



## From Machar's New President

*"All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware."*

—Martin Buber

For my family and myself, becoming part of the Machar community is an important destination on our journey of life. When we moved to the area and joined Machar three years ago we discovered a welcoming and interesting community of people who, like us, have challenged themselves to a never-ending search for a secular, humanistic Judaism. Never-ending because we are given no prescribed answers and we must find our own truth and traditions. As part of Machar, we are lucky to travel this part of the journey together with all of you.

I would like to thank Darlene Basch, our outgoing president, for moving Machar forward these past two years. Your tireless work and leadership are greatly appreciated. Our community has enjoyed great progress under your direction and I hope I can continue, with your help, to move Machar towards the future. Todah Rabah!

Thank you to outgoing board members Peter Kahn, Danielle Leff, Mark Swartz, and Nadine Wettstein for their service. I would also like to thank Kelly Hand, our Congregational Administrator, and Debby Brennan, our Jewish Cultural School Director, for their continued and devoted support of Machar. Thank you

to a wonderful and dedicated board—Darlene Basch, Holly Campbell-Rosen, Miriam Gitler, Norm Hall, Leah Kaplan, Amanda Nothhaft, Ester Rozenblum Joyce Rosenthal, Jack Schwartz, and Renée Weitzner—who are committed to ensuring that Machar remains the warm and vibrant community that it is.

I am very excited for and look forward to another great year at Machar. We will kick off our Community Sunday tradition on September 20 with our first meeting of the Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education. I look forward to seeing many of our members as we reconnect and learn about some of the many activities planned for the year. There is something for everyone and we are always open to new ideas and experiences.

Many of our members are engaged in making Machar the wonderful community that it is. It will take all of us to make Machar greater than ever. As we begin a new year, I hope we can work together to grow our community and to make everyone feel like an active part of it. This is OUR community!

**Rahel Hanadari**  
President

### Inside this issue:

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

# Upcoming Events

## Summer Fun with Machar

Although our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education programs are on hiatus from June to August, Machar has stayed busy! In June, we enjoyed a Shabbat service at Cedar Lane and organized an outreach table at the Capital Pride Festival. Members of all ages gathered for a Family Potluck and Games Night in July. Throughout the summer, small groups such as WiTs (Women in Transition) and our Young Adult Havurah, continued to meet. Here's what we have planned for August:

### End-of-Summer Potluck Pool Party

Friday, August 28, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

Hosted by Kelly Hand and David Abramson at the PG Pool  
3301 Buchanan Street  
Mount Rainier, MD 20712  
(10–15 minute walk from the West Hyattsville Green Line metro)  
Register at this link: <http://bit.ly/1KHKGic>

We hope to see you at this event, and look forward to seeing you many times in September, when we will have our High Holidays services on September 14, 22, and 23 and resume our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education program on September 20.

### Calendar

**Sun. Aug. 16, 4–6 p.m.**

YA Havurah Hike

**Wed. Aug. 19, 7–9 p.m.**

WiTs

**Fri. Aug. 28, 6:30–9:30 p.m.**

End-of-Summer Potluck Pool Party

**Mon. Sept. 14** Rosh Hashanah

9:30 a.m. children's service

10:30 a.m. main service;

12:30 p.m. discussion group,

YA Havurah lunch

**Sun. Sept. 20**

10 a.m. JCS/Adult Ed;

11:30 creek cleanup and tashlich

**Sun. Sept. 20**

Machar at Takoma Park Folk Festival

**Tues. Sept. 22**

YA Havurah pre-Kol Nidre dinner;

Kol Nidre service, 7:30 p.m.

**Wed. Sept. 23** Yom Kippur:

9:30 a.m. children's service;

10:30 main service; YA Havurah  
break-fast

**Sun. Sept. 27**

10 a.m. JCS/Adult Ed

11:30 Sukkot celebration



## Celebrate the High Holidays with Machar!



Rabbi Nehama  
Benmosche

### Rosh Hashanah

*Monday, September 14*

*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

*Tuesday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.*

### Yom Kippur

*Wednesday, September 23*

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

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

**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](http://www.machar.org).

## How Can You Help?

Machar relies on members to pitch in throughout the year to keep our community strong. Whether you volunteer to plan a single event or commit to working on a committee throughout the year, your help is crucial to our success! This year, Marina Broitman will serve as our volunteer coordinator.

