



MACHAR

The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism

P.O. Box 42014, Washington, DC 20015 202 686-1881 www.machar.org

June 2008

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.



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Fellow Macharniks,

As we come to the end of another year together at Machar, I'd like to take a look back and forward. This has been another wonderful year for Machar, as is fitting for our 30th anniversary. Our congregation continues to grow, both in size and maturity. We are now about 130 families strong, and continue to add to our paid staff, with a webmaster joining our rabbi, executive director, and JCS principal and teachers. Our members are growing as well, as demonstrated by the eight JCS graduates who have already celebrated their b'nei mitzvah this year or will later this month. And, of course, as we grow in size and programs, we continue our investigation of obtaining a more permanent home for Machar. (Look for a very important survey on this topic to hit your inbox this month.)

On a sadder note, our movement lost its founder, Rabbi Sherwin Wine. In the wake of Rabbi Wine's death, it is more important than ever that Machar, as one of the leading congregations in our movement, continue to provide a home for like-minded people to learn, celebrate, and improve the world together.

If I were to individually thank all the people who have helped make this a successful year for Machar, I would need several more pages of the newsletter. I would, however, like to single out two individuals for thanks. First, I'd like to express my appreciation to Hanna Merin, who has served as JCS principal for the last three years, and has helped the JCS continue as an innovative and unique Jewish learning environment. Second, I'd like to extend my thanks to Donna Bassin, who is stepping down as volunteer newsletter editor after many years of producing a well-designed and informative newsletter, month after month, without any errors that I ever noticed.

To everyone, thank you for helping to make Machar's 30th year a success. If I don't see you this month, have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you at Machar events in September.

Sincerely,

Tom Gordon
President

JEWISH CULTURAL SCHOOL NEWS

A Fond Farewell

Jocelyn Samuels, Education Committee

We bid goodbye this month to Hanna Merin, our intrepid JCS Director, who is leaving us after three successful and productive years at the helm of our wonderful school. Hanna and her family have immeasurably enriched our Machar community during their time with us, from expanding our cultural offerings for students and adults alike, to supporting our corps of talented teachers, to integrating Machar more fully into the Washington, D.C. Jewish community. We owe Hanna an enormous debt of gratitude, and wish her all the best.

Dear Friends,

We have arrived at the end of the JCS School year, and it is time for me to say Good Bye and to move on. Three years ago, I started my journey as the JCS Director, with excitement and fear - mixed together. I was excited by the great opportunity that had been given to me to become part of such a unique group of people with their visions and dreams. I couldn't be happier to find my professional new home so far from my homeland, Israel. At the same time I was hesitant and worried. Education is a profession but a way of life too, and I was raised, grew up and educated in a different culture, with a different language.

Now looking back, I am proud to see how it was possible to combine us. Our school had grown to be a mature school which connects our students with the community philosophy, and helps its students to explore and reach for their own answers, offering and suggesting, but never enforcing. To arrive at such a point one needs parents who are loving, caring and believing, teachers who are educators in their soul, and students, the kind we have: sensitive, creative and curious - and I feel I have been blessed to enjoy all of these gifts.

The JCS where it stands now is a source of pride. Our curriculum is full of interesting content, and for two years we built our Media and Art Center. We had wonderful cooperation from our parents, we held workshops for teachers, parents and members, we exposed our students to storytellers, artists and guest speakers, we became involved with the Adult Education programs, and we offered a lot of happy moments to all of us during our Sunday sessions.

It's time for me now to thank all of you for giving me such a great personal and professional opportunity. I am so thankful to all the wonderful, dear people who worked with me, and helped me all along the way. I would like to thank our Educational Team, for whom teaching is a gift and a pleasure. I would like to thank the parents, who arrived every Sunday with a smile and a good word, and above all I would like to thank our students, the real stars of today and tomorrow, for being patient with all the adults around, for coming (almost) every Sunday and for being my teachers. Each one of you is unique and beautiful - Good Luck to all of you☺.

Some experiences become a gift for life, and your gift for me is one of those. My experience with Machar and the JCS has become part of me and will always accompany me with good memories and a smile.

