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: Benjamin Ari Stanislawski
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: June 29, 2024 Return: July 7, 2024
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC (train to Newark for flight) Destination: Tel Aviv, Israel Return City: Washington, DC (via train from Newark)
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We had a series of educational meetings, including meetings with members of the Knesset, academics, and journalists. We visited various important cultural and religious sites, including a tour of the grounds of the Nova festival massacre.
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:** July 22, 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: Ritchie Torres **Date:** July 22, 2024

Signature of Supervising Member: _____

last updated 7/2023

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: June 29, 2024 Date of Return: July 7, 2024
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Benny Stanislawski

   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	$3,932.51	$2,345.34	$1,322.37	$4,656.75
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: Docusigned by: 3634BCB643B8439... **Date:** 7/16/2024 | 18:18 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.

last updated 7/2023

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.

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: Benjamin Stanislawski

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: _____

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Ritchie Torres

Office Address: Longworth House Office Building, 1414, Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: (202) 225-4361

Email Address of Contact Person: benjamin.stanislawski@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*.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Benjamin Stanislawski
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: June 29, 2024 Date of Return: July 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.**

   As the Communications Director for Congressman Torres, I am often helping him craft his messaging regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Having a greater understanding of the situation on the ground since October 7 will help me advise the Congressman in how best to
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: Ritchie Torres **Date:** May 30, 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: June 29, 2024 Date of Return: July 7, 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. [X] 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. [X] 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. [X] 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 [X] Rail [ ] Bus [X] Car [ ] Other [ ] (specify: _____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach [X] Business [ ] First [ ] Charter [X] 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. [X] 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. [X] 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	City	Cost Per Night	Reason(s) for Selecting
King David Hotel	Jerusalem	$350	location and affordability
Magdala Hotel	Tiberias	$232	location and affordability
Sheraton Hotel	Tel Aviv	$417	location and affordability

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

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$5,652.00	$2257.50	$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: DocuSigned by: Rachel Hirsch 5665F135A2CE4E2... Date: 5/23/2024 | 16:27 EDT

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

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

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

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

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
June 29 – July 7, 2024

Addendum

4. Names of Travelers
    1. Stephanie Buesser, Military Legislative Assistant, Office of The Honorable Elise Stefanik
    2. Lauren Graham, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Josh Brecheen
    3. Eric Haley, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Wesley Hunt
    4. Jennifer Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Lois Frankel
    5. Collin Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Mark Green
    6. Alexander Rogoff, Middle East Policy Advisor, Office of the Honorable Jared Moskowitz
    7. Adam Safran, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
    8. Benny Stanislawski, Communications Director, Office of the Honorable Ritchie Torres

5. Breakdown of Other Expenses

BREAKDOWN OF OTHER COSTS:	**PER PARTICIPANT**
SECURITY	$1,548.23
SPEAKER FEES	$1,094.32
MEALS FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	$519.70
TOUR GUIDE	$430.47
HOTEL FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	$427.98
ROOM RENTAL	$287.64
AIRPORT ASSISTANCE	$115.19
TIPS	$114.74
ENTRANCE FEE	$45.99
PHOTOGRAPHY	$41.26
TRANSPORTATION FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	$25.61
MISC	$5.62
TOTALS	$4,656.75

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
June 29 – July 7, 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. Lauren Graham, Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Josh Brecheen (R-OK)
2. Adam Safran, Senior Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL)
3. Jennifer Miller, Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Lois Frankel (D-FL)
4. Collin Miller, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Mark Green (R-TN)
5. Eric Haley, Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Wesley Hunt (R-TX)
6. Alexander Rogoff, Middle East Policy Advisor, The Office of the Honorable Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)
7. Stephanie Buesser, Military Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
8. Benny Stanislawski, Communications Director, The Office of the Honorable Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

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
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
June 29 – July 7, 2024

Itinerary

Saturday, June 29, 2024

10:55 PM United #90 departs Newark

Sunday, June 30, 2024

4:20 PM United #90 arrives at Ben Gurion
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:00 – 8:30 PM **Welcome and Orientation Dinner**
-at the King David Hotel

8:45 PM Depart for the City of David

9:00 – 10:00 PM **Late-Night Visit: 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.

10:15 PM Depart for the King David Hotel

10:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 1, 2024

7:00-8:15 AM Breakfast on own
-at the dining hall, King David Hotel

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Pulse of the Nation**
With Efrat Rosenberg Shapira
Media Figure, Content Director, Beit Avi Chai Foundation
-at the King David Hotel

Efrat Shapira Rosenberg is a content director at Beit Avi Chai, in Jerusalem, where she creates and hosts popular podcasts about Israeli politics, currents affairs and Jewish thought. Previously, Efrat was a program officer at the Avi Chai foundation for almost a decade, a major player in the field of Jewish renewal and education in Israel. Her field of expertise is processes of building Jewish identity within Secular young adults in Israel through Philanthropy, and projects of Jewish Peoplehood. As Israel continues to fight the war against Hamas in Gaza, as well as deal with escalating Iranian threats, Ms. Rosenberg Shapira will provide participants with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of Israeli voters.

