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: Amy Emerick Clerkin
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ■ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 20, 2026 Return: August 28, 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ■ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Tel Aviv Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: J Street Education Fund
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Lectures about history and current events designed to inform us about issues pertaining to Israel and the West Bank.
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:** 9/14/26

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: Greg Casar **Date:** 9/14/26

Signature of Supervising Member: Greg Casar

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: J Street Education Fund
2. Travel Destination(s): Tel Aviv
3. Date of Departure: 8/20/2026 Date of Return: 8/28/2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Amy Emerick Clerkin

   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	$2,780	$2,075	$1,781	See Attached
Accompanying Family Member				

6. ☒ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

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

Signature: _____ **Date:** 9/8/2026

Name: Jeremy Ben-Ami **Title:** President

Organization: J Street Education Fund

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

Address: P.O. Box 66073, Washington DC 20035

Telephone: (202) 204-8009 **Email:** evan.dewitt@jstreet.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

1. Name of Traveler: AMY EMERICK CLERKIN

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: J Street Education Fund

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel and The West Bank

4. a. Date of Departure: August 20, 2026 Date of Return: August 28, 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.**

   As chief of staff to Rep. Casar, I am attending this trip to learn more about the ongoing conflict in this region to help inform our positions.

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: Rep Casar **Date:** 7/14/2026

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:

   J Street Education Fund

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: 8/20/2026 Date of Return: August 28, 2026
7. a. City of departure: 8/28/2026
   b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv
   c. City of return: Washington, DC
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:

   JSEF is a non-profit organization that works to promote a nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. JSEF alone has planned the trip, chosen the attendees, and shaped the itinerary.

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:_____)
   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): _____
      $242
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

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

   Hotel Name: Port Tower Hotel City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: $330
   Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is a popular choice due to proximity, security, and comfort.
   Hotel Name: Dan Panorama City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: $362
   Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is a popular choice due to proximity, security, and comfort.
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

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	$3,000	$2,075	$1,450
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	Please see attached	Please see attached
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: _____ Date: 9/8/2026

Name: Jeremy Ben-Ami Title: President

Organization: J Street Education Fund

Address: P.O. Box 66073, Washington DC 20035

Email: evan.dewitt@jstreet.org Telephone: (202) 204-8009

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

August 17, 2026

Ms. Amy Clerkin
Office of the Honorable Greg Casar
446 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Clerkin:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,[1] scheduled for August 20 to 28, 2026, sponsored by J Street Education Fund.

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.

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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

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:rp

In addition to the above Traveler Form, please note the following attachments:

I. PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM
II. PARTICIPANT LIST
III. ADDITIONAL EXPENSES
IV. ORIGINAL INVITATION
V. DELEGATION ITINERARY

ATTACHMENT II: PARTICIPANT LIST

As staff for Members of Congress, the following trip participants are asked to understand and recommend votes on legislation related to the issues that will be addressed on this trip surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, US foreign aid, and other policies related to Middle East issues.

Amy Emerick Clerkin, office of Rep. Greg Casar (D-TX-35)
Audrey Jimenez, office of Rep. Gilbert "Gil" Cisneros (D-CA-31)
Gabe Feiner, office of Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA-49)
Glenn Wavrunek, office of Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI-2)
Jack Berson, office of Rep. Johnny "Johnny O" Olszewski (D-MD-2)
James Gomez, office of Rep. Jonathan Jackson (D-IL-1)
Joe Diver, office of Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL-17)
Julia Rodriguez, office of Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37)
Katie Heller, office of Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA-51)
Lucy Schmitz, office of Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA-5)
Matt Koos, office of Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-PA-17)
Pragneya Sharma, office of Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA-6)
Rachel Montoya, office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM-3)
Sofia Godoy, office of Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8)

ATTACHMENT III. ADDITIONAL PER-PERSON EXPENSES

Logistics Coordinator fee - $530
Tour Guide - $115
Tour bus for duration of trip - $645
Meeting room rentals - $235
Speaker honoraria - $170
Printing - $95
Security - $315

Amy Emerick Clerkin
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Amy,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of congressional staff for an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank sponsored by the J Street Education Fund (JSEF). The trip, which will be on the ground for six days, will depart DC in the afternoon/evening on Thursday, August 20, and return to the US in the morning on Friday, August 28.

