



What's Happening at Machar

We enjoyed beautiful and meaningful High Holiday services led by Rabbi Nehama and share some photos in the pages of this newsletter. In our next newsletter, we will thank by name our many generous volunteers who made the services run so smoothly. For now, a general but enthusiastic thank you for all your help!

I just want to remind you of all the wonderful things coming up at Machar.

Our Adult Education and Community Sunday schedule is filled with stimulating and varied events:

October 19: Machar member **Jennie Guilfoyle** will give a talk on *In the Absence of Immigration Reform*, followed by our **Community Sukkot celebration** at the home of **Rahel Hanadari** and **Roberto Levy in Rockville**. We had a great time last year as we celebrated under the Sukkah! Register now on the Machar website.

October 26: **Rabbi Mindy Portnoy** will speak on *Theodor Herzl: The Man and the Myth*. This will be followed by our Community Sunday **Intergenerational Oral History** day.

November 16: Machar's own **Rabbi Nehama Benmosche** will discuss *A Journey Through the Jewish Movements*. After, we will celebrate the **Global Day of Jewish Learning** with our **annual book sale** so gather your gently used books, CDs, and DVDs to help Machar!

Our **November 23** adult education program features **Bennett Muraskin** speaking on *Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore*. This will be followed by a **Community Service activity for all** as we prepare soup and trail mix packages for a homeless shelter.

On **December 7**, former Machar President **Jocelyn Samuels** will discuss *The Federal Role in Protecting Civil Rights: Opportunities and Limitations*. This is a great lead-in to our Community Sunday **International Human Rights Fair**.

We end the year with our **Hanukkah Party** at Schweinhaut Senior Center on **December 14**.

But this isn't all:

Our **Young Adult Havurah**, with the DCJCC's Jewish Literary Festival, is co-sponsoring an event on **October 27** with Matthew Klickstein, author of *Slimed!: An Oral History of Nickelodeon's Golden Age*

Machar's **Book Club** will continue its discussion of Rabbi Sherwin Wine's **A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews** in December (exact date/location to be determined)

And, we're planning a **fall Shabbat on Friday, November 21 for all ages!** We'll have a family Shabbat, followed by dinner for all, then Shabbat for adults. Come for all or part of the evening. Stay tuned as we make plans for this (and we welcome your help!)

Darlene Basch
Machar President

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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 traditionsjewish-gifts.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.

High Holidays



Scenes from Rosh Hashanah Above left: Rabbi Nehama with Children's service leader Mimi Brody. Above right: Children's service volunteer readers. Below: Rabbi Nehama leading Main service, pictured here with readers and choir members.



High Holidays



Scenes from Kol Nidre Above: past Machar presidents on stage with Rabbi Nehama. Left: Rabbi Nehama with father and speaker Bob Benmosche. Below: current Machar board members and leaders on stage with Rabbi Nehama.



High Holidays



Scenes from our Yom Kippur Main service

Above: kids on stage with Rabbi Nehama. Left: Machar choir members. Below left: Rabbi Nehama with David Godden lighting symbolic Yarzeit candles. Below right: speaker Akiva Liberman.



Welcome back to JCS! We have had a busy beginning to our 2014-15 school year. We have many new teachers, many new ideas for programming and of course we are very happy to welcome Rabbi Nehama Benmosche, who has already shared many new and creative activities for our Machar families.

We are lucky this year to have a staff of interesting and excited new teachers who are busy developing lesson plans that are fun, informative and community based. We look forward to developing students who learn about Secular Humanistic Judaism, Jewish History, Bible from a secular humanistic perspective, and Hebrew. Most of all we hope to challenge our students to think for themselves, and to understand their own family histories while experiencing a strong bond with a warm community that is both intellectually vibrant and personal.