9:45 – 10:00 AM **The Story of October 7: Overview**
Briefing with Yossi Garr
-at the King David Hotel

10:00 – 11:00 AM **Gaza: A Situational Analysis**
Briefing with Lt. Col. (res.) Miri Eisen
Director of ICT
International Institute for Counter Terrorism at Reichman University
-at the King David Hotel

Col. (Res.) Miri Eisin is an Israeli security expert, speaking on regional geo-politics and security related issues in the media worldwide. Col. Eisin served in the Israeli intelligence community and retired from active duty at the rank of full colonel in 2004. Over her twenty-year career in the military, she served as the deputy head of the combat intelligence corps, the personal assistant to the Director of Military intelligence and as the intelligence officer in combat units and research departments.

11:15 AM Depart for Sderot

12:30 – 1:15 PM Lunch
-at Hummus shel Techina, Sderot

1:30 – 2:30 PM **The Story of October 7: Part I**
Meeting with Adi Busi
Resident of Sderot

On October 7, the Jewish communities living along the Gaza border were destroyed, thousands were killed, and hundreds kidnapped. During the visit to the Sderot, 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 Adi Busi, who will walk them through the events that started the war.

2:30 PM Depart for Gaza Strip

2:45 – 3:15 PM **Black Arrow Monument: Overlook of the Gaza Strip**

The Black Arrow Monument is a large memorial site that commemorates the battle heritage of the Paratroop Brigade that fought in reprisal operations in response to enemy infiltrations into Israel in the years leading up to the Sinai Campaign of 1956. During this session, 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.

3:15 – 3:30 PM Depart for the South

3:30 – 4:15 PM **The Story of October 7: Part II**
Visit to the site of the Nova party

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.

4:15 – 6:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

7:00 PM Depart for Dinner

7:15 – 9:15 PM **Dinner and Discussion**
-at Jacko St.

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.

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own
-at the dining hall, King David Hotel

8:30 AM Depart for the Old City

9:00 AM – 12:15 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem - Part I: The Origin Stories**

- Robinson's Arch
- 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.

12:15 PM Depart for lunch

12:30 – 1:30 PM **Lunch**
-at Luciana

1:30 PM Depart the King David Hotel

2:30 – 3:30 PM **Israeli Politics 101**
With Yossi Garr
-at the King David Hotel

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Educational Seminar Leader Yossi Garr will explain 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.

3:45 PM Depart for the Knesset

4:45 – 5:30 PM **A View from the Coalition**
Meeting with the Honorable Danny Danon
Member of Knesset, Likud Party
-at the Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the coalition and opposition parties. The Honorable Danny Danon is from Prime Minister's Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party. He previously served as Israel's 17th Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2015-2020.

5:45 – 6:30 PM **A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with the Honorable Efrat Rayten
Member of Knesset, Labor Party
-at the Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the coalition and opposition parties. The Honorable Efrat Rayten is currently a member of the Knesset for the Israeli Labor Party, has previously chaired the Labor, Welfare and Health Committee, and is currently chairing the Labor faction in the Knesset.

6:30 – 7:00 PM **Israeli Politics in Action**
Visit to Plenary Hall

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. Following the earlier presentation from Yossi Garr, this session will allow participants to see the parliamentary system in action.

7:00 PM Depart for dinner

7:15 – 9:15 PM **Dinner and Discussion**
-at Fiori

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.

9:15 PM Depart for the King David Hotel

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own
-at the dining hall, King David Hotel

8:30 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

9:00 – 11:00 AM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Guided visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust 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.

11:15 – 11:45 AM Depart for the Israel Democracy Institute

12:00 – 1:00 PM **Israel and International Law**
Briefing with Dr. Eran Shamir Borer
Director, Center for National Security and Democracy,
Israel Democracy Institute
-at the Israel Democracy Institute

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.

1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 – 3:00 PM **A Palestinian Voice, Post October 7**
Meeting with Ibrahim Dalalshe
Executive Director,
Horizon Center for Political Studies and Media Outreach
-at Vert Hotel

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

3:15 – 3:30 PM Depart

3:30 – 4:45 PM **Paying Tribute to Israel's Fallen Soldiers**
A visit to Mount Herzl, military cemetery

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.

4:45 – 5:15 PM Depart for the King David Hotel

6:15 – 7:15 PM **Israel's Quest for Peace: From Oslo to October 7**
Meeting with Dr. Shany Mor
Political theorist, lecturer and writer
-at the King David 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.

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Israeli Resiliency: Rebuilding After Destruction**
Dinner with:
- Danielle Abraham, CEO, Regrow Israel
- Miriam Ballin, Founder of Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit, United Hatzalah

Within hours of Hamas's attack on Israel, civil society activists stepped in and used their experience and knowledge to save lives and protect their homes. In this session, participants will hear from activists who come from organizations that exemplify Israel's commitment to repairing the world and the start-up ethos, and in the aftermath of Oct 7 redirected their efforts to help Israeli society weather the war and its aftermath.

