Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp:
BY OF THE SENATE
17 JUN -2 PM 2:29

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): AIEF

Travel date(s): May 6-14, 2017

Name of accompanying family member (if any): None

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate ☒ Actual Amount	6340.15	1971.00	890.90	3003.00

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate ☐ Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. *See* Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See attached final itinerary

5/30/2017 Christina Gleason
(Date) *(Printed name of traveler)*

Christina Gleason
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

5/30/17
(Date)

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 1/3/11)

Form RE-2

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Amount and description of other expenses: (all amounts per participant)

Security: $1135.88
Speaker fees: $596.99
Travel agency commission: $419
Tour guide: $194.75
Meals for contract staff and speakers: $159.76
Hotels for contract staff and speakers: $154.33
Room rentals: $188.11
Transportation for visit to Israel/Syria border: $54.22
Entrance fees: $33.90
Photography: $32.91
Transportation for guests: $13.83
Tips: $6.16
Other: $13.28

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American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Senior Congressional Staff
May 6 – 14, 2017

FINAL Itinerary

Saturday, May 6, 2017

5:00 PM	Depart DCA
6:27 PM	Arrive JFK
10:31 PM	Depart JFK

Sunday, May 7, 2017

4:15 PM	Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport Transfer to Jerusalem Check into the Mamilla Hotel
7:00 PM	Depart hotel En route: *Shalom Jerusalem: Introduction to the History of the City*
7:45 PM	*Setting the Stage* Welcome and orientation - at Touro
8:15 PM	*State of the Nation* Dinner with David Horovitz Founding Editor, The Times of Israel - at Touro
10:15 PM	Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel

Monday, May 8, 2017

7:45 AM	Breakfast is served - at the hotel, Meeting Room AB

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8:00 AM *Israel's Political Map*
Breakfast with Prof. Reuven Hazan
Department of Political Science
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- at the hotel, Meeting Room AB

9:15 AM Depart for Strategic Survey of Jerusalem

9:30 AM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The Old City and Holy Basin*

12:30 PM Depart for Knesset

1:00 PM Security Check

1:15 PM *Israeli Democracy in Action*
Lunch and meeting with Members of Knesset
- The Honorable Yehiel Bar, Zionist Union Party
  The Honorable Anat Berko, Likud Party

- at the Knesset

2:45 PM Depart

3:15 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II:*
Post-1967 Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier

4:30 PM Depart

5:00 PM *Israel-Palestinian Authority Relations: An Update*
Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker
Acting Legal Adviser
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- at the hotel, Meeting Room AB

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:45 PM *The Israeli Mosaic*
Dinner with:
- Tziona Koenig-Yair, Former National Commissioner, Equal Employment Opportunities Commission
- Sally Oren, Goodwill Ambassador, IsraAID
  Kalman Samuels, Director, Shalva Children's Center
- Dan Slyper, LGBT Caucus, Yesh Atid Party

- at La Guta

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9:45 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

7:30 AM Breakfast is served

7:45 AM *Minority Rights in Israel*
Breakfast with Ghaida Rinawi-Zoabi
General Director, INJAZ – Center for Professional Arab Local Governance
- at the hotel, Meeting Room AB

8:45 AM Depart for Ramallah

10:00 AM *A View from the Palestinian Authority*
Meeting with:

- Dr. Saeb Erekat, Head of Negotiation Affairs Department, Palestinian Authority
- Javier Obied, Legal Advisor, Palestinian Authority

- at PLO-NSU Headquarters

11:00 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

12:00 PM Lunch at Yad Vashem

12:45 PM *Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust*
Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

3:00 PM Depart

3:15 PM *A View from the Prime Minister's Office*
Meeting with David Keyes
Communications Advisor and Foreign Press Liaison, Prime Minister's Office
- at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kerem Carmit Hall

4:15 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

5:30 PM Check into the Sheraton Tel Aviv

7:00 PM Depart for dinner

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7:30 PM *Start-Up Nation*
Dinner with:

- Karin Kloosterman, Founder, Eddy
  Dov Maisel, Chief Operating Officer, United Hatzalah
- Alon Metrikin-Gold, Director of Education, MobileOD
- Udi Remer, Director of Business Development, Mobileye

