for two members of Congress. Before coming to Congress, he served in communications roles at the Department of Homeland Security and the office of Governor Larry Hogan. He earned his B.A. from Gettysburg College in history and political science.

**Joel Gehrke** is a foreign affairs reporter with the *Washington Examiner*, with an emphasis on U.S. competition with Russia and China, Middle East diplomatic and security trends, and the war in Ukraine. He has traveled with the secretary of state and independently to report from across Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Indo-Pacific. He also covered domestic politics for *National Review*, following a previous stint at the *Washington Examiner*. He has a degree in English from Hillsdale College.

**Lynelle Haugabrook** leads media relations for the Corporate Communications and Engagement team at Peraton. Prior to storytelling for national security, she held leadership roles in the federal, private, and nonprofit sectors, managing strategic communications and marketing campaigns. She holds a B.A. in public policy from the College of William and Mary and a certificate in public relations & marketing from the University of Virginia and is currently pursuing an M.S. in community and economic development from Penn State University, where she is focused on developing countries, capacity building in remote and rural communities, and identifying a sustainable path between technology and ecology.

**Gabe Kaminsky** is an investigative reporter for the *Washington Examiner*, primarily covering the intersection of money, politics, and influence. His stories about government spending, campaign finance, and nonprofits have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, Politico, Forbes, the *New York Post*, and other outlets.

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**Charlotte Lawson** is a reporter with The Dispatch focusing on world affairs and national security. Through this position, she has provided on-the-ground coverage from multiple countries in the Middle East and Europe. Charlotte is currently based in Tel Aviv, where she writes on Israel's ongoing war against Hamas and its simmering conflict with Iran and its "Axis of Resistance." Prior to joining The Dispatch in 2020, she studied history and global security at the University of Virginia.

**Maryam Manzoori** is a multimedia journalist with 21 years of experience as a writer, news editor, reporter, and producer/host of digital platforms and radio and TV shows. She covers foreign policy and international affairs with a focus on the Middle East as a reporter and correspondent in Washington, DC. In her multiple assignments in the Middle East, she has covered Iran-related affairs in the MENA region, and during almost three years in Tunisia (2020-2023) Maryam wrote extensively about Islamic extremism and post-Arab Spring uprisings in Tunisia against Islamic politicians, Tunisian Jewish history, Libya, African illegal migrants and their dangerous journey across Mediterranean to reach Europe, Moroccan-Israeli Abraham Accords, and North African affairs. Prior to becoming a freelancer, Maryam was a broadcast/journalist for Voice of America (VOA) Persian TV in Washington, DC, where she covered Iran, its nuclear program, and its ties with the United States, Israel, and Persian Gulf Arab nations. As a journalist at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Prague, on an assignment in Iraq, she wrote about

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**Chris Massaro** is researcher at Fox News, focusing on international affairs. Chris became the point person for research across the network for Russia's war in Ukraine, Israel's war in Gaza, and many other international crises that dominate the news cycle. Along with his research, Chris also writes for Fox News Digital covering foreign policy, diplomacy, and national security issues. Chris has interviewed notable public figures including John Herbst, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, and former Prime Minister and newly elected President of Finland, Alexander Stubb. Chris holds an M.A. in political science from the City University of New York's Graduate Center, and an B.A. in political science and journalism from Iona University.

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**Blake Ruppe** is currently a booking producer for "Kudlow" on the Fox Business Network. He has secured several high-level interviews with world leaders and high-interest guests for Fox. He grew up in the Minneapolis, MN, suburbs and has worked for a president, a vice president, lawmakers, and TV personalities. He currently resides in the Washington, DC, area and is the founder and CEO of a volunteer-based non-profit in Minnesota called Tomorrow's Horizon, which advances the needs of today's youth through education, nutrition, and wellness. Blake received a bachelor's degree in journalism & political science from Marquette University.

**Hope Hodge Seck** is an award-winning freelance reporter and editor who has covered the U.S. military and security issues since 2009. She was managing editor of Military.com from 2018 to 2021 and has served as vice president of Military Reporters and Editors and editorial director for the Irregular Warfare Initiative. Her work has appeared in USA Today, *The Washington Post*, Popular Mechanics, Politico Magazine, Military Times, and more.

