



## Machar's Annual Membership Meeting!

Please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting on **Sunday, April 26**, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011.

This is your opportunity to hear what Machar has been doing and provide your ideas as we discuss Machar's future.

We will also be reviewing our budget and electing Machar's officers and at-large board of directors. The slate of officers for the board will be made known to the congregation at least 10 days before the meeting.

### Volunteerism at Machar

One issue we want to focus on at the membership meeting is volunteerism. As a small non-profit organization with a small budget, Machar can only function with the help of its members. We have some "super-volunteers" who play leadership roles and assist regularly with event planning. However, Machar functions better when everyone pitches in.

For the coming year, we want to set the expectation that each member should take on some kind of volunteer role. Instead of asking you to check off volunteer interests on our registration page, we will use a SignUpGenius page to have each family sign up for at least one "job." Some of the possibilities will include being a room parent for your child's class or helping to plan a specific event. **We also would like someone to serve as a Volunteer Coordinator who will make sure that we have the help we need throughout the year. Please let us know if you are interested in playing that role!**

Remember that volunteerism helps us to keep our costs down. Having members involved also makes our congregation a more dynamic, creative community. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful group of intelligent and talented members, so please share your talents!

**Darlene Basch**  
**President**

[dab0507\[at\]verizon.net](mailto:dab0507[at]verizon.net)

**Rahel Hanadari**  
**Vice-President**

[rhanadari\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rhanadari[at]yahoo.com)

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.

### Inside this issue:

- 2: Scenes from Machar
- 4: Adult Education and Community Sundays
- 5: Clubs and Activities
- 6: The Machar Family
- 7: Staff, Board of Directors and Leadership
- 8: Information/Ads

### From the Rabbi

I wanted to let everyone in the community know that I plan to be in the DC metro area in the afternoons after JCS and on Mondays throughout the year. Please consider these my "office hours" and make an appointment to see me if you'd like to get together to talk about Machar or anything else!

Also, if you use Facebook, please friend Machar and me on Facebook so you don't miss out on events that we plan.

Thanks, **Nehama**

## Join Us For Machar's Annual Community Potluck Seder

*Led by Rabbi Nehama Benmosche*

**Saturday, April 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Highlights include Machar's Humanist Haggadah, sharing the Passover story, asking the "four questions," and the famous hunt for the Afikomen. You can expect fantastic food and good company. Nonmembers and prospective members are welcome.

### Space is limited. Don't miss out!

\$18 member adults; \$25 nonmember adults;

\$7.50 children 5-13 (under 5 free)

Prices, which help to cover rental and supply costs, have not changed in years.

REGISTER ONLINE by Wednesday, April 1

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=ec6795>

(or call 202-686-1881 if you can't register online)

We will collect Passover contributions for Mazon, a Jewish response to hunger. Please make checks out directly to Mazon and bring to the event.

### You Are Invited: B'nei Mitzvah Ceremony

Machar is celebrating the first of this B'nei mitzvah class's ceremonies on May 9, 2015, with Ian's presentation on "Genocide Survivors" and a ceremony of poetry, prose and music, with Rabbi Nehama Benmosche and the students of the 2015/2016 B'nei mitzvah class. The Machar community is invited to attend:

**Date:** May 9, 2015

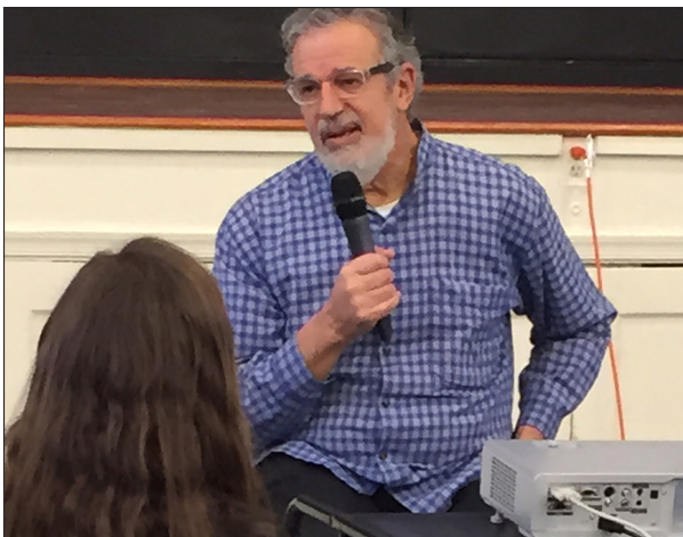
**Time:** 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Where:** Sandy Spring Museum  
(Dr. Bird Room)

17901 Bentley Rd  
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

<http://www.sandyspringmuseum.org>

If you plan to attend the ceremony, please RSVP by April 9, 2015, to Karen at [manoloaddict@hotmail.com](mailto:manoloaddict@hotmail.com). Space is limited.



