RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2024 AUG 26 PM 2:00

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):
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel Dates:
07/13/2024 to 07/21/2024

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$5,452.00	$2,160.00	$1,358.21	$3,630.00

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.

Date 8/20/24

Erin Jarnagin
Printed Name of Traveler

Erin Jarnagin
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.

8/20/2024
Date

John Kennedy
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
Meals	$1,358.21	Due to the war, food and service prices have increased.

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:
Erin Jarnagin

Employing Office/Committee:
John Kennedy

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

Destination(s):
Jersualem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias, Israel

Travel Dates:
July 13-20, 2024

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.
As the Nationl Security Advisor for Senator Kennedy, Erin is responsible for the Senator's foreign policy and defense portfolio, including defense appropriations. This trip provies an opportunity for oversight of our deense spending, particulary important as Senator Kennedy is on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? **Name and Relationship to Traveler:**

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

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

6/28/20
Date

Signature of Employee Erin Jarnagin

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)

I John Kennedy (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) hereby authorize Erin Jarnagin (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)

Date 6/28/24

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer John Kennedy

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF): AIEF Congressional Staff

Erin Jarnagin

Title:
None

Employing Office/Committee:
KENNEDY, JOHN

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:

As the National Security Advisor for Senator Kennedy, Erin is responsible for the Senator's foreign policy and defense portfolio, including defense appropriations. This trip will provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between the U.S. and Israel. Israel is a recipient of American foreign and military aid, this trip provides an opportunity for oversight of our defense spending, particularly important as Senator Kennedy is on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
● Yes ○ No

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

Address
251 H Street NW

Address 2 (Optional)
None

City, State Zip
Washington DC, District Of Columbia 20001 United States

Phone Number
(240) 476-2852

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

Founded in 1988, the American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (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.*

- ○ 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

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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** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:		Trip End Date/Time:
07/13/2024 @ 03:21 PM	⇄	07/21/2024 @ 12:21 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: $5,452.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$4,432.00
Note Premium economy round trip tickets on a commercial airline		
Ground Transportation	Charter	$706.67
Note charter bus on the ground in Israel		
Ground Transportation	N/A	$13.33
Note taxis in Israel		

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Train	Coach	$300.00

Note
Round trip Amtrak ticket WAS to EWR

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $2,160.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
07/14/2024	07/16/2024	Inbal Hotel	Jerusalem	None	Israel	2	$364.00	No
07/16/2024	07/18/2024	Sheraton Hotel	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	2	$418.00	No
07/18/2024	07/19/2024	Magdala Hotel	Tiberias	None	Israel	1	$232.00	No
07/19/2024	07/20/2024	Inbal Hotel	Jerusalem	None	Israel	1	$364.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1181.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
07/13/2024	$0.00	$0.00	$31.00	$0.00	**$31.00**	Newark	New Jersey	United States	No
07/14/2024	$0.00	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$100.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
07/15/2024	$30.00	$50.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
07/16/2024	$30.00	$50.00	$102.00	$0.00	**$182.00**	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
07/17/2024	$30.00	$50.00	$102.00	$0.00	**$182.00**	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
07/18/2024	$30.00	$50.00	$66.00	$0.00	**$146.00**	Tiberias	None	Israel	No
07/19/2024	$30.00	$50.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
07/20/2024	$30.00	$50.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $3,630.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Conference Fees	$3,630.00	security, speaker fees, room rentals, hotels & meals for contract staff and guests, airport assistance, photography, entrance fees, tips

Additional Attachments All additional attachments are below.

Document Name
Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses

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 Congressional Staff

Travel Date(s): July 13 - 21, 2024

Travel Destination(s): Israel

Sponsor: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

Arne Christenson	Executive Director
(printed name of sponsor representative)	*(title)*
DocuSigned by: Arne Christenson B2F5587FEA5048F	6/12/2024 | 15:17 EDT
(signature of sponsor representative)	*(date)*

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 13 – 21, 2024

Senate Invitees

1. Bailee Sneed, Legislative Correspondent, The Office of the Honorable Katie Britt (R-AL)
2. Abigail Zarzar, Military Legislative Assistant, The Office of the Honorable Ted Budd (R-NC)
3. Molly Carpenter, Legislative Director, The Office of the Honorable Michael Crapo (R-ID)
4. Erin Jarnagin, National Security Adviser, The Office of the Honorable John Kennedy (R-LA)
5. Michael Songer, National Security Adviser, The Office of the Honorable Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION
The Charitable Organization Affiliated with AIPAC