Thank you and be blessed,

Hanna

ADULT EDUCATION AND RELATED EVENTS FOR MAY, 2008

Marcia Bernbaum, Coordinator Adult Education Working Group

Sunday, June 1 *An Insider's View of Campaign 2008* Ron Elving

(Jewish Primary Day School, 10:30 am to 12 noon)

The primary season will be largely over, and the major party's candidates will be known. What are the issues that will dominate the 2008 presidential election? Could this be the year health care reform is primary in voter's minds, or will national security turn states red or blue? One of the best people in the country to address these questions is Ron Elving. Elving is the senior Washington editor for NPR News, where he directs coverage of the capital and of national politics. He's also the author of the online political column, *Watching Washington*. This promises to be a lively discussion of the American political scene.

Sunday, June 1 *Surviving and Thriving in an Interfaith Marriage* Laurie Miller, facilitator *(Jewish Primary Day School, 10:30 am to 12 noon)*

There can be as many religions and beliefs within a family unit as there are members of that family. The sharing of a common religious label, however, is no guarantee that the beliefs themselves are shared. How can these differences be reconciled so that each person is given due respect? What techniques may be used to achieve harmony in the family setting? Please come and share your answers to these and other questions as we explore the challenges of life in an interfaith marriage.

Friday, June 6 *Einstein and God* Ed Goldin

(Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church. 8:15 – 9:15 pm)

Born to Jewish but secular parents, Einstein resonated positively to religious exposure. As a teenager, he found science and moved away from religious dogma. In the public spotlight he expressed quasi-deistic ideas about religion which drew strong reactions from some conservative religious quarters. Throughout the rest of his life, Einstein held true to his respect for Spinoza's God and his own personal concepts of a cosmic religion. Machar member Ed Goldin is a professor of physics, teaching at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, affiliated with American University.

JOIN MACHAR'S ADULT EDUCATION WORKING GROUP, FACILITATE HUMANISTIC LIFE ISSUES SESSIONS

Machar's adult education working group, established two years ago, has eight members. In consultation with other members of Machar and collaborating closely amongst ourselves, we identified adult education presenters for the 2006/7 and the 2007/8 calendar years; developed a program calendar and brochure that goes out each Fall and Winter; and assumed responsibility for backstopping adult education events. We have been fortunate to have a terrific team: Ed Goldin, David Gross, Elizabeth Karcher, Kathy Hudson, Ann Levin, Harriet Peck, Joyce Rosenthal, and more recently Rick Gold. In addition – special thanks to our wonderful facilitators Marlene Cohen, Laurie Miller, Brenda Platt, Jocelyn Samuels – we have been able to develop and maintain a Humanistic Life Issues program. And where would we be without Pam Fye who has, for the last two years, made coffee and tea available on Sundays! Many thanks to all for your terrific work!

However, as is bound to happen, some members of the group have decided to move on. We would like to "replenish" ourselves by welcoming to our fold for the 2008/9 year at least three new members for the Adult Education Working Group and one or two facilitators for Humanistic Life Issues.

So you might ask, what are the criteria for participating? They are: (1) willingness to participate as a member of a team, (2) enthusiasm, (3) creativity, (4) follow through, and a (5) small amount of your time.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Adult Education Working Group or a facilitator for Humanistic Life Issues, please contact Marcy Bernbaum, coordinator of the Adult Education Working Group, at mbern362@aol.com.

ADULT EDUCATION A: WINDING DOWN 2007-8, PREPARING FOR 2008-9

Winding down 2007/8:

Machar's Adult Education Working Group, entering its third year of operations, ends the 2007/8 calendar year with a sense of satisfaction. Thanks to a number of your suggestions (coupled with our own contacts) we have been able to assemble a talented group of presenters from both within and outside of Machar. From within Machar the list includes: Brenda Platt, Paul Wapner, and Scott Sklar (who delivered an outstanding three-part series on environment last Fall); Rabbi Ben (Introduction to SHJ); Michael Prival (Darwin Day); Steven Kramer (Was the Jewish Experience Unique? Jews and Protestants in France from the Revolution to Vichy); 2006 B'nei Mitzvah graduates Lizzi Wapner and David Bernhardt (Teens Turn the Tables and Teach), former B'nei Mitzvah graduate Lucia Campos and Millie Goodman (MLK Day); Ami Argaman (Jews in Israel at the Turn of the 20th Century); Joyce Rosenthal and David Gross (Health Policy: Federal and State); and Hanna Merin (Women in Israel). We also (with the help of several of you) were able to organize a successful Potluck Shabbat and a Teen Shabbat.

