



## A High Holiday Thank You!

Machar's moving High Holiday services, led by **Rabbi Nehama Benmosche**, were a wonderful success and a genuine community effort that couldn't happen without the hard work of our dedicated members.

The depth of Machar's talent was on display with the wonderful voices of Machar's choir: **Joy Markowitz, Joanna Pratt, Terry Johnson, Laura Ariovich, David Wittenberg, Joyce Rosenthal** and **Jill Grant**, and under the great direction of **Peter Wolfe**, and Machar's award-winning pianist **Harry Appelman** provided wonderful accompaniment. Machar member **Akiva Liberman** gave a special Yom Kippur talk.

**Kelly Hand**, our Congregational Administrator, provided so much help to keep us going and **Nadine Wettstein** worked diligently coordinating our holiday celebrations.

We had a stimulating post-Rosh Hashanah discussion facilitated by **David Abramson**. **Rose Levine** coordinated our readers for the services: **Michal Freedman, Leah Kaplan, Katie Wittenberg, Michael Zamore, Jack Schwartz, Nadine Bloch, Margot Bloch, Ken Zinn, Deb Godden, Linda Tebelman, Rahel Hanadari, Shawn Rubin, David Godden, and Kara Blank-Gonzalez**.

**Mimi Brody** again organized the children's services. **Debby Brennan**, our Jewish Cultural School Director, gave her enthusiastic encouragement to our students. We had wonderful participation by children and adults alike: **Emmett Z., Henry Z., Alessandro T., and Talia A.** played the shofar; **Sue**

**Zwicker** led the singing; and **Harry Appelman** was again on piano. Our readers and "actors" included **Daisy H., Elie L., Joseph L., Ian R., Maddie L., Rigby Z., Mimi Brody, Karen Roe, Kara Blank-Gonzalez, Hannah F., Peter Kahn, Susan Kahn, Anika G., Ava F., Marco Gonzalez, Oliver K., Paul E., Abby R., Lola R., Lydia S., and Mason S.**

**Barbara Francisco** and **Marc Mauer** brought the refreshments we enjoyed at Rosh Hashanah and **Jill King** helped us prepare the refreshments for the kids.

**Myrna Frank, Howard Dubowitz, Susan Morawetz, Debby Brennan, Larry Lawrence, Amy Kotkin, and Holly and Keith Campbell-Rosen** were all there to greet our guests. **Jason Lubin, Mark Swartz, and Patti Maslinoff** took photos and Newsletter editor **Tricia Gordon** kept us informed of all the holiday details.

Thank you also to our visitors who added so much to our High Holidays: **Edd Doerr** and **Gregg Grisa** for their amazing voices, and **Mr. Robert Benmosche** for his moving Kol Nidre talk.

And for anyone I may have unintentionally omitted—my thanks and appreciation to you.

Finally, I want to thank all of you, the **Machar community**, for coming together to share these services and making everything possible.

**Darlene Basch**  
**Machar President**

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### From the Rabbi

I wanted to let everyone in the community know that I plan to be in the DC metro area in the afternoons after JCS and on Mondays throughout the year. Please consider these my "office hours" and make an appointment to see me if you'd like to get together to talk about Machar or anything else!

Also, if you use Facebook, please friend Machar and me on Facebook so you don't miss out on events that we plan.

Thanks, **Nehama**

# Scenes from Machar



Above: teens Areya, Heather, and Margot help Rabbi Nehama and Norm Hall build the sukkah.

Right: in the sukkah at Oct 19 2014 Sukkot celebration.

Below: a Machar group photo, taken October 26.



## Join us for an Autumn Shabbat Celebration

Led by Rabbi Nehama Benmosche  
with Pianist Harry Appelman and Percussionist Jon Seligman\*

Friday, November 21 at Cedar Lane UU Church  
9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda MD 20814

*\*Music for our Shabbat Celebration is supported in part by a Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Initiative for Congregational Education grant.*

**Our celebration includes three components. We offer two Shabbat gatherings, and invite you to attend one or both. We hope to see everyone at the dinner!**

6 p.m. Family Gathering: Join us as a family as we explore some Shabbat songs and talk about being thankful as we look ahead to Thanksgiving. We will have appetizers and snacks available in the lounge at 6 and will head into the chapel at 6:15 p.m.

