

# RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp  
RECEIVED  
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
PUBLIC RECORDS

**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.**

2023 OCT 16 PM 5:04

**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):  
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel Dates:  
07/02/2023 to 07/09/2023

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

## Expenses

| Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meals Expenses | Other Expenses (Amount & Description) |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$7,644.12              | \$2,268.00       | \$1,196.00     | \$4,382.35                            |

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.

8/11/22  
Date

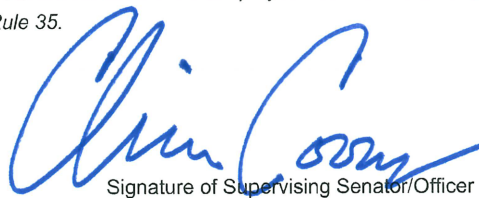
Jonathan Stahler  
Printed Name of Traveler

  
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.

8-11-23  
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**

There were no changes to pre-approved travel expenses.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

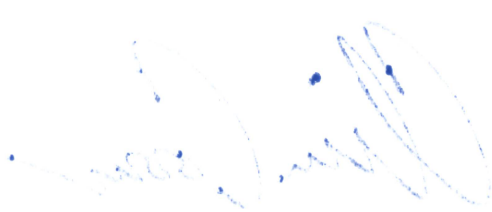
☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation: There were no changes to the pre-approved itinerary.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.





## RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

**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.

Name of Traveler:  
Jonathan Stahler

Employing Office/Committee:  
COONS, CHRIS

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

Destination(s):  
Jerusalem, Israel Tel Aviv, Israel Tiberias, Israel Jerusalem, Israel

Travel Dates:  
07/02/2023 to 07/09/2023

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

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

I advise Senator Coons on U.S. policy towards Israel and on related national security/foreign policy issues. This trip will inform my understanding of economic, security, cultural and diplomatic issues related to Israel and the Middle East, and will better equip me to advise Senator Coons on policy in and towards the region.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?  
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:  
N/A

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

5/30/23

Date

Jonathan Stahler

Signature of Employee

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER**

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,  
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

CHRIS COONS

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

JONATHAN STAHLER

(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)

5/30/23

Date

Chris Coons

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

# American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF): AIEF Senior Congressional Staff

 Jonathan Stahler

Title:  
Chief of Staff

Employing Office/Committee:  
COONS, CHRIS

Duty Station:  
WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Tel Aviv, Israel  
Tiberias, Israel  
Jerusalem, Israel

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

I advise Senator Coons on U.S. policy towards Israel and on related national security/foreign policy issues. This trip will inform my understanding of economic, security, cultural and diplomatic issues related to Israel and the Middle East, and will better equip me to advise Senator Coons on policy in and towards the region.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):  
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:  
None

## Organization Information

**Organization Name**  
American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)

**Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**§501(c)(3) Organization Type**  
Public Charity

**Address**  
251 H Street NW  
**City, State Zip**  
Washington DC, District Of Columbia 20001 United States

**Address 2 (Optional)**  
Public Charity

**Phone Number**  
(240) 476-2852

**Organization URL**

## History of Congressional Travel

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.

## Educational Activities

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 training and briefings on the Middle East and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

## Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

## Foreign Government Involvement

## Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

## Comments

None Entered

## Signature Page

The signature page is below.

## Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for six 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.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

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

## Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

## Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

## With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

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

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- ☒ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☒ No funds or in-kind contributions were 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.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- ☒ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to 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

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- ☐ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to 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

- ☐ The trip is limited to 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
- ☐ The trip is limited to 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

## Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

## Invitees

- i** Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will not** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

## Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:  
07/02/2023 @ 05:15 PM



Trip End Date/Time:  
07/08/2023 @ 08:00 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No

## Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$7,644.12 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

| Transportation Type                                   | Class    | Amount     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Airfare                                               | Business | \$6,950.00 |
| <b>Note</b><br>business class on a commercial airline |          |            |
| Ground Transportation                                 | Charter  | \$394.12   |
| <b>Note</b><br>charter bus on the ground in Israel    |          |            |
| Train                                                 | Coach    | \$300.00   |
| <b>Note</b><br>Amtrak                                 |          |            |

