



# A High Holiday Thank You!

Machar's moving High Holiday services were a wonderful success and a genuine community effort that couldn't have happened without the hard work of our dedicated members.

The depth of Machar's talent was on display with **Michael Prival** and **Danielle Leff** leading an inspiring Rosh Hashanah service and **Carla Koppell's** special Kol Nidre talk. Music was abundant with the wonderful voices of Machar's choir—**Joy Markowitz** (also our Hebrew reader), **Joanna Pratt**, **Neil Greene**, **Terry Johnson**, **Laura Ariovich**, **Sue Zwicker** and **Jill Grant**—and with Machar's award-winning pianist **Harry Appelman** and **Kira Appelman** on the violin.

**Kelly Hand**, our Congregational Administrator, worked diligently to keep us going and **Nadine Wettstein** once again coordinated our holiday celebrations.

**Harriet Peck** arranged our Rosh Hashanah discussion groups that were facilitated by **Myrna Frank** and **David Baron**. **Rose Levine** coordinated our readers for the services: **Rick Gold**, **Adam Gold**, **Howard Dubowitz**, **Renee Weitzner**, **Eva Shankman**, **Joyce Rosenthal**, **Susan Morawetz**, **Donna Bassin**, **Caroline Simon**, **John Foster**, **Vicki Wallshein**, and **Barry Dancis**.

**Mimi Brody** and **Rahel Hanadari** organized the children's services and **Amit and Yael Hanadari-Levy** wrote the Rosh Hashanah play. **Sue Zwicker**, **Deb Godden**, and **David Godden** all graciously participated. **Debby Brennan**, our Jewish Cultural School Director, gave her enthusiastic encouragement to our students.

**Barbara Francisco** and **Mark Mauer** brought the refreshments we enjoyed at Rosh Hashanah.

**Amy Kotkin**, **Shelly Schwab**, **Dick Schwab**, **Tom Gordon**, **Donna Bassin**, **Joyce Rosenthal**, **Miriam Gitler** and **Susan Morawetz** were all there to greet the guests. **Jason Lubin** and **John Cooper** took photos and **Holly Campbell-Rosen** was our videographer.

**Patti Maslinoff** made our name tags and our Newsletter editor **Tricia Gordon** kept us informed of all the holiday details.

**Larry Lawrence** and **Amy Kotkin** hosted Rabbi Jerris for Yom Kippur weekend and opened their home to Machar for Sunday brunch.

Thank you also to our visitors for lending their amazing voices: **Edd Doerr**, **Gregg Grisa** and **Deborah "Spice" Kleinman** with her guitar.

A special thanks to **Rabbi Miriam Jerris** who led our Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services as a benefit of Machar's affiliation with the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

And for anyone I may have unintentionally omitted—my thanks and appreciation to you.

Finally, I want to thank all of you, the **Machar Community**, for coming together to share these services and making everything possible.

**Darlene Basch**  
Machar President

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## High Holidays



Images from Machar's High Holiday services: Michael Prival and Danielle Leff leading the Rosh Hashanah service with Hank Prensky blowing the shofar (top); Rosh Hashanah readers and choir (middle); Rosh Hashanah children's service audience (bottom left) and readers with Mimi Brody (bottom); Miriam Gitler reading Jon Muth's version of Tolstoy's "Three Questions" at Yom Kippur children's service (top of next page); Carla Koppell, our Kol Nidre speaker (middle left of next page); and Harry Appelman and Kira playing the instrumental Kol Nidre.







## Whaddaya Talkin'?

Marlene Cohen

### yiddisher kop

It means a smart person. Literally it means a “Jewish head.” So it sounds arrogant, like only Jews have good heads on their shoulders. But at least nowadays, it is used as a compliment to a Jewish person who handles the moment well, and to a young person who is showing early signs of growing up to make good choices, to be a mench/mentsh.

*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!*

You jumped in to solve a problem, to catch the lamp before someone knocked it off the table, to plan ahead when you packed your bag? That’s using your yiddisher kop!