This delegation offers an in-depth, on-the-ground exploration of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – past, present, and future. As one of the most enduring and complex foreign policy challenges facing the United States, this conflict continues to have wide-reaching implications for regional stability, US global standing, and the domestic political landscape.

This delegation will provide a unique opportunity to engage directly with the people and policies shaping Israel and the wider region. For congressional staff who value principled diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and US leadership grounded in democratic values, the trip offers critical insight into what's necessary for the US to support a just, viable resolution moving forward.

All trip related expenses will be paid for by JSEF in compliance with House Ethics Committee rules. At least 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting relevant paperwork in order to join this delegation.

Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for staff in preparation for their visit.

I hope that you will be able to join us on this important, thought-provoking, and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Evan DeWitt at (202) 204-8009, or at evan.dewitt@jstreet.org, at any time to discuss the details of the sponsored trip and our organization.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami
President
J Street Education Fund

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that does not hire or retain registered lobbyists. JSEF is a member of the J Street family of pro-Israel, pro-peace organizations.

J Street
Education Fund

The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.

Congressional Staff Delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territory

August 21-27, 2026

MISSION GOALS: *The aim of the mission is to explore the current state of affairs and facts on the ground in Israel and the Palestinian territory, while gaining increased understanding of the challenges and the opportunities in both Israeli and Palestinian politics today. The delegation will be particularly focused on the role of US policy and the options for American assistance in moving toward a peaceful resolution of long-running conflict.*

DISCLAIMER: *One of the objectives of this trip is to provide participants with a window into the broad spectrum of opinions related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its resolution in order to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of the issues at hand. Therefore, we will meet with individuals and groups engaged in various activities or political agendas. In some cases, the policies of the J Street Education Fund diverge from the beliefs of speakers; however, we recognize the importance of trying to understand one another's viewpoints. Please note that the items included in this itinerary are subject to change.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21: WELCOME

Mid-afternoon	Flights arrive at TLV. Drive to hotel + check in
7:00 - 7:30 PM	Meet in lobby and drive to restaurant
7:30 - 9:00 PM	**Welcome Dinner: Overview of the Current Moment** *A leading journalist will provide an overview of the current social and political moment in Israel and the implications for Israeli society of the ongoing regional wars.* **Speaker**: Emanuelle Elbaz-Phelps (TBC)

Location: Beit Kandinoff, HaTsorfim St 14, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel

Hotel: *Port Tower Hotel | Hayarkon 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22: INTRODUCTIONS

8:00 - 9:30 AM	**Breakfast Briefing: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101** *This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography, and political dynamics in the region.* **Speaker**: Jeremy Ben-Ami **Location**: Port Tower Hotel
9:30 - 9:45 AM	Short break
9:45 - 10:00 AM	Drive to Walking Tour
10:00 AM - 12:45 PM	**Walking Tour of Tel Aviv-Yafo** *The modern State of Israel was established in 1948, based on an idea of reclaiming Jewish history and the Jewish people's right to self-determination. On this tour, we will explore the Israeli founding fathers' vision and reflect upon where we are today, including stops by Hostages Square, Rabin Square, and sites recently damaged by Iranian missile fire.* **Guide**: Zev Dever, HeHalutz
12:45 - 1:00 PM	Drive to lunch
1:00 - 2:30 PM	**Lunch Conversation: Vision of Zionism** *An overview of the Jewish national movement and the dilemmas facing liberal Israelis today.* **Speaker**: Dr. Alon Pauker, Beit Berl College **Location**: Porter & Sons, HaArba'a St 14, Tel Aviv-Yafo
2:30 - 5:30 PM	Executive Time
5:30 - 6:30 PM	**Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101** *An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structures, political parties, and political trends.*

Speaker: Dr. Tal Elovits, Public Policy Consultant

Location: Port Tower Hotel

6:30 - 7:00 PM — Drive to dinner

7:00 - 8:30 PM — **Dinner with Israeli Colleagues**
Meet with Israeli leaders in the liberal camp to discuss the challenges of and strategies for building political power and advancing progressive domestic and foreign policy.

Guests: TBC

Location: Kalamata, Kikar Kadumim 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo

Hotel: Port Tower Hotel | Hayarkon 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23: ISRAELI SOCIETY, POLITICS, AND SECURITY

8:30 - 9:30 AM — **IDF Spokespersons Briefing**
Overview of Israel's current security landscape, including key threats across multiple fronts and the IDF's strategic objectives and operational priorities in addressing these arenas.