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$2,268.00 )

| Check-In | Check-Out | Facility | City | State | Country | Nights | Cost/Night | Cost Exceed Per Diem |
|----------|-----------|----------|------|-------|---------|--------|------------|----------------------|
|----------|-----------|----------|------|-------|---------|--------|------------|----------------------|



| Check-In                                                                                     | Check-Out  | Facility | City      | State | Country | Nights | Cost/Night | Cost Exceed Per Diem |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------|---------|--------|------------|----------------------|
| 07/02/2023                                                                                   | 07/04/2023 | Mamilla  | Jerusalem | None  | Israel  | 2      | \$423.00   | Yes                  |
| <b>Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason</b><br>Includes \$25 for breakfast                           |            |          |           |       |         |        |            |                      |
| 07/04/2023                                                                                   | 07/06/2023 | Sheraton | Tel Aviv  | None  | Israel  | 2      | \$375.00   | No                   |
| 07/06/2023                                                                                   | 07/07/2023 | Magdala  | Tiberias  | None  | Israel  | 1      | \$249.00   | No                   |
| 07/07/2023                                                                                   | 07/08/2023 | Mamilla  | Jerusalem | None  | Israel  | 1      | \$423.00   | Yes                  |
| <b>Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason</b><br>includes breakfast and late check out on July 8, 2023 |            |          |           |       |         |        |            |                      |

**Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1196.00 )**

| Date       | Breakfast | Lunch   | Dinner   | Incidentals | Total           | City      | State      | Country       | Cost Exceeds Per Diem |
|------------|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 07/02/2023 | \$0.00    | \$0.00  | \$75.00  | \$0.00      | <b>\$75.00</b>  | Newark    | New Jersey | United States | No                    |
| 07/03/2023 | \$0.00    | \$0.00  | \$100.00 | \$0.00      | <b>\$100.00</b> | Jerusalem | None       | Israel        | No                    |
| 07/04/2023 | \$30.00   | \$39.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00      | <b>\$169.00</b> | Jerusalem | None       | Israel        | No                    |
| 07/05/2023 | \$30.00   | \$54.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00      | <b>\$184.00</b> | Tel Aviv  | None       | Israel        | No                    |
| 07/06/2023 | \$30.00   | \$54.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00      | <b>\$184.00</b> | Tel Aviv  | None       | Israel        | No                    |
| 07/07/2023 | \$30.00   | \$41.00 | \$75.00  | \$0.00      | <b>\$146.00</b> | Tiberias  | None       | Israel        | No                    |
| 07/08/2023 | \$30.00   | \$39.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00      | <b>\$169.00</b> | Jerusalem | None       | Israel        | No                    |
| 07/09/2023 | \$30.00   | \$39.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00      | <b>\$169.00</b> | Jerusalem | None       | Israel        | No                    |

**Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$4,382.35 )**

| Expense Type                                               | Amount     | Notes |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Other (Security)                                           | \$1,558.82 |       |
| Other (Speaker Fees)                                       | \$882.35   |       |
| Other (Tour Guide)                                         | \$264.71   |       |
| Other (Airport Assistance)                                 | \$70.59    |       |
| Other (Hotels/Meals/transport for contract staff/speakers) | \$882.35   |       |
| Other (Entrance Fees)                                      | \$52.94    |       |
| Other (Photography)                                        | \$41.18    |       |



| Expense Type         | Amount   | Notes                    |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Other (Misc.)        | \$29.41  | briefing materials, etc. |
| Other (Tips)         | \$11.76  |                          |
| Other (Room Rentals) | \$588.24 |                          |

### Additional Attachments

**Document Name**

There are no additional attachments.

## PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

## SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: AIEF Israel Seminar for Chiefs of Staff  
Travel Date(s): July 1-9, 2023  
Travel Destination(s): Israel  
Sponsor: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Arne Christenson

*(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Managing Director

*(title)*

DocuSigned by:

Arne Christenson

177E715472C848E...

*(signature of sponsor representative)*

5/23/2023 | 11:37 PDT

*(date)*

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
U.S. Congressional Staff  
July 1-9, 2023**

**Senate Invitees**

1. Kyle Chase, Chief of Staff, Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD)
2. Clement James, Jr., Senior Advisor, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
3. Mark Libell, Chief of Staff, Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA)
4. Jonathan Stahler, Chief of Staff, Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)



**PRESIDENT**  
LEE ROSENBERG

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
ALAN LEVOW

**TREASURER**  
DONNA W. STERNBERG

**PRESIDENTS EMERITUS**  
EDWARD C. LEVY, JR.  
PAUL J. BAKER  
HOWARD FRIEDMAN  
DAVID VICTOR

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
DENNIS ALBERS  
ROBERT H. ASHER  
RICHARD BASSUK  
BETSY BERNIS KOHN  
ROBERT A. COHEN  
PHILIP DABIVOFF  
ANN DAVIS  
ROBERT DIENER  
MELVIN A. DOW  
JOSEPH FELSON  
AMY R. FRIEDKIN  
MARTIN GELLER  
SANDER GERBER  
RICHARD GOODMAN  
BERYL GRACE  
RUSSELL S. HODSTEFIN  
MICHAEL KASSEN  
BARRY MANNIS  
LOTHAR MAYER  
GILA MILSTEIN  
AMNON PODAN  
GARY SCHATSKY  
LYNN SCHUSTERMAN  
DANNY J. SILVERMAN  
JEFFREY M. SNYDER  
ROSALYN SWIG  
MICHAEL TUCHIN

