Machar Statement on the Executive Order Limiting Immigration to the United States

Approved by the Machar Board on January 30, 2017

Machar, the Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism, strongly opposes the recent Executive Order by the President of the United States banning entry into this country by citizens of seven nations in the Middle East and imposing a limit on the number of refugees accepted into the United States annually.

This Executive Order places a transparent veil over what is effectively religious discrimination against Muslims. The Order prevents persons from these seven countries from entering the United States, but makes exceptions for religious minorities — thus, Christians or Jews in the target countries (which are majority Muslim) may be exempted from the U.S. entry ban. However, Muslims are not exempted from the entry ban, even if they are a target of war or violence in their home country and pose no identifiable risk to the U.S.

Combined with Mr. Trump’s stated intention during the recent presidential campaign to ban Muslims, this pattern seems to us clearly to constitute religious discrimination against Muslims, regardless of the obvious and transparent effort to disguise that result. This we believe violates the United States Constitution, and is deeply inconsistent with the values that underlie Judaism.

The U.S. has, for many years, instituted effective mechanisms for determining the identity and peaceful intention of refugees seeking entry into the U.S. These mechanisms have worked well in preventing terrorism committed in the United States by non-U.S. persons for a considerable period of time. Thus, the Executive Order sweeps far too widely, excluding large numbers of innocent persons suffering great hardship and seeking refuge, while doing little to enhance the safety of the United States.

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Machar Statement (continued)

Many of the refugees from the countries addressed in the Executive Order have faced severe conditions of war, violence, and deprivation. As Jews, we are all too conscious of the need to provide refuge to persons fleeing war, terrorism, and deprivation. During World War II, the United States chose to exclude thousands of European Jews fleeing from the violence of Nazi Germany. Because of this exclusion, many thousands of Jews died in Europe who otherwise might have escaped. We are determined that we, and the United States, should never again be party to such needless cruelty.

Furthermore, secular and humanistic Jews, like all Jews, have benefitted greatly from the religious freedom of the United States. We Jews have all entrusted our personal safety to the terms of the United States Constitution that promise evenhandedness in treatment to persons of all religious faiths or of no religious faith. For many centuries Jews faced religious persecution in Europe and other countries around the world. The United States at its origin committed itself to religious liberty for all, banning all laws that “prohibit[] the free exercise” of any religion. We as Jews cannot believe that the United States will abandon this commitment, whether openly or under a veil of deception and evasion.

Thus, we believe the Executive Order issued by President Trump is inconsistent both with the longstanding values of the country we hold dear, and with the ethical values that we as secular and humanistic Jews view as fundamental to our identity. For that reason, we call upon President Trump to rescind this discriminatory Order, and to work instead to find more appropriate means to improve the security of the United States. We call upon Members of Congress to oppose Administration efforts to implement this Order. And we call upon Jews and secular humanists throughout the U.S. to voice their support for all refugees and immigrants who, whatever their religious backgrounds or beliefs, intend no injury to the United States.

MACHAR COFFEEHOUSE 2017 FUNDRAISER

MUNCHIES AND MUSIC WITH MACHAR
Our second Machar coffeehouse, “Munchies and Music with Machar,” will be held on Saturday, February 4. The audience is teens and up. Please purchase patron tickets here.

- **Date:** Saturday, February 4, 2017
- **Time:** 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- **Location:** Wisconsin Place Community Recreation Center
  5311 Friendship Boulevard, Chevy Chase, MD
  (one block from Friendship Heights Metro)

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS AND BAKERS - MACHAR NEEDS YOU!
If you can sing, act, rap, dance, juggle, emote, do magic tricks, or otherwise perform onstage, we need you for the Machar coffeehouse! The idea is to raise money for Machar while also celebrating the many talented members of our community — performers and culinary artists alike.

We are hoping to have three parts to the show: music, comedy/magic, and dramatic performance; acts should be no more than 5-10 minutes each (but if you just want to get up and tell a single joke, that’s great!). The intended audience will be teens and up.

If your talents lie more in the culinary arts, never fear; we need you too! In addition to a small admission fee for the coffeehouse, we plan to host a concession stand to help fill bellies and coffers!

And last but not least -- we need volunteers to assist with set up and clean up. Thanks!
Dear Machar (Family) Members,

Joe and I want to express sincere thanks and appreciation for so many of your thoughts and visits during the past year. We will always love and remember you for the uplift you brought during our days of sickness. While we have not overcome our difficulties, we have become heartened by your interest and communications.

We hope 2017 will bring us the ability to be with you more often. We miss Machar and your presence a great deal.

With much love and a wish for Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year.

