Welcome Back!

Dear Macharniks,

I’m very excited to welcome you all back to another year of Machar.

We had a summer filled with activities: Rabbi Nehama hosted a family-friendly event at Bounce U, and Kelly and David hosted a family pool party; Rabbi Nehama led us in discussion at a Tisha B’Av observance, and we enjoyed the hospitality of our members at potluck Havdalah and Shabbat celebrations. Our lovely women of WITs continued gathering over the summer to share good food and life’s journeys and our active and reinvigorated Young Adult Havurah hosted several events that were open to all young adults in the area.

Now, we have a great year ahead of us and a lot of things to look forward to:

Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education begin on September 14: I look forward to seeing all of you on September 14 as we begin our Adult Education and Jewish Cultural School programs. We’ll be able to see friends, meet some new ones, and learn about all the wonderful things Machar has planned for the year and how you can be involved.

Machar’s Book Club starts off with some compelling reading: Everyone is welcome to our Book Club gathering on September 21, when we will begin a series of discussions, facilitated by Michael Prival and Peter Wolfe, on Rabbi Sherwin Wine’s fascinating book: A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews.

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche will lead our High Holiday observances: Please join us on September 25 for Rosh Hashanah and October 3 and 4 for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Nehama’s father, Mr. Robert Benmosche, who retires this month from his position as chief executive of the American International Group (A.I.G.) will be our speaker for Kol Nidre and Machar member Akiva Liberman will speak on Yom Kippur.

Be sure to join us on September 28 for our Adult Ed program with Michael Prival, followed by our Community Sunday Tashlikh observance and annual creek clean-up.

And we’re just getting started!

It is all of this—all of you—that make Machar such a special and welcoming community. It’s going to be a great year!

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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

Machar President
Celebrate the High Holidays with Machar and our new rabbi!

All services at Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Rosh Hashanah Thursday, September 25
Children’s service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.
Post-service discussion groups begin at 12:30 after refreshment break.

Kol Nidre Friday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Saturday, October 4
Children’s service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.

