



A Note from Your New President

Dear Machar members,

When I joined Machar eight years ago I never imagined what an important part of my life it would become. When I was looking for “community,” I found so much more. Now, I am proud and excited to be your president for the coming year.

We have a wonderful and dedicated board of directors: Miriam Gitler (Treasurer); Susan Morawetz (Secretary); and our at-large directors Holly Campbell-Rosen, Norm Hall, Rahel Hanadari, Peter Kahn, Danielle Leff, Laurie Miller, Ester Rozenblum, Mark Swartz, and Renee Weitzner, who are committed to ensuring that Machar remain the vibrant community that it is. I want to thank Kelly Hand, our Congregational Administrator, and Debby Brennan, our Education Director, for their continued and enthusiastic work in support of Machar’s goals. I want to also thank our past president, Nadine Wettstein, for guiding Machar the past two years and energizing the Machar community.

We are looking forward to a busy September. Our High Holiday celebrations are just around the corner. We are excited that Machar’s own Madrikh Michael Prival will lead our Rosh Hashanah service on September 5. We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Miriam Jerris of the Society for Humanistic Judaism who will lead our Kol Nidre Service on September 13 and our Yom Kippur service on September 14.

Please join us on September 8 for the first day of our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education programs. This is a great opportunity to meet the congregation during our round-the-room introductions. Afterwards, you’ll have a chance to talk to our committee and special-interest chairs and find out how you can be involved!

Machar is your congregation. We welcome your active involvement and ideas.

Darlene Basch
Machar President

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New Machar High Holiday Ticket System

For the 2013 High Holidays, we will experiment with a new system for admitting Machar members to High Holiday services at Cedar Lane UU Church. We will not mail tickets this year. Instead, we will have a list of all households who have registered for the 2013–2014 membership year, and volunteers will check off members as they enter the chapel (for children's services) or sanctuary (for community services).

Please note that members' High Holiday ticket allotment is non-transferrable. Tickets for non-members will be available for purchase online in August or at Cedar Lane the day of the service (tickets purchased for community services on site incur a \$10 surcharge).

Discussion groups after Rosh Hashanah services

Machar will be hosting two discussion groups after Rosh Hashanah services again this year. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion on one of this year's topics. It is also a great chance to renew acquaintances with old friends and meet newcomers. There will be two topics to choose from this year. The first is **Israel in a changing Middle East— how will the turmoil of neighboring countries affect Israel**. The second topic is **What is the role of the bystander, whether in personal situations or on the world stage**. Ellen Cassidy spoke about this at adult education last spring in regards to the destruction of the Lithuanian Jewish community.

Please join us about 20 minutes after services in a classroom downstairs. Bagels and light refreshments will be waiting for you to sustain you through the lunch hour. Discussions will last about 45 minutes.

High Holidays 2013 service dates at Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda MD 20814:

Rosh Hashanah—Thursday, September 5

9:30 a.m. children's service
10:30 a.m. community service
(led by Madrikh Michael Prival)

Kol Nidre—Friday, September 13

7:30 p.m. service
(led by Guest Rabbi Miriam Jerris, SHJ)

Yom Kippur—Saturday, September 14

9:30 a.m. children's service
10:30 a.m. community service
(Rabbi Jerris)

Mark your Calendar for Machar's Adult Education Offerings for September

The Adult Education Committee has a great year planned for adults on Sunday mornings, 10–11:45. We will together explore culture, history, literature and current global events from Jewish and/or secular perspectives.

You don't want to miss our first day back, Sunday September 8! We will have Launching the Year with Machar, meeting and reconnecting with our members as well as introductions of Machar's committees, clubs and activities for the coming year. A great social time!

Then Sunday September 22 we will learn about the secular perspectives of Jewish artist Marc Chagall, provided by Machar member Mark Swartz.

Renew Your Membership Today

Kelly Hand

Many of you have already renewed your Machar membership, and I hope those who have not yet had a chance will find five minutes to register online in the next two weeks leading up to our August 15 renewal deadline. This is also your chance to make a volunteer commitment and express interest in our small group activities.

It's important for us to know how many students to expect in our Jewish Cultural School classes, and we'll need time to compile our membership list for admitting members to High Holiday services (remember, we're trying a "check off" system this year instead of mailing tickets), so a \$100 late fee will apply after August 15 (not applicable to new members).

You can go to www.machar.org and click on "Join Machar now!" or use this link: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=636611>.

