



## The Blind Men and the Elephant

Dear Machar Members,

As I heard so thoughtfully explained at the b'nei mitzvah services of our seven students last month, when the families found Machar they found what they had been searching for. They found a community where they were welcomed, felt comfortable, believed what they heard, and were affirmed in what they believed and what they did not. They found a place where their children could receive a secular Jewish education, and become a bar or bat mitzvah in an unusually meaningful way. Again this year at the b'nei mitzvah services, I heard visitors say, "This was the most meaningful Jewish mitzvah service I have ever attended" and "I wish I'd known about this when my child was young."

Machar serves other needs for other members, those without children or at other stages of life. In many ways, Machar is like the legend of the seven blind men and the elephant. Each feels a different part of the elephant – a leg, the tail, the trunk, a side, the head – and then each describes a different animal. To you, Machar may be the High Holiday services; it may be the book club; it may be WITs; it may be Adult Education; it may be Passover, Hanukkah, Purim; it may be the neighborhood havurah or our new restaurant havurah; it may be the Jewish Cultural School for

your children. We hope it is all of those and more. It is, I fervently hope, where you go to see friends.

What I heard at the three wonderful b'nei mitzvah services in May inspired me. It is amazing what these young people do. The children and their families also inspired me because I see that Machar is helping our members. Not least of all, they inspired me to remind you that we all have friends, colleagues, acquaintances, family who would like what Machar provides. Perhaps they have been looking and have not found us, or perhaps they just do not know we exist. These folks just need to know about Machar. Each member has found Machar in some way – the best, most effective way is to hear about Machar from someone they know. Tell them, not just to help Machar grow (and to win our generous thank you gift for referring a new member) but mostly to help others find what we have found in Machar.

This is my last month as Machar President. Yes, it has been a very active two years, and immensely rewarding. Machar is growing, thriving, and most significant to me, is serving a real need for all of us. Thank you for the honor and the opportunity to help Machar serve you and all of our members better.

Nadine Wettstein

### Inside this issue:

- 2: Machar Celebrates
- 4: Clubs and Activities/  
Board Highlights
- 5: Machar News
- 6: The Machar Family
- 7: Staff, Board of Directors and Leadership
- 8: Information/Ads

## The End of the Year and the End of an Era





Photos from our last day of Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education in May. We thanked Rabbi Ben for his almost twelve years of service as he begins his new role as full time chaplain at American University. We also thanked our Jewish Cultural School teachers for another wonderful year of fun and learning and outgoing Board President Nadine Wettstein for her excellent leadership during the past two years and welcomed incoming president Darlene Basch.





# Clubs and Activities/Board Highlights

## WITs

*Renée Weitzner*

The wonderful women of WITs (Wimmin' in Transition) enjoyed a delightful repast at the home of Martha Mednick in May. Fine food and great conversation was enjoyed by all. WITs is open to all female members of Machar. We enjoy getting together once a month to support each other, marking each other's trials and tribulations as well as our joys and successes.

This month on June 26, 2013 at 7 pm, we are meeting at the home of Elaine Dancis. I hope you will be able to join us. Please let me know that you are coming by June 24, 2013, so that I am able to let our host know how many people to expect and what our menu will be. Elaine tells me that her house might be under construction then. If we have to change our location, she knows of a good restaurant right in her neighborhood where we could go....We will know this well before our meeting, and I will notify all responders if a change needs to be made. You may reach me by phone or by email at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com).

I am looking forward to seeing you in June at the home of Elaine Dancis.

## 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 knowl-

edge, 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).

## Young Adult Havurah

*Liz Pomper*

Join our listserve at [groups.google.com/group/macharyah](http://groups.google.com/group/macharyah) or join our group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah](http://www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah) to get the details. YAH events are open to all regardless of membership status in Machar, and participants are encouraged to bring friends who may be curious about our movement.

## Social Action Committee

*Rick Gold*

### DC Patient Protection Act – Action Continues

In the May newsletter, the Social Action Committee asked Machar members to share with the District of Columbia Council their experiences in DC hospitals and to advocate for the Patient Protection Act. Since then, Rabbi Ben Biber added his name to the religious leaders' statement, "It's Time for Healing," which urged the City Council and Mayor to enact the Act. Supporting organizations have met and agreed that this is a community bill with impact far beyond nurses and current patients. They noted that each one of us and our loved ones has the potential to be a patient one day. They called for a broad cross-section of DC residents and nurses to visit their elected officials.