6:45 p.m. Community Dinner: Machar will provide a delicious meal from Yekta in Cedar Lane's lounge. We ask you to help with the "extras" (snacks and appetizers if you are arriving by 6 and drinks or dessert if you are arriving at dinner time). Our dinner will also feature a Humanist Shabbat table ritual that families can easily replicate at home.

7:45 p.m. Gratefulness Gathering: This Gathering in the chapel is aimed primarily at an adult audience and will feature Shabbat music and readings and a discussion of what it means to be thankful and grateful from a humanistic perspective. We welcome kids and teens who wish to attend, but will also have some games available in the lounge for those who wish to socialize while their parents are in the chapel. Please specify when you register the names and ages of children you wish to stay in the lounge area so we can assess child care needs.



photo: Scott Robinson on Flickr

**Registration will close at 11 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18.** Due to the space limitations of the Cedar Lane lounge, we may have to close registration early—so register now at [www.machar.org](http://www.machar.org)!

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## SAVE THE DATE: January 11, 2015

All of Machar is invited to attend a tour of the National Museum of Jewish History in Philadelphia, Pa. Our tour begins at 10 AM, but admission is valid for the full day. Special group ticket rates will be: \$16 for adults; \$15 for youths 3-21; and \$11 for children under 13. We'll create a registration page soon and will need to give the museum our final numbers by December 28. Stay tuned for details about transportation, lunch, and overnight options.

All classes have been busy with the Fall holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. Our students have had the chance to try blowing a shofar and shaking a lulav.

Our students are now busy learning Hebrew letters and vowels, and they are studying Jewish history, the Bible, secular Humanistic values, Jewish literature, and life cycle events.

**TOT PARENTS:** Lisa Hamilton, one of our teachers, with the help of some of our teens, will now be running a 60-90 minute program for all tots. The program will typically be an arts and crafts project and a story time, and may include music and games.

## IN OUR CLASSES:

**Kindergarten/First Grade:** We learned about the Jewish life cycle, which tied in perfectly with the visiting adults who joined us for Machar's inter-generational program. We started off by playing Simon Says in Hebrew and English. We listened to "The Circle of Life" from The Lion King and brainstormed what "the circle of life" means (one student suggested taking care of the planet and animals). We discussed how certain events happen in our lives that also happened to our parents and grandparents, and will happen to future generations as well. The students went on a scavenger hunt to find pictures that I had hidden around the classroom of different "life cycle" events. Students explained what event they had found and we tried to put them in order although we acknowledged that every individual is different. Next we tried to divide the events into "Jewish" and "secular" events. The kids sometimes disagreed or said that the event could be both and they all provided explanations for their viewpoints (i.e. a wedding or other commitment could be a Jewish event but it isn't always). I was really impressed by their critical thinking and communication skills! In

our discussion, some kids expressed that they couldn't remember if they had a Hebrew name or what their family history/ancestry was, so some of them may have asked you about that. Next, the kids drew a life cycle event that they want to happen in their future. Finally we made a list of questions to ask our inter-generational visitors later (a couple of themes that came up were relating being Jewish to other choices that we make in our life in terms of helping the environment or other people, and the idea that we can always try new things no matter how old we are). We also spent time eating a small snack and playing outside! :)

Next time we will start reading a book called "Israel: a Scavenger Hunt" and we will explore Jewish Secular-Humanistic perspectives on Thanksgiving.

I plan on having our class participate in Machar's Hanukkah party which is on Sunday December 14th (in Silver Spring). I know a lot of your children play instruments and like to perform so I think the class would enjoy performing in a brief Channukah play. I will provide you and the kids with more details to follow, but please let me know if you are available SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.

—Rachel

**Second Grade:** This week we discussed the compliment to Tzedakah, Chesed. Chesed means loving kindness. The kids went into detail concerning acts of loving kindness and how it relates to our Jewish sense of Community and Togetherness.

We also learned the Hebrew letters Tav and Bet. All of the boys are becoming more at ease with their Hebrew book. It can even be hard for them to not go into the next lesson!