This year, we have just one registration page, which you may use either to pay your membership dues and Jewish Cultural School tuition (if applicable) all at once or to set up an installment plan. As you will see, in each section, the first option is for paying all at once and the second option is for installment plans. Please give me a call if you need help setting up an installment plan or have any other questions.

If you do not have internet access and/or a credit card, please send a check to Machar, P.O. Box 42014, Washington, DC 20015, indicating the breakdown of your payment and informing us of any changes to your contact information.

Volunteer Opportunity

Susan Morawetz

We're seeking up to 10 volunteers to help staff the Machar table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, Sept 8. We hope some of you can help.

The Festival runs from 10:30 to 6:30, so with set-up and clean-up, we're seeking volunteers from 10 to 6:45, hopefully two per shift. We'd appreciate any time you can offer, ideally (though not required) during the following time slots:

10 to 12
12 to 2
2 to 4
4 to 6:30

Note that Sept. 8 is the first day of JCS, so those of you with kids in school will want to plan accordingly. Please let me know if you have any questions and if you can help.

<http://www.tpff.org/>

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

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 moderntribe.com or traditionsjewishgifts.com.

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

—Darlene Basch

Machar Celebrates

Mazel Tov to the eight Machar families whose children celebrated the B'neiMitzvah ceremonies in May 2013



Ruthie F. and Julia R.



Gabe and Rabbi Ben



Areya, Anna, and Margot.



Clubs and Activities/Board Highlights

Havurot/Social Events

Laurie Miller

We've had a quiet summer event-wise. The "restaurant havura" continues to wine and dine at various locations around DC/MD. Looking towards the fall, September itself has holidays and activities nearly every week. So, we are looking to have an in-home Shabbat in October or early November. We have a volunteer hostess and just have to settle on a convenient date. I will publish the event details on the listserv and in the upcoming newsletters.

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)

WITs

Renée Weitzner

The wonderful women of WITs (Wimmin' in Transition) enjoyed a delightful repast at the home of Elaine Dancis. Fine food and great conversation was enjoyed by all. WITs is open to all female members of Machar. We enjoy getting together once a month to support each other, marking each other's joys and successes while noting our trials and tribulations.

On August 28, 2013 at 7 pm, we are meeting at the home of Rose Levine. I hope you will be able to join us. Please let me know that you are coming and what you are bringing by August 26, 2013, so that I am able to let our host know how many people to expect and what our menu will be. I know we will enjoy her

wonderful back yard where we can relax, eat and chat.

I am looking forward to seeing you in August at the home of Rose Levine. You may reach me by phone or by email at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com).

Book Club

Darlene Basch and Renée Weitzner

The Book Club of Machar is happy to announce its selection for our first meeting of the season. We will be meeting at the home of Judith Wiesburg on September 22, 2013 at 3 pm. We will be discussing Isabel Wilkerson's study of the great migration, *The Warmth of Other Suns*. This book has been a New York Times best seller and has been praised by many critics. It focuses on the lives of four people, detailing how and why they made the migration north and what they found when they arrived. At this meeting we will also be discussing which books we would like to read over the course of the year. Please bring your suggestions. We have some ideas of what to read but welcome new ideas.

We hope to see you in September! Please let me know if you are able to come. You may reach me by phone or by email: [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com)

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).

Young Adult Havurah

Liz Pomper

Join our listserv 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 June Board of Directors Highlights

Joyce Rosenthal

- The board voted to do away with paper tickets for High Holidays services, which involve a lot of time and expense on the part of whoever has to print them out, organize, and mail them.
- Instead of paper tickets, both members as well as non-members who purchase tickets will be listed on a checklist and checked off at the door. Those who paid for tickets at the door will get a receipt to show the usher.
- On a related note, the board agreed to keep the current policy of having High Holidays tickets (paper or paperless) be non-transferrable to people not in the same household.

Rabbi Search Report

Michael Prival

The Rabbi Committee is continuing the search for a rabbi or leader. We have expanded our advertising and we are continuing with the process of candidate evaluation. Please let any committee member know if you have any comments or suggestions or if you know anyone who might know someone who might be interested. Word of mouth is usually the best recruiting device. Candidates do not have to be rabbis but they must share our secular humanistic outlook.

I would like to thank Mark Swartz for taking over as chair of this committee. The other committee members are: Darlene Basch, Akiva Liberman, Joy Markowitz, Nadine Wettstein, and me.

