



Machar Begins our Active and Forward-Looking 2013

As we begin 2013, once again we Machar members find ourselves with a packed schedule of great activities, many more than our community, by our size, should have going on—with something for every interest! As I write this, we are busy planning for the visit on the January 11–13 weekend of Tammy Kaiser, a multi-faith chaplain and rabbinic student who will be leading a Shabbat service on Friday night, 7:30 at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Church, in Bethesda. Tammy also will be presenting the Adult Education talk on Sunday at 10 a.m. at JPDS.

On Sunday, January 27, beginning at 10 a.m., for Adult Ed at JPDS, Jeff Dawson, one of our new and young members, will speak on his journey from several years of ultra-orthodox training to Secular Humanistic Judaism.

Immediately after Adult Ed and JCS on January 27, all will gather for a lovely (and short) Tu B'Shvat seder, beginning around 11:45, at JPDS. The Seder was a wonderful event last year, and this year promises the same.

The evening of January 23, WITS will be meeting—see separate piece in this newsletter with details.

Following soon after, on Saturday evening, February 2, from 5–9 pm, we're hosting another of our very popular Games Nights, which we begin with a short Havdalah (end

of Shabbat) service. We have separate tables for children and adults, with age-appropriate games for all. It's a great way to make new friends and visit with our old ones. To be held at the Scheinhaut cozy Art room—watch for sign-up on the website.

A full weekend of educational activities is scheduled for February 8–10, when Machar is honored to host Rabbi Adam Chalom and the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism's seminar "Matzah Without Dogma." The seminar begins Friday evening at 7 and continues on Saturday, at the Silver Spring Civic Center. It concludes Sunday morning at JPDS. The price for this weekend seminar is extremely reasonable, particularly for Machar members. See Machar website for full details.

On Sunday, February 10, after classes, while the Adults are learning from Rabbi Chalom, the JCS students will enjoy a Living History presentation with an actress playing the role of immigrant Anna Shulman. This event is funded by a grant to Machar from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Initiative for Congregational Education.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 24—our special Purim Carnival! And this is just January and February! Much more to come in the months ahead.

Nadine Wettstein
Machar President

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Secular Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that combines rational thinking with a celebration of Jewish culture and identity.

We affirm the power and responsibility of human beings to shape their own lives independent of supernatural authority.

Machar is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews.



Machar Celebrates Hanukkah!

Above left and right: Machar latke judges David Abramson, Rahel Hanadari, Rick Gold, and Ari Zentner deliberate and present awards.

Below and right: JCS kids enjoyed playing dreidel and other gelt-fueled games.



Whaddaya Talkin'?

Marlene Cohen

In which Machar's newsletter will provide you with Your Monthly Word in Yiddish—Use it ten times this month and you won't forget it!

Let's start 2013 with a hefty word
– **Oy!**

Leo Rosten says that "Oy" is perhaps the single most characteristic expletive/exclamation/declamation in all of Yiddish and therefore Yinglish.

The exclamation point fits whenever the word is used with emphasis. It's a lament, a protest, a cry of dismay, a reflex of delight. It can mean simple surprise, startledness, minor sadness, joy, relief, dismay, despair, shock, outrage, irony, and many more.

Where in English is there such a multifaceted little word?

It's sometimes used with "vay," pain or woe, to make "Oy vah."

Scene: A Restaurant in Hitler's Berlin

First Man: Oy...

Second Man: Oy, vay...

Third Man: Vay iz mir...

Fourth Man: If you three don't stop talking politics, I'll get out of here.

—Leo Rosten,
The Joys of Yinglish, 1992



Machar Selected for Website Pilot Project

Machar is honored to have been chosen as one of two congregations by the Society for Humanistic Judaism to participate in the Website Outreach Pilot Program. This program, sponsored by SHJ and supported by a donor's contribution, is intended to increase and maximize our web outreach, including via social media, to potential new members. We are grateful to SHJ and especially to Liz Pomper, a Machar member who agreed to be the Machar representative for the program. Liz is the Director of Online Outreach for the National Audubon Society's public policy program. She has helped with our website re-design (new website will be launched soon!) and is one of the most active users of our Facebook page. Thank you, SHJ and Liz!

Fund-Raising Success—Thank you to All!

Our recent end-of-the-year fund-raising campaign was a huge success. Final numbers are being tabulated but we exceeded our goals and our matching grant! Thank you to all those who contributed and to the fund-raising committee: Chair, David Wittenberg, and callers: Barry Dancis, Anna Greenberg, Neil Greene, Ester Rozenblum, Susan Schappert, Eva Shankman, Mark Swartz, Dan Tobocman, and Renée Weitzner. Details in next month's newsletter.



6th grade JCS students with their teacher visiting Holocaust Museum

photo by Brenda Platt.

Teen & College Conclave

April 12–14, 2013 • Suburban Detroit, MI

Registration Deadline: **February 14, 2013**

Questions, contact info@shj.org or aj@hujews.org

<http://www.hujews.org>

Clubs and Activities/Board Highlights

Havurot/Social Events

Laurie Miller

December and January have been very busy months with Hanukkah and several interesting Community Sunday activities. We hope to re-energize a DC Havurah in early 2013. Do mark your calendars for our next Family Games Night scheduled for **Saturday, February 2nd from 5-9 p.m.** at the Schweinhaut Center.

We are always searching for volunteers to host events. Hosting is fun and easy. Select your preferred date and event type then sit back and let others bring the food to you. OK, there is a little more to it than that - but not much. If you are interested in hosting or helping to coordinate a Shabbat, potluck, or any other style of event, please contact me at [LAURIE.MILJAZI at gmail.com](mailto:LAURIE.MILJAZI@gmail.com) (note new address).

WITs

Renée Weitzner

The women of WITs (Wimmin in Transition), the women's group of Machar, enjoyed a delightful Hanukkah celebration in December at the home of Harriet Peck. We ate latkes and various salads and shared stories and small gifts. What fun! This month, we are meeting at the home of Eva Shankman on Wednesday, **January 23, 2013 at 7 pm.** We hope you will be able to attend with your dish of choice, ready for a warm repast with great conversation.

Each month, the women of WITs meet for dinner and discussion. We provide support for each other in difficult and joyful times. I hope you join us. Please let me know if you are coming and your dish of choice by January 21, 2013 so that I may let our host know the menu and the head count.

Evening Study Group

Michael Prival

The Machar Study Group on Jewish religious texts continues to meet every other Monday evening at my home. We are reading and discussing texts from the Bible, the Talmud, and other rabbinic sources. In this way we are learning not only about the Hebrew Bible but also many fascinating and surprising things about traditional Judaism as it existed before the Jewish Enlightenment began in the 18th century. All Machar members, at any level of prior knowledge, are invited to join us. If you'd like more information about this study group, please send me a note: [mprival at aol.com](mailto:mprival@aol.com).

Book Club

Darlene Basch and Renée Weitzner

The Book Club of Machar will be meeting at the home of Phyllis Hodes on **January 13 at 3 pm** to discuss the book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn. This book focuses not only on the oppression of women across the globe but also on individuals worldwide who have helped others free themselves from the yoke of oppression. The book focuses on what has occurred but also goes further to illustrate what can be done. With what is going on in the world this will be a timely discussion. We hope you will be able to join us.

If you would like to join us, please contact Renee Weitzner at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com) or Darlene Basch at [dab0507 at verizon.net](mailto:dab0507@verizon.net).

Young Adult Havurah

Liz Pomper

Join our listserve at groups.google.com/group/macharyah or join our group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah to get the details.

YAH events are open to all regardless of membership status in Machar, and participants are encouraged to bring friends who may be curious about our movement.

Machar December Board of Directors Highlights

Joyce Rosenthal

- Board members discussed outreach for the upcoming International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism seminar that Machar is sponsoring on Feb. 8-10 (for more details, please see <http://tinyurl.com/d2xcwv9>). Outreach will include announcements within the congregation as well as to outside groups such as the Washington Ethical Society, the 6th and I Historic Synagogue, and bulletin boards at grocery stores, in addition to local media, both Jewish and secular. A flyer was sent out to the MacharCommunity listserv; please print it out and post it at your neighborhood coffee shop or grocery store!
- In the newly redesigned Machar website (look for it soon on a computer near you!), how many b'nei mitzvah speeches should be available for the public to look at? What about photos? The board discussed these and other questions related to archiving Machar documents. Several board members are getting more information on current and future storage needs; the board will continue the discussion at its January meeting.
- Darlene Basch discussed a proposal to give thank-you gifts to Machar members who referred new members to Machar. Referring members will be given gift cards to restaurants such as Lebanese Taverna, Clyde's, or a Judaica store – such as Israeli accents – or an online Judaica website. Members received more details about the thank-you gift in an email.

