

# Machar Committees 2007-2008

Machar owes its success to the activist members who have made it the dynamic, friendly congregation that it has been since 1977. We are fortunate to have two paid employees — both part time — our Rabbi and our Executive Director, and our part-time Jewish Cultural School staff. However, nearly all of our activities are run by member volunteers. Things get done only because members — with support from the Executive Director and the Board (also volunteers) — come forward. If we were to attempt to do as much as this with all paid staff, our membership dues would be far higher than they are.

Some of our committees are made up of one or two people; some always have the need for more participation — and new ideas, too. We strongly encourage all members to join several of the committees listed here and to become fully a part of our congregational family.

**Adult Education** --- The Machar Adult Education Working Group has prepared a calendar that includes a wide diversity of programs ranging from Family Shabbats, to programs focusing on topics of current events, social justice, humanist life issues, Jewish history, and the arts. Programs draw on talents of members of the Machar community as well as some outside speakers. Includes Sunday morning programs concurrent with the Jewish Cultural School and programs that follow Shabbat services. *Contact Marcy Bernbaum at [marcy@machar.org](mailto:marcy@machar.org).*

**Community Service** — Works with the Jewish Federation's Jewish Volunteer Connection to make contact with organizations in the DC metro area. Recruits volunteers from Machar to provide help, which might include environmental clean-ups, gleaning, book and school-supply drives, and providing meals at shelters for the homeless. *Contacts: Barbara Francisco at [BarbaraF@machar.org](mailto:BarbaraF@machar.org). For shelter staffing, contact [machar\\_shelter@machar.org](mailto:machar_shelter@machar.org).*

**Fundraising** — Meets, plans and carries out strategies for soliciting donations for Machar. In addition, makes plans and carries them out for fundraising events, for Machar or for other charitable purposes. *Contact: Ed Goldin at [ed@machar.org](mailto:ed@machar.org).*

**Grant and Proposals** — Members with grant-writing experience are always helpful in our ongoing efforts to seek funding for special projects for the Jewish Cultural School and for the congregation. *Contact: Roz Seidenstein at [roz@machar.org](mailto:roz@machar.org).*

**High Holidays** — This committee provides the logistical support for the High Holiday services to enable their smooth running. This includes set-up and clean-up, child care, shofar blowers, sound system set up, ushering, ticket table. *Contact: Donna Bassin at [donna@machar.org](mailto:donna@machar.org).*

**Labor Day Picnic** — Duties include securing the space,, set-up and clean-up, arranging for grill chefs, planning activities, and promotion. *Contact Donna Bassin at [donna@machar.org](mailto:donna@machar.org).*

**Liturgy** — Works with the rabbi to help write new services or amend existing ones for High Holidays and Shabbat. Needs people with good writing skills. *Contact: Deb Godden at [Deb@machar.org](mailto:Deb@machar.org).*

**Long-Range Planning** — Projects the needs of the group over time, making recommendations by assessing group goals and their impact on budget and space requirements. LRP reports on status of approaching goals and provides continual updating of future planning. *Contact: Ed Goldin at [ed@machar.org](mailto:ed@machar.org).*

**Membership** — Provides outreach to prospective members, provides programs and materials to help introduce and orient new members to Machar and to Humanistic Judaism, helps to welcome new and prospective members at Machar events, and creates ways members can provide support to one another through various means, including new member mentoring. One example of an outreach tradition for Machar is our information table at the annual Takoma Park Folk Festival every September. *Contact Deb Godden at [deb@machar.org](mailto:deb@machar.org).*

**Membership Directory** — Help compile member contact information, photographs of member families, and contact information for the board and other key Machar people into the annual membership directory. *Contact Miriam Gitler at [miriam@machar.org](mailto:miriam@machar.org).*

**Music** —Participate in the choir that sings at High Holidays; help create musical support at Shabbat celebrations and other events; play in the JCS band, which is made up of both students and adults. *Contact Paul Wapner at [Paul@machar.org](mailto:Paul@machar.org) about the Machar band and [roz@machar.org](mailto:roz@machar.org) for the others.*

**Neighborhood Havurot** — Recruit members to provide their homes for occasional Shabbat or Havdalah pot luck dinners. *Contact Laurie Miller at [Laurie@machar.org](mailto:Laurie@machar.org).*

**Newsletter** — Solicit and then compile the news and calendar of events for our monthly e-newsletter. Duties include verifying facts, editing copy, formatting, and some original writing; making the plain text version; making the Web site version. *Contact Donna Bassin, [donna@machar.org](mailto:donna@machar.org).*

**Passover** —Provide the logistical coordination for the Seder to enable its smooth running. This includes placement of pre-seder article in Machar newsletter, food shopping, room set up, food coordination, microphone set up, music, check-in, clean up and placement of follow-up article in the Machar newsletter. *Contact: Roz Seidenstein at [roz@machar.org](mailto:roz@machar.org).*

**Publicity** — Develop event notices and press releases as required to broadcast our message to the public. Duties include preparation of High Holiday and JCS ads and press releases and their distribution to the press before deadlines; creating pamphlets and brochures and arranging for printing. *Contact Joyce Rosenthal at [joyce@machar.org](mailto:joyce@machar.org).*

**Shabbat Refreshments (Oneg)** — Arranges for light refreshments to follow each Shabbat service, generally by inviting sponsorship by members with special anniversaries or life events to celebrate. *Contact Ann and Amichay Argaman at [ami@machar.org](mailto:ami@machar.org).*

**Social Action** — Coordinate the monthly meetings and advocacy project planning of the Social Action Committee, sending information and reports to committee members and reports and recommendations to the Machar Board. *Contact Marina Broitman at [socact@machar.org](mailto:socact@machar.org).*

**Web Team** — The team posts messages, updates our website, and evaluates/recommends technology suitable for broadcasting our message to our own group and to our potential Internet constituency. *Contact Deb Godden at [deb@machar.org](mailto:deb@machar.org).*