



*The Washington Congregation  
for Secular Humanistic Judaism*



P.O. Box 42014, Washington, DC 20015 • 202-686-1881 • [www.machar.org](http://www.machar.org)

## Inside this issue:

## Upcoming Sunday Activities

### Tzedakah / Community Service / Creek Clean-Up Sunday, October 14, 11:45 a.m.

Barbara Francisco will be leading us in a creek clean-up across the street from our Jewish Primary Day School location after Sunday school and adult ed. All those who have participated in the past have gotten pretty dirty—and have felt very good about our contribution to the neighborhood and the environment! We hope to see you there in old, comfortable clothes and shoes.

### Multi-Generational and Multi-Cultural Celebration of Machar and Secular Humanistic Judaism Sunday, October 28, 11:45 a.m.

Machar will celebrate you (!) when we celebrate the many generations, cultures, histories, and backgrounds represented in our membership. We will come together for a celebration of our members after our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education. Younger members will be paired with older members to become acquainted, share memories and ideas, and create hand-drawn decorations. We'll have music, food, and some surprises. Everyone is invited to share in this special event, no matter how long or how briefly you've been a Machar member.

- 2: High Holidays
- 4: [Machar's 35th Anniversary](#)
- 6: [JCS News](#)
- 9: [Adult Education](#)
- 10: [Clubs and Activities](#)
- 11: [Board Highlights](#)
- 12: [The Machar Family](#)
- 13: [Staff, Board of Directors and Leadership](#)
- 14: [Information/Ads](#)

### The Machar Membership Directory will be coming out soon!

The goal this year is to include pictures for 100% of members. So, if you are a new member, an existing member without a picture in the directory, or you simply want to include a more recent picture of you and your family (if applicable), please send the picture to Miriam Gitler at [mgitler@verizon.net](mailto:mgitler@verizon.net) by **October 12** to include in the directory.

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.

# High Holidays

It was wonderful to see so many Machar members, guests and visitors at our High Holiday services and gratifying that the services were so well received: the Rosh Hashanah service led by our own Rabbi Ben Biber and the Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services led by visiting Rabbi Jeff Falick. Many thanks again to Rabbi Ben and Rabbi Jeff, to Kelly Hand, our Administrator, and to all the volunteers who made the services possible. —Nadine Wettstein



Top: Hank Prensky blowing the shofar on Yom Kippur.  
Middle left: Anita and Jules Abrams, Millie and Joe Goodman enjoy Rosh Hashana services.  
Middle right: Rosh Hashanah choir and Harry Appelman.  
Bottom left: President Nadine Wettstein welcomes the crowd, with Machar readers.  
Bottom right: Rosh Hashana shofar blower Sue Kohut.

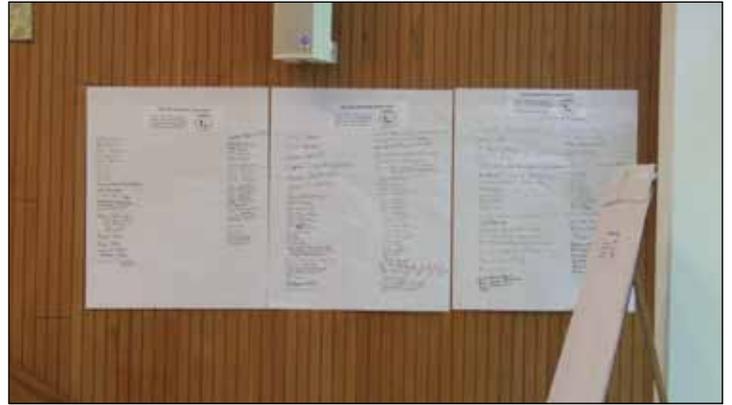


Left: Visiting Rabbi Jeff Falick.

Right: Machar's memory board of those we were remembering on Yom Kippur.

Middle: Eve Gleichman playing the Kol Nidre on violin.

Bottom: The children's service.



# Machar's 35th Anniversary

Many of you joined us for Machar's 35th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 8. This was a fun way to kick off the new year while also celebrating our congregation's first three and a half decades. A big thank you goes to the dynamic anniversary event committee, led by Marlene Cohen and Harriet Peck, who organized this event with the help of many other dedicated volunteers and generous donors.