Additionally we reviewed both Sukkot, Simchat Torah and read about the origins of religion and the Bible. This set them up well for our last portion of the

day where we asked some of the adults in the congregation questions about their sense of Jewishness. The boys really seemed to enjoy this intergenerational learning and were praised for their thoughtful questions by the attendees.

—Jessica

**Third Grade:** This week, we began with our weekly studies of the Hebrew language. The students are really beginning to master the Hebrew letters and vowel sounds we have learned thus far. Next, we continued writing our creation myth. The students have decided to collaboratively write one creation story as a class. It is coming along very nicely! Finally, we explored the importance of learning from other generations with an engaging dialogue between our students and adult community members.

For our next session, Sunday, November 16th, we will continue practicing the Hebrew letters, words, and vowels we have learned thus far and learning new letters, words, and vowel sounds. Next we will finish writing our creation myth and share them with the class. And finally, we will explore the Humanistic value of Standing Up for Your Beliefs (even if it makes you unpopular) and engage in an activity to that end.

—Joshua

**Fourth Grade:** This week, students continued working in their Hebrew books, learning more letters and vowels. We also learned a new Yiddish word "mishpacha." We also learned how to say "Happy Birthday" in Hebrew in honor of the Rabbi's birthday. We learned about what life was like for the Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe in the mid- to late 1800s and early 1900s, and why these conditions pushed many Jews to move to the United States. We then continued our reading of Letters from Rifka. We discussed how Torah stories can provide ethical questions and lessons. We read the story of Cain and Abel, and discussed questions it posed such as

## JCS News (continued)

what it means to feel jealous, what triggers jealous emotions, and how to deal with situations in which these feelings arise. I encourage you to continue this discussion at home, as it was something that the students seemed to really enjoy and was unfortunately cut short by a visit from some guest speakers! Our speakers were adult members of MACHAR whom the students interviewed about what it was like for them to grow up Jewish. Some of the questions the students thought of to ask were:

- Do you have any Jewish special family traditions?
- What is your favorite Jewish food?
- How Jewish was the community you grew up in?
- Did you attend Sunday school/Hebrew school?
- What is the best part of being Jewish?
- Did you ever struggle with being Jewish or with the negative history the Jews have experienced? [this question was inspired by our history lesson earlier in the day]

I hope these questions will serve as a good jumping off point for you and your student to explore your own family history. Next class, we will continue with our Hebrew lessons, read more biblical stories (I believe "Towel of Babel" and "Jonah and the Whale" are next). We will also continue reading Letters from Rifka and learning more about how Jewish history has shaped what Judaism is today.

—Lisa

**Fifth Grade:** In this week's class, each student received an outline of their name in Hebrew on card stock and they spent some time coloring in the letters. Students learned an additional letter in their Hebrew language workbooks, the letter "lamud," and practiced reading the letters they have learned so far along with vowels. For a history lesson, the class read about Jews in the Middle

Ages, covering the age of Gaonim. During the community celebration, the class participated in an intergenerational learning exercise. The questions from the fifth graders were as follows: Have you ever been to Israel? What was it like? What is your favorite Jewish food, how is it different from other foods you like? What does Shabbat mean to you and do you have any Shabbat traditions? What do you want for Hannukkah? Several MACHAR members visited the fifth grade classroom and answered the questions. There was an engaging discussion and the fifth graders were grateful that their guests took the time to visit the classroom.

—Aviva

### Sixth/Seventh Grade:

Our class made up questions to ask our community members for the group activity and discussed the importance of oral tradition.

-We read some old Jewish fables about the importance of tradition and discussed some of the rituals that mean a lot to us. Some students gave excellent examples of certain foods they connect to holidays.

- For review we went over the six letters in our workbook and practiced each writing them on the board

- We talked about words that start with that particular letter, for example Shin and Shabbat
- We learned about Jewish people deal with death and how life is meant to continue, for example if a wedding is scheduled, even if someone recently passed away, the celebration is still supposed to go on
- We reviewed what it means to be a Humanistic Jew
- Started going over world religions (we only had time for Christianity next week we will review Islam and Buddhism)

Homework for this week is the next 3 letters in their hebrew workbook and to bring something in for show-and-tell that represents something they think is important to their personal tradition. I gave the example of maybe a family picture that means a lot to them, a recipe they baked with a relative that they hoped to pass down, etc...

