

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: Jocelyne Barajas
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: July 13, 2024 Return: July 21, 2024
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Israel Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Attended a variety of meetings with different stakeholders to learn about the history of Israel, what happened on and after October 7, 2023, (Hamas Attack), minority experiences in Israel, politics (Knesset), Israel Defense Forces, and humanitarian aid update.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

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

Signature of Traveler:  Date: August 5, 2024

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: Congressman Vicente Gonzalez Date: August 5, 2024

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 13, 2024 Date of Return: July 21, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Jocelyne Barajas

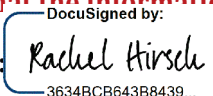
Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

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	\$5,480.12	\$2,222.96	\$1,587.39	\$3,723.74
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:  3634BCB643B8439... Date: 7/31/2024 | 13:04 EDT

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

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) 246-0519 Email: rhirsch@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.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Jocelyne Barajas
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: July 13, 2024 Date of Return: July 21, 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.**
As Legislative Director, it's crucial that I understand the ongoing issues and history of Israel - our ally. The knowledge gained during this trip will help me better understand foreign policy and advise the Member on policy related matters.
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 office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____



Date: July 13, 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:

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, 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: _____

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 13, 2024 Date of Return: July 21, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C. or home district

b. Destination(s): Israel

c. City of return: Washington, D.C. or home district

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

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:
 AIEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a charitable and educational mission which includes, among others things, 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 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): \$175.71
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
 The trip is in Israel to educate Congressional staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

Hotel Name:	<u>Inbal Hotel</u>	City:	<u>Jerusalem</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$364</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>location and affordability</u>				
Hotel Name:	<u>Magdala Hotel</u>	City:	<u>Tiberias</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$232</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>location and affordability</u>				
Hotel Name:	<u>Sheraton Hotel</u>	City:	<u>Tel Aviv</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$418</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>location and affordability</u>				

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

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	\$5,452.05	\$2160.00	\$1230.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

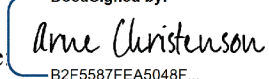
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$3,630.00	breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A

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: 6/12/2024 | 15:17 EDT
B2F5587FEA5048F...
 Name: Arne Christenson _____ Title: Executive Director
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF) _____
 Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 _____
 Email: achristenson@aiefdn.org _____ Telephone: (202) 639-5266 _____

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

July 8, 2024

Ms. Jocelyne Barajas
Office of the Honorable Vicente Gonzalez
154 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Barajas:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for July 13 to 21, 2024, 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 signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:tn

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 13 – 21, 2024

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. Dana Hanson, District Director, The Office of the Honorable Jake Auchincloss (D-MA)
2. Matthew Duglin, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Don Bacon (R-NE)
3. Aliza Oppenheim, Senior Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Matthew Cartwright (D-PA)
4. Caroline Bender, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ)
5. Jocelyne Barajas, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX)
6. Ethan Sorcher, Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)
7. Kirby Tidmore, Senior Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Kevin Hern (R-OK)
8. Max Harris, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Grace Meng (D-NY)
9. Ed Kim, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable John Moolenaar (R-MI)
10. Bridget Visconti, Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Rudy Yakym (R-IN)

18. Breakdown of other expenses

Other cost	Cost per person
Security	\$1,333.33
Speaker Fees	\$666.67
Room Rentals and Setup	\$400.00
Hotels for contract staff	\$400.00
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$320.00
Meals for contract staff & speakers	\$266.67
Airport Assistance	\$93.33
Photography	\$36.67
Transportation for contract staff & speakers	\$33.33
Entrance Fees	\$33.33
Misc.	\$33.33
Tips	\$13.33
Total	\$3,630.00

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
July 13 – July 21, 2024

Addendum

4. Names of Travelers

1. Dana Hanson, District Director, The Office of the Honorable Jake Auchincloss (D-MA)
2. Matthew Duglin, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Don Bacon (R-NE)
3. Aliza Oppenheim, Senior Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Matthew Cartwright (D-PA)
4. Caroline Bender, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ)
5. Jocelyne Barajas, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX)
6. Ethan Sorcher, Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)
7. Kirby Tidmore, Senior Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Kevin Hern (R-OK)
8. Max Harris, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Grace Meng (D-NY)
9. Ed Kim, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable John Moolenaar (R-MI)
10. Bridget Visconti, Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Rudy Yakym (R-IN)