10:00 PM Depart for the King David Hotel

10:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

<u>Thursday, July 4, 2024</u>

7:45 – 8:30 AM Breakfast on own
-at the dining hall, King David Hotel

8:45 – 10:00 AM **Regional Strategic Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
- at the King David Hotel

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

10:15 AM Depart for Alfei Menashe

11:30 – 12:15 AM **Israel's Narrow Waistline**
Strategic briefing
-at Alfei Menashe overlook

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

12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch
-at Yulek Cafe

1:30 PM Depart for North

1:30 – 2:30 PM **Briefing en route: 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.

3:00 – 5:00 PM **Israel's Northern Front: Lebanon and Hezbollah**
Briefing with Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yuval Bazak
-Sasa

Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yuval Bazak is a senior expert and military expert in strategic planning and executive leadership, with vast experience in driving international projects, market development and planning. He will brief the delegation on security threats coming from the Lebanese border, and the role Iran plays in supporting Hezbollah terrorism against Israel.

5:00 PM Depart for the Magdala Hotel

6:00 PM Check-in to the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:45 PM – 9:30 PM **Dinner and Reflections from the Week**
-at Decks

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

9:30 PM Return to the Magdala Hotel

9:45 PM Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

Friday, July 5, 2024

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own
-at the dining hall, Magdala Hotel

8:30 AM Depart for Galilee

9:00 – 11:00 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**

Guided Survey of:

- Mt. of Beatitudes
- Church of the Primacy of Peter
- Capernaum

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.

11:00 AM Depart for Tanduka

12:30 – 1:30 PM **Shared Society During Crisis**

Lunch with Mohammed Darawshe
Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Living
Givat Haviva Educational Institute
-at Tanduka

Approximately 22% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all citizens. Our speaker, Mohammad Darawshe is currently the director of planning, equality and shared living at Givat Haviva Educational Institute –a non-profit organization founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in Israel. His focus throughout his career is promoting coexistence and quality among Israel's Jewish and Arab-Palestinians citizens. He will discuss the current challenges facing minority groups in Israel, particularly in light of October 7, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

1:45 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

2:30 – 3:30 PM **Briefing en route: Jordanian-Israeli Relations**

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive from the North to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom, and Jordan's response to post-October 7th threats. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Our guide will address how threats in the region impact Jordan internally, as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

4:30 PM Check-in to the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

7:45 PM Depart for dinner

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath**
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by a local family
-at their home

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.

10:00 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel

10:15 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, July 6, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast on own
-dining hall, Sheraton Hotel

9:00 AM Depart

9:00 – 10:30 AM **Understanding the Roots of the Israeli Ethos**
Guided Survey of Independence Trail

Tel Aviv is the first Hebrew city and reflects the diverse origins of the original Zionists who founded the city. A survey of the early neighborhoods, and visits to the major historical, cultural and political institutions will help participants understand modern Israel's ethos and approach to local and global issues. It will also be an opportunity to see the vibrant, diverse secular society in contrast to the experience of a Shabbat dinner the night before with a religious family.

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Coexistence in the Heart of Israel**
Guided Survey of Jaffa

The ancient city of Jaffa, now part of the modern Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality has a rich history reflecting the different communities that have used it as a port city. Today, a diverse community of Jews, Christians and Muslims call it home. This visit will cover the ancient and modern city, allowing participants to have a deep understanding of different Israeli populations as well as the challenges and opportunities of a shared society.

12:00 – 1:30 PM **The IDF in Israel Life**
Lunch with Reservists
-at Blue Rooster

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

1:30 PM Depart for the ANU Museum of the Jewish People

2:00 – 3:00 PM **Understanding Oct 7 and its Impact on Israeli Society**
Visit to ANU Museum of the Jewish People

"October Seventh" examines how Israeli culture reacts to the war. The exhibition curates works by 25 artists whose creative activity reflects the atrocious times Israeli society is facing since October 7th. Some of them are living artists, some deceased – either murdered on October 7th or died during the ongoing war, while others are residents (or former residents) of the southern areas, who suffered the loss of their loved ones, their homes, or whose families were affected by the horrors of the massacre. The new exhibition wishes to frame a current situation and to record the unique creative burst that is well felt among Israelis since the war began.

3:30 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel

4:00 – 6:00 PM Prepare for departure, check out

6:00 – 7:00 PM **The Challenges of the Day After**
Meeting with Haviv Rettig Gur
Journalist, The Times of Israel
-at the Sheraton Hotel

Journalist Haviv Rettig Gur will provide an overview of the history of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, from the birth of the Palestinian national identity to the Oslo Accords to the current moment in time. He will discuss the obstacles to peace from before October 7, and the role of the United States and the international community. He will also lay out the complexities of "the day after" and some possibilities for how Israelis and Palestinians can move forward.

7:00 – 9:00 PM **Closing Dinner and Reflections**
-at the Sheraton 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.

9:00 PM Depart for the airport

11:25 PM United #91 departs Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, July 7, 2024

4:05 AM United #91 arrives at Newark

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

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June 20, 2024

Mr. Benjamin Stanislawski
Office of the Honorable Ritchie Torres
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Stanislawski:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,[1] scheduled for June 29 to July 7, 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.

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[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,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc