Machar Looks Ahead!

I hope you are all enjoying your summer—it’s hard to believe it’s almost over!

But that means we’re getting ready for a great year of Machar activities ahead of us and I want to remind you to please renew your membership so you can continue to be part of Machar’s exciting future!

Sign up for the neighborhood Shabbat potluck on August 15 at the home of Michal Freedman and Jack Schwartz in Rockville.

Kelly Hand and David Abramson are hosting a family pool party on August 29.

We’ll have a table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 7. Please join us there and help showcase Machar with others who may be interested.

Our Adult Education and Jewish Cultural School begin on September 14; say hello to old and new friends and join us as we gather for Community Sunday activities with the whole congregation.

We’re very excited that Rabbi Nehama Benmosche is with us and will lead all our High Holiday services. Our Kol Nidre speaker will be Robert Benmosche, father of Rabbi Nehama and CEO of AIG from 2009 until September 2014. Machar member Akiva Liberman will be our speaker for Yom Kippur.

Be a Machar ambassador—spread the word and build our community. The best way to bring in new members and students is by word of mouth. Please tell family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers about Machar. Invite them to attend a Sunday morning or to purchase tickets for High Holiday services. And remember, if you recommend someone who joins, Machar will thank you with a $100 gift card of your choice from several options. We want to give out lots of cards!

Be involved. There are many ways you can help Machar—host an event or coordinate an activity.

Share your ideas—we welcome your input as we move forward.

Darlene Basch
Machar President

Machar’s members are our biggest asset and our greatest resource in letting their friends and family know about our wonderful community. If you recommend a member or family who joins Machar, Machar will thank you with your choice of a $100 gift card for dining out at Lebanese Taverna or Clydes, for local shopping at Politics and Prose or Israeli Accents, or some on-line Judaica shopping at moderntribe.com or traditionsjewishgifts.com. So please tell people about Machar; we hope to give out lots of thank you cards! —Darlene Basch
It is the end of my first official month as Machar’s rabbi and I am proud to report that I am well over halfway to my goal of connecting with each Machar family before the High Holidays. As you all know, I have been working in the community for a few months now. I have been able to be involved with the JCS and adult education folks, the board of directors, the liturgy committee, the choir, the young adult havurah, the Pride volunteers, everyone who came to the Passover seder and to the Havdalah event just this past month. We had a great JCS summer event at Bounce U and I hope to get some families together in August as well. One of my goals in the upcoming year is to be involved in the Machar community in as many different ways as I can and to become part of this great community.

If you have an opportunity and inclination to reach out to me this summer so that we can get to know each other better, don’t hesitate to call or write. I’ll look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche
215-475-2814
rabbi@machar.org
We Need Takoma Park Folk Festival Volunteers!

We’re looking forward to once again hosting our table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 7.

We’re seeking volunteers to help staff the Machar table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, September 7. The Festival includes an “arcade” of volunteer organizations and congregations at tables with information. It is a great opportunity to gain exposure for Machar among potential members. Machar has a long tradition of participating at the festival, and some of our members first found out about us there. (You will probably run into a lot of current members as well!).

We hope some of you can help to get the word out about Machar.

The Festival runs from 10:30 to 6:30, so with set-up and clean-up, we’re seeking volunteers from 10 to 6:45, ideally two per shift. We are scheduling shifts every 2 hours beginning at 10 but let us know of any timeframe that is convenient for you to participate. We’d appreciate any time you can offer.

This year, you can sign up for times that are convenient for you online at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4da8a62da31-takoma.

Location: Piney Branch Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd., Takoma Park, Md.

Please volunteer to staff the table and share information about Machar. Please also note if you can volunteer to help set up in the morning or take down in the evening.

This is a great opportunity to help Machar and also enjoy the music, crafts, and food at the Festival.

Check it out at www.tpff.org

If you have questions about scheduling, responsibilities, location, etc., please feel free to contact Brenda Platt (brendaplatt@gmail.com) or Dave Goldberg (david.goldberg523@verizon.net), who are helping to coordinate this event.

Thank you so much!
This time, an expression:

Veh is mir!

It’s pronounced “vayz MEER” and is literally “I am pain itself!”

The Talking Jewish website says it is “a most melodramatic expression of suffering,” and that is part of what makes Yiddish so colorful, right? Indeed, it can be used for minor setbacks as well as major ones.

Do you remember “kvetch” from an earlier newsletter column? Those who love to kvetch / complain use this phrase the most.

And for more color, add an “Oy” at the beginning!
Hi parents and students! I hope that your summer is re-energizing and exciting. We look forward to hearing about summer vacations and adventures. JCS is planning an active and varied school year. All classes will be learning about Jewish holidays, Jewish ethics/values, Bible stories from a secular humanistic view and Jewish history. Teachers will be sharing Jewish literature, art projects and music. Our teachers will be supplementing our curriculum with units of study from the model SHJ curriculum.

Beginning in third grade, our students will be learning the Hebrew alphabet, how to read Hebrew and simple words in Hebrew that fit into our curriculum. In addition, we are planning community service activities, social action opportunities and field trips.

All teachers will be emailing families after each class of JCS. The emails will contain a description of what happened during class, what to expect in the next class and discussion questions for the entire family. There will also be suggestions for books and films for you, as a family to view, as supplements to our curriculum.

If any parent would like to be a room parent in their child’s class, please let me know. Room parents can organize a Friday night pot luck for the class, community service opportunities and field trips. We have some wonderful new teachers on board this year, and they are very excited to meet your children and to plan exciting lessons.

The tot class this year will be a parent/tot drop in class. All tots up to Kindergarten age are welcome to join. There will be no charge for this “class.” Teens will be available every Sunday, in the room, to help organize activities for the tots, including stories, arts and crafts and music. Parents may attend adult ed if their child is comfortable remaining in the room with the teens.

I encourage you to contact me with questions, suggestions, and comments. Many of our best ideas have come from parents’ conversations.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Our classes begin promptly at 10 AM. Please be sure that your child is on time. When a student comes to class late, the teacher often has to repeat what she or he has already discussed with the class, particularly if the class has begun an activity.

School hours are from 10-12:30. From 10-11:30 your child will be in his/her classroom. From 11:30-12:30 we will have community activities. We are very excited for the community activities this year, and we hope that you and your children will participate in all of our activities.

It is a Machar policy that parents remain in the building during our school hours. If for any reason you do not stay in the building, you must designate another parent who is in the building as your “stand in” in the event of an emergency. There will be a sign up sheet at the main desk in the front hallway for you to sign if you leave the building, so that we know who is in charge of your child. If you do not know any other parent in the school please let us know and we will help you connect with others.

We are tenants in the JPDS building. Your child may not be in the hallways or a classroom without you or their teacher. Each year we have had complaints about our students touching and in some cases breaking things in the JPDS classrooms. Please discuss this with your child. While teachers are aware of this situation, and attempt to be responsible about cleaning up and being respectful of others’ property, it will help if you also make your child aware of our responsibilities.

I look forward to our best year yet!

I am very excited to welcome Rabbi Nehama Benmosche to Machar. Her ideas for programming for our students and our entire congregation have already proven to be interesting and fun.

We welcome everyone in the Machar community to our community programming from 11:30-12:30. These community activities are not just for families with children, but for all of our members. We benefit from the increased involvement and participation of our entire membership. Please join us this year in making our Machar community one of strong bonds and community involvement.

—Debby Brennan
Clubs and Activities

**WITs**

*Renée Weitzner*

In July, WITs the women of Machar, WITs, “Wimmin’ in Transition,” met at the home of Marlene Cohen for a delightful summer evening of food and conversation.

We will be meeting in August on August 27, 2014 at the home of Judith Wiesberg at 7 pm. Please let me know that you are coming and what you intend to bring by August 25, 2014, so that I can let our host know our numbers and our menu. I hope to see many of you then!!

WITs (Wimmin’ in Transition) is open to all women members of Machar. Please see the Machar website for guidelines and policies about WITs. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

You may email me at rwcats at aol.com or reach me by phone.

**Young Adult Havurah**

*Danielle Leff*

Friday, August 22, 7 p.m.
Shabbat and Takeout

Join other young adults for Friday Shabbat & Takeout, which we are planning to host each month at a member’s home. Our short service features humanist blessings for candle lighting, challah, and wine, as well as humanist interpretations of the Amidah, Sh’ma, and Mourner’s Kaddish, followed by noshing and kibitzing. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite songs or readings to share.

This will be at Leah’s house, a 10 minute walk from the Cleveland Park or Columbia Heights metro stations. Please RSVP at http://bit.ly/1nJExIO.

**Book Club**

*Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch*

Peter Wolfe and Michael Prival will lead a discussion on *A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews*, by Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, the founder and long-time leader of our Humanistic Judaism movement. For our September meeting, to be held on September 21, 2014, place to be determined, we will be reading the first four chapters.

**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.

**Havurot/Social Events**

The July 12 Havdalah potluck, hosted by Myrna Frank and Howard Dubowitz in their beautiful home, was a huge success. About 30 guests attended, enjoying a wonderful array of food and a short but sweet Havdalah service led by Rabbi Nehama. Earlier that day, Rabbi Nehama also gathered with several JCS families for a fun morning at BounceU. Adults had a great time chatting while the kids jumped, played, and ate cupcakes.

Our next potluck is on Friday, August 15 at the Rockville home of Michal Freedman and Jack Schwartz, who joined Machar in November. Sign up for this Shabbat dinner on the home page of www.machar.org!

On Friday, August 29, Kelly Hand and David Abramson will host a family pool party and potluck at the PG Community Pool. This event is open to members of all ages. The pool limits parties to 35 guests, so sign up early at www.machar.org!