Location: Machaneh Aviv

9:45 - 10:15 AM — Drive to Anu Museum

10:15 - 11:30 AM — **Conversation: Israeli Strategy and Constructive Policy**
A conversation about Israel's security landscape, public discourse, and evolving challenges.

Speakers:
Lt. Col. (Res.) Peter Lerner, Director-General, International Relations Division, Histadrut
Dr. Shira Efron, Distinguished Chair for Israel Policy and Senior Fellow at the RAND Corporation

Location: Anu Museum, 15 Klausner Street, Tel Aviv-Yaffo

11:30 - 12:00 PM — Drive to Levinski Market, Tel Aviv-Yafo

12:00 - 2:00 PM — **Tour of Levinsky Market (Lunch Included)**
Tel Aviv serves as one of Israel's political and cultural hubs. The tour will highlight the political, cultural, and artistic divides in one of Tel Aviv's

most diverse neighborhoods, with a focus on the history of various Jewish communities from around the world that settled in Israel and how the country's political divides play out in one of Israel's most liberal cities.

Guide: Aaron Gertz

2:00 - 4:45 PM — Drive to Hotel + Executive time

4:45 - 5:45 PM — **Meeting with Candidate from the Israeli Democratic Party (TBC)**
Discussion on the current state of affairs in Israel, The Democrats party's vision for the future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the strategy of the Israeli opposition, and the US-Israel relationship.

Location: Port Tower Hotel

5:45 - 6:00 PM — Short Break

6:00 - 6:45 PM — **Meeting with Candidate from the Yesh Atid Party (TBC)**
Discussion on the current state of affairs in Israel, Yesh Atid's vision for the future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the strategy of the Israeli opposition, and the US-Israel relationship.

Location: Port Tower Hotel

6:45 - 7:00 PM — Walk to Dinner

7:00 - 9:00 PM — **Group Dinner: Processing the Trip Thus Far**
A chance for the group to debrief and discuss questions they have for the remainder of the program.

Location: Ola Ola, Simtat HaCarmel 27, Tel Aviv-Yafo

Hotel: Port Tower Hotel | Hayarkon 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666

MONDAY, AUGUST 24: GAZA AND THE GAZA ENVELOPE

8:00 - 9:15 AM — **Bus Briefing en route to Kfar Aza**
Geopolitical and historical overview of the Gaza Strip, Israel-Hamas relations, and Israeli communities on the Gaza border.

Speaker: Nadav Tamir, J Street

9:15 - 10:45 AM — **Tour of the Gaza Envelope: Witnessing the Destruction of Israeli Border Communities**

	We will be led on a tour by a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza to hear firsthand about the October 7 attacks and how the community has fared since. **Guide**: Shachar Snurmann **Location**: Kibbutz Kfar Aza
10:45 - 11:15 AM	Drive to NOVA site
11:15 - 11:45 AM	**NOVA site visit** *We will visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Since the massacre on Oct. 7, the site has become a memorial to those killed.*
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Drive to Kiryat Gat + lunch on the bus
12:45 - 2:15 PM	**Civil-Military Coordination Center Briefing and Tour** *We will visit the Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) in Kiryat Gat for an update on US-led post-war plans in Gaza.* **Location**: Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC), Kiryat Gat
2:15 - 4:30 PM	Drive to Jerusalem and check in to the hotel.
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Executive time
5:30 - 7:00 PM	**Briefing: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza** *Briefing on Israeli policies toward Gaza following the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's obligations to the civilian population of Gaza.* **Speaker**: Tania Hary, Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement **Location**: Dan Panorama Hotel
7:15 - 7:30 PM	Walk to the Dinner
7:30 - 9:00 PM	**Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace Leaders** *Dinner discussion on peacebuilding and cross-border civil society efforts at the current moment.* **Guests**: TBC **Location**: Tmol Shilshom, 5 Yo'el Moshe Salomon St, Jerusalem

Hotel: *Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren Hayesod St., Jerusalem | +972 2 569 5695*

