

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

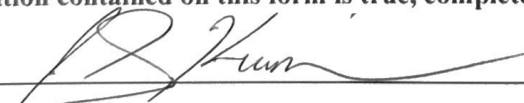
EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☐ Original ☐ Amendment

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.

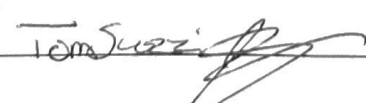
1. Name of Traveler: Jonathan Kaiman
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: — OR ☒ None
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other(specify): —
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 1, 2026 Return: August 9, 2026
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: — OR ☒ None
4. Departure City: New York Destination: — Return City: New York
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We met with various policy experts and officials including U.S. Ambassador Huckabee. We visited various historic & politically significant places such as military sites.
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: 08/21/2026

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: Rep. Tom Suozzi Date: 08/21/2026

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: August 1, 2026 Date of Return: August 9, 2026

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Jon Kaiman

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	\$10,743.69	\$2,630.54	\$1,613.62	\$10,038.20
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: Rachel Hirsch Date: 8/20/2026 | 13:12 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: Jonathan Kaiman
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AEIF)
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: August 1, 2026 Date of Return: August 9, 2026
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.**
I am the Chief of Staff for Congressman Tom Suozzi (NY03). US policy related to Israel is both a national and local concern for Member Suozzi. I am directly involved in the congressman's policy decisions related to Israel. I also speak about Member Suozzi's positions on or in relation to Israel at local events and meetings.
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: Thomas R. Suozzi

Date: 7/14/26

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.

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 see attached

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

6. Date of Departure: August 1, 2026 Date of Return: August 9, 2026

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 other 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 in Israel)
 c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 b. ☒ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$207.14

- 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: The King David Hotel City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$449

Reason(s) for Selecting: Location and affordability

Hotel Name: The Sheraton Hotel City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: \$407

Reason(s) for Selecting: Location and affordability

Hotel Name: The Magdala Hotel City: Tiberias Cost Per Night: \$301

Reason(s) for Selecting: Location and affordability

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

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	\$11,000	\$2,462	\$1,450
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

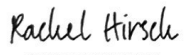
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$5,208.30	Breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A

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: 6/30/2026 | 10:56 EDT
5005F135A2CE4E2
 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.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

July 27, 2026

Mr. Jonathan Kaiman
Office of the Honorable Thomas Suozzi
203 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Kaiman:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for August 1 to 9, 2026, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

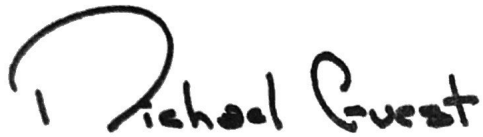
You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you 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 \$525 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 \$525] 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 black ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and stylized, with a loop that extends upwards and to the left.

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark DeSaulnier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:kjf

**American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
August 1-9, 2026**

Itinerary

Saturday, August 1, 2026

3:17 PM	Amtrak #168 departs Union Station for Metz
3:59 PM	Delta #866 departs Detroit for Barry
4:56 PM	Delta #5713 departs DCA for Jones
6:21 PM	Amtrak #168 arrives Newark for Metz
6:30 PM	Delta #5713 arrives JFK for Jones
7:18 PM	Delta #866 arrives Miami for Barry
11:50 PM	El Al #26 departs Newark for Metz
11:50 PM	El Al #8 departs JFK for Jones, Kaiman, Silberberg
11:55 PM	El Al #118 departs Miami for Lastre, Barry

Sunday, August 2, 2026

5:10 PM	El Al #8 arrives Tel Aviv for Jones, Kaiman, Silberberg
5:15 PM	El Al #26 arrives Tel Aviv for Metz
6:55 PM	El Al #118 arrives Tel Aviv for Lastre, Barry
	Transfer to Jerusalem
8:15 – 9:30 PM	Welcome Dinner and Discussion Dinner and Discussion with: ▪ Gabi Duec, Educational Seminar Leader, American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) ▪ Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide -at Zahara restaurant, Jerusalem
9:30 PM	Depart

- 9:45 – 11:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The City of David**
with Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
-at the City of David, Jerusalem
- 11:15 PM Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 11:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, August 3, 2026