Be sure to let us know if you have an idea for an event this fall. We have some potential hosts lined up, but your suggestions about possible activities would be most welcome.
The Machar Family

Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Mei Huang</td>
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<td>July 2</td>
<td>Margot Bloch</td>
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<td>July 3</td>
<td>Larry Lawrence</td>
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<td>July 4</td>
<td>Mildred Goodman</td>
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<td>July 4</td>
<td>Sebastian Goldberg</td>
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<td>July 6</td>
<td>Daisy Hand</td>
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<td>July 7</td>
<td>Richard Gold</td>
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<td>July 7</td>
<td>Anna Gelpern</td>
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<td>July 8</td>
<td>Nadine Bloch</td>
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<td>July 14</td>
<td>Katie Wittenberg</td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td>Karen Roe</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
<td>Anika Zia Gonzalez</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>David Abramson</td>
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<td>July 28</td>
<td>Daniel Tomashevsky</td>
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<td>July 30</td>
<td>Marc Mauer</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>Hank Prensky</td>
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<td>August 6</td>
<td>Spencer Fye</td>
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<td>August 7</td>
<td>Benjamin Topa</td>
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<td>August 8</td>
<td>Lola Ehart Rogin</td>
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<td>August 10</td>
<td>Charlotte Popp</td>
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<td>August 11</td>
<td>Jon Desenberg</td>
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<td>August 13</td>
<td>Ian Morgan</td>
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<td>August 14</td>
<td>Joseph Goodman</td>
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<td>August 16</td>
<td>Douglas Ratay</td>
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<td>August 17</td>
<td>Willow Theresa Sandra Rogin</td>
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<td>August 19</td>
<td>Brenda Platt</td>
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<td>August 19</td>
<td>Cassia Block</td>
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<td>August 22</td>
<td>Donna Copeland</td>
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<td>August 23</td>
<td>Liz Pomper</td>
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<td>August 24</td>
<td>Mischa Blue Ehart Rogin</td>
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<td>August 25</td>
<td>Deborah Perlman</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Andrew Weiss</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
<td>Ellen Rosenthal</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Erik Kjeldgaard</td>
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Anniversaries

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<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Joel and Hildie Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>Joshua Schnell and Patricia Meeks Schnell</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>Dan Tobocman and Debra DeRuyver</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>Tom and Tricia Gordon</td>
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<td>August 30</td>
<td>Eva and Bert Shankman</td>
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Yarhzeits: We remember...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Morton Seidenstein, father of Roslynn Seidenstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Arthur Zwicker, father of Sue Zwicker</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Kenneth Hall, father of Norman Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Ann Weisberg, sister of Jill Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Naomi Gardner, cousin of Keith Campbell-Rosen</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>Beatrice Basch, mother of Darlene Basch</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>Dyna Kaplan, grandmother of Leah Kaplan</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>Albert David Warshauer, father Susan Warshauer Kahn</td>
</tr>
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Mazel Tov!

Eva and Bert Shankman will be celebrating 50 years of marriage on August 30th! Congratulations!

Good bye and all the best to our dear friends and long-time members Rick Gold, Bouchra Chati, Sarah and Adam Gold as they start their next chapter in sunny Gainesville Florida.

Thank you Rick for being past Machar President, Adult Education Chair, Social Action Chair, and food schlepper, and for serving many, many other roles over the years. Thank you Adam for being such an eager Jewish Cultural School volunteer.

Machar has benefited from your family’s understanding of ways to merge Jewish and Muslim progressive values. We’re glad you’ll still be involved in Secular Humanistic Judaism as a board member of SHJ and as a long-distance member of Machar.

Machar is so fortunate to have a community of people willing to share their expertise. Three of our members are therapists or social workers and are willing to be contacted by any members who may need someone to talk to about any personal trauma or other issues that come up. These volunteers will plan to have an initial discussion with the member and/or family, to listen and to help direct them to more support or services in the area. Please contact Renee Weitzner, rwcats at aol.com, for information. All discussions are entirely confidential.
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
  Joe Goodman
  Millie Goodman
  Mary Perica
  Michael Prival
  Henrietta Wexler
- Newsletter Editor
  Tricia Gordon
- Nominating
  Nadine Wettstein
- Passover Seder
  - Rabbi Committee
    Mark Swartz
  - Shelter Staffing
    Ann Levin
- Social Action
  Rick Gold
- Sunday Refreshments
  Ami Argaman

**Board Liaisons**
- B’nei Mitzvah
  Susan Morawetz
  Holly Campbell-Rosen
- 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

**Clubs and Havurot Chairs**
- Book Club
  Darlene Basch
  Renée Weitzner
- Neighborhood Havurot
  Wimmin’ In Transition (WITs)
  Renée Weitzner
- Young Adult Havurah
  Danielle Leff

**SHJ Reps from Machar**
- Machar Rep to SHJ
  Marlene Cohen
- SHJ Board of Directors Members
  Larry Lawrence (Vice President)
  Rick Gold

**Machar Trained Leaders**
- Michael Prival, Madrikh
  Deb Godden, Madrikha
  Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson
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. 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, 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!