Humanistic Life Issues topics -- facilitated by our very own Marlene Cohen, Laurie Miller, Brenda Platt, and Jocelyn Samuels -- have included: Coming Out of the Closet as Secular; Surviving the B'nei Mitzvah Experience; Surviving and Thriving in an Interfaith Marriage; Raising Secular Humanistic Children; Creating and Celebrating Secular Humanistic Traditions; and Coping with Difficult Relatives.

In addition, we had the good fortune of hosting several outstanding speakers from outside of Machar: MacArthur Fellow and dancer Liz Lerman (Moving Jewish Communities: the Body in Community, Politics, and Art); Jonathan Wittenberg, first Machar B'nei Mitzvah grad and Development Director at the Guttmacher Institute (Eroding Rights, Emerging Evidence: Abortion in the U.S.); expert storyteller Noa Baum (Behind the Stove, Tell Your Stories to Your Child), Francis Collins, director of the Genome Project (God and DNA), Edd Doerr, President of the American Humanist Association (Humanism and Mere Atheism); Herb Silverman, Founder and President of the

Secular Coalition for America (Putting Aside Religious Differences), and Holocaust survivor Estelle Laughlin (Memoirs of the Holocaust). We look forward to finishing the year with a presentation from NPR political commentator Ron Elving on June 1 (An Insider's View of Campaign 2008) and Machar member Ed Goldin on June 6 (Einstein and God).

Overall, adult education programs continue to be well attended (average of 27 participants per session, with some sessions attracting between 40 and 50; in 2006/7 the average was also 27). Attendees overall seemed to like most of the presentations (feedback on overall presentations averaged 4.6 out of 5.0 in both 2007/8 and 2006/7). We are, by the way, very grateful to those of you who took the time to fill in the feedback forms; your insights and recommendations have been very helpful to us in fine-tuning our sessions and planning for future sessions.

Preparing for 2008/9

Machar's adult education program for 2008/9 is currently "under construction": we have identified and rank-ordered possible presenters from both within and outside of Machar. We have also prepared a preliminary calendar. We are currently in the process of contacting the presenters we have identified to ascertain their availability. Ideas, by the way, came from many of you.

In 2008/9 we hope to give increased emphasis to interactive/intergenerational events that include Machar Teens and JCS students; and, with the return of Rabbi Ben, more presentations on Judaism and Secular Humanistic Judaism. We are also making space for increased opportunities for community building through informal gatherings. Assuming that the individuals we have identified from within and outside Machar are available, we are lined up for another excellent year.

Keep tuned for the September – December, 2008 brochure which you will be receiving electronically and in paper form in early September; followed by the January – June, 2009 brochure which will come out in December.

Community Service

Invasive Plants Removed!

Barbara Francisco

Fortunately, Pam Fye, her daughter Vida and I removed LOTS of garlic mustard from the banks of the creek across the street from JPDS on Sunday, May 18th. Unfortunately, there is some left! PLEASE CONSIDER WEARING LONG SLEEVES AND LONG PANTS SUNDAY JUNE 1ST. With a good group of us, we can rid this section of the creek of this year's plants which ARE PRODUCING SEEDS AS I WRITE! Hope to see you then.

Thank you to the following Macharniks who participated in our SHJ national May Blood Drive:

Mark Ellyne

Ahmed A. Al-Hujazi Larry Lawrence

Donna Bassin

Through the generous commitment of the Machar board to match blood donations with cash donations, we raised money for Machar while saving lives.

