



## From Rabbi Nehama

I had the absolute pleasure of going to my first Machar bnei mitzvah ceremony. First I want to congratulate all of the students and their families. These kids all blew me away. I'm constantly amazed that 13 year old students can manage to produce 15 minute lectures. They all put so much time and effort into their research.

One of the things I noticed most was the varied content of each of the projects. Talia's presentation on gun violence prevention reflected a passionate desire to motivate people to take action in the world for change. Julia's speech told the long and fascinating personal history of her family and the inventions and contributions of her great grandfather. Hazel's discussion of Jewish communities took us on a journey into the past and how many synagogues and buildings in DC have changed in the last century. And finally, Emmett talked about Jewish activists in the Civil Rights movement, particularly Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

One of the things I noticed as I experienced each of these bnei mitzvah is how different their interests and their angles were. Each of them found, in their own way, a place to dig deeply into Jewish life, values and traditions. Seeing them together gives me a lot of hope about what it means to be part of a community like Machar. So many of us have different interests and different ways that we like to focus our energies and our learning. Some of us delve into history, like Hazel.

Some of us are motivated by social action and justice, like Talia. Some of us love the stories of our families and their Jewish connection makes us feel Jewish, like Julia. And some of us are the intersections across all of these, like Emmett.

Learning at Machar can't be all things to all different kinds of people. But we can learn from these bnei mitzvah students that all different kinds of learning can happen in the virtual walls of our community.

If you haven't reached out to be a mentor for bnei mitzvah students, I encourage you to try it out and get to share your gifts with one of our young people. If you are looking for different kinds of learning and deepening your own connection to Judaism, contact me and let's get started. The best kinds of communities are ones that are filled with those who are willing to teach and participate together. Bring us your gifts. Deepen your knowledge. And keep coming back...because you never know if the way someone else presents a teaching or an argument could change the way you see your whole picture.

Mazel tov again to our first group of this talented cohort of bnei mitzvah students. I also want to wish Amit good luck on her upcoming bat mitzvah on June 21st in Israel (many got a taste of that with her presentation on May 4th). I look forward to learning more at the ceremony on June 28th!

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## Scenes from the May 24 b'nei mitzvah ceremony at Sixth and I Historic Synagogue



Above: Proud students Talia, Julia, Hazel, and Emmett.

Below: Rabbi Ben blessing the b'nei mitzvah students, along with Amit, who is having a ceremony in Israel and received her diploma on the 24th.





Far above: Talia's sister Kira and Julia's sister Elena join the b'nei mitzvah students.

Left: Machar's former leader, Rabbi Ben Biber, presided over the ceremony and appears here with new leader, Rabbi Nehama Benmosche.

Above: Sixth and I's beautifully restored ceiling.



Thank you to all parents who attended Adult Ed on May 18. Your ideas, questions and reflections are all very helpful in structuring our classes for next year. I am excited that parents do want to be a part of the curriculum conversation, and I look forward to continuing the discussion next year. It is apparent to me that parents would like to see more community service opportunities for our students, and that, given our limited number of classes in a year, we must be ever careful to choose what to include in the year's lessons. In addition, all parents seemed very interested in spiraling secular humanistic ethics/values, bible stories (from a secular humanistic perspective), Jewish history, and holidays at each grade level, increasing the sophistication of the discussion. This also helps students who have not entered JCS in kindergarten. Have a wonderful summer! —Debby Brennan

**TOTS:** - Roxanne Arnon - This year the tots class had the opportunity to experience different aspects of Jewish culture and traditions. The students learned about the traditions of Shabbat, the land of Israel and the story of Purim just to name a few. The children enjoyed learning about the Kotel and the idea of making their own wishes to place into the cracks of the wall. When learning about the holiday of Sukkot they were excited to build their very own edible sukkahs. It was a joy to see the students remember different traditions and share stories from their own celebrations at home throughout the year. One topic we touched on at the beginning of the year was Shabbat. A great summer activity would be to celebrate the end of the week together as a family and re-read the book *The Shabbat Box*. After reading, families can even put together their own Shabbat box.