IN OUR CLASSES:

K/1: The students helped to create a list of 10 class guidelines that all of us - the students and teacher - will abide by. The K/1 class learned about Rosh Hashanah. "Rosh" means head so we danced to a Hebrew/English hokey pokey. We looked at some of the Rosh Hashanah symbols, including apples and pomegranates. We read Click Clack Moo and talked about the harvest and changes that occur during the Jewish New Year. We had a special guest guitarist join our class to play a few Hebrew songs for us! Finally, we watched the music video Book of Good Life by The Maccabeats and discussed the concept of good deeds. The students then drew one good deed they intended to do in the new year (many of the students drew themselves picking up trash or recycling).

In our second class we played Bingo with pictures of symbols from Rosh Hashanah. As we learned about Yom Kippur, we listened to the song, Kol Nidre,

and drew how the music made us feel. We read Sukkot Treasure Hunt and went on our own scavenger/treasure hunt.

Second Grade: The second grade discussed Tzedakah ("justice"). Most of us think of tzedakah as giving to charity, but in reality it encompasses the idea of taking responsibility for others through self-respect and action,

We also went over the Hebrew letter shin. Some examples of Hebrew words beginning with include Shofar and shabbat. It also gave rise to the Greek Sigma and later the Latin S.

On Sunday, October 19th we plan to discuss Chesed (Rachamim), which refers to loving kindness, or compassion, especially for those who are vulnerable. Gemilut Chasidim are acts of loving kindness. Some religious Jews, seeing Tzedakah solely as giving money and Gemilut Chasidim as giving money and/or personal services, feel that Gemilut Chasidim is greater than Tzedakah. The kids will learn the differences between these two ideas and discuss them further.

Third Grade: The third grade began by introducing themselves and saying their favorite parts about being Jewish. Next they learned about the high holidays from a Jewish Humanistic perspective. The kids did a beautiful job crafting Jewish New Year (Shanah Tovah) cards. For Yom Kippur, the students each wrote a bad habit of theirs or an action for which they were sorry from this past year. Then they crumpled up their papers and threw them in the trash, symbolically achieving closure and moving forward to an even better, sweeter year.

The students began learning the Hebrew alphabet. They also started exploring the values of Humanistic Judaism. Finally, they learned about and celebrated Sukkot.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders discussed the core beliefs of Secular Humanistic Judaism, and discussed Rosh Hashanah. They brainstormed what they would all wish for the world in the coming year, tying together the values of Secular Humanistic Judaism and tikkun olam. The students came up with some great ideas - such as world peace, ending global warming, and ending hunger and homelessness in the world.

The class learned the first letter of their Hebrew Workbooks (Shin), and discussed words in which the letter appears (Rosh Hashanah, Shofar, Shabbat). Finally, we discussed Yom Kippur and students wrote on pieces of paper regrets or mistakes from the past year. They then went into the bathroom and wet the paper with water, symbolizing the tradition of throwing breadcrumbs in a river.

The students also read the story of Genesis and discussed it from a Secular Humanistic perspective. Each student received a copy of the novel Letters from Rifka, and read the first chapter together. Finally, the class is continuing with stories of ethical and moral dilemmas, which they so enjoyed last year in third grade.

During our second class, the fourth graders discussed Yom Kippur and Sukkot, and the meaning and significance of each holiday from a humanistic perspective. They also continued working through the Hebrew workbooks, and the students now know the three letters that spell «Shabbat.» They also began reading Letters from Rifka, a historical fictional novel written about a young girl who moves with her family from Europe to America in 1919. They began to discuss what was going on in Europe at the time, and why many Jews came to America during that time period. Finally, they read a scenario from a "What would you do?"-esque book and discussed the

JCS News (*continued*)

morals of the situation - whether or not to stand up for someone who is being teased when doing so may mean getting teased yourself.

The class also shares a "Yiddish Word of the Week," beginning with "oy vey."

In the next class, students will begin reading the book of Genesis and discussing it from a humanistic perspective. Students will begin discussing their own family histories, including: When and from where did your family come to this country? Why did they come here? If possible, even try to ask grandparents or other relatives what it was like to adjust to life in a new land - just as we will soon learn more about Rifka's struggles from the novel.

Fifth grade: The fifth graders spent some time getting to know each other by sharing their names, one interesting thing about themselves, and a little bit about how they spent the summer. Next, the class talked about the upcoming holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Aviva explained the meaning of each of the holidays and read traditional stories. The class discussed how the time before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is, for many Jews, a time of self reflection and self improvement. In that spirit, the class created a calendar of good deeds, assigning students one good deed each day that will better themselves and the world.

A Message from Ian R.

(JCS 7th grade student; May 9, 2015 bar mitzvah)

I am organizing an Equal Exchange Fair Trade Fundraiser to benefit Machar! On 10/19 I will be talking to Adult Ed and the JCS briefly but I wanted to let everyone know what's coming.

Many Machar members are already familiar with Equal Exchange and Fair Trade. For those of you who are not, please see the below links to info on Fair Trade/Jewish Fair Trade Partnership. In short, as Equal Exchange explains on its website: Fair Trade is a way of doing business that ultimately aims to keep small farmers an active part of the world marketplace, and aims to empower consumers to make purchases that support their values. Fair Trade is a set of business practices voluntarily adopted by the producers and buyers of agricultural commodities and hand-made crafts that are designed to advance many economic, social and environmental goals.

<http://www.equalexchange.coop/our-partners/interfaith-partners/jewish-fair-trade-project>

<http://prezi.com/wraqjikamwtr/copy-of-welcome-to-equal-exchange-fundraising/>

<http://www.equalexchange.coop/ee-and-you/fundraising/frequently-asked-questions>

<http://www.equalexchange.coop/fair-trade>

I like that I can buy chocolate that is not only delicious, but it is also fair for the people who grow, make, and sell it for a living.

But it's not just chocolate. We're offering organic coffee as well as flavorful teas. Also available are handcrafted items, handmade giftwrap, and Ten Thousand Villages crafts. The items are fairly priced and our group makes a percentage on every product we sell.

We receive a higher profit margin for orders placed through the catalog, so you may collect orders from local friends and family if you wish to support this fundraiser.

Please see me for a catalog or more information.
Catalog order forms and payment due: November 9, 2014

This deadline is important because we have to receive the ordered items in time to distribute them at Machar before Hanukkah.
Thank you!

Ian manoloaddict [at] hotmail.com

Adult Education and Community Sundays

Sundays 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Sessions are open to all. There is parking on 16th Street and in the back. All sessions are held in the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20012

October 19

Jennie Guilfoyle—In the Absence of Immigration Reform

Ever since the 2012 election, we have heard that major immigration reform is just around the corner. Machar member and immigration attorney Jennie Guilfoyle will talk about what has been happening in the absence of Congressional action on immigration. What has the administration done? What has it not done? Which immigrants has the administration helped? Which has it not?

Community Sunday: Sukkot celebration

October 26

Rabbi Mindy Portnoy—Theodor Herzl: The Man and the Myth

An exploration of the personal and political life of Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism; journalist, playwright, man of Budapest, Vienna, Paris; son, husband, and father. This lecture will be based on a variety of biographies which have been written about him, evoking a multitude of fascinating personas. Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Sinai, is a graduate of Yale University, and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She has taught courses about Herzl and is the author of five Jewish children's books and many published sermons, blogs, and essays on a range of topics.

Community Sunday: Intergenerational Oral History Videos

November 16

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche—A Journey Through the Jewish Movements

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche, Machar's rabbi since April 2014, has lived in many parts of the Jewish world. She will help us understand the similarities and differences in these streams of Jewish life, using examples from her personal life, including schooling in Conservative Judaism, living in an Orthodox community in college, experiencing Judaism in Israeli culture, rabbinic training in the Reconstructionist movement, and now serving a Humanistic Jewish community.