—idea from *The Yiddish Handbook: 40 Words You Should Know*

## Machar Adult Education and Community Sundays

**Sundays 10–11:45 a.m.** Sessions are open to all. There is parking on 16th Street and in the back. All sessions are held in the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20012

### October 6

#### **Peter Wolfe—History of the Khazars & the Jewish Connection**

Machar member Peter Wolfe is a retired attorney who has given lectures on history at Machar as well as at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. This talk concerns the Khazars, a Turkish people that controlled the region between and north of the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea between the 7th and the 11th Centuries. In the 9th century, the ruling class and some of the common people converted to Judaism. This talk will also explore the validity of theories that the Khazars were ancestors of Ashkenazic Jews.

**Community Sunday:** Wear old clothes for a creek clean-up in Rock Creek Park across from JPDS (weather permitting).

### October 20

#### **Tamara Wittes—The Future of the U.S. in the Middle East**

Dr. Wittes is the Director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy of The Brookings Institution. One of the capital's leading Middle East experts and a former State Department official, Wittes will provide an overview of the latest developments in Middle East hotspots and an evaluation of the Obama Administration's policy toward the region.

**Community Sunday:** Join us for a mini-walk for the homeless to benefit Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network (CIHN).

### November 3

#### **Francisco Roig – History of Jews in Bolivia**

Francisco Roig, of the Inter-American Development Bank, co-authored with David Reichsfeld "Santa Cruz de la Sierra and its Jewish colonial legacy," published in 2009 in the Revista de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales. His research shows how some of that Bolivian city's founders and early settlers were of Jewish origin and how later waves of "converso" migrants and

Inquisition fugitives also converged in the city. Traces of centuries-old Jewish customs and traditions persist today.

**Community Sunday:** Jewish Cultural School students recite poetry from their workshops with poet Rosanne Singer.

### November 17

#### **Nadine Bloch – Creative Cultural Resistance**

Machar member Nadine Bloch is a nonviolent political organizer, strategic facilitator, direct-action trainer, innovative artist, and puppetista. She combines the principles and strategies of nonviolent civil resistance with creative use of culture and arts. She has worked creatively for more than 30 years on the front lines of environmental, peace, and economic justice activism. Join her for an interactive workshop exploring strategic use of creative cultural resistance.

**Community Sunday:** Following her talk, Nadine will lead us in a hands-on, creative activity for all ages at 11:45.

### December 8

**Hanukkah Party at Schweinhaut Center,** 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD, 10 a.m. to noon

### December 15

#### **Abigail Smith – Education Reform at the National, Local, and Classroom Levels: Ideals, Data, and Practical Realities of Closing the Gaps in Educational Achievement.**

District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Education and Machar member Abby Smith will draw on her extensive work with school administration under both Superintendent Michelle Rhee and Mayor Vincent Gray and as an independent consultant. She will discuss how DC fits into the broader picture of education reform in the United States.

**Community Sunday:** Book Sale and Community Music



On September 22, Machar members enjoyed "Marc Chagall: Village Idiot or Secular Humanist?" presented by Mark Swartz.

## B'nei Mitzvah Volunteers Needed

Dear Machar Members,

Please consider volunteering to be a mentor to one of this year's B'nei Mitzvah students. We've used mentors the last three years and have found that they serve a critical role in the B'nei Mitzvah process by giving extra support to the kids, freeing up parents from editing their own children's work (not always a productive arrangement), and allowing the Rabbi to focus on the substance of the research rather than the writing and grammar. Note Machar will be hiring Rabbi Ben to lead this year's B'nei Mitzvah services and to provide guidance to the kids on their topics and presentations.

The role of the mentor is to provide support, as needed, to the child to whom they're assigned, and to review and provide oral and written feedback on their research. A significant part of the job is providing written edits to the various drafts of the child's

B'nei Mitzvah research papers and speeches. However, for some mentors, the job can also involve helping kids to identify appropriate research for their topics, making sense of conflicting research, or identifying outsiders "experts" to be interviewed as part of the research effort. The job is not very time consuming (approximately 10 to 20 hours over a 4 to 5 month period) and great for someone who likes research, writing, editing and working with kids. It's also a great opportunity to build a relationship with one of the young teens in our community. Most of the communication between the mentor and child is done electronically, though the arrangement depends largely upon the preferences of the pair and the distance they live from each other. Some kids also need more assistance than others. As much as possible we try to assign mentors who live in geographic proximity to the child and who have a particular knowledge or interest in the topic be-

ing researched, though this is not critical. The bulk of the mentoring takes place in late winter and spring.