Mildred Goodman

Launched in November 2016, post-election social action work is happening on many fronts. Here is an update:

- We gathered information on the amount of Machar member contributions to Planned Parenthood in fall 2016, since the organization is threatened with federal government defunding. CONGRATS TO US — We have reported donations of $6630!

- At the Machar Hanukah party and Jewish Cultural School, Machar members collectively donated 13 bags of winter coats and other winter outerwear to the International Rescue Committee, which was grateful to receive these items for distribution to refugees in Silver Spring, MD. Thanks to Sara Baum for leading this effort.

- A Machar member also attended a local meeting convened by HIAS, For the Refugee, on the topics of how congregations can support refugees in our local community. The member who attended the meeting will be submitting a proposal to congregation leadership with some ideas for how Machar can support HIAS and refugees.

- We are exploring support of immigration legal services for immigrants who may be facing deportation, especially DREAMers.

- We will do these actions in the names of our social activist founders Joe and Millie Goodman.

We welcome your participation! Please contact Jennie Guilfoyle as the work continues.

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that long-time Machar member and secular humanist Millie Mauer has passed away. She died peacefully at her home on January 30 at the age of 94.

She is the mother of Marc Mauer, also a long-time member.

Millie was sharp, quick-witted and always classy!

Marlene Cohen

Macharniks gathered to join the Women’s March on Washington on January 21, 2017.
Machar's Annual Purim Party - March 12!
Come to Machar's Purim celebration on Sunday, March 12. Nonmembers are welcome and we encourage you to bring friends who may be interested in Machar! We'll have games, great food, and JCS students' own versions of the Purim Spiel!

Date: Sunday, March 12, 2017  
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Location: Schweinhaut Center  
1000 Forest Glen Road,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

In order to make this event a success, we will need everyone to help out by volunteering for a job and/or bringing food to share. If you have talent you can bring to an adult-production Purim Spiel (or no talent but plenty of enthusiasm!) please sign up to help!

Additional information available here.

Spring Is Almost Here! Macharniks Are Preparing for Our Community Seder

We're planning for another wonderful community Passover Seder with fantastic food and great company. Highlights include Machar's Humanist Haggadah, sharing the Passover story, asking the “four questions,” and the famous hunt for the Afikomen. You can expect fantastic food and good company.

Nonmembers and prospective members are welcome!

Machar’s 2017 Community Potluck Seder  
Sunday, April 9, 2017, 4:30 - 8 p.m.  
Cedar Lane UU Church  
9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
Purchase tickets!

Space is limited — don't miss out.

Prices remain the same as last year: $20 member adults; $28 nonmember adults; $8 children 5-13; children under 5 free

Firm deadline to register: Tuesday, April 4 (but we may fill up before that!)

If you do not use a computer and prefer to register by mail, please leave a message at 202-686-1881. Nonmembers should include a phone number and mailing address.

The link to register may also be found on our website page, "Holidays - Passover."

Machar Joins Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington

When a loved one dies, Rabbi Nehama and Machar’s Mishpachah Committee are key sources of guidance and support. But Machar has also taken a new step to help reduce the stress of making funeral arrangements. Machar recently joined the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington.

This membership allows Machar members access to a Jewish funeral package for a predetermined price under $2,000, which is well below the usual cost of a funeral home’s services. At the time of death, D.C. and Maryland residents should call Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home (301-622-2290) and request funeral arrangements under the Jewish Funeral Package contract. Virginia residents should call Cunningham Turch Funeral Home (703-549-1700).

A summary of what is provided under this contract may be found here: http://dc.jewish-funerals.org/when-jewish-lovedone-dies. Please note that this contract is based on the premise that the arrangements will be for burial; cremation services are not covered.
WITs

Rose Levine
In December, the wonderful women of WITs met at the home of Harriet Peck for our annual Hanukkah party and gift exchange. Latkes, other goodies and a festive fun time were enjoyed by all.

We had a more serious gathering in January when we met at the home of Darlene Basch for an "anti-inauguration" dinner where we discussed things we can do to be a positive influence during the next administration. Some of our members were unable to attend as they were hosting guests for the Women’s March the following day.

On Wednesday, February 15, we will meet at the home of Nancy Harris, and in March we will meet on Wednesday the 22 at the home of Eva Shankman.

WITs is open to all female members of Machar, and we are always delighted to welcome new members. If you would like more information about WITs or to have your name added to our email list to keep abreast of our happenings, please contact me, Rose Levine, jay3026@msn.com.

Donations in Honor & Memory of:
David and Deb Godden, to honor and remember the Machar founders.
Renee Weitzner, in honor of Joe and Millie Goodman.
Helena Dinerman and Kenneth Lederman, in honor of Joe Goodman.
Anita Willens, in memory of Jules Abrams.
Myrna Frank, a donation to Planned Parenthood in honor of Machar.

