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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 14, 2016

14 Kislev 5777

THE MENORAH

Wiesel Family Menorah (2013)

Bolts, mosaic tiles, and compressed particle board

Shira Wiesel
United States

This menorah, though young in shelf life, carries with it the enduring spirit of a people, and of a special family. Shira Wiesel, granddaughter of the late Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, created this menorah in kindergarten. She glued painted bolts and colorful mosaic tiles to two rectangular slabs fused together. Among the antiques and treasured valuables that dot the Wiesel home, this menorah is lit by the family every Hanukkah.

Elie Wiesel bore witness to one of the darkest chapters in history. He devoted his life to shedding light on the horrors of the Holocaust through acclaimed books like "Night." Throughout, he lived in France, and then New York. He eventually married Marion, and created what so many were deprived of so many years ago: a family. Elie was, in the words of President Obama, "one of the great moral voices of our time, and in many ways, the conscience of the world."

Shira's menorah is more than the innocent creativity of a young school child. It is a testament to the resilience of a family and of a people; it is a flicker of hope in the promise of a new generation; it is the next chapter to the living memorial that was and will forever be Elie Wiesel.

Items on display from the

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

On August 18, 1790, Moses Seixas, a warden from the first Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, joined select clergy and local community leaders from the surrounding area in welcoming George Washington on his first visit to the city after his election. Seixas penned a greeting to President Washington, expressing his gratitude on behalf of the Jewish community for "... a Government, which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance..." Several days after departing from Newport, the President sent a letter in response and—borrowing language from Seixas—assured the community that "the Government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." The greeting and the letter have since become foundational documents for the expression of support for religious liberty in the United States.

PROGRAM

Remarks by

PRESIDENT OBAMA

Remarks by

RABBI STEVEN EXLER

Lighting of the Menorah

Selections by

KOLEINU

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



KOLEINU

Koleinu is a co-ed a cappella group from Princeton University. Since 1993, they have been performing a mix of traditional, liturgical, and pop music. Group members come from a wide variety of musical and religious backgrounds, but have a common love of having fun and singing with each other. They have volunteered their time to sing at the White House.

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.*