



Machar Looks Ahead!

I hope you are all enjoying your summer—it's hard to believe it's almost over!

But that means we're getting ready for a great year of Machar activities ahead of us and I want to remind you to **please renew your membership** so you can continue to be part of Machar's exciting future!

Sign up for the **neighborhood Shabbat potluck** on August 15 at the home of Michal Freedman and Jack Schwartz in Rockville.

Kelly Hand and David Abramson are hosting a **family pool party** on August 29.

We'll have a table at the **Takoma Park Folk Festival** on September 7. Please join us there and help showcase Machar with others who may be interested.

Our **Adult Education and Jewish Cultural School** begin on September 14; say hello to old and new friends and join us as we gather for Community Sunday activities with the whole congregation.

We're very excited that **Rabbi Nehama Benmosche is with us and will lead all**

our High Holiday services. Our Kol Nidre speaker will be Robert Benmosche, father of Rabbi Nehama and CEO of AIG from 2009 until September 2014. Machar member Akiva Liberman will be our speaker for Yom Kippur.

Be a Machar ambassador—spread the word and build our community. The best way to bring in new members and students is by word of mouth. Please tell family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about Machar. Invite them to attend a Sunday morning or to purchase tickets for High Holiday services. And remember, if you recommend someone who joins, Machar will thank you with a \$100 gift card of your choice from several options. We want to give out lots of cards!

Be involved. There are many ways you can help Machar—host an event or coordinate an activity.

Share your ideas—we welcome your input as we move forward.

Darlene Basch
Machar President

Inside this issue:

- 2: [Machar News](#)
- 5: [JCS News](#)
- 6: [Clubs and Activities](#)
- 7: [The Machar Family](#)
- 8: [Staff, Board of Directors and Leadership](#)
- 9: [Information/Ads](#)

Machar's members are our biggest asset and our greatest resource in letting their friends and family know about our wonderful community. If you recommend a member or family who joins Machar, Machar will thank you with your choice of a \$100 gift card for dining out at Lebanese Taverna or Clydes, for local shopping at Politics and Prose or Israeli Accents, or some on-line Judaica shopping at moderntribe.com or traditionsjewishgifts.com. So please tell people about Machar; we hope to give out lots of thank you cards! —**Darlene Basch**

Secular Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that combines rational thinking with a celebration of Jewish culture and identity.

We affirm the power and responsibility of human beings to shape their own lives independent of supernatural authority.

Machar is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews.

It is the end of my first official month as Machar's rabbi and I am proud to report that I am well over half-way to my goal of connecting with each Machar family before the High Holidays. As you all know, I have been working in the community for a few months now. I have been able to be involved with the JCS and adult education folks, the board of directors, the liturgy committee, the choir, the young adult havurah, the Pride

volunteers, everyone who came to the Passover seder and to the Havdalah event just this past month. We had a great JCS summer event at Bounce U and I hope to get some families together in August as well. One of my goals in the upcoming year is to be involved in the Machar community in as many different ways as I can and to become part of this great community.

If you have an opportunity and inclination to reach out to me this summer so that we can get to know each other better, don't hesitate to call or write. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

215-475-2814

rabbi@machar.org





Celebrate the High Holidays with Machar and our new rabbi!

All services at Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814



Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

Rosh Hashanah Thursday, September 25

Children's service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.

Post-service discussion groups begin at 12:30 after refreshment break.

Kol Nidre

Friday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 4

Children's service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.

Special offer to local Machar members: Invite two non-member relatives to attend High Holidays free of charge. Request admission at least one week in advance at www.machar.org.

We Need Takoma Park Folk Festival Volunteers!

We're looking forward to once again hosting our table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 7.

We're seeking volunteers to help staff the Machar table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, September 7. The Festival includes an "arcade" of volunteer organizations and congregations at tables with information. It is a great opportunity to gain exposure for Machar among potential members. Machar has a long tradition of participating at the festival, and some of our members first found out about us there. (You will probably run into a lot of current members as well!).

We hope some of you can help to get the word out about Machar.

The Festival runs from 10:30 to 6:30, so with set-up and clean-up, we're seeking volunteers from 10 to 6:45, ideally two per shift. We are scheduling shifts every 2 hours beginning at 10 but let us know of any timeframe that is convenient for you to participate. We'd appreciate any time you can offer. This year, you can sign up for times that are convenient for you online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4da8a62da31-takoma>.

