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# 1983 NATIONAL THANKSGIVING CONVOCATION AND PAGEANT

NOVEMBER 22, 1983—7:30 p.m. CONSTITUTION HALL WASHINGTON, D.C.



Please keep me informed about other programs of the American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperations.

As a PATRON I will be listed in the Convocation program and reserve one of the 50 State boxes for up to 5 members of my party. Enclosed is my donation of \$1,000.

**National Thanksgiving Convocation Committee**  
Post Office Box 645 • Oakton, Virginia 22124

As a SPONSOR I will be listed in the Convocation program and receive reserved seating on the main floor at Constitution Hall. Enclosed is my donation of \$100 (or more, of \$\_\_\_\_\_).

As a CONTRIBUTOR I will be listed in the Convocation program and receive reserved seating on the main floor at Constitution Hall. Enclosed is my donation of \$100 (or more, of \$\_\_\_\_\_).

I wish to support the Thanksgiving Convocation. Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Make your checks payable to AFJCC. All contributions are tax-deductible.

**PLEASE DETACH HERE AND RETURN ALONG WITH YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION**

AFJCC is a civic organization engaged in a nationwide program of inter-religious dialogue and education. It enlists each Christian and Jew, who values his specific faith and heritage, without compromise of conscience. While preserving distinctive religious differences, the American Forum seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperative effort. Working together to build better relationships among men of all religions, races and nationalities, the AFJCC's operation is civic and social, although the roots of the 'brotherhood' which it seeks to build rest in the moral law and in religious faith.

Two years ago the American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperation (AFJCC) sponsored the first National Thanksgiving Convocation, held at Washington, D.C.'s historic Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. That gathering brought together Jewish, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Protestant leaders for the first time to commemorate the Faith of America during this, the oldest of all American holidays.

Rabbi David Z. Ben-Ami, chairman of AFJCC, says of this year's event: "America is more than a land of material riches—its greatness is based on its religious foundation, and the word F-a-i-t-h should be central in our unity as patriotic Americans. Therefore, the 1983 National Thanksgiving Convocation and Pageant will bring people of all faiths and races and creeds together to worship and give thanks, and to remember the historic roots of this great country."

Francisco de Araujo's stirring Pageant of Freedom, entitled "OF THEE I SING . . ." sets the tone of this evening of remembrance and recommitment. Thousands of Americans are gathering to reaffirm the sacred values that have made this Nation great. You can participate—through your attendance and your generous, tax-exempt donation—as we demonstrate the true spirit of brotherhood celebrating our heritage of religious freedom, a cornerstone of our American Democracy! Won't you join us?

## NATIONAL THANKSGIVING CONVOCATION COMMITTEE

Post Office Box 645  
Oakton, Virginia 22124

(703) 281-0333 • (202) 546-5911 • (202) 546-1447

## NATIONAL THANKSGIVING CONVOCATION COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

# "Of Thee I Sing..."

A PAGEANT OF FREEDOM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1983—7:30 p.m.  
CONSTITUTION HALL

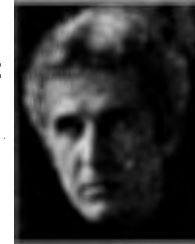
18 and D Streets N.W. Washington, D.C.

A re-enactment of great inspired moments of America's fight for freedom, from colonial times to the present.

CREATED BY:

FRANCISCO DE ARAUJO

Producer/Director of the  
Jerusalem Passion Play



FEATURING:

THE WASHINGTON CONCERT SINGERS  
AND ORCHESTRA



Francisco De Araujo, Conductor



INTRODUCING:

OPERA STAR,  
LINDA ELLIOTT

Dramatic Soprano

**FREEDOM:** The very word should thrill everyone who possess it. There are only two kinds of people living on the earth, those who are free and those who are not. Of all the million that have lived on this planet past and present, less than 3 percent have known freedom. **WHAT A RARE AND PRECIOUS GIFT IS THIS FREEDOM THAT AMERICANS POSSESS.**



## Thanksgiving...

The pilgrims sat down to dine with Native Americans in 1621 to celebrate their first harvest, giving thanks to God for bringing them to a land free from religious persecution.

Today we sit down to our own tables and feast on turkey and dressing, cranberries, corn and other vegetables, and lots and lots of deserts—but do we remember that first winter of 1620, when the Pilgrims were down to a daily ration of five grains of corn?

## Thanksgiving...

For a land where devout men made great sacrifices to assure that they and their heritage, even us today, would have the freedom to worship in their own way.

## Thanksgiving...

A time today when all Americans ought to come together, giving thanks for their many blessings and remembering that precious heritage for which we so dearly fought.