Community Sunday: Global Day of Jewish Learning/Book sale

November 23

Bennett Muraskin—Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore

Based on his book by the same name, Muraskin reveals the richness of Jewish folklore and its relevance to contemporary issues. He draws on stories from Talmud, Midrash, Hasidic and other sources that reflect values of mutual respect, equality, social justice and questioning authority, with plenty of humor too. Muraskin is the Adult Education Director for the Jewish Cultural School and Society in northern New Jersey, a part of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations. He has authored three books and is a columnist for *Jewish Currents* and *Outlook* (Canada) as well as a contributor to the Society for Humanistic Judaism's publication *Humanistic Judaism*.

Community Sunday: Community Service Activity—Soup and Trail Mix Assembly

December 7

Jocelyn Samuels—The Federal Role in Protecting Civil Rights: Opportunities and Limitations

The executive branch of the federal government enforces numerous laws to protect civil rights, including with regard to voting, police misconduct, equal educational and employment opportunity, and hate crimes. This program will discuss the government's work in these and other areas, addressing both advances in and obstacles to civil rights. Samuels is Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services. Previously, she was Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice and has worked in the public interest community on civil rights issues. She is a former President of Machar.

Community Sunday: International Human Rights Fair

December 14

Hanukkah Party at Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, 20901

Clubs and Activities

WITs

Renée Weitzner

In September, WITs enjoyed a lovely evening at Eva Shankman's home. Thank you for your gracious hospitality.

The wonderful women of Machar will meet on October 22 at 7 pm at the home of Katie Wittenberg. Please write directly to Katie by October 20 to let her know you are coming and what you are bringing.

You may reach Katie by phone or by email at wittenbergsdk at gmail.com.

Book Club

Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch

The Book Club will be discussing the next three chapters of Rabbi Sherwin Wine's book, *A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews*, at the home of Elizabeth Hodes on December 7, 2014 at 3 pm. Please let Renée Weitzner (rwcats [at] aol.com) know that you are coming by December 5, 2014 so that she can let the host know how many people to expect.

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.



An Israeli dance lesson for our first Community Sunday on September 14



Some of our many volunteers at Machar's table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 7.

SHJ Update

I'm Marlene Cohen and I'm happily serving as the Machar representative to the board of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. I also head the Education Committee, focused on children's education. We have a particularly special year ahead with the start of Machar's Larry Lawrence serving as President of SHJ!

Please remember that if you have issues for me to take to the board, including items for ethical concerns/social action (I will attend a fall meeting in late October) or questions, I'm happy to heard them. I will report highlights from the meeting in the next Machar newsletter.

Marlene Cohen
MarleneCCohen at comcast.net

Features



September 28 Adult Ed and Community Sunday: Michael Prival delivering a talk about the ideas of Rabbi Sherwin Wine.



Adults and children pitching in for our annual creek cleanup.



The Teen Group presenting their ideas about collecting tzedakah money on Sundays.

I Had Fun for Free in Israel and So Can You

By Alex Kidwell

"I just don't know. I've heard those trips will try to brainwash you; make you believe things you don't about your Jewish identity or the state of Israel. I don't think I could handle being stuck in a foreign country with a bunch of dull religious types; I don't know. It's a cool idea, but it's not for me."

Sound familiar? To a lot of young American Jews, it probably should. Since 1999, Taglit-Birthright Israel has offered young Jews across the diaspora the opportunity to come see the "motherland" for free and take a ten-day tour of all Israel has to offer. For almost exactly as long, people who easily qualified for this free international traveling experience have been apprehensive about it for a variety of reasons, ranging from personal safety to religious brainwashing to flat-out laziness regarding the application process. I get it. I was a member of this crowd myself for nine of the ten years I was eligible for the trip.