Tuesday, August 25: The West Bank

8:00 - 9:15 AM	**Introduction to Settlements** *Overview of the history and evolution of the Israeli settler movement, including long-term vision and strategy.* **Speaker**: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs **Location**: Dan Panorama Hotel
9:15 - 11:00 AM	**Settlement Tour en route to Hebron** *Overview of the geopolitical significance of the settlements, their perceived role in Israeli security, and potential territorial solutions.* **Speaker**: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	**Walking tour of Hebron** *Sometimes described as a microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hebron is an ancient holy city and home to over 200,000 Palestinians and close to 1,000 Israeli settlers who live in guarded enclaves in the middle of the city. We will be guided by former Israeli soldiers who served in Hebron on a tour of both the Jewish areas of the city and checkpoints, and learn how life in the city has changed over time.* **Speaker**: Nadav Weiman, Breaking the Silence
1:00 - 1:45 PM	Drive to South Hebron Hills + Lunch on the bus
1:45 - 3:30 PM	**Site Visit to Palestinian Village in Area C** *Hear firsthand from Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders.*
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Drive to Jerusalem
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Executive time
6:00 - 7:00 PM	**Palestinian Politics 101** *Overview of the history of the Palestinian national movement, the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank, and the current state of Palestinian politics.* **Speaker**: Maryam Alqam, The Carter Center **Location**: Dan Panorama Hotel
7:15 - 7:30 PM	Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM	**Group Dinner: Processing the Trip Thus Far** *A chance for the group to debrief and discuss questions group members have for the remainder of the program.* **Location**: Angelica, George Washington St 4, Jerusalem

Hotel: *Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren Hayesod St., Jerusalem | +972 2 569 5695*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26: PALESTINIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

7:30 - 8:45 AM	Drive to Ramallah
8:45 - 10:00 AM	**UNRWA Site Visit** *We will hear from UNRWA representatives at the Jalazone Refugee Camp about their work providing services in the West Bank, as well as recent developments affecting their operations.* **Speaker**: Roland Friedrich, Director of UNRWA Affairs in the West Bank **Location**: Jalazone Girls School, UNRWA Jalazone Camp
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Drive to political meeting
10:15 - 11:45 AM	**Palestinian Authority Political Meeting** *We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the developing situation in Gaza, the US-Palestinian relationship, and creating a political horizon for Palestinians.* **Speaker:** TBC
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Drive to Ritaj
12:15 - 1:30 PM	**Lunch Briefing: Palestinian Public Opinion** *We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian politics, and internal Palestinian social and cultural issues.* **Speaker**: Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Director **Location**: Ritaj, Al-Qasr، Emil Touma Street, Ramallah
1:30 - 1:45 PM	Short Break

1:45 - 3:00 PM	**Panel with Palestinian Civil Society Leaders** *An opportunity to engage with Palestinian leaders in civil society to discuss the Palestinian public's attitudes toward their leadership, Israel and the US.* **Speakers:** TBC **Location**: Ritaj, Al-Qasr، Emil Touma Street, Ramallah
3:00 - 3:45 PM	Drive to Sha'ar Binyamin
3:45 - 4:45 PM	**Meeting with Binyamin Municipal Leadership** *Hear directly from the leader of the Israeli settler movement about Israelis living in the West Bank – what drives them, why they have chosen to settle where they have, and what their hopes are for the future.* **Speaker**: TBC **Location**: Sha'ar Binyamin
4:45 - 6:00 PM	Drive to Jerusalem
6:00 - 7:15 PM	Executive Time
7:15 - 7:30 PM	Drive to dinner
7:30 - 9:00 PM	**Dinner Discussion: Creating a Future for Palestine** *Discussion on establishing a political framework post-war, challenges for Palestinian statehood, and how to chart a course for constructive US-Palestinian relations.* **Speaker**: TBC **Location**: Ambassador Hotel, Nablus Road 5, Jerusalem

Hotel: *Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren Hayesod St., Jerusalem | +972 2 569 5695*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27: JERUSALEM - TODAY'S REALITY + DAY AFTER