5. Breakdown of Other Expenses

Breakdown of other costs	Cost per person
Security	\$1,186.65
Speaker Fees	\$930.13
Room Rentals and Setup	\$362.61
Hotels for contract staff	\$353.97
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$324.23
Meals for contract staff & speakers	\$256.63
Airport Assistance	\$114.34
Tips	\$87.76
Entrance Fees	\$38.05
Photography	\$33.81
Misc.	\$29.36
Transportation for contract staff & speakers	\$6.20
Total	\$3,723.74

**American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
July 13 – 21, 2024**

Itinerary

Saturday, July 13, 2024

3:00 PM UA 3528 Departs BOS – Dana Hanson

3:21 PM Amtrak 168 Departs WAS – Caroline Bender, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Ethan Sorcher, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti

4:29 PM UA 3528 Arrives EWR – Dana Hanson

5:06 PM DL 5713 Departs DCA – Jocelyne Barajas, Matthew Duglin

6:21 PM Amtrak 168 Arrives EWR – Caroline Bender, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Ethan Sorcher, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti

6:45 PM DL 5713 Arrives JFK – Jocelyne Barajas, Matthew Duglin

11:50 PM LY 26 Departs EWR – Caroline Bender, Dana Hanson, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Aliza Oppenheim, Ethan Sorcher, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti

11:50 PM LY 8 Departs JFK – Jocelyne Barajas, Matthew Duglin

Sunday, July 14, 2024

5:15 PM LY 26 Arrives TLV – Caroline Bender, Dana Hanson, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Aliza Oppenheim, Ethan Sorcher, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check-in to the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

5:20 PM LY 8 Arrives TLV – Jocelyne Barajas, Matthew Duglin
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check-in to the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

7:45 – 9:30 PM **Welcome Dinner and Orientation**
-at Galil Hall, Inbal Hotel

9:45 PM Depart for the City of David

10:00 – 11:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem I: King David's Jerusalem**
Late-night visit at the City of David

11:15 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

11:30 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 15, 2024

- 8:00 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel
- 9:00 – 10:15 AM **Pulse of the Nation**
With Matti Friedman
Author and Journalist
-at Galil Hall, Inbal Hotel
- 10:30 AM Depart for the Old City
- 10:45 AM–12:45 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem II: The Old City of Jerusalem**
- Southern Wall Excavations
 - Western Wall
 - Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- 12:45 PM Depart for Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM **Lunch**
-at Happy Fish, Mamilla Hotel
- 2:15 – 3:15 PM **Introduction to Israeli Politics**
Briefing with Reuven Hazan
Professor of Political Science, Hebrew University
-at L1 Business Lounge, Mamilla Hotel
- 3:30 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel
- 4:45 PM Depart for the Knesset
- 5:45 – 6:15 PM **A View from the Coalition**
Meeting with the Honorable Ohad Tal
Member of Knesset, Religious Zionist Party
-at Jerusalem Hall, the Knesset
- 6:15 – 6:30 PM **Meet and Greet with the Speaker of the Knesset**
The Honorable Amir Ohana, Likud Party
-at Jerusalem Hall, the Knesset
- 6:30 – 7:00 PM **A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with the Honorable Moshe Tur Paz
Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party
-at Jerusalem Hall, the Knesset
- 7:00 – 7:30 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action**
Guided visit to Israel's Parliament

7:45 PM Depart for Dinner

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Dinner and Reflections**
-at Hatzot

10:00 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

10:15 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel

8:30 – 9:45 AM **Regional Strategic Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at Galil Hall, Inbal hotel

9:45 AM Depart for Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

10:15 AM–12:15 PM **Role of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Guided visit to Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