In fairness, like most of the skeptics, my fears were a product of my social circle. For every person I knew who had a good Birthright experience, I knew four with real mixed feelings. It's hard to expect a positive outcome from something when you're only seeing a 20% success rate. However, despite my reservations, this summer I overcame my skepticism and decided I was

being foolish. Surely I could find a way to make a free ten days in Israel work for me. Surely I was not so set in my ways at 26 that I couldn't go with the flow for a short time in a foreign land. Neither was I still so young and naïve as to be susceptible to any questionable information I might be fed. So what was I afraid of? With this thought in mind, I scoured the Birthright website, determined to find myself the most entertaining, least religious experience I could find.

I can honestly say I see how kids end up having a bad time. There are roughly 20 different trip organizers for Birthright, each with their own mission statement, website, itinerary and YouTube video. It's enough to make your head spin, and it could take days to properly sift through it all. However, the key is that while certain items are included on every organizer's itinerary, like the Western Wall and the hike up Masada, many vary greatly from organizer to organizer, most notably the degree of religious influence.

After researching all of them, I decided to book my trip with Shorashim, whose video claimed above all to provide the most active, outdoor Birthright experience with a minimal focus on religion and an emphasis on spending time with young Israelis.

While I'm not a hiking enthusiast by any means, seeing the natural beauty of Israel and hanging out with people my own age seemed much more preferential than some of the other, more Orthodox options.

Looking back now, I can't imagine having passed up on this trip. Even though there are, in fairness, a couple stops on the itinerary that seem to exist solely to scream out, "you should care more about Israel!", the vast majority of our destinations were breathtaking, enlightening, and just flat-out fun. Though some of what few group discussions we had took slightly religious or xenocentric turns, it was abundantly clear from the onset that everyone was entitled to their opinion. The discussions were led by a young TA from Harvard, who was cool and relatable in a way that encouraged participation and critical thinking.

More than anything, I learned from this experience that like-minded people tend to seek out like-minded experiences. I knew I had chosen the right group when the first girl I talked to on the plane said, "Are you like, super-Jewish? Because I'm scared I'm going to be the only one who doesn't know anything!"

Almost every member of our 49-person group of 20-somethings was an intelligent,



Israel (continued)

charismatic, critically-thinking young professional, and all were easy to find common ground with. Some were fresh out of school; others were well on their way in fascinating careers, but almost all of us had a similarly vague Jewish identity, which made finding common ground easy. The Israelis, who spend the entire ten days with Shorashim groups only, were amazing and intelligent people who provided insight into similarities and differences between our lifestyles that was something I hadn't expected to find anywhere near as deep and meaningful as I did.

Ultimately, I came back from my trip feeling like a "better Jew" in the sense that I do now have a real understanding of some hot-button issues that had always seemed somewhat clouded to me. More importantly though, I feel this trip made me a better person, as it allowed me an opportunity to draw from the deep well of experience and intellect that was available to me over those ten days. And really, that's what it all boils down to. Know what you're looking to get out of your experience, know what your beliefs are and go with a positive attitude. But whatever you do, go. Your 35-year-old self, who doesn't have a free trip to Israel waiting in the wings, will thank you. I promise.

Alex is the son of Marlene Cohen and Michael Kidwell, Machar B'nei Mitzvah class of 2000

From Machar founder Mary Perica with three wonderful granddaughters: Stav, Shani, and Lior: Hag Sameach to everyone. Hoping we all have a peaceful, exciting, healthy and happy year.



HYMAN S. & FRED A BERNSTEIN JEWISH LITERARY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 19 to 29

featuring
Gary Shteyngart, Dr. Ruth, Hilma & Meg Wolitzer and more



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM

Local Author Fair: Discover a New Book

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:30 PM

The Sarajevo Haggadah: Music of the Book with Geraldine Brooks



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7:30 PM, The Chaim Kempner Author Series

Zachary Lazar, *I Pity the Poor Immigrant: A Novel*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 8:00 PM

Art Spiegelman's *WORDLESS!* with music by Phillip Johnston, at Lisner Auditorium



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 7:30 PM

Hilma and Meg Wolitzer: *Like Mother, Like Daughter*, moderated by Deborah Tannen