Social Action



*Join Us on the Hill
June 23rd & 24th &/or
Host Peace Activists
Coming to DC*

Israeli Peace Activist Yossi Beilin to Keynote Brit Tzedek v'Shalom Conference in DC 6/22

You're all invited to register and come to the annual Brit Tzedek v'Shalom conference in DC featuring a keynote speech by a leading Israeli peace activist, Member of the Knesset Yossi Beilin, the principal Israeli architect of the citizens' peace campaign, the Geneva Accords. He will speak at 8pm on Sunday, June 22nd at The Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 1201 K Street NW in Washington. (The speech is open only to conference registrants and press, so please register ASAP.)

As many of you will recall, Machar's partner organization in fostering Israeli-Palestinian peace is Brit Tzedek v'Shalom (BTVS), the largest grassroots group in the US advocating for a negotiated two-state resolution to the conflict. BTVS is holding its annual advocacy and leadership training conference this year on June 21st – 22nd. After hearing from activists, scholars, and diplomats in the field for the first two days, we'll then head to the Hill on June 23rd & 24th to meet with various legislators and their staff members to push for a more active and enlightened US engagement in fostering Israeli-Palestinian peace.

To join the Machar team in this very important work that our congregation does please join Brit Tzedek & register right away. You can learn more, join, and sign up at <http://btvshalom.org/advocacy/advocacy08.shtml> or by calling the BTVS office in Chicago at 312.341.1205.

If you plan to go, please also contact me (Rabbi Ben) at rav.bibi@verizon.net.

If you're willing to host a visiting peace activist (or 2 or 3), please contact Adam Esrig, Brit Tzedek's chapter liaison - at adam@btvshalom.org or 212.366.1670 - to tell him what kind of hospitality you could offer. Thank you!

TEEN GROUP NEWS

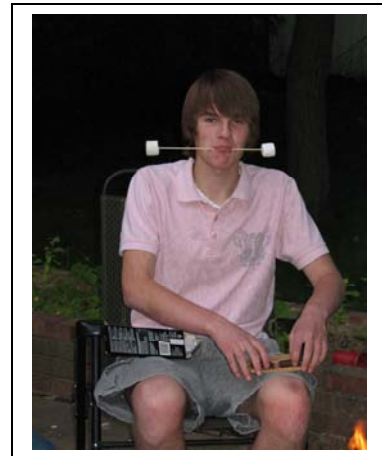
The Teen Group has many exciting things going on this month! We will be very sad to say good-bye to our seniors, which we will be doing at a Seniors Send-Off Dinner just for their class.

On the other hand, we are very excited to welcome this year's B'nei Mitzvah class as our newest members. Save the date for June 28th to welcome the B'nei Mitzvah class of 2008!

Last but not least, come out with the Teen Group on Sunday, June 1st to celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday on the National Mall from 1-4 pm. Regina Spector and Sesame Street characters from both the US and Israel are only some of the highlights! Email Sonya@machar.org if you want to join us.

I hope to see all of you in the month of June and wish everyone a fantastic start to their summer!

Sonya Weisburd, Machar Teen Coordinator



Here are some pictures from our May program, Saturday the 24th, celebrating Lag B'Omer.

We had a talk about relationships with Rabbi Ben around the campfire.

CLUBS AND HAVUROT

Senior Havurah

Shelly Schwab

There is no activity planned for this month. We are looking for new members and creative ideas for next season. Please contact me at rochelleschwab@comcast.net to learn more.

Naturalistic Spirituality Havurah Meets

The Naturalistic Spirituality Havurah will meet for dinner and a planning session on Sunday June 1st at 6 pm. Please contact Mary Haber at maryhaber@mac.com for more details.

Nature Lovers

Edie Levine

Contact me at edie@machar.org to become part of this wonderful group.

Book Club

Darlene Basch

The Machar Book Club is taking the summer off. We will reconvene in the Fall. Our first book of the new season will be "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. Date and location to be finalized later in the summer. For more information about the book club contact Darlene Basch, dab0507@verizon.net.