International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism

Matzah Without Dogma: Four Centuries of Secular and Humanistic Judaism



Hosted by Machar: The Washington DC Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism

How did Jewish life become so diverse today? Who were the first Jews to connect with Jewish culture independent of religion? And how did they lead to Secular Humanistic Judaism?

Friday, February 8 —NO CHARGE, ALL ARE WELCOME

At Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

7:00pm-9:30pm Shabbat Celebration – “Secular Humanistic Judaism & Jewish Tradition”

Saturday, February 9

At Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

I) 9:00am-12:30pm “Judaisms—Enlightenment, Emancipation & Modern Judaisms”

II) 1:30pm-4:30pm “Jewishness: Socialism, Yiddishism, Zionism & Modern Culture”

Sunday, February 10—FREE for Machar members or under 25

At Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20011

III) 10:00am-12:30pm Darwin Day: “Still Jewish: Science & Secular/ Humanist Philosophy”

GENERAL PUBLIC
\$30/SESSION, \$60/SEMINAR

MACHARNIK/UNDER 25
\$15/SESSION, \$25/SEMINAR

IISHJ LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
\$125-/SEMINAR (MINUS \$25 /AIRFARE)

Presenter Rabbi Adam Chalom is a national leader of Humanistic Judaism. Rabbi Chalom holds a Ph.D. in Hebrew and Jewish Cultural Studies and is the Dean for North America of the IISHJ. He also serves as the rabbi of Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation in suburban Chicago, Illinois.



Matzah Without Dogma—February 8-10, 2013

IISHJ Seminar Registration Form—Register online at www.machar.org

Name (s) _____ Paid Registration (circle) : I II III All LP

Email or Phone _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO: Machar, PO Box 42014, Washington DC 20015
Seminar Questions? Please contact Machar at 202-686-1881 or Kelly@machar.org

Please register by February 4, 2013
IISHJ Questions? (847) 383-6330 info@iishj.org

Machar Adult Education and Community Sundays

10:00–11:45 a.m. promptly, followed by **12:00 p.m.** bagels and Community Sundays for all ages! Programs conclude at **12:30 p.m.**

The intent of the adult education program is to increase members' access to the best of Jewish and Humanistic practices and perspectives.

Jewish Cultural School for children **10:00–11:45 a.m.**

January 11–13

During the weekend of January 11–13, Machar will be visited by a candidate for our rabbi position. Tammy Kaiser is a multi-faith chaplain and a rabbinic student in our movement. She is the Director of Lifelong Learning for a large synagogue in New Mexico. She has been much praised by leaders within the Society for Humanistic Judaism. You can check out her website: www.tammykaiser.com

Friday, Jan 11, at 7:30 pm. Tammy will lead a Shabbat at River Road Unitarian Universalist Church, 6301 River Road in Bethesda. There's plenty of free parking and no steps via the front entrance. If you want to be picked up at the Bethesda Red Line metro stop at 7:10 p.m., write to Kelly [at] machar.org. by Friday morning. We'll have light refreshments after the service.

Saturday evening, Jan 12, there will be a dinner with Tammy. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Nadine Wettstein (nwettstein [at] nwettstein.com). The location will depend in part upon how many people will be involved.

Sunday, Jan 13, Tammy will be giving the Adult Ed talk at 10 am at JPDS on 16th Street, followed by our Community Sunday.

January 27

Adult Ed: [My Journey from Ultra-Orthodoxy to Secular Humanistic Judaism](#)

New Machar member Jeff Dawson will discuss his decision to leave U.S. graduate school for the ultra-orthodox Jewish world in Israel, with its strict separation of the sexes, almost blind obedience to rabbis, and his marriage to a girl he barely knew. He will also recount his struggles once he renounced his faith to leave behind the community and a wife who refused to grant him a divorce. (This event is rescheduled from fall.)

Community Sunday: [Tu B'shvat seder](#) This event was a huge success last year, so we are making it an annual tradition.