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 7:30 PM

Film: *Fifth Heaven*



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, NOON

Nick Kotz, *The Harness Maker's Dream: Nathan Kallison and the Rise of South Texas*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 8:00 PM, The Gerald L. Bernstein Memorial Lecture

Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer and Jerome E. Singerman, *Myths of Love: Echoes of Ancient Mythology in the Modern Romantic Imagination*



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 10:00 AM

The Great Children's Read: Bringing Books to Life

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 7:00 PM

S. Bear Bergman performing *Machaturim*



MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7:30 PM

Mathew Klickstein, *Slimed!: An Oral History of Nickelodeon's Golden Age*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7:30 PM, The Bernard Wexler Lecture on Jewish History

Martin Goldsmith, *Alex's Wake: A Voyage of Betrayal and a Journey of Remembrance*



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 7:30 PM

Gary Shteyngart in Conversation with NPR's Alan Cheuse, *Little Failure: A Memoir*

All events at the DCJCC unless otherwise noted.



dcjcc.org/litfest

Presented by
The Jewish Community Center of the DC Metro Area

The Machar Family

Birthdays

October 2: [Hannah Isabela Figueroa](#)
October 3: [Julia Williamson](#)
October 4: [Bridget Ehart](#)
October 9: [David Goldberg](#)
October 10: [Isabel Franklin](#)
October 12: [Anna Cohen](#)
October 14: [Ronni Schwartz](#)
October 15: [Gary Peck](#)
October 16: [Henrietta Wexler](#)
October 17: [Mark Swartz](#)
October 18: [Sadie Delicath](#)
October 20: [Hannah Goor](#)
October 20: [Ester Rozenblum](#)
October 22: [Oliver Kahn](#)
October 23: [Alexander Al-Hujazi](#)
October 23: [Scott Rosenbaum](#)
October 25: [Elena Pastreich](#)
October 26: [Julia Raytselis](#)
October 26: [Ahmed Al-Hujazi](#)
October 29: [Eva Shankman](#)

Anniversaries

October 2: [Lauren Brown and Charles Franklin](#)
October 8: [Marco Gonzalez and Kara Blank-Gonzalez](#)
October 15: [Rob Goor and Linda Tebelman](#)
October 16: [Brenda Platt and Daniel DeMocker](#)
October 22: [Larry Lawrence and Amy Kotkin](#)

Yarhzeits: We remember...

October 6: [Esther Copeland](#), mother of [Donna Copeland](#)
October 7: [Patricia Ekenstam](#), mother of [Tricia Gordon](#)
October 19: [Marcel Slater](#), grandfather of [Leah Kaplan](#)
October 23: [Gertrude Zinnerman Harris](#), aunt of [Hank Prensky](#)
October 28: [Harold Hartogensis](#), father of [Deb Godden](#)
October 30: [Marta Marks](#), sister of [Alberto Grosmark](#)

Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to [Joan Prival](#) who retired in August from the National Science Foundation where she was a Program Officer in the Division of Undergraduate Education.

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We send our sincere condolences to two of our board members who lost beloved parents recently. Professor Samuel Gitler, father of [Miriam Gitler](#) and father-in-law of [Pedro Rodriguez](#), and a world-renowned mathematician, died on September 9 at the age of 81. A funeral was held in Mexico City, where he was born.

Dr. I James Weitzner, father of [Renée Weitzner](#) and father-in-law of [Peter Wolfe](#), died on September 29 at the age of 95. A funeral was held at Riverdale Chapel in New York City with Rabbi [Peter Schweitzer](#) of The City Congregation for Humanistic Judaism officiating.

Whaddaya Talkin'?

Marlene Cohen

Do you know that you OR something you love to eat can both be **geshmak**?

It translates to delicious but also delightful. So the kugel can be geshmak, and so can you! Ah, perhaps you are what you eat. You can even be a geshmakteh mensch.

And How is Yiddish Doing These Days?