\*\*\*If it possible for your child to come to school 20 minutes early on 11/16 it would be appreciated. As a class we are going to help Oliver sell some baked goods so we can give the proceeds to charity. This will be an easy way to have some class bonding and our first mini fundraising Mitzvah project\*\*\*

—Stefanie



## Pajama Drive

Machar will be participating in the Sweet Dreams Children's Pajama Drive from November 9 to December 14 for children ages 0-17 (most are from 0-13) living in DC General Homeless Shelter. Please bring brand new pajamas to one of our next three JCS/Adult Ed sessions at JPDS (November 16 and 23 and December 7) or bring them to our Hanukkah party at Schweinhaut Senior Center on December 14. You may also bring pajamas to our Shabbat Celebration on Friday, November 21 at Cedar Lane.

JCS students are invited to wear pajamas to JCS on Sunday, December 7. On that day, we will be celebrating International Human Rights Day, so it's a good opportunity to remember that the right to clothing and shelter are basic human rights.

## Highlights from the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) Board of Directors meeting, Farmington Hills, Michigan, October 24–26, 2014

*Provided by Machar representative to SHJ Board of Directors, Marlene Cohen*

Machar is also represented by our At-Large members Larry Lawrence and Rick Gold.

The Board of Directors of the SHJ represents our 30 communities in the US and Canada. Machar is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest community with 107 family members; there are 1654 total SHJ family members

As Macharniks who know and love Larry Lawrence will expect, Larry ran a board meeting that did herd the cats of our large board through a productive and harmonious weekend. Larry is the 2014-15 President of the Society of Humanistic Judaism whose board of directors meets each October and April, representing all communities and members at-large in the US and Canada. The job is demanding; Larry makes Machar look good by doing it so well.

SHJ membership and retention of members are the major focus of our current work. As is true for Machar, our communities overall attract about a 4% increase in new members each year, but then lose 4-5% annually. That means no growth in the movement. To that end, the board passed the Community Revitalization Program to do more to support communities working to grow. Rabbi Miriam Jerris, the Rabbi of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, is focusing her efforts on member retention as well as helping those who contact her to develop new communities.

**Around North America currently people are trying to start SHJ communities. Please check this list** and let Marlene or Larry know if you'd like to link your friends or family in those locations to the contacts who are starting new groups: Ottawa, Ontario; Indianapolis IN; Orlando FL; Madison WI; Kansas City MO; Southern New Jersey; Albany

NY; San Mateo CA; Dallas and Houston TX; Tampa FL and London, Ontario. Tucson AZ will begin to affiliate and Orange County CA has disbanded. The improved SHJ website has increased this traffic AND brought more hits to the Machar website as well.

Nora Ephron is the Humanist Role Model for 2014–15; Carl Sagan will be designated for 2015–16. (We in Machar should consider having a program focusing on the role model of each year, as we did Maurice Sendak last year.)

The Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) presented the 2014 Sherwin T. Wine Lifetime Achievement Award to Ruth Duskin Feldman of Highland Park, IL. She has been the creative editor of the journal *Humanistic Judaism* for over 30 years.

The board passed the following resolution, Society for Humanistic Judaism urges calm and reasoned responses in dealing with communicable diseases. It speaks to our responsibility to work against stigmatization of peoples facing diseases and to fund adequately medical research.

### Online Publications And Videos

We hope you are enjoying the SHJ-provided publications in your email, saving the cost and use of paper mailings and allowing us to be more timely in our content.

*Kesher* newsletter, which you have received seven times in the past year, is divided into 3 main sections: 1) Community activities, 2) Links related to SHJ movement activities, and 3) News including Humanistic Judaism or of interest to Humanistic Jews.

The journal *Humanistic Judaism* is a twice-yearly publication which will continue to be available to members in print

and also now will be provided on line at the SHJ website.

Discover new video clips and blog articles on secular humanistic Judaism:

- SHJ You Tube files, including two parts of a Rabbi Miriam Jerris interview in Minnesota this fall
- SHJ would love to post on its website YOUR family story of being secular, humanistic and Jewish. Let Marlene know if you'd like to participate.
- Rabbi Adam Chalom, Dean of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, blogs at <http://hjrabi.wordpress.com>
- Rabbi Jeff Falick of the Birmingham Temple blogs at the Atheist Rabbi
- Rabbinical candidate Jeremy Kridel blogs at [sjewindy.wordpress.com](http://sjewindy.wordpress.com)

Thank you again for allowing me to represent Machar at the Society for Humanistic Judaism board. It is my pleasure to do so.