**KINDERGARTEN:** - Ben Lauing - I don't know how it happened, but we suddenly reached the end of our time together in kindergarten! Thank you all for a fantastic year.

In our last class, we reviewed everything we've learned this year by creating "cheat sheets." I listed all the holidays and topics we discussed on the board, and we went through them one by one to remember what each class was all about. It was really fun to trace the students' thoughts as they remembered big ideas, or tiny details (often related to our class projects, especially if they involved food), and then worked their way to the core lessons. After some discussion, we drew representations of the holidays/themes on pieces of construction paper, which ultimately became our cheat sheet booklets (see the attached photo of the whiteboard if you are having trouble interpreting your student's artwork). I hope that this activity cemented those holidays, stories, and concepts into their minds, and that they will consider their "cheat sheet" books to be a comprehensive representation of all the knowledge they have gained this year.

After we finished our books, we played a game of trivia (which, I apologize, was so much fun that we accidentally ran over the 11:30am mark)! Using the whiteboard as

a guide, I named or explained holidays, and asked the students to identify the name of the holiday, the rituals we perform, or the meaning of the celebration. It wasn't even my intention, but a couple students realized that they had just made cheat sheets, so they grabbed them off the table and started furiously flipping through the booklets to find answers. They definitely seemed to enjoy the tossing of Hershey's kisses into their laps when they got a question right.

My goal this year was to inspire in the students a basic understanding of Jewish morals and ethics, as taught through the framework of holidays and core beliefs. I also set out to create a community of learning bound by our common history (and of course by how much fun we wanted to have together). I really hope these lessons will serve as a cohesive foundation for lifelong Jewish education and identity.

As you may have heard, I will not be returning as Machar's kindergarten teacher next year. I am confident that this is ultimately the right decision for me, but I will very much miss being surrounded by your children twice a month. I do plan to stick around as a substitute teacher, though, so I think it's safe to say that you haven't seen the last of me! Until that time, I wish you a fun, relaxing, and safe summer. Keep in touch!

FIRST/SECOND GRADE: - Sue Zwicker-

For the last class, the first and second graders played a 'Jeopardy'-like game. The class was split into two teams. The word for each of the major 2nd grade concepts was written on the board. Then the teacher gave the kids the 'answer,' and they had to figure out what word went with that answer.

The students made many connections between the concepts. One idea for an activity that parents could do this summer is to periodically pick two or three of the concepts in the curriculum and discuss how they are related.

The kids sometimes requested songs, a repeat of the 'contribute a sentence to our class story' activity, and Mad-die suggested that class end with a gingerbread house. Instead, there was a different edible project...for Lag B-Omar, the kids built 'bonfires' out of pretzels, shredded wheat, etc, then ate them.

The students this year studied the Jewish holidays, a variety of creation stories, and the following ethics/values: doing a mitzvah, tzedakah, chesed (loving kindness), shalom bayit (a peaceful home), oshek (organizing/labor), bal tashchit (protecting the environment), tikkun olam (repairing the world), kedusha (personal integrity), ahavat ger (loving the stranger).

THIRD GRADE – Heather Gale- The third graders had a really great last day at Machar, or as they prefer to be called, the future fourth graders! We started off our last class talking about Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The students told me what they know and I shared some photos of Israel with the class. We found the locations of the photos on a map of Israel. Then we started, and subsequently finished, our last choice book. The whole class decided on issues that people creating the State of Israel faced and all were successful in the end. They all ended up helping to build and strengthen their communities. After a brief break outside to enjoy the beautiful spring weather we came back to class and I wanted to know what everyone enjoyed about Machar this year. Almost every single student said that they really enjoyed the Cardinal's Snuffbox series of books and the choices they were able to make from those books. I learned a great deal from them and I hope that they learned from me as well. It was such a pleasure working with everyone and I promised them I would see them next year as a substitute teacher at Machar. Have a great summer!