Please contact Holly and me individually if you are willing to mentor one of the kids in the 7th grade, B'nei Mitzvah class this year or have questions about the process. Once we have a list of volunteers and proposed research topics from the kids, we'll be back in touch. As much as possible, we try to find good matches between the kids and the mentors, both geographically and by topic of research. Your help will be greatly appreciated. We need 8 volunteers this year.

Thanks

Susan Morawetz and  
Holly Campbell- Rosen

Co-Chairs, Machar B'nei Mitzvah  
Liaison

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# Clubs and Activities

## Havurot/Social Events

Laurie Miller

The new year has just begun and we've already had several social events under our belts. Amy Kotkin and Larry Lawrence hosted a lovely brunch for Rabbi Miriam Jerris. Over 20 members attended. It was such a nice occasion that we received offers from people to host two other events this year. Rahel Hanadari and Roberto Levy hosted a fun Sukkot celebration after a JCS/Adult Ed session. Nearly 40 people enjoyed the festivities, which included singing accompanied by Machar's new guitar-playing song leader, Naomi Gamoran. The children had a paper-chain making contest and then joined two long chains which totaled more than 500 paper loops.

Looking forward, Nancy Harris is hosting our first Shabbat for the year on **October 4th**. The Shankmans will host the next Shabbat on **Friday, November 8th**. This will be for adults only and space is limited so mark your calendars. I'll post more details and a registration link to the listserv in mid-October.

We are always searching for volunteers to host events. Hosting is fun and easy. Select your preferred date and event type then sit back and let others bring the food to you. OK, there is a little more to it than that—but not much. If you are interested in hosting or helping to coordinate a Shabbat, potluck, or any other style of event, please contact me at [LAURIE.MILJAZI@gmail.com](mailto:LAURIE.MILJAZI@gmail.com)

## WITs

Renée Weitzner

In September, we met at Clyde's of Chevy Chase for a delicious repast and good conversation. We meet monthly to provide support for each other as we handle life's joys and challenges.

For October, on **October 24 at 7 p.m.**, we will be meeting at the home of Eva Shankman, where I am sure we will have delicious food and terrific conversation. Please let me know what you are bringing by October 22, so that I can let our host know how many people to expect as well as our menu.

If you need a ride or need further information, please let me know by phone or by email at [rwcats@aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com).



At the September 15 brunch hosted by Amy Kotkin and Larry Lawrence: Elaine Dancis and Eva Shankman standing and Harriet Peck, Marlene Platt, Laurie Miller, Rabbi Miriam Jerris, Darlene Basch, Kelly Hand, Nadine Wettstein, and Joyce Rosenthal.



## Book Club

Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch

The Machar Book Club began its reading year on September 22 with a discussion of *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. Most people felt that the book provided an important discussion about the great migration and the interaction of cultures, a phenomenon we see in our own culture, as people leave home for one reason or another to settle in another, often quite different, location.

We also selected the books we will read during the coming year: *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* by Stephen Greenblatt, *The Hare with Amber*

*Eyes* by Edmund de Waal and *Gone to Soldiers* by Marge Piercy. We hope to read Sherwin Wine's book, *A Provocative People*, next year using several sessions to discuss the book, as it merits detailed discussion.

Our next meeting on will be on **Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 3 p.m.** at the home of Judith Wiesberg. We will discuss *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart* tells two intertwining stories, both centering on Okonkwo, a "strong man" of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first story relates the memorial conflict between the individual and society, tracing Okonkwo's fall from grace with the tribal world. The second concerns the clash of cul-

tures and the destruction of Okonkwo's world with the arrival of European missionaries. These harmonized twin dramas are told with an awareness that encompasses at once the roles of nature and the human condition.

We hope to see you in November! Please let me know if you are able to come. You may reach me by phone or by email: [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com)

## 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).

## Young Adult Havurah

Danielle Leff

The Young Adults Havurah are planning another Shabbat and Takeout in mid-October. Stay tuned or contact Danielle for dates and information.

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.

Machar kids show off their extra-long paper chain at the Sukkot celebration hosted by Rahel Hanadari and Roberto Levy.



