



Update from your Machar President

Dear Machar Members:

Amid all our many events and activities, the Board and Rabbi Committee, realizing it is already November (!), are moving apace on two fronts: the rabbi search process, and end-of-year fund-raising.

The Rabbi Committee, (Michael Prival, chair; Norm Gleichman; Akiva Liberman, and Nadine Wettstein) wrote a job announcement and a position description (see Machar website), and with Rabbi Ben's help, we have circulated it far and wide. We plan to have qualified candidates visit to interview with us and meet the members. In the meantime, Rabbi Ben already is working with the seven b'nei mitzvah students, will be working with them throughout the year, and will be officiating at their ceremonies in the spring.

As most organizations, Machar needs to raise revenue to cover our expenses. We keep our dues and tuition as affordable as possible, and have a policy and practice of not refusing membership because of inability to

pay. Consequently, dues and tuition cover only a portion of our expenses. Also, we expect to have additional expenses in the next months, as we bring rabbi candidates to Machar to interview and meet members. We also are in the final stages of a complete revamp of the Machar website! You have been generous, so we only need to raise an additional \$12,000 before the end of the calendar year. You will soon receive our fund-raising letter, and our committee, headed by David Wittenberg, will be contacting members. Thank you in advance for those contributions.

Please enjoy all that Machar has to offer in these next months: our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education are in full gear; Women in Transition (WITs); the Book Club; Michael Prival's Monday night bible study class; our Friday Shabbat on November 9 at Darlene Basch's home; our Booksale on December 2, and our Hanukkah party on December 16.

Your President,
Nadine Wettstein

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Debby Brennan

Our Jewish Cultural School classes have been engaged in their respective curricula. We look forward to our annual WALK FOR THE HOMELESS on November 4 and our Machar BOOK SALE on December 2.

PARENTS – WE DO NEED HELP WITH THE HANUKKAH PARTY – IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL!!!!

Kindergarten/First grade: Karen Itkin Roe led the class on October 28. Vida Fye, the teen aide, started off with the “switch if” game and then the class read a book of Karen’s called *Around the World In One Shabbat*. The students talked a little about Shabbat (it was nice that there was a Shabbat table in the classroom; the kids pointed out the items they recognized).

The students used markers, paper, and stickers so they could do a craft celebrating their families on a “free” day and they used a double sided jigsaw puzzle - for Shabbat/Havdalah.

Second grade: In class, the students made jack-o-lantern paper plates, and tied it into Kedusha—the uniqueness in all of us!

The students then had a discussion about connecting their uniqueness to not bullying others due to “something” about them--because that “something” is special and “needed.” The class talked about how the world needs ALL kinds of people--except bullies!

Amanda (the second grade teacher) brought to the class a doll made in Rwanda and a map with a dot placed on DC and one on Rwanda--to show how far away Rwanda is. The doll had brown fabric for the skin, the mom was carrying her baby on her back and she had a basket on her head--things which are part of Rwandan culture. The children asked many questions about what Rwanda is

like (Amanda has been there) and if the people there have brown or white skin color-- or both. The class tied it back to Kedusha and it was a very positive conversation.

Next class, the students will discuss “Ahavat Ger”.. “loving a stranger.” The students will also do a Mitzvah, making happy Thanksgiving cards for people who live at a local nursing home. If a child was not in class or did not bring in an item for show-and-tell, please feel free to have them bring in an item for next class.

Fourth/Fifth grade: The class will be creating a digital timeline of Jewish history to document their year-long learning. This will take the form of a Powe Point presentation with historic events, summaries, and illustrations.

In class, the students chose events from early Jewish history to include on the timeline. They also learned about different Jewish communities migration in Europe during the Middle Ages.

Sixth grade: In our last class, we continued our study of the events of the Holocaust. We began by analyzing some maps of the changes in Jewish population in Europe 1933–1950. After reviewing the changes, the students expressed astonishment at the scale of those changes. We watched and discussed two short audiovisual works by the US Holocaust Memorial museum, including “Dachau,” and “Liberation”, which are available at <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/maps/>. We then looked to the impact on the story home with the story the family of an Austrian actor, Kurt Brodman, <http://www.centropastudent.org>.