FOURTH GRADE – Aviva Downing - Sunday (May 18th) was our last day of MACHAR for the 2013-2014 school year. We covered a lot of material starting with learning about life for Jews in Eastern Europe, and ending with life for Jewish immigrants in the early 20th century. We learned about where our own families came from by building family tree mobiles. We also covered many of the Jewish holidays as they occurred. At orientation Debby Brennan, MACHAR's Jewish cultural school director, told the teachers that the most important part of Jewish cultural school was to make sure that the students felt that they had friends and a community at MACHAR. I really took that to heart and tried to make it the center of every one of our lessons. To "tie" up the end of the year we played a game using yarn to create a web, symbolizing how we are all connected to each other. Each student had to share one thing they has learned this year and then throw the ball of yarn to a friend. It was a pleasure to hear the students share all that they has learned about their Jewish culture, but also about themselves and each other.

We did not get a chance to finish our final book *Factory Girl* and some of the students may be curious to learn how it ends. If you have the chance, I would borrow it from your local library. I also would have loved to discuss with them some of our more modern factory problems and talk about what we can do. If that is a subject you are interested in, I'm sure your child would love to get a chance to learn about it.

I will be returning next year to MACHAR as the 5th grade teacher and I look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

**FIFTH/SIXTH GRADE:** - Izzy Parilis – Our last class was bittersweet, filled with reflection, good conversation and fun. Each student gave a speech about what one important tidbit of knowledge they wanted to leave with their peers. It was a fun and enlightening experience - really showed how much they've learned throughout the year.

Throughout the year, I've emphasized learning the ritual/cultural/historical and applying it to the practical. We talked a lot about Judaism's commitment to justice and treating all people, no matter how similar (siblings) or different (strangers) with respect. We learned about Jewish religious pluralism and also touched on how Judaism is the same/different from other western religions. We talked about the role of Jews in the Civil Rights movement and the beginnings of anti-semitism in Eastern Europe. We learned about the different languages of Jewish people - Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino. We asked good questions, and gave thoughtful answers.

Debby asked me to share some of my favorite resources, books, videos and such for continuous learning.

I got a lot of my resources for our class this year from a wonderful website called On1Foot.org - they have resources for all different holidays and lessons plans / readings/ activities that are very family friendly. A wonderful documentary that is worth watching (and is likely still available on Netflix) is Praying with Lior, a film about a boy who has Downs Syndrome and how he becomes a bar mitzvah.

Finally, a plug: If you or anyone you know is in need, I am available for babysitting/tutoring throughout the summer and beyond. Thanks for a wonderful year!

**B'NEI MITZVAH CLASS** – Hadas Gold - We had a great B'Nei Mitzvah class this year. The students especially enjoyed getting into discussions about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Anything that involved art was very well received, and the class' Jeopardy skills grew even sharper! Some smart minds at work there! The students also grew quite a bit as they worked independently on their projects. Many of them overcame their own doubts and fears as they learned more about their projects and we had several sessions where they brainstormed together, helping one another out. We are all looking forward to their presentations. The class really enjoyed learning about the Jewish holidays and about the history of Israel. I suggest that they read some books, perhaps if ambitious Leon Uris' Exodus, and perhaps put the different Jewish holidays on their calendars to track when they are coming up and learn more about them.

The families of David D., Sebastian G., and Julia W. cordially invite members of the Machar community to attend their B'Nei Mitzvah ceremony

Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m.

Sixth and I Historic Synagogue,  
600 I Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

[near Gallery Place metro; parking on street or in nearby lots]





Scenes from the  
May 18 Lag  
B'Omer picnic





Machar is a member of SHJ, the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

## Highlights from the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) Board of Directors meeting, Farmington Hills, Michigan, May 2–4 2014

*Provided by Machar representative to SHJ Board of Directors, Marlene Cohen*

*At Large Machar members are Larry Lawrence and Rick Gold*

The Board of Directors of the SHJ represents our 30 communities in the US and Canada.

