

## MACHAR ADULT EDUCATION CALENDAR—SPRING 2017

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

Details shared by email, newsletter, and at [www.machar.org](http://www.machar.org).

*Sessions are open to all members and first-time visitors. There is parking on 16<sup>th</sup> 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.)*

### **January 22**

#### ***Marc Mauer – Why Does Newt Gingrich Support Criminal Justice Reform?***

Machar member Marc Mauer will discuss the politics and policies that produced mass incarceration in the United States, which holds the leading position globally in imprisonment. He will also assess growing bipartisan support for criminal justice reform, including sentencing reform and racial justice. Executive Director of The Sentencing Project and author of *Race to Incarcerate* and many other publications, Marc has frequently testified before Congress on criminal justice policy.

### **February 5**

#### ***Ester Rozenblum and Alberto Grosmark – Argentina's Jewish Community under Democracy and Dictatorship***

From "Los Gauchos Judios" (Jewish cowboys) to its Yiddish-accented urban middle class, Argentina's Jewish community is Latin America's largest. Machar members and Argentina natives Ester Rozenblum and Alberto Grosmark will discuss this diverse community's history of adapting to the country's cycles of democratic governments and military dictatorships, including its ambivalence toward popular socialist leader Juan Peron.

### **February 26**

#### ***Avner Gvaryahu – Israeli Soldiers Talking about the Occupied Territories***

Avner Gvaryahu is Director of Public Outreach for Breaking the Silence, an organization of Israeli military veterans created after the start of the Second Intifada. He will discuss the organization's aims to publicize and stimulate debate about the reality of military-civilian tension in the Occupied Territories. Avner joined Breaking the Silence after serving in an Israeli army special forces unit and is now pursuing his M.A. at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

### **March 26**

#### ***Jeremy Kridel – The Bread of Affliction: Inclusion at the Seder Table***

Beginning with the idea of applying the Haggadah's opening inclusive Passover message to other areas of our lives, International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism rabbinical student Jeremy Kridel will lead a discussion of our obligations as Humanistic Jews to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate in our communities as equals. Co-editor of "Humanistic Judaism," Kridel is an attorney with the Indiana Court of Appeals and teaches at the IU Kelley School of Business in Indianapolis. He is also the parent of a pre-teen diagnosed with autism.

Jeremy will be introduced by Paul Golin, executive director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, of which Machar is a member. Paul will briefly speak about the state of the SHJ movement and where we're headed.

**April 9**      ***Jack Schwartz – "Not Only Merely Dead, She's Really Most Sincerely Dead": The Unsettled Definition of Death.***

Machar Board member Jack Schwartz will discuss the boundary between life and death according to Judaism and other traditions. He will also talk about increasing societal resistance to the expert consensus, enacted into law, that death includes "brain death." Jack, a lawyer and bioethicist, spent most of his career in the Maryland Attorney General's Office, currently teaches at the University of Maryland's Carey School of Law, works as a clinical ethicist, and is a member of several ethics committees.

**April 23**      ***Machar Annual Community Meeting***

**May 7**      ***Will Recant – The Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Jewish Response***

The Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief was established in the early 1990s and has responded to more than two dozen global emergencies and crises. Assistant Vice President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Chair of the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, Will Recant, will talk about this coalition of 20 Jewish organizations' allocation of over \$2 million to myriad programs to assist Syrian refugees during their hour of greatest need. Recant holds a Ph.D in Political Science from George Washington University.

**May 21**      ***Sue Popkin – No Simple Solutions: Lessons from 30 Years of Studying Public Housing in Chicago***

Long-time Machar member Sue Popkin will discuss her new book, "No Simple Solutions." Sue is a Senior Fellow at The Urban Institute and is an expert on public housing and how neighborhood environments affect outcomes for children and youth.

**June 4**      ***Machar at 40: A Facilitated Conversation about the Future of our Community***