## JCS News

Debby Brennan

Our Jewish Cultural School opened its 2013–14 year with a flurry of activities, books, games, and music. We welcome several new teachers to our school and we look forward to a year of innovation and heightened spirit. The following are mementos of the first day of school:

**Kindergarten:** After learning all about each other through the game “switch if,” we started talking about Rosh Hashana. We learned about the lunar calendar, the shofar (which you can hear from SHO-FAR AWAY), and new year’s resolutions; we took about 10 seconds of silence and chose one thing we could do to make the world a better place in the new year. Then, we decorated cards that we could post up at home to remind ourselves of that promise. After some play time outside in the beautiful weather, we learned about Tashlich. In honor of Rosh Hashana, when we think about how to make the world a better place, and Yom Kippur, when we say we’re sorry for things we regret, we each took turns ripping off a piece of bread and throwing it into a small tub of water - each time thinking about something we were sorry for. This is one of many future “brain stains” that I hope will help students remember what various holidays signify. In our second class, we learned all about Sukkot - the holiday that celebrates the harvest. We learned about the sukkah, a temporary shack that we decorate with the fruits and vegetables we have harvested so we can welcome friends and family to come and eat. We learned about the lulav and etrog - important plants to the holiday of Sukkot - and even got to shake real ones when the teens came by our classroom to teach us more about them. We read a story about a family going on a treasure hunt for the etrog and the 3 components of the lulav (date palm, myrtle, and willow). We also watched a short video of a boy in Israel

who lives on an etrog farm and helps his family decorate their sukkah.



The students had a chance to participate in our own “harvest” by going out and collecting whatever vegetables they found. Once we had all the “crops” (broccoli and carrots), we dipped them in a traditionally Middle Eastern food - hummus - to eat. To wrap up our celebration, we made our own miniature sukkahs out of graham crackers. Using “glue” (Nutella) to hold them together, we then decorated our sukkahs with dried fruits (turns out dried mango slices make great sukkah roofs)!

After a vigorous (and required) hand/face wash, we went back to the classroom and played “four corners” - but each corner, instead of being a different number, was a different crop. As you can tell, I try to work our curriculum into all of our activities, even if they aren’t technically related!

Ben Lauing, the teacher of the Kindergarten class grew up in Palo Alto, CA and attended Stanford University, where he majored in Human Biology with a self-designed concentration in Health Communication and Health Policy. He also did a tutorial in comparative health care at Oxford before

moving to DC last August to start work as a health care consultant at The Advisory Board Company. Ben worked as a counselor at Stanford’s alumni summer camp, taught Sunday school at his reform congregation, and recently worked as a “Young Explorer Leader” on a trip to the Galapagos.

**First/Second Grade:** The class began the year with some games to get to know each other and moved into talking about the High Holidays. We discussed the meaning of Rosh Hashanah, why we eat apples and honey, and the different ways our families celebrate. The teen group brought a shofar into the classroom and the kids took turns trying it out (don’t worry - we sanitized after every use!). We talked briefly about Yom Kippur and then moved into our lesson for the day, which was about mitzvot.

I explained the word mitzvah (several of the students connected it to bar and bat mitvahs so we talked about the reason for the connection) and some of the many, many ways we can do mitzvot. We read a book as a class called Mrs. Katz and Tush, which is about a young man who visits his elderly neighbor and eventually becomes very close to her - both the young man and the older woman perform several mitzvot throughout the book and we pointed those out as we read.

Finally, we brainstormed as a class about specific mitzvot that each student could do before our next class. There were lots of offers to help parents with dinner or chores and to visit grandparents. We will be making a mitvah tree over the course of the year and I will be asking each student to think of a mitvah they performed in the previous two weeks. Each mitvah will be a leaf so that by the end of the year we should have a lush, full tree of good deeds.

Brittany Grimm is originally from Portland, Oregon and is a graduate of



George Washington University. She is a nonprofit fundraiser, currently working for AVODAH: the Jewish Service Corps. Brittany spent her college summers as a counselor and theater teacher at Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi. Further teaching experience includes several semesters tutoring immigrants in civics and American history in preparation for their citizenship exams. In her free time, Brittany enjoys reading, hiking, and running.

**Third Grade:** The third graders are starting to learn Hebrew! The teacher sang a song, and at the end of the song the students counted to 4 in Hebrew. Once everyone got to class, the teacher read stories that ultimately led to ethical choices for the students. We started off as an 11 year old Jew in Spain and the year was 1492. After reading each page (the teacher read aloud) the class decided together what “choice” they would make. We had some great discussions going about whether or not to remain Jewish (the whole class chose to remain Jewish and flee their country), and what sort of risks we were willing to take to protect ourselves. Everyone was very interested and really wanted to continue on with the stories. I promised that we could continue next class.