**Dave Siegel** is a writer/producer for "Dan Abrams Live" on NewsNation. Since October 7, his "beat" has been all things Israel related as the show covers different angles of the war in Gaza as well as how the media is covering it. Before NewsNation, Dave had also written for Diane Sawyer, Don Lemon, and Anderson Cooper.

### *Staff*

**Enia Krivine** is the senior director of FDD's Israel Program and National Security Network. She joined FDD after nearly seven years at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), where she helped strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship through education and advocacy. Prior to AIPAC, Enia worked on several political campaigns and served as director of congressional affairs for the Israel Allies Foundation. She began her career in DC over a decade ago as a Middle East fellow at the House Foreign Affairs Committee, serving under Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Enia holds an M.A. in Middle Eastern studies from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a B.A. in broadcast journalism from Arizona State University. She is an FDD National Security Fellowship Program alumna.

**Clifford D. May** is the founder and president of FDD, a nonpartisan policy institute focusing on national security created immediately following the 9/11/01 attacks on the United States. Under his leadership, FDD has become one of the nation's most highly regarded think tanks and a sought-after voice on a wide range of national security issues. He has helped assemble a staff and advisory board of the most compelling scholars and experts whose research, ideas, and recommendations have shaped important policies and legislation on terrorism, nonproliferation, human rights, Islamism, democratization, and related issues. Cliff has had a long and distinguished career in international relations, journalism, communications, and politics. A veteran news reporter, foreign correspondent and editor (at *The New York Times* and other publications), he has covered stories around the world, including datelines from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, the U.A.E., Bahrain, Oman, Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Chad, Mexico, Argentina, Northern Ireland, Hungary, Kazakhstan, China, and Russia. From 2016 to 2018, Cliff served as a commissioner on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission that makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress in order to advance the pivotal right of religious freedom around the world, and integrate religious freedom into America's foreign policy.

**Lawrence Muscant** serves as senior vice president at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington, DC based, nonpartisan research institute focusing on national security and foreign policy. FDD's primary mission is to disrupt and do damage to the regimes, ideologies, and terrorists that most threaten America and our allies. As a Middle East analyst and speechwriter, Lawrence lectures often on Iran, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Middle East history, and the intersection between economics and national security. Through his work with FDD, Lawrence has spent significant time in Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. Previously, Lawrence served as executive director at The David Project, a research and educational organization in Boston focused on Israel and the Middle East, where he also taught the Arab-Israeli conflict course at University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Lawrence received his BA in Political Science from Concordia University, also graduating from its School of Community and Public Affairs. He received his MA in Political Science from Carleton University, where his focus was international relations theory and the Middle East. Lawrence's PhD research at Carleton University focused on American foreign policy in the Middle East. Lawrence has also studied extensively at the New York Institute of Finance and earned his designations from the Corporate Finance Institute. Lawrence also currently serves as Senior Advisor to Omnia Family Wealth, where advises the firm and its clients on global political and financial challenges that can have an impact on investments.

**Elizabeth Robbins** is vice president of communications at FDD, leading strategic outreach that includes thousands of print and broadcast media appearances each year. She previously served as deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of Global Public Affairs, where she led public diplomacy and public affairs campaigns to bring attention to the expanding malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party. Before that, she served as the national director of communications for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, where she drove the national policy debate by condensing the 2015 Iran nuclear negotiations into a simple, comprehensive framework: "Five Requirements of a Good Deal." A decorated Army officer, Lt. Col. Robbins culminated her distinguished military career as a spokesperson in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where she led communications outreach on U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and the effects of sequestration. While in uniform, Beth deployed to Kosovo and Iraq and served as public affairs advisor to two secretaries of the Army. As an assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, she taught courses on American politics, civil-military relations, and mass media. Beth has been quoted in hundreds of national and international outlets, and her analysis

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**Shannon Walsh** is the associate director of programs for FDD's National Security Network. Prior to joining FDD, Shannon served as the associate director of research and education for The Philos Project, where she focused on developing seminars and educational resources highlighting the religious and geopolitical complexities of the Near East. During her undergraduate studies, she interned in the U.S. House of Representatives, where her boss served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She also participated in the Jewish National Fund's Caravan for Democracy, a 10-day educational program for student leaders to explore Israel. Shannon holds a bachelor's degree from Tulane University in political science with a concentration in international relations and minors in Spanish and management.