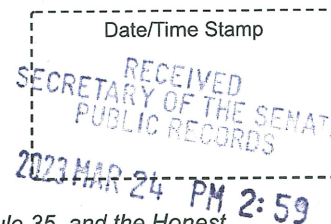


RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

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. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**



Certification: In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

Private Sponsor(s):**Travel Dates:**

American Israel Education Foundation

2/16/23 - 2/24/23

Name of accompanying family member (if any):**Relationship to Traveler:**

None

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$11,810.88	\$1,800.81	\$862.41	\$7,034.37

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

3/24/23

David Montes

Date

Printed Name of Traveler

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.

3/24/23

Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	\$11,810.88	See attachment
Lodging	\$1,800.81	Nominal difference
Meals	\$862.41	Nominal difference
Other	\$7,034.37	See attachment

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

Although specific dates and times of programming changed due to the schedules of political leaders and dignitaries, the actual components of the program did not change.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

Although specific dates and times of programming changed due to the schedules of political leaders and dignitaries, the actual components of the program did not change.

Transportation Explanation - Flights for this trip were cancelled by the airline a day before the trip was supposed to depart, so the trip sponsor had to buy last minute replacement tickets.

Other Explanation - The good faith estimate for "Other" costs was projected for 12 items not covered under transportation, lodging, and meals. The trip was originally supposed to have 2 additional participants, so the trip sponsor ended up dividing the other costs among 2 fewer participants than originally planned.

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)
February 16, 2023 – February 22, 2023**

Final Itinerary

Thursday, February 16, 2023

1:55 PM Train departs Washington, D.C.

4:47 PM Train arrives Newark

8:00 PM El Al #26 departs Newark

Friday, February 17, 2023

PM 1:20 PM El Al #26 arrives at Ben-Gurion Airport
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check in to Orient Hotel

7:45-8:00 PM Depart

8:00-10:00 PM **Pulse of the Nation**
Sabbath dinner with Yaakov Katz
Editor, The Jerusalem Post
-at his home in Jerusalem

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, February 18, 2023

7:15 AM Depart

7:30-9:15 AM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem Part I: The Holy Basin**

9:15-9:30 AM Return to the hotel

9:30- 10:00 AM Breakfast on own

10:00-11:00 AM **Strategic Regional Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at the Orient Hotel

11:00 AM-12:30 PM Depart for Alfei Menashe

En route briefings: *The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee*

12:30-1:00 PM	Israel's Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook
1:00-2:45 PM	Depart for lunch
2:45-4:00 PM	An Arab Israeli Perspective Lunch with Mohammad Darawshe Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Society Givat Haviva Educational Center -at his home in Iksal
4:00 PM	Depart for Merom Golan
6:00- 7:00 PM	Israel's Northern Border Concerns, Part I: Iran Next Door Strategic Briefing on the Border with Syria Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman Northern Border Expert - at Merom Golan
7:00-8:00 PM	Depart for dinner
8:15-10:00 PM	Activism: A Bridge to Peace Dinner with: ▪ Adnan Jaber, Board Member, Tech2Peace ▪ Batsheva Moshe, General Manager, Wix -at Decks
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberias

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Luggage in the lobby
Check out

7:15-7:45 AM	Breakfast on own
8:00-8:30 AM	Depart
8:30-9:00 AM	Historic and Religious Significance of the Galilee Region Visit to Primacy of Peter

9:00-10:30 AM	Depart for Zarit
10:30-10:55 AM	Northern Border Concerns, Part II: Hezbollah Next Door Strategic Briefing on the border with Lebanon Lt. Col. Sarit Zehavi IDF Intelligence Officer Northern Border -at Zarit
10:55-11:45 AM	Hezbollah Terror Tunnel Briefing by Col. Ittai Bar-Ilan Head of Land System Department, Directorate of Defense Research & Development, Ministry of Defense -at Zarit
11:45 -1:15 PM	Depart for Leshem <i>En route briefings: Jordan: Relations with Israel, and Syrian Refugee Crisis</i>
1:15-3:00 PM	U. S – Israel Missile Defense Cooperation Lunch and discussion with Gidi Weiss Vice President for International Business Development, Rafael -at Leshem
3:00-4:30 PM	Depart to Glilot
4:45 PM	Security check
5:00-6:00 PM	Intelligence Briefing: The Iranian Nuclear and Terror Threat Meeting with David Barnea, Director, Mossad -Mossad Headquarters, Glilot
6:00-7:30 PM	Depart for the Orient Hotel
8:00 PM	Depart for dinner
8:15-10:00 PM	The Abraham Accords: A Changing Middle East Dinner with His Excellency Mohamed Al Khaja United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Israel -at Touro
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, February 20, 2023

