

MACHAR ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUNDAY CALENDAR—SPRING 2016

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; for details, see emails, newsletter, and 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.)

January 10 *Jeremy Ben-Ami – Who Speaks for American Jews on Issues about Israel?*

Who speaks for the American Jewish community when it comes to Israel in national politics and in Washington DC? Can you be pro-Israel and disagree with the policies of Israel's government? Is open debate and dissent within the community over Israel good for Jews? J Street, a relatively new organization, has entered the American conversation on Israel that was previously dominated by AIPAC. Join us for a conversation with J Street's founder and President, Jeremy Ben-Ami. Jeremy lives in Chevy Chase and he and his family are members of Temple Sinai.

January 24 *Larry Rubin - From Mississippi to Jerusalem*

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Larry Rubin will apply the lessons of the civil rights movement to the struggles in the U.S. today and will apply the goals of the civil rights movement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Former Machar member and JCS Sunday school director, Larry Rubin, was a voter rights organizer in the deep South in the 1960s, and devoted most of his career to work in the U.S. labor movement.

Community Sunday: Tu b'Shevat celebration

February 7 *Barry Lynn – Separation Anxiety: Are We Really Winning the Struggle to Preserve Separation of Church and State?*

The battle to guarantee real religious freedom, which requires a strict separation between institutions of government and religion, has resolved some controversies. But partisan politicking by religious organizations, taxpayer funded religious ministries and missions, religious claims seeking to trump civil rights laws and public duties, and Presidential campaigning that often treats the role of President as a national preacher continue to challenge that separation. In honor of Darwin day, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State Barry Lynn will discuss these issues, as well as the role “millennials” can play.

February 21 *Ari Roth - The Voice behind the “Voices from a Changing Middle East” Theater Festival*

Ari Roth is the Founding Artistic Director of the Mosaic Theater Company of DC at Atlas Performing Arts Center. The abrupt end of his tenure at Theater J in December 2014 led to his founding this new DC company. He will discuss his commitment to theater's role in peace and reconciliation, and talk of the personal costs of the Arab-Israeli conflict and of the wars in South Sudan impinging on the lives of many, including those of us in the American Jewish community.

Community Sunday: Community Service/Good Deeds Day

March 6 *Mary Alexander - Eco-peace in the Middle East: Share the Water, Build the Peace*

EcoPeace Middle East is an organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists to promote cooperative efforts to protect their shared environmental heritage. EcoPeace U.S. representative and International Advisory Committee Chair Mary Alexander will discuss how this organization is working to advance both sustainable regional development and the conditions necessary for lasting peace in the region. EcoPeace has offices in Amman, Bethlehem, and Tel Aviv.

April 3 *Rabbi Frank Tamburello –The Hidden Jews of Southern Italy*

Rabbi Tamburello is a secular humanistic rabbi who serves in New York City and Westchester NY. He will share his own family story of rediscovery as well as the film *The Secret Jews of Calabria* produced by Rabbi Barbara Aiello. The presentation will teach us about the Sephardic Anusim, whose coerced conversions to Christianity in the 15th century masked their Jewish ancestry to their descendants. Recent Internet connections have led many families to their Jewish roots

Community Sunday: Acknowledging Yom Ha Shoah and other genocides

April 17

Annual Membership Meeting

Community Sunday: Israeli Education Day to acknowledge Yom Haatzma'ut

May 1 *Krista Hegburg – “Unknown Holocaust”: Roma and Survivor Testimony*

In her talk, Krista Hegburg will discuss how Romani Holocaust survivors have testified to their persecution in war crimes trials, reparations claims, and traditional song, and how their accounts challenge our conventional understanding of the dynamics of testimony and witness. Dr. Hegburg is a program officer and staff scholar in the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Dr. Hegburg has taught at Rutgers University and the University of Lower Silesia, and holds a Ph.D in anthropology from Columbia University.

Community Sunday: Labor Rights/May Day

May 15 *Rabbi Nehama Benmosche - Wonder, Humor and Inspiration: The Sunday Assembly Movement*

Rabbi Nehama will lead a discussion about Sunday Assembly, a quickly growing secular and inclusive movement founded by two comedians in 2013. Might Sunday Assembly appeal to secular Humanistic Jews like ourselves? Should Machar connect with this new community in DC? As we continue to imagine our community in the post-Sherwin Wine era, and as our leadership considers new models for synagogue affiliation and member retention, let us open our minds to what we can learn from other groups who seem to be thriving.

Community Sunday: End-of-year picnic at Rock Creek Park picnic shelter #24