7:30 - 7:45 AM	Drive to Old City
7:45 - 10:30 AM	**Old City Geopolitical Tour** *We will visit major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem – the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount – and learn about the city's religious,*

	historic, and political significance to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We will also observe and discuss recent changes to the sensitive status quo in the city that could have ramifications for the trajectory of the conflict for years to come. **Guide**: Dr. Hava Schwartz
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Drive to the Educational Bookshop, Salah Ad-din St 19, Jerusalem
10:45 - 11:45 AM	**Visit the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem** *We will be joined by Palestinian residents who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges and opportunities that Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem face.* **Speaker**: Ahmad Muna, Assistant Manager, Educational Bookshop **Location**: Educational Bookshop
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Walk to the American Colony
12:00 - 1:30 PM	**Lunch Briefing: Regional Challenges and Opportunities** *Discussion on Iran's role in the region and its impact on Israeli and Gulf security, opportunities for defense cooperation and shifting alliances, and what this all means for US interests.* **Speaker**: Dr. Nimrod Novik, Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS) **Location**: American Colony
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Drive to hotel
2:00 - 3:00 PM	**Meeting with US Embassy Representative** *Discuss US policy in the region, the current approach and priorities of the administration, specifically as it relates to the role of the US in shaping the post-war reality.* **Speaker:** TBC **Location:** Dan Panorama Hotel
3:00 - 3:45 PM	**Farewell Session** *Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from the past week and how this experience will impact their work.* **Location**: Dan Panorama Hotel

3:45 - 4:45 PM	Check out + bring luggage to lobby
4:45 PM	Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

J Street
Education Fund

The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.

Congressional Staff Delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territory

August 21-27, 2026

MISSION GOALS: *The aim of the mission is to explore the current state of affairs and facts on the ground in Israel and the Palestinian territory, while gaining increased understanding of the challenges and the opportunities in both Israeli and Palestinian politics today. The delegation will be particularly focused on the role of US policy and the options for American assistance in moving toward a peaceful resolution of long-running conflict.*

DISCLAIMER: *One of the objectives of this trip is to provide participants with a window into the broad spectrum of opinions related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its resolution in order to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of the issues at hand. Therefore, we will meet with individuals and groups engaged in various activities or political agendas. In some cases, the policies of the J Street Education Fund diverge from the beliefs of speakers; however, we recognize the importance of trying to understand one another's viewpoints. Please note that the items included in this itinerary are subject to change.*

ITINERARY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20:

10:40 AM	UA2673 departs Norfolk, VA (Amy Emerick Clerkin only)
11:59 AM	UA2673 arrives at Dulles (Amy Emerick Clerkin only)
3:10 PM	EY0006 departs Dulles

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21: WELCOME

12:20 PM	EY0006 arrives in Abu Dhabi
2:53 PM	EY0597 departs Abu Dhabi
5:02 PM	EY0597 arrives in Tel Aviv. Drive to hotel + check in

Dress Code: Smart Casual

7:30 - 8:00 PM	Meet in lobby and drive to dinner
8:00 - 9:30 PM	**Welcome Dinner: Overview of the Current Moment** *A leading journalist will provide an overview of the current social and political moment in Israel and implications of ongoing wars on Israeli society.* **Speaker**: Neri Zilber, Journalist **Location**: Ben Avigdor St., Tel Aviv-Yafo

Hotel: *Port Tower Hotel, HaYarkon St 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666*

Saturday, August 22: Introductions and Historical Overview

Dress Code: Casual

7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast served at Dining room on lobby level (ground floor)
8:30 - 9:50 AM	**Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101** *This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography, and political dynamics in the region.* **Speaker**: Jeremy Ben Ami, J Street **Location**: Port Tower Hotel
9:50 - 10:00 AM	Drive to Neve Tzedek
10:00 AM - 12:40 PM	**Walking Tour of Tel Aviv-Yafo** *The modern State of Israel was established in 1948, based on an idea of reclaiming Jewish history and the Jewish people's right to self-determination. On this tour, we will explore the Israeli founding fathers' vision and reflect upon where we are today.* **Guide**: Zev Dever, HeHalutz
12:40 - 1:00 PM	Drive to lunch
1:00 - 2:30 PM	**Lunch Conversation: Vision of Zionism** *An overview of the Jewish national movement and the dilemmas facing liberal Israelis today.* **Speaker**: Dr. Alon Pauker, Beit Berl College **Location**: Porter & Sons,14 HaArba'a Street, Tel Aviv-Yafo
2:30 - 5:30 PM	Executive Time

Dress Code: Smart Casual

5:30 - 6:30 PM **Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101**
An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.

Speaker: Tal Elovits, Public Policy Consultant

Location: Port Tower Hotel

6:30 - 7:00 PM Drive to dinner

7:00 - 8:30 PM **Dinner with Israeli Colleagues**
Meet with Israeli leaders in the liberal democratic camp to discuss the challenges and strategies of building political power and advancing progressive domestic and foreign policy.

