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Hanukkah [in the evening], 12/17/2014 [3 copies]

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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

In celebration of

HANUKKAH

The Festival of Lights



Wednesday evening, December 17, 2014 26 Kislev 5775

THE MENORAH

Yemin Orde Menorah Clay, Wood, and Iron Children of Yemin Orde Mount Carmel, Israel

The White House worked with the U.S. Embassy in Israel to commission this special menorah from Yemin Orde, a Jewish youth village near Haifa, Israel. Yemin Orde was founded in 1953 to provide a safe haven to Holocaust orphans and children who immigrated to Israel in the 1950s. Today, Yemin Orde is the home of over 400 children from around the world, including Ethiopia, Iran, India, Yemen, Eastern Europe, and South America. These children have all endured hardships ranging from extreme poverty to child neglect. The youth village helps prepare them for lives of meaning and fulfillment by providing them with community, hope, and a future. In 2010, right around Hanukkah, almost 40 percent of the village was destroyed in a wildfire, but miraculously, there were no injuries, and Yemin Orde was rebuilt.

Ambassador Susan Rice, the President's National Security Advisor, visited Yemin Orde in October 2009. There, she said, "Yemin Orde is a microcosm of Israel and humanity as it should be." Later, when U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro visited, he planted an olive tree at Yemin Orde, commemorating the friendship between the United States and Israel.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Operation Moses, which brought thousands of Ethiopian Jews from Ethiopia to Israel. The White House is honored to be tied once again to the incredible people of Yemin Orde through this special menorah. A collaborative effort among the children living there, the menorah represents the diversity of Yemin Orde's residents. The base of the menorah is made of olive wood, and the houses that hold the candles, representing the diverse Jewish ancestry of Yemin Orde's residents and of all Israel's citizens, are made of clay. The shamash is made of iron and shaped like a cherub from the Tabernacle. The base of the menorah bears an inscription from Isaiah 60:4: "Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together...."

PROGRAM

Remarks by

THE PRESIDENT

Lighting of the Menorah

Selections by
THE SHABBATONES

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

THE SHABBATONES

Founded in 2001, the Shabbatones are a Jewish a cappella group at the University of Pennsylvania. They are one of the premier Jewish a cappella groups in the country, known for their energetic arrangements and entertaining performances. The Shabbatones specialize in popular American, Israeli, and Jewish music. All of their arrangements are composed, directed, and performed by students. While they come from a variety of Jewish backgrounds, they are unified by a common love for music and a commitment to Judaism. In its thirteen years of existence, the Shabbatones have performed for a variety of audiences not only at the University of Pennsylvania but around the world.

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—Chassidishe Shechitah.
All baked goods are Pas Yisroel.
All wines are Mevushal.
All foods have been prepared Lemihadrin
with a Mashgiach Temidi.