**REMEMBERED DIRECTORS, 2011**  
DANIEL GINSBURG  
LIONEL KAPLAN  
HERBERT KATZ  
DIA RE MAZER  
ROBERT MAZER  
MAYER MITCHELL  
SHAOI POZEZ  
ROBERT A. RIESMAN  
EUGENE SCHUPAK, M.D.  
CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN  
GARY WALLIN  
BERNARD WHITE  
HARRIET ZIMMERMAN

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
RICHARD L. FISHMAN

251 H STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20001  
TEL 202.639.5180

April 19, 2023

Jonathan Stahler, Chief of Staff  
The Office of the Honorable Chris Coons

Dear Jonathan,

On behalf of the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), we would like to invite you to participate in a bipartisan AIEF Israel Seminar for congressional Chiefs of staff. The trip will depart on Saturday night, July 1, 2023, and return to the United States on Sunday morning, July 9, 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 and House ethics rules. AIEF will provide the forms required to assure your compliance with ethics requirements.

We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful, and educational trip. To RSVP, please fill out the [Participant Confirmation Form](https://www.aiefdn.org/participant-confirmation-form). If you have any questions, please contact Julie Peretz at (240) 476-2852 or [jperetz@aiefdn.org](mailto:jperetz@aiefdn.org).

Sincerely,

Richard Fishman  
Executive Director, AIEF



**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
Senior Congressional Staff  
July 1-9, 2023**

**Itinerary**

**Monday, July 1, 2023**

Afternoon                      Amtrak departs Union Station

Afternoon                      Amtrak arrives at Newark

11:50 PM                      El Al 26 departs Newark

**Sunday July 2**

5:15 – 8:00 PM              El Al 26 arrives at Ben Gurion  
Depart for Jerusalem  
Check into the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

8:00-9:30 PM              **Welcome and Orientation**  
▪ Darren Kendall, Southeast Political Director  
▪ Renee Sharon, Director of Content Development, AIEF Israel  
-at Touro

9:30 PM                      Overnight at The Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

**Monday, July 3, 2023**

7:30-8:00 AM              **Breakfast**  
-at the hotel

8:00-9:30 AM              **Pulse of The Nation**  
with Matti Friedman  
Author and Journalist  
-at the Mamilla Hotel

Matti Friedman is a renowned reporter with a career that has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow and Washington, D.C., and to conflicts in Israel in the Caucasus. Mr. Friedman is a dynamic and insightful speaker who provides a journalist's perspective on how Israel's story is told by the international media, and how that media portrayal impacts the stories taking place on the ground.

9:15 AM                      Depart

9:30-12:30 PM

**Strategic Survey of Jerusalem****Part I: The Origin Stories**

- City of David
- Robinson's Arch/Southern Steps
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

**The City of David**

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. 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 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.

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

12:45-1:45 PM

**Lunch**

-at Happy Fish, Mamilla Hotel

3:30-4:30 PM

**Introduction to Israeli Politics**

with Haviv Rettig Gurr

Senior Contributing Analyst, *The Times of Israel*

-at the Mamilla Hotel

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Haviv Rettig Gurr will explain 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.

4:45 PM

Depart for Knesset

5:00-6:15 PM

**Israeli Democracy in Action: Meetings with Members of Knesset**

- The Honorable Gila Gamliel, Minister of Intelligence, Likud party
  - Idan Roll, Yesh Atid party
- at the Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members of the Knesset from different parties, to hear their perspective on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. The Honorable Gila Gamliel, Minister of Intelligence, is from Bibi Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party; and The Honorable Idan Roll represents Yair Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid party.

6:30 PM

Depart

7:00-8:00 PM

**Strategic Survey of Jerusalem****Part II: Watershed Moments: 1948, 1967, 2000**

-at Gilo

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.

8:00 PM

Depart

8:15-9:45 PM

**Dinner with Senior Knesset Staffers**

-at Jacko's

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

9:45 PM

Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

**Tuesday, July 4, 2023**

7:00 – 8:00 AM

**Breakfast**

-at the hotel

8:30 – 9:45 AM

**Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**

Conversation with Tal Becker

Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-at the Mamilla Hotel

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.