- at Spoons

10:30 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

7:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

7:45 AM Depart for Israel's South

8:30 AM *Save a Child's Heart – Cardiac Care for Children*
Visit to Wolfson Medical Center followed by a visit to the Children's Rehabilitation Home

10:30 AM Depart

11:30 AM *The Desalination Era*
Visit to Granot Desalination Plant
Briefing with Dr. Sarit Bason
Desalination Unit

12:30 PM Depart

1:00 PM Lunch
- at Netachim

1:45 PM Depart

2:00 PM *Israel's Southern Front*
Briefing at Overlook into the Gaza Strip
- at Kibbutz Nir-Am

3:00 PM *Living in the Shadow of Rockets*
Visit to Kibbutz Kfar Aza with Chen Kotler-Abrahams, local resident

4:00 PM Depart

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4:30 PM *Israel's Missile Defense System*
Visit to an Iron Dome Battery

5:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

6:15 PM *360° Bird's Eye View of Israel*
Briefing at the Azrieli Center Rooftop

6:45 PM Depart, return to hotel

8:00 PM Depart for Dinner

8:15 PM *Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq*
Dinner with Dr. Jonathan Spyer
Director, Rubin Center, IDC Herzliya
- at Lumina

10:15 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

Thursday, May 11, 2017

7:45 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel, Topaz Hall

8:00 AM *Regional Threat Assessment*
Breakfast with Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Immediate Past Director, Counter Terrorism Unit, Prime Minister's Office
- at the hotel, Topaz Hall

9:30 AM Depart

10:30 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns*
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

11:30 AM Depart

En route:

- *The Jezreel Valley – the Strategic Land Bridge Between Asia and Africa*
  Upper Galilee – Potential for Development

1:30 PM Lunch
- at Hummus Eliyahu, Rosh Pina

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2:30 PM *Treating the Victims of Syria's Civil War*
Visit to Ziv Medical Center, Tsfat

3:45 PM Depart

4:15 PM *Northern Exposure, Part I: Hezbollah Next Door*
Briefing with Lt.-Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi
Intelligence Officer, Northern Command
- at Mt. Adir

5:15 PM Depart

6:00 PM Check into Galei Kinneret Hotel, Tiberias

7:15 PM Depart for dinner

7:30 PM *Reflections on the Week*
Dinner and Discussion
- at Decks

9:30 PM Overnight at Galei Kinneret Hotel

Friday, May 12, 2017

7:45 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

8:30 AM Depart hotel

9:00 AM *Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee*
Visit to historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee
- Mt. of Beatitudes
- St. Peter's Church
- Capernaum

11:00 AM Depart, travel up the Golan Heights

12:00 PM *Northern Exposure, Part II: Strategic Survey of Israel's border with Syria*
Briefing with Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Schulman
- at Kibbutz Ein Zivan

1:30 PM Lunch
- at Habokrim

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2:45 PM Depart
Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley

En route:
Israel's Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

6:00 PM Check into the Mamilla Hotel

7:15 PM Depart for dinner

7:30 PM *Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem*
Traditional Sabbath dinner hosted by Professor Gil Troy and his family
- at their home in Jerusalem

9:30 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel

Saturday, May 13, 2017

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

8:30 AM Depart

En route:
The Dead Sea Region – Environmental Concerns
Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor – Strategic Concerns

10:00 AM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Survey of Masada National Park

12:00 PM Depart

12:30 PM *Exploration of the Dead Sea Region*
Lunch
- at Hod Hotel

2:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem

4:00 PM Return to hotel and pack for departure
Luggage in the lobby
Check out

5:45 PM Depart for closing dinner

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6:00 PM *The U.S-Israel Relationship: Bringing it all Together*
- at Cielo

8:00 PM Depart for the airport

Sunday, May 14, 2017

12:15 AM Depart Tel Aviv

5:13 AM Arrive JFK

8:50 AM Depart JFK

10:23 AM Arrive DCA (Christina Gleason returns Wilmington, DE)