JCS News

Debby Brennan

Hopefully everyone is enjoying the summer, finding some time to be with friends and family, and to relax.

This year promises to be an exciting year for JCS. We have some new teachers on board who have many great ideas and activities to share with students. They have had some interesting Jewish experiences which I know they will share with all of our students. And of course we will welcome back our returning teachers.

On July 13th the Machar Dinner Group met at Tia Queta, a restaurant offering authentic Mexican cuisine. Thanks to Roberto Levy and Nancy Harris for organizing the monthly gatherings. All are welcome. Write to Roberto Levy at levy.roberto@yahoo.com to get on the mailing list.

In addition, we plan to bring more music into our classrooms and a special poet in residence. We will also have some acting opportunities for our drama enthusiasts.

Please keep in mind that classes this year will be from 10 until noon. We have planned interesting and fun Community Sunday activities and we will share a calendar of all upcoming events.

Field trips for all students will be announced and we will move forward with a New York trip when Ellis Island reopens after post-Hurricane Sandy repairs.

We are planning new community service opportunities for all of our students for the upcoming year.

Teens—Be sure to let me know if you are interested in participating in our teen program. There is no charge, and teens may be paid or receive community service hours.

Parents—I welcome all suggestions/questions/ideas/volunteers. Feel free to e-mail me any time. Our first day of school is September 8 - See you then!



The Machar Family

Birthdays

July 1: Mei Huang
July 2: Margot Bloch
July 3: Larry Lawrence
July 4: Mildred Goodman
July 7: Richard Gold
July 8: Nadine Bloch
July 9: Binyamin Biber
July 14: Katie Wittenberg
July 29: Alexander Kidwell
July 30: Marc Mauer
August 1: Hank Prensky
August 6: Spencer Fye
August 7: Benjamin Topa
August 11: Jon Desenberg
August 13: Ian Morgan
August 14: Joseph Goodman
August 15: Vanessa Samuels
August 16: Douglas Ratay
August 19: Brenda Platt
August 19: Cassia Block
August 23: Liz Pomper
August 29: Daniel Mauer
August 29: Ellen Rosenthal
August 31: Evan Samuels

Anniversaries

August 3: Joel and Hildie Block
August 7: Dan Tobocman and Debra DeRuyver
August 18: Tom and Tricia Gordon

Yarheits: We remember...

July 3: Morton Seidenstein, father of Roslynn Seidenstein
July 4: Arthur Zwicker, father of Sue Zwicker
July 17: Kenneth Hall, father of Norman Hall
July 26: Ann Weisberg, sister of Jill Grant
August: Ruth Seawell, sister of Richard Kamalich
August 4: Beatrice Basch, mother of Darlene Basch
August 20: Albert David Warshauer, father of Susan Warshauer Kahn

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Machar sends our love and warmest "get well" wishes to members Jules Abrams, Ann Argaman, Millie Goodman, and Pedro Rodriguez.

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!

Kvell – Remember from last newsletter? "When you have naches you kvell."

K' vell

Good things happen and you can bask in them. You're proud, gushing, delighted – you're kvelling.

In particular people kvell about their children and grandchildren – Jews built a lot of self-esteem in the next generation that way

Though next door in the dictionary, it's VERY different from "kvetching" – next month.

—Leo Rosten,
The Joys of Yinglish, 1992

Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

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Jewish Cultural School Director
Debby Brennan

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Laurie Miller
Ester Rozenblum
Mark Swartz
Renee Weitzner

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Ann Black
Joe Goodman
Millie Goodman
Mary Perica
Michael Prival
Henrietta Wexler

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B'nei Mitzvah
Susan Morawetz

Newsletter

Rabbinic
Mark Swartz

Madrikhim
Michael Prival
Deb Godden

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Marlene Cohen
Harriet Peck

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Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service
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Education
Jason Lubin

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David Wittenberg

High Holidays
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Membership Directory
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Mishpahah
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Marlene Cohen

Newsletter Editor
Tricia Gordon

Nominating
Nadine Wettstein

Passover Seder

Rabbi Committee
Mark Swartz

Shelter Staffing
Ann Levin

Social Action
Rick Gold

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
Liz Pomper

SHJ Reps from Machar

Machar Rep to SHJ
Marlene Cohen

SHJ Board of Directors Members
Larry Lawrence (Vice President)
Rick Gold

Machar Trained Leaders

Michael Prival, Madrikh
Deb Godden, Madrikha
Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson

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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!

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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! .