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Instructions: Use this form as a cover sheet for any paperwork you may need to submit to the **Office of Public Records** in order to make your Privately Sponsored Post-Travel Submission complete in accordance with Rule 35. **Only complete this form if you need to submit an amendment to a post-travel filing you have already submitted.**

SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN 232 HART BUILDING**

Name of Traveler: Ryan Evans

Employing Office/Committee: Isakson

Travel Expenses Paid by (List all sources): American Israel Education Foundation

Travel Date(s): Aug 4-12, 2018

Description/Title of Attached Forms: Final Itinerary

Purpose of Amendment (describe the reason for amending original submission): Requested documents from committee

11/28/18
(Date)

Ryan Evans
(Signature of Traveler)

(Revised 4/19/2010)

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
United States Congressional Staff
August 4-12, 2018

Itinerary

Saturday, August 4, 2018

4:55 PM	Depart DCA
6:20 PM	Arrive Newark
10:50 PM	Depart Newark

Sunday, August 5, 2018

4:20 PM	Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport Transfer to Jerusalem *En route:* *Shalom Jerusalem: Introduction to the History of the City*

Shalom Jerusalem
During the hour-long bus ride from Ben Gurion airport to Jerusalem, the tour guide will provide a lay of the land, and an introduction to Jerusalem as the delegation ascends to Israel's capital, and largest city.

6:00 PM	Check into the Inbal Hotel
7:00 PM	Depart for dinner
7:15-8:00 PM	*Setting the Stage* Welcome and orientation - at Touro Restaurant
8:00-9:45 PM	*State of the Nation* Dinner with David Horovitz Founding Editor, *The Times of Israel* - at Touro Restaurant

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

9:45 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

Monday, August 6, 2018

7:45 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel, Galil hall

8:00-9:00 AM *Israel's Political Map*
Breakfast with Professor Reuven Hazan
Department of Political Science, the Hebrew University
-at the hotel

Israel's Political Map
It is critical for trip participants to understand 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-12:15 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The Old City and Holy Basin*

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

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-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 these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

The City of David

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has consumed an enormous amount of time and manpower of members of consecutive American Administrations as well as members of Congress. One of the most intractable issues in the conflict has been the question of the future of Jerusalem. Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of this conflict.

The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sides in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years.

At the same time, much of the site is in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open more areas for excavations. Additionally, Palestinian leadership has denied in their official statements the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

12:30-1:30 PM *Israel-Palestinian Authority Relations in the Trump Era*
Lunch with Ambassador Daniel Taub
-at Anna

Israeli-Palestinian Authority Relations in the Trump Era

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Most recently, in July 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry helped initiate a round of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The peace talks conclusively dissolved when the Palestinian political party Fatah signed a unity deal with the terrorist group Hamas.

During this session, Ambassador Taub will address the prospects for peace in the current political climate. He will also discuss the complex challenges that have prevented a final status agreement thus far.

1:45 PM	Depart
2:15-3:15 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.

3:15 PM	Depart for the Knesset
3:30 PM	Security check

3:45-4:45 PM *Israeli Democracy in Action*

Meetings with Members of Knesset (MKs)

- MK Amir Ohana from the Likud Party – the Coalition
- MK Pnina Tamano-Shata from the Zionist Union Party – the Opposition

- at the Knesset

A View from the Coalition

The Honorable Amir Ohana is a member of Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu's Likud party, and the right-wing coalition that currently controls the Knesset. He will provide participants the perspective of the ruling coalition as well as his own party. He is the first openly gay man to serve in the Likud party, and the first openly gay, right-wing member to serve in the Knesset.

A View from the Opposition

The Honorable Pnina Tamano-Shata is a member of the Yesh Atid party, a member party of the opposition. She will provide the perspective from her own party, as well as the opposition as a whole. She is the first Ethiopian-born woman to serve in the Israeli Knesset.

4:45 PM Depart for hotel

7:15 PM Depart for dinner

7:30-9:30 PM *Peer to Peer: Israeli Member of Knesset Staffers*

- Idit Druyun, Advisor to MK Eli Ben-Dahan, Jewish Home Party
- Shaked Hasson, Advisor to MK Meirav Michaeli, Labor Party
- Hila Netaneli, Advisor to MK Michael Oren, Dep Director of Public Diplomacy, Kulanu Party
- Yair Zivan, Advisor to MK Yair Lapid, Head of Yesh Atid Party

-at La Guta Restaurant

Peer to Peer: Israeli Member of Knesset Staffers

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

9:30 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

PLEASE PREPARE FOR NEXT MORNING'S DEPARTURE

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

7:00-8:15 AM	Check out Luggage in the lobby Breakfast on own in the main dining room
8:30 AM	Depart for Yad Vashem
9:00-11:00 AM	*Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust* Guided visit to the 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 considering 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.

