

## MACHAR ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUNDAY CALENDAR—SPRING 2018

Adult Education sessions are on select Sundays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

### At New Location:

**Milton School South (formerly Jewish Primary Day School South) 4715 16th St. NW, DC 20011**

**We share details 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 on all other streets nearby. The small parking lot off Decatur Street is for those with limited mobility only.*

*All talks will be in the main room on the first floor.*

### **January 28**      *Sarah Beller – The Global Refugee Crisis through a Jewish Lens*

Sarah Beller, HIAS's community engagement director for greater Washington, will discuss the refugee crisis and how Jewish values and history call on us to respond. She will also discuss what we can do to support refugees and asylum seekers. HIAS is the 136-year-old refugee organization of the Jewish community, working globally to ensure refugees and displaced persons can live in safety and with dignity. Sarah also has served as director of programming and education at J Street and before that at the DCJCC. She recently received the Partners in Justice Award from Avodah, the Jewish Service Corps.

### **February 4**      *Jayse Heap – Our Enlightenment Heritage (in honor of Darwin Day)*

Jayse Heap, executive director of the DC-based United Coalition of Reason (United CoR) will discuss how critical thinking in a modern era of 'fake news' and popular logical fallacies can lead the non-theist through difficult times. We'll also learn about how connecting local, secular-supportive groups like Machar is being replicated worldwide. United CoR supports nontheist groups internationally. Jayse has a Master in Divinity from Texas Christian University and taught Philosophy in the UK. He has a podcast at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRBy76YwCtl>.

### **March 4**      *Paul Golin – Throwing out the Bathwater and Keeping the Baby: Judaism, Humanism, and Community*

As more and more Americans leave traditional religion, there is a question as to what we take with us. What if any religious practices, rituals, and forms of community can be adapted and applied in secular spaces? Paul Golin, executive director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, will lead a discussion that explores the relationship between Judaism and humanism. Should we discard it all to rid ourselves of religious dogma and superstitious beliefs? You will be asked to share what is still personally meaningful from your own religious heritage.

### **March 18**      *Jerry Muller – Capitalism and the Jews*

Jews have been disproportionately successful in capitalist societies. How can we understand why Jews have done so well, and the reactions, both positive and negative, to their relative success? Jerry Muller will address these questions, asking how non-Jewish thought about capitalism has influenced the historical association of Jews with money, how Jews were viewed by non-Jews, and how all of this affected Jewish identity. Dr. Muller is a professor of history at the Catholic University of America. His books include *Capitalism and the Jews* (2010), and his lecture course, "Thinking about Capitalism," was released by The Great Courses in 2009.

**April 8**      ***Karen Batshaw – The "Orphan" of the Holocaust: the Jews of Greece***

Karen Batshaw will detail the history of the Greek Jews and their almost total annihilation during World War II. The Orthodox clergy tried to prevent the roundup of Jews by issuing a letter of protest to the Nazis, the only such letter from European clergy. Batshaw has a M.A. in Social Work and has always felt a special connection to Greece and its people. She has begun a new book about Greece and World War II, which will include the population exchange between Turkey and Greece in the early 1920s.

**April 22**      ***Annual Meeting***

**May 6**      ***Noa Baum – A Land Twice Promised: An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace***

Noa Baum will discuss her book about a friendship with a Palestinian woman. Using storytelling as a therapy for peacebuilding, she captures the drama of a nation at war and her own discovery of humanity in the enemy. An Israeli who grew up in Jerusalem and has lived in the United States since 1990, Baum is an author, actor and storyteller and recipient of the 2017 Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award. Noa also conducts workshops on community building and storytelling.

**May 20**      ***Sirine Shebaya – Defending Civil Rights for Muslims in the Trump Era***

Sirine Shebaya will discuss her work fighting for Muslims' civil rights, which increasingly have come under attack, addressing legal successes and key challenges that lie ahead. Ms. Shebaya is a senior staff attorney with Muslim Advocates and a founding board member with the Dulles Justice Coalition. Her work focuses on the Muslim Ban, border searches, immigrants' rights, surveillance, and other civil rights matters affecting Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities.

**June 3**      ***Jennie Guilfoyle and Megan Mack – The Current Climate for Immigrants***

Machar member Jennie Guilfoyle and Ayuda's Megan Mack will discuss today's rhetoric of hate directed at immigrants, along with increasingly aggressive enforcement tactics and the current Administration's increased detention and deportation of even long-time residents. They will also discuss nationwide efforts, including in DC, to resist and protect immigrant families and communities. Jennie is education and training attorney at the American Immigration Council. Megan Mack is associate director of legal services at Ayuda, a legal assistance program for immigrants in the DC area.