After a short break for some fresh air everyone played Simon Says using some Hebrew body parts. Finally, the class read a story about Shabbat and had a short discussion about what Shabbat is before we went to music.

Heather Gale has experience teaching Hebrew, English, and swimming and has been a summer camp counselor and director. She has a B.A. in International Studies and an M.S. in Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysis from Michigan State University. She currently works as a paralegal and her hobbies include playing the violin, traveling, reading, and a wide variety of athletic activities.

**Fourth Grade:** The fourth grade talked about how everybody celebrates the Jewish holidays differently. We talked about Jews around the world and decorated New Years cards. While we painted and drew and stuck stickers to our cards, we talked about New Years wishes for the world. Then we went outside and played some getting to know you games. We built a rainbow web by passing a roll of multicolored yarn around the circle, saying things about ourselves and then passing it to someone who shared that thing in common too. In their second class, the 4th grade celebrated the holiday of Sukkot by learning about the four species (etrog, lulav, hadas, and arav). The teens came by with a real lulav and etrog and everyone got a chance to shake it.

We also introduced the topic of immigration to America, which will be a core part of our fourth grade curriculum. To begin, we took turns telling stories about where our own families came from. Then we read the first chapter in the book *Letters from Rifka*. In the book, Rifka leaves Russia to travel to America and she can only bring a few of her personal belongings. To try and understand what that feels like, we each packed our own “suitcase” of things that we would choose to bring along with us. Stuffed animals, special blankets, family pictures and electronics were common objects!

Aviva Downing grew up in the suburbs of Washington, DC and moved back after graduating college to be closer to her family. She holds an associates degree in Jewish Studies and a bachelors degree in Political Science from Yeshiva University, Stern College for Women. She currently works in digital marketing for an environmental nonprofit and she loves to cook, practice yoga, and treasure hunt at thrift stores and flea markets. As one of 13 children, she really believes in the saying “it takes a village to raise a child” and she is

excited to be part of the Machar community as a Sunday school teacher.

The **fifth/sixth grade** class spent our first day of the 5th and 6th grade class getting to know each other and talking about Rosh Hashanah. We focused on what our family does to celebrate, what traditional celebrations may have, and how we can apply this to our lives. We made resolutions, both for ourselves as individuals, and for the class as whole. We wrote what we want to accomplish in JCS this year. Next class we’ll be focusing on Sukkot and we’ll begin to create a class dictionary filled with new and old “Jewish terms.” The goal is to introduce the class to some new words, new famous change-makers, new ideas each week and add to this as the year goes on. We’ll work on creating definition pages and add to them throughout the year, and hopefully, at the end of the year, create a small book for each person to take home.

Izzy Parilis is a recent graduate of The George Washington University, originally from New Jersey. Her interest in Judaism stems from transformative Jewish educational experiences in college, as well as a summer of service in eastern Uganda with the American Jewish World Service. She currently works as a grants associate at a large national non profit focusing on housing accessibility. In her free time, Izzy can be found in her kitchen, at a farmer’s market or at a used book store.

The **B’nei Mitzvah** class was very fortunate the first day of class to have David Baron lead his annual hands on “ethics” program, sharing ethical situations and problems with the students and analyzing what the students would do to solve each problem. The class was full of active participants, and the students look forward to an exciting year culminating in their personal b’nei mitzvah projects.

## Jewish Folk Song, Ben Stonehill, and the Hotel Marseilles: Collecting Cultural Treasures in a Post-WWII New York Lobby — Miriam Isaacs, Sociolinguist & Yiddish Scholar

Wednesday, November 13, 12:00 noon,  
Whittall Pavilion, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress

During the summer of 1948, only three years after the end of WWII, Ben Stonehill, a man devoted to Jewish culture, recorded recently-arrived Jewish survivors of WWII who were temporarily housed in a hotel in upper Manhattan. The singers included men, women, and children. Stonehill collected over a thousand songs of many kinds: joyful as well as sad, mainly in Yiddish but also Hebrew, Polish, and Russian. These songs are musical testimonies to the resilience of the survivors, a direct link to pre-war Jewish life in Eastern Europe, and a cultural treasure. The music and chatting that went on in between the songs tell not only of the singers' terrible traumas but also of their hopes and reflect the sheer pleasure of reconnecting with others through song. In this talk, Dr. Isaacs describes the role of the Library of Congress in preserving this unique musical treasure.