PRESIDENT
LEE ROSENBERG

VICE PRESIDENT
ALAN LEVOW

TREASURER
DONNA W. STERNBERG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ARNE CHRISTENSON

251 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC
20001
TEL 202.639.5180

Tax ID# 52-1623781

May 8, 2024

Erin Jarnagin
National Security Adviser, The Office of the Honorable John Kennedy

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), we would like to invite you to participate in one of two bipartisan AIEF Israel Seminars for congressional staff. **The first trip will depart Saturday evening, June 29, and return to the United States on Sunday morning July 7, 2024. The second trip will depart Saturday evening, July 13, and return to the United States on Sunday morning, July 21, 2024.**

This seminar will delve into the critical issues facing Israel in the wake of the October 7 massacre, including: the ongoing Israel-Hamas war; security threats confronting Israel on its northern border; and the threat posed by a nuclear Iran.

The program will include in-depth briefings and conversations with Israeli political leaders and military officials; U.S. government officials; heads of non-governmental organizations; and prominent academics and journalists. The delegation will also visit 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 additional information to ensure your compliance with ethics requirements.

We hope that you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful, and educational trip. To confirm your participation, please fill out the appropriate participant confirmation form:

June 29 – July 7: Participant Confirmation Form.
July 13 – 21: Participant Confirmation Form.

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Fink at afink@aiefdn.org or (202) 500-1087.

Sincerely,

Arne Christenson
Executive Director

Contact us to find out more about The AIPAC Tomorrow Campaign. Make Your Legacy Israel's Future.

American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
July 13 – 21, 2024

Saturday, July 13, 2024

3:21 PM	Amtrak 168 Departs WAS – Abigail Zarzar, Erin Jarnagin, Molly Carpenter
5:06 PM	DL 5713 Departs DCA – Michael Songer, Bailee Snead
6:21 PM	Amtrak 168 Arrives EWR – Abigail Zarzar, Erin Jarnagin, Molly Carpenter
6:45 PM	DL 5713 Arrives JFK – Michael Songer, Bailee Snead
11:50 PM	LY 26 Departs EWR – Abigail Zarzar, Erin Jarnagin, Molly Carpenter
11:50 PM	LY 8 Departs JFK – Michael Songer, Bailee Snead

Sunday, July 14, 2024

5:15 PM	LY 26 Arrives TLV – Abigail Zarzar, Erin Jarnagin, Molly Carpenter Check in to Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem
5:20 PM	LY 8 Arrives TLV – Michael Songer, Bailee Snead Transfer to Jerusalem Check in to Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem
7:00 – 9:00 PM	**Welcome Dinner and Orientation** -at Touro Restaurant
9:00 PM	Depart for the City of David
9:15 – 10:15 PM	**Strategic Survey of Jerusalem pt. I: King David's Jerusalem** Late-night visit at 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.

10:30 PM	Depart for the Inbal Hotel
10:45 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 15, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Pulse of the Nation**
With Matti Friedman
Author and Journalist
-at Inbal 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. As Israel continues to fight the war against Hamas in Gaza, as well as deal with escalating Iranian threats, Matti will provide participants with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of Israeli voters.

10:15 AM Depart for the Old City

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem pt. II: The Old City of Jerusalem**

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

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 PM Depart for Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 PM **Lunch**
-at Luciana

2:00 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Introduction to Israeli Politics**
Briefing with Reuven Hazan
Professor of Political Science, Hebrew University
-at Inbal Hotel

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the delegation 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 the Knesset

5:45 – 6:15 PM **A View from the Coalition**
Meeting with the Honorable Amir Ohana
Speaker of the Knesset, Likud Party
-at Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the coalition and opposition parties. The Honorable Amir Ohana is an Israeli lawyer, former Shin Bet official and politician who has served as the Speaker of the Knesset since 2022, and as a member of the Knesset for Likud. He previously held the posts of Minister of Justice and Minister of Public Security. He was the first openly gay right-wing member of the Knesset and the first openly gay man from Likud to serve in the Knesset. Ohana is a veteran of the acclaimed Israeli Shin Bet security agency, and an attorney. He achieved the rank of major in the IDF and continues to serve in reserve duty.