Location: Piney Branch Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd., Takoma Park, Md.

Please volunteer to staff the table and share information about Machar. Please also note if you can volunteer to help set up in the morning or take down in the evening.

This is a great opportunity to help Machar and also enjoy the music, crafts, and food at the Festival.

Check it out at www.tpff.org

If you have questions about scheduling, responsibilities, location, etc., please feel free to contact Brenda Platt (brendaaplatt@gmail.com) or Dave Goldberg (david.goldberg523@verizon.net), who are helping to coordinate this event.

Thank you so much!



At Machar's June 28 b'nei mitzvah ceremony, David D., Julia W., and Sebastian G. shared their research about Jewish athletes, Jewish food, and Jewish humor. One highlight of the beautiful ceremony at Sixth and I Historic Synagogue was a performance by big siblings Evan W. and Heather D. of John Lennon's "Imagine." Rabbi Ben Biber presided with musical accompaniment by pianist Harry Appelman and cantor Caron Dale.



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!

This time, an expression:

Veh is mir!

It's pronounced "vayz MEER" and is literally "I am pain itself!"

The Talking Jewish website says it is "a most melodramatic expression of suffering," and that is part of what makes Yiddish so colorful, right? Indeed, it can be used for minor setbacks as well as major ones.

Do you remember "kvetch" from an earlier newsletter column? Those who love to kvetch / complain use this phrase the most.

And for more color, add an "Oy" at the beginning!

Hi parents and students! I hope that your summer is re-energizing and exciting. We look forward to hearing about summer vacations and adventures. JCS is planning an active and varied school year. All classes will be learning about Jewish holidays, Jewish ethics/values, bible stories from a secular humanistic view and Jewish history. Teachers will be sharing Jewish literature, art projects and music. Our teachers will be supplementing our curriculum with units of study from the model SHJ curriculum.

Beginning in third grade, our students will be learning the Hebrew alphabet, how to read Hebrew and simple words in Hebrew that fit into our curriculum. In addition, we are planning community service activities, social action opportunities and field trips.

All teachers will be emailing families after each class of JCS. The emails will contain a description of what happened during class, what to expect in the next class and discussion questions for the entire family. There will also be suggestions for books and films for you, as a family to view, as supplements to our curriculum.

If any parent would like to be a room parent in their child's class, please let me know. Room parents can organize a Friday night pot luck for the class, community service opportunities and field trips. We have some wonderful, new teachers on board this year, and they are very excited to meet your children and to plan exciting lessons.

The tot class this year will be a parent/tot drop in class. All tots up to Kindergarten age are welcome to join. There will be no charge for this "class." Teens will be available every Sunday, in the room, to help organize activities for the tots, including stories, arts and crafts and music. Parents may attend adult ed if their child is comfortable remaining in the room with the teens.

I encourage you to contact me with questions, suggestions, and comments. Many of our best ideas have come from parents' conversations.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Our classes begin promptly at 10 AM. Please be sure that your child is on time. When a student comes to class late, the teacher often has to repeat what she or he has already discussed with the class, particularly if the class has begun an activity.

School hours are from 10-12:30. From 10-11:30 your child will be in his/her classroom. From 11:30-12:30 we will have community activities. We are very excited for the community activities this year, and we hope that you and your children will participate in all of our activities.

It is a Machar policy that parents remain in the building during our school hours. If for any reason you do not stay in the building, you must designate another parent who is in the building as your "stand in" in the event of an emergency. There will be a sign up sheet at the main desk in the front hallway for you to sign if you leave the building, so that we know who is in charge of your child. If you do not know any other parent in the school please let us know and we will help you connect with others.

We are tenants in the JPDS building. Your child may not be in the hallways or a classroom without you or their teacher. Each year we have had complaints about our students touching and in some cases breaking things in the JPDS classrooms. Please discuss this with your child. While teachers are aware of this situation, and attempt to be responsible about cleaning up and being respectful of others' property, it will help if you also make your child aware of our responsibilities.

I look forward to our best year yet!

I am very excited to welcome Rabbi Nehama Benmosche to Machar. Her ideas for programming for our students and our entire congregation have already proven to be interesting and fun.

We welcome everyone in the Machar community to our community programming from 11:30-12:30. These community activities are not just for families with children, but for all of our members. We benefit from the increased involvement and participation of our entire membership. Please join us this year in making our Machar community one of strong bonds and community involvement.