- 7:45 – 8:30 AM **Introductions and Orientation Breakfast**
With Gabi Duec
Educational Seminar Leader,
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 8:45 – 10:00 AM **State of the Nation: Israel in Transition**
With Yaakov Katz
Author and Journalist, Former Editor,
The Jerusalem Post
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 10:00 AM Depart
- 10:15 AM – 12:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II: The Holy Basin**
Guided survey with Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
-at the Old City, Jerusalem
- 12:15 – 1:00 PM Lunch
-at Luciana restaurant, Jerusalem
- 1:15 PM Depart
- 2:00 – 3:15 PM **Israel's National Security: Challenges and Strategies**
Meeting with Dr. Uri Resnick
Deputy Director of Foreign Policy,
Israel's National Security Council (NSC)
-at the National Security Council, Jerusalem
- 3:30 PM Depart
- 3:45 – 5:00 PM Break
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

5:00 – 6:00 PM	Israeli Politics – Israel Goes to the Polls Briefing with Amit Segal Journalist and Chief Political Analyst, Channel 12 News -at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
6:15 – 7:30 PM	The Changing Middle East: 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, Jerusalem
7:30 PM	Depart
7:45 – 9:30 PM	Dinner -at Jacos, Shuk Mahane Yehuda
9:45 PM	Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
10:00 PM	Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
 <u>Tuesday, August 4, 2026</u>	
7:15 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast on own -at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
8:30 – 9:45 AM	Israel's Standing in the International Arena Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker Vice President, Shalom Hartman Institute -at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
10:00 AM	Depart
10:00 – 10:30 AM	En-route Briefing: Israel's Mount of Remembrance With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	The Israeli Psyche: The Significance of the Holocaust Guided visit -at Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center
12:45 PM	Depart
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Lunch -at the Vert Hotel, Jerusalem

1:45 – 3:00 PM	Palestinian Society: Trends and Public Sentiment Meeting with Samer Sinijlawi Fatah Activist and Chairman, the Jerusalem Development Fund -at the Vert Hotel, Jerusalem
3:00 PM	Depart
3:15 – 4:00 PM	En-route Briefing: Tel Aviv – Ancient Roots, Modern Metropolis With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
4:45 PM	Check-in to the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
6:00 – 7:30 PM	The Iran War: Lessons from Operation Roaring Lion With Col. (ret.) Udi Eventhal Senior Advisor, Mind Israel -at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
7:30 PM	Depart
7:45 – 9:15 PM	Dinner -at Goshen restaurant, Tel Aviv
9:15 PM	Return to the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast on own -at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
8:30 – 9:15 AM	October 7th Part I: How It Unfolded in Israeli Society With Gabi Duec Educational Seminar Leader, American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) -at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
9:30 AM	Depart
9:45 – 10:30 AM	Enroute Briefing: The History of Gaza, 1948-October 6 With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	October 7th Part II: Bearing Witness Experience October 7 through the eyes of Israeli survivors -at Israel-is Media Center, Sderot
12:15 PM	Depart

12:45 – 1:45 PM	October 7th Part III: The Nova Music Festival Visit the site of the Nova Music Festival Massacre With Ohad Seelenfreund, Nova Massacre Survivor -at Reim Forest
1:45 PM	Depart
2:15 – 3:00 PM	Lunch -at Garbuli, Sderot
3:00 PM	Depart
5:00 – 6:15 PM	Break at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
6:15 – 7:30 PM	Israel's Multilayer Missile Defense: Evolution and U.S. Cooperation With Brig. Gen. (ret.) Doron Gavish Former Director, Israel Aerial Defense Array -at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
7:45 – 9:45 PM	Service and Innovation: Responding to Unique Challenges Dinner with Danielle Abraham Director, Regrow/Volcani International Partnerships -at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, August 6, 2026

7:15 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast on own -at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
8:30 – 9:30 AM	The Opposition's Path Forward: Policy and Governance Meeting with Yair Zivan Senior Advisor, The Honorable Yair Lapid, Yesh Atid Party -at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
9:30 AM	Depart
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Israel's Commitment to Wounded Veterans Guided visit with Ora Schneider Director, Beit Halochem -at Beit Halochem, Tel Aviv
11:15 AM	Depart
11:15 – 11:45 AM	En-route Briefing: The Settlement Movement in the West Bank Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide

11:45 – 12:30 PM	Israel's Narrow Waistline Briefing and overlook with Gabi Duec Educational Seminar Leader, American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) -at the Alfei Menashe overlook
12:30 PM	Depart
1:15 – 1:45 PM	En-Route Briefing: The Druze Religion in the Middle East with Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
2:15 – 3:45 PM	Statehood and Loyalty: The Druze in Israel Lunch and Discussion with: ▪ Nadim Amar, Political Activist and Former Mayor of Julis ▪ Basma Hino, Owner and Founder, Noor Restaurant -at Noor Restaurant, Julis
3:45 PM	Depart
4:30 – 6:30 PM	From Military Aid to Battlefield Innovation Briefing with: ▪ Yuval Steinitz, Chairman of the Board, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems ▪ Gidi Weiss, Vice President of International Business Development, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems -at Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Leshem
6:45 PM	Depart
7:30 PM	Check-in to the Magdala Hotel, Migdal
7:45 PM	Depart
8:00 – 9:30 PM	Dinner and Discussion With ▪ Gabi Duec, Educational Seminar Leader, American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) ▪ Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide -at the Galei Kinneret Hotel, Tiberias
9:30 PM	Depart
9:45 PM	Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

Friday, August 7, 2026

From 7:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at the Magdala Hotel, Migdal
7:45 – 8:15 AM	Religious Significance of the Galilee Guided Survey of the Ancient Town of Mary Magdalene With Dr. Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide -at the Magdala Hotel Archeological Site, Migdal
8:15 AM	Depart
8:30 – 9:45 AM	Historic Significance of the Sea of Galilee Guided Survey with Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide -at the Mt. of Beatitudes and Capernaum, Sea of Galilee
9:45 AM	Depart
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Enroute Briefing: The History of Hezbollah With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
10:30 AM – 12:15 PM	Israel's Northern Border: Lebanon and Hezbollah Guided visit and briefing with Brig. Gen. (ret) Kobi Merom -at Aryeh Sha'ag, Upper Galilee
12:15 PM	Depart
1:00 – 1:30 PM	En-Route Briefing: Israel, Syria, and the Golan Heights With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Regional Update: Alliances and Security in Al-Shaara's Syria Briefing by Major (res.) Ilan Schulman Intelligence and Northern Security Expert, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) -at Tel Saki, Golan Heights
2:45 PM	Depart
5:30 PM	Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
7:15 PM	Depart
7:30 – 9:45 PM	Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem With the Mercer-Wood Family -at their home, Jerusalem
9:45 PM	Depart

10:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, August 8, 2026

From 7:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

9:00 AM Depart

9:00 – 9:15 AM **En-Route Briefing: Israel’s Journey from Remembrance to Independence**
With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide

9:15 – 10:15 AM **Service and Sacrifice: The Price of Statehood**
Guided visit to Mount Herzl Military Cemetery
With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
-at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery, Jerusalem

10:15 AM Depart

10:30 – 12:00 PM **Artifacts, Antiquity, and Modernity in Israel**
Guided visit to the Israel Museum
-at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem

12:15 PM Depart

12:30 – 1:15 PM Lunch
-at City View Restaurant, Jerusalem

1:15 – 1:45 PM **Jerusalem in Biblical Prophecy: Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives**
With Ian Stern, Licensed Tour Guide
-at City View Mount Scopus Overlook, Jerusalem

2:00 PM Depart

2:15 PM Check-in and break at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

3:45 – 5:30 PM **Inside the U.S.-Israel Relationship**
Meeting with the Honorable Mike Huckabee
United State Ambassador to the State of Israel
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:00 – 8:30 PM **Closing Dinner: Reflections on the Week**
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:30 PM Depart

9:30 PM Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv

Sunday, August 9, 2026

12:05 AM	El Al #3 departs Tel Aviv for Jones, Kaiman
12:30 AM	El Al #27 departs Tel Aviv for Metz
1:00 AM	El Al #25 departs Tel Aviv for Barry
1:00 AM	El Al #1 departs Tel Aviv for Silberberg
4:55 AM	El Al #3 arrives JFK for Jones, Kaiman
5:00 AM	El Al #117 departs Tel Aviv for Lastre
5:15 AM	El Al #27 arrives Newark for Metz
5:45 AM	El Al #25 arrives Newark for Barry
5:50 AM	El Al #1 arrives JFK for Silberberg
8:45 AM	Delta #5750 departs JFK for Jones
9:39 AM	Delta #2566 departs Newark for Barry
10:09 AM	Delta #5750 arrives DCA for Jones
11:15 AM	El Al #117 arrives Miami for Lastre
11:27 AM	Delta #2566 arrives Detroit for Barry