On March 22, Howard Dubowitz spoke at Adult Ed about his work as a Pediatrics Professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore on child abuse and neglect. For our Community Sunday, we enjoyed a visit from a blind woman and a guide dog trained by Guiding Eyes for the Blind and learned about how to help blind people in a respectful manner. Our guest passed out these bookmarks from Guiding Eyes for the Blind.





# Scenes from Machar



At our annual Machar Purim party on March 8, the Megillah featured gorgeous puppets made by Nadine Bloch (with Queen Esther and Mordechai pictured here) and a script written by the teen group. Audience members (including this tired puppy) used macaroni and cheese boxes, later donated to a food bank, as groggers. Costume contest prize winners (and sisters) included "Best Queen Esther" and "Most Creative."



# Adult Education and Community Sundays

Adult Ed sessions are on select **Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** at Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20011

Community Sundays follow at JPDS unless noted; for details, see emails, newsletter, and [www.machar.org](http://www.machar.org).

Sessions are open to all members and first-time visitors. There is parking on 16th Street and in the lot behind the building. All talks will be in the gymnasium. (If you have trouble climbing stairs, use the rear entrance.)

## **April 12**

### **Margaret Paxson—Remembering the Good: Holocaust Rescue and Resistance in a French Village**

From 1939 to 1945, the villagers of the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon, France, hid, protected, and ultimately rescued thousands of Jews from the Nazis at great peril to their own lives. Their nearly unparalleled actions during the Holocaust are part of this community's long history of taking in persecuted outsiders of diverse backgrounds. Anthropologist Dr. Margaret Paxson will discuss her nearly completed book on how this community has handled the shelter of outsiders. Dr. Paxson, whose first book, *Solvyo: The Story of Memory in a Russian Village*, was named a 2006 "Book of the Year" by Salon.com, is a Research Fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

### **Community Sunday: Acknowledging Yom Ha Shoah and other genocides**

## **April 19**

### **Steve Stoltenberg—Polish-Jewish Relations: Overcoming Difficult Historical Legacies**

(NOTE: THIS IS A "MAKEUP DAY" IN LIEU OF THE FEB. 22 SESSION CANCELLED DUE TO SNOW. ADULT ED WILL BE IN THE UPSTAIRS LIBRARY, WHICH HAS NO ELEVATOR ACCESS)

Polish-Jewish relations span nearly a thousand years and encompass periods when the Jewish community flourished and periods when it suffered the effects of prejudice and anti-Semitism. Steven Stoltenberg will discuss Poland's often painful self-examination of this history today and its "difficult legacies," which are exemplified in the recent opening of the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews, arguably the most ambitious museum of its kind in the world. Dr. Stoltenberg is the State Department's senior foreign affairs analyst for Poland and the three Baltic states. He co-translated the personal memoir of Polish Professor Maria Jarosz, a Holocaust survivor, entitled *May You Live in Interesting Times* to be published in early 2015

## **April 26**

### **Annual Membership Meeting Community Sunday: Israeli Education Day to acknowledge Yom Haatzma'ut**

## **May 3**

### **Larry Lawrence—Non-Joiners, Unite!**

Machar is one of 29 U.S. and Canadian groups that belong to the Society for Humanistic Judaism. How are we similar to and different from these other congregations? What kind of society is made up of freethinkers who generally avoid joining clubs and associations—and what has it done for us lately? Larry Lawrence will situate Machar within the spectrum of SHJ member congregations, reviewing the Humanistic Judaism movement's history since 1964 and its plans for the future. Larry has been an active Machar member for nearly 20 years, serving as Machar's secretary and treasurer, and currently is president of the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

### **Community Sunday: Labor Rights/May Day**

## **May 17**

### **Rabbi Nehama Benmoshe—Jerusalem: What is our Relationship to this City?**

May 17th is Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), which marks the reunification of Jerusalem in the aftermath of the Six Day War in 1967. Today's Jerusalem is imbued with passionate controversy. Rabbi Nehama Benmoshe will invite the Machar community into an exploration of the city, intersecting history, literature, world religions, personal anecdotes and visual images. We will discuss its significance across genres and millennia, and explore our many and varied relationships to Jerusalem and to the Middle East.

