



## *Barack Obama Presidential Library*

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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

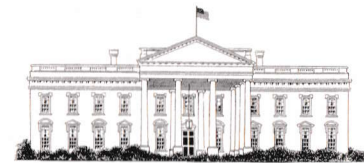
*welcome you to*

THE WHITE HOUSE

*In celebration of*

HANUKKAH

*The Festival of Lights*



*Thursday evening, December 5, 2013*  
*3 Tevet 5774*

## THE MENORAH

Central Europe, second half of Nineteenth Century

Brass

Jewish Museum in Prague

Prague, Czech Republic

This nineteenth-century brass menorah—and the fate of the couple who owned it—illuminates the turbulent history of the Jewish community in Bohemia and Moravia during the first half of the twentieth century and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. The story begins in the 1920s in the town of Hrušov, which now is part of Ostrava, the Czech Republic's third largest city. During that time, new synagogues and prayer houses were built in the region as a result of the increase in size of the Jewish community. The local Jewish prayer association purchased a house in Hrušov in 1914 and constructed a small prayer hall there. A husband and wife who lived in the town donated the 19th century brass menorah to the prayer hall. They are named in the Hebrew inscription engraved on the menorah's base:

*"This was donated by Abraham Isaac and his wife Hayyah Ettinger here in Hrušov in the year 682 according to the minor era (1922)."*

From 1922 onwards, the menorah was used in the prayer hall until the Nazis burned it down on the night of June 11, 1939, and demolished the rest of the building during the following winter. On November 23, 1939, after the annexation of the Czechoslovak border area (the Sudetenland), the Nazis expelled the entire Ettinger family from Ostrava and deported them to Poland. Abraham Isaac (Adolf) Ettinger; his wife Hayyah (Hermina) Ettinger; and their children Else, Edith, and Alfred were murdered by the Nazis in an unknown place in 1943.

Today, the menorah has been used to celebrate Hanukkah at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Prague, a mansion that was built by a Jewish family in the 1920s and seized by the Nazis and used as a headquarters for their leaders during the German occupation.



## PROGRAM

*Remarks by*  
**THE PRESIDENT**

*Ceremonial Lighting of the Menorah*

*Selections by*  
**PIZMON**

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





## PIZMON

Pizmon, the Hebrew word meaning the chorus of a song, is the coed Jewish a cappella group of Columbia University, Barnard College, and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Since its inception in 1987 as the first collegiate Jewish a cappella group, Pizmon has traveled to hundreds of communities in the New York metropolitan area, across the country, and around the world, to offer Jewish music as a source of inspiration and community outreach. Pizmon continually strives to have a community-wide impact and during a typical academic year will perform for more than fifty audiences ranging from Jewish Day Schools to homes for the elderly to Synagogues to Jewish Community Centers.

## 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.*