It was brought to the attention of the Education Committee of the SHJ Board, at their meeting October 24–26, 2014 in Michigan, that Time magazine was publishing an education article with a magazine cover saying "Rotten Apples" about teachers (November 3). There has been a widespread effort to ask people to sign a petition protesting that cover. The cover is particularly disappointing because the articles inside the magazine present a much more balanced view of the issue. But for millions of Americans, all they'll see is the cover and a misleading attack on teachers.

Please go to [http://action.aft.org/c/44/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=9270&sp\\_ref=69375483.191.9876.e.38283.3&tag=email](http://action.aft.org/c/44/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=9270&sp_ref=69375483.191.9876.e.38283.3&tag=email) and add your name if you agree.

—Marlene Cohen, Chair, Education Committee, SHJ Board of Directors

# Adult Education and Community Sundays

**Sundays 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** Sessions are open to all. There is parking on 16th Street and in the back. All sessions are held in the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20012

## **November 16**

### **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: 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**

## **A Thank You from Manna Food Center**

Thank you and your congregation for the recent donation of 340 pounds of food on October 3, 2014. This year, Manna Food Center received a total of 31,362 pounds of food from the Yom Kippur food drives. The collection from Yom Kippur helps to restock our shelves at a time when Manna is preparing for a season of increased need. Through your generosity, Manna Food Center is better able to continue its mission to eliminate hunger in Montgomery County through food distribution, education, and advocacy.

*Excerpt from thank you letter from Jacqueline DeCarlo, Executive Director, Manna Food Center*

# Clubs and Activities

## WITs

*Renée Weitzner*

The wonderful women of WITs, the support group for women in Machar, met for dinner at the home of Katie Wittenberg in October, 2014. While the group was small, the group liked the intimacy of that discussion.

On November 19, 2014 at 7 pm, WITs will meet at the home of Darlene Basch. Please let me know by November 17, 2014 that you are coming and what you are bringing for our repast so that I may let our host know our menu. You may reach me at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com) or by phone.

Thank you, Katie, for helping out with logistics in October. Your efforts were much appreciated. I look forward to seeing many of you in November. (And remember our holiday get together in December!)

## Book Club

*Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch*

The Book Club will be discussing the next three chapters of Rabbi Sherwin Wine's book, *A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews*, at the home of Elizabeth Hodes on December 7, 2014 at 3 pm. Please let Renée Weitzner ([rwcats \[at\] aol.com](mailto:rwcats[at]aol.com)) know that you are coming by December 5, 2014 so that she

can let the host know how many people to expect.

## Young Adult Havurah

*Danielle Leff (non-members welcome)*

The Machar YAH will join Machar's Shabbat dinner and service on November 21, and then go out for drinks afterwards. For details, see the YAH Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah](http://www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah).

## 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).

## Social Action Committee

*Peter Kahn*

The Social Action Committee of Machar will hold its first meeting of the year on

Sunday, November 16, at 5 in the afternoon. If you have an interest in social issues, in policy or politics, and would like to help create better outcomes, come join us!

What is the Social Action Committee? To quote from the Machar website:

We work for progressive social change to bring about the healing and transformation of the world—*tikkun olam*. . . . Each year, we focus on a selected number of issues that reflect our values and on which our members can take action. We believe that through these activities we can live our humanistic philosophy and express our Jewish ethical perspective and identity. We approach these issues through a combination of partnering with other organizations, structured advocacy, education of our membership, and participation in rallies and other events.

We hope to begin to organize our activities for the 2014-2015 year. We'll be discussing what issues we should focus on for the year ahead, and how we might best make a difference on those issues.

So come join us if you can and if you are interested. Please let me know in advance ([Kahnpl \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:Kahnpl[at]gmail.com)) if you're thinking of coming, and I'll pass along details and answer any questions. We hope to see you there!