12:30 PM Depart for Lunch

12:45 – 1:30 PM **Lunch**
-at Vert Hotel

1:45 – 2:45 PM **A Palestinian Voice Post October 7th**
Meeting with Meeting with Bashar Azzeq
Member, Palestine National Council, Palestinian Liberation Organization
(PLO)
-at Gefen Hall, Vert Hotel

3:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Briefing En Route: Israel's Diverse Population**

4:45 PM Check-in to the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

6:15 – 7:15 PM **Israel's Quest for Peace: From Oslo to October 7th**
Meeting with Dr. Shany Mor
Political theorist, Lecturer and Writer
-at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel

7:15 PM Depart for Dinner

7:45 – 10:00 PM **The Israeli Mosaic: Minority Experiences in Israel**
 Dinner with:

- Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed, Political and Regional Analyst
- Ashager Araro, Founder, Battae Israeli Ethiopian Heritage Center
- Moshe Isaak, Lawyer and Community Activist

-at 2C

10:15 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel

10:30 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
 -at Main Dining Hall, Sheraton Hotel

8:30 – 9:15 AM **October 7th Invasion Overview**
 Presentation by Gabi Duec
 -at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel

9:15 – 10:15 AM **Humanitarian Aid Update**
 Briefing by Maj. Yotam Shefer
 Head of Foreign Relations Department,
 Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT)
 -at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel

10:30 AM Depart for the South

10:45 – 11:45 AM **En Route Briefing: Historical Survey – Israel and the Gaza Strip**

11:45 AM–12:15 PM **Understanding Hamas’ Goals: The Nova Music Festival**
 Visit the memorial site of the Nova Festival
 -at Re’im

12:15 – 12:45 PM **October 7th Ground Zero**
 Story of the U.S. Hostages
 -at Highway Bomb Shelter, Reim

12:45 PM Depart for Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 PM **Lunch**
 -at Alumim

2:30 PM Depart for Kfar Aza

2:45 - 4:15 PM **October 7th from Civilian Eyes: Remnant of a Massacre**
 Visit to Kibbutz Kfar Aza with Chen Abrahams, Resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza
 -at Kfar Aza
 Tour of Kfar Aza with Chen Abrahams

4:15 PM Depart for Ad Halom

5:00 – 5:30 PM **U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation**
 Visit and briefing at an Iron Dome Battery
 -at Ad Halom

5:45 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

6:00 – 7:00 PM **En Route Briefing: Israeli Approaches to Social Issues**

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Dinner and Group Processing**
 -at Manara

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

Thursday, July 18, 2024

7:45 AM **Breakfast on Own**
 -at Main Dining Hall, Sheraton Hotel

9:15 – 10:15 AM **Israel, the IDF, and International Law**
 With Col. Dr. Eran Shamir Borer
 Director, Center for National Security and Democracy,
 Israel Democracy Institute
 -at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel

10:30 AM Depart for Hostage Square

11:00 – 11:30 AM **The Hostage Crisis: Processing Trauma in Israeli Society**
 -at Hostage Square, Tel Aviv Museum of Art

11:30 AM Depart for the Link Hotel

11:45 AM–12:45 PM **Start Up Nation: Israeli Rebuilding After Crisis**
 Coffee with:

- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director, Volcani International Partnerships ReGrow
- Boaz Hochstein, COO at Restart International

-at Halls 1&2, Link Hotel, Tel Aviv

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM **Ethics in the IDF**
Lunch with IDF soldiers
-at Malka

2:15 PM Depart for Northern Israel

3:15 – 4:15 PM **En Route Briefing: The History of Hezbollah**

5:15 – 5:45 PM **Israel’s Northern Border Concerns I: Displaced in our Own Country**
Briefing with Avi Jacobs
Local Resident, Kiryat Shemona, Lobby 1701
-at Alma Research and Education Center, Tefen

5:50 – 7:00 PM **Israel’s Northern Border Concerns II: Hezbollah Next Door**
Strategic briefing by Lt. Col. (ret.) Sarit Zehavi
Founder and Director, Alma Research Center
-at Alma Research and Education Center, Tefen