11:15 AM	Depart
11:45 AM-12:45 PM	*A View from the Palestinian Authority* Lunch with Nidal Foqaha Director General, Palestinian Peace Coalition/Geneva Initiative, Palestinian Authority - at the American Colony Hotel, Pasha hall

A View from the Palestinian Authority
During this session, the delegation will have the opportunity to speak with a representative from the P.L.O., and hear the perspective of the Palestinian community.

1:00-2:00 PM	*A View from East Jerusalem* Coffee with Rami Nazzal Journalist, Time Magazine

A View from East Jerusalem
Rami Nafez Nazzal is a Palestinian journalist, who carries a U.S. Passport, and is a resident of East Jerusalem. Nazzal attended the Anglican International School in West Jerusalem, and later graduated University of Utah in 2003, with a degree in Business Management and Tourism. He lived in Boston for seven years before returning to his childhood home in Jerusalem, and has worked for TIME Magazine since 2010.

With extensive journalistic experience for outlets like The New York Times, TIME, Reuters and Der Spiegel, Nazzal will share with participants the reality of life in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. His knowledge and exposure will allow the group to discover the reality of Palestinian society and gain a raw and authentic lens of the difficult political and emotional terrain between Israelis and Palestinians.

2:15 PM	Depart
2:45-3:45 PM	*A View from the Prime Minister's Office* David Keyes, International Media Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister - at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Kerem Carmit hall

A View from the Prime Minister's Office
During this session, the delegation will have the opportunity to speak with a representative from the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and hear the coalition's perspective on issues facing Israel and the region.

3:45 PM	Depart for Tel Aviv
5:00 PM	Check into the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
7:30 PM	Depart for Dinner
7:45-9:45 PM	*The Israeli Mosaic* Dinner with: ▪ Miriam Ballin, United Hatzalah ▪ Dan Slijper, LGBT Caucus, Yesh Atid Party ▪ Sivan Yaari, Innovation Africa ▪ Galit Sasson, Mekorot Water Company - at Lumina

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.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

7:45 AM Breakfast served
- at the hotel, private room

8:00-9:00 AM *Minority Rights in Israel*
Breakfast with Mohammad Darawshe
Director of Planning Equality & Shared Society,
Givat Haviva Educational Center
- at the hotel, Topaz hall

Minority Rights in Israel
As of the 2015 census, approximately 21% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all citizens. Currently 14 Israeli Arabs and 2 Druze serve in the 120-member Israeli Knesset. Our speaker, Mohammad Darawshe is currently the director of planning, equality and shared living at Givat Haviva Educational Institute –a non-profit organization founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in Israel. His focus throughout his career is promoting coexistence and quality among Israel's Jewish and Arab-Palestinians citizens. He will discuss the current challenges facing minority groups in Israel, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

9:15 AM Depart for Israel's South

10:30-11:15 AM *The Violence at the Gaza-Israel Border*
Security briefing by Lt. Col. (Res.) Ilan Eizekson
-at the City of Ashkelon Situation Room

11:15 AM-12:00 PM *Living in the Shadow of Rockets*
Briefing by the City of Ashkelon Chief Security officer
-at the City of Ashkelon Situation Room

12:00 PM Depart

12:15-1:15 PM *Life on the Border with Gaza*
Lunch with Chen Kotler-Abrahams, kibbutz Kfar Aza resident
- at Space, Moshav Emunim

Israel's Southern Front (programming from 10:30 AM – 1:15 PM)
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.

1:30 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

3:00-3:30 PM *360° Bird's Eye View of Israel*
Briefing at the Azrieli Center Helipad

Azrieli Center Rooftop
From the rooftop of the Azrieli center, participants will be standing at the highest observatory in the Middle East. The panoramic view stretches from Ashkelon in the south to Hadera in the north. On a clear day one sees almost 70 percent of the country, as far as Jerusalem to the East. The importance of this visit is to provide participants a geostrategic viewpoint from which to understand the narrow waistline of Israel, which at its narrowest spans 9 miles from the Mediterranean to the West Bank. Additionally, the area visible from this vantage point – referred to as the Gedera-Hadera corridor – comprises a small rectangle of land that can be covered lengthwise in under an hour. This section of Israel includes over 50% of Israel's population, economic infrastructure, as well as its only International Airport.

3:45-4:45 PM *Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq*
Meeting with Dr. Jonathan Spyer
Freelance correspondent, security analyst for IHS Janes
- at the 38th floor

Dr. Jonathan Spyer
Sr. Spyer is a freelance correspondent and security analyst. His reporting on the war in Syria and Iraq has been published in a number of major news outlets, including the Wall Street Journal,

The Guardian, The Times, Weekly Standard and many others. As the delegation prepares to head north to the Lebanese and Syrian borders, Dr. Spyer will provide an update on Syria and Iraq, and their impact on Israel's northern border.