In our next class, we will ask two questions. The first is why more Jews were unable to flee Europe during the 1930’s. To answer that, we’ll look at maps of patterns of Jewish emigration; review the story of the St. Louis, which was denied

entry in the western hemisphere, and consider the place of Jewish life during the 1930’s, looking again to stories of specific families—the Goldmans, in Germany; the Silberrings, in Poland, and the Fabikants, in the Ukraine—to consider how individuals responded to the rise of Nazism. These are available at <http://centropastudent.org/?nID=77&fLang=ENG>. Lastly, we’ll examine the requirements to obtain a visa to leave Germany, and those to enter the US.

If we have time, we’ll turn to a second question—namely, what were they, the Germans, thinking. We’ll look to two primary ideas: those of Mein Kampf, particularly Hitler’s belief in a world-historical struggle between Aryans and Jews; and those of the German monarchists, particularly, the myth that the German Empire only lost World War I and entered into the suffering of following years due to betrayal at home.

The sixth grade class is planning to attend the Holocaust Museum this year. Any parents who would like to help Bill plan this outing, please contact him.

B’nei Mitzvah class: JCS Director Debby Brennan taught the b’nei mitzvah class on October 28. The class was lucky to have a visit from Sam Rosenbaum who heads the community service activities for the Jewish Federation. Sam came to the class to discuss possibilities for a class tzedakah project. Students in the class were interested in possibly helping at the Hebrew Home for elderly, a project for the benefit of abused animals, and/or cooking a meal together and then serving it to homeless people.

The class had an interesting discussion of the philosophy, ethics and culture of secular humanist Jews, and what we say when other Jews or non Jews tell us that we are “not really Jewish” because we do not believe in God. Several students have experienced such conversations with their friends.

Teams Compete to Clean Creek

Barbara Francisco

Two teams of Macharniks vied to remove the most trash and recycling from a tributary to Rock Creek and its banks on Sunday, October 14th, immediately after adult and Sunday school programs. Led by the intrepid members of the post-mitzvah class, Harry and Talia Appelman, Ami Argaman, Debby Brennan, Marina Broitman and sons Paul and Logan Eliot, Rachel Cohen-Stevens, Kelly Hand, the Hanadari-Levy family (Rahel, Roberto, Lior, Yael, and Amit), Brendan Hyatt, the Levin-Morgan family (Ann, Win and Sarah), Rick and Adam Gold, Joe, Maddie, and Jason Lubin, Joshua and Jeff Schmidt, Nadine Wettstein, and Bill Young collected four big bags of trash and two bags of recycling. Found items included a broom handle, ear buds, golf balls, a grill, a copper pipe and caution line tape. Sarah, with some apparently first-hand experience, reported that the water was very cold. As usual, everyone who came had a great time - and some earned community service hours. The winner of the trash-collecting contest? The creek.....(of course)!





Society for
Humanistic Judaism

Machar is a member of SHJ, the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

Here and Now and There and Then

Andrea Friedlander, President of the Society for Humanistic Judaism

For those of you who are fortunate enough to belong to an SHJ community that has a rabbi, strong lay leadership, or an extensive collection of programming materials, you might question the value of remaining an affiliate of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. After all, if your community is thriving on its own, why keep paying the annual assessment? What are you getting in return?

In my new role as President, I hear this question (often in the form of a grumble) more often than I'd like. While I can point to a myriad of services and resources that the Society provides for its affiliates, if your community is not availing itself of these benefits and/or has no need for them, then I need a better answer.

Fortunately, I do have a better answer! (Otherwise I wouldn't be writing this article.) The most important reason to remain an affiliate of the Society is to support the existence and growth of Humanistic Judaism.

The annual fee paid to the Society for affiliation should not be viewed as a

“fee for services.” Rather, it should be viewed as a means to support the “cause” of Humanistic Judaism. Just as we might support a battered women's shelter, we do so not because we have an expectation of needing its services, but because we believe in the value of its work. Similarly, we might contribute to an organization with which we identify, such as a political party or the college we attended, again not with an expectation of receiving something tangible in return, but as a means to stay connected and support its mission.