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
August 1-9, 2026

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

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

1. Johanny Adames, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)
2. Mindy Barry, Policy Director/General Counsel, Office of the Honorable Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
3. Spencer Carr, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Claudia Tenney (R-NY)
4. Joe Diver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Eric Sorensen (D-IL)
5. Toby Douthat, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Chuck Edwards (R-NC)
6. Jonathan Jones, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Josh Brecheen (R-OK)
7. Jonathan Kaiman, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Tom Suozzi (D-NY)
8. Rey Anthony Lastre, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Carlos Gimenez (R-FL)
9. Mark Longoria, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Michael Cloud (R-TX)
10. Juan Lopez, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Jim Costa (D-CA)
11. Craig Metz, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Joe Wilson (R-SC)
12. Rafi Silberberg, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Mike Lawler (R-NY)
13. Katie Vincentz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Jodey Arrington (R-TX)

8. Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per participant
Security	\$1,750.00
Speaker Fees	\$1,250.00
Room Rentals and Setup	\$541.66
Hotels for contract staff	\$500.00
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$400.00
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$383.33
Airport Assistance	\$166.66
Miscellaneous	\$83.33
Photography	\$50.00
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$33.33
Entrance Fees	\$33.33
Tips	\$16.66
Total per participant=	\$5,208.30

**American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
August 1-9, 2026**

Saturday, August 1, 2026

2:43 PM	United #2608 departs Houston for Longoria
3:17 PM	Amtrak #168 departs Union Station for Carr, Douthat, Metz
3:59 PM	Delta #866 departs Detroit for Barry
4:56 PM	Delta #5713 departs DCA for Jones
6:21 PM	Amtrak #168 arrives Newark for Carr, Douthat, Metz
6:30 PM	Delta #5713 arrives JFK for Jones
7:18 PM	Delta #866 arrives Miami for Barry
7:29 PM	United #2608 arrives Newark for Longoria
11:50 PM	El Al #26 departs Newark for Carr, Douthat, Longoria, Metz
11:50 PM	El Al #8 departs JFK for Jones, Kaiman, Silberberg
11:55 PM	El Al #118 departs Miami for Lastre, Barry

Sunday, August 2, 2026

5:10 PM	El Al #8 arrives Tel Aviv for Jones, Kaiman, Silberberg
5:15 PM	El Al #26 arrives Tel Aviv for Carr, Douthat, Longoria, Metz
6:55 PM	El Al #118 arrives Tel Aviv for Lastre, Barry
	Transfer to Jerusalem
	Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
7:30 PM	Depart
7:45 – 9:00 PM	Welcome Dinner and Discussion -at Zahara restaurant, Jerusalem

During the welcome Dinner, staff will lead a discussion about the objectives for the week ahead.

9:15 PM Depart

9:30 – 10:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The City of David**
Visit to archeological excavation site
-at the City of David, Jerusalem

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. During this session, the guide will walk participants through one of the most intensively excavated sides in the wider region. They will discuss how, to Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. They will also share the challenges of the site's location in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan, where the residents and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out.

10:45 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

11:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, August 3, 2026

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

8:45 – 9:45 AM **State of the Nation: Israel in Transition**
With David Horowitz
Founder and Editor-in-Chief, The Times of Israel
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

During this session David Horovitz will provide the participants with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters. David Horovitz is the founding editor of *Times of Israel*, the leading current affairs website in Israel. Mr. Horovitz will provide staff with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

10:00 AM Depart

10:15 AM – 12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The Holy Basin**

Guided survey through the Old City of Jerusalem

- Old City of Jerusalem
- 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 – 1:00 PM Lunch
 -at Luciana restaurant, Jerusalem

1:15 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

3:00 – 4:00 PM **Israeli Politics 101**
 With Reuven Hazan
 Professor of Political Science, Hebrew University
 -at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan 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.

4:15 PM Depart

4:45 – 5:15 PM **Visit to the Plenary**
 -at the Knesset, Jerusalem

The group will visit the Knesset Plenary, Israel's main assembly hall where the parliament conducts its core business. This is where bills are introduced, debated and voted on. A docent will escort participants into the Plenary Hall where they will be able to observe the Knesset in session.

5:15 – 5:45 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action Part I: A View from the Coalition**
Meeting with the Honorable Amir Ohana
Speaker of the Knesset, Likud Party
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem

It is customary for delegations to meet with members of the coalition. 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.