February 8–10

[Matzah Without Dogma: Four Centuries of Secular and Humanistic Judaism](#)

On the weekend of February 8–10, Machar is proud to host Rabbi Adam Chalom for an International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism seminar, "Matzah Without Dogma: Four Centuries of Secular and Humanistic Judaism." The seminar begins Friday evening at 7 and continues on Saturday, at the Silver Spring Civic Center. It concludes Sunday morning at JPDS. There is no charge for Machar members on Friday or Sunday, and the Saturday sessions are very reasonable. See Machar website for full details and registration.

Families, please plan to stay until 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 10. We have special activities for the kids while adults enjoy the IISHJ seminar and Darwin Day with Rabbi Adam Chalom (see full page announcement for details). Thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Initiative for Congregational Education, we are hosting a special living history presentation for children in third grade and above. Supervised art activities and play-time will be available for Tots through 2nd grade children.

[Anna Shulman: The Queen of H Street](#)

This one-woman show tells the entertaining and true life story of Anna Shulman, her arrival in the U.S. and in Washington, and her impact on the H Street neighborhood, home to Jewish merchants in the 1920s and 1930s. Contemporary students unfamiliar with their immigrant heritage will learn how immigrants such as Anna repaid their debt of welcome by helping subsequent immigrants in their turn.

February 24

Purim Carnival, Schweinhaut Center

Birthdays

January 1: [Guiseppe Topa](#)
January 1: [Marlene Cohen](#)
January 2: [Barbara Francisco](#)
January 4: [Nadia Raytselis](#)
January 5: [Abigail Smith](#)
January 6: [Alejandra Rodriguez-Gitler](#)
January 6: [Tom Gordon](#)
January 7: [Eve Gleichman](#)
January 7: [Joe Palca](#)
January 7: [Dick Schwab](#)
January 8: [Dash Epstein](#)
January 9: [Sue Zwicker](#)
January 15: [Clarke Joy Block](#)
January 17: [Tibor Roberts](#)
January 18: [Andres Grosmark](#)
January 18: [Aaron King](#)
January 22: [Mason Schnell](#)
January 30: [Amichay Argaman](#)

Anniversaries

January 21: [Amichay and Ann Argaman](#)
January 22: [Richard Gold and Bouchra Chati](#)

Yarheits: We remember...

January 3: [Mark Harris, husband of Nancy Harris](#)
January 6: [David Bassin, father of Donna Bassin](#)
January 8: [Pauline Seidenstein, mother of Roslynn Seidenstein](#)
January 17: [Ellen Greene, wife of Neil Greene](#)
January 20: [Doris Jonas, mother of Jill Grant](#)
January 20: [Charles Goor, father of Rob Goor](#)
January 24: [Leslie Kidwell Jr, father of Michael Kidwell](#)
January :[Anna Gold, mother of Marlene Platt](#)

It is with the deepest sorrow that we pass on to you news that our dear friend and long-time Machar member Norm Gleichman died on Friday, January 11 while on vacation in Mexico with his family. Norm was swimming at the time, and an autopsy determined that drowning was the cause of death. Our deepest sympathies go out to Norm's family—his wife Marie and their children Eve and Nick.

The memorial service for Norm will take place on Sunday, January 20 at 3 pm at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Long-time Machar Member Bert Donn Dies

Machar received sad news that long-time Machar member Bert Donn died Friday, December 28th at the age of 93. He died at home peacefully, having spent with his family a few weeks after being in the hospital for an array of terminal health challenges.

For over 30 years, Machar enjoyed the good company of Bert and his wife Marj, who survives him along with five adult children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Bert was an astrophysicist, a veteran leader of the peace and justice movement and long an active member of Machar's Social Action Committee.

We will miss Bert. He was a dear fellow and great role model of how to live a good life dedicated to family, community, science, and social progress.

Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to Deb and David Godden on the wedding of Deb's son, Jim Ryan and Suzanne Lamb on 12/28/2012. The date also is David and Deb's 21st wedding anniversary. Happy Anniversary! Our love and best wishes to all!

Machar's members are our biggest asset and our greatest resource in letting their friends and family know about our wonderful community.

Starting December 2012, if you recommend a member or family who joins Machar, Machar will thank you with your choice of a \$100 gift card for dining out at Lebanese Taverna or Clydes, for local shopping at Politics and Prose or Israeli Accents, or some on-line Judaica shopping at modertribe.com or traditionsjewishgifts.com.