WITs (Wimmin in Transition) Will Potluck on the Patio in June *Deb Godden*

Nice weather is drawing us outside. WITs gatherings are at their best when we can meet in a space --indoors or out -- where we can hear one another; we are all voracious talkers. In June we will meet pot-luck-style on the 18th at 6:30 pm at the home of Deb Godden in Takoma Park. Please email deb@machar.org to RSVP and to say what you will bring for dinner.

WITs (Wimmin in Transition) is a Machar-style haven for women members of whatever age, or of uncertain age, who want to grab onto some supportive fun as they work their way through their life transitions with a listening ear, considerable bravura, and plenty of laughter. Our monthly dinner meeting agendas are decided by consensus. After a bit of personal checking in, conversation goes in many directions, but always there's that thread of personal sharing.

Machar...
committed to social justice!

Hank Prensky
Real Estate Agent

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Website Redesign Update

The design of Machar's website is moving along. We're beginning to add content to the new pages. For the most part, this means that we are simply moving text from the current site to the new one, but we will take the time to refurbish. We would like people who coordinate activities or interest groups to have a look at what's on the current site, and do whatever updating or rewriting

seems like a good idea. For some groups, there are no descriptions on our current site, for example: Neighborhood Havurot, Nature Lovers Excursions, Senior Havurah, Naturalistic Spirituality Havurah, WITs, and no doubt some others.

The new site is structured so that updating page contents will be very easy; whatever we start with, we can easily change. Thanks to those who helped.

Please send any and all write-ups or suggestions to Deb Godden: deb@machar.org.

OUR MACHAR FAMILY

June Birthdays

- 2 Leonard Wolfenstein
- 4 Zeke Wapner
- 4 Abby Olson
- 5 Yan Raytselis
- 5 Ann Argaman
- 6 Elana Eisen-Markowitz
- 7 Norman Hall
- 7 Daniel Hellerstein
- 8 Ariana Rodriguez-Gitler
- 9 Rebecca Cohen
- 11 Jasper Tobocman
- 13 Jocelyn Samuels
- 15 Hildie Block
- 20 Diane Singerman
- 25 Phyllis Hodes
- 26 Heather DeMocker
- 28 Anita Willens



June Yahrzeits - We Remember....

- 8 Harold Black, husband of Ann Black
- 10 Brian Medwed, son of Mary Perica
- 13 Robert Tebelman, father of Linda Tebelma
- 16 Sidney Benjamin, father of Rosalyn Darling
- 20 Elizabeth Bernbaum, mother of Marcia Bernbaum
- 20 Irving Levine, grandfather of Daniel Levine
- 23 Sid Frumkin, brother of Ann Black



June Anniversaries

- 7 Jon and Rosalyn Darling
- 12 Sue Popkin and Norm Hall
- 16 Bruce and Jouette Kahan
- 18 Ester Rozenblum and Alberto Grosmark
- 19 Gary and Harriet Peck
- 24 Katie and David Wittenberg
- 29 Peter and Susan Warshauer Kahn



Neighborhood

Havurot *Laurie Miller*

Macharniks, our volunteer havurot hosts are busy selecting dates for events to be scheduled in June and later this Summer. We'll be sending out invitations to these events in the coming weeks for you to choose which is most convenient for you and your family.

We look forward to nice weather and perhaps some backyard gatherings. If you have any questions or are interested in hosting an event and have not received a request to select a date - please contact me directly at yahtzqn@comcast.net.

Member Alexandra Klaff Raced in Half Ironman for those fighting blood cancers

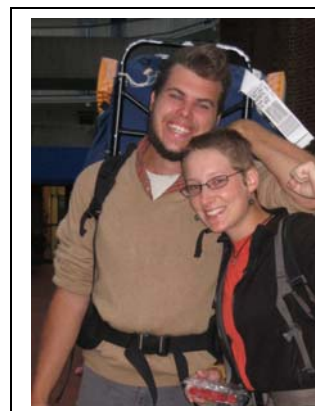
While raising two children with husband Tamir, Machar member Alexandra Klaff also trained and competed in a Half Ironman triathlon that was held in Panama, City, Florida on May 10, 2008. A Half Ironman triathlon covers a total of 70.3 miles in 3 sports: swimming (1.2 miles), biking (56 miles) and running (13.1 miles). "This race has a special significance as I raised funds to help with research that supports individuals battling cancers-specifically leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma".