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Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Christina (Christy) Gleason

Employing Office/Committee: Office of Senator Chris Coons

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): AIEF (American Israel Education Foundation)

Travel date(s): May 6-14, 2017

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Israel

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

The purpose of this trip is to explore historic and recent development in the security and diplomatic situation in Israel and the region, which I will put to use in my duties as an advisor on foreign policy issues.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): None

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

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

4/6/17
(Date)

(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Chris Coons hereby authorize Christy Gleason
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) *(Print Traveler's Name)*

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. *(signify "yes" by checking box)* ☐

4/6/17
(Date)

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 10/19/15)

Form RE-1

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Gleason, Christy (Coons)

From: The American Israel Education Foundation <alopez@aiefdn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Gleason, Christy (Coons)
Subject: Invitation: Senior Congressional Staff Seminar in Israel, May 2017

AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

February 15, 2017

Christine Gleason
Office of The Honorable Chris Coons
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Christine,

We would like to invite you to join us for an educational seminar in Israel for senior congressional staff sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). This trip will depart on Saturday, May 6 and return on Sunday, May 14.

The trip will explore critical foreign policy and national security challenges facing both Israel and the United States and how the two countries are cooperating in dealing with these issues. The program will include discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. officials, Palestinian representatives and leading academics and journalists. The program will also include:

- Briefings on the status of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and Iran's continued malign regional activities;
- In-depth discussions on the Israeli and Palestinian political climate and prospects for peace, as well as the political changes taking place in the region;
  A visit to Israel's southern border and briefings on the threat posed by the terrorist organization Hamas which maintains control over the Gaza Strip;
- A strategic survey of Israel's northern border;
  Visits to historic and religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee.

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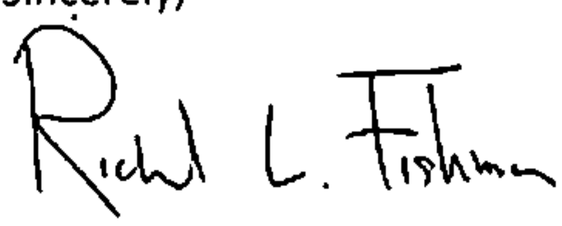
No later than 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting two forms, as well as a copy of this invitation to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. AIEF will provide you with a copy of the "Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form." You must also submit a completed and signed "Employee Pre-Travel Authorization Form" to the Committee. AIEF is committed to ensuring that every aspect of the trip complies with the Senate travel rules. If you have any specific questions about the rules, please contact the Senate Select Committee on Ethics.

We hope that you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Aubrey López at (202) 330-4422. To confirm your participation, please fill out the Participant Confirmation Form to alopez@aiefdn.org.

Sincerely,



Richard Fishman
Executive Director, AIEF

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF strives to provide qualitative and balanced educational symposia for members of Congress and congressional staff, leaders in the fields of politics and business and students. Established in 1990, AIEF has earned a reputation for producing informative and thought-provoking educational seminars in Israel.

AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION | *The Charitable Organization affiliated with AIPAC*
251 H Street, NW | Washington, DC 20001 | Phone: 202-639-5200 | Fax: 202-347-5232

click here to unsubscribe

251 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

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PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

---

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

2. Description of the trip: Please see attached

3. Dates of travel: May 6-14, 2017

4. Place of travel: Israel

5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Please see attached

6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:

   ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

   – OR –

   ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) *(see question 9)*.

7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

   – AND –

   ☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

8. I *certify* that:

   ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.

   – AND –

   ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

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9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**
I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

– OR –

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10).*

– OR –

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**
If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

n/a

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

Please see attached

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15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

Please see attached

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	$6,811	$1,986	$847.22	$2,775.69 breakdown attached

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The trip will take place in Israel in order to educate congressional staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Mamilla Jerusalem, Sheraton Tel Aviv, Galei Kinneret Tiberias

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

We chose these hotels due to their location and affordability.