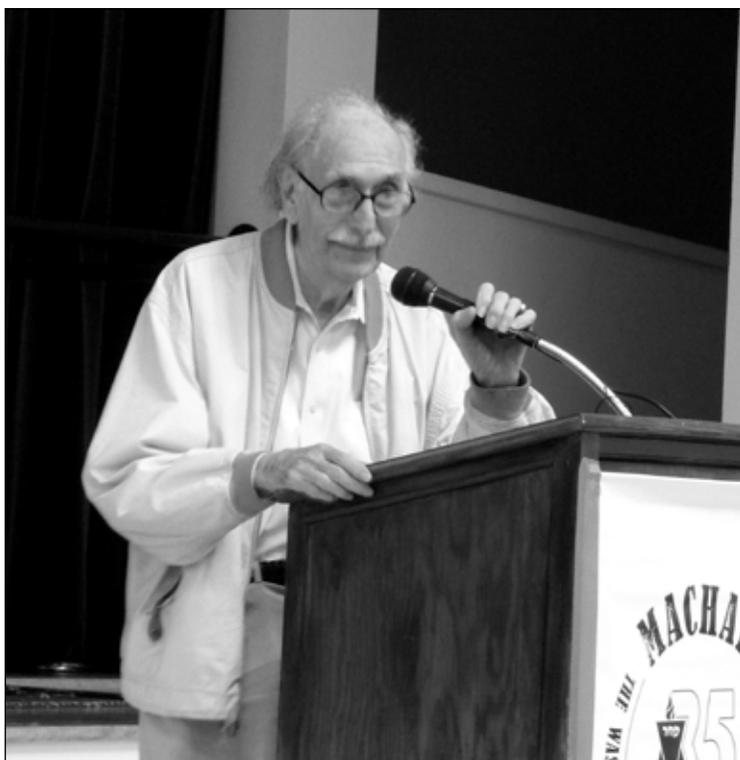


Machar is celebrating 35 years! Can you share a great Machar memory for the collection I'm doing? Please write you sentence or paragraph to Marlene Cohen: [MarleneCCohen at comcast.net](mailto:MarleneCCohen@comcast.net)

Buy a creative, bold blue Machar 35th anniversary t-shirt, at Sunday morning events on Oct 14. \$15 for adult sizes and \$10 for children's sizes. We've already attracted new potential members with our shirts!

## Machar in the Media

A reporter from Washington Jewish Week attended the anniversary event and interviewed several members. While there are some fundamental aspects of Machar the reporter did not touch upon—for example, our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education program—he did provide an interesting glimpse of our congregation's history for the DC area's larger Jewish community. Here is a link to the article: <http://washingtonjewishweek.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=4&ArticleID=18014>



Bottom left: Machar founding member Jules Abrams at 35th anniversary celebration.



# Machar's 35th Anniversary



On Sunday, September 30, Jewish Cultural School student Ian Roe provided his Fun(d) Builder activity for those who donated for a lesson in origami. Participants learned to make a bat and a Darth Vader face (rather scary!) from our talented young teacher.

Congratulations to Ian for raising \$35 for Machar! Other members will soon be attending cultural dinners at members' homes, genealogy lessons, and musical events, or getting new photos or a menorah or services such as picture restoration through their donations to Machar. Fun(d) Builders were part of the Machar 35th anniversary event.

## Rabbi Search Process

At and since the High Holiday services, members have inquired about the process for identifying and hiring a new rabbi for Machar. The board and the Rabbi Committee will be seeking input from Machar membership as we pursue this effort. We are considering holding a special membership meeting to gather suggestions. There will be other opportunities for input from members who cannot attend such a meeting.

The Rabbi Committee already is at work on transition planning. The Rabbi Committee currently includes the following members:

Michael Prival—Chair  
Norm Gleichman  
Akiva Liberman  
Nadine Wettstein

The Machar board includes the following members:

Darlene Basch  
Miriam Gitler  
Rick Gold  
Laurie Miller  
Susan Morawetz  
Manny Pastreich  
Harriet Peck  
Joyce Rosenthal  
Renée Weitzner  
Nadine Wettstein

Please feel free to call / talk to / email me and / or any of these people with input about the recruitment and hiring process.

