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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

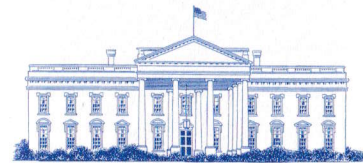
welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

In celebration of

HANUKKAH

The Festival of Lights



Thursday, December 8, 2011
13 Kislev 5772

THE MENORAH

This lamp was created in a displaced persons' camp after World War II. The residents were receiving vocational training from ORT, a Jewish organization active throughout Europe. Begun in Russia in 1880 to provide funds for needy Jews, by the 1920s ORT had turned to training Jews in manual labor as a means of changing their economic conditions.

The lamp is dedicated to General Joseph T. McNarney, who served as the Commander in Chief of United States Forces in the European Theatre from November 1945 to March 1947. As such, he was responsible for the displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria. This lamp was presented to him shortly after he took office, perhaps at a visit to the camp. McNarney was considered kind-hearted and humane, and when Jews fleeing postwar pogroms in Poland infiltrated illegally into the American-controlled sector, he granted them shelter and care. In addition, General McNarney enabled the publication of a complete edition of the Talmud to meet the thirst for Jewish education among surviving European Jews. Acceding to the impassioned plea of Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, the American advisor on Jewish affairs, McNarney scrounged for scarce paper, imported sets of the Talmud from America to make offset copies, and requisitioned a printing plant to publish the edition, which came out in 1948.

The Hebrew inscription on the lamp, "A great miracle happened there," is found on the tops or dreidls that children play with on Hanukkah in Ashkenazi communities. It refers to the miracle of Hanukkah, but may in this instance also poignantly signify the liberation and salvation of the Jews in the DP camp.

This menorah was lent by The Jewish Museum, New York. It was donated to the museum by General Joseph T. McNarney.



PROGRAM

Remarks by

THE PRESIDENT

Selections by

WEST POINT

JEWISH CHAPEL CADET CHOIR

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



WEST POINT JEWISH CHAPEL CADET CHOIR

The West Point Jewish Chapel Cadet Choir, also known as Kol Masoret, the Voice of Tradition, is an arm of the U.S. Military Academy's Jewish Chapel and Hillel. It has existed for over 60 years and is comprised of cadets from all four years at the Academy. These cadets take time from their busy schedules to practice once or twice each week.

Jews have been members of the Corps of Cadets since the first graduating class of 1802 which consisted of only two graduates, one of whom was Simon M. Levy. Today there are approximately 60–70 Jewish cadets out of 4,500 total cadets. The Jewish Chapel was completed in 1984 and is served by a military chaplain.

The choir has a tradition of bringing song to congregations and college Hillel chapters. Most recently, the Choir performed in Palm Beach, FL, at Yale University, and at the dedication of the Jewish Chaplains Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

The current Cadet-in-Charge is Cadet Joseph Shelzi, a junior from Boston, Massachusetts. The choir conductor is Cadet Evan Szablowski, a junior from Bakersfield, California. The choir is advised by Professor Susan Schwartz, a member of the faculty and a retired Navy Captain. The Jewish Chaplain is Chaplain (Major) Shmuel Felzenberg.



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."

FEATURED JEWISH-AMERICAN COMPOSERS

HAROLD ARLEN

(February 15, 1905–April 23, 1986)

Harold Arlen was born in Buffalo, New York, as the child of a Jewish cantor. He was an American composer best known for his compositions in *The Wizard of Oz*. The most famous piece of this production is *Over the Rainbow* for which he won an Academy Award for Best Original Song. In 2000, the Recording Industry Association of America and the National Endowment for the Arts voted *Over the Rainbow* as one of the Songs of the Century. Arlen's compositions are recognized for incorporating blues into the language of the conventional American popular song.

ELMER BERNSTEIN

(April 4, 1922–August 18, 2004)

Elmer Bernstein was an American composer born in New York City to Jewish parents. Bernstein is best known for his scores to *The Ten Commandments*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Great Escape*. In 1962, he won a Golden Globe for Best Original Score for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In 1966, he won his second Golden Globe for Best Original Score for *Hawaii*. During his career he was nominated for 14 Academy Awards, and he won for his score to *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in 1967. He was also nominated for five Grammy Awards and two Tony Awards.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

(August 25, 1918–October 14, 1990)

Leonard Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, to Jewish-Ukrainian parents. He was an American conductor, composer, author, music lecturer, and pianist. He is best remembered for conducting many world-renowned orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, and Rome's Santa Cecilia Academy. Throughout his career, Bernstein composed the music for *On the Town*, *Wonderful Town*, *Candide*, and *West Side Story*. In 1990, *The New York Times* described Bernstein as "one of the most prodigally talented and successful musicians in American History."

JERRY BOCK & SHELDON HARNICK

(November 23, 1928–November 3, 2010) (April 30, 1924)

Jerry Bock, an American composer, and Sheldon Harnick, an American lyricist, are best known for their collaborative work on widely acclaimed musicals such as *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 1960, they won a Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony Award for Best Musical for *Fiorello!* In 1965, they received a Tony Award for Best Composer and Lyricist and Best Musical for *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 2009, they both received the 18th Annual York Theatre Company's Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement.

