

RE-3 Senators and Officers 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.**

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2023 JUL 28 PM 2:27

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):
J Street Education Fund

Travel Dates:
06/23/2023 to 07/01/2023

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Mary Sorteberg

Relationship to Traveler:
Spouse

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$4,390.00	\$3,652.00	\$1,297.42	\$1,589.98

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

- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

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.

I have made a determination that the travel described above was in connection with my duties as an officeholder, and did not create the appearance that I was using public office for private gain.

I have made a determination that the travel described above was in connection with my duties as an officeholder, and did not create the appearance that I was using public office for private gain.

7/28/23
Date

JEFF MERKLEY
Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

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
Misc. Expenses	\$360.00	Various expenses came in at a slightly different amount than originally projected: Logistics coordinator \$527 (originally \$666) Speaker honoraria: \$213 (originally \$333) Programming Costs: \$250 (originally \$466) Security: \$150 (originally \$45) Tour guide: \$43 (originally \$33)
Transportation	\$4,390.00	Flights were more expensive than originally projected (\$14,390) as opposed to \$10,000.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation: We added one meeting, a classified briefing with LT. Gen. Michael Fenzel, US Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority, on Monday 6/26. We were unable to visit Jubbet ad-Dhib on Wednesday 6/28 due to schedule switches. Other than these two changes, although specific dates and times of programming changed slightly due to the scheduling of Israeli and Palestinian leaders, the components of the programming stayed the same.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

J Street Education Fund: June 2023 CODEL (Senate)

 JEFF MERKLEY

Title:
Senator

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Duty Station:
PORTLAND, OR

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

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

Not applicable for Senators and Officers.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Mary Sorteberg

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
Spouse

Organization Information

Organization Name
J Street Education Fund

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Address
PO Box 66073

Address 2 (Optional)
Public Charity

City, State Zip
Washington, District Of Columbia 20035 United States

Phone Number
9173121869

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) has sponsored House-side CODELs and staffdels since 2010. We have brought one Senate employee on a past staffdel, in 2018.

Educational Activities

JSEF serves to educate, organize and mobilize pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy Americans by implementing a diverse slate of work – from congressional education and student organizing to lay leadership development, strategic communications and beyond – that embodies the breadth and depth of our vision for change.

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

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for Senators to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through meetings with Israeli and Palestinian political and civil society leaders and visits to strategic and holy sites, the trip will enhance participants knowledge of the region and the dynamics behind one of the most vexing foreign policy challenges facing the United States. In addition, it will explore the essential role of active, engaged and sustained US diplomatic leadership in bringing about a two-state solution.

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

JSEF's travel program is a cornerstone of the work to inject nuance, empathy and insight into a policy debate too often marked by ideology absolutism and indifference. JSEF's educational tours of Israel and the West Bank bring Members of Congress, congressional staff and other key target audiences to the heart of the conflict, delivering first-hand knowledge and a deep, balanced understanding of the people, places and events that shape this issue.

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 without 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
- ☐ 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

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

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

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

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
06/23/2023 @ 09:50 AM



Trip End Date/Time:
07/01/2023 @ 04:20 AM

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: \$10,533.33 | Accompanying Family Member: \$10533.33)

Traveler Type	Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Member/Officer/Employee	Airfare	Business	\$10,000.00

Note

Departing from DC evening of June 23, arriving in Portland, OR morning of July 1

Member/Officer/Employee	Ground Transportation	Coach	\$533.33
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Note

Transfers to/from airport and tour bus

Accompanying Family Member	Airfare	Business	\$10,000.00
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Note

Departing from DC evening of June 23, arriving in Portland, OR morning of June 30

Accompanying Family Member	Ground Transportation	Coach	\$533.33
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Note

Transfers to/from airport and tour bus

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$3,652.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Traveler Type	Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
Member/Officer/Employee	06/24/2023	06/26/2023	InterContinental David Tel Aviv	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	2	\$578.00	Yes

Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Hotel costs are high due to high travel rates and increased tourism during Israel's 75th anniversary summer. Hotel is chosen for location, comfort, and security.

Member/Officer/Employee	06/26/2023	06/30/2023	Mamilla Hotel	Jerusalem	None	Israel	4	\$624.00	Yes
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Traveler Type	Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
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Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Hotel costs are high due to high travel rates and increased tourism during Israel's 75th anniversary summer. Hotel is chosen for location, comfort, and security.