6:00 – 6:30 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action Part II: A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with the Honorable Moshe Tur-Paz
Member of the Knesset, Yesh Atid Party
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem

It is customary for delegations to meet with members of the opposition. Before entering national politics, the Honorable Moshe Tur-Paz served as Director of Education for the Jerusalem Municipality and held senior leadership roles in Israel's education system. In the Knesset, he focuses on advancing education, national service, and policies that strengthen Israeli society and democratic institutions.

6:45 PM Depart

7:15 – 9:15 PM **Politics and Policy in Israel**
Dinner With:

- Jason Chadasha, Foreign Policy Advisor and Intl. Media Spokesperson, the Honorable Gidon Sa'ar, Foreign Affairs Minister of Israel
- Tuvia Chertok, Advisor, the Honorable Amichai Chikli, Likud Party
- Yair Zivan, Political Advisor, the Honorable Yair Lapid, Yesh Atid Party

-at Andalucia restaurant, Jerusalem

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

9:30 PM Depart

10:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

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

8:30 – 9:30 AM **The Changing Middle East: 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, Jerusalem

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. During this session Brig.-Gen (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

9:45 AM Depart

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

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. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

12:30 PM Depart

12:45 – 1:45 PM **Palestinian Political Perspective: Trends and Changes**
 With Ibrahim Dalalsha
 Director, Horizon Center for Political Studies and Media Outreach
 -at Vert Hotel, Jerusalem

This session will focus on Palestinian voices and perspectives in a post-October 7th Israel. During this briefing, Ibrahim will provide an insider's view of the Palestinian political landscape. 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.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1:45 – 2:45 PM | Lunch
-at the Vert Hotel, Jerusalem |
| 2:45 – 3:45 PM | Israel's Standing in the International Arena
Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker
Former Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the Vert Hotel, Jerusalem |

During this session, Dr. Tal Becker will address the current political climate for Israel on the international stage. Dr. Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator and key behind the scenes representative for Israel in a wide variety of contexts.

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|----------------|---|
| 4:00 PM | Depart |
| 5:30 PM | Check-in to the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv |
| 6:15 – 7:15 PM | Christian Life in Israel: Challenges and Opportunities
With the Honorable George Deek
Special Envoy to the Christian World
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv |

During this discussion, the Honorable George Deek will brief the group on Christian life in Israel, exploring its challenges, opportunities, and lived experiences. He is an Arab diplomat and former ambassador known for his work on minority identity, coexistence, and interfaith dialogue.

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|----------------|---|
| 7:30 PM | Depart |
| 7:45 – 9:00 PM | Dinner
-at Darya restaurant, Tel Aviv |
| 9:15 PM | Depart |
| 9:30 PM | Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv |

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 7:30 – 8:15 AM | Breakfast on own
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv |
| 8:30 AM | Depart |

8:45 – 9:30 AM **Enroute Briefing: The History of Gaza, 1948-October 6**

During this en route briefing, the guide will provide a brief history of the Gaza Strip, the small, coastal territory that shares borders with Egypt and Israel.

9:45 – 10:15 AM **The Proximity: Lookout into Gaza**
-Tatzpit Kobi, Sderot

This session will provide a status update on the evolving situation in the Gaza strip. Participants will hear about Israel's efforts to remove Hamas from Gaza, as well as efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the civilian population.

10:30 – 11:15 AM **October 7, Part I: Bearing Witness**
Experience October 7 through the eyes of Israeli survivors
-Israel-Is, Sderot

On October 7, the Jewish communities living along the Gaza border were destroyed, nearly 1,200 Israelis were killed, and 251 were kidnapped. During the visit to Sderot, participants will bear witness to the Hamas invasion and massacre. This center offers a multimedia presentation of the events of the day, allowing participants to fully understand what happened to the community on October 7.

11:30 AM Depart

12:00 – 1:00 PM **October 7, Part II: The Nova Party**
Visit the site of the NOVA music festival massacre
With Mazal Tazazo, Nova Massacre Survivor
-at Reim Forest

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. During this session, a NOVA massacre survivor will guide the group through the area while recounting his experience.