4:45 PM	Return to hotel
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner
7:45-9:45 PM	*Start-Up Nation* Dinner with: ▪ Yonatan Wexler, Business Development Director, OrCam ▪ Keren Etkin, Elli Q, ▪ Cathy Sebag, product validation manager, MobileODT ▪ Hillel Fuld, Zula, Israeli tech evangelist - at Lumina

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.

10:00 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv PLEASE PREPARE FOR NEXT MORNING'S DEPARTURE

Thursday, August 9, 2018

7:00-7:45 AM	Check out Luggage in the lobby
7:45 AM	Breakfast served - at the hotel, Topaz hall
8:00-9:00 AM	*The Jewish State at 70* Meeting with Dr. Einat Wilf Former Member of Knesset, Senior Fellow, the Jewish People Policy Institute -at the hotel, Topaz hall

The Jewish State at 70
Einat Wilf is a prominent Israeli is a renowned author and thought leader in Israel. She provides a nuanced understanding of Zionism, the history of Israel, and the successes and challenges of the modern Jewish state. She will provide participants a greater understanding of the Israel's

most pivotal moments, including the 70th anniversary of the founding of the state, and how those moments have shaped Israel's present and future.

9:15 AM	Depart
10:30-11:15 AM	*Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns* -Briefing at Alfei Menashe

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.

11:15 AM	Depart
12:30-1:30 PM	*Regional Threats Assessment Post-JCPOA* With Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel Former Director, Counter Terrorism Bureau Prime Minister's Office -at TBD

Regional Strategic Threats

Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel is the immediate past director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at the Office of the Prime Minister, where he served until 2012. His duties included developing a national policy for border protection, cargo and aviation security, and advanced technology for public security. He is a veteran of the "Golani" Infantry Corp; he held command positions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and South Lebanon. Today he is a research associate at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at IDC Herzliya. With experience on all of Israel's borders, he will provide a broad overview of Israel's neighbors, and the unique challenges each poses to the Jewish state.

1:45-3:00 PM *En route briefings:*

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

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 most Israel's Arab citizens. A survey 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.

3:00-4:00 PM *Treating the Victims of Syria's Civil War*
Visit to Ziv Medical Center

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.

4:00 PM Depart

4:30-5:30 PM *Northern Exposure Part I: Hizballah Next Door*
Strategic briefing on Israel's border with Lebanon
With Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, IDF Northern Command
- at Alma Research and Education Center, Tefen Industrial Park

Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Lebanon and Hizballah
Lt. Col. Sarit Zehavi will brief the group on the current situation on the Israeli-Lebanese Including the influx of Iranian weapons to the terror organization Hezbollah.

5:30 PM Depart

6:30 PM Check into the Galei Kinneret Hotel

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:45-9:45 PM *Reflections of the Week*
Dinner and discussion
- at Decks Restaurant

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.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Galei Kinneret Hotel
PLEASE PREPARE FOR NEXT MORNING'S DEPARTURE

Friday, August 10, 2018

7:00-8:15 AM Check out
Luggage in the lobby
Breakfast on own in the main dining room

8:30 AM Depart

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

Historical Significance of 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 visit and discussion of some of the key events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM Travel to the Golan Heights

12:00-1:30 PM *Northern Exposure Part II: Syria Next Door*
Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria
With Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman
- at Kibbutz Ein Zivan

Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria

Capt. Ilan Shulman, who is also a resident on the Israeli-Syrian border, will brief the group on the current crisis in Syria, the various groups involved in the civil war, and the impact the situation has on the Golan Heights region of Israel.

1:30-2:30 PM Lunch
- at HaBokrim Restaurant

2:30-5:30 PM Depart
Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley

En route briefings:
- *Israel's Relations with Jordan*
- *Jordan's Syrian Refugee Crisis*

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.

5:30 PM Check into the Inbal Hotel

7:00 PM Depart for dinner

7:15-9:15 PM *Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem*
Shabbat dinner hosted by Gil Troy and his family

Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem
Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. 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.

9:15 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

Saturday, August 11, 2018

7:45 AM Breakfast on own
- at the main dining hall

8:00-9:30 AM Depart

En route briefings:
- *Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor*
- *The Dead Sea Region – Environmental 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.

9:45-11:45 AM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Guided survey of the National Archeological 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. surveying 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.

12:00-2:00 PM *Exploration of the Dead Sea Region*
Followed by lunch
- at Herods Hotel

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

2:00 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
3:45 PM	Return to hotel
5:30 PM	Check out Luggage on the bus
6:00-8:00 PM	*The U.S.-Israel Relationship – Bringing it all Together* Closing dinner - at the hotel

Closing Dinner

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead Sea. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways, and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered throughout the week.

8:00 PM	Depart for the airport
11:10 PM	Depart Tel Aviv

Sunday, August 12, 2018

4:10 AM	Arrive Newark
8:35 AM	Depart Newark
9:59 AM	Arrive DCA