

A White House Christmas

Trying to assimilate its meaning like it was a painting of Salvador Dali's, I stared at the sign on the easel: "The White House Presents Kent Rautenstrauss." Did I really land at a piano in the East Room, I pinched myself? On a frosted December night in 1999, a spiritual miracle was uniquely tailored to grab my attention. The gifts of this "bucket list" experience continue to unfold 15 years later.

No joke — as a kid, I dreamed of playing piano at the White House. My "mental equivalent" was anything to do with it. Most importantly, I frequently visualized and affirmed that I would one day play piano at the President's House. My dream gained tremendous traction and focus when I played for President Clinton twice in Denver thanks to the Governor's Residence Staff. A photo with Clinton propelled me to write the long-imagined letter offering to play at the White House. One day, I talked with a very gracious volunteer named Manny Karbeling. To my surprise, he knew who I was and had my promo packet. One person — one kind individual sharing hope — is a huge gift.

In late fall 1999, Manny asked if I'd like to play at the White House for a U.S. Treasury Department holiday reception. I accompanied jazz vocalist Nancy Walker. After jumping up and down, hugging my wife, Kathleen and doing a happy dance with our daughter, Melody, I calmly called Nancy. Then the next gift of Spirit unfolded.

Nancy and I realized we both worked at Religious Science churches. I am certain that my lifetime dream to play at the White House was magnified by our spiritual teaching that empowers people to step into their dreams boldly, knowing Spirit is in charge of the details!

That night, I played "Let There Be Peace on Earth" near the famous portrait of George Washington in the East Room. Later, we were privileged to tour the West Wing including the Oval Office. I'll never forget the Secret Service saying in disbelief, "We don't know how you arranged this!" The national Christmas tree was breathtaking as was the sense of living history. It was a monumental gift to have this rare opportunity granted that aligned with our hearts' desire.

We all agree something bigger brought us together that special night. We were given the lasting gifts of kindness and hope, friendship, faith and the spiritual truth that "thoughts are things," to quote our founder Dr. Ernest Holmes. ☸



KENT
RAUTENSTRAUSS



Manny Karbeling and
Kathleen Rautenstrauss