As we plan for our new membership year and the High Holidays, there will be a number of opportunities to share your time and talents. Please look out for emails asking for help with specific events or tasks.

On **Sunday, September 20**, our first day of Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education, Machar will have a table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival. We will need several volunteers to staff the table, so please save the date and plan to take a shift after JCS/Adult Ed—or that morning if you don't plan to attend our Sunday session. Contact Marina at [volunteer\[at\]machar.org](mailto:volunteer[at]machar.org) if you are able to volunteer for a shift at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, September 20.

When you renew your membership (**August 22** is our deadline this year), you will see that we have removed the long section that formerly asked how you would like to volunteer. We have a separate page for that now and will be adding new volunteer tasks throughout the year. Please take a look now at the SignUpGenius link that follows and see how you can help! <http://bit.ly/1D9Yz8R>

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## Machar: A Sponsor of the Greater Washington Immigration Film Festival

At 7:30 Thursday evening, October 22, Machar will sponsor a showing of 2 films followed by a discussion as part of the Greater Washington Immigration Film Festival. Other sponsors of the festival include the Washington Ethical Society and most Unitarian Universalist churches in the area.

The festival will take place in many venues throughout the area from Oct. 22–Oct. 25. Our venue is the Silver Spring Civic Center, convenient to parking and many restaurants. Movies that night include: Culture Clash, about the challenges facing second-generation Caribbean immigrants and No Sanctuary, which follows a mother and young daughter's difficulties in their passage through the detention system to freedom.

All the films in the festival are of excellent quality and have not been previously shown locally. Details and a complete program can be found on the GWiFi website at [www.immigrationfilmfest.org](http://www.immigrationfilmfest.org). Detailed printed programs will be available in the fall. This is a great opportunity both to learn more about the issues surrounding immigration to this country, and also to make Machar better known to the community.

We thank those Macharniks who volunteered to preview films to be selected for the festival. However, to make this event a success we need additional help.

Here is how you can help:

1. Buy tickets and attend the October 22 session. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for youth. Invite family and friends. Promote the festival and bring brochures to your workplace.
2. Volunteer to help the evening of the event. We will need 3-4 people to act as ticket takers and ushers.
3. \*There is an urgent need for a projectionist for the 22nd. The films will be on DVD, but must be projected to the group on a big screen.
4. Buy tickets to other films, including the Saturday night gala. You can buy a "passport" of tickets to 3 movies of your choice. Note: There is a free program for high school and college age youth Sat. Oct. 24 at 1:30 at UDC, Van Ness.
5. You can advertise your business in the newspaper size brochure which will be circulated throughout the DC area. Costs vary. See the website.
6. You can post the name and description of your immigrant hero on the GWiFi website. Fee is \$25.
7. You can make an individual, tax-deductible donation directly to the festival. See the website.

—Harriet Peck

## Taking a Position on Institutional Racism: SHJ Update

The SHJ Ethical Concerns Committee, has provided us this draft of a statement on Institutional Racism that the committee has been carefully crafting. If you have any comments, please send to Marlene Cohen, Machar's SHJ Board member, BY SEPTEMBER 20, to forward to the committee. ([MarleneCCohen at Comcast.net](mailto:MarleneCCohen@Comcast.net))

### **Society for Humanistic Judaism Condemns Institutional Racism**

As Humanistic Jews, we believe in the fundamental principle that all human beings are equal in worth and that race is no exception.

As Humanistic Jews, we understand that race equality is not only a human rights issue, but also an issue of justice, safety, peace, security, and economic advancement.

As Humanistic Jews, we appreciate the difficult choices that law enforcement officers have to make in often time-sensitive and potentially violent situations; yet we must acknowledge that long-standing structural injustices, particularly concerning race, sometimes result in the devaluing of African-American lives, resulting in excessive force, racial profiling and sentencing disparities.

As Humanistic Jews, we applaud FBI director James Comey's urging of police officers to engage in honest conversations about broken race relations in America and his commitment for law enforcement to re-double efforts to resist bias and prejudice.[1]

As Humanist Jews, we understand that economic insecurity, the widening wealth gap, and disenfranchisement can result in rage and violent protests. While we applaud those who exercise their constitutional right to peacefully protest inequality and injustice, we condemn those who turn to violence.

