Conversations with Former Congressman Steve Israel

Ever popular former New York congressman, the Honorable Steve Israel, will present a three-part series as part of the award-winning Hutton House Lectures, which brings leaders from a range of fields and perspectives to campus to discuss pressing public issues. Each lecture, which will include a question-and-answer session, will be held on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in new Krasnoff Theater on the LIU Post campus.

Born and raised in Brooklyn and on Long Island, Israel graduated from George Washington University. He represented New York as a member of Congress for 16 years. He left office in 2017, having served as House Democrats chief political strategist between 2011-2015. President Bill Clinton called him “one of the most thoughtful Members of Congress.”


He was one of only nine members of the House Democratic leadership, and has a singular behind-the-scenes understanding of how Washington officials think, or don’t think.

As chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for four years, Israel was the chief architect of House campaign strategies. He was responsible for overall development of competitive House campaigns across America. He was lauded for recruiting and electing the most diverse and entrepreneurial freshman congressional class in history. He developed a vast network of local, state and federal officials throughout the nation and is considered a leading expert in congressional dynamics.

As Chairman of the Global Institute at Long Island University, the Institute has welcome luminaries such as Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Vice President Joe Biden, General (Ret.) David Petraeus, General (Ret.) Colin Powell, among many others.

Congressman Israel will host 3 separate programs:

**Inside Congress - Tuesday, March 19, 2019**
Congressman Israel gives an inside look at how Washington really works, drawing from his 16 years of experience in Congress and expertise on Congressional Dynamics.

**Global Challenges - Tuesday, April 23, 2019**
As a former member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Defense, Congressman Israel assesses a broad overview of emerging global challenges in an increasingly kinetic environment.

**Common Ground: How Republicans and Democrats Can Get Along in Washington, D.C. - Tuesday, May 14, 2019**
As co-chair of the Center Aisle Caucus, Congressman Israel worked to find compromises and areas of agreement with colleagues on both sides of the aisle. With Congress more polarized than ever, Congressman Israel’s discussion will focus on areas where common ground can still be achieved.

The lectures are held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Krasnoff Theater, Hillwood Commons. The cost of the three-part series is $125. Each individual lecture is $45.
Are you an historian at heart? The Library of Congress is welcoming students of all ages to volunteer to transcribe Abraham Lincoln’s letters and papers, American Red Cross founder Clara Barton’s diaries, memoirs of Civil War soldiers and many other important artifacts that have been digitized and uploaded as photos.

The Library of Congress began the campaign last year. The goal is to digitize historical documents, many of which are hard for computers to read, so that they become keyword-searchable. Some of the letters are faded and written in heavily slanted cursive, so volunteers may need to have a good eye to decipher the handwriting. More than 40,000 documents and letters were written by or to Abraham Lincoln alone. New material will continually be added to the site, including documents associated with Rosa Parks, the woman’s suffrage movement, American poets, and the history of psychiatry.

“We crowdsourcing demonstrates the passion of volunteers for history, learning and the power of technology to make those things more accessible,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden.

Class Notes