FIRST — Congratulations to our own Larry Lawrence, who was inducted as the incoming president of the Society! Larry is a hard-working volunteer for SHJ, having served as a former Treasurer and Vice President, as well as a former Machar board member and officer. See the details of President Larry in the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

The BIG news for SHJ is the new lovely website at [SHJ.org](http://SHJ.org)! Check it out for good information on our movement, holiday celebrations and much more. At the bottom of the home page you'll see video and quoted stories of SHJ members; please write your own family story for inclusion!

Also check out the YouTube videos at Society for Humanistic Judaism, providing in-depth perspectives on being a humanistic Jew ([SocietyforHJ.org](http://SocietyforHJ.org)). Two recommendations – founding Rabbi Sherwin Wine on HJ philosophy and Rabbi Frank Tamburello on Sicilian Jews.

In fall 2013, the Birmingham Temple celebrated its 50 year anniversary!

A commemorative book, "In the Beginning: The Birmingham Temple and the Creation of Humanistic Judaism," will be published this summer by the SHJ and given to every SHJ member, courtesy of a grant provided by SHJ past President Bert Steinberg.

The board is really pleased with the work of Miriam Rubin, HJ Jews (teen) Youth Program Associate and graduate student at Brandeis. A wonderful and active HJ Jews conference was held March 28-30, 2014, in Boston. Sixty-two teens attended, including eight from Machar!!

The board also discussed the Secular Student Alliance, a US organization that will support students in all locations who wish to start SSA clubs at their college or high schools. See [secularstudents.org](http://secularstudents.org)

As a member organization of the Secular Coalition of America, SHJ encourages all its members to participate in SCA Lobby Day and Summit June 12-14. See the box elsewhere in this newsletter.

Rabbi Miriam Jerris, Rabbi of the SHJ movement, is developing a manual to help all our communities retain members. Let's all commit to getting involved in Machar activities as we get to know each other better.

SHJ's budget is projected to face a shortfall in the coming year, although our staff continues to be highly productive despite careful cost control.

Fundraising will be a focus of the coming year; please remember SHJ in your giving plans.

SHJ now has 1700 followers on Facebook. Many people are now finding SHJ through Wikipedia and through the Secular Coalition of America.

The SHJ Humanistic Role Model for 2014-15 will be writer Nora Ephron. Again materials will be available for education programs in our communities and we are encouraged to learn about Ms. Ephron's work.

Following approval by the Ethical Concerns Committee, the Board passed three resolutions:

- 1) supporting broad exercise of the right of free speech, free of pressure or coercion, direct or indirect, from any public body, including the right to decline to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) condemning the boycott of Israeli academic institutions by the American Studies Association.
- 3) calling upon the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to a) revise its procedures for approving new members to ensure that they promote pluralism within the Jewish community and b) reconsider the application of J Street.

Rabbi Adam Chalom reported from the Institute for International Secular Humanistic Judaism, of which he is



## Macharnik Elected President of the Society for Humanistic Judaism

Dean for North America. The Institute is partner with SHJ – each organization has different tasks. The Institute is the intellectual center of movement; it trains rabbis and madrichim/madrichot, presents seminars on Humanistic Judaism in congregations (such as the popular seminar in Silver Spring in February 2013, publishes written materials, staffs tables at academic Jewish conferences, and has behind the scenes meetings and programs with other organizations to raise HJ's profile.

The Institute just hired a part-time campus outreach coordinator to find young people who could become rabbis and who are geographically and economically flexible to move to places that could support new Humanistic Jewish communities. The coordinator will develop a list of target campuses, develop brochures and "programs in a box" (to enable people in the movement to present programs on campus), and be active in Students Secular Alliance.