### **Community Sunday: End-of-year picnic at Rock Creek Park shelter #24**



# Clubs and Activities

## Neighborhood Havurot

Donna Copeland

Thanks to Miriam Gitler and Pedro Rodriguez for hosting over 20 guests for a successful Havdalah potluck in their home on Saturday, March 14. Our next Havurot event will be a Shabbat potluck on **Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m.** at the home of Harriet and Gary Peck in downtown Silver Spring. You can register for the Shabbat at this link: <http://bit.ly/1MIhN69>.

## WITs

Renée Weitzner

The wonderful women of WITs, the support group for women in Machar, did not meet in February due to the weather and the smallness of the group.

In April, on **April 22, 2015**, we will meet at the home of Nancy Harris, while in May on **May 27**, Judith Wiesberg will host our monthly get-together. Reminders will be sent as each date presents itself. I hope you will be able to join us.

## Book Club

Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch

The Machar Book Club will be meeting at **3 pm on April 12, 2015** at the home of Caroline Simon to talk about Chapter 10, the last chapter of Sherwin Wine's book, *A Provocative People*. Once that discussion is completed, the group will decide what, if anything, we will read for our last book club meeting of the year. Otherwise, suggestions will be collected over the summer to determine our book selections for next year. Suggestions can be emailed to me at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com). Please let me know that you are coming by April 10, 2015 so that I may let our host know our numbers. Thank you. I hope to see you soon.

## Young Adult Havurah

Danielle Leff (non-members welcome)

Visit the Young Adult Havurah Facebook page for upcoming events:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah/>

## Evening Study Group

Michael Prival

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

## 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!*

At my college it's midterm time—so how about a little review here too? And I thought it's about time we HEAR Yiddish from experienced Yiddish speakers, mit a haccent.

Hope you enjoy these, compliments of some of the residents of the Los Angeles Jewish Home.

Yiddish Part One: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC5YGDKUEeM>

Yiddish Part Two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li8cZl63zQk>

## Shop at Equal Exchange and Support Machar!

Thanks to the efforts of our fundraising chair, Karen Roe, you can support Machar while indulging your chocolate cravings or giving gifts. Equal Exchange sells Fair Trade chocolate and other merchandise, including coffee, tea, and jewelry, and Machar receives a 25% share of profits from sales made through our special "on-line store" link. The link will be active from now through May: <http://fundraiser.equalexchange.coop/?fundraiser=MACH005W>

# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

April 1: Roberto Levy  
April 4: Susan Morawetz  
April 6: Marlene Pratt  
April 6: Pedro Rodriguez  
April 6: Michael Zamore  
April 6: Zachary Popkin-Hall  
April 7: Nancy Harris  
April 7: Melanie Gordon  
April 7: Ari Priniotakis  
April 8: Marco Gonzalez  
April 8: Jacob Royle  
April 11: Rachel Popkin-Hall  
April 11: Daniel King  
April 13: Lydia Swartz  
April 15: Bouchra Chati  
April 16: Rochelle (Shelly) Schwab  
April 17: André Williamson  
April 17: Joshua Rogin  
April 18: Lauren Brown  
April 19: Susan Warshauer Kahn  
April 19: Adam Namm  
April 20: Jill King  
April 21: Lauris Mason  
April 23: Jeremy Lahn  
April 24: Peter Kahn  
April 27: Akiva Liberman  
April 28: Joel Block  
April 29: Roslynn Seidenstein  
April 29: David DeMocker  
April 30: Jonathan Weiss

May 1: Laurie Miller  
May 3: Greg Rosenthal  
May 3: Neil Greene  
May 3: Juliet Franklin  
May 4: Talia Appelman  
May 7: Darlene Basch  
May 7: Joshua Schnell  
May 11: Claire Huson  
May 11: Brian Kirkell  
May 11: Teo Zentner  
May 12: Harry Appelman  
May 12: Sarah Gold  
May 13: Amy Kotkin  
May 14: Joshua Desenberg  
May 14: Jay Carter  
May 14: Adam Gold  
May 16: Holly Campbell  
May 16: Jennifer Guilfoyle  
May 18: Joyce Rosenthal  
May 19: Sam Palca  
May 19: Areya Campbell-Rosen  
May 20: Marina Broitman  
May 20: Noah Castellano  
May 22: Peter Wolfe  
May 23: Donna Bassin  
May 23: Ana Schwartz  
May 25: Deborah Epstein  
May 27: Svetlana Shargorodskaya  
May 28: Linda Tebelman  
May 29: Polina Tomashevsky  
May 30: Jules Abrams  
May 30: Abigail Royle