1:15 PM Depart

1:30 – 2:30 PM Lunch
-at Haimos, Sderot

2:30 PM Depart

4:30 PM Arrive at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

6:00 – 7:00 PM **Shared Society in Time of Crisis**
With Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed
Arab-Israeli Activist and Writer
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Approximately 22% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. In this session we will hear from Arab-Israeli Activist and writer Ibrahim Abu Ahmed. He will discuss the role of the Arab citizens of Israel, examining their social, cultural and economic contributions, the challenges they face, and their unique position in shaping a shared future built on partnership and mutual responsibility.

7:15 – 9:15 PM **Service and Innovation: Responding to Unique Challenges**
Dinner with:
▪ Danielle Abraham, Director, Regrow/Volcani Intl. Partnerships
▪ Boaz Hochstein, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships at Restart Global
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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 October 7, redirected their efforts to help Israeli society weather the war and its aftermath.

9:30 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, August 6, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

8:00 AM Depart

9:00 – 11:00 AM **Israeli Med-Tech: Lessons and Practices for the Global Community**
Meeting with:
▪ Amit Aharoni, Vice President of Strategy, AISAP
▪ Avner Halperin, Director, ARC Innovation
▪ Steve Walz, Director of Int'l Media & Public Relations, Sheba Medical Center
-at Sheba Medical Center, Ramat Gan

This session will be an introduction to Israel's medical technology sector, highlighting key innovations and insights from industry leaders, and exploring lessons for global healthcare.

11:15 AM Depart

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM **Israel's Narrow Waistline**
Strategic briefing
-at the 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.

12:45 PM Depart

1:30 – 2:30 PM Lunch
-at Brisket Bar, Hadera

2:30 PM Depart

3:45 – 5:15 PM **From Military Aid to Battlefield Innovation**
With Gidi Weiss
Vice President, International Business Development, Rafael
Advanced Defense Systems
-at Rafael, Leshem

Rafael is an Israeli defense technology company, founded as Israel's National R&D Defense Laboratory for the development of weapons and military technology within the Israeli Ministry of Defense. During this session, Mr. Weiss will explain the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation that has led to the country's multi-tiered missile defense system. Participants will also get to see the facilities, where Rafael produces notable defense systems including the David Sling, Iron Dome and Iron Beam.

5:30 PM Depart

6:30 PM Check-in to the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

7:30 PM Depart

7:45 – 9:45 PM **Dinner and Discussion**
-at Ben Hamelech, Migdal

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

10:00 PM Overnight at Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

Friday, August 7, 2026

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

8:30 AM Depart

8:45 – 10:30 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**
Guided Survey of Christian Sites

- Mt. of Beatitudes
- 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.

10:30 AM Depart

10:45 – 11:30 AM **Enroute Briefing: The History of Hezbollah**

During the drive to Israel's border with Lebanon, the guide will provide a history of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist group based in Lebanon dedicated to Israel's destruction. The terrorist group's influence in Lebanese politics, massive weapons arsenal and use of Lebanese civilians as human shields made the Iranian proxy a serious threat to Israel leading up to the current war. Hezbollah has a global reach and has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda.

11:30 AM –12:30 PM Israel's Northern Border: Lebanon and Hezbollah

With Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi

President and Founder, Alma Research and Education Center
-at Shtula

This briefing from Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi 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. Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi served 15 years in the IDF in Military Intelligence –first in the Research and Analysis Branch, and later in the Northern Command. During her military service she briefed hundreds of delegations, ranging from U.S. Senators, Congressmen and politicians to global military commanders, senior journalists and visiting VIP delegations. She is the founder/director of Alma, an educational research center focusing on the security issues of Israel's northern border. Zehavi has authored many position papers focusing on Lebanon, Syria and Israel's national security challenges, and continues to brief delegations on these topics. She holds an MA in Middle East Studies from Ben Gurion University and is a resident of the northern Galilee region. Lt. Col. Zehavi will brief the delegation on security threats coming from the Lebanese border, and the role Iran plays in supporting Hezbollah terrorism against Israel. As a lifelong resident of the North, she will also share her experiences living on the border with Lebanon.

12:45 PM Depart

1:00 –1:30 PM En-Route Briefing: The Druze Religion in the Middle East

During this en-route briefing, the guide will give an introduction of the Druze religion, covering its history, beliefs, traditions, and cultural significance.

1:30 – 2:30 PM Traditional Druze Lunch and Discussion

-at Nur Restaurant, Julis

We will use this lunch 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.

2:45 PM Depart

5:15 PM Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:00 PM Depart

7:15 – 9:15 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath**
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner
-at a home in Tel Aviv

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. Experiencing this ritual firsthand offers insight into the social and cultural foundations that shape Israeli life.