She will play some of these almost forgotten recordings and talk about the collector, the singers, and their times.

Dr. Isaacs holds a doctorate in linguistics and has an extensive background as a scholar and educator, including serving for sixteen years as Professor of Yiddish Language and Culture at the University of Maryland, College Park. A native Yiddish speaker, she was born in a German DP camp and raised in the multi-ethnic cities of Montreal and Brooklyn. Specializing in sociolinguistics, she has published widely on aspects of Yiddish among Hasidim in Israel and America, as well as on questions of language function and loyalty in the post-WWII Displaced Persons Camps. Presently, she is completing a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on the Stonehill Collection.

This event is co-sponsored by the American Folklife Center and the Hebraic Section of the Library of Congress.

## Book Party to celebrate publication of new poetry by Ahron Taub: *Prayers of a Heretic/Tfiles fun an apikoyres*

Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013, 3–5 p.m.

Please come to celebrate the publication of Ahron Taub's fourth book of poems, *Prayers of a Heretic/Tfiles fun an apikoyres* (Plain View Press, 2013). The party will take place on Sunday, October 13, 2013, from 3–5 p.m. at the home of Ellen Cassedy and Jeff Blum, 7310 Cedar Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Ahron will be reading from the book at about 3:45.

*Prayers of a Heretic* explores the "crime" of heresy and the condition of existential displacement through the language of prayer and prayerful voice/s. In the first section, "Visits and Visitations," the poet imagines a variety of protagonists in situations of supplication. The sec-

ond section, "In the Gleaning," examines the life, transgressions, and prayers of the title character and the primacy of books, libraries, and reading for refuge and reconfiguration. Eschewing a secular/religious divide, the book offers an expansive interpretation of the enduring power of prayer. Four poems also have a Yiddish version. One of the poems in the book was nominated for a Best of the Net Award, and another poem was nominated for a Best of the Net Award and a Pushcart Prize.

Light refreshments will be served, and books will be available for purchase. Please R.S.V.P. to yermiyahuahrontaub at gmail dot com by COB Monday, October 7, 2013 although earlier is appreciated.

## The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem: The Remarkable Life and Afterlife of the Man Who Created Tevye

Wednesday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.  
at the DCJCC

FREE—no reservation necessary

Novelist and playwright Sholem Aleichem was a founding giant of modern Yiddish literature. His memorable characters, which include Fiddler's "Tevye the Dairyman," offer a window onto late 19th century Eastern European Jewish life. But Sholem Aleichem's own life story, complete with dramatic reversals of fortune, is just as compelling. Professor Jeremy Dauber presents the first comprehensive biography of this literary icon.





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

## Mini Colloquium at the Birmingham Temple, Michigan November 15–17, 2013

*Are we one people?  
Is cultural Judaism enough?  
How can we thrive in a multicultural world?  
What must change for the next 50 years?*

Twenty-five years ago, a revolutionary statement on “Who is a Jew?” was adopted by Secular Humanistic Judaism. Its ringing endorsement of Jewish self-identification still resonates for all of us.

“A Jew is a person of Jewish descent or any person who declares himself or herself to be a Jew and who identifies with the history, ethical values, culture, civilization, community, and fate of the Jewish people.”

On Sunday, November 17, the Global Day of Jewish Learning, the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism will host a morning of learning, debate and

discussion on The Future of Jewish Peoplehood. Colloquium 2013 will be held in suburban Detroit at The Birmingham Temple, 28611 West Twelve Mile Road in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Colloquium 2013 is part of an exciting weekend celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Birmingham Temple, which was the world’s first Humanistic Jewish congregation. From the Fiftieth Anniversary Shabbat celebration on Friday, November 15, to the seventh IISHJ Rabbinic ordination/Havdallah ceremony on Saturday, November 16, to Colloquium 2013, we anticipate a fascinating, thought-provoking weekend.