—Debby Brennan

Clubs and Activities

WITs

Renée Weitzner

In July, WITs the women of Machar, WITs, “Wimmin’ in Transition,” met at the home of Marlene Cohen for a delightful summer evening of food and conversation.

We will be meeting in August on August 27, 2014 at the home of Judith Wiesberg at 7 pm. Please let me know that you are coming and what you intend to bring by August 25, 2014, so that I can let our host know our numbers and our menu. I hope to see many of you then!!

WITs (Wimmin’ in Transition) is open to all women members of Machar. Please see the Machar website for guidelines and policies about WITs. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. You may email me at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com) or reach me by phone.

Young Adult Havurah

Danielle Leff

Friday, August 22, 7 p.m.
Shabbat and Takeout

Join other young adults for Friday Shabbat & Takeout, which we are planning to host each month at a member’s home. Our short service features humanist blessings for candle lighting, challah, and wine, as well as humanist interpretations of the Amidah, S’hma, and Mourner’s Kaddish, followed by noshing and kibitzing. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite songs or readings to share.

This will be at Leah’s house, a 10 minute walk from the Cleveland Park or Columbia Heights metro stations. Please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/1nJExIO>.

Sunday, August 24

Machar YAH is co-hosting the Schmooze n Schmeer brunch with the DC JCC.

RSVP required: <http://bit.ly/1kmPel2>

Mix and mingle with young professionals in DC, meet others in the community, and get information about some of the great things happening for Jewish young professionals in DC!

Friday, September 5

Shabbat at the Nationals Game. Details and RSVP: <http://bit.ly/1uHVxE0>

Friday, September 26

Rosh Hashana lunch after services.

Friday, October 3

Kol Nidre dinner.

Saturday, October 4

Yom Kippur Break fast meal.

Details about the Young Adult Havurah activities are on the Machar YAH Facebook page, or contact danielleleff@gmail.com.

Book Club

Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch

Peter Wolfe and Michael Prival will lead a discussion on *A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews*, by Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, the founder and long-time leader of our Humanistic Judaism movement. For our September meeting, to be held on September 21, 2014, place to be determined, we will be reading the first four chapters.

Evening Study Group

Michael Prival

The Machar Study Group on Jewish religious texts continues to meet every other Monday evening at my home. We

are reading and discussing texts from the Bible, the Talmud, and other rabbinic sources. In this way we are learning not only about the Hebrew Bible but also many fascinating and surprising things about traditional Judaism as it existed before the Jewish Enlightenment began in the 18th century. All Machar members, at any level of prior knowledge, are invited to join us. If you’d like more information about this study group, please send me a note: [mprival at aol.com](mailto:mprival@aol.com).

Havurot/Social Events

The July 12 Havdalah potluck, hosted by Myrna Frank and Howard Dubowitz in their beautiful home, was a huge success. About 30 guests attended, enjoying a wonderful array of food and a short but sweet Havdalah service led by Rabbi Nehama. Earlier that day, Rabbi Nehama also gathered with several JCS families for a fun morning at BounceU. Adults had a great time chatting while the kids jumped, played, and ate cupcakes.

Our next potluck is on Friday, August 15 at the Rockville home of Michal Freedman and Jack Schwartz, who joined Machar in November. Sign up for this Shabbat dinner on the home page of www.machar.org.

On Friday, August 29, Kelly Hand and David Abramson will host a family pool party and potluck at the PG Community Pool. This event is open to members of all ages. The pool limits parties to 35 guests, so sign up early at www.machar.org!

Be sure to let us know if you have an idea for an event this fall. We have some potential hosts lined up, but your suggestions about possible activities would be most welcome.

The Machar Family

Birthdays

July 1: Mei Huang
July 2: Margot Bloch
July 3: Larry Lawrence
July 4: Mildred Goodman
July 4: Sebastian Goldberg
July 6: Daisy Hand
July 7: Richard Gold
July 7: Anna Gelpert
July 8: Nadine Bloch
July 14: Katie Wittenberg
July 17: Karen Roe
July 18: Anika Zia Gonzalez
July 25: David Abramson
July 28: Daniel Tomashevsky
July 30: Marc Mauer
August 1: Hank Prensky
August 6: Spencer Fye
August 7: Benjamin Topa
August 8: Lola Ehart Rogin
August 10: Charlotte Popp
August 11: Jon Desenberg
August 13: Ian Morgan
August 14: Joseph Goodman
August 16: Douglas Ratay
August 17: Willow Theresa Sandra Rogin
August 19: Brenda Platt
August 19: Cassia Block
August 22: Donna Copeland
August 23: Liz Pomper
August 24: Mischa Blue Ehart Rogin
August 25: Deborah Perlman
August 26: Andrew Weiss
August 29: Ellen Rosenthal
August 30: Erik Kjeldgaard