7:00 PM Depart for Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

7:45 PM Check-in to the Magdala Hotel

8:15 PM Depart for Dinner

8:30 – 10:30 PM **Dinner and Reflections**
-at Pagoda Restaurant, Tiberias

10:30 PM Depart for the Magdala Hotel

10:45 PM Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

Friday, July 19, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Magdala Hotel

8:30 – 9:00 AM **Visit Ancient Magdala**
-at Magdala Hotel

9:00 AM Depart for the Sea of Galilee

9:15 – 10:30 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**
Visit to:

- Capernaum
- Mount of Beatitudes

10:30 AM Depart for Givat Haviva

- 11:30 AM–12:30 PM **Framework for Coexistence: The Imperative for Creating a Shared Society**
 With Mohammed Darawshe
 Director of Strategy, Givat Haviva Educational Institute
 -at Givat Haviva
- 12:45 PM Depart for Alfei Menashe
 Lunch en route
- 2:00 – 2:30 PM **Israel’s Narrow Waistline**
 Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook
 -at Alfei Menashe
- 2:45 PM Depart for Jerusalem
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM **En-Route Briefing: Bridging the Political Divide**
- 4:15 – 5:15 PM **Price of Independence: Israeli Nation and Individual Sacrifice**
 Visit to Har Herzl
 -at Har Herzl, Mount of Remembrance
- 5:15 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel
- 5:30 PM Check-in to the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem
- 7:30 PM Depart for Sabbath Dinner
- 7:45 – 9:45 PM **Traditional Sabbath Dinner**
 Hosted by Steven and Judy Klitsner
 -at their home in Jerusalem
- 10:00 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel
- 10:15 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, July 20, 2024

- 7:00 AM **Breakfast on Own**
 -at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel
- 7:30 AM Depart for the Dead Sea Region
- 8:15 – 9:00 AM **En Route Briefing: Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor**
- 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM **History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire**
 Guided visit of Masada National Archeological Park

11:45 AM–12:30 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
-at Kalia Beach

12:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem

1:30 – 2:30 PM Lunch
-at Abu Kamal, Old City

2:45 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

6:30 – 8:30 PM **Bringing It All Together: Closing Dinner**
-at Arbel Hall, Inbal Hotel

8:45 PM Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, July 21, 2024

12:30 AM LY 27 Departs TLV – Jocelyne Barajas, Matthew Duglin, Ethan Sorcher

1:00 AM LY 25 Departs TLV – Caroline Bender, Dana Hanson, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Aliza Oppenheim, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti

5:15 AM LY 27 Arrives EWR – Jocelyne Barajas, Matthew Duglin, Ethan Sorcher

5:45 AM LY 25 Arrives EWR – Caroline Bender, Dana Hanson, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Aliza Oppenheim, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti

8:22 AM Amtrak 160 Departs EWR – Dana Hanson

9:11 AM Amtrak 103 Departs EWR – Jocelyne Barajas, Caroline Bender, Matthew Duglin, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Aliza Oppenheim, Ethan Sorcher, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti

12:21 PM Amtrak 103 Arrives WAS – Jocelyne Barajas, Caroline Bender, Matthew Duglin, Max Harris, Edward Kim, Aliza Oppenheim, Ethan Sorcher, Kirby Tidmore, Bridget Visconti

1:19 PM Amtrak 160 Arrives BOS – Dana Hanson

**American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
July 13 – 21, 2024**

Saturday, July 13, 2024

3:21 PM Amtrak 168 Departs WAS

6:21 PM Amtrak 168 Arrives EWR

11:50 PM LY 26 Departs EWR

Sunday, July 14, 2024

5:15 PM LY 26 Arrives TLV
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check in to Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

7:00 – 9:00 PM **Welcome Dinner and Orientation**
-at Touro Restaurant

9:00 PM Depart for the City of David

9:15 – 10:15 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem pt. I: King David's Jerusalem**
Late-night visit at the City of David

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sides 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.