6:30 – 7:00 PM **A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with the Honorable Shelly Meron
Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party
-at Knesset

It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the coalition and opposition parties. The Honorable Shelly Meron entered the Knesset in February 2023. She previously served in the Israeli Air Force for six years in various roles, including as a spokesperson, a flight instructor for Bell AH-1 Cobra pilots, and as an officer. She also worked for a technology company in Southeast Asia.

7:00 – 7:30 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action**
Visit Israel's Parliament

The Knesset Plenum, also known as the Plenary or Assembly Hall, is the three-story hall of the Knesset, Israel's unicameral legislature. Participants will be able to see members of the 120-person body debate and vote on various motions. This session will allow participants to see the parliamentary system in action.

7:45 PM Depart for Dinner

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Dinner and Reflections**
-at Hatzot/Andalucia

Staff will lead a guided discussion on the day's programming. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them during the day assists in their ability to understand the complex issues facing Israel during this time of war.

9:45 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

10:00 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Regional Strategic Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at Inbal Hotel

Brig.-Gen (Res.) is the past director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at the Office of the Prime Minister, where he served until 2012. His duties included developing a national policy for border protection, cargo and aviation security, and advanced technology for public security. He is a veteran of the "Golani" Infantry Corp; he held command positions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and South Lebanon. Today he is a Fellow at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at IDC Herzliya.

9:45 AM Depart for Mount of Remembrance

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM **Role of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Guided visit of Yad Vashem's Holocaust History 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 Lunch

12:45 – 1:30 PM Lunch
-at Vert Hotel

1:45 – 2:45 PM **A Palestinian Voice Post October 7**
Meeting with Meeting with Bashar Azzeh
Member of the PLO Palestine National Council
PLO Center Council
-at Vert Hotel

Bashar Azzeh is a Member of the PLO Palestine National Council, PLO Center Council, PPSF Party international secretary and Advisor to the PLO. Recently, he was appointed by PA President Mahmoud Abbas to be one of the unofficial Palestinian envoys to Washington, and he travels often to meet with the Administration and Congress. Besides his work in politics and policy, Mr. Azzeh is also the Founder and Chairman of Al Maqdese association for economic and social development in East Jerusalem, and a Board member of Education for Employment EFE and Eco Peace Foundation in Palestine. Mr. Azzeh is Founding Owner and Deputy Chairman of Tatweer Development Group, a real estate investment group, and a Board member of the Palestine Britain Business Council.

3:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Briefing En Route: Israel's Diverse Population**

Israel is home to a wide diverse population of over 8 million citizens from many ethnic, religious, cultural and social backgrounds living together and contributing to its vibrant society. This briefing will provide detailed information on the current make up and how they coexist.

4:45 PM Check in to Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

6:00 – 7:00 PM **Israel's Quest for Peace: From Oslo to October 7**
Meeting with Dr. Shany Mor
Political theorist, lecturer and writer
-at Sheraton Hotel

Shany Mor is a leading political theorist and policy consultant whose work brings to the fore expertise gained both as a scholar and a practitioner. He has taught politics and international relations at leading universities in Israel, Europe, and the US, and has consulted for politicians and NGO's on a host of issues drawing on his experience both as an academic and as a Director for Foreign Policy for Israel's National Security Council, where he also headed the diplomatic desk in the situation room of the Prime Minister's Office. During this session, Dr. Mor will trace the roots of the current Israel-Hamas war back to the Oslo Accords, through Camp David, the Second Intifada, and Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip in 2005. He will explore where the peace process stands in the wake of October 7, and what the day after might look like.

7:45 – 9:30 PM **The Israeli Mosaic: Minority Experiences in Israel**
Dinner with
- Ashager Araro, Founder, Battae Israeli Ethiopian Heritage Center
- Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed, Political and Regional Analyst

-at Sheraton Hotel

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

9:45 PM Overnight at Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Sheraton Hotel

8:30 – 9:00 AM **October 7th Invasion Overview**
Presentation by Gabi Duec
-at the Sheraton Hotel

9:15 AM Depart for the South

9:15 – 10:15 AM **En Route briefing: Historical Survey – Israel and the Gaza Strip**

During this en route briefing, the tour guide will provide a brief history of the Gaza Strip, the small, coastal enclave that shares borders with Egypt and Israel, and is currently controlled by the Hamas terrorist organization.

10:30 – 11:30 AM **Humanitarian Aid Update**
Field briefing by Maj. Yotam Shefer
Head of Foreign Relations Department, COGAT
-at Erez Crossing

LTC Yotam Shefer is Head of the Foreign Relations Branch in COGAT (Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories). He has held a variety of other positions in COGAT over the last 10 years. Most recently Shefer was Head of Foreign Relations Department in the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria. Before that he was Head of Security Coordination with the Palestinian Authority Security Forces in the Nablus district and Head of the Operations Department at COGAT headquarters. Shefer holds a BA in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science.

11:45 AM Depart for Kfar Aza

12:15 – 1:30 PM **October 7th from Civilian Eyes: Remnant of a Massacre**
Visit to Kfar Aza with Chen Abrahams
Resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza
-at Kfar Aza

On October 7, the Jewish communities living along the Gaza border were destroyed, thousands were killed, and hundreds kidnapped. During the visit to the Kibbutz, participants will bear witness to the Hamas invasion and massacre. They will hear what happened to the community on October 7, and how the IDF regained control. They will meet with resident Chen Abrahams who will walk them through the events that started the war.

1:30 PM Depart for Lunch

1:45 – 2:45 PM **Lunch**
-at Taste of the Valley, Netivot

2:45 PM Depart for Re'im

3:15 – 3:45 PM **Understanding Hamas' Goals: The Nova Music Festival**
Visit the memorial site of the Nova Festival
-at Re'im

When Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, they also massacred and kidnapped hundreds of young civilians at a music festival taking place in the Gaza envelope area. Since then, family members created a moving memorial to their loved ones that will help the participants understand the enormity of the events of the days and the trauma experienced by Israeli society.

3:45 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

4:00 – 5:00 PM **En Route Briefing: Israeli Approaches to Social Issues**

5:15 – 6:00 PM **The Hostage Crisis Continues: Ongoing Trauma in Israeli Society**
-at Hostage Square, Tel Aviv Museum of Art

During this session, participants will visit the main site that activists are using to promote awareness of the hostages still being held captive in Gaza. They will learn about the different communities that have been impacted, and who have built a dynamic, diverse civil society project through art, religion, and activism. Participants will also meet with family members of those who were taken hostage, including American citizens.

6:00 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel

7:45 PM Depart for Dinner

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Dinner and Group Processing**
-at Flame, Carlton Hotel

Staff will lead a guided discussion on the day's programming. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them during the day assists in their ability to understand the complex issues facing Israel during this time of war.

9:45 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel

10:00 PM Overnight at Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, July 18th

8:00 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-Main Dining Hall, Sheraton Hotel

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Israel, the IDF, and International Law**
With Col. Dr. Eran Shamir Borer
-at Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Dr. Eran Shamir-Borer serves as the Director of the Center for National Security and Democracy since September 2022. Prior, Eran served for over 20 years in various positions in the International Law Department of the Military Advocate General's Corps in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), including as the head of the department, and retired at the rank of Colonel. In this capacity, Eran was responsible for the provision of advice to all levels of command in the IDF regarding international law, including with respect to the IDF's operational activities in times of contingency. During his service, Eran represented the State of Israel in various international fora, participated in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, and was involved in contending with the diplomatic and legal challenges facing Israel at the international level. Eran's academic publications address different areas of international law, particularly global governance, and the law of armed conflict. During this session, he will address the current political climate for Israel on the international stage.

10:15 – 11:15 AM **Start Up Nation: Israeli Rebuilding After Crisis**
Coffee with:

- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director, Volcani International Partnerships ReGrow
- Boaz Hochstein, COO at Restart International

-at Sheraton Hotel

Danielle Abraham is the Executive Director of Volcani International Partnerships (VIP), an Israeli NGO dedicated towards increasing the scope and impact of Israel's renowned agricultural expertise and innovation throughout the world. Working closely with Israel's national Agricultural Research Organization (The Volcani Institute), VIP provides tailor made solutions to address global concerns such as food security, water conservation and sustainability to countries around the world. Previously, Danielle served as a senior policy advisor in MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development). She has represented Israel at the UN and been a guest speaker at the OECD and German Development Bank. Danielle was the co-founder and co-chair of the ID2 Conference and Global Network, bringing hundreds of development entrepreneurs to Israel.

