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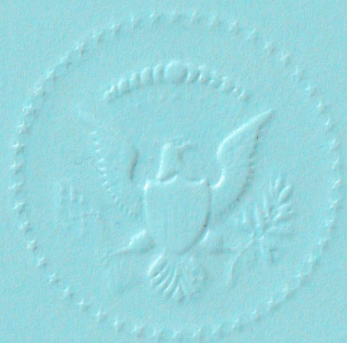
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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

In celebration of

HANUKKAH

The Festival of Lights



Wednesday afternoon, December 17, 2014
25 Kislev 5775

THE MENORAH

Hand in Hand Menorah

Painted Wood

Students of the Max Rayne Hand in Hand Bilingual School
Jerusalem, Israel

The White House worked with the U.S. Embassy in Israel to commission this special menorah for the White House Hanukkah Reception from the Max Rayne Hand in Hand (*Yad B'Yad*) Bilingual School in Jerusalem. Situated between the Arab community of Beit Safafa and the Jewish neighborhood of Patt, the school brings together young people of different faiths to build relationships and learn together.

Founded in 1998, Hand in Hand's Jerusalem school has grown from 20 students in one temporary classroom to 624 students. The school draws an ethnically and religiously diverse Jewish and Arab student body from throughout Jerusalem. Students learn and interact in a bilingual and multicultural environment that emphasizes inclusivity, equality, and mutual respect. Accordingly, they celebrate the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian holidays.

On November 29, 2014, a fire was started in two first grade classrooms in the school in Jerusalem. Anti-Arab graffiti was also plastered on the walls. The night of the arson, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Rachel Azaria came to the school and said, "Harming this school is a horrific crime perpetrated by people who want to destroy any place that creates real cooperation between Jews and Arabs, despite our fears and differences. We will not let them do this. The municipality of Jerusalem fully supports the school and we will ensure their continued work."

Visiting the school a few days after the fire, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro noted "the resilience of all the members of the school community who are determined to continue on their path of coexistence, tolerance, and mutual understanding and respect."

Despite the fire, the school followed through on its pledge to make the menorah. It carries not only the light of its candles but also the shared common values of the students who crafted it. It symbolizes the viability of a just and equal society for Jews and Arabs living together in Israel. Made of wood and painted in different colors, each of the menorah's eight branches represents one of the values on which the school was founded: Community, Education, Freedom, Human Dignity, Peace, Equality, Solidarity, and Friendship.



PROGRAM

Remarks by
THE PRESIDENT

Lighting of the Menorah

Selections by
TIZMORET

A Musical Tribute to Jewish-American Composers
U. S. MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



TIZMORET

For almost two decades, Tizmoret has been Queens College Hillel's professional Jewish a cappella group. While it is based at Queens College, Tizmoret draws singers from colleges throughout New York City. The group performs classic Jewish melodies, American pop music, and contemporary Israeli tunes. They have produced six CDs, with their most recent release, "Start Listening," receiving critical acclaim in contemporary Jewish and secular a cappella circles. Tizmoret has performed for college campuses, countless b'nei mitzvah and synagogues, and various music festivals across the United States. Their recent accomplishments include winning the 5th Annual Long Island College A Cappella Challenge and Kol HaOlam (the National Jewish Collegiate A Cappella Competition), as well as performing in Italy at a New Year's party.

U. S. MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

For more than two centuries, the United States Marine Band has been part of the events that have shaped the Nation.

Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, the Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional music organization. Its primary mission is unique—to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Whether in White House performances, public concerts, or national tours, the music of the Marine Band is the music of America. In its third century, the Marine Band continues a tradition of excellence that earned it the title, "The President's Own."

*The food preparation of this evening's event is under the
strict rabbinical supervision of
Rabbi Levi Shemtov,
Lubavitch Center of Washington (Chabad),
in cooperation with the
Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington.*

*All meats are Glatt Kosher—Chassidische Shechitah.
All baked goods are Pas Yisroel.
All wines are Mevushal.
All foods have been prepared Lemihadrin
with a Mashgiach Temidi.*