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1297.42 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Traveler Type	Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
Member/Officer/Employee	06/24/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$92.00	\$0.00	\$92.00	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
Member/Officer/Employee	06/25/2023	\$40.00	\$59.00	\$93.00	\$0.00	\$192.00	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	Yes

Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Breakfast is built into the hotel rate and should be subtracted from the total cost for the day. Costs for meals and private rooms are higher in peak tourism season.

Member/Officer/Employee	06/26/2023	\$40.00	\$65.00	\$126.00	\$0.00	\$231.00	Tel Aviv and Jerusalem	None	Israel	Yes
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Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Breakfast is built into the hotel rate and should be subtracted from the total cost for the day. Costs for meals and private rooms are higher in peak tourism season.

Member/Officer/Employee	06/27/2023	\$42.00	\$20.00	\$103.00	\$0.00	\$165.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	Yes
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Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Breakfast is built into the hotel rate and should be subtracted from the total cost for the day.

Member/Officer/Employee	06/28/2023	\$42.00	\$30.00	\$103.00	\$0.00	\$175.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	Yes
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Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Breakfast is built into the hotel rate and should be subtracted from the total cost for the day.

Member/Officer/Employee	06/29/2023	\$42.00	\$78.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	Yes
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Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Breakfast is built into the hotel rate and should be subtracted from the total cost for the day. Costs for meals and private rooms are higher in peak tourism season.

Member/Officer/Employee	06/30/2023	\$0.42	\$87.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$202.42	Jerusalem	None	Israel	Yes
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Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason

Breakfast is built into the hotel rate and should be subtracted from the total cost for the day. Costs for meals and private rooms are higher in peak tourism season.

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1,589.98 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Traveler Type	Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Member/Officer/Employee	Other (Logistics Coordinator)	\$666.66	
Member/Officer/Employee	Other (Speaker honoraria)	\$333.33	
Member/Officer/Employee	Other (Printing)	\$45.00	
Member/Officer/Employee	Other (Programming costs)	\$466.66	Meeting room rentals and AV
Member/Officer/Employee	Other (Security)	\$45.00	
Member/Officer/Employee	Other (Tour Guide)	\$33.33	

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: Cooper Boyar

Travel Date(s): June 23 - July 1, 2023

Travel Destination(s): Israel and the West Bank

Sponsor: J Street Education Fund

Jeremy Ben-Ami

(printed name of sponsor representative)

President

(title)



(signature of sponsor representative)

5/15/23

(date)

Sen. Tammy Baldwin
Sen. Cory Booker
Sen. Maria Cantwell
Sen. Bob Casey
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto
Sen. Dick Durbin
Sen. John Fetterman
Sen. Maggie Hassan
Sen. Martin Heinrich
Sen. John Hickenlooper
Sen. Mazie Hirono
Sen. Tim Kaine
Sen. Angus King
Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Sen. Ben Lujan
Sen. Ed Markey
Sen. Jeff Merkley
Sen. Patty Murray
Sen. Jon Ossoff
Sen. Alex Padilla
Sen. Jack Reed
Sen. Brian Schatz
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
Sen. Chris Van Hollen
Sen. Mark Warner
Sen. Raphael Warnock
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
Sen. Elizabeth Warren



Wednesday, January 25, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of Senators for an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank sponsored by the J Street Education Fund (JSEF). The trip, which will be on the ground in Israel for six days, will depart on Friday, June 23 and return on Friday, June 30.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for Senators to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The trip will enhance your knowledge of the region and the dynamics behind one of the most vexing foreign policy challenges facing the United States. In addition, it will explore the essential role of active, engaged and sustained US diplomatic leadership in bringing about a two-state solution. The program will also include:

- Meetings with senior Israeli and Palestinian Authority government officials, as well as leading non-governmental voices;
- Visits to the West Bank and the Gaza periphery
- Visits to historic sites, including Jerusalem's Old City;
- A briefing on Israel's security and the Iron Dome missile defense system.

This delegation enables Senators to have a one-of-a-kind experience that gives a unique perspective on what is at stake in the region and how American leadership can help bring about peace. Participants in past JSEF delegations are more than happy to speak with you in greater detail about their experiences and the importance of attending this delegation.

All trip related expenses will be paid for by JSEF in compliance with the ethics rules, and Senators are invited to bring their spouses. Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for attending Senators in preparation for their visit.