8:00-8:30 AM	Breakfast on own
9:00-11:00 AM	The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society Tour Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center
11:40- 12:40 PM	Understanding the Peace Process Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker Senior Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs -at the Orient Hotel, Wingate Hall
1:15-2:30 PM	The US – Israel Relationship Lunch briefing with the Honorable Thomas Nides U.S. Ambassador to Israel -at the King David hotel
2:50 PM	Depart for Ramallah
5:00-6:00 PM	A View from the Palestinian Authority Meeting with Ziad Abu Amr Deputy Prime Minister/ President's Advisor PLO Executive Committee Member -at his office in Ramallah
6:00 – 7:30 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
7:30- 8:30 PM	A View from the Opposition Meeting with The Honorable Yair Lapid Head of the Opposition, Yesh Atid party -at the Knesset
8:30-9:00 PM	Depart for dinner
9:00-9:45 PM	Reflections on the week Dinner and discussion -at Kinor Bakikar
10:15-11:15 PM	Strategic Survey of Jerusalem Part II: City of David
11:15 PM	Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

7:30 AM	Breakfast on own -at the Orient Hotel
8:30-10:15 AM	Depart for the south
10:15-11:30 AM	Israel's Southern Border Concerns: Hamas Next Door Briefing with Colonel (Ret.) Miri Eisin Associate, International Institute for Counterterrorism, Reichman University -at Kibbutz Kfar Azza
11:30-12:15 PM	Life in the Gaza Envelope Meeting with Chen Abrahams Kfar Azza resident -at Kibbutz Kfar Azza
12:15-1:00 PM	The IDF and Israeli Society Lunch with soldiers -at kibbutz dining hall
1:00-2:30 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
3:30-4:00 PM	Depart for Prime Minister's office
4:00- 5:15 PM	A View from the Prime Minister's Office Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu Prime Minister of Israel -at the Prime Minister's Office
5:15 -6:00 PM	Depart for President's Residence
6:15- 7:00 PM	Israeli Democracy in Action Meeting with the Honorable Isaac Herzog President of the State of Israel -at the President's Residence
7:00 PM	Depart for Hotel
7:00-7:30	Luggage in lobby Check out
7:30-7:45 PM	Depart

7:45-9:00 PM **Reflections on the Week**
Closing dinner
-at 1868

9:00 – 9:55 PM Depart for airport

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 & Thursday, February 23, 2024

David Montes in Israel at his own expense

Friday, February 24, 2023

12:20 AM United #73 departs Tel Aviv

6:05 AM United #73 arrives Dulles

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)
February 16-22, 2023

Breakdown of Other Costs

Other Cost	Cost per person
Security	\$2,727.20
Speaker Fees	\$1,460.34
Room Rentals and Setup	\$229.53
Hotels for contract staff	\$964.45
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$540.03
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$546.10
Airport Assistance	\$268.52
Photography	\$114.10
Transportation for contract staff & speakers	\$124.34
Misc.	\$52.96
Tips	\$6.82
Total =	\$7,034.37

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: David Montes

Employing Office/Committee: Senator Alex Padilla

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

Travel date(s): Feb. 16-22, 2023

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

Destination(s): Jerusalem and Tiberias, Israel

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

As the Senator's Chief of Staff, one my roles is advising the Senator on a broad range of policy issues, including foreign affairs. The purpose of the trip to learn more about the U.S. relationship with Israel and related policy issues. The trip will include meetings with a number of officials and experts in order to mutually share our perspectives and ideas with one another.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

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:

1/17/23

(Date)

David Montes

(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):

Senator Alex Padilla

David Montes

I, _____ hereby authorize _____
(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) ☐

1/17/23

(Date)

Alex Padilla

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)



January 5, 2023

David Montes, Chief of Staff
The Office of the Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear David,

On behalf of the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), we would like to invite you to participate in an AIEF Israel Seminar February 16-22, 2023.