## Whaddaya Talkin'?

*Marlene Cohen*

As the holiday eating season begins, let's all practice using the term, "**bissel**" or "**bisl**" when offered a heaping spoonful of something delicious. It means "a little," "a bit." So you don't say no when someone worked in the kitchen so long...

I fondly recall the book, "How to be a Jewish Mother" from 1964 illustrated the timing of actions to accompany the question, "Would you like some more soup?" By the time the word "soup" is spoken, the mama's ladle should have filled and left the bowl to go back to the soup tureen, or the pot. So saying "a bissel" might not get you a smaller portion, but give it a try.

*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!*

# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

November 2: Harriet Peck  
November 2: Alison Barnes  
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 10: Myrna Frank  
November 11: Brian Pujanauski  
November 13: Rose Levine  
November 13: Avi Weiss  
November 17: Kara Blank-Gonzalez  
November 17: Sarah Kirkell  
November 18: Carla Kopell  
November 19: Jay Sorenson  
November 21: Charles Franklin  
November 22: Jill Grant  
November 23: Allie Liberman  
November 26: Kathy Hudson  
November 27: Jacob Hudson  
November 27: Cole Kirkell  
November 30: Eileen Heaps

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](http://moderntribe.com) or [tradition-sjewishgifts.com](http://tradition-sjewishgifts.com).

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

## Anniversaries

November 3: Laurie Miller and Ahmed Al-Hujazi  
November 5: Carole and Stephen Leblanc  
November 25: Joyce and Greg Rosenthal  
November 27: Polina and Lev Tomashevsky

## Yarhzeits: We remember...

November 3: Pedro Rodriguez, father of Pedro Rodriguez  
November 16: Arthur H. Cohen, father of Marlene Cohen  
November 18: Meyer Weisberg, father of Judith Weisberg  
November 19: Harriet Hall, mother of Norman Hall  
November: Anita Dubowitz, mother of Howard Dubowitz

I'd like us to recall and honor for a moment an inspiring man and former Machar member, Rick Piltz, who was a courageous whistleblower in the Bush Administration. He went to the New York Times with evidence of crossed-out sections of his climate reports, showing that the Bush Administration changed the reports to increase doubt of climate change and to diminish the impression of the immediate risk. After he quit his job as senior associate in a White House group that coordinated climate research among a dozen agencies, he went on to launch an advocacy group called Climate Science Watch.



Piltz was honored with the Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling by the Fertel Foundation and the Nation Institute (affiliated with the Nation magazine). He shared his knowledge of climate change with Machar Adult Education and in Jewish Culture School classrooms and garnered much admiration.

He is survived by his wife Karen Metchis and daughter Shayne Piltz. He died last week at age 71.

—Marlene Cohen

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Machar is so fortunate to have a community of people willing to share their expertise. Three of our members are therapists or social workers and are willing to be contacted by any members who may need someone to talk to about any personal trauma or other issues that come up. These volunteers will plan to have an initial discussion with the member and/or family, to listen and to help direct them to more support or services in the area. Please contact Renee Weitzner, [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com), for information. All discussions are entirely confidential.

# Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

## Staff

Rabbi  
Nehama Benmosche

Congregational Administrator  
Kelly Hand

Jewish Cultural School Director  
Debby Brennan

## Board of Directors

President  
Darlene Basch

Treasurer  
Miriam Gitler

Secretary  
Holly Campbell-Rosen

Past President  
Nadine Wettstein

At-Large  
Norm Hall  
Rahel Hanadari  
Peter Kahn  
Danielle Leff  
Laurie Miller  
Joyce Rosenthal  
Mark Swartz  
Renee Weitzner

Honorary Directors  
Jules Abrams  
Harold Black (*deceased*)  
Ann Black  
Joe Goodman  
Millie Goodman  
Mary Perica  
Michael Prival  
Henrietta Wexler

## Board Liaisons

B'nei Mitzvah  
Susan Morawetz  
Holly Campbell-Rosen

### Newsletter

Rabbinic  
Mark Swartz

Madrikhim  
Michael Prival  
Deb Godden

## Machar Committee Chairs

Adult Ed  
David Abramson  
Myrna Frank

Communications  
Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service  
Barbara Francisco