While she helps those who are battling these diseases she is trying to instill philanthropic ideals in her children. "I hope that my children learn from my involvement and learn the importance of helping others". Every five minutes, according to Alexandra, someone in the United States learns that they have leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma, and every ten minutes a child or adult dies from one of these diseases. While more and more people survive these deadly diseases, there is still no cure, so funding is needed on going to continue research and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families who are battling these diseases - currently more than 747,000 Americans. Leukemia is one of the leading causes of death in children between the ages of 1 and 15. The good news is that the survival rate has risen from 4% in 1960 to 81% in the last decade. This is in part due to the money that The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society has raised to aid researchers in their fight to find cures for this disease.

Our High School Graduates

Our congregation offers a hearty congratulations and best of luck to this year's high school graduates, b'nei mitzvah classes of '03 and '04 of and their families. Here's where they are off to:

Alex, Tufts University (MA).
Nathan, Wesleyan University (CT).
Alex, Yale University (CT).
Hannah, Boston University (MA).
Dana, Kalamazoo College (MI)
Marie, Wesleyan University (CT)
Jonathan, Allegheny College (PA)



Where are they now? News from our past B'nei Mitzvot

Elizabeth Mullet Lawrence (Liz) graduated Phi Beta Kappa from St. Mary's College of Maryland in May 2008, with a major in Art and a secondary concentration in Latin American Studies. The college recognized her as a leader within and outside the campus community. For example, she arranged a visit by Rabbi Ben Biber to St. Mary's to discuss secular humanistic Judaism with interested students. Liz hopes to do local organizing in the Pacific Northwest. Liz and her boyfriend, Aaron Brussat, are pictured above.

Peter Kaplan Teichroew (1999: Marcel Marceau: Few Words, Many Actions) graduated from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina in May 2008. Peter's degree is in Religious Studies, with a minor in History. He's considering a career as a high school history teacher.

Jacob Teichroew (1996: Hannah Senesh, with accompanying sax performance) graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, in 2006, and he's currently living in Astoria, New York, while pursuing a master's in jazz performance, arranging, and composition from Queens College. He's also a freelance writer, who contributes to www.jazz.com.

Erika Ellyne (1997) - Will complete undergraduate studies at University of Brussels in law, and will continue there to begin a Masters in international law in September.

Lissandra Ellyne (1995) - Completed a Masters degree in economics at University of Louvain (Belgium) and will begin a job at the World Bank in July 2008.

Lisa May Walker, bat mitzvah '98, graduated cum laude and with honors in Physics from the College of Wooster in 2007. She just completed her first year of graduate school in Astronomy at the University of Virginia, where she has a Presidential Fellowship.

The family of JCS b'nei mitzvah class member

Rebecca

cordially invites members of the Machar community
to attend her bat mitzvah ceremony

Saturday, June 14 at 10:30 am

at the Historic 6th and I Synagogue, Washington, DC

Machar members, please join us for this celebration and kiddush afterward.

No RSVP is necessary for machar members.

The synagogue is located near the Verizon Center, Metro - Red Line to Gallery Place.

<http://www.sixthandi.org/ReachingUs.htm>

Finally – a Secular Humanistic Opportunity for Young Adults to Travel Free with Birthright Israel!

SHJ representatives are working to provide the first-ever secular Birthright Israel trip in summer 2009. Participants must be between the ages of 18 and 26 in 2009, and never have traveled to Israel in a peer- group activity.

This is a ten-day trip. There is NO cost except a refundable \$250 deposit and travel to NYC to meet the group. Applications will be available in February 2009. I urge Machar members to spread the word, including to our former members who were Bar/Bat Mitzvahed with us. If you want to get on that mailing list, e-mail hujews@comcast.net or in Facebook go to Hujewsbirthright2009. Participation will be limited to 40 people.