I hope that you will be able to join us on this important, thought-provoking and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Cooper Boyar at (917) 312-1869, or at cooperboyar@jstreet.org, at any time to discuss the details of the sponsored trip and our organization.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami
President
J Street Education Fund

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



The Len Hill Education Program

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

June 23 - July 1, 2023

ITINERARY

Sen. Jeff Merkley and Mary Sorteberg

Friday, June 23

9:50 AM	AS 0010 departs PDX
5:55 PM	AS 0010 arrives DCA
10:55 PM	UA 72 departs IAD

Saturday, June 24

4:40 PM	UA 72 arrives in Tel Aviv. Drive to the hotel and check-in
7:00 - 7:30 PM	Drive to Dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Welcome Dinner with Israeli Journalist

We will kick off the trip with a welcome dinner where participants will introduce themselves and we will provide an overview of the trip, and then we hear about the current political moment in Israel.

Speaker: Tal Shalev, Political Correspondent, Walla News
Location: Animar

Hotel: David Intercontinental | Kaufmann St 12, Tel Aviv-Yafo, +972-03-795-1111

Sunday, June 25

7:00 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast on own
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8:30 - 10:30 AM

J Street Conflict and Israeli Politics 101

This session will serve as an orientation to the history, geography and political dynamics in the region as well as an introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.

Speaker: Jeremy Ben-Ami, J Street

Location: David Intercontinental

10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Drive towards Kibbutz Kfar Aza and Visit to Gaza Border

During the drive towards the Gaza Strip, participants will be briefed on the place of the Gaza Strip in the Israel-Palestinian conflict and the status of the strip post-disengagement. We will make two brief stops, the first at the Assaf Siboni lookout, and the second at the Erez Crossing.

Speakers: Jeremy Ben-Ami, J Street; Tania Hary, Gisha

12:15 - 12:30 PM

Arrival at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

12:30 - 1:45 PM

Lunch Session: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

In this briefing, we will learn about life in Gaza, and the variety of humanitarian issues Gazans face, such as freedom of movement and access to healthcare.

Speakers: Tania Hary, Gisha, Jenifer Austin, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

Location: Kfar Aza

1:45 - 3:00 PM

Kfar Aza Kibbutz Visit

We will be led on a tour by local residents in Kfar Aza to discuss Kibbutz life in the Gaza perimeter and the effects of the continuous escalations and rocket fire from Gaza.

Speaker: Chen Kotler

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Drive to Tel Aviv

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Executive Time

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Briefing with Commanders for Israel's Security

This session will examine current government policies in the West Bank and their impact on the future of Israel as a secure and democratic homeland for Jewish people from the perspective of retired Israeli Generals

Speaker: Brigadier Gen (Ret.) Yoni Shimshoni
Location: David Intercontinental

7:00 - 7:30 PM

Transition and Drive to Dinner

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Cocktail Reception with Israeli Business Leaders

At the reception, we will be joined by leaders in the Israeli business community to hear their perspectives on attempts to reform the judiciary, peace, and diplomacy.

Location: Regina

Hotel: David Intercontinental | Kaufmann St 12, Tel Aviv-Yafo, +972-03-795-1111

Monday, June 26

7:00 - 8:00 AM

Breakfast on own

8:00 - 8:30 AM

Drive to Peres Center for Peace and Innovation

8:30 - 9:45 AM

Visit Peres Center for Peace and Innovation

An opportunity to hear about the late Prime Minister and President Shimon Peres's legacy of peace.

Speaker: Nadav Tamir, J Street

9:45 - 10:15 AM

Drive to Palmachim

10:15 - 11:45 AM

IDF Strategic Briefing and Iron Dome Site Visit

The security briefing by the IDF will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces on multiple fronts.

Location: Palmachim Air Force Base

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Drive to Beit Horon

12:45 - 2:00 PM

Lunch with Israeli Settler Leadership

An opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have and what their hopes are for the future.

Speaker: Eliana Passentin, Head of International Relations, Binyamin Regional Council

Location: Beit Horon

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Drive to Knesset + Security

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Meetings with Members of Knesset

Participants will meet with Members of Knesset from across the political spectrum. We will have the opportunity to hear their perspectives on current events as well as domestic and foreign policy priorities.

5:00 - 5:30 PM

Drive to Hotel

5:30 - 7:15 PM

Check in and Executive Time

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Travel to Dinner

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Dinner with Ambassadors from Middle East and North African countries

Participants will have the opportunity to hear from Ambassadors to Israel from countries in the Middle East and North Africa that have normalized relations with Israel and their thoughts on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and expansion of the Abraham Accords.