As Humanistic Jews, we recognize that tzedakah is not simply a matter of charity, but of responsibility, righteousness, and justice; as such, we are proud of those who commemorated the 50-year anniversary of the Selma march for African-American equality and recommitted themselves to the movement for racial justice.

As Humanistic Jews, we acknowledge that we must act both as individuals and as part of larger organized groups to make significant progress in eradicating inequality.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

- While the Society for Humanistic Judaism supports law enforcement who work hard in difficult circumstances to keep our communities safe, we urge law enforcement – as well as society overall – to recommit ourselves to eradicating real and latent biases that sometimes affect our decision-making and to end racial profiling and excessive uses of force;
- The Society urges all involved in protests to avoid any use of violence;
- The Society encourages our members to foster relationships with diverse racial, ethnic and economic sectors of their communities and to participate in community-based dialogues pertaining to race and economic injustice;
- The Society condemns racial discrimination in all its forms, including disparate treatment as applicable to arrests, uses of force, prosecution and sentencing by police and judicial officials;
- The Society commits itself to maintain vigilance and speak out in the fight to bring racial equality to our generation and to the generations that follow.

# Clubs and Activities

## WITs

Renée Weitzner

The wonderful women of WITs will be meeting over the summer. Here is our schedule for the next few months for your calendars. I will need to know if you are coming and what you are bringing two days before we meet so that I can let our host know. We are trying out a new schedule where sometimes we meet on a Wednesday night and sometimes we meet on a Friday night, depending on the needs and schedule of our hosts.

On August 19, we will meet at the home of Marlene Cohen at 6:45 pm. In September, we will not be meeting due to the many holidays during the month. In October we will be meeting at the home of Carole LeBlanc, date to be determined. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me by phone or by email at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com).

Thanks very much to our gracious hosts and delightful members.

## Neighborhood Havurot

Donna Copeland

The Neighborhood Havurot committee organizes events in members' homes.

If you would like to host an event, please contact Donna Copeland.

## Book Club

Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch

The Book Club of Machar will be reading a fascinating series of books over the course of the year 2015–2016. Over the summer we will be reading *The Pope and Mussolini* by David I. Kertzer, a book that explores the relationship between the Pope Pius XI and Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. We will determine a date and place later, probably some time in October. More information will be determined in late summer: where and when we will meet.

Other books we will be reading this year include, *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor, *100 Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Marquez, *Nina Balatka* by Anthony Trollope, and *The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. These books all sound fascinating and have been recommended by members of the Book Club. Other books under consideration for either this year or next include *A Woman in Berlin* by an anonymous author and *Crossing the Borders of Time* by Leslie Maitland.

I hope you will be able to join us for our insightful and perceptive meetings.

I hope you will be able to join us for our insightful and perceptive meetings. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com).

## Young Adult Havurah

Leah Kaplan

(non-members welcome)

On Sunday, August 16 join the YAH and Rabbi Benmosche for a hike in Great Falls park. Hike into your Elul: personal introspection & getting ready for the high holidays. This event is kid-friendly and dog-friendly! We'll meet at the Great Falls Visitor Center, 11710 Macarthur Blvd. Potomac, MD, at 4 p.m.

Join the YAH High Holiday activities:

September 14:  
lunch after Rosh Hashanah services

September 22:  
dinner before Kol Nidre services

September 23:  
Yom Kippur break fast

Membership not required for attendance to YAH activities. Details at [www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah](http://www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah) or contact [yah@machar.org](mailto:yah@machar.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!*

**Schmooze** – rhymes with “booze” – usually it's a verb for having a talk, but it can be a noun for “a friendly, gossipy, casual conversation” (Rosten).

Leo Rosten, the Yinglish expert of the latter 20th century, wrote that no American English words can express the warmth and connection, the heart-to-heart nature of a conversation as “schmooze” does. So now it's a common word used by English speakers.

YET more currently, The Yiddish Handbook points out that now schmoozing is just small talk about nothing in particular, and sometimes used to try to impress others. Has the word been degraded over time in America?

When we meet for High Holidays and the start of a new school and Adult Education year, let's start it with good schmoozing, to share our warmth toward fellow Macharniks and to catch up with each other.



# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

August 1: Hank Prensky  
August 7: Benjamin Topa  
August 8: Lola Ehart Rogin  
August 11: Jon Desenberg  
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 26: Andrew Weiss  
August 29: Ellen Rosenthal  
August 30: Erik Kjeldgaard

September 1: Stephen Leblanc  
September 2: Caroline Simon  
September 2: Jason Lubin  
September 3: Ana Schnell  
September 3: Billy Schnell  
September 5: Rebecca Namm  
September 9: Mimi Brody  
September 11: Carole Leblanc  
September 13: Ari Schwartz  
September 14: Sol Prensky  
September 14: Hazel Hand  
September 15: Amit Hanadari-Levy  
September 16: Mitchell Rosenthal  
September 17: Sue Popkin  
September 18: Debra DeRuyver  
September 19: David Godden  
September 21: Anna Greenberg  
September 23: Rachel Epstein-Shuman  
September 24: Rob Goor  
September 25: Jessica Ratay  
September 26: Julia Dancis  
September 27: Daniel DeMocker  
September 28: Deb Godden  
September 30: Logan Eliot

## 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  
  
September 1: Stephen Cohen and Alison Barnes  
September 2: Marlene Cohen and Michael Kidwell  
September 11: Joe Palca and Kathy Hudson  
September 13: Joseph and Mildred Goodman  
September 16: Richard (Dick) and Rochelle (Shelly) Schwab  
September 20: David Goldberg and Claire Huson  
September 30: Mark Swartz and Jennifer Guilfoyle

## Yahrzeits: We remember...

August 4: Beatrice Basch, mother of Darlene Basch  
August 19: Dyna Kaplan, grandmother of Leah Kaplan  
August 20: Albert Warshauer, father of Susan Warshauer Kahn  
August: Jayne Friedman, great aunt of Danielle Leff  
  
September 2: Martha Cohen, mother of Marlene Cohen  
September 20: Mori Basch, father of Darlene Basch  
September 22: Ruth Hartogensis, mother of Deb Godden  
September 24: Jean Martinez, mother Holly Campbell-Rosen  
September 29: James Weitzner, father of Renee Weitzner  
September: William Spencer, step-father of Adam Namm

## Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to Rabbi Nehama Benmosche and Terry Lubin, who were married on August 1. We wish them a joyful life together!

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We send our best "get well" wishes to Dick Schwab, who is recovering from hip surgery; to Harry Appelman, who is recovering from shoulder surgery; and to Henrietta Wexler, who is recovering from ankle surgery.

We send our sincere condolences to the Weitzner/Wolfe family. Norma Knoblock, the mother-in-law of Amy Wolfe, daughter of Renée Weitzner and Peter Wolfe, died on July 6 after a long illness.

# Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

## Staff

### Rabbi

Nehama Benmosche

### Congregational Administrator

Kelly Hand

### Jewish Cultural School Director

Debby Brennan

## Board of Directors

### President

Rahel Hanadari

### Co-Treasurers

Miriam Gitler

Ester Rozenblum

### Secretary

Holly Campbell-Rosen

### Past President

Darlene Basch

### At-Large

Norm Hall

Leah Kaplan

Amanda Nothaft

Joyce Rosenthal

Jack Schwartz

Renee Weitzner

### Honorary Directors

Jules Abrams

Harold Black (*deceased*)

Ann Black (*deceased*)

Joe Goodman

Millie Goodman

Mary Perica

Michael Prival

Henrietta Wexler

## Board Liaisons

### B'nei Mitzvah

Holly Campbell-Rosen

### Newsletter

### Rabbinic

### 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

### High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

### Liturgy

### Membership

Darlene Basch

### Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

### Mishpahah

Renée Weitzner

### New Members

Marlene Cohen

### Newsletter Editor

### Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

### Passover Seder

### Rabbi Committee

Joy Markowitz

### Social Action

Peter Kahn

### Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

## Clubs and Havurot Chairs

### Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

### Neighborhood Havurot

Donna Copeland

### Volunteer Coordinator

Marina Broitman

### Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Renée Weitzner

### Young Adult Havurah

Leah Kaplan

## SHJ Reps from Machar

### Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

### SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (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](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! .