Education

Email Lists Manager  
Michael Prival

Fundraising  
Karen Roe

High Holidays  
Nadine Wettstein

Liturgy

Membership  
Darlene Basch

Membership Directory  
Miriam Gitler

Mishpahah  
Renée Weitzner

New Members  
Marlene Cohen

Newsletter Editor  
Tricia Gordon

Nominating  
Nadine Wettstein

### Passover Seder

Rabbi Committee  
Mark Swartz

Shelter Staffing  
Ann Levin

Social Action  
Peter Kahn

Sunday Refreshments  
Ami Argaman

## Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club  
Darlene Basch  
Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot  
Donna Copeland

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)  
Renée Weitzner

Young Adult Havurah  
Danielle Leff

## 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

# Join the HuJews community for Conclave 2015!

**When:  
Friday thru Sunday,  
March 20-22, 2015**

**Why?  
To make new friends!**

**Where: Butzel  
Conference Center in  
Ortonville, Michigan**



**To discuss new ideas!**

**To explore a new place!**

**To participate in  
community service!**

**To have a  
weekend of fun!**

**Registration &  
Scholarship  
Information  
coming soon**

Questions?  
Contact Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld  
at [rabbijodi@gmail.com](mailto:rabbijodi@gmail.com)  
or the Society for Humanistic Judaism  
at [hujews@shj.org](mailto:hujews@shj.org), 248-478-7610

# Columbia Jewish Congregation's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jewish Film Series!

5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045 ★ 410-730-6044 ★ www.columbiajewish.org

Four evenings of thought-provoking, varied, entertaining films, including refreshments & optional discussion

**Showings:** Saturdays, 8:00pm, Room 200, The Meeting House in Oakland Mills, Columbia, MD 21045  
\$32 for 4-film series, \$27 for 3-film series, \$19 for 2-film series. (\$10.00 for single ticket: Sold at door only)  
(Choice of films is yours and you need not choose in advance.)

**TICKET SALES WILL BEGIN AND DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7:30pm**

*(If a movie is cancelled because of snow, that movie will be shown at the end of the season – May or early June. Date will be announced later, if needed.)*

Each of the films being presented has been shown, or will be shown, at multiple Jewish film festivals around the country.

All films are subject to change based upon availability.

**January 17, 2015**

## ***The Gatekeepers***

2013 – Israel – Hebrew with English subtitles – 101 min. Charged with overseeing Israel's war on terror - both Palestinian and Jewish – the heads of the Shin Bet, Israel's secret service, are present at the crossroads of every decision made. For the first time, six former heads of the agency agreed to share their insights and reflect on their actions.

**February 28, 2015**

## ***Cupcakes***

2013 – Israel – Hebrew with English subtitles – 100 min. When a group of best friends in Tel Aviv gather to watch Unversong, they are not impressed by the official Israeli entry. Believing they can do better, they spontaneously create and record their own song on a mobile phone. Unknown to them, their performance is seen by the judges, and they are reluctantly thrown into the spotlight as Israel's next official entry. A journey with hilarious results brings them to the final contest.

**March 28, 2015**

## ***The Other Son***

2012 – French with English subtitles – 105 min. A moving, provocative tale of two young men - one Israeli, the other Palestinian – who discover they were accidentally switched at birth, and the complex repercussions facing them and their respective families.

**April 25, 2015**

## ***100 Voices: A Journey Home***

2012 – USA – English – 91 min. One hundred cantors from around the world come together for concerts at the Warsaw Opera House and the Nozyk Synagogue to remember and celebrate the past and present Jewish culture in Poland.

Have any questions? Call (410) 997-0694, Tom Laufer. **Preferred closing signup: December 10, 2014**

Please return this form by **December 10, 2014** together with your check (made payable to CJC)

### **AND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

to: CJC Jewish Film Series, c/o B. Belin, 10365 Blue Arrow Ct., Columbia, MD 21044

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Series: Full \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Film \_\_\_\_\_ 2-Film \_\_\_\_\_ Subscriber: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Where/how did you learn about our series? \_\_\_\_\_



Machar...  
committed to social justice!

*Hank Prenskey*  
Real Estate Agent

Nobody knows Takoma Park & Silver Spring better than Hank!

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(C) 301.585.2255 Hank@TakomaHomes.com  
(O) 240.497.1700 www.TakomaHomes.com

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 oc-

cur between printed newsletters. Almost 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! .