Location: Touro

Hotel: Mamilla Hotel | Shlomo HaMelech 11, Jerusalem +972 2-548-2200

Tuesday, June 27

6:30 - 7:15 AM

Breakfast on own

7:15 - 7:30 AM

Drive to Old City (Dung Gate)

7:30 - 9:00 AM

Tour of Temple Mount and City of David

We will visit two major sites of Jerusalem, the Al Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount, and Ir David/City of David to learn about their religious, historic, and political significance. We will discuss how the situation in the Old City of Jerusalem impacts the developments on the ground in the region.

Guide: Dr. Eran Tzidkiyahu

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Drive to Jalazone Refugee Camp

10:00 - 11:00 AM

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Site Visit

We will tour an UNRWA refugee camp and learn more about UNRWA's work supporting Palestinian refugees. Senators will have the opportunity to hear how US support for UNRWA affects the livelihood of the millions of Palestinians it provides essential services for.

Location: Jalazone Refugee Camp

11:00 - 11:30 AM

Drive to Ramallah

11:30 - 12:30 PM

Briefing: Palestinian Politics and Public Opinion

We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian politics, and internal Palestinian social and cultural issues.

Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Director, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

Location: Dr. Shikaki's Office

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Lunch with Palestinian Civil Society Leaders

In this discussion, we will hear about the recent political turmoil in the Palestinian territories; the conflict between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, the Palestinian public's attitudes towards their leadership, and how this impacts the political and diplomatic agenda.

Location: Dr. Shikaki's office

2:00 - 2:15 PM

Drive to Prime Minister's office

2:15 - 3:30 PM

Meeting with Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh

We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the US-Palestinian relationship and the diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Location: Prime Minister's office, Ramallah

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Drive to Jerusalem

5:00 - 7:15 PM

Executive Time

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Drive to Dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner with East Jerusalem Leaders

We will be joined by several Palestinian residents of Jerusalem who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges and opportunities that Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem face.

Location: Ambassador Hotel

Hotel: Mamilla Hotel | Shlomo HaMelech 11, Jerusalem +972 2-548-2200

Wednesday, June 28

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast Briefing: Introduction to Settlements

This briefing will include a short presentation on the history of the settler movement, including the role of the Israeli government in settlement building between 1968 and today.

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul

Location: Mamilla Hotel

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Drive to Jubbet ad-Dhib

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Visit at Jubbet ad-Dhib

Participants will learn about the situation of Palestinians living in Area C (under Israeli military and civil control) of the West Bank. Many of these communities have demolition orders on some or all of the structures in the village, and the community's school was recently demolished by Israeli authorities. We will hear about daily life in a Palestinian village in area C and will be joined by Palestinian and Israeli activists to hear about conditions in the village and surrounding areas.

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Drive to Susya

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch with residents of Susya

Participants will learn about the situation of Palestinians living in the West Bank area south of Hebron, including demolitions of structures by Israeli authorities, inability to access critical infrastructure, and violence from surrounding Israeli settlers. We will learn about the history of these communities and

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Drive to Hebron

2:15 - 4:00 PM

Walking tour of Hebron

Sometimes described as a microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hebron is an ancient holy city and home to over 200,000 Palestinians and

close to 1,000 Israeli settlers, who live in guarded enclaves in the middle of the city. We will be guided by former Israeli soldiers who served in the city on a tour of downtown, see both Jewish areas of the city and checkpoints, and learn how life in the city has changed over time.

Guide:
Avner Gvaryahu

4:30 - 5:45 PM Drive to Jerusalem

5:45 - 7:15 PM Executive Time

7:15 - 7:30 PM Walk to Dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner with Ambassador Tom Nides

Participants will hear from the US Ambassador to Israel regarding U.S. policy in the region - the current approach and priorities of the Biden Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance a resolution to the conflict.

Location: Piccolino

Hotel: Mamilla Hotel | Shlomo HaMelech 11, Jerusalem +972 2-548-2200

Thursday, June 29

7:00 - 8:00 AM Breakfast on own

8:00 - 8:30 AM Drive to Yad Vashem

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Tour and Ceremony at Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem is Israel's memorial commemorating victims of the Holocaust and one of the most prominent sites in the country. The museum seeks to "convey the chronicles of this singular Jewish and human event to every person in Israel, to the Jewish people, and to every significant and relevant audience worldwide." Participants will be given a private tour of the museum, and we will pay our respects and lay a wreath in the memory of those who perished.