Guests:
Eran Nissan, Mehazkim
Tavor Lahat Zajarias, Shatil
Zaher Abu Elnaser, SADA: Citizens HQ
Emmanuelle Elbaz Phelps, Journalist
Anat Ofek, Shatil
Nadav Shofet, Standing Together
Mauricio Lapchik, MK Ayman Odeh
Tal Salfati, The Young Democrats
Hagai Efrat, The Young Democrats
Maya Shocken, Forum Dov

Location: Kalamata, Kikar Kadumim 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo

Hotel: *Port Tower Hotel, HaYarkon St 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23: ISRAELI SOCIETY, POLITICS, AND SECURITY

****DRESS CODE: SMART BUSINESS CASUAL*

7:00 - 8:15 AM Breakfast served at dining room on lobby level

8:15 - 8:35 AM Drive to hostage square

8:35 - 8:50 AM **Visit Hostage Square**
Visit the location of the major protests to bring back the hostages that took place from November 2023 through January 2026.

Location: Hostage Square

8:50 - 9:00 AM Walk to venue

9:00 - 9:45 AM **Meeting with Member of Knesset Ayman Odeh**
A conversation with a Palestinian Member of Knesset on current affairs, shared society, and the future of Jewish-Arab relations in Israel.

Location: ZOA House

9:45 - 10:00 AM	Short Break
10:00 - 11:15 AM	**Conversation: Israeli Strategy and Constructive Policy** *A conversation on Israel's security landscape, public discourse, and evolving strategic security and policy challenges.* **Speakers**: Dr. Shira Efron, RAND Corporation Eran Etzion, Mitvim Institute **Location**: ZOA House
11:15 - 11:45 AM	Drive to Levinski Market, Tel Aviv-Yafo
11:45 - 2:00 PM	**Tour of Levinski Market (Lunch Included)** *Tel Aviv serves as one of Israel's political and cultural hubs. The tour will highlight the political, cultural, and artistic divides in one of Tel Aviv's most diverse neighborhoods, with a focus on the history of various Jewish communities from around the world that settled in Israel and how the country's political divides play out in one of Israel's most liberal cities.* **Guide**: Aaron Gertz
2:00 - 2:45 PM	Drive to Hotel + Freshen up
2:45 - 3:45 PM	**IDF Spokespersons Briefing** *Overview of Israel's current security landscape, including key threats across multiple fronts and IDF's strategic objectives and operational priorities in addressing these arenas.* **Speaker**: IDF Spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin **Location**: Port Tower Hotel
3:45 - 4:30 PM	**Meeting with Gaby Lasky** *Discussion on the current state of affairs in Israel, The Democrats party's vision for the future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the strategy of the Israeli opposition, and the US-Israel relationship.* **Speaker:** Adv. Gaby Lasky **Location**: Port Tower Hotel
4:30 - 6:45 PM	Executive Time
6:45 - 7:00 PM	Walk to Dinner
7:00 - 9:00 PM	**Group Dinner: Processing the Trip Thus Far** *A chance for the group to debrief and discuss questions they have for the remainder of the program.*

Location: Hasuka Halevana, Yordei HaSira 1, Tel Aviv-Yafo

Hotel: *Port Tower Hotel, HaYarkon St 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666*

Monday, August 24: Gaza and the Gaza Envelope

**Logistical note: We will be checking out of the hotel today. Before we meet, please (1) bring your luggage to the lobby to be loaded to the bus and (2) settle any additional items charged to your room at the front desk*