Machar members, particularly DC residents, are invited to participate in a community mass meeting and lobby day at the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W, on Thursday June 13 at 10am.

Other important actions for members include:

- Sending letters of support to District Council members.
- Signing the online petition: <http://www.nationalnursesunited.org/page/speakout/heal-dc-pass-the-dc-patient-protection-act-public-?js=false>.

Please contact Rick Gold ([rickgold at mindspring.com](mailto:rickgold@mindspring.com)) for more information.

## Machar May Board of Directors Highlights

*Joyce Rosenthal*

- The board heard about a special Shabbat service that Machar will hold on June 7th with Cantor Ellen Schwab; the Shabbat service will be held as part of a Shabbat meal. Machar will provide the main meal and members will contribute side dishes.
- The board discussed the location for next year's Passover seder. The Schweinhaut Center was considered as a possible option in order to lower costs, but alcohol is not permitted there, nor could any admission be charged for the event. Therefore Cedar Lane remains the most likely possibility, although it has raised its prices from last year.
- Information was presented about a poetry-writing series next year for Jewish Cultural School students; the series will be taught by former Machar member Rosanne Singer. Rosanne will be coming on three consecutive JCS Sundays and working in the classroom for 45 minutes; on the last Sunday, the students will recite their poetry. We applied for a Jewish Federation grant to support this project.

## JCS News

We have ended a very productive year at JCS.... with the promise of an even more exciting year in 2013-14. We had a wonderful group of teachers this year, and our students were engaged and happy in class. This year we concentrated on more teacher-parent communication, and hopefully parents received emails about their childrens' classes. In 2013-14 we hope to have more field trips, including a trip to New York City for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders.

Parents who have ideas or preferences for field trips for the 2013-14 year, please email Debby Brennan. Some parents have requested a return trip to the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. We also could return to the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore. And of course we have local walking tours with the Jewish Historical Society in Washington, DC or the Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum also in Washington DC.

Several parents have asked that next year we make a concerted effort to add more community service and social action projects to our school, and we will be aiming for more meaningful tzedakah donations/projects for our students.

Next year we will also be trying a new class schedule, with fewer Sunday celebrations, but with classes that extend until noon, with an opportunity for parents to attend their child's class after adult ed.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer!

## Machar Showed Our Pride at the Capital Pride Festival

The annual Capital Pride Festival took place on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, near the Capitol. More than 150,000 people attended the Festival on Sunday, June 9 from noon-9 pm. Thanks to all of our members who were there, celebrating Machar's commitment to freedom, equality and empowerment for all people; support for LGBT rights; and pride in building a diverse, welcoming congregation devoted to Secular Humanistic Judaism.

Save the date for another volunteer opportunity at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, September 8.

## Yiddish Literature in Translation: Short Stories by the Masters

Mondays, June 3, 10, and 17  
7:30-9:00pm  
Ohr Kodesh Congregation  
8300 Meadowbrook Lane,  
Chevy Chase, MD

### Free and open to the public

Three classes led by Yiddish of Greater Washington's immediate past president, Jonathan Sunshine (contact him at 301-656-5952 or jonhelen1@verizon.net)

June 10: Sholem Aleichem's "Hodl"

June 17: Isaac Bashevis Singer's "Gimpel Tam" (Gimpel the Fool)

No knowledge of Yiddish is necessary. Copies of the stories will be available in the shul office in advance, and will be passed out in class one week in advance. If you can, please try to read the stories in advance.

## 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!*

**Naches / nakhes** – Rosten says you can rhyme it with "Loch Ness," using that same Scottish kh sound

An appropriate term following our wonderful B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies in May...where all our children are, like in Lake Wobegon, far about average.

Naches is proud pleasure, a special joy, like we Macharniks get from our students' terrifically conceptualized, written and delivered B'nei Mitzvah projects, and from watching their families and friends enjoy the special event.

In fact, Leo Rosten described naches as "the pleasure that only a child can give its parents." But we share it through our community.