Boaz Hochstein is the operations and marketing manager at Restart, a non-profit organization helping wounded soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to restart their life journey after physical and/or emotional trauma resulting from their mandatory service or reserve duty. Hochstein himself was injured while serving, and the idea for Restart was created during his time in physical rehabilitation.

11:30 AM Depart for Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 PM **Lunch**
-at Brisket Bar

1:45 PM Depart for Northern Israel

2:15 – 3:15 PM **En Route Briefing: The History of Hezbollah**

During the drive to Israel's border with Lebanon, the guide will provide an overview of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist group based in Lebanon that is dedicated to Israel's destruction. The terrorist group's influence in Lebanese politics, massive weapons arsenal and use of Lebanese civilians as human shields make the Iranian proxy a serious threat to Israel. The group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, refers to Israel as a "cancerous growth" and believes "The only solution is to destroy it without giving it the opportunity to surrender." Hezbollah has a global reach and has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda.

4:00 – 5:00 PM **Israel's Northern Border Concerns pt. II: Displaced in our Own Country**
Briefing with Nissan Zeevi
Local Resident, Kfar Giladi and Founder of Lobby 1701
-at Klika Hall, Alma

Nissan Zeevi lives in kibbutz Kefar GIladi, and he is 3th Generation in the Galilee. Until October 6th, Nisan led one of Israel's most successful initiatives in geo-economic development, transforming the Galilee to a new vibrant food-tech hub in Israel. As the Impact Investment Director at JVP, he spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives, generating over 500 new job opportunities. Since October 7th, Nisan has been on reserve duty for 180 days in Kfar Giladi, where his entire family has been evacuated. Within this framework, Nisan established Lobby 1701, a civil organization representing 80,000 residents of the Galilee from both the left and the right, working unsure the security needs of this region and to implement UN Resolution 1701 - creating a demilitarized area from the Lebanon border to the Litani River.

5:15 – 6:45 PM **Israel's Northern Border Concerns pt. I: Hezbollah Next Door**

Strategic briefing by Lt. Col. (ret.) Sarit Zehavi
Founder and Director, Alma Research Center
-at Alma Research and Education Center, Tefen

This briefing will give participants an insider's understanding of the threat Israel currently faces from Hezbollah in Lebanon and the work the IDF is doing to secure Israel's northern border. It will also address the potential risks of an expanded war with Hezbollah, the connection to Iran and an update about potential diplomatic solutions.

7:00 PM Depart for the Magdala Hotel

7:45 PM Check in to the Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

8:15 PM Depart for Dinner

8:30 – 10:30 PM **Dinner and Reflections**
-at Pagoda Restaurant, Tiberias

Staff will lead a guided discussion on the day's programming. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them during the day assists in their ability to understand the complex issues facing Israel during this time of war.

10:30 PM Depart for Magdala Hotel

10:45 PM Overnight at Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

Friday, July 19, 2024

6:30 – 7:30 AM **Visit Ancient Magdala**
-at Magdala Hotel

The ancient town of Magdala was established in the Hellenistic Period and grew to a thriving fishing village by the time the Romans invaded the Galilee in 67 AD. Situated on the shores of the Galilee along a major commercial trade route, the Via Maris, and on the way from Nazareth to Capernaum, Magdala was an active city filled with fishermen, shopkeepers and townspeople. Providentially uncovered in 2009, archaeological discoveries indicate the presence of an observant Jewish Community in Magdala, as is evidenced in its First Century Synagogue. This synagogue is one of seven in the world and the best preserved today. In the center of the synagogue archeologists found the Magdala Stone, a discovery they have quoted to be, "one of the most significant finds in the past 50 years." It is in Magdala where Jesus likely taught the multitudes and healed the afflicted including a woman who made her hometown famous, Mary Magdalene.

8:00 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Magdala Hotel

8:30 AM Depart

8:45 – 10:15 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**
Visit to Holy Christian Sites:

- Capernaum
- 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. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum.