10:30 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

10:45 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 15, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Pulse of the Nation**
With Matti Friedman
Author and Journalist
-at Inbal Hotel

Matti Friedman is a renowned reporter with a career that has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow and Washington, D.C., and to conflicts in Israel in the Caucasus. Mr. Friedman is a dynamic and insightful speaker who provides a journalist's perspective on how Israel's story is told by the international media, and how that media portrayal impacts the stories taking place on the ground. As Israel continues to fight the war against Hamas in Gaza, as well as deal with escalating Iranian threats, Matti will provide participants with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of Israeli voters.

10:15 AM Depart for the Old City

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem pt. II: The Old City of Jerusalem**

- Southern Wall Excavations
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

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

12:45 PM Depart for Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 PM **Lunch**
-at Luciana

2:00 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Introduction to Israeli Politics**
Briefing with Reuven Hazan
Professor of Political Science, Hebrew University
-at Inbal Hotel

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the delegation will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

4:45 PM Depart for the Knesset

5:45 – 6:15 PM **A View from the Coalition**
Meeting with the Honorable Amir Ohana
Speaker of the Knesset, Likud Party
-at Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the coalition and opposition parties. The Honorable Amir Ohana is an Israeli lawyer, former Shin Bet official and politician who has served as the Speaker of the Knesset since 2022, and as a member of the Knesset for Likud. He previously held the posts of Minister of Justice and Minister of Public Security. He was the first openly gay right-wing member of the Knesset and the first openly gay man from Likud to serve in the Knesset. Ohana is a veteran of the acclaimed Israeli Shin Bet security agency, and an attorney. He achieved the rank of major in the IDF and continues to serve in reserve duty.

6:30 – 7:00 PM **A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with the Honorable Shelly Meron
Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party
-at Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the coalition and opposition parties. The Honorable Shelly Meron entered the Knesset in February 2023. She previously served in the Israeli Air Force for six years in various roles, including as a spokesperson, a flight instructor for Bell AH-1 Cobra pilots, and as an officer. She also worked for a technology company in Southeast Asia.

7:00 – 7:30 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action**
Tour of Israel's Parliament

The Knesset Plenum, also known as the Plenary or Assembly Hall, is the three-story hall of the Knesset, Israel's unicameral legislature. Participants will be able to see members of the 120-person body debate and vote on various motions. This session will allow participants to see the parliamentary system in action.

7:45 PM Depart for Dinner

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Dinner and Reflections**
-at Hatzot/Andalucia

Staff will lead a guided discussion on the day’s programming. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them during the day assists in their ability to understand the complex issues facing Israel during this time of war.

9:45 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

10:00 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Regional Strategic Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at Inbal Hotel

Brig.-Gen (Res.) is the past director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at the Office of the Prime Minister, where he served until 2012. His duties included developing a national policy for border protection, cargo and aviation security, and advanced technology for public security. He is a veteran of the “Golani” Infantry Corp; he held command positions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and South Lebanon. Today he is a Fellow at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at IDC Herzliya.

9:45 AM Depart for Mount of Remembrance

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM **Role of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Tour Yad Vashem’s Holocaust History Museum

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

12:30 PM Depart for Lunch

12:45 – 1:30 PM Lunch
-at Vert Hotel

1:45 – 2:45 PM **A Palestinian Voice Post October 7**
Meeting with Meeting with Bashar Azzeh
Member of the PLO Palestine National Council
PLO Center Council
-at Vert Hotel

Bashar Azzeh is a Member of the PLO Palestine National Council, PLO Center Council, PPSF Party international secretary and Advisor to the PLO. Recently, he was appointed by PA President Mahmoud Abbas to be one of the unofficial Palestinian envoys to Washington, and he travels often to meet with the Administration and Congress. Besides his work in politics and policy, Mr. Azzeh is also the Founder and Chairman of Al Maqdese association for economic and social development in East Jerusalem, and a Board member of Education for Employment EFE and Eco Peace Foundation in Palestine. Mr. Azzeh is Founding Owner and Deputy Chairman of Tatweer Development Group, a real estate investment group, and a Board member of the Palestine Britain Business Council.

3:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Briefing En Route: Israel's Diverse Population**

Israel is home to a wide diverse population of over 8 million citizens from many ethnic, religious, cultural and social backgrounds living together and contributing to its vibrant society. This briefing will provide detailed information on the current make up and how they coexist.

4:45 PM Check in to Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

6:00 – 7:00 PM **Israel's Quest for Peace: From Oslo to October 7**
Meeting with Dr. Shany Mor
Political theorist, lecturer and writer
-at Sheraton Hotel

Shany Mor is a leading political theorist and policy consultant whose work brings to the fore expertise gained both as a scholar and a practitioner. He has taught politics and international relations at leading universities in Israel, Europe, and the US, and has consulted for politicians and NGO's on a host of issues drawing on his experience both as an academic and as a Director for Foreign Policy for Israel's National Security Council, where he also headed the diplomatic desk in the situation room of the Prime Minister's Office. During this session, Dr. Mor will trace the roots of the current Israel-Hamas war back to the Oslo Accords, through Camp David, the Second Intifada, and Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip in 2005. He will explore where the peace process stands in the wake of October 7, and what the day after might look like.

- 7:45 – 9:30 PM **The Israeli Mosaic: Minority Experiences in Israel**
Dinner with
- Ashager Araro, Founder, Battae Israeli Ethiopian Heritage Center
 - Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed, Political and Regional Analyst
- at Sheraton Hotel

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.

- 9:45 PM Overnight at Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

- 7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Sheraton Hotel

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM **October 7th Invasion Overview**
Presentation by Gabi Duec
-at the Sheraton Hotel

- 9:15 AM Depart for the South

- 9:15 – 10:15 AM **En Route briefing: Historical Survey – Israel and the Gaza Strip**

During this en route briefing, the tour guide will provide a brief history of the Gaza Strip, the small, coastal enclave that shares borders with Egypt and Israel, and is currently controlled by the Hamas terrorist organization.

- 10:30 – 11:30 AM **Humanitarian Aid Update**
Field briefing by Maj. Yotam Shefer
Head of Foreign Relations Department, COGAT
-at Erez Crossing

LTC Yotam Shefer is Head of the Foreign Relations Branch in COGAT (Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories). He has held a variety of other positions in COGAT over the last 10 years. Most recently Shefer was Head of Foreign Relations Department in the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria. Before that he was Head of Security Coordination with the Palestinian Authority Security Forces in the Nablus district and Head of the Operations Department at COGAT headquarters. Shefer holds a BA in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science.

- 11:45 AM Depart for Kfar Aza

12:15 – 1:30 PM **October 7th from Civilian Eyes: Remnant of a Massacre**
Tour of Kfar Aza with Chen Abrahams
Resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza
-at Kfar Aza

On October 7, the Jewish communities living along the Gaza border were destroyed, thousands were killed, and hundreds kidnapped. During the visit to the Kibbutz, participants will bear witness to the Hamas invasion and massacre. They will hear what happened to the community on October 7, and how the IDF regained control. They will meet with resident Chen Abrahams who will walk them through the events that started the war.

1:30 PM Depart for Lunch

1:45 – 2:45 PM **Lunch**

2:45 PM Depart for Re'im

3:15 – 3:45 PM **Understanding Hamas' Goals: The Nova Music Festival**
Visit the memorial site of the Nova Festival
-at Re'im

When Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, they also massacred and kidnapped hundreds of young civilians at a music festival taking place in the Gaza envelope area. Since then, family members created a moving memorial to their loved ones that will help the participants understand the enormity of the events of the days and the trauma experienced by Israeli society.

3:45 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

4:00 – 5:00 PM **En Route Briefing: Israeli Approaches to Social Issues**

5:15 – 6:00 PM **The Hostage Crisis Continues: Ongoing Trauma in Israeli Society**
-at Hostage Square, Tel Aviv Museum of Art

During this session, participants will tour the main site that activists are using to promote awareness of the hostages still being held captive in Gaza. They will learn about the different communities that have been impacted, and who have built a dynamic, diverse civil society project through art, religion, and activism. Participants will also meet with family members of those who were taken hostage, including American citizens.