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21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Please see attached

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Participants will fly business class on a commercial airline

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

n/a

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (You must include the completed signature block below for each travel sponsor.):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: _____

Name and Title: Richard Fishman, Executive Director

Name of Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC 20001

Telephone Number: (202) 639-5233

Fax Number: n/a

E-mail Address: rfishman@aiefdn.org

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American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Senior Congressional Staff
May 6 – 14, 2017

Senate Invitees

1. Allyson Bell, Chief of Staff, Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)
2. Brennen Britton, Chief of Staff, Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)
3. John Connell, Chief of Staff, Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)
4. Christine Gleason, Senior Strategist, Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
5. Chris Lynch, Chief of Staff, Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
6. Helen Tolar, Chief of Staff, Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)

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American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 6-14, 2017, 2017

Addendum

2. Description of the Trip
This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for seven days, is specifically designed to explore foreign policy and defense issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Some of the key issues to be addressed include: the status of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and Iran's continued malign regional activities; the impact of Syrian civil war along Israel's northern border; the internal political situations of both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the status of the peace process; and the expanded cooperation between the U.S. and Israel in fighting terrorism and proliferation.

The seminar will consist of discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials, as well as site surveys of the northern border with Lebanon and Syria, the southern border with the Gaza Strip, and the security fence. The seminar also aims to provide the political, historic, and religious context to the current conflicts and issues facing Israel and the region. It will explore the connection the three monotheistic religions have with the land and the influence this connection has on today's struggles. In addition to formal meetings and briefings, the trip provides experiential opportunities to help better understand the geographical complications, the security implications, and the historic root causes of the current conflicts.

14/15. Sponsor Information
Founded in 1990, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) is the charitable organization affiliated with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby. The Foundation's fundamental purpose is to maintain and further the relationship between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF works to inform the public about Israel and the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, to expand public awareness about issues affecting the Middle East, and to encourage participation in public affairs, especially by young people. AIEF grants support innovative and award-winning programming that educates a wide array of participants, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals.

AIEF funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, students, political consultants, as well as religiously motivated pro-Israel Christian, Latino and African American leaders. These trips to Israel are among the most critical programs AIEF supports on behalf of the U.S.-Israel relationship. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geographic context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants have the opportunity to meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country.

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16. Other Expenses

Security: $888.89 per person
-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.

Speaker Fees: $500 per person
-Honoraria for guest speakers

Travel Agency Commission: $419 per person (single occupancy)
-AIEF pays an upcharge of 21% per room per night, split between our U.S. and Israeli travel vendors

Tour Guide: $212.22 per person
-As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.

Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): $205.56 per person

Meals for contract staff and speakers: $177.78 per person

Room Rentals: $166.67 per person
-The cost of renting rooms at hotels and restaurants for meetings and meals with speakers.

Transportation for individualized tour of Syrian/Israel border: $66.67

Other: $61.12 per person
-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

Entrance Fees: $55.56 per person
-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

Tips: $22.22 per person
-It is customary to tip the driver and tour guide that accompany trip participants.

21. Per Diem

The three hotel rates are within the international per diems for Israel. The estimate for meal expenses includes the cost for meals, snacks, and water. It does not include alcohol, as we do not pay for alcohol per Senate ethics rules.

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American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Senior Congressional Staff
May 6 – 14, 2017

Itinerary

Saturday, May 6, 2017

5:00 PM Depart DCA (Tara Oursler departs BWI)

6:27 PM Arrive JFK

10:31 PM Depart JFK

Sunday, May 7, 2017

4:15 PM Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check into Mamilla Hotel

7:00 PM Depart for dinner

En route:
Shalom Jerusalem: Introduction to the History of the City

7:45 PM *Setting the Stage*
Welcome and Orientation
- at Touro

8:15 PM *State of the Nation*
Dinner with David Horovitz
Founding Editor, *The Times of Israel*
- at Touro

David Horovitz
David Horovitz is the founding editor of Times of Israel, the leading current affairs website in Israel. Mr. Horovitz is a talented and insightful speaker and is known for providing an illuminating synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

10:00 PM Overnight at Mamilla Hotel

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Monday, May 8, 2017

7:45 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel

8:00 AM *Israel's Political Map*
Breakfast with Prof. Reuven Hazan
Department of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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

9:15 AM Depart

9:30 AM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I:*
The Old City and the Historic and Holy Basin

Jerusalem
Throughout its 4,000 year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all recent Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, from the Oslo Accords to the Camp David Summit to the Taba negotiations, and in the most recent talks under the auspices of the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

Old City of Jerusalem & the Holy Basin
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. During the Camp David II talks, the Palestinians and Israelis differed on the Jerusalem question, namely the Old City, the status of Arab neighborhoods just outside the Old City, and religious sites such as the Temple Mount.