----*Since 2007 it has been my honor to serve as the representative of Machar to the SHJ Board of Directors. Please write me at [MarleneCCohen@com-cast.net](mailto:MarleneCCohen@com-cast.net) with any questions or concerns.*

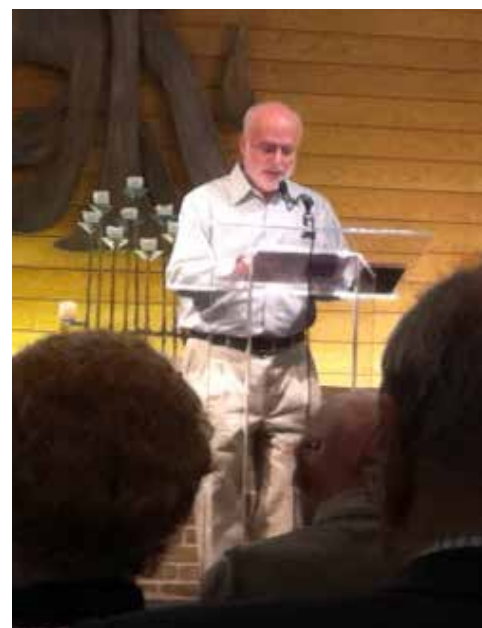
Longtime Machar member Larry Lawrence was installed on May 3 as the President of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ). The ceremony took place at SHJ headquarters in Farmington Hills, Mich. A graduate of Harvard University and Indiana University, Larry previously served as secretary and treasurer of Machar.

"I've found a secular/spiritual home in Humanistic Judaism," Larry said in an interview with SHJ. "When I discovered Machar in the 1990s, I found a place to give my daughter a Jewish education that I believe in – not one with features I had to explain away. And to my pleasant surprise, after Liz's Bat Mitzvah in 1999, both she and I have continued to learn and grow with the movement of Humanistic Judaism."

Larry said that his experience with Judaism before encountering Machar was that "it was a 'take-it-or-leave-it' religion. "I didn't know you could be an active Jew and draw on our history, the Hebrew language, and our achievements over the millennia without believing in 'the religion of our fathers.' But with Humanistic Judaism, I don't have to constantly filter what I believe from what is, for me, unbelievable. That's why I feel it's my home."

Larry joined the SHJ Board of Directors four years ago. "I'm excited to work with community leaders from all over the continent in sustaining our members and getting the word out that there's a real alternative to conventional varieties of Judaism," he said.

"Larry has demonstrated a commitment to Humanistic Judaism for many years," said Bonnie Cousens, SHJ Executive Director. "He brings his organization skills, forward-thinking ideas, and dedication to our philosophy and practice to his new position as president of the Society. We look forward to him applying his skills and ideas to increase the visibility of Humanistic Judaism, while reaching out to the many people who share our beliefs but have not yet found this meaningful way to celebrate their Jewish identity."



# Clubs and Activities

## WITs

*Renée Weitzner*

In May, WITs met at the lovely home of Nancy Harris where we enjoyed a lively discussion and terrific food which we shared. Thank you, Nancy!!!

The wonderful women of Machar will meet on June 25, 2014 at 7 pm at Nam Viet for a delightful repast. Nam Viet is located at 3419 Connecticut Ave., NW in Cleveland Park. Their phone number is 202-237-1015.

We will enjoy great conversation and good food in this quiet restaurant in Cleveland Park. We hope you will be able to join us. Please let me know that you can come by June 23, 2014, so that I can let the restaurant know our numbers.

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](mailto:rwcats@aol.com) or reach me by phone.

Thank you. I hope to see everyone very soon.

## Young Adult Havurah

*Danielle Leff*

Shabbat & Takeout  
Friday, June 27, 7 pm

Leah's Home in Mt Pleasant (walkable or rides available from Cleveland Park Metro)

RSVP: [danielle.leff@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.leff@gmail.com)

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, S'hma, and

Mourner's Kaddish. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite songs or readings to share.

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

## Book Club

*Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch*

The Book Club met for its final meeting of the school year 2013-2014 at the home of Judith Wiesburg to discuss *Tell Me a Riddle* by Tillie Olsen. There was a lively discussion about the book, the role of women in the labor movement and the impact of this book on people's lives. Thank you, Judith!!!

Next year, we intend to offer a 3 part discussion concerning Sherwin Wine's book, *A Provocative People*. Peter Wolfe and Michael Prival have agreed to lead our discussion, with Michael taking on the first four chapters of the book. Our first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 21, 2014, location to be determined. We will firm up the date and location as time moves closer. We will then select date/location and chapters as we progress.

