

MACHAR ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUNDAY CALENDAR—FALL 2014

Adult Ed sessions are on select Sundays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
at Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20011

Community Sundays follow at JPDS unless noted; we share details by email, newsletter, and at www.machar.org.
*Sessions are open to all members and first-time visitors. There is parking on 16th Street and in the lot behind the building.
All talks will be in the gymnasium.
(If you have trouble climbing stairs, use the rear entrance.)*

September 14 *Welcoming the New Year - Introductions and Overview*

This first meeting of the year is an opportunity to meet new and old members and to hear about the various activities community membership offers. You are invited to bring along friends or family who are interested in finding out more about Machar.

Community Sunday: Music and Israeli Dancing

September 28 *Michael Prival - The Ideas of Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, Founder of Humanistic Judaism*

Michael Prival, the first Madrikh (leader) of Machar, will again lead us in a discussion of Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, who led our movement for four decades. Rabbi Sherwin Wine saw Humanistic Judaism as the logical next step in the development of Judaism. The purpose, for him, was to embody a positive philosophy based on the culture and history of the Jewish people. We will discuss some of his boldest ideas: believing is better than non-believing; ancient religious texts should be read for original intent rather than reinterpreted for modern life; and only a Judaism that its members actually believe in can survive.

Community Sunday: Short Tashlikh celebration led by Rabbi Nehama and Rock Creek cleanup

October 19 *Jennie Guilfoyle – In the Absence of Immigration Reform*

Ever since the 2012 election, we have heard that major immigration reform is just around the corner. Machar member and immigration attorney Jennie Guilfoyle will talk about what has been happening in the absence of Congressional action on immigration. What has the administration done? What has it not done? Which immigrants has the administration helped? Which has it not?

Community Sunday: Sukkot celebration

October 26 *Rabbi Mindy Portnoy - Theodor Herzl : The Man and the Myth*

An exploration of the personal and political life of Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism; journalist, playwright, man of Budapest, Vienna, Paris; son, husband, and father. This lecture will be based on a variety of biographies which have been written about him, evoking a multitude of fascinating personas. Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Sinai, is a graduate of Yale University, and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She has taught courses about Herzl and is the author of five Jewish children's books and many published sermons, blogs, and essays on a range of topics.

Community Sunday: Intergenerational Oral History Videos

November 16 *Rabbi Nehama Benmosche - A Journey Through the Jewish Movements*

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche, Machar's rabbi since April 2014, has lived in many parts of the Jewish world. She will help us understand the similarities and differences in these streams of Jewish life, using examples from her personal life, including schooling in Conservative Judaism, living in an Orthodox community in college, experiencing Judaism in Israeli culture, rabbinic training in the Reconstructionist movement, and now serving a Humanistic Jewish community.

Community Sunday: Global Day of Jewish Learning/Book sale

November 23

Bennett Muraskin - Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore

Based on his book by the same name, Muraskin reveals the richness of Jewish folklore and its relevance to contemporary issues. He draws on stories from Talmud, Midrash, Hasidic and other sources that reflect values of mutual respect, equality, social justice and questioning authority, with plenty of humor too. Muraskin is the Adult Education Director for the Jewish Cultural School and Society in northern New Jersey, a part of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations. He has authored three books and is a columnist for *Jewish Currents* and *Outlook* (Canada) as well as a contributor to the Society for Humanistic Judaism's publication *Humanistic Judaism*.

Community Sunday: Community Service Activity—Soup and Trail Mix Assembly

December 7

Jocelyn Samuels - The Federal Role in Protecting Civil Rights: Opportunities and Limitations

The executive branch of the federal government enforces numerous laws to protect civil rights, including with regard to voting, police misconduct, equal educational and employment opportunity, and hate crimes. This program will discuss the government's work in these and other areas, addressing both advances in and obstacles to civil rights. Samuels is Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services. Previously, she was Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice and has worked in the public interest community on civil rights issues. She is a former President of Machar.

Community Sunday: International Human Rights Fair

December 14

Hanukkah Party at Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, 20901