10:00 - 11:00 AM Drive to President's Residence + Security

10:45 - 11:45 AM

Meeting with President Isaac Herzog

Despite the ceremonial nature of the role, Israel's President plays a key role in Israel's domestic debates and diplomatic efforts abroad. Participants will hear the President's thoughts on key domestic issues, the US-Israel relationship, and the diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Location: The President's Residence, Jerusalem

11:45 - 12:15 PM

Drive to Jaffa Gate + Walk to Lunch

12:15 - 1:45 PM

Lunch Discussion: Judicial Overhaul and the Future of US-Israel Relations

We will hear from Israeli academics, lawyers, and policy experts about the effect of attempts to strip the judiciary of independence on the US-Israel relationship.

Speakers: Dr. Tamar Hostevsky Brandes, Ono Academic College Faculty of Law, and Amir Tibon, Haaretz

Location: Bulghourji

1:45 - 2:45 PM

Drive to Bethlehem

2:45 - 4:30 PM

Tour of Bethlehem

Bethlehem is a holy city for Christians and a major Palestinian population center. We will visit the Church of the Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus, to learn about the religious significance of the city. We will view a number of surrounding Israeli settlements to understand how settlement growth and the West Bank separation barrier, built by Israel in the early 2000's, has affected access to and daily life in the city.

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Drive to Prime Minister's Office + Security

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu

We will discuss the current state of affairs in Israel and the Israeli Government's interests and priorities regarding the US-Israel relationship and the diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Location: Prime Minister's Office

6:30 - 7:15 PM

Drive to Hotel + Executive Time

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Walk to Dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights Leaders

At dinner, we will be joined by Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights leaders who will provide us with insights into the work they are doing to advance people-to-people cooperation and the protection of human rights for those affected by the ongoing Israeli- Palestinian conflict.

Location: Eucalyptus

At 8:30, Mary Sorteberg will leave the group and head to the airport, arriving at 10:00 PM. She will be on UA 954, departing Ben-Gurion airport at 12:55AM on Friday, June 30. She will land at SFO at 6:00 AM PST. She will then take UA 0605 from SFO to PDX, arriving at 10:17 AM.

Friday, June 30

6:30 - 7:45 AM

Breakfast on own

7:45 - 8:00 AM

Walk to Jaffa Gate

8:00 - 10:00 AM

Optional Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem

We will visit two major holy sites of Jerusalem, the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and learn about their religious, historic, and political significance.

Guide: Hava Schwartz

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour

The final status of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the key issues to be negotiated in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the 1967 war, Israel annexed all of East Jerusalem, land which is beyond the Green Line and is inhabited predominantly by Palestinians. On this tour, we will visit areas of contention in East Jerusalem and evaluate the developments in Jerusalem and their impact on a potential solution for the core issue of Jerusalem.

Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Terrestrial Jerusalem

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Drive to Lunch

12:30 - 2:30 PM

Lunch with Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) and Nita Lowey Partnership for Peace Act Grantees

We will be joined for lunch by representatives of ALLMEP, a network of Israeli and Palestinian peace-building organizations, along with organizations supported by USAID via the Middle East Partnership for

Peace Act of 2020. We will hear from grantees about the impact of US funding on their work and efforts to boost people-to-people and coexistence projects between Israelis and Palestinians.

Location: Focaccio Bar

2:30 - 3:30 PM

Discussion: The Regional Approach to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Israeli policy experts will discuss the role of a regional approach involving neighboring Arab countries as a strategy to solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Speakers: Dr. Gil Murciano, MITVIM, and Ksenia Svetlova, Regional Organization for Peace, Economics & Security (ROPES)

Location: Focaccio Bar

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Executive Time

5:00 - 5:30 PM

Drive to Dinner

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Farewell Dinner

Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from their experiences over the past week and discuss how this will impact their work in the United States. We will review potential opportunities for action that support a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Location: Private home in Jerusalem

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Return to hotel, load bags, drive to Ben-Gurion airport

11:25 PM

UA 91 departs Ben-Gurion airport

Saturday, July 1

4:20 AM

UA 91 arrives at Newark

7:10 AM

UA 1754 departs Newark

10:04 AM

UA 1754 arrives at PDX