

MACHAR ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUNDAY CALENDAR—FALL 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; 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 unless otherwise noted.
(Please use rear entrance if you have trouble climbing stairs.)*

September 11 *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. Please bring friends or family who are interested in finding out more about Machar.

Community Sunday: Remembrance of 9/11 followed by a social hour

September 25 *Bruce Spiva – Voting Rights Litigation in an Election Year*

Machar member Bruce Spiva will speak about developments in election law, including lawsuits challenging states' use of voting regulations and redistricting to disenfranchise minorities and youth, among others. He will also address DC's lack of voting representation. A partner in the political law group at Perkins Cole LLP, Bruce has tried five voting rights cases in the past year. As chair of DCVote, Bruce testified before the U.S. Congress for the proposed D.C. Voting Rights Act.

Community Sunday: Rosh Hashanah observation

October 9 *Muhammad Syed - A Constructive Approach to Talking About Political Islam*

Muhammad will be speaking about the need to apply positive pressure on religious ideals to promote reform, and how misplaced efforts to combat anti-Muslim bigotry often eliminate the space for religious criticism. He'll also discuss the need to honestly evaluate Islamic history. Muhammad Syed is the founder and president of Ex-Muslims of North-America (EXMNA), the first Ex-Muslim advocacy and community building organization in North America.

October 23 *Deborah Epstein - The Evolving State Response to Domestic Violence*

Machar member Deborah Epstein will discuss the evolution of state responses to domestic violence, including the legal history that shapes contemporary policy, recent reforms, and remaining challenges. Deborah has been Director of the Georgetown Law Domestic Violence Clinic for over 20 years and advocated for survivors of domestic violence. Her latest book in the field is *Listening to Battered Women: A Survivor-Centered Approach to Advocacy, Mental Health, and Justice*.

Community Sunday: Celebrate Sukkot

November 6 *Nehama Benmosche - Dying and Mourning in Secular Humanistic Judaisms*

In the last year, our members have lost a parent, grandparent or a sibling. Our rabbi, Nehama Benmosche, will provide a survey of SHJ communities and their rituals for dying and mourning. She will also provide an outline for preparing for end of life for yourself or a loved one as a member of Machar.

November 20

Michael Atwood Mason - Cultural Revitalization and Creativity

Communities large and small periodically find themselves in need of renewal and reorientation. Drawing on examples from Cuba, Bhutan, Kenya, and elsewhere, Michael Mason will discuss how communities identify and place value on cultural assets and then document, preserve, protect, and transform them through acts of creativity. Dr. Mason is an American folklorist and Director of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. His research and programs focus on how people use their cultural heritage to address contemporary challenges and transform their lives.

December 4

Ariel Sabar - Paradise Lost and Found: A Jewish Kid's Search for Roots and Reconciliation in Kurdish Iraq

Ariel Sabar will talk about his travels to wartime Iraq in search of his roots, his quest for reconciliation and his father's improbable life story. Ariel won the National Book Critics Circle Award for his debut book, *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq* (2008). He is also an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in the New York Times Magazine, The Atlantic, The Washington Post, et al. See <http://www.arielsabar.com/bio-1.html>.