—Nadine Wettstein

## New Teachers at Machar

Debby Brennan

Israeli dancing at Sept. 30 Sukkot celebration

We have had a wonderful beginning to our 2012-13 school year. We have 57 students - and that number seems to increase each day. We welcome all of our new students and new families. Our first class was dedicated to meeting our classmates, and learning about Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Thank you to Rabbi Ben for introducing us to our secular humanistic practices and to choir members for introducing us to songs for the holidays, and thanks to all students for trying to blow the shofar!

For Sukkot, we had wonderful decorations and some exciting Israeli dancing to welcome the holiday. Thank you so much to Barry and Elaine Dancis and Karen Roe for organizing our Sunday celebration.

Our new teachers this year have a variety of work and social experiences, and together they have some very interesting backgrounds in Jewish education.

### Kindergarten/First Grade: Ben Lauing

Ben grew up in Palo Alto, CA and attended Stanford University, where he majored in Human Biology with a self-designed concentration in Health Communication and Health Policy. On campus, he was involved with a couple health organizations as well as theatre and a cappella. He also studied at Stanford's program in Washington D.C. and did a tutorial in comparative health care at Oxford. During the summers, he worked as a kids counselor at Stanford's alumni family camp, and he started teaching Sunday school at his reform congregation as a freshman then continued in various capacities through his senior year. Ben is brand new to the DC area! He currently works for The Advisory Board Company. His interests range from biology and health policy to



theatre and vocal music to swimming and downhill skiing.

### NEWS FROM THE K/1 Class:

After sharing exciting news in our lives (happy birthday, Ava's grandmother!), we learned a little about Sukkot, the Jewish harvest festival. We learned about the sukkah, a temporary shack that we decorate with the fruits and vegetables we have harvested to welcome friends and family to come and eat. We learned about the lulav and etrog - important plants to the holiday of Sukkot (Jacob and Teo liked calling the etrog the "big fat thing" that resembles a lemon). We read a story about a family building a sukkah and watched a short video of a boy in Israel who lives on an etrog farm and helps his family decorate their sukkah. Then, we played a modified game of "four corners" with Sukkot-related pictures to solidify our knowledge - Maddie lucked out with repeated wins!

After a few minutes of playtime outside, I alerted the students that there were vegetables hidden around the playground. They all had a chance to participate in our own "harvest" by going out and collecting whatever vegetables they found. Once we had all the "crops," we dipped them in a traditionally Middle Eastern food - hummus - to eat. To wrap up our celebration, we made our own miniature sukkahs out of graham crackers. Using frosting to hold them together, we decorated our sukkahs with fresh fruit, dried berries, and spice drops. Teo showed some architectural prowess with a unique triangular sukkah, Ava decided it was faster to use her hands instead of the provided plastic knife to apply her frosting, and Jacob decided he couldn't wait to eat his! After a vigorous (and required) hand wash, we joined other classes to participate in sukkah decorating and other Sukkot festivities.

JCS Director Debby Brennan with Sukkot lulav and etrog



Themes from the K/1 curriculum for the year:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dicvDIR7p0XT3-LvJLS-dU5RuHZPgV\\_YXuvmn1ICCX3s/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dicvDIR7p0XT3-LvJLS-dU5RuHZPgV_YXuvmn1ICCX3s/edit)

### Second Grade: Amanda Sagarin

In middle school Amanda was a Sunday School teacher's aid for younger grades at Temple Beth El Center in Belmont, Mass.--the reform temple where she grew up. Amanda was married at Temple Beth El last month, just before moving to Washington DC. She was very active in the Union for Reform Judaism's youth component throughout high school and beyond--where she taught at the high school leadership Kutz Camp in NY.

Amanda went to college in Rhode Island for social work and she is an MSW and licensed child therapist. In-between undergrad and grad-school she was a fellow in Boston at the Jewish Organizing Initiative (now, JOIN for Justice) where she received community

organizing training, some of which was from a Jewish social justice perspective. It was during that year that Amanda was introduced to Boston's Workmans Circle and was involved with some of their programming. She especially enjoyed a class she took there on the history of the Jewish Left. In addition to her full-time jobs as clinician and most recently a program director, Amanda held several part-time jobs--including teaching art at an after-school program. She is certified in art therapy and she is an artist herself. Amanda believes art is wonderful vehicle to build self-esteem and for healthy self-expression. She says, "I am excited to be here in DC and part of the Machar community!"