Anniversaries

August 3: Joel and Hildie Block
August 5: Joshua Schnell and Patricia Meeks Schnell
August 7: Dan Tobocman and Debra DeRuyver
August 18: Tom and Tricia Gordon
August 30: Eva and Bert Shankman

Yahrzeits: We remember...

July 3: Morton Seidenstein, father of Roslynn Seidenstein
July 4: Arthur Zwicker, father of Sue Zwicker
July 17: Kenneth Hall, father of Norman Hall
July 26: Ann Weisberg, sister of Jill Grant
July: Naomi Gardner, cousin of Keith Campbell-Rosen
August 4: Beatrice Basch, mother of Darlene Basch
August 19: Dyna Kaplan, grandmother of Leah Kaplan
August 20: Albert David Warshauer, father Susan Warshauer Kahn

Mazel Tov!

Eva and Bert Shankman will be celebrating 50 years of marriage on August 30th! Congratulations!

.....

Good bye and all the best to our dear friends and long-time members Rick Gold, Bouchra Chati, Sarah and Adam Gold as they start their next chapter in sunny Gainesville Florida.

Thank you Rick for being past Machar President, Adult Education Chair, Social Action Chair, and food schlepper, and for serving many, many other roles over the years. Thank you Adam for being such an eager Jewish Cultural School volunteer.

Machar has benefited from your family's understanding of ways to merge Jewish and Muslim progressive values. We're glad you'll still be involved in Secular Humanistic Judaism as a board member of SHJ and as a long-distance member of Machar.

.....

Machar is so fortunate to have a community of people willing to share their expertise. Three of our members are therapists or social workers and are willing to be contacted by any members who may need someone to talk to about any personal trauma or other issues that come up. These volunteers will plan to have an initial discussion with the member and/or family, to listen and to help direct them to more support or services in the area. Please contact Renee Weitzner, [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com), for information. All discussions are entirely confidential.

Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

Staff

Rabbi

Nehama Benmosche

Congregational Administrator

Kelly Hand

Jewish Cultural School Director

Debby Brennan

Board of Directors

President

Darlene Basch

Treasurer

Miriam Gitler

Secretary

Holly Campbell-Rosen

Past President

Nadine Wettstein

At-Large

Norm Hall

Rahel Hanadari

Peter Kahn

Danielle Leff

Laurie Miller

Joyce Rosenthal

Mark Swartz

Renee Weitzner

Honorary Directors

Jules Abrams

Harold Black (*deceased*)

Ann Black

Joe Goodman

Millie Goodman

Mary Perica

Michael Prival

Henrietta Wexler

Board Liaisons

B'nei Mitzvah

Susan Morawetz

Holly Campbell-Rosen

Newsletter

Rabbinic

Mark Swartz

Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

Machar Committee Chairs

Adult Ed

David Abramson

Myrna Frank

Communications

Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service

Barbara Francisco

Education

Email Lists Manager

Michael Prival

Fundraising

Karen Roe

High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

Liturgy

Membership

Darlene Basch

Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

Mishpahah

Renée Weitzner

New Members

Marlene Cohen

Newsletter Editor

Tricia Gordon

Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

Passover Seder

Rabbi Committee

Mark Swartz

Shelter Staffing

Ann Levin

Social Action

Rick Gold

Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Renée Weitzner

Young Adult Havurah

Danielle Leff

SHJ Reps from Machar

Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (Vice President)

Rick Gold

Machar Trained Leaders

Michael Prival, Madrikh

Deb Godden, Madrikha

Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson



Interested in Advertising with Machar?
Contact [info at machar.org](mailto:info@machar.org)

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, plus announcements of program changes that may oc-

cur 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 on the "Machar Community" list at any time.

If you would like to be added to either of these lists, 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.

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

Get Matched to Prescreened Home Improvement Contractors and earn up to \$6!*

Service Magic is a FREE service matching you to pre-screened, customer-rated service professionals: Maids, painters, remodelers, plumbers, roofers & 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 use it! .