Colloquium 2013 also will be live webcast through [www.IISHJ.org](http://www.IISHJ.org)

## Story about Rabbi Jeffrey L. Falick, new rabbi at Birmingham Temple, in *My Jewish Detroit*, September 2013

A native Floridian, Rabbi Jeffrey L. Falick enthusiastically moved from Miami to Michigan to serve as rabbi for the Birmingham Temple. The New Year represents a particularly auspicious beginning for him, as the congregation celebrates its 50th anniversary as the founding congregation for Humanistic Judaism. Asked about his decision to move North, Rabbi Falick explained, “Detroit is the capital of Humanistic Judaism, well-established here with the largest congregation in the nation. In every movement in organized Jewish life, there are some institutions that represent the highest expression of its ideals. For Humanistic Jews, that place is the Birmingham Temple. To be in the place where it was all born, is not only an opportunity, but it’s also an honor.”

Ordained as a Reform rabbi at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1989, Rabbi Falick turned to Humanistic Judaism about ten years ago and became

active within the movement. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) for several years and currently serves on the SHJ Executive Committee. He also is president of the Association of Humanistic Rabbis. Prior to joining the Birmingham Temple, he served as Assistant Executive Director of Miami’s Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center.

About the congregation: “Our understanding of being Jewish is extraordinarily expansive, embracing the entire Jewish historical and cultural experience. Our congregation welcomes anyone who identifies with the Jewish people and their history, and who connects with our human-centered philosophy. We combine celebration of our Jewish cultural heritage with an exploration of how to conduct meaningful lives inspired by our commitment to humanism and its principles.”

# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

October 3: Julia Williamson  
October 14: Ronni Schwartz  
October 15: Gary Peck  
October 16: Henrietta Wexler  
October 20: Hannah Goor  
October 22: Oliver Kahn  
October 23: Alexander Al-Hujazi  
October 25: Elena Pastreich  
October 26: Ahmed Al-Hujazi  
October 26: Julia Raytselis  
October 29: Sarah Morgan

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We are proud to announce that in its August 29 edition, *Washington Jewish Week* published a D'Var Torah (study of the weekly Torah portion) by our Jewish Cultural School Director, Debby Brennan. This weekly newspaper reaches a diverse Jewish audience in the Washington metropolitan area. Debby's exegesis of a passage from Deuteronomy includes some fascinating observations about Jewish guilt and ethical action. You can read the full text of her analysis at <http://www.machar.org/about/our-congregation/dvar-torah-by-debby-brennan/>. The religious texts study group enjoyed the opportunity to brainstorm with Debby about this passage at one of its meetings.



## Anniversaries

October 15: Rob Goor and Linda Tebelman  
October 16: Brenda Platt and Daniel DeMocker  
October 22: Larry Lawrence and Amy Kotkin

## Yarhzeits: We remember...

October: Marvin Levin, father of Ann Levin  
October 7: Patricia Ekenstam, mother of Tricia Gordon  
October 23: Gertrude Zinnerman Harris, aunt of Hank Prensky  
October 28: Harold Hartogensis, father of Deb Godden

.....

We send our condolences to Marlene Cohen, whose mother Martha Cohen died on September 2, and to her family.

We are also sad to report the death of Holly Campbell-Rosen's mother, Jean Martinez, on September 24, and send our condolences to her and her family.

## A Machar Reflection...home for the holidays

When my mom Martha Lurie Cohen died in Columbus, Ohio, late the evening of September 2, we soon realized that, with Rosh Hashana coming up, followed by Shabbat, we would have a long wait until the funeral in Canton. I was with my brother, sister-in-law and good friend there who is a wonderful cantorial soloist at their reform temple. They would have been happy for me to share Rosh Hashana with them.

But that would have also meant two days of praising God at the time of Mom's death. I just didn't have it in me...So I flew home Wednesday to join my husband Michael and to keep our plans to host Deb and David Godden at our house for Rosh Hashana at Machar. The children's service was thoughtful and fun, and the adult service so meaningful to me. Hearing Michael Prival's talk felt just right. (A highlight was, I'm paraphrasing here – "We can learn some things from the bible, but not much.")

A bonus was all the love and support I felt from Machar members. I was surrounded by good friends and honest talk about experiencing the final hours of a loved one's life. I got reenergized for heading to the funeral that Sunday.

I couldn't ask for more than that.

—Marlene Cohen, member since 1987



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Jewish Cultural School Director  
Debby Brennan

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## SHJ Reps from Machar

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Marlene Cohen

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Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson

# Join us at the HuJews Conclave 2014!



Are you or is someone  
you know a Humanistic  
Jew between the ages of  
13 and 21?