Part of the Society's mission is to nurture the development of new communities, provide resources to emerging communities, and promote the public's awareness of the existence of Humanistic Judaism.

Think of all the “less fortunate” Humanistic Jews out there who need our help! There are those who do not live near a Humanistic community and want to form an individual connection to Humanistic Judaism or want help starting a new community in their area. There are also those who have never

heard of the concept of Humanistic Judaism and are suffering in silence (or worse, in the wrong affiliation). And, most unfortunate of all, there are those poor souls who were a part of a wonderful Humanistic Jewish community and then relocated to a place without one, so they know exactly what they're missing.

Each community that maintains its affiliation with the Society is helping to promote Humanistic Judaism, both conceptually and geographically. The Society's work is not just for the here and now; it's for the there and then. So, if you believe in Humanistic Judaism and want to see it continue to exist for the next generation, (and make sure that you or a family member do not become one of those sad “less fortunate” Humanistic Jews!), then your community's continued affiliation with the Society is both valuable and necessary, even if your community is not directly reaping the benefits. Still grumbling? I hope not.

Northeast Regional Gathering

Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism
Saturday, December 1, 2012, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

- Meet fellow humanistic Jews
- Activities for adults and teens
- Jews and Rock 'n' Roll - presented by Susan Ryan, pop culture maven & member of The City Congregation
- The Jewish Timeline - presented by Cary Shaw of Fairfield Congregation for Humanistic Judaism
- Build your congregation's social media - presented by Michael Witkin
- of The City Congregation
- Havdallah Service transitioning to the week
- Teen film and discussion of “Life is Beautiful” with Rabbi Frank Tamburlo

Donation of \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door

To preregister, contact Rhoda Kleiman at irv@shj-ner.com
More info at shj-ner.com or call 617-669-3675
Community Unitarian Church at White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains NY

Machar Adult Education and Community Sundays

Marlene Cohen

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.

Sunday, November 4

Candidate without a Prayer: An Autobiography of a Jewish Atheist in the Bible belt

Herb Silverman, founder of the Secular Coalition for America

Silverman turned from apathetic to activist atheist when he discovered that his South Carolina Constitution prohibited anyone who “denied the existence of the Supreme Being” from running for public office. So he ran for governor. His story is powerful and humorous. Book sales and signing will follow.

Community Sunday (11:50 a.m.): Mini-walk for the homeless

MACHAR will hold its annual mini-walk to help the homeless on Sunday, November 4th at 11:50 a.m. As you may remember, MACHAR is a founding member of the Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network. All the proceeds will go to CIHN and support housing assistance for families that are temporarily homeless. The MACHAR teens are helping to organize the mini-walk this year.

Sign up: You can either give us a check or pay with a credit card (on the form or through the MACHAR website). The suggested donation is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. There will be no national walkathon at the mall this year. So please feel free to invite your friends to join the MACHAR mini-walk!



Music and Intergenerational Interviews at our Community Sunday on October 28.

Far above: Rick Henry (on guitar), Sue Zwicker and Barry Dancis (holding Logan) lead the vocals, .

Above: Akiva Liberman and Jeremy.

Jewish Cultural School for children

10:00–11:45 a.m.

Sunday, November 4

Clubs and Activities/Board Highlights

Havurot/Social Events

Laurie Miller

Please join us for a Machar Adults' Shabbat & Potluck dinner hosted by Darlene Basch in Silver Spring, Maryland. This is scheduled for Friday, November 9th at 7 p.m. Darlene lives a short drive from the Glenmont Metro Station. Directions and contact information will be provided on your registration receipt. You can indicate if you'd like to carpool or get a ride to/from Metro when registering. Note that space is limited so please register early. Allergy alert - Darlene has a cat. For details and registration, please use the "Hot Link" off the Machar home page.

We have another Maryland event in the planning stages for sometime in December. There may also be a DC Shabbat in the works before the end of the year. I will publish more details and registration information when the dates have been finalized.

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).

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 learn-

ing 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).