J Street's 2017 National Conference in DC

Breaking Through: Forging a New Pro-Israel Agenda

J Street is the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans who want Israel to be secure, democratic and the national home of the Jewish people.

February 25 - February 28, 2017
Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington D.C.

Speakers followed by Advocacy Day: Tuesday, February 28 on the Hill

The 411 on Machar 911

In the event of a personal emergency, please contact:
Rabbi@machar.org / 215.475.2814
Administrator@machar.org / 202.686.1881
President@machar.org

Due to the fact that we are a volunteer organization and our staff members are employed part-time, please contact more than one person in the event of an immediate need or concern. This will help ensure that all requests are responded to in a timely manner.

Neighborhood Havurah & Potluck

Please join us at the home of Myrna Frank and Howard Dubowitz on Sunday, March 26 at 10510 Sweetbriar Parkway, Silver Spring, MD 20903 for good food and lively company. RSVP here.

Date: March 26, 2017
Time: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Location: Hillandale, Silver Spring, MD

Hanukkah party, with gift exchange - clockwise, from top: Nancy, Carole, Rose, Donna C, Darlene, Katie (standing with her Hanukkah present), Vicki, Joan, Elizabeth, Harriet (Renee and Marlene not shown)
2017 Washington Jewish Film Festival Winter Season – Core Lineup

Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story
Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m.
A fascinating and moving account of the romantic and creative partnership of storyboard artist Harold Michelson and film researcher Lillian Michelson: two unsung heroes of Hollywood’s Golden Age. Told through an engaging mix of love letters, film clips and candid conversations with Danny DeVito, Mel Brooks, Francis Ford Coppola and other luminaries deeply affected by this inimitable pair.

The Second Time Around
Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.
Katherine Mitchell didn’t think she would fall in love again after the death of husband, and certainly not with someone as abrasive and grumpy as Isaac Shapiro. That was before she discovered Isaac, a Polish tailor who shares her passion for music and the happiness it brings.

My Shortest Love Affair
Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.
Twenty years after their love affair, Louisa and Charles accidentally meet at a Parisian arts festival. After a night of drinking, the two reconnect and Louisa discovers she is pregnant. They decide to raise the child together, and find themselves thrust into a relationship modern, honest, and as wholly insane and intuitive as one can find.

Voter’s Choice: Israeli Film
February 14, 7:30 p.m.
Love Israeli film? Want to see your favorite on the big screen? Now’s your chance. Vote on wjff.org for the Israeli classic you’d like to see. All votes will be tallied on January 17, and the winning selection will screen on February 14th at the EDCJCC!

Find the full season lineup at WJFF.ORG/Films.

Contact:
Alexis Rodriguez
202.777.3242
alexisr@edcjcc.org

Whaddaya Talkin’?
Marlene Cohen
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!

KINE-AHORA or KENAHORA or KAYN AYNHOREH
pronounced “KANE a hora” or “KANE iyn hora”
Leo Rosten wrote in Joys of Yinglish that Jews and goys alike often felt the need to ward off the anger of God and worried about showing too much hubris. The evil eye was to be feared.

SBJF.org says the phrase was “a magical phrase to ward off the evil eye or to show one’s praises are genuine and not tainted by envy.” The flip side is that it shows that I know I am fortunate to be able to say this.

A parent might say, “My child is in perfect health, kine-ahora” to not wish bad on the child for that moment of pleasure. An old man might say, “I am 82 years old, kine-ahora,” to not be bragging and thus risk having his life then cut off.

The concept of the evil eye is common among many cultures. Rosten said that some would put a drop of salt and a crumb into a child’s pocket to protect them, or place beads on a necklace or bracelet to ward evil spirits off their little girls.

We can be glad that being secular makes life much more straightforward, taking life as it comes, appreciating our joys without thinking we will be punished for having them.
Shavua Tov!

It’s been a long time since our last newsletter here is the quick 1-2-3:

- Every single student needs a **recycled jar/container** for the next class. We will be using them to plant parsley seeds in celebration of **Tu B’Shvat** (the birthday of the trees, which is one part of Judaism’s traditional environmental advocacy). Please bring in a jar with its lid so that potting soil doesn’t fall over your car. If you bring in at least one (or extra) recycled jar (keeping with our wonderful environmentally friendly theme, holiday, and community), this will be amazing!

- The **Machar Coffeehouse is this Saturday, February 4**. This is the one big fundraiser for Machar, so even if you can’t make it, please buy tickets to support Machar or just make a donation in honor of the Coffeehouse. More info is at [machar.org](http://machar.org). We need to deal with basic operating expenses as well as trying to provide small extras beyond those (e.g. giving all our teacher the formal training on SHJ values and teaching pedagogy that we want our students’ teachers to have!).