6:00 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel

7:45 PM Depart for Dinner

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Dinner and Group Processing**
-at Flame, Carlton Hotel

Staff will lead a guided discussion on the day's programming. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them during the day assists in their ability to understand the complex issues facing Israel during this time of war.

9:45 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel

10:00 PM Overnight at Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, July 18th

8:00 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-Main Dining Hall, Sheraton Hotel

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Israel, the IDF, and International Law**
With Col. Dr. Eran Shamir Borer
-at Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Dr. Eran Shamir-Borer serves as the Director of the Center for National Security and Democracy since September 2022. Prior, Eran served for over 20 years in various positions in the International Law Department of the Military Advocate General's Corps in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), including as the head of the department, and retired at the rank of Colonel. In this capacity, Eran was responsible for the provision of advice to all levels of command in the IDF regarding international law, including with respect to the IDF's operational activities in times of contingency. During his service, Eran represented the State of Israel in various international fora, participated in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, and was involved in contending with the diplomatic and legal challenges facing Israel at the international level. Eran's academic publications address different areas of international law, particularly global governance, and the law of armed conflict. During this session, he will address the current political climate for Israel on the international stage.

10:15 – 11:15 AM **Start Up Nation: Israeli Rebuilding After Crisis**

Coffee with:

- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director, Volcani International Partnerships ReGrow
- Boaz Hochstein, COO at Restart International

-at Sheraton Hotel

Danielle Abraham is the Executive Director of Volcani International Partnerships (VIP), an Israeli NGO dedicated towards increasing the scope and impact of Israel's renowned agricultural expertise and innovation throughout the world. Working closely with Israel's national Agricultural Research Organization (The Volcani Institute), VIP provides tailor made solutions to address global concerns such as food security, water conservation and sustainability to countries around the world. Previously, Danielle served as a senior policy advisor in MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development). She has represented Israel at the UN and been a guest speaker at the OECD and German Development Bank. Danielle was the co-founder and co-chair of the ID2 Conference and Global Network, bringing hundreds of development entrepreneurs to Israel.

Boaz Hochstein is the operations and marketing manager at Restart, a non-profit organization helping wounded soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to restart their life journey after physical and/or emotional trauma resulting from their mandatory service or reserve duty. Hochstein himself was injured while serving, and the idea for Restart was created during his time in physical rehabilitation.

11:30 AM Depart for Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 PM **Lunch**
-at Brisket Bar

1:45 PM Depart for Northern Israel

2:15 – 3:15 PM **En Route Briefing: The History of Hezbollah**

During the drive to Israel's border with Lebanon, the guide will provide an overview of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist group based in Lebanon that is dedicated to Israel's destruction. The terrorist group's influence in Lebanese politics, massive weapons arsenal and use of Lebanese civilians as human shields make the Iranian proxy a serious threat to Israel. The group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, refers to Israel as a "cancerous growth" and believes "The only solution is to destroy it without giving it the opportunity to surrender." Hezbollah has a global reach and has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda.

4:00 – 5:00 PM **Israel’s Northern Border Concerns pt. II: Displaced in our Own Country**

Briefing with Nissan Zeevi
Local Resident, Kfar Giladi and Founder of Lobby 1701
-at Klika Hall, Alma

Nissan Zeevi lives in kibbutz Kfar Giladi, and he is 3th Generation in the Galilee. Until October 6th, Nisan led one of Israel's most successful initiatives in geo-economic development, transforming the Galilee to a new vibrant food-tech hub in Israel. As the Impact Investment Director at JVP, he spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives, generating over 500 new job opportunities. Since October 7th, Nisan has been on reserve duty for 180 days in Kfar Giladi, where his entire family has been evacuated. Within this framework, Nisan established Lobby 1701, a civil organization representing 80,000 residents of the Galilee from both the left and the right, working unsure the security needs of this region and to implement UN Resolution 1701 - creating a demilitarized area from the Lebanon border to the Litani River.