On the first day of Sunday School Amanda substituted for the 3rd grade teacher. They started off class by talking about Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. They were reminded why we eat apples and honey (for a sweet new year); why we blow the Shofar (and even got the chance to blow one--there are some real Shofar blowing champs in the 3rd

grade); and that we say and feel sorry for certain things during Yom Kippur.

We then took some yummy apples and honey outside for a snack. After snack, the 3rd graders decided to do marathon races around the playground! We then got plenty of water and headed back to classroom where we made Happy New Year/ L' Shana Tova cards. The morning ended by reading a story about a dog who was not grateful for the bone he got at the butchers and his greed made it so he lost his special bone. The story taught us the importance of being grateful for what we have---this new year and always!

At the second grader's second class there was a discussion about Sukkot, and performing Mitzvot and giving tzedakah (we will return to these topics throughout the year). The children had a blast at the Sukkot Celebration in the gym--favoring making paper-chain decorations--and were excellent at following directions and very respectful of the materials and rules. For those who were able to stay for the Sunday Celebration we then went into the "Sukkah" we helped decorate and Debby led us in a re-cap of the Lulav and Etrog (the children had a chance to learn about these important symbols, touch, smell, and experience the symbols when Debby stopped by each class with them!). The main take-away: It is important that we get education in all different ways, do good deeds, and connect with Jews all over the world--what 3 wonderful directives! We also sang a song together in the Sukkah.

### Sixth Grade: Bill Young

Prior to working with Machar, and before graduate school, Bill taught high school English and History for

## New Teachers at Machar (continued from page 7)

six years. While teaching, he was the faculty adviser to the Jewish student affinity group for several years. His other teaching experience includes working with learning-disabled adults, teaching theology at the high school level, and tutoring youngsters (ages 6 to 11) in subsidized housing.

**Notes from Bill:** During our first class, we introduced ourselves, did a short reading and discussion of Rosh Hashana, performed a Taschlikh ritual, walking to the creek across the street and tossing bread crumbs into the water to symbolize our rejection of a personal misdeed (or two), began our discussions of the Holocaust. Each student and I presented to the class regarding our own family's history during WWII, and we also considered some guidelines for how to discuss the Holocaust that we'll keep in mind throughout the year. These included admonitions to avoid comparisons of suffering and to avoid assuming that people are all good or all bad.

During our next class, we began with a discussion of Yom Kippur, reading from "Celebrating Jewish Holidays: An Introduction for Secular Jewish Families and their Communities", and we listened to a recording of Kol Nidre and discussing its relevance to our studies during the main part of the class.

We are looking at short audio/visual works that will include "The Holocaust," "World War II and the Holocaust," "Dachau," and "Liberation", and are available at <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/maps/> (flash required). (There are a small number of disturbing images.) We will also read an excerpt from Stan Mack's cartoon history "The Story of the Jews", analyze some maps of the changes in Jewish population in Europe 1933-1950, and look over a timeline of World War II. (Time permitting.)

If you would like a general refresher on the events of the Holocaust, a useful one for adults is available at <http://www.ushmm.org/education/foreducators/resource/pdf/history.pdf>. It may be worthwhile reading if you'd like to discuss the topic with your child.

We had a short discussion of Sukkot: a reading from "Celebrating Jewish Holidays...", a selection from the book of Ecclesiastes, and a quick listen to The Byrds' version of "Turn, Turn, Turn" (because it has a better VH1 video than Pete Seeger's version).

**B'Nei Mitzvah Class: Seth Garfinkel**  
Originally from Georgia, Seth's roots rest in the Atlanta Jewish community. In addition to attending Jewish primary school, Seth was extensively involved with various programs at the Jewish Community Center of Atlanta and Camp Ramah Darom. While a student at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, Seth familiarized himself with the Jewish community in the Twin Cities- including as a member of the Macalester Jewish Organization. After graduating college, Seth was awarded a World Partners Fellowship by American Jewish World Service to spend a year living in India and working with an international development organization outside of Mumbai. Now stateside, Seth works as a Paralegal with the Legal Action Center at the American Immigration Council.