We will be reading at least two other books: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. As the year goes by, we will select other books, and we welcome your suggestions.

Thank you very much for your fine attendance at our meetings! Your participation adds greatly to our knowledge and appreciation of fine books!

## Neighborhood Havurot

We have two in-home events planned for the summer. Newlyweds Myrna Frank and Howard Dubowitz will host a Havdalah potluck in their Silver Spring home on Saturday, July 12 at 7 p.m. Michal Freedman and Jack Schwartz, who joined Machar earlier in the year, will host a Shabbat potluck in their Rockville home on Friday, August 15. Put these dates on your calendars. We will send registration page links by email and place them on the Machar website. Members who do not use the Internet should contact the hosts or administrator Kelly Hand if you plan to attend.

## 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).

## Secular Coalition of America News

All Macharniks are invited to participate in the Secular Coalition of America (SCA) Washington D.C. Lobby Day and Summit, Thursday, June 12–Saturday, June 14, 2014. (The Society for Humanistic Judaism is a member of the SCA.) See more at <http://secular.org/calendar/2014-06#sthash.sVyGJ6r8.dpuf> Those of us who have attended in the past have found more congressional staffers open to our message than might be expected. Capitol Hill needs to know there are many secular constituents who care and vote!

NEW - The Secular Coalition's Global Secular Council (GSC) is a resource group dedicated to promoting evidence-based research and resources on secularism and related issues. See more at <http://secular.org/resources#sthash.PKdS7h51.dpuf>

## Send your story for the SHJ Website

Send your humanistic Jewish family story for inclusion on the new SHJ website. Send your 150–200 word answer to the question, "How has your Jewish identity been enriched by your involvement in Humanistic Judaism?"

Include your full names and the name of Machar, your community. Please provide a high resolution digital photo showing your family involved in a Humanistic Jewish activity. Send to [info@shj.org](mailto:info@shj.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!*

**Potchke/potchkee/potschken** – to mess around; to be busy without a focus, or to tinker with, usually either idly or incompetently. You might potchkee around the house all day, for example.

Pronounced "potch' keh" or "potch' KEE"

Leo Rosten in *The Joys of Yinglish*, says "ongepotchket" is the verb for overdoing it, usually over-decorating, making a setting too ornate

So you can't do everything just right, can you?

Isn't summer the time to potchkee around a bit?

Enjoy your summer!



# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

June 4: Everett Tobocman  
June 4: Piper Tobocman  
June 5: Ann Argaman  
June 5: Yan Raytselis  
June 6: Danielle Leff  
June 6: Emmett Zamore  
June 7: Norman Hall  
June 8: Ariana Rodriguez-Gitler  
June 11: Jasper Tobocman  
June 13: Ian Emanuel Roe  
June 15: Hildie Block  
June 18: Jeremy Liberman  
June 20: Rahel Hanadari  
June 20: Ester Rozenblum  
June 20: Alyssa Lahn  
June 24: Rebecca Desenberg  
June 24: Patricia Meeks Schnell  
June 25: Phyllis Hodes  
June 25: Judith Weisberg  
June 26: Heather DeMocker  
June 28: Anita Willens  
June 29: Kenneth Lederman  
June 30: Stephen Cohen

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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](mailto:rwcats@aol.com), for information. All discussions are entirely confidential.

## Anniversaries

June 1: Joshua Rogin and Bridget Ehart  
June 9: Amy and André Williamson  
June 12: Sue Popkin and Norman Hall  
June 19: Harriet and Gary Peck  
June 20: Barry and Elaine Dancis  
June 20: Alberto Grosmark and Ester Rozenblum  
June 24: David and Katie Wittenberg  
June 28: Brian and Sarah Kirkell  
June 29: Richard Gold and Bouchra Chat  
June 29: Susan Warshauer Kahn and Peter Kahn  
June 30: Carla Kopell and Guiseppe Topa

## Yarhzeits: We remember...

June 1: Arthur Freedman, relative of Michal Freedman  
June 5: Joe Zamore, father of Michael Zamore  
June 10: Bryan Medwed, son of Mary Perica  
June 12: David Goldwain, uncle of Miriam Gitler  
June 13: Robert Tebelman, father of Linda Tebelman  
June 23: Sid Frumkin, brother of Ann Black  
June 30: Rita Maslinoff, mother of Jill L. King

## Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to Myrna Frank and Howard Dubowitz, who were married on May 17.