So please tell people about Machar; we hope to give out lots of thank you cards!

—Darlene Basch

Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

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Rabbi

Binyamin (Ben) Biber

Congregational Administrator

Kelly Hand

Jewish Cultural School Director

Debby Brennan

Board of Directors

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Vice President

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Laurie Miller

Manny Pastreich

Harriet Peck

Renée Weitzner

Honorary Directors

Jules Abrams

Harold Black (*deceased*)

Ann Black

Joe Goodman

Millie Goodman

Mary Perica

Michael Prival

Henrietta Wexler

Board Liaisons

B'nei Mitzvah

Susan Morawetz

Newsletter

Rabbinic

Michael Prival

Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

Machar Committee Chairs

Adult Ed

Marlene Cohen

Harriet Peck

Communications

Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service

Barbara Francisco

Education

Larry Lawrence

Email Lists Manager

Michael Prival

Fundraising

David Wittenberg

High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

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Darlene Basch

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Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot

Laurie Miller

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Renée Weitzner

Young Adult Havurah

Betsy Kolmus

SHJ Reps from Machar

Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (Vice President)

Deb Godden (Secretary)

Machar Trained Leaders

Binyamin Biber, Rabbi

Michael Prival, Madrikh

Deb Godden, Madrikha

Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson

Interested in Advertising with Machar? Contact [info at machar.org](mailto:info@machar.org)

Directions to Machar

“Cedar Lane” events are held at Cedar Lane UU Church. 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD.

From DC, go north on Wisconsin Ave. (Rt. 355), pass the Naval Hospital, right on Cedar Lane., cross Beach Dr., 2nd entrance on right. From 495, Rockville, etc., take Rockville Pike (Rt. 355) S to left on Cedar to 9601. Metro - Red Line to Medical Center. Walk ½ mile north on 355, right on Cedar, 0.7 miles, or Ride-On Bus #34 (ask the driver).

“JPDS” is the site of our Jewish Cultural School (JCS). 6045 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Metro: Red Line to Silver Spring. S-2 or S-4 bus to Federal Triangle to Military Road and cross 16th Street. JCS and Adult Ed begin promptly at 10 a.m.; please arrive early.

For meetings in private homes, contact hosts for directions.

Machar E-mail Lists for Members and Nonmembers

Michael Prival

There are two different e-mail lists that Machar members can join. The first, the “Machar” list, enables members to receive the monthly Newsletter, event reminders by email, plus announcements of program changes that may occur between printed newsletters. Al-

most all Machar members are already on this list.

The second list is “MacharCommunity.” Members of this list can share information about local, non-Machar cultural, educational, social action, or community service events and activities. Any list member can post a note on the “Machar Community” list at any time.

If you would like to be added to either of these lists, or if we are not using your preferred e-mail addresses for them, please send a note to Email at machar.org. Of course you can get off these lists at any time.

Earn for Machar Jewish Cultural School with Service Magic and DriversEd.com!

Get Matched to Prescreened Home Improvement Contractors and earn up to \$6!*

Service Magic is a FREE service matching you to pre-screened, customer-rated service professionals: Maids, painters, remodelers, plumbers, roofers & more! *Earnings depend on the type of project and range from \$2–\$6.

Your Teen Can Start Earning a Driver's License Today!

With DriversEd.com, your teen can complete the required drivers education online—without ever stepping in a classroom.

Their quality course provides everything needed to prepare for the DMV permit and driver's license exams. Sign up and DriversEd.com will contribute 5% of the tuition amount to Machar's Jewish Cultural School.

Help Machar as You Shop

Larry Lawrence

Machar participates in the eScrip (Electronic Scrip) program, a fundraising organization in which participating business partners contribute a percentage of your purchases to our Jewish Cultural School. Some participating businesses in the Mid-Atlantic are Safeway (which contributes 1-3% of your purchase value) and American Airlines (3%). To sign up for eScrip, go to <http://www.eScrip.com> and choose “Machar–Jewish Cultural School” as the benefiting group.

Raise Money for SHJ While you Surf

Use GOODSEARCH.COM to Search on the Web and Raise Money for SHJ

GoodSearch.com is a Web search tool for organizations such as ours to raise money each time someone uses it. Simply go to goodsearch.com, key in “humanistic Judaism,” and type in whatever you are searching for. You can even see how much we have raised—and imagine the potential if all of us use it! .