## Whaddaya Talkin'?

*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!*

Marlene Cohen

This month, it's only a syllable – "**nik**" - of Slavic origin

All you "Macharniks" out there are familiar with this word ending, but why? Don't ask "why!"

OK, do ask "why."

Not to be confused with "The Knights who say 'Ni,'" (if you don't know, look up "Monty Python"), Yiddish uses "nik" at the end of many words to indicate the speaker is passionate in his/her support of the concept – "an ardent practitioner, believer, lover, cultist or devotee of something" (The Joy of Yinglish, Leo Rosten). It's fine to use it in a spontaneous way – a joy of Yinglish is that you can add to its storehouse!

The Maven's Word of the Day's Jeff McDonald says some people believed that "nik" started with Sputnik, but he points out that Yiddish used it much earlier than this.

Consider these now-historic examples: Peacenik, No-goodnik, beatnik, artnik.



## Machar Adult Education and Sunday Celebrations

Marlene Cohen

**10:00–11:45 a.m.** promptly, followed by  
**12:00 p.m.** bagels and Sunday Celebrations  
 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, October 14

#### ***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 between the sexes, almost blind obedience to rabbis, and his marriage with a girl he barely knew. He also will recount his struggles once he renounced his faith, to leave behind the community and a wife who refused to grant him a divorce.

**Sunday Celebration: Outdoor community creek cleanup**

### Sunday, October 28

#### ***A Wide Perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and where the Struggle for Peace Stands Now***

Etai Mizrav served as national activity and development manager for the Israeli peace movement and managed Peace Now in Israel. Also he is a reserve officer in the Israeli army. He will talk about the perspectives of the Israelis and of the Palestinians, the possibilities that Israel faces and the choices that must be made. We happily welcome Mizrav, grandson of a Machar founder Mary Perica; he and his wife have just moved to the U.S. for two years.

**Sunday Celebration: Multi-generational and multi-cultural celebration and games**



Meeting again and meeting new members our first day of Adult Education, September 9, 2012

## Jewish Cultural School for children

**10:00–11:45 a.m.**

Sunday, October 14 and Sunday, October 28

# Clubs and Activities

## Havurot/Social Events

Laurie Miller

Machar members enjoyed two very different events over the Summer. We started the season with a Sunday afternoon/evening BBQ in late June. Susan Morawetz and Yan Raytselis hosted over 30 members at that event. Then, in mid-August, we had a Saturday Havdalah and Games Night at the Schweinhaut Center. More than 20 members and potential members/guests participated in the evening's activities. The players ranged in age from under ten to young-at-heart. This event started early enough that we had the opportunity to eat a leisurely meal



and play multiple games. At one point, there were two concurrent games of Rummikub going. A group of children tried to conquer the world playing Risk. Meanwhile, the Pictionary crowd had a riotous time guessing words like “gallop”. Ask Miriam Gitler how to draw that one! Games nights have proven to be quite popular and a lot of fun. We plan to have another one or two during the 2012-13 calendar year.

September was a busy month with the High Holidays and Machar's 35th Anniversary Celebration. Several social events in October and November came out of the Silent Auction. The Wittenbergs are having an Ice-Cream Social for several Northern Virginia families. The Pecks are hosting an evening of Klezmer Music. And, the Rodriguez-Gitler family is preparing an authentic Mexican meal for three guests. Their menu includes pumpkin flower soup, plain and chicken tostadas, tamales, and “tres leches” cake made of sponge cake soaked in three kinds of milk: evaporated, condensed, and whole milk. The diners are in for una comida

deliciosa! These are all fun and creative activities that bring members together.

We would like to continue the in-home Shabbats that Nancy Harris revitalized last Fall. Three hosts have volunteered for events this Fall. One is scheduled for November 9th and the other dates have not yet been finalized. I'll publish more details and registration information as we get closer to the 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@gmail.com](mailto:LAURIE.MILJAZI@gmail.com) (note new address).

## Evening Study Group

Michael Prival

The Machar Study Group on Jewish religious texts is starting up again in October. We will be focusing on stories in the Hebrew Bible, beginning with Cain and Abel. This is a good time to join the group since we are now beginning with a whole new approach. All Machar members, at any level of prior knowledge, are invited to join us. We meet every other Monday evening at my home. If you'd like more information about this study group, please send me a note: [mprival@aol.com](mailto:mprival@aol.com).