****Dress Code: Casual*

7:00 - 7:30 AM	Breakfast served in the dining room on the lobby level
7:00 - 7:30 AM	Bring luggage to lobby
7:30 AM	Meet in lobby for departure
7:30 - 9:15 AM	**Bus Briefing en route to Kfar Aza** *We will discuss the geopolitical and historical overview of the Gaza strip, Israel-Hamas relations, and Israeli communities on the Gaza border.* **Speaker**: Nadav Tamir, Executive Director, J Street Israel
9:15 - 10:45 AM	**Tour of the Gaza Envelope: Witnessing the Destruction of Israeli Border Communities** *We will be led on a tour by a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza to hear firsthand about the October 7 attacks and how the community has fared since.* **Guide**: Shachar Snurmann **Location**: Kibbutz Kfar Aza
10:45 - 11:05 AM	Drive to NOVA site
11:05 - 11:45 AM	**NOVA site visit** *We will visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Since the massacre on Oct. 7, the site has become a memorial to those killed. There we will hear a published testimony from a survivor and observe the individual photo posts and personal shrines for the hundreds of victims.*
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Drive to Kibbutz Alumim
12:00 - 1:45 PM	**Lunch Briefing: Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza** Briefing on Israeli policies toward Gaza post the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's obligations to the civilian population of Gaza. **Speakers**: Tania Hary, Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement Dr. Musallam Abukhalil, Gaza Cancer & Chronic Care Network (GC3N) **Location**: Visitor's Center, Alumim
1:45 - 2:45 PM	Drive to Kiryat Gat

2:45 - 3:45 PM	**Visit the International Gaza Support Center (IGSC)** *Formerly known as the Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC), we will visit the IGSC for an update on US-led post-war plans in Gaza.* **Location**: International Gaza Support Center (IGSC), Kiryat Gat
3:45 - 5:15 PM	Drive to Jerusalem
5:15 - 7:15 PM	Check into hotel + Executive time

Dress Code: Smart Casual

7:15 - 7:30 PM	Drive to the Dinner
7:30 - 9:00 PM	**Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace Leaders** *Dinner discussion on peace work and cross-border civil society efforts at the current moment.* **Guests:** Rola Huleihel, Itach-Maaki Roi Kleitman, B'nei Abraham Hasan Faraj, B'nei Abraham Wajdi Bkeirat, Project Rozana Mays Medleg, Physicians for Human Rights Yuval Ben Ari, Jumpstarting hope in Gaza Ilan Goldberg, Amal Tikva Celine Aweidah, Doctors Without Borders Luai Shuabi, Doctors Without Borders Doubi Schwartz, Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) Alex Feder, EcoPeace Middle East **Location**: Tmol Shilshom, 5 Yo'el Moshe Salomon St, Jerusalem

Hotel: *Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren Hayesod St., Jerusalem | +972 2 569 5695*

Tuesday, August 25: The West Bank

** Amy Emerick Clerkin had a virus and was too sick to join the group for the scheduled itinerary. She stayed in her hotel room the entire day. **

Wednesday, August 26: Palestinian Politics and Society

** Amy Emerick Clerkin had a virus and was too sick to join the group for the scheduled itinerary. She stayed in her hotel room the entire day. **

Thursday, August 27: Jerusalem & US Policy Moving Forward

** Amy Emerick Clerkin had recovered and JSEF staff organized a 1:1 tour with Yehuda Shaul in line with the itinerary that the rest of the group did on Tuesday, August 25. No extra costs were incurred. **

8:45 AM - 10:00 AM	**Settlement Tour en route to Hebron** *Learn about the geopolitical significance of the settlements, their role in Israeli security, and potential territorial solutions.* **Guide**: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	**Walking Tour of Hebron** *Sometimes described as a microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hebron is an ancient holy city and home to over 200,000 Palestinians and close to 1,000 Israeli settlers who live in guarded enclaves in the middle of the city. We will be guided by former Israeli soldiers who served in Hebron on a tour of both the Jewish areas of the city and checkpoints, and learn how life in the city has changed over time.* **Guide**: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Drive to Susiya
12:00 - 1:15 PM	**Visit to Susiya** *Hear firsthand from Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders.*
1:15 - 2:30 PM	Drive to Jerusalem
2:30 - 3:45 PM	Packing Time and Check out Bring luggage down to conference room
3:45 - 5:00 PM	**Farewell Session** *Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from the past week how this experience will impact their work.* **Location**: Dan Panorama Hotel
5:00 PM	Depart for Ben Gurion Airport
8:13 PM	EY0598 departs Tel Aviv

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28:

12:35 AM	EY0598 arrives in Abu Dhabi
3:59 AM	EY0005 departs Abu Dhabi
10:39 AM	EY0005 arrives at Dulles

Actual Per-Person Expenses List:

On-site Logistics Coordinator - $573
Tour bus for duration of trip - $806
Meeting Room Rentals - $617
Speaker Honoraria - $573
Printing - 104$
Security - $243