



## *Barack Obama Presidential Library*

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**Series:** General Files

**Container Number** Legal Hollinger 71066

**Folder ID:** 51671

**Folder Title:** Printed Materials - [Program for] a Celebration of Hanukkah [in the afternoon], 12/09/2015 [3 copies]

**Systematic File Name:** t068887811-051671-71066





THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

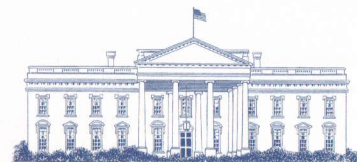
*welcome you to*

THE WHITE HOUSE

*In celebration of*

HANUKKAH

*The Festival of Lights*



*Wednesday afternoon, December 9, 2015*  
*27 Kislev 5776*

## THE MENORAH

*Bezalel Hanukkah Lamp (ca. 1926)*

Ze'ev Raban (1890–1970)

Silver, repoussé and etched, filigree, inset with colored glass;  
wood base

Judaic Art Gallery, North Carolina Museum of Art  
Raleigh, North Carolina

The Bezalel Hanukkah Lamp comes to the White House from the North Carolina Museum of Art, one of only two general art museums in the country with a permanent gallery dedicated to Jewish ceremonial art.

The menorah was created in the early years of the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts in Jerusalem by one of its premier designers, Ze'ev Raban. Founded in 1906, and named for the Israelite artisan who built the Tabernacle, the Bezalel School answered the desire among Jewish immigrants to what would become modern-day Israel for a style of art distinct from the secular and Christian art of Europe. Bezalel is rightly honored as the first modern design school for Judaica.

Arguably the most influential designer associated with the early years of Bezalel was Raban. Born in Poland, Raban studied in Europe and immigrated to Ottoman Palestine in 1912. There, he helped create the self-consciously "Hebrew Style" that characterized the early years of the Bezalel School, a style rooted in the romantic belief that the artistic traditions of the local Palestinian Arab and Jewish communities were the closest equivalents to the forms and styles of art practiced by the ancient Hebrews.

This menorah summarizes in its style, craftsmanship and ambition the spirit of Bezalel—and Jewish art in general—in the decades leading up to Israeli independence. In addition to its dramatic visual presence, it speaks eloquently to the cultural and philosophical aspirations of Jews in early modern Israel. By its presence in the North Carolina Museum of Art's Judaic Art Gallery, it also speaks to the enduring bonds between Jewish communities in Israel and the United States as well as to the vitality of Jewish cultural life in the American South. A smaller version of this menorah is in the collection of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

## PROGRAM

*Remarks by*

**PRESIDENT OBAMA**

*Remarks by*

**PRESIDENT RIVLIN**

*Lighting of the Menorah*

*Selections by*

**THE MACCABEATS**

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



## THE MACCABEATS

The Maccabeats originally formed in 2007 as Yeshiva University's student vocal group and have now become a Jewish music and an a cappella sensation. The Maccabeats previously performed at The White House for Jewish American Heritage Month. They have over 20 million views on YouTube, and have had a wide variety of successful singles. The Maccabeats work to integrate traditional and secular wisdom combining Jewish, American, and Israeli songs.

## 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—Chassidische Shechitah.  
All baked goods are Pas Yisroel.  
All wines are Mevushal.  
All foods have been prepared Lemihadrin  
with a Mashgiach Temidi.*