This 1983 Thanksgiving Convocation and Pageant is dedicated to rekindling the historic flame of prayer and thanksgiving in America. Prominent Americans representing the major faith groups will participate in this interfaith service.

### Co-Chairmen

**Hon. Herbert E. Ellingwood**  
National Committee, Year of the Bible  
Former Deputy Council to President Reagan  
Chairman, U.S. Merit Protection Board

**Most Rev. Andrew G. Grutka, D.D.**  
Bishop, R. C. Diocese of Gary, Indiana

**Rabbi David Z. Ben-Ami**  
Chairman, 1981 Presidential Inaugural  
Religious Convocation Committee  
Chairman, American Forum for  
Jewish-Christian Cooperation

## WHY A NATIONAL THANKSGIVING CONVOCAATION?

AMERICA has a great tradition of religious freedom.

THE PILGRIMS gave thanks to God "who had brought us over ye vast and furious ocean" to a new land.

ROGER WILLIAMS, founder of Rhode Island, the first American settlement with full religious liberty, told church fathers that "it is just in the eyes of Almighty God that there should be liberty of conscience and freedom of worship, and I will fight to attain it."

Maryland was deeded to LORD BALTIMORE as a haven for ROMAN CATHOLICS who were being persecuted in England and other European countries.

And WILLIAM PENN came to America to find a home for the QUAKERS, who had been flogged, branded, and beaten in Europe and barred from other New World settlements.

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS recognized this religious heritage during the formative years of our Nation.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: "The liberty by the people of these States, of worshipping Almighty God agreeably to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights."

THOMAS JEFFERSON: "Can the liberties of a Nation be thought secure, when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?"

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: "I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men."

At a later time, PRESIDENT LINCOLN uttered these immortal words: "... that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom . . . and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

But freedoms have never come easy, even in AMERICA, the land of the free. Thus 100 years after LINCOLN we hear REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING thundering out of his heart: "I HAVE A DREAM. . . ."

A noted journalist once called America "God's crucible, the great Melting-Pot where all the races of Europe are melting and reforming!"

RABBI STEPHEN WISE, himself an immigrant to this land, spoke: "Foreign-born Americans like myself do not take America for granted. We look upon

American citizenship as the most precious and sacred of boons."

AMERICA IS a Nation of "strangers and pilgrims," a Nation of immigrants seeking and finding—yet at times taking for granted—these cherished liberties, especially our liberty to worship and speak openly from our hearts.

FREEDOM, it is said, springs from two sources: man's trust in God, and his faith in his fellow-men. DEMOCRACY springs from Faith, while tyranny rests on suspicion.

WE HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR! And yet—as we come together on Thanksgiving to commemorate our debt to God, and to our forebearers who carved out a democracy "under God"—we must renew our commitment to the preservation of these American freedoms.

As we look to the future, we recall the words of an astronaut's prayer: "Give us, O God, the VISION which can see Thy love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the FAITH to trust Thy goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Show us what EACH ONE OF US CAN DO to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace."

### 1983 National Thanksgiving Convocation Committee \*Partial Listing

**Terry J. Risenhoover**  
Chairman of the Board  
American Forum for  
Jewish-Christian Cooperation

**Vic Gainer**  
Secretary-Treasurer, American  
Forum for Jewish-Christian  
Cooperation

**Douglas Krieger**  
Vice Chairman  
American Forum for  
Jewish-Christian Cooperation

**Dr. Richard C. Halverson**  
Chaplain, U.S. Senate

**Dr. James D. Ford**  
Chaplain, U.S. House of  
Representatives

**Dr. Joshua O. Haberman**  
Senior Rabbi  
Washington Hebrew  
Congregation

**Dr. William R. Bright**  
Chairman, National  
Committee  
Year of the Bible

**Rev. Stephen J. Hartdegren**  
O.F.M.  
U.S.-Center for the Catholic  
Biblical Apostolate  
United States Catholic  
Conference

**Peter Stewart**  
National Thanksgiving  
Commission  
Dallas, Texas

**John Hvasta**  
Executive Director  
American Forum for  
Jewish-Christian Cooperation

**Rep. Mickey Edwards (OK)**  
**Senator Paul Laxalt (NV)**  
**Senator Claiborne Pell (RI)**

**Rep. Clement J. Zablocki (WI)**  
**Rep. Jack Kemp (NY)**  
**Rep. Jim Wright (TX)**

**Senator Richard G. Lugar (IN)**  
**Senator David L. Boren (OK)**

THIS THANKSGIVING LET US COME TOGETHER  
TO CELEBRATE— AND TO PERPETUATE—  
THE FAITH OF AMERICA!

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