9:30 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

9:45 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, August 8, 2026

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

8:15 AM Depart

8:15 – 9:00 AM **En-Route Briefing: Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor**

Our guide will spend the drive from Jerusalem to Qumran National Park discussing 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.

9:15 – 10:30 AM **Antiquity and Modernity: Unearthing the Dead Sea Scrolls**
-at Qumran National Park

During our trip to the Negev, we will visit Qumran, where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Qumran is believed to be the home of the Essenes, a Jewish, religious sect that flourished in the Negev region between 2 BCE and 1 CE. The Dead Sea Scrolls – hundreds of Hebrew manuscripts and religious texts – were discovered on the shores of the Dead Sea in 1947, marking one of the most important finds in modern archaeology. The scrolls have helped inform scholars about Judaism and early Christianity.

10:30 AM Depart

10:45 AM –12:15 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
-at Kalia Beach

During our visit to the Dead Sea, our 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.

12:30 PM Depart

1:15 – 2:15 PM Lunch
-at Abu Kamel restaurant, Jerusalem

2:30 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

4:30 – 5:30 PM **Inside the U.S.-Israel Relationship**
Meeting with the Honorable Mike Huckabee
United State Ambassador to the State of Israel
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

During this meeting, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, the Honorable Mike Huckabee will share the U.S. perspective on the current situation in Gaza, regional threats from Iranian proxies, and the potential for U.S.-Israel cooperation.

6:30 – 8:30 PM **Closing Dinner: Bringing it all Together**
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

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

9:30 PM Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv

Sunday, August 9, 2026

12:05 AM	El Al #3 departs Tel Aviv for Jones, Kaiman
12:30 AM	El Al #27 departs Tel Aviv for Metz
1:00 AM	El Al #25 departs Tel Aviv for Barry, Douthat
1:00 AM	El Al #1 departs Tel Aviv for Carr, Silberberg
1:05 AM	El Al #15 departs Tel Aviv for Longoria
4:55 AM	El Al #3 arrives JFK for Jones, Kaiman
5:00 AM	El Al #117 departs Tel Aviv for Lastre
5:15 AM	El Al #27 arrives Newark for Metz
5:45 AM	El Al #15 arrives Boston for Longoria
5:45 AM	El Al #25 arrives Newark for Barry, Douthat
5:50 AM	El Al #1 arrives JFK for Carr, Silberberg
7:25 AM	United #226 departs Boston for Longoria
8:45 AM	Delta #5750 departs JFK for Jones
8:59 AM	American Airlines #4586 departs JFK for Carr
9:39 AM	Delta #2566 departs Newark for Barry
10:09 AM	Delta #5750 arrives DCA for Jones
10:34 AM	American Airlines #4586 arrives DCA for Carr
10:37 AM	United #226 arrives Houston for Longoria
11:15 AM	El Al #117 arrives Miami for Lastre
11:27 AM	Delta #2566 arrives Detroit for Barry

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Addendum

List of Participants

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

1. Mindy Barry, Policy Director/General Counsel, Office of the Honorable Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
2. Jonathan Jones, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Josh Brecheen (R-OK)
3. Jonathan Kaiman, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Tom Suozzi (D-NY)
4. Rey Anthony Lastre, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Carlos Gimenez (R-FL)
5. Craig Metz, Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Joe Wilson (R-SC)
6. Rafi Silberberg, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Honorable Mike Lawler (R-NY)

Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per participant
Security	\$3,532.01
Speaker Fees	\$2,388.84
Room Rentals and Setup	\$1,044.64
Hotels for contract staff	\$916.91
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$906.47
Tour guide/Yad Vashem guide	\$823.96
Airport Assistance	\$260.19
Photography	\$60.62
Entrance Fees	\$32.24
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$28.32
Miscellaneous	\$25.32
Tips	\$18.69
Total per participant=	\$10,038.20

Cost Increase Explanation

During this seminar, standard meal allowances were exceeded due to specific dietary and logistical necessities. The variance was primarily driven by group dinners requiring strictly certified kosher venues to accommodate participants' religious observances, which significantly limited lower-cost dining options. Additionally, standard per-diem allowances have not kept pace with rising food costs and exchange rate fluctuations. Every effort was made to limit expenses while respecting mandatory dietary requirements, religious observances and fulfilling official programming needs.