WITs

Renée Weitzner

The members of WITs (Wimmin' in Transition), the women's group of Machar, enjoyed a delicious meal at Gar E Kabab, an Indian/Nepalese restaurant in Silver Spring. Everyone enjoyed the great food and conversation.

Next month we will be meeting at the home of Judith Weisberg in Washington, DC on November 28 (Thursday evening) at 7 pm for a pot-luck supper and conversation. We meet to share our joys and challenges, believing that in sharing there is energy and power. We become stronger with the help of our good companions. If you would like to come, please let me know by November 26 by email [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com) or by phone. Please do not email the entire group as that really clogs everyone's email. Once I have our head count, I can let our host know.

Many thanks. I hope to see you soon!

Book Club

Darlene Basch and Renée Weitzner

Machar's book club got off to a great start with our lively discussion of Niall Ferguson's *The House of Rothschild: Money's Prophets*. We will meet again on November 11 at 3:00 at the home of Martha Mednick for a discussion of *The Way We Live Now* by Anthony Trollope.

For more information 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 October Board of Directors Highlights

Joyce Rosenthal

- A committee has been formed to discuss ways to improve our Community Sundays! If you are interested in helping shape this vital part of Machar's activities, please contact Harriet Peck at harrietpeck@verizon.net.
- Board members discussed the next steps for the rabbi search process, which included producing and distributing a job announcement and description.
- Board members discussed the results from the survey of families with children attending Machar's Jewish Cultural School; a lot of useful information was obtained! Please watch this newsletter for more complete discussion of the results in an upcoming issue.

Birthdays

November 1: Ann Levin
November 2: Harriet Peck
November 4: Keith Campbell- Rosen
November 5: Julia Pastreich
November 6: Vicki Wallshein
November 8: Emily Ratay
November 9: Henry Zamore
November 10: Mary Perica
November 13: Rose Levine
November 18: Carla Kopell
November 22: Jill Grant
November 25: Andy Royle
November 26: Susan Schappert
November 26: Kathy Hudson
November 27: Jacob Hudson

Anniversaries

November 3: Laurie Miller and Ahmed Al-Hujazi
November 23: Richard and Michelle Kamalich
November 25: Joyce and Greg Rosenthal

Yarheits: We remember...

November 3: Pedro Rodriguez, father of Pedro Rodriguez
November 16: Arthur Cohen, father of Marlene Cohen
November 19 : Harriet Hall, mother of Norman Hall

Machar was saddened to hear of the death of our former member, Robert Barnes, and sends condolences to his widow, Marilyn, and their family.

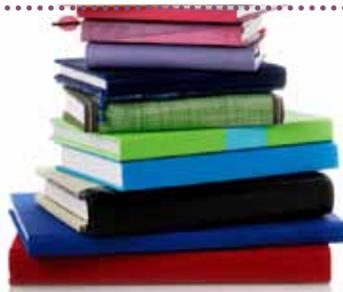


Machar,
Thank you so much for the wedding gift. You can never have too much wine, and D'Vines is just down the street from us. We were so touched that the congregation was thinking of us on our big day.

Sam + Sarah



Gary and Harriet Peck (above) hosted an evening of klezmer music at their home. This was one of the "fun(d) builder" activities members purchased spots for at Machar's 35th anniversary celebration.



We need books for our booksale, and food donations!

Need to clear out some shelves, clean off that nightstand? Bring your gently used books to the Machar book sale, Sunday morning, December 2. We'll collect the books at JPDS, *before* Adult Ed and school. You can receive a receipt for the tax-deductible contribution of your books. We'll organize the donations, and then, in the gym *after* Adult Ed and school, we'll offer everyone's books for sale. The proceeds will help Machar, and we will donate any books we do not sell to Friends of Montgomery County Library. We also will be collecting non-perishable food at the same time, on December 2, to donate to Manna.

Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

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Binyamin (Ben) Biber

Congregational Administrator

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Michael Prival

Henrietta Wexler

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B'nei Mitzvah

Susan Morawetz

Newsletter

Rabbinic

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Michael Prival

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Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

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

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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! .