

## Community Members Celebrate Chanukah at the White House

### THE FRIEDLANDER GROUP

In what has become a tradition since the administration of President George H.W. Bush back in the 90s, Jewish communal leaders and others who help the community and who interact with the administration on various levels are honored by being invited to a Chanukah celebration at the White House.

This year President Obama hosted two separate receptions in order to accommodate the multitudes of participants from diverse Jewish communities. Personalities ranging from Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew, Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer and numerous Jewish congressional members also attended the events.

"The announcement by President Obama at the onset of his remarks regarding the release of Alan Gross caused great joy for everyone at the White House Chanukah reception. The personal acknowledgment by the president regarding the great importance of "pidyon shivuyim" underscores the sensitivity to a central tenant of our faith by a dignitary no less than the president of the United States. It was a testament to the level of acceptance the community has risen to — only in America," said Ezra Friedlander, CEO of The Friedlander Group.



Agudath Israel participants in the White House Chanukah reception (L-R): Mr. Reuven Wolf, Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Mr. Duvi Gross, Rabbi Abba Cohen.



L-R: Mr. Leon Goldenberg and Mr. Jack Lew.

Mrs. Ruth Lichtenstein, publisher of *Hamodia*, attended the White House reception and was warmly welcomed by various dignitaries.

In attendance were representatives of Agudath Israel of America, the Orthodox Union, Young Israel, Chabad and a myriad of other Jewish groups who work closely with the administration.

Over the years the reception has evolved into a glatt-kosher affair with dedicated times for *Minchah* and *Maariv*, greatly enhancing the experience for the observant participants.



L-R: Mr. Chaskel Bennett, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Mr. Howard Friedman.



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