This seminar will delve into the most exciting and vexing issues facing Israel and the region, among them: the security threats confronting Israel on its Northern and Southern borders; the threat posed by a nuclear Iran; the opportunities presented by recent peace agreements between Israel and a number of Arab states; and the current prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Participants will hear a wide array of viewpoints, including discussions with members of the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Authority; U.S. government officials; military leaders; heads of non-governmental organizations; and prominent academics and journalists. The program will also include visits to historic and religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee.

All trip-related expenses will be paid for by AIEF, and all aspects of the trip will be in full conformity with Senate Ethics rules. AIEF will provide additional information to assure your compliance with ethics rules.

We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful, and educational trip. To RSVP, or if you have any questions, please contact our Israel Seminars Director Julie Peretz at (240) 476-2852 or jperetz@aiefdn.org.

Sincerely,

Richard Fishman
Executive Director, AIEF

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VICE PRESIDENT

ALAN LEVY

TREASURER

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251 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC
20001
TEL 202.639.5180

fax 202 639 5181

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 addendum _____
3. Dates of travel: February 16-22, 2023
4. Place of travel: Jerusalem and Tiberias, Israel
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Sen. Alex Padilla; David Montes, COS; Jose Villalvazo, Policy Advisor
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*).

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:

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:

AIIEF 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:

AIIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. The delegation will have the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of Israelis and see first-hand the outcome of U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation in the region.

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

Please see addendum

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

AIEF grants sponsor innovative programming to educate a wide audience, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals. In addition to educational seminars, AIEF sponsors leadership trainings and briefings on the Middle East and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	\$7,385.72 breakdown: \$7,000 flight \$342.86 bus \$42.86 taxis	\$1,790 breakdown attached	\$822 breakdown: \$676 Jerusalem \$146 Tiberias	\$4,414.29 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:

b) 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 the Senator and his staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

Orient (Emek Refaim Street 3, Jerusalem); Gomeh (Migdal Junction, Tiberias)

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

We chose these hotels due to their location and affordability.

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 addendum

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:

round-trip, business class on a commercial airline, chartered bus in Israel

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:

none

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:

Arne Christenson

Name and Title: Arne Christenson, Managing Director

Name of Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC, 20001

Telephone Number: (202) 639-5266

Fax Number: n/a

E-mail Address: achristenson@aiefdn.org

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)
February 16-22, 2023**

Addendum

2. Description of the Trip

This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for five 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 security threats confronting Israel on its Northern and Southern borders; the threat posed by a nuclear Iran; the opportunities presented by recent peace agreements between Israel and a number of Arab states; and the current prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

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. Sponsoring Congressional Trips

Founded in 1988, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, state and local officials, and other political influentials. 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 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. The most recent Senate trip was for a Senate member, October 23-29, 2022.

6. Expenses**Lodging Expenses – Breakdown**

Date	Hotel	Cost per room
Friday, February 17, 2023	Orient Jerusalem	\$386
Saturday, February 18, 2023	Orient Jerusalem 50% sleepout fee	\$193
Saturday, February 18, 2023	Gomeh Hotel Tiberias	\$246
Sunday, February 19, 2023	Orient Jerusalem	\$386
Monday, February 20, 2023	Orient Jerusalem	\$386
Tuesday, February 21, 2023	Orient Jerusalem 50% late checkout fee	\$193
	Total =	\$1,790

Other Expenses – Breakdown

Other Cost	Cost per person
Security	\$1,571.43
Security if going to West Bank	\$500.00
Speaker Fees	\$500.00
Room Rentals and Setup (Mics)	\$428.57
Hotels for contract staff	\$357.14
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$357.14
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$285.71
Airport Assistance	\$114.29
Photography	\$100.00
Transportation for contract staff & speakers	\$71.43
Misc.	\$71.43
Entrance Fees	\$28.57
Tips	\$28.57
Total =	\$4,414.29

21. Per Diem

The room rate is below the foreign per diem in Jerusalem and Tiberias. Meal expenses are equal to the foreign per diem rate for Jerusalem and Tiberias. Meal expenses include the cost for meals, snacks, and water on the bus. It does not include alcohol, as we do not pay for alcohol per Senate ethics rules.