Are you interested in  
meeting other HuJews  
from around North  
America?

**Then the SHJ Conclave  
is the event for you!**

## Highlights:

- Make new friends!
- Work to develop your  
Humanistic Jewish  
Identity!
- Participate in Community  
Service Projects!
- Explore a new city!



**When:** March 28th-30th, 2014

**Where:** Boston, Massachusetts

**How to Register:** Online Registration coming soon.

**Registration Deadline:** January 31st, 2014

**Member Fee:** \$230 **Non-Member Fee:** \$255 **Chaperones:** \$290

**Late Registration Fee:** \$25

\*Scholarships available for those who qualify. Please contact  
Miriam Rubin for details.

**Questions: Contact Miriam Rubin, [hujews@shj.org](mailto:hujews@shj.org),  
857-472-0525, or SHJ, [info@shj.org](mailto:info@shj.org), 248-478-7610**



# Columbia Jewish Congregation's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jewish Film Series!

5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

410-730-6044



Four evenings of thought-provoking, varied, entertaining films, including refreshments & optional discussion

**Showings:** Saturdays, 8:00pm, Room 200, The Meeting House in Oakland Mills, Columbia, MD 21045

\$32 for 4-film series, \$27 for 3-film series, \$19 for 2-film series. (\$10.00 for single ticket: Sold at door only)

(Choice of films is yours and you need not choose in advance.)

**TICKET SALES WILL BEGIN AND DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7:30pm**

*(If a movie is cancelled because of snow, that movie will be shown at the end of the season – May or early June. Date will be announced later if needed.)*

Each of the films being presented has been shown, or will be shown, at multiple Jewish film festivals around the country.

All films are subject to change based upon availability.

[www.columbiajewish.org/film\\_series](http://www.columbiajewish.org/film_series)

**January 18, 2014**

***David***

2011 – USA – English/Arabic – 80 min. Eleven-year-old David, the son of a religious imam in Brooklyn, NY, is mistaken for a Jewish boy. He becomes conflicted after befriending Jewish kids his age, and the longer he plays out his double life, the more he risks driving a wedge within his family. Ultimately, David's honesty and accessibility trigger a response of tolerance and compassion.

**February 22, 2014**

***The Matchmaker***

2012 – Israel – Hebrew with English subtitles – 118 min. Arik, a teenage boy growing up in Haifa in 1968, gets a job working for Yankele Bride, a matchmaker. Yankele, a mysterious Holocaust survivor, has an office in back of a movie theater, situated in the seedy area of the port. The theater, run by a family of seven Romanian dwarves, shows only love stories. Yankele introduces Arik to a new world built on the ruins of the old one. Arik learns the mysteries of the human heart when he falls in love with Tamara, who has just returned from America with different views of life.

**March 29, 2014**

***Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray***

2011 – USA – English – 86 min. This film reveals the little known struggles facing American Jews, both in battle and on the home front, during the Civil War. The film presents unknown chapters in American history, when allegiances during the war deeply split the Jewish community. Approximately 10,000 Jewish soldiers fought on both sides. They were, at times, honored, but also criticized by the anti-semitic policies of the time.

**April 26, 2014**

***Mahler on the Couch***

2010 – Germany – German with English subtitles – 98 min. Gustav Mahler snatched Alma from under the noses of Vienna's artistic elite, but ten years of marriage and the death of one child have exacerbated the strains caused by both the nineteen-year gap in their ages and Mahler's refusal to allow Alma to write music. "I need a wife, not a colleague," he said. While staying at a spa resort, Alma falls in love with Walter Gropius, five years her junior. Tormented, Mahler seeks advice from Sigmund Freud. The encounter of the two giants in their respective fields of music and psychoanalysis is bumpy, temperamental, and not without humor.

**Have any questions? Call (410) 997-0694, Tom Laufer. Preferred closing signup: December 10, 2013**

Please return this form by **December 10**, together with your check (made payable to CJC)

**AND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

to: CJC Jewish Film Series, c/o B. Belin, 10365 Blue Arrow Ct., Columbia, MD 21044



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Series: Full \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Film \_\_\_\_\_ 2-Film \_\_\_\_\_ Subscriber: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Where/how did you learn about our series? \_\_\_\_\_



**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! .