The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, which is believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and 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-

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Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East.

The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

12:45 PM Depart

1:15 PM *Israeli Democracy in Action*
Lunch with Members of Knesset
The Honorable Yehuda Glick (Likud/Coalition)
- The Honorable Yehiel Bar (Zionist Union/Opposition)

- at Piccolino

2:45 PM Depart

3:15 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II:*
Post-1967 Neighborhoods & the Security Barrier

Post-1967 Neighborhoods
When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, following 19 years of division, the State of Israel extended the city's boundaries to include the strategic hills surrounding Jerusalem. These hills served as launching pads between 1948 and 1967 for sniper and mortar attacks on Israeli parts of the city by the Jordanian Army. Since 1967, these hills have become vibrant neighborhoods, fully integrated into the fabric of Jerusalem. It is vital for those discussing the issue of Jerusalem to understand these neighborhoods' strategic importance and their relationship to the areas in the immediate vicinity.

Security Barrier
After scores of suicide bombings and daily terrorist attacks against its civilians launched following the breakdown of the Camp David II talks, Israel began construction of a security barrier near the pre-1967 "Green Line" between Israel and the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israeli population centers. Since its construction began, the number of attacks declined by more than 90% and the number of Israelis murdered and wounded decreased by more than 70% and 85%, respectively. The barrier is approximately 455 miles long. To Israel, the security barrier serves as a necessary obstacle to protect its people. To the Palestinians and others in the world, the barrier represents a physical and symbolic divide.

This seminar will survey the security barrier at different points along its route to see first-hand the barrier's construction, the operation of crossing points in and out of Palestinian areas, and the technology that facilitates its operation. Both en route to the barrier and at the barrier itself, the group will explore the competing arguments raised by the Israelis, Palestinians and the international community.

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4:30 PM Depart

5:00 PM *Israel-Palestinian Authority Relations: An Update*
Meeting with Amb. Dr. Daniel Taub
Director of Strategy and Planning, Yad Hanadiv
- at Yad Hanadiv

6:15 PM Return to hotel

7:45 PM Depart

8:00 PM *The Israeli Mosaic*
Dinner with:

- Sally Oren, Goodwill Ambassador, IsraAID
- Tziona Koenig-Yair, Immediate Past National Commissioner, Equal Employment Opportunities Commission
- Kalman Samuels, Director, Shalva Children's Center
- Dan Slyper, LGBTQ Caucus, Yesh Atid Party

-at La Guta

The Israeli Mosaic
"The Israeli Mosaic" will be a dinner discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

9:45 PM Overnight at Mamilla Hotel
PLEASE PREPARE FOR NEXT MORNING'S DEPARTURE

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Tuesday, May 9, 2017

7:30 AM Luggage in the lobby
Check out

7:45 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel

8:00 AM *Minority Rights in Israel*
Breakfast with Mohammad Darawshe
Director of Planning, Equality, and Shared Society,
Givat Haviva Educational Institute

9:15 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

9:45 AM *Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust*
Guided visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

Yad Vashem
One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program 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, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations. Located on Har Hazikaron (the Mount of Remembrance) in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a sprawling complex of museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials.