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)
February 16, 2023 – February 22, 2023**

Itinerary

Thursday, February 16, 2023

5:35 PM United #106 departs Dulles

Friday, February 17, 2023

7:40 AM United #106 arrives Munich

11:05 AM United #9471 departs Munich

3:45 PM United #9471 arrives Tel Aviv

3:45-7:45 PM Arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check in to Orient Hotel

7:45-8:15 PM **Welcome and Orientation**
with Dr. Cameron Brown, Director, AIEF Israel
-at the Orient Hotel

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

8:15-8:30 PM Depart

8:30-10:00 PM **Pulse of the Nation**
Shabbat dinner with Dr. Rabbi Daniel Gordis
Koret Distinguished Fellow, Shalem Center
-at his home in Jerusalem

Rabbi Daniel Gordis is a renowned author and thought leader in Israel. He provides a nuanced understanding of both the history of Israel, and the successes and challenges of the modern Jewish state. During this traditional Sabbath meal, Rabbi Gordis will discuss the significance of the Sabbath to the Jewish people in Israel. He will also provide the group with a greater understanding of Israel's most pivotal moments, and how those moments have shaped Israel's present and future.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Bring overnight bag downstairs
No check out

6:15 AM Depart

6:30 – 7:00 AM **Optional: Early Morning Mass**
-at Church of the Holy Sepulcher

7:00-8:30 AM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem Part I: 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. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating the group on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

8:30-9:00 AM Return to the hotel

9:00- 9:45 AM Breakfast on own

9:45-10:45 AM **Strategic Regional Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at the Orient Hotel

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

11:00 AM-12:15 PM Depart for Alfei Menashe

12:15-12:45 PM **Israel's Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders**
Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline. The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Gadera 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 the

group to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

12:45-2:00 PM Depart for lunch

1:00 – 2:00 PM En route briefings: The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee

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 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 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.

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.

2:00-3:15 PM **An Arab-Israeli Perspective**
Lunch with Mohammad Darawshe
Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Society
Givat Haviva Educational Center
-at his home in Iksal

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

3:15 PM Depart for Merom Golan

4:30- 5:30 PM **Israel's Northern Border Concerns, Part I: Iran Next Door**
 Strategic Briefing on the Border with Syria
 Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman, Northern Border Expert
 -at Merom Golan

Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will take the group to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

5:30-6:30 PM Depart for Gomeh Hotel

6:30-7:00 PM Check into Gomeh Hotel

7:15-7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:30-9:00 PM **Activism: A Bridge to Peace**
 Dinner with:
 ■ Adnan Jaber, Alumni and Board Member, Tech2Peace
 ■ Batsheva Moshe, CEO, Wix
 -at Magdalena

Israel's noted hi-tech sector contributes to the local, regional and global economy, but it also has a dramatic social implications. It is a field that also provides opportunity for inclusion and coexistence efforts, and creates connections between Jewish Israelis, Arab-Israelis and Palestinians. This session will explore how technology companies and organizations can leverage their sector to strengthen peace efforts.

9:00 PM Overnight at Gomeh Hotel

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Luggage in the lobby
 Check out

7:15-7:45 AM Breakfast on own

7:45-8:00 AM Depart

8:00-8:30 AM **Historic and Religious Significance of the Galilee Region**
 Visit to Mount of Beatitudes

The delegation 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. This site provides context for the competing

religious narratives for the land of Israel, while also giving the group an opportunity to understand the impact that historical Christianity has had on the modern state of Israel. This visit also gives the tour guide the opportunity to explain the policies of the national government to protect the practice of all faiths. In light of the current upheaval in the Middle East, where Christian sites in Iraq, Syria and Egypt are being demolished, Israel's care of religious sites sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians is relevant to understanding the policy orientations of the Jewish state since its founding.