We also send our warmest wishes to board member, Renée Weitzner.

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Our Machar Bar Mitzvah Bokher (Class of '97), Andres Grosmark, completed the requirements to become a PhD in the field of Neuroscience at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Andres had his dissertation on April 18th when his thesis, ('Hippocampal Neural Firing Dynamics During Sleep') was introduced by his academic advisor, Dr. Gyorgy Buzsáki. An academic body of scientists, one of whom came to listen to Andres' defense from Holland, reviewed Andres's thesis presentation.

Andres' parents and Machar members, Alberto and Ester, traveled to Newark, New Jersey to listen to their son's thesis defense. After the dissertation, Andres' graduation was officially announced by Dr. Buzsáki during a reception. Andres will temporarily continue his work as a Post Doc with Dr. Buzsáki at New York University.

Here is a link with some images from Andres' defense and subsequent celebration: <http://img.gg/CNZJPPD>

# Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

## Staff

Congregational Administrator  
Kelly Hand

Jewish Cultural School Director  
Debby Brennan

## Board of Directors

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Darlene Basch

Treasurer  
Miriam Gitler

Secretary  
Susan Morawetz

Past President  
Nadine Wettstein

At-Large  
Holly Campbell-Rosen  
Norm Hall  
Rahel Hanadari  
Peter Kahn  
Danielle Leff  
Laurie Miller  
Mark Swartz  
Renee Weitzner

Honorary Directors  
Jules Abrams  
Harold Black (*deceased*)  
Ann Black  
Joe Goodman  
Millie Goodman  
Mary Perica  
Michael Prival  
Henrietta Wexler

## Board Liaisons

B'nei Mitzvah  
Susan Morawetz

Holly Campbell-Rosen  
Newsletter

Rabbinic  
Mark Swartz

Madrikhim  
Michael Prival  
Deb Godden

## Machar Committee Chairs

Adult Ed  
Marlene Cohen  
David Abramson

Communications  
Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service  
Barbara Francisco

Education

Email Lists Manager  
Michael Prival

Fundraising  
David Wittenberg

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  
Rick Gold

Sunday Refreshments  
Ami Argaman

## Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club  
Darlene Basch  
Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot  
Laurie Miller

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)  
Renée Weitzner

Young Adult Havurah  
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



**Interested in Advertising with Machar?**  
Contact [info at machar.org](mailto:info@machar.org)

## Directions to Machar

“Cedar Lane” events are held at Cedar Lane UU Church. 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD.

From DC, go north on Wisconsin Ave. (Rt. 355), pass the Naval Hospital, right on Cedar Lane, cross Beach Dr., 2nd entrance on right. From 495, Rockville, etc., take Rockville Pike (Rt. 355) S to left on Cedar to 9601. Metro - Red Line to Medical Center. Walk ½ mile north on 355, right on Cedar, 0.7 miles, or Ride-On Bus #34 (ask the driver).

“JPDS” is the site of our Jewish Cultural School (JCS). 6045 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Metro: Red Line to Silver Spring. S-2 or S-4 bus to Federal Triangle to Military Road and cross 16th Street. JCS and Adult Ed begin promptly at 10 a.m.; please arrive early.

For meetings in private homes, contact hosts for directions.

## Machar E-mail Lists for Members and Nonmembers

*Michael Prival*

There are two different e-mail lists that Machar members can join. The first, the “Machar” list, enables members to receive the monthly Newsletter, event reminders by email, plus announcements of program changes that may

occur between printed newsletters. 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! .