Above left: Emmett, Henry, Hazel, Daisy and a visitor  
Left: David, Sue, Ahmed, Kelly, and Alexander.

## 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 listserv at [groups.google.com/group/macharyah](https://groups.google.com/group/macharyah) or join our group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah](https://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.

## Social Action Committee

*Rick Gold*

### Machar Leads the Way on Social Action

Machar members heard from Rabbi Ben during the high holidays and at adult education about why our congregation has stressed social action since its founding 35 years ago. Our progressive, secular humanistic values and understanding of traditional Jewish concepts such as Tikkun Olam (the repair of the world) have inspired us. Living in the Washington, DC area has given us an opportunity to undertake advocacy and to organize our communities to support important changes in national, state and local policies. That is why we have been at the forefront of Society for Humanistic Judaism congregations

in demonstrating our commitment to social action.

Between now and November 6, we will finalize the work we began last year in supporting the campaigns for approval of two Maryland referenda. Question 6 seeks citizen approval of the Civil Marriage Equality Law, which legalizes gay marriage in Maryland. Question 4 seeks citizen approval of the Maryland DREAM Act, which allows youth who have spent much of their life in Maryland, regardless of their immigration status, to pay in-state tuition for Maryland community colleges and universities. We have partnered with Marylanders for Marriage Equality, Equality Maryland and Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) on Question 6. We have partnered with Action in Montgomery (AIM) and JUFJ on Question 4. Machar members have the opportunity to attend a JUFJ DREAM in the Sukkah event on Wednesday, October 3, participate in canvassing for marriage equality on Saturday, October 20 and join an AIM DREAM Assembly on Tuesday, October 23. They hope to have 1000 people from around the state of Maryland. Arrive at 7:00 PM at Southern Asian Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (near Route 29 and Randolph Rd.)

As Chair of Machar's Social Action Committee, I am inviting all interested Machar members to the first Committee meeting of the year on October 14 at 4 pm at my home. Like last year, I hope we can focus on no more than two issues, so we can use our time well. We will meet no more than once every six weeks.

You may RSVP at [rickgold at mind-spring.com](mailto:rickgold@mind-spring.com) and I will provide you with directions to my home. Thanks very much.

## Machar September Board of Directors Highlights

*Joyce Rosenthal*

- The board created a subcommittee to develop a High Holidays ticket policy for 2013. The policy is expected to be completed by March 2013.
- The Machar website is being redesigned and the deadline for submitting text for the site's pages is Sunday, October 14. Anyone who is leading a committee or group should prepare a brief description (either a revision of what's on the current website or a new description) and send to Machar Administrator Kelly Hand ([kelly@machar.org](mailto:kelly@machar.org)). If possible, the committee/group Chair should also choose a photo of their group—or an appropriate image to represent its activities—to put on the website, and make sure that all the group or committee members give permission to have their photo posted.
- Kelly Hand reported that 53 children have registered for Machar's Jewish Cultural School, exceeding last year's JCS enrollment of 48 [note: as of October 1, enrollment reached 57 and, given the number of students still likely to enroll, may exceed 60]. The number of Machar households is anticipated to remain close to last year's, at around 108 member units.
- Due to some board member conflicts, the October and November board meetings are being tentatively rescheduled for October 11 and November 15, respectively.

# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

September 2: Caroline Simon  
September 5: Rebecca Namm  
September 8: Winthrop Morgan  
September 16: Mitchell Rosenthal  
September 17: Sue Popkin  
September 18: Debra DeRuyver  
September 19: David Godden  
September 21: Anna Greenberg  
September 24: Rob Goor  
September 26: Julia Dancis  
September 27: Daniel DeMocker  
September 28: Deb Godden  
September 30: Logan Eliot  
October 2: Hannah Figueredo  
October 3: Julia Williamson  
October 4: Bridget Ehart  
October 9: David Goldberg  
October 14: Ronni Schwartz  
October 14: Tamara Grosko  
October 15: Gary Peck  
October 16: Henrietta Wexler  
October 17: Mark Swartz  
October 19: John Delicath  
October 20: Ester Rozenblum  
October 20: Hannah Goor  
October 22: Oliver Kahn  
October 23: Ahmed Al-Hujazi  
October 23: Alexander Al-Hujazi  
October 25: Elena Pastreich  
October 26: Julia Raytselis  
October 28: Jill Schechter  
October 29: Sarah Morgan  
October 30: Simone Sober

Our best wishes are with Ester Rozenblum and her family; her brother-in-law, Abraham Horowitz, passed away this August in Argentina. He is survived by her sister Sara, 3 children and 8 grandchildren. The Rozenblum/Grosmark family is dealing with additional health challenges as well, so please keep them in your thoughts.