Every foreign leader that travels to Israel visits Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the group through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

11:45 AM Depart for Ramallah

12:45 PM *A View from the Palestinian Authority*
Lunch with Dr. Saeb Erekat
Chief Negotiator, Palestinian Authority
- at the Mövenpick Hotel

2:00 PM Depart

3:15 PM *A View from the Prime Minister's Office*
Meeting with David Keyes
Foreign Media Advisor, Prime Minister's Office
- at the Jerusalem Crown Plaza Hotel

4:15 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

5:30 PM Check into the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

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7:30 PM *Start-Up Nation*
Dinner with:
- Ziv Aviram, Mobileye
  Dror Irani, BriefCam
  Dov Maisel, Hatzala – Israel Rescue
- Alon Metrikin-Gold, MobileODT

- at Olive Leaf, Sheraton Hotel

Start-Up Nation
Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. This evening's Start-Up Nation dinner will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad.

9:30 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

7:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

7:45 AM Depart for Israel's South

8:30 AM *Save a Child's Heart – Cardiac Care for Children*
Visit to Wolfson Medical Center
Followed by a visit to the Children's Rehabilitation Home

Save a Child's Heart
Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli- based international, non-profit organization. SACH is committed to saving lives by improving the quality of cardiac care for children from developing countries and creating centers of medical competence in these countries. SACH Israel has saved the lives of over 3,700 children from 50 countries where adequate medical care is simply unavailable. Approximately 50% of these children are from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco (countries with whom Israel has either no diplomatic relations or who are in a state of war with Israel). More than 30% are from Africa, and the remainder are from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Americas. These children are treated at the Wolfson Medical Center and housed at the Legacy Heritage Children's Home of Save a Child's Heart, both located in Holon.

10:30 AM Depart

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11:30 AM *The Desalination Era*
Visit to Granot Desalination Plant
Briefing with Galit Sasson, Senior Process Engineer
Mekorot Co., Central District
CLOSED SHOES REQUIRED

Desalination
Israel is the world leader in innovation designed to overcome water scarcity. Due to its own need for sustainable water, Israel supports innovative methods, technologies, and holistic water resource management. Overcoming the challenges of an arid climate and scarce natural water reserves has always been a vital necessity for the growth of Israel's population and economy since the founding of the state. This has led to continuous improvements in Israel's water sector, through innovation in technology, practice and long-term planning. Israel treats and reuses almost all of the nation's domestic waste water for irrigation in the agricultural sector. Almost half of Israel's drinking water comes from innovative desalination efforts. Dozens of countries from around the world – including the United States – come to Israel to learn its water saving methods.

12:30 PM Depart

1:00 PM Lunch
- at Netachim

1:45 PM Depart

2:00 PM *Israel's Southern Front*
Briefing at Overlook into the Gaza Strip
- at Kibbutz Nir Am

Israel's Southern Front
Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. The summer of 2014 witnessed Operation Protective Edge, which returned the issue of rocket fire from Gaza to international headlines. At Kibbutz Nir Am, participants will be able to see the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, to better comprehend the landscape of the region, as well as the unique challenges faced by this area. The visit to Kibbutz Kfar Azza and meeting with a local resident will be an opportunity to better understand the reality of living just kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, to learn how almost 15 years of rocket fire has shaped those living in the communities most affected, to discuss the advent of Hamas "terror tunnels" into Israel's border towns and how communities have sought to cope with the threat on their doorstep, both physically and psychologically.

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2:30 PM Depart

3:00 PM *Living with the Threat of Rocket Fire*
Visit to Kibbutz Kfar Aza with Chen Abrahams, local resident

4:00 PM Depart

4:30 PM *Israel's Missile Defense System*
Visit to the Iron Dome Battery

The Iron Dome
The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) typically honors our request to visit an Iron Dome battery, the joint U.S.-Israel funded rocket defense program. The military typically approves any visit to an Iron Dome location the week before the trip due to the constantly shifting security situation on the ground. A visit to an Iron Dome battery includes meeting with the soldiers and the commanding officer. For security reasons, we do not receive the names of the IDF soldiers meeting with the group.

5:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

6:15 PM *360° Bird's Eye View of Israel*
Briefing at the Azrieli Center Rooftop

6:45 PM Depart, return to hotel

8:00 PM Depart for dinner

8:15 PM *Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq*
Dinner with Dr. Jonathan Spyer
Director, Rubin Center, IDC Herzliya
- at Lumina

9:30 PM *1967: Fifty Years Later*
Dessert with the Honorable Dr. Michael Oren
Deputy Minister for Diplomacy, Prime Minister's Office
- at Lumina

1967
2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, also known as the Six-Day War. The 1967 war has set the stage for every major event in the Arab-Israeli crisis since. The group will meet with member of Knesset Michael Oren, a renowned historian who wrote the acclaimed account of the war, "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East." He will discuss how this event shaped the region, and the Arab-Israeli conflict over the past five decades.

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11:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel
PLEASE PREPARE FOR NEXT MORNING'S DEPARTURE

Thursday, May 11, 2017

7:30 AM Luggage in the lobby
Check out

7:45 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel

8:00 AM *Regional Threat Assessment*
Breakfast with Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Immediate Past Director, Counter Terrorism Unit, Prime Minister's Office

9:15 AM Session ends

9:30 AM Depart

10:30 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns*
Briefing at Alfei Menashe with Oded Revivi, Mayor of Efrat

Alfei Menashe
Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline.

The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of 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.

11:30 AM Depart

En route briefings:
- *The Jezreel Valley – the Strategic Land Bridge Between Asia and Africa*
- *Upper Galilee – Potential for* Development

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The Jezreel Valley
Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel's center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country.

For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In modern times, during World War I, for example, the British and Turkish forces fought a number of pitched battles in the valley. In 1948, following Israel's establishment, the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan attempted unsuccessfully to capture the valley in order to split the just-born Israel into two parts. In the early 20th century, after decades of neglect, Jewish pioneers drained the swamps in the valley, transforming this region into Israel's "breadbasket" known for wheat, cotton, sunflowers and fish ponds. The Jezreel Valley is also home to historical and biblical sites including Tel Megiddo and Nazareth.

Today it is an important symbol of Israel's complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to the majority of Israel's Arab citizens. A tour of this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel's Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel's Supreme Court. These issues are not widely known and this segment gives trip participants the opportunity to understand Israel's relationship with its largest minority group.

Upper Galilee
The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel.

At the same time, the Upper Galilee is home to some of the most prominent industrial hubs. Best known among them is the Tefen Industrial area, home to numerous enterprises established by the region's residents – Jewish and Arab. In 2006, Upper Galilee's ISCAR Metal Working Company was purchased for $5 billion by Warren Buffet's conglomerate holding company. Since then, a number of American investors have become partners in some of the region's hi-tech and bio-tech companies.

While time does not permit for sites visits, a drive through the region allows for expanding on the importance of the area in the context of the U.S.–Israel relationship.

1:30 PM Lunch
- at Hummus Eliyahu, Rosh Pina

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2:30 PM *Treating the Victims of Syria's Civil War*
Visit to Ziv Medical Center, Safed

The Ziv Medical Center
The Ziv Medical Center is situated in the heart of Israel's rural northern landscape and provides health care services and treatment for the north's ethnically and religiously diverse population. Since February 2013, Israel has taken in Syrians wounded in the course of the civil war currently being waged in that country. Many are treated at a field hospital on the border, where soldiers and paramedics of the IDF on the Israeli Golan Heights give them initial first aid and life- saving care. The Syrian wounded then either return to Syria, or are taken to an Israeli hospital to receive further treatment. Ziv Hospital is one such hospital, and has treated nearly five hundred victims of the Syrian conflict. At Ziv, the Syrian wounded, including children, civilians and militants alike, are provided with the best possible care from Israeli physicians using state of the art medical equipment. Although Israel and Syria have been in a state of war for decades, the Israeli doctors and staff at Ziv provide humanitarian aid for the wounded without regard for the patients' political or military affiliation. These efforts have been supported by The Israeli Health Department, which has spent well over 5 million dollars treating the wounded.