GEORGE GERSHWIN

(September 26, 1898–July 11, 1937)

George Gershwin was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Jewish-Russian parents. He was an American composer and pianist who mainly composed for Broadway and the classical concert hall. Some of his most widely acclaimed compositions include *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American in Paris*, and the *Concerto in F*. In 1935, he composed *Porgy and Bess*, which is regarded as the most important American opera of the twentieth century. Much of his work was created in collaboration with his elder brother, Ira Gershwin. The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song is named after the two brothers for their contribution to popular music.

IRA GERSHWIN

(December 6, 1896–August 17, 1983)

Ira Gershwin was born in New York City to Jewish-Russian parents. Ira was an American lyricist who worked with his brother, George Gershwin. Collaboratively they wrote multiple Broadway shows including their hit, *Lady, Be Good!* Some of their widely known songs include *I Got Rhythm*, *Embraceable You*, *The Man I Love* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*. Three of Gershwin's songs were nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song. In 1988, UCLA established The George and Ira Gershwin Lifetime Musical Achievement Award for their contribution to music.

JOHN KANDER & FRED EBB

(March 18, 1927) (April 8, 1928–September 11, 2004)

Kander and Ebb are the duo of composer John Kander and lyricist Fred Ebb. Some of their early collaborative work includes *Flora the Red Menace* and *Go Fly a Kite*. Kander and Ebb are widely known for their collaboration on *Cabaret*, which they won a Tony award for Best Composer and Lyricist and *Chicago*. In 1977, they wrote and composed their widely known song, *New York, New York* for Martin Scorsese's musical drama. Kander and Ebb were recipients at the 1998 Kennedy Center Honors for their accomplishments in theater and music. In 2000, they were awarded the Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement in musical theatre.

JEROME KERN

(January 27, 1885–November 11, 1945)

Jerome Kern was born in New York City to Jewish-German immigrants. He was an American composer of musical theatre. He is widely known for his classics, *Ol' Man River*, *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*, *A Fine Romance*, *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, *All the Things You Are*, *Long Ago (and Far Away)*, and *Who*. Throughout his career he was nominated for eight Academy Awards and was the recipient of two for *Lovely to Look At* from *Roberta* and *The Way You Look Tonight* from *Swing Time*. Kern was welcomed into the Songwriters Hall of Fame posthumously in 1970.

Continued

ALAN JAY LERNER & FREDERICK LOEWIE

(August 31, 1918–June 14, 1986) (June 10, 1901–February 14, 1988)

Lerner and Loewe are the duo of lyricist and librettist Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe. They are widely known for the music and lyrics of some of Broadway's most successful musical shows, including *Brigadoon*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Camelot*. For their collaborative work, they received two Academy Awards for *Gigi* in 1958 for Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Original Song. In 1957, they received a Tony Award for Best Musical for *My Fair Lady*. In 1967, they received a Golden Globe for Best Original Song for *Camelot* and in 1974, they were awarded another Golden Globe for Best Original Score for *The Little Prince*. Together they were recipients at the 1985 Kennedy Center Honors.

JOHNNY MANDEL

(November 23, 1925)

Johnny Mandel was born in New York City. Mandel's most famous compositions include *Suicide is Painless*, and *A Time for Love*, nominated for an Academy Award. Mandel wrote the lyrics to *The Shadow of Your Smile* from the movie *The Sandpiper* and won the 1965 Academy Award for Best Original Song and the Grammy for Song of the Year in 1966. He also won Grammy Awards for Best Arrangement on an Instrumental Recording for Quincy Jones' song *Velas*, and Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals for Shirley Horn's album *Here's to Life* and for Natalie Cole's *Unforgettable*. Mandel is currently a recipient of the 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award.

ALAN MENKEN

(July 22, 1949)

Alan Menken was born in New Rochelle, New York, to a Jewish family. Menken is an American musical theatre and film composer and pianist. He is best known for his numerous film scores produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios: *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Hercules*. For his musical contribution to these films, he won four Academy Awards and three Golden Globes. He has been nominated for an Academy Award 18 times for which he was the recipient of 8, more than any other living individual.

DAVID RAKSIN

(August 4, 1912–August 9, 2004)

David Raksin was an American composer born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. With over 100 film scores and 300 television scores to his credit, he became known as the "Grandfather of Film Music." Some of his work on Broadway included co-orchestrating *Parade*, *At Home Abroad*, *New Faces of 1936*, and *Dream*. Some of his other earlier credited work includes the films *Dr. Renault's Secret*, *Something to Shout About*, and *Tampico*. He is widely remembered for his score in the 1944 film noir *Laura* that became one of the most recorded songs of all time.

Continued

PAUL SIMON

(October 13, 1941)

Paul Simon is an American singer and songwriter born to Jewish-Hungarian parents in Newark, New Jersey. Simon is widely known for three compositions during his days as part of the duo Simon & Garfunkel: *The Sound of Silence*, *Mrs. Robinson*, and *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. Throughout his career, Simon earned thirteen Grammys, including the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003. He was welcomed into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001, and in 2006, he was selected as one of the "100 People Who Shaped the World" by *Time* magazine. In 2007, he was selected as the first recipient to the Library of Congress' Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

EMILE WALDTEUFEL

(December 9, 1837–February 12, 1915)

Emile Waldteufel was born in Strasbourg, France, to a Jewish-Alsatian family of musicians. He was a French composer of dance music. Waldteufel is widely known for such waltz compositions as *Mellow*, *Dans Les Champs*, *Teresa Antoinette*, *Entre Nous*, *Le Source*, *Les Patineurs (The Skaters)*, and *Les Grenadiers*.



*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.*