Humanist Charities Seeking Volunteers

The American Humanist Association, which is headquartered here in DC, has a project to identify and raise funds to support charitable relief efforts through humanist channels. They are looking for volunteers to help run this project. If you think you may be able to help, please contact me for more information.

The various tasks listed below are now handled by the AHA paid staff but the AHA would like to turn this effort over to a group of perhaps five volunteers.

- 1) Identify a crisis/opportunity to provide charitable relief/support (4-10 times a year).
- 2) Find (by looking online and making a few calls) a responsible humanist effort on the ground to direct funds to.
- 3) Establish contact and continue communication with someone from that on-the-ground effort.
- 4) Write 200-800 words to describe the situation and how the funds will be used.

Then the AHA staff will: 1) update the AHA website with the new project and graphics and 2) send an action alert and notice to local groups requesting funds. The AHA will collect the funds and quickly transfer them to the effort on the ground and, depending on the situation, will 3) send notice of efforts to the press. 4) Volunteer in contact with the on-the-ground effort writes/obtains 200-400 words describing the result of the donation.

Then the AHA staff will post a notice of the success online and may do additional media outreach.

So far, the Humanist Charities project has raised funds for tsunami relief in Asia, a library project in the Dominican Republic, Pakistani earthquake relief, and hurricane Katrina.

Rabbi Ben Biber and others in Machar have supported and worked closely with the American Humanist Association (www.americanhumanist.org) over the years. It is the main voice of humanism in the United States and this effort is deserving of our support.

So, please let me know if you might consider helping as a volunteer.

Thanks very much.

Michael Prival
mike@machar.org

MACHAR LEADERSHIP FOR 2008

2008 LEADERSHIP

Staff

Rabbi Binyamin (Ben) Biber
Executive Director Roz Seidenstein
Jewish Cultural School
 Director Hanna Merin
 Assistant Director Ann Levin
Webmaster Win Morgan

Board of Directors

President Tom Gordon *Vice President*
Marlene Cohen *Treasurer* Larry Lawrence
Secretary Phil Gould *Past President*
Donna Bassin *At-Large* Marcy Bernbaum •
Arthur Cohen • David Godden • Ed Goldin

JCS Parent Liaison Norm Hall

B'nei Mitsvah Liaison Joy Markowitz

Madrikhim Michael Prival • Deb Godden

High Holiday Choir Leader open

Machar Committee Chairs – Volunteer Contacts

Advertising open
Adult Ed Marcy Bernbaum
Band Directors Paul Wapner • Harry Appelman
Community Service Barbara Francisco
 Shelter staffing: Ann Levin • Ester Rozenblum
 Alberto Grosmark
Education Committee Jocelyn Samuels
 Paul Wapner
Email Lists Manager Michael Prival
Facilities Ed Goldin
Fundraising Ed Goldin
High Holidays open
JCRC Rep Roz Seidenstein • Tom Gordon

Labor Day Picnic open
Liturgy Deb Godden
Long-Range Planning Ed Goldin
Membership Deb Godden • Roz Seidenstein
Membership Directory Miriam Gitler
Oneg Shabbat Ami Argaman • Ann Argaman
Neighborhood Havurot Laurie Miller
Newsletter Donna Bassin
Nominating Tom Gordon • Donna Bassin • Phil Gould
Passover Seder open
Public Relations Joyce Rosenthal
 Greg Rosenthal
Rabbinic Liaison Michael Prival
Social Action Marina Broitman
Teen Group Liaison Arthur Cohen
Web Team Deb Godden

Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club Darlene Basch
Naturalistic Spirituality Mary Haber
Nature Lovers Edie Levine • Alberto Grosmark
Neighborhood Havurot Laurie Miller
Senior Havurah Dick Schwab • Shelly Schwab
Teen Group Sonya Weisburd • Rabbi Ben Biber
Wimmin' In Transition (WITs) Deb Godden
Yiddish Club Marlene Cohen
Young Adult Havurah Open

SHJ volunteers from Machar

Machar rep to SHJ Marlene Cohen
SHJ Board of Directors Members Phil Gould (past president) • Deb Godden (secretary) • Mark Ellyne
Official SHJ spokesperson Dan Tobocman

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. 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 "MacharCommunity" 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@machar.org. Of course you can get off these lists at any time.