5:15 – 6:45 PM **Israel’s Northern Border Concerns pt. I: Hezbollah Next Door**

Strategic briefing by Lt. Col. (ret.) Sarit Zehavi
Founder and Director, Alma Research Center
-at Alma Research and Education Center, Tefen

This briefing will give participants an insider’s understanding of the threat Israel currently faces from Hezbollah in Lebanon and the work the IDF is doing to secure Israel’s northern border. It will also address the potential risks of an expanded war with Hezbollah, the connection to Iran and an update about potential diplomatic solutions.

7:00 PM Depart for the Magdala Hotel

7:45 PM Check in to the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

8:15 PM Depart for Dinner

8:30 – 10:30 PM **Dinner and Reflections**
-at Pagoda Restaurant, Tiberias

Staff will lead a guided discussion on the day’s programming. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them during the day assists in their ability to understand the complex issues facing Israel during this time of war.

10:30 PM Depart for Magdala Hotel

10:45 PM Overnight at Magdala Hotel, Migdal

Friday, July 19, 2024

6:30 – 7:30 AM **Tour of Ancient 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.

8:00 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Magdala Hotel

8:30 AM Depart

8:45 – 10:15 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**
Visit to Holy Christian Sites:

- Capernaum
- Mount of Beatitudes

As part of the seminar’s focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. 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 Givat Haviva

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **Framework for Coexistence: The Imperative for Creating a Shared Society**

With Mohammad Darawshe
Director of Strategy, Givat Haviva Educational Institute
-at Givat Haviva Educational Institute

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, particularly in light of October 7, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

12:45 PM Depart for Alfei Menashe

1:45 – 2:30 PM **Israel’s Narrow Waistline**
Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook
-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.

2:45 PM Depart for Jerusalem

3:00 – 4:00 PM **En-Route Briefing: Bridging the Political Divide**

This briefing will provide the delegation with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of Israeli voters at this particular moment in time.

4:15 – 5:15 PM **Price of Independence: Israeli Nation and Individual Sacrifice**
Tour of Mount Herzl
-at Mount Herzl, Mount of Remembrance

A critical piece of understanding Israeli society and culture is the role of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), mandatory army service, and veterans. Mount Herzl is the site of Israel's national cemetery, named after Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism. Israel's leaders and fallen soldiers are buried there. Every plot section in Mount Herzl has a broad plaza for memorial services. Most state memorial ceremonies for those killed in war are conducted in the National Military and Police cemetery. This visit will highlight the way Israel remembers its fallen and relates to the role of the military in as part of the fabric of the Jewish State. Since the massacre on October 7th and the ensuing war, the cemetery has seen many funerals in recent months and visiting now will help participants understand the current Israeli psyche.

5:15 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

5:30 PM Check in to the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

7:45 PM Depart for Sabbath Dinner

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Traditional Sabbath Dinner**
Learn about and experience the Sabbath
Hosted by the Jonathan Price & Naomi Schachter
-at their home in Jerusalem

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. During this dinner the hosts will lead a discussion on their hometown of Tel Aviv, the center of the largest metropolitan area in Israel, home to most of Israel's hi-tech industry, and the country's international airport. They will describe life in Tel Aviv since October 7, including the impact on civilian life in Tel Aviv, where the population lives just hours from a war zone.

10:15 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

10:30 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, July 20, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel

8:00 AM Depart for the Dead Sea Region

8:15 – 9:15 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.

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM **History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire**

Guided visit to Masada National Archeological Park

Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world. Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. The delegation will visit the magnificent ancient excavations; learn the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; and discuss the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

12:00 PM

Depart

12:30 – 2:15 PM

Exploration of the Dead Sea Region

-at Hod Herbert Samuel Hod 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.

2:15 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

6:30 – 8:30 PM **Bringing It All Together: Closing Dinner**
-at Inbal 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; and the conflict plagued borders with Gaza, Syria and Lebanon. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

8:45 PM Depart for Airport

9:30 PM Meet VIP at Airport

Sunday, July 21, 2024

1:00 AM LY 25 Departs TLV

5:45 AM LY 25 Arrives EWR

9:11 AM Amtrak 103 Departs EWR

12:21 PM Amtrak 103 Arrives WAS