9:45 AM Depart

10:15 AM-12:30 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**  
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

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.

12:30 PM Depart for Ramallah

1:45 – 3:00 PM **A View from the Palestinian Authority**  
The Honorable Jibril Rajoub  
Secretary General, Fatah Central Committee  
-Ramallah

During each seminar, we invite a representative of the Palestinian Authority to address the group. Mr. Rajoub 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.

3:00 PM Depart

5:00 PM Check into Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

6:45 – 8:00 PM **The Origins of Zionism: Why a Jewish State?**  
Conversation with Dr. Einat Wilf  
-at the Sheraton Hotel

Dr. Einat Wilf is a leading intellectual and original thinker on matters of foreign policy, economics, education, and Israel and the Jewish people. A member of the Israeli Parliament from 2010-2013, Dr. Wilf is considered one of Israel's most articulate representatives on the



international stage. She is the author of six books that explore key issues in Israel Society. She will discuss the origins of Zionism, and the importance of a Jewish State.

8:00 PM Depart

8:15 – 10:00 PM **Innovation Nation: Israel's Solutions to Global Challenges**

- Galit Sasson, Water Engineer, Mekorot – National Water Company
- Eytan Schwartz, Vice President of Global Strategy, BeeHero
- Rotem Arad, Director of Business Development, H2Pro  
-at Animar

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. Our three speakers represent companies in the water, agriculture, and environmental space.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

### **Wednesday, July 5, 2023**

7:30-8:00 AM **Breakfast**  
-at the hotel

8:00-9:15 AM **Strategic Regional Overview**  
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel  
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau, PMO  
-at the Sheraton Hotel

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

9:30 AM Depart

10:00 – 11:00 AM **En route briefing: A Situational Analysis of the Gaza Terror Tunnels**

During the 2014 Gaza conflict, Hamas used underground tunnels to terrorize Israel's civilian population. On April 16, 2016, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) discovered a new two-kilometers-long, concrete tunnel from the southern part of the Gaza Strip into Israel, near the border between Israel and Egypt. The discovery was made possible through the use of a new tunnel detection technology. Given the similar threats facing the United States, including on the Korean Peninsula, the U.S.-Mexico border and in various locations in the Middle East, this breakthrough technology holds significant potential for the United States.



11:00 AM-12:00 PM **Between Israel and Gaza: Erez Border Crossing**  
Briefing with Lior Salama, Head of Foreign Relations Department,  
Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT)  
Civil Administration  
-at the Erez Border Crossing

The Erez Crossing is located between the Gaza Strip and Israel, at the northern end of the Gaza Strip, between the Israeli kibbutz of Erez and the Palestinian town of Beit Hanoun. It is currently the sole crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel by land, and is the second option for Gazans when the Rafah Crossing with Egypt is closed. During this briefing, Mr. Salama will discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's efforts to improve it; and the process of getting from Gaza into Israel.

12:00 PM Depart

12:30 – 1:15 PM **Lunch**  
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza Dinning Hall

1:15 – 2:30 PM **Life in the Gaza Periphery**  
Briefing with local resident Chen Abrahams  
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Participants 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.

2:30 PM Depart

2:45 – 3:45 PM **Israel: A Nation of Resilience**  
Meeting with Ayelet Shmuel  
Director, Sderot International Resilience Center  
-at The Founders Center

Residents of the Gaza Envelope are consistently exposed to significant trauma due to rocket fire from the Gaza strip. Israel has developed a variety of tools to help young people deal with PTSD, including resiliency centers. The visit to this center will focus on creative solutions available for residents today. The resiliency tools developed in Israel have potential to help other populations, including in the United States.

3:45 PM Depart

**3:45 – 4:15 PM Visit to the Iron Dome**

More than a decade ago, Israel developed Iron Dome to protect its citizens from persistent and increasingly dangerous rockets fired by Iranian-backed terrorists. Since being deployed, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 90 percent of the rockets it has targeted—preventing war, saving countless lives, and reducing physical and psychological damage. Leaders in Congress have recognized the importance of Israel's missile defense system and have allocated more than \$1.6 billion for this technology. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an Iron Dome site and speak with the soldiers responsible for its operation.