There is also an e-mail list for non-members of Machar. People on this list, "MacharNewsletter," receive only the monthly newsletter. Again, send a note to Email@machar.org if you would like to be added to this list.

DIRECTIONS TO MACHAR VENUES

“Cedar Lane” events are held at Cedar Lane UU Church. 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda. 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 or #35 (ask the driver). *Shabbat service starts at 7:30 pm; speaker at 8:30.*

“JPDS” is the site of our Jewish Cultural School (JCS). 6045 16th Street, NW, Washington. Metro - Red Line to Silver Spring. S-2 or S-4 bus to Federal Triangle to Military Road and cross 16th Street. *JCS starts at 9:45 am; Adult Ed starts at 10:15 am.*

Meetings in private homes Call hosts for directions. Phone numbers may be found in our Directory.

Help Machar as You Shop

Larry Lawrence, Treasurer

There is a way you can help Machar financially at no cost to you. Machar participates in the eScrip (Electronic Scrip) program, a fundraising organization in which participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the congregation. Some participating businesses in the Mid-Atlantic are Safeway (which contributes 1-3% of your purchase value), Linens & Things (4%) and American Airlines (3%). eScrip also offers its own Visa card, which directs 2% of card purchases to Machar.

To sign up for eScrip, go to www.escrip.com and choose “Machar – Jewish Cultural School” as the benefiting group. The eScrip “Welcome” screen explains the program in more detail. To sign up for the eScrip credit card, see below.

Shop Online and Support SHJ

Barbara Bloom, Development Associate

The Society for Humanistic Judaism has just registered with Fundraising Solutions (www.fundraising-solutions.org), a company that partners with retail merchants (including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Dell, GAP, Macy’s, Staples, Travelocity, and 1-800-Flowers) to bring shopping dollars back to designated non-profit organizations.

When you shop online at any of the 1,000+ retailer partners, a portion of your purchasing dollars (anywhere from 2-25%, varying from merchant to merchant) will come back to the Society. Here’s how you can help the Society *just by shopping*:

1. Visit the Society for Humanistic Judaism website, www.shj.org.
2. At the bottom of our homepage click the link that alternately flashes, “Help us raise funds by shopping through our marketplace” and the shopping bag icon that says, “Click here for more info.”
3. The link takes you to the Fundraising Solutions Welcome page, where you can download a desktop shortcut the next time you shop: [Download Desktop Shortcut](#)
4. Whether or not you download the shortcut, you’re now ready to begin shopping. You can search by merchant or by category and proceed to shop as you normally would online. By taking the extra step of making your purchases through Fundraising Solutions, you are helping us raise precious dollars that will support our distinct programs and services. Please tell your friends and families about this unique way to help us raise funds.

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! You can also easily select the prompt to make goodsearch your default.

IN OUR AREA

ISRAEL @ 60: A CAPITAL CELEBRATION

**Join the entire community for
an exciting free festival
honoring Israel
Sunday, June 1, 2008
Noon - 5:00 p.m.
National Mall
Between 4th and 7th Street
[More information](#)**



Join the entire community for an exciting free festival honoring Israel. Activities include concerts, cultural displays and children's activities. [More information](#)

Visit the Society's tent for:

- Exhibition: [Ties that Bind: Washington-area Jews and the Birth of Israel](#)
- Continuous [slideshow](#) of archival images
- Living history performance: [Israel...Our Dream, Our State, Our Homeland](#)
- Oral-history recording
- Family activities, community scrapbooks and more

Special thanks to The Greater Washington Chapter of Hadassah, The Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital, Richard Neugass, Cosons, Inc., and all of our wonderful members and volunteers. For information on volunteering or becoming a sponsor, please email Nathalie at nlavine@jhsgw.org.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington hosts:

ISRAEL@60: A CAPITAL CELEBRATION

Sunday, June 1, 2008 • Noon to 5 p.m. • The National Mall • FREE