Seventy-six percent of all US Yiddish speakers lived in the New York metro area, with another 6 percent in the Poughkeepsie metro area, 4 percent in the Miami

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!

metro area, and 2 percent in the Los Angeles metro area, according to the Pew Research Center. This means that 88 percent of all Yiddish speakers lived in just one of these four metro areas.

Though some Yiddish speakers are dying, there is also a resurgence of young people studying the language. [Jordan Kutzik](#) is a 26-year-old writer for The Yiddish Daily Forward. He is also the chairman of Yugntruf Youth for Yiddish, a youth group advocating the study of Yiddish.

The Atlantic, September 9, 2014

Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

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Liturgy

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Mishpahah
Renée Weitzner

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Marlene Cohen

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Nadine Wettstein

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Ami Argaman

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Book Club
Darlene Basch
Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot
Donna Copeland

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

Join the HuJews community for Conclave 2015!

**When:
Friday thru Sunday,
March 20-22, 2015**

**Why?
To make new friends!**

**Where: Butzel
Conference Center in
Ortonville, Michigan**



To discuss new ideas!

To explore a new place!

**To participate in
community service!**

**To have a
weekend of fun!**

**Registration &
Scholarship
Information
coming soon**

Questions?
Contact Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld
at rabbijodi@gmail.com
or the Society for Humanistic Judaism
at hujews@shj.org, 248-478-7610

Columbia Jewish Congregation's 23rd Annual Jewish Film Series!

5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045 ★ 410-730-6044 ★ www.columbiajewish.org

Four evenings of thought-provoking, varied, entertaining films, including refreshments & optional discussion

Showings: Saturdays, 8:00pm, Room 200, The Meeting House in Oakland Mills, Columbia, MD 21045

\$32 for 4-film series, \$27 for 3-film series, \$19 for 2-film series. (\$10.00 for single ticket: Sold at door only)

(Choice of films is yours and you need not choose in advance.)

TICKET SALES WILL BEGIN AND DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7:30pm

(If a movie is cancelled because of snow, that movie will be shown at the end of the season – May or early June. Date will be announced later, if needed.)

Each of the films being presented has been shown, or will be shown, at multiple Jewish film festivals around the country.

All films are subject to change based upon availability.

January 17, 2015

The Gatekeepers

2013 – Israel – Hebrew with English subtitles – 101 min. Charged with overseeing Israel's war on terror - both Palestinian and Jewish – the heads of the Shin Bet, Israel's secret service, are present at the crossroads of every decision made. For the first time, six former heads of the agency agreed to share their insights and reflect on their actions.

February 28, 2015

Cupcakes

2013 – Israel – Hebrew with English subtitles – 100 min. When a group of best friends in Tel Aviv gather to watch Universong, they are not impressed by the official Israeli entry. Believing they can do better, they spontaneously create and record their own song on a mobile phone. Unknown to them, their performance is seen by the judges, and they are reluctantly thrown into the spotlight as Israel's next official entry. A journey with hilarious results brings them to the final contest.

March 28, 2015

The Other Son

2012 – French with English subtitles – 105 min. A moving, provocative tale of two young men - one Israeli, the other Palestinian – who discover they were accidentally switched at birth, and the complex repercussions facing them and their respective families.

April 25, 2015

100 Voices: A Journey Home

2012 – USA – English – 91 min. One hundred cantors from around the world come together for concerts at the Warsaw Opera House and the Nozyk Synagogue to remember and celebrate the past and present Jewish culture in Poland.

Have any questions? Call (410) 997-0694, Tom Laufer. **Preferred closing signup: December 10, 2014**

Please return this form by **December 10, 2014** together with your check (made payable to CJC)

AND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

to: CJC Jewish Film Series, c/o B. Belin, 10365 Blue Arrow Ct., Columbia, MD 21044

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Series: Full _____ 3-Film _____ 2-Film _____ Subscriber: New _____ Renewal _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Where/how did you learn about our series? _____





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!*

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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.

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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! .