4:15 PM Depart

5:45 PM Return to hotel

7:45 PM Depart

**8:15 – 10:00 PM Israel: A Kaleidoscope of Cultures**

- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Political and Regional Analyst
  - Ashager Araro, Social Entrepreneur and Ethiopian-Israeli activist
  - Alex Rif, CEO of 1 Million Lobby and Immigrant Activist
- at Market Smoker

This dinner will include 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 Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Thursday, July 6, 2023**

7:30-8:00 AM **Breakfast on own**  
-at the hotel

8:00 -9:00 AM **Deterring a Nuclear Iran: U.S. – Israel Strategic Interests**  
Meeting with Yaakov Katz  
Author, Former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*  
-at the Sheraton Hotel

Ya'akov Katz is the former editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, Israel's most-read English news website and best-selling English newspaper. He previously served for close to a decade as the paper's military reporter and defense analyst. He is the author of "Shadow Strike: Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power" and co-author of two books: "Weapon Wizards - How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower" and "Israel vs. Iran - The Shadow War." During this session he will discuss the strategic interest of the United States and Israel in preventing a nuclear Iran.

9:15 AM Depart

9:30 AM **The Abraham Accords**  
Meeting with the Honorable Abderrahim Beyyoudh,  
Moroccan Ambassador to Israel  
-at Alexander Hotel

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.

10:45 AM Depart

10:45 – 11:30 AM **En route briefing: Settlements – Historic and Political Overview**

Israeli settlement policy is one of the more complex issues in the ongoing negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. During this en route briefing, the guide will discuss Israeli settlement policy, the differing views among Israeli citizens, and the role settlements play in the current political climate.

11:30 -12:00 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 Hadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel's population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel's "silicon valley", as well as Ben Gurion international airport. The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

12:00 PM Depart

1:15-2:00 PM **Lunch**  
-at Walla Shawarma

2:00 PM Depart



2:00 – 3:00 PM

**En route briefing: 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.

3:00 -3:30 PM

**Northern Border Concerns – Lebanon****Part I: The Hezbollah Tunnel Threat**

-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. Participants 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.



3:30 PM Depart

3:45 – 4:30 PM **Northern Border Concerns – Lebanon**

**Part II: Hezbollah Next Door**

Briefing with Sarit Zehavi

**Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi**

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.

4:30 PM Depart

5:30 PM Check into the Magdala Hotel, Sea of Galilee

7:00 PM-8:30 PM **Dinner and Discussion**  
-at Magdalena

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

8:30 PM Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Sea of Galilee

**Friday, July 7, 2023**

7:00 – 8:00 AM **Breakfast on own**  
-at the hotel

8:00 AM Depart

8:15 – 9:00 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee: The Town of Jesus**  
-at Mount of Beatitudes

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the

Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. The Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, is the most studied and read speech of any religion in history.

- 9:00 AM Depart for Golan Heights
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM **Northern Border Concerns – Syria**  
**Part I: The Strategic High Grounds**  
 -at Mitzpeh Gadot
- 10:45 AM Depart
- 11:15 – 12:45 PM **Northern Border Concerns – Syria**  
**Part II: Iran and Russia Next Door**  
 Strategic Briefing with  
 Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman, Northern Border Expert  
 -at Ein Zivan

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 participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

- 1:00 – 2:00 PM **Ethics in the IDF**  
 Lunch with soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)  
 -at Habokrim, Merom Golan

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, participants 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.

- 2:15 PM Depart

- 5:30 PM Return to hotel
- 7:00 PM Depart for Sabbath Dinner
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM **Reflections on The Sabbath Eve**  
with Tamar and Tani Benovitz  
-at their home 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 dinner will include 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.

- 9:45 PM Depart  
Overnight at Orient Jerusalem

#### **Saturday, July 8, 2023**

- 7:00 AM **Breakfast on own**  
-at Hotel Dining Room
- 7:30 AM Depart for the Dead Sea Region
- 8:00 – 9:00 AM **En route briefing: Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor**

Our tour guide will spend approximately one hour on the drive from Jerusalem to Masada – including the Jericho road – to discuss 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.

- 9:00-11:30 AM **History and Geo-politics of the Roman Empire**  
Guide visit to Masada National Archeological Park

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. The delegation will visit the magnificent ancient excavations; learn the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; and discuss the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

11:30-12:00 PM      Depart

12:00-1:45 PM      **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**  
Followed by lunch  
- at Hod

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 this desert region, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians. For decades, Israel has been developing the agricultural potential of the desert. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally “made the desert bloom.” The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

1:45 PM              Depart for Jerusalem

3:45 PM              Return to hotel, prepare for departure

5:30 PM              Depart for Dinner

6:15 PM-8:00 PM    **Bringing it all Together: Closing Dinner**  
- at Pizza Porto

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 during the week.

8:15 PM Depart for airport

**Sunday, July 9, 2023**

1:00 AM El Al 25 departs Ben Gurion

5:45 AM El Al 25 arrives at Newark

Morning Amtrak departs Newark

Morning Amtrak arrives Union Station