But it can also mean psychological gratification, as from one's own efforts fulfilled.

When you have naches you kvell....ah, next month's word!!

—Leo Rosten,  
*The Joys of Yinglish*, 1992

# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

June 4: Everett Tobocman  
June 4: Piper Tobocman  
June 5: Ann Argaman  
June 5: Yan Raytselis  
June 6: Marjory M Donn  
June 6: Elana Eisen-Markowitz  
June 6: Emmett Zamore  
June 7: Daniel Hellerstein  
June 7: Norman Hall  
June 8: Ariana Rodriguez-Gitler  
June 11: Barry Dancis  
June 11: Jasper Tobocman  
June 15: Hildie Block  
June 20: Alyssa Lahn  
June 23: Mildred (Millie) Mauer  
June 24: Rebecca Desenberg  
June 25: Phyllis Hodes  
June 26: Heather DeMocker  
June 28: Anita Willens  
June 29: Kenneth Lederman

## Anniversaries

June 9: André and Amy Williamson  
June 12: Norman Hall and Sue Popkin  
June 19: Gary and Harriet Peck  
June 20: Ester Rozenblum and Alberto Grosmark  
June 20: Elaine and Barry Dancis  
June 24: Katie and David Wittenberg  
June 29: Peter Kahn and Susan Warshauer Kahn  
June 30: Guiseppe Topa and Carla Kopell

## Yahrzeits: We remember...

June 10: Bryan Medwed, son of Mary Perica  
June 12: David Goldwain, uncle of Miriam Gitler  
June 13: Robert Tebelman father of Linda Tebelman  
June 23: Sid Frumkin, brother of Ann Black  
June 30: Rita Maslinoff, mother of Jill L. King

.....

The family of Enrique Lerda, who died in April, invites Machar members to join in a celebration of his life to be held at **4:00 pm on Tuesday, July 16, 2013** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20903.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to one of two non-profits that he valued: The NEA Health Information Network, [www.neahin.org](http://www.neahin.org) or NEA HIN, 1201 16th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20036 OR the The Arts Mentors of the University of Virginia, The Campaign for Student Affairs, Rotunda, Southwest Wing, P.O. Box 400303, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4303, with "Arts Mentor Program" in the memo line.

Please contact Nora L. Howley ([norahowley at yahoo.com](mailto:norahowley@yahoo.com) or 301-681-5126) if you have any questions.

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](http://moderntribe.com) or [traditionsjewishgifts.com](http://traditionsjewishgifts.com).

So please tell people about Machar; we hope to give out lots of thank you cards!

—Darlene Basch

# Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

## Staff

### Rabbi

Binyamin (Ben) Biber

### Congregational Administrator

Kelly Hand

### Jewish Cultural School Director

Debby Brennan

## Board of Directors

### President

Nadine Wettstein

### Vice President

Darlene Basch

### Treasurers

Miriam Gitler

Susan Morawetz

### Secretary

Joyce Rosenthal

### Past President

Rick Gold

### At-Large

Laurie Miller

Manny Pastreich

Harriet Peck

Renée 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

### Newsletter

### Rabbinic

Michael Prival

### Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

## Machar Committee Chairs

### Adult Ed

Marlene Cohen

Harriet Peck

### Communications

Joyce Rosenthal

### Community Service

Barbara Francisco

### Education

Larry Lawrence

### Email Lists Manager

Michael Prival

### Fundraising

David Wittenberg

### High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

### Liturgy

Michael Prival

### Membership

Darlene Basch

### Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

### Mishpahah

Renée Weitzner

### New Members

Marlene Cohen

### Newsletter Editor

Tricia Ekenstam Gordon

## Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

## Passover Seder

## Rabbi Committee

Michael Prival

## Shelter Staffing

Ann Levin

## Social Action

Rick Gold

## Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

## Clubs and Havurot Chairs

### Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

### Neighborhood Havurot

Laurie Miller

### Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Renée Weitzner

### Young Adult Havurah

Betsy Kolmus

## SHJ Reps from Machar

### Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

### SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (Vice President)

Deb Godden (Secretary)

## Machar Trained Leaders

Binyamin Biber, Rabbi

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 occur between printed newsletters. Al-

most 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](http://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! .