## Anniversaries

September 2: Marlene Cohen and Michael Kidwell  
September 11: Joe Palca and Kathy Hudson  
September 13: Joseph and Mildred Goodman  
September 14: Norm Gleichman and Marie Ritzo  
September 16: Richard (Dick) and Rochelle (Shelly) Schwab  
October 2: Don Naideck and Limor Dekel  
October 15: Rob Goor and Linda Tebelman  
October 16: Brenda Platt and Daniel DeMocker  
October 22: Larry Lawrence and Amy Kotkin

## Yarheits: We remember...

September 1: Frederic Markowitz, father of Amy Markowitz  
September 22: Ruth Hartogensis, mother of Deb Godden  
September 20: Mori Basch, father of Darlene Basch  
September: William Spencer, step-father of Adam Namm  
September 30: Tilda Weigl, mother of Eva Shankman  
October 7: Herbert Epstein, father of Mark Epstein  
October 7: Patricia Ekenstam, mother of Tricia Gordon  
October 23: Gertude Zinnerman Harris, aunt of Hank Prenskey  
October 28: Harold Hartogensis, father of Deb Godden  
October 30: Marta Marks, sister of Alberto Grosmark

## Mazel Tov!

### Babies!

Machar is thrilled to welcome two new sets of twins into our community:

Louisiana and William, twins of Tricia Meeks Schnell and Joshua Schnell

Everett and Piper, twins of Dan Tobocman and Debra DeRuyver

### Weddings!

Mazel tov and our very best wishes to the couples:

Tricia (Ekenstam) Gordon (*our fabulous Newsletter Editor*) and Tom Gordon (*our devoted former President*)

Sarah Brennan and Michael Wyman (*daughter and new son-in-law of JCS Director, Debby Brennan*)

Rachel Cohen Stevens and Bill Young (*two of our JCS teachers*)

Amy Wolfe and Steve Noblock (*daughter and new son-in-law of Renée Weitzner and Peter Wolfe*)

# Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

## Staff

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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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### President

Nadine Wettstein

### Vice President

Darlene Basch

### Treasurers

Miriam Gitler

Susan Morawetz

### Secretary

Joyce Rosenthal

### Past President

Rick Gold

### At-Large

Laurie Miller

Manny Pastreich

Harriet Peck

Renée Weitzner

### Honorary Directors

Jules Abrams

Mary Perica

Harold Black

*(deceased)*

Ann Black

Joe Goodman

Millie Goodman

Henrietta Wexler

## Board Liaisons

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### B'nei Mitzvah

Susan Morawetz

### Newsletter

### Rabbinic

Michael Prival

### Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

### Official SHJ Spokesperson

Dan Tobocman

## Machar Committee Chairs

---

### Adult Ed

Marlene Cohen

Harriet Peck

### Community Service

Barbara Francisco

### Education

Larry Lawrence

### Email Lists Manager

Michael Prival

### Fundraising

David Wittenberg

### High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

### Liturgy

Michael Prival

### Membership

### Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

### Mishpahah

Renée Weitzner

### New Members

Marlene Cohen

### Newsletter Editor

Tricia (Ekenstam) Gordon

### Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

### Passover Seder

### Public Relations

Joyce Rosenthal

### Shelter Staffing

Ann Levin

Ester Rozenblum

### Social Action

Rick Gold

### Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

## Clubs and Havurot Chairs

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### Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

### Nature Lovers

Alberto Grosmark

### Neighborhood Havurot

Laurie Miller

### Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Renée Weitzner

### Young Adult Havurah

Betsy Kolmus

## SHJ Reps from Machar

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### Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

### SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (Vice President)

Deb Godden (Secretary)

## Machar Trained Leaders

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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](http://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! .