10:30 AM Depart for Givat Haviva

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **Framework for Coexistence: The Imperative for Creating a Shared Society**
With Mohammad Darawshe
Director of Strategy, Givat Haviva Educational Institute
-at Givat Haviva Educational Institute

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, particularly in light of October 7, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

12:45 PM Depart for Alfei Menashe
Lunch Boxes En Route

1:45 – 2:30 PM **Israel's Narrow Waistline**
Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook
-at Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline. The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Hadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel's population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel's "silicon valley", as well as Ben Gurion international airport. The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

2:45 PM Depart for Jerusalem

3:00 – 4:00 PM **En-Route Briefing: Bridging the Political Divide**

This briefing will provide the delegation with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of Israeli voters at this particular moment in time.

4:15 – 5:15 PM **Price of Independence: Israeli Nation and Individual Sacrifice**
Guided Visit of Mount Herzl
-at Mount Herzl, Mount of Remembrance

A critical piece of understanding Israeli society and culture is the role of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), mandatory army service, and veterans. Mount Herzl is the site of Israel's national cemetery, named after Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism. Israel's leaders and fallen soldiers are buried there. Every plot section in Mount Herzl has a broad plaza for memorial services. Most state memorial ceremonies for those killed in war are conducted in the National Military and Police cemetery. This visit will highlight the way Israel remembers its fallen and relates to the role of the military in as part of the fabric of the Jewish State. Since the massacre on October 7th and the ensuing war, the cemetery has seen many funerals in recent months and visiting now will help participants understand the current Israeli psyche.

5:15 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

5:30 PM Check in to the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

7:45 PM Depart for Sabbath Dinner

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Traditional Sabbath Dinner**
Learn about and experience the Sabbath
Hosted by AIEF
-at the home of Jonathan Price & Naomi Schachter 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. During this dinner the hosts will lead a discussion on their hometown of Tel Aviv, the center of the largest metropolitan area in Israel, home to most of Israel's hi-tech industry, and the country's international airport. They will describe life in Tel Aviv since October 7, including the impact on civilian life in Tel Aviv, where the population lives just hours from a war zone.

10:15 PM Depart for the Inbal Hotel

10:30 PM Overnight at the Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, July 20, 2024

7:30 AM **Breakfast on Own**
-at Main Dining Hall, Inbal Hotel

8:00 AM Depart for the Dead Sea Region

8:15 – 9:15 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.

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM **History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire**
Guided 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.

12:00 PM Depart

12:30 – 2:15 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
Followed by Lunch
-at Hod Herbert Samuel Hod Hotel

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.

2:15 PM	Depart for the Inbal Hotel
6:30 – 8:30 PM	**Bringing It All Together: Closing Dinner** -at Inbal Hotel

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; and the conflict plagued borders with Gaza, Syria and Lebanon. 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.

8:45 PM	Depart for Airport
9:30 PM	Meet VIP Service at Ben Gurion Airport

VIP is the name of an airport service we use for all AIEF groups upon arrival and departure to assist with check-in, passport control, security, and baggage. VIP has access to the entire airport so they can assist passengers with any issues that arise.

Sunday, July 21, 2024

12:30 AM	LY 27 Departs TLV – Michael Songer, Bailee Snead
1:00 AM	LY 25 Departs TLV – Abigail Zarzar, Erin Jarnagin, Molly Carpenter
5:15 AM	LY 27 Arrives EWR – Michael Songer, Bailee Snead
5:45 AM	LY 25 Arrives EWR – Abigail Zarzar, Erin Jargin, Molly Carpenter
9:11 AM	Amtrak 103 Departs EWR – Abigail Zarzar, Michael Songer, Bailee Snead, Erin Jarnagin, Molly Carpenter
12:21 PM	Amtrak 103 Arrives WAS – Abigail Zarzar, Michael Songer, Bailee Snead, Erin Jarnagin, Molly Carpenter

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 13 – 21, 2024

Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses

Other cost	**Cost per person**
Security	$1,333.33
Speaker Fees	$666.67
Room Rentals and Setup	$400.00
Hotels for contract staff	$400.00
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	$320.00
Meals for contract staff & speakers	$266.67
Airport Assistance	$93.33
Photography	$36.67
Transportation for contract staff & speakers	$33.33
Entrance Fees	$33.33
Misc.	$33.33
Tips	$13.33
Total	**$3,630.00**