- We had a ROCKIN’ Hannukah party — I cannot thank each one of you enough for making it such a great turnout with fun for everyone from 0-100 years old despite it being in the middle of winter break. **Mazel-mazel!** On that same theme, thank you to everyone who made the Holocaust Museum field trip a wonderful experience. **Todah raba!**

– Shel Lyons, JCS Director

Scenes from JCS

1) Machar Members with a Holocaust survivor at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

2 and 3) Photos from the 2016 Machar Hannukah party.
Machar Adult Education and Community Sundays

Adult Education Sessions are Sundays from 10–11:30 a.m. Sessions are open to all. All sessions are held in the gymnasium of the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20012. Community Sundays follow unless noted. For details see www.machar.org.

There is parking on 16th Street and in the back. (If you have trouble climbing stairs, use the rear entrance.)

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.

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.

(continues on next page)
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

Scenes from the Adult Ed Sessions

1) Marc Mauer, speaking on January 22 to Adult Education on the Sentencing Project, which he founded and runs, and ways to address mass incarceration in the US.

2) Ariel Sabar spoke to a large crowd at the December 4 Adult Ed.
**Birthdays**

February 2:  Paul Eliot  
February 4:  Shifra Lyons  
February 7:  Emanuel Pastreich  
February 10:  Julie Lewis  
February 11:  Alessandro Topa  
February 11:  Mark Lewis  
February 15:  Michal Freedman  
February 18:  Teo Topa  
February 25:  Marina Cooper  
February 26:  Evan Williamson

March 4:  Ava Figuerdo  
March 7:  Michael Kidwell  
March 11:  Zach Arney  
March 12:  Shawn Rubin  
March 14:  Kira Appelman  
March 15:  Zach Williamson  
March 19:  Maddie Lubin  
March 21:  Joshua Castellano  
March 22:  Susan Ogden  
March 23:  Will David  
March 27:  Yael Hanadari-Levy  
March 29:  Helena Dinerman  
March 31:  Dan Tobocman  
March 31:  Martha Mednick  
March 31:  Rebecca Guilfoyle

**Anniversaries**

March 18:  Helena Dinerman & Kenneth Lederman  
March 27:  Marina Broitman & Tibor Roberts  
March 28:  Mimi Brody & Harry Appelman

**Yahrzeits: We remember...**

February 6:  Irwin Wallshein, father of Vicki Wallshein  
February 14:  Peter Smith, father of Abigail Smith  
February 16:  Frances Wiesberg, mother of Judith Weisberg  
February 19:  Robert Arthur Kahn, father of Peter Kahn  
February 19:  Thelma Baron, mother of David Baron  
February 25:  Mary Appelman, mother of Harry Appelman  
February 29:  Joyce Waldman Kahn, mother of Peter Kahn  
February:  Nicholas Dopulos, stepfather of Harriet/Gary Peck

March 3:  Tome Kurtzman, sister of Michal Freedman  
March 5:  Wilfred Williams, grandfather of Dan Tobocman  
March 10:  Sidney Levine, father of Rose Levine  
March 13:  Nancy Tebelman, sister of Linda Tebelman  
March 19:  Juanita Green, mother of Michael Kidwell  
March 22:  Joseph Mauer, father of Marc Mauer  
March 24:  Rhoda Zwicker, mother of Sue Zwicker  
March 27:  Dorothy Bassin, mother of Donna Bassin  
March 28:  Ronald Bassin, brother of Donna Bassin  
March 30:  Jules Abrams, husband of Anita Willens  
March:  Gloria Salazar, abuela of Marco Gonzalez and Kara Blank-Gonzalez
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**Young Adult Havurah**
Vacant

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**Machar Rep to SHJ**
Marlene Cohen

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Larry Lawrence *(Immediate Past President)*
Rick Gold

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Michael Prival, Madrikh
Deb Godden, Madrikha
Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson
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 and announcements of program changes that may occur 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 to the “Machar Community” list at any time.

If you would like to be added to either list, 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.

Shop with AmazonSmile and Contribute to Machar at the Same Time

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Machar – the Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism whenever you shop using AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know.  Same products, same prices, same service.

Support Machar by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Earn for Machar Jewish Cultural School with Service Magic and DriversEd.com!

Get Matched to Pre-screened Home Improvement Contractors and Earn Up to $6*

Service Magic is a FREE service that matches you to pre-screened, customer-rated service professionals: maids, painters, remodelers, plumbers, roofers and 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, 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

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Contact info at machar.org