## Anniversaries

May 4: Andrew Weiss and Amanda Nothhaft  
May 25: Marc Mauer and Barbara Francisco  
May 25: Keith Campbell-Rosen and Holly Campbell

## Yahrzeits: We remember...

April 4: Frank Klein, father of Jill Grant  
April 14: Richard Popkin, father of Sue Popkin  
April 16: Joseph Morris, grandfather of Laurie Miller  
April 16: Rochelle Frank, sister of Myrna Frank  
April 17: Thurza Godden, mother of David Godden  
April 23: Tillie Haskin, grandmother of Patti Maslinoff  
April 23: Jack Miller, grandfather of Laurie Miller

May 1: Renee Dopulos, mother of Gary Peck  
May 2: Harry Copeland, father of Donna Copeland  
May 4: David Broitman, father of Marina Broitman  
May 7: Joseph Maslinoff, grandfather of Patti Maslinoff  
May 17: Fay Freedman, relative of Michal Freedman  
May 18: Margaret Popkin, sister of Sue Popkin  
May 19: Andrew Goor, son of Rob Goor and Linda Tebelman  
May 19: Arnold Namm, father of Adam Namm  
May 20: Edith Levine, mother of Rose Levine  
May 20: William David Francisco, father of Barbara Francisco  
May 22: Reva Ceasar, mother of Harriet Peck  
May 23: Sol David Prensky, father of Hank Prensky  
May 25: Julia Ortiz, mother of Pedro Rodriguez  
May 26: Sara Morris, grandmother of Laurie Miller  
May 26: Jack Kaplan, grandfather of Leah Kaplan  
May 29: Harry Ceasar, father of Harriet Peck  
May: Beverly Gold, mother of Richard Gold

The Machar community sends sincere condolences to Rabbi Nehama, whose father Robert Benmosche died on February 27, and to the Benmosche family. We enjoyed meeting Mr. Benmosche when he spoke at our Kol Nidre service last fall. Thank you to the many members who showed their support for Rabbi Nehama by attending the gathering Rahel Hanadari and Roberto Levy hosted on March 7.

We are also sorry to report the death of the grandmother of Terry Lubin, Rabbi Nehama's partner. We send our sincere condolences to Terry and to his family.

# Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

## Staff

---

### Rabbi

Nehama Benmosche

### Congregational Administrator

Kelly Hand

### Jewish Cultural School Director

Debby Brennan

## Board of Directors

---

### President

Darlene Basch

### Treasurer

Miriam Gitler

### Secretary

Holly Campbell-Rosen

### Past President

Nadine Wettstein

### At-Large

Norm Hall

Rahel Hanadari

Peter Kahn

Danielle Leff

Laurie Miller

Joyce Rosenthal

Mark Swartz

Renee Weitzner

### Honorary Directors

Jules Abrams

Harold Black (*deceased*)

Ann Black (*deceased*)

Joe Goodman

Millie Goodman

Mary Perica

Michael Prival

Henrietta Wexler

## Board Liaisons

---

### B'nei Mitzvah

Susan Morawetz

Holly Campbell-Rosen

### Newsletter

### Rabbinic

Mark Swartz

### Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

## Machar Committee Chairs

---

### Adult Ed

David Abramson

Myrna Frank

### Communications

Joyce Rosenthal

### Community Service

Barbara Francisco

### Education

### Email Lists Manager

Michael Prival

### Fundraising

Karen Roe

### High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

### Liturgy

### Membership

Darlene Basch

### Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

### Mishpahah

Renée Weitzner

### New Members

Marlene Cohen

### Newsletter Editor

Tricia Gordon

### Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

### Passover Seder

### Rabbi Committee

Mark Swartz

### Shelter Staffing

Ann Levin

### Social Action

Peter Kahn

### Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

## Clubs and Havurot Chairs

---

### Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

### Neighborhood Havurot

Donna Copeland

### Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Renée Weitzner

### Young Adult Havurah

Leah Kaplan

Danielle Leff

## 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



## LANDSCAPES PLUS

Landscape Installation and Design  
Landscape Consultations  
Yard Cleanups, Mulching, Woodchips  
Lawn Renovation-Seeding,  
Fertilizing Shrub Pruning and Removal  
Perennial-Annual Gardens

AVI CHERTOCK  
(301) 593-0577

Landscapesplus@hotmail.com  
www.Landscapesplus.com

**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! .