3:45 PM Depart

4:15 PM *Northern Exposure, Part I: Hezbollah Next Door*
Briefing with Maj. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi,
Intelligence Officer, Northern Command
- at Mt. Adir

5:00 PM Depart

6:00 PM Check into Galei Kinneret Hotel, Tiberias

7:15 PM Depart for dinner

7:30 PM *Reflections on the Week: Dinner and Discussion*
- at Decks

Dinner and Discussion
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 discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

9:00 PM Overnight at Galei Kinneret Hotel
PLEASE PREPARE FOR NEXT MORNING'S DEPARTURE

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Friday, May 12, 2017

7:30 AM Luggage in the lobby
Check out

7:45 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

8:30 AM Depart

9:00 AM *Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee*
Visit to historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee

- Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount
  St. Peter's Church
- Capernaum – Jesus's Village

Christian Sites at the Sea of Galilee

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided tour and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic tours 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 and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM Depart

12:00 PM *Northern Exposure, Part II: the Border with Syria*
Strategic survey guided by Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman

1:30 PM Lunch
- at HaBokrim

2:45 PM Depart
Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley

En route briefings:

- *Israel's Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*
  Jordan's Syrian and Iraqi Refugees Crisis

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Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis
The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts over 1.4 million Syrian refugees fleeing civil war. Following our discussion with Israeli soldiers patrolling the Syrian border, our guide will address how the influx of Syrian refugees and the threats in the region impact Jordan internally; as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

6:00 PM Check into Mamilla Hotel

7:15 PM ·Depart for dinner

7:30 PM *Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem*
Traditional Sabbath dinner hosted by Professor Gil Troy and his family
- at their home in Jerusalem

The Sabbath in Jerusalem with Professor Gil Troy
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. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple.

The group will be hosted by Professor Gil Troy and his family. Professor Troy, a renowned educator and author, will lead a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

9:30 PM Overnight at Mamilla Hotel

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Saturday, May 13, 2017

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

8:30 AM Depart

En route briefing:

- *The Dead Sea Region – Environmental Concerns*
- *Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor – Strategic Concerns*

Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor

On the drive from Jerusalem to Masada, the group will travel on the highway known as the "Jericho Road" is 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.

Dead Sea Region

During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding the region, the country, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

It is important to note that the region is mostly desert. For decades, Israel has been challenging this arid area and developing its agricultural potential. 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." Some of this technology is already being shared with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. All sides realize that a comprehensive regional water policy will ensure food production necessary to satisfy the Middle East's growing population. For example, in late 2013, the three parties agreed to build a Red Sea-Dead Sea water project to address the shortage of fresh, clean water in the region and the rapid loss of water at the Dead Sea. This highlights the growing importance for Israel and her Arab neighbors to work together on joint environmental projects.

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 also in danger. This issue has led to

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unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

10:00 AM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Guided visit to the National Park at Masada

Masada
The Sabbath in Israel begins Friday afternoon and concludes on Saturday evening. During the Sabbath, virtually everything in the country is closed including all government offices, businesses, newspapers etc. Therefore, for years, we have used Saturdays to expose our congressional members and staff delegations to some of the key historical and cultural sites in Israel such as Masada. Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world.

Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. They refused to give in to the Romans and become their slaves.

The ancient story of Masada has important contemporary relevance for the modern State of Israel. "Masada shall never fall again" has become the watchword of the country which has faced existential threats since its founding in 1948. Israel's elite military units, for example, are sworn in on top of Masada in a symbolic act of defiance against Israel's contemporary enemies. These soldiers along with the thousands of Israeli school children who visit Masada each year learn the lesson that Israel should never become so weak again that it would ever face national suicide as an option.

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. touring the magnificent ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

During our trip to the Negev, we will also visit the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and a major source of minerals for both Israel and Jordan.

12:30 PM Depart

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12:45 PM	*Exploration of the Dead Sea Region* Lunch - at Herod's Hotel
2:30 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
4:00 PM	Return to hotel Prepare for departure
5:45 PM	Luggage in the lobby Depart for dinner
6:00 PM	*The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing It All Together* - at Cielo
8:00 PM	Depart for the airport

Sunday, May 14, 2017

12:15 AM	Depart Tel Aviv
5:13 AM	Arrive JFK
8:50 AM	Depart JFK
10:23 AM	Arrive DCA (Tara Oursler returns BWI; Christina Gleason returns Wilmington, DE)

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