8:30-9:15 AM Depart for Avivim

9:15-10:00 AM **Northern Border Concerns, Part II: Hezbollah Next Door**
Strategic Briefing on the border with Lebanon
Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi
-at Avivim

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

10:00-10:45 AM Depart for Zarit

10:45-11:30 AM **Hezbollah Terror Tunnel**
Briefing by Col. Itay Bar-Ilan
Head of Land System Department, Directorate of Defense Research & Development, Ministry of Defense
-at Zarit

Virtually all southern Lebanon is a maze of underground bunkers, rocket-launching sites, and interconnected tunnels built by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization. Hezbollah is the most powerful terrorist organization in the world, stronger than most national armies. They receive around \$700 million annually from Iran, along with advanced weapons, training, and political support. During this visit, the delegation will have the opportunity to go into a Hezbollah tunnel discovered by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), to see firsthand the threat this terrorist army poses to Israel and the region. Hezbollah has created a network of tunnels hundreds of kilometers long to enable terrorists to stage an infiltration attack on military and civilian targets in northern Israel. The IDF conducted Operation Northern Shield between December 2018 and January 2019, to locate and destroy the tunnels. In January 2020, the IDF began installing a series of underground sensors along the northern border to detect any new subterranean tunnels being dug into Israeli territory from Lebanon. The group will hear from an IDF officer who will guide them through the opening of the tunnel, and share the anti-tunneling technology Israel is using to detect new tunnels.

11:30 AM-1:30 PM Depart for Herzliya

1:30-3:00 PM **Israeli Politics Briefing**
Lunch with Tal Shalev
Chief Political Correspondent, Walla News
-at Bistro 56, Herzliya

It is critical for the group to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Tal Shalev will explain how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. She will also provide an overview of the new Israel government, and the key figures in Israeli politics.

3:00-3:15 PM Depart for Glilot

3:15-3:30 PM Security check

3:30-4:45 PM **Intelligence Briefing: The Iranian Nuclear and Terror Threat**
Meeting with Head of Intelligence, Mossad
-Mossad Headquarters, Glilot

The Senator will meet with the Head of Intelligence for Mossad, Israel's Intelligence Agency. This discussion will include the state of intelligence cooperation between the U.S. and Israel, as well updates on several key issues, including Iran and the potential for broadening and deepening Arab-Israeli cooperation through the Abraham Accords.

4:45-6:15 PM Depart for the Orient Hotel

6:15-7:45 PM Arrive at hotel, break

7:45-8:00 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM **The Abraham Accords: A Changing Middle East**
Dinner with His Excellency Mohamed Al Khaja
United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Israel
-at Touro

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict, and a comprehensive regional peace. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and several Arab states, including – most recently - the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan – under the Abraham Accords. This session will explore the Abraham Accords, and prospects for regional peace following these historic agreements.

10:00 PM Return to hotel

Monday, February 20, 2023

7:30-8:00 AM Breakfast on own

8:00-9:00 AM Depart for Ramallah

9:00-10:15 AM **A View from the Palestinian Authority**
The Honorable Mohammad Shtayyeh
Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority
-at The Prime Minister's Office, Ramallah

During each seminar, we invite a representative of the Palestinian Authority to address the group. Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh will present the current state of Palestinian Authority Affairs, including the Palestinian perspective on the issues of the day, as well as relations with Israel and prospects for peace.

10:15-11:30 AM Depart for Jerusalem

11:30-12:30 PM **The U.S. – Israel Relationship**
Briefing with the Honorable Thomas Nides
U.S. Ambassador to Israel
-in Jerusalem

Ambassador Thomas Nides was confirmed as the U.S. Ambassador to Israel on November 3, 2021 and was most recently the Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Morgan Stanley. A distinguished public servant as well as a business leader, Nides was the U.S. State Department's Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources from 2010 – 2013. During this briefing, Ambassador Nides will share the U.S. perspective on issues facing the region, including regional threats, and potential for Arab-Israeli cooperation.

12:30-1:00 PM Depart for the Knesset, security check

1:00-2:00 PM **A View from the Opposition**
Lunch with The Honorable Yair Lapid
Head of the Opposition
-at the Knesset

It is customary for member delegations to meet with the leader of the opposition party, to get a comprehensive view of the Knesset. Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and former journalist who is the Chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid party, and Leader of the Opposition since January 2023. Previously he served as the 14th prime minister of Israel, the alternate prime minister of Israel and minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

2:00-2:30 PM Depart for Yad VaShem

2:30-4:30 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Tour Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

One cannot understand Israel's worldview without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and

strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

4:30-5:00 PM Depart for Prime Minister's Office

5:00-5:30 PM Security Clearance

5:30 PM-7:00 PM **A View from the Prime Minister's Office**
Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of Israel
-at the Prime Minister's Office

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with Israel's Prime Minister, to hear the official perspective of the State of Israel on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the Chairman of the Likud party. He previously served as Israel's Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He is Israel's longest serving Prime Minister.

7:00-7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:30-9:00 PM **California and Israel: Collaborating for Sustainable Solutions**
Dessert with:

- Liat Arad, VP Marketing, UBQ Materials
- Inna Braverman, CEO, Eco Wave Power
- Lauren Guy, Founder and CTO, Asterra

 -at Kinor BaKikar

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 session will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. It will include a particular focus on initiatives that are solving issues of sustainability (energy, waste, etc) that are relevant to California.

9:30-10:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem Part II: 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 sites in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

11:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

7:30 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Orient Hotel

8:30-10:15 AM Depart for the south

10:15-11:30 AM **Israel's Southern Border Concerns: Hamas Next Door**
Colonel (Ret.) Miri Eisen
Associate, International Institute for Counterterrorism, Reichman University
-Café Poli, Kibbutz Kfar Azza

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

11:30-12:15 PM **Life in the Gaza Envelope**
Meeting with Chen Abrahams
Kfar Azza resident
-at Kibbutz Kfar Azza

The group will visit the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, and learn about the unique challenges faced by this area. 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. More recently, Hamas has built dozens of terror tunnels to attack Israeli civilians. The delegation will meet with local residents to better understand the reality of living kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, and how communities have sought to cope, both physically and psychologically.

12:15-1:30 PM **The IDF and Israeli Society**
Lunch with soldiers
-at kibbutz dining hall

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

1:30-3:00 PM Depart for hotel

3:00-4:30 PM

U.S – Israel Missile Defense Cooperation:**Israel's Iron Beam Defense System**

Discussion with Gidi Weiss,

Vice President for International Business Development, Rafael

-at Orient Hotel, Wingate Hall

Designed by Israeli defense contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, the Iron Beam Defense System is designed to destroy short-range rockets, artillery, and mortar bombs. It has a range of up to 7 km (4.3 mi), too close for the Iron Dome system to intercept projectiles effectively. In addition, the system can also intercept unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Iron Beam will constitute the fifth element of Israel's integrated air defense system, in addition to Arrow 2, Arrow 3, David's Sling, and Iron Dome. The group will have the opportunity to meet with rocket scientists from Rafael, and hear about Israel's multi-tiered defense system.

4:30-6:15 PM

Pack for departure

Bring luggage to lobby

Check out

6:15-7:15 PM

Understanding the Peace Process

Coffee with Dr. Tal Becker

Senior Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- at the Orient Hotel, Wingate Hall

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

7:15-7:30 PM

Depart

7:30-9:00 PM

Reflections on the Week

Closing dinner

-at 1868

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for the group 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 during the week.

9:00 PM

Depart for the airport

9:55 PM Arrive at airport
11:10 PM United #91 departs Tel Aviv (Jose Villalvazo)

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

12:55 AM United #955 departs Tel Aviv
4:25 AM United #91 arrives Newark (Jose Villalvazo)
6:00 AM United #955 arrives San Francisco
United #4184 departs Newark (Jose Villalvazo)
7:17 AM United #4184 arrives Washington, DC (Jose Villalvazo)
8:25 AM United #501 departs San Francisco
10:02 AM United #501 arrives Los Angeles

Friday, February 24, 2023

12:20 AM United #73 departs Tel Aviv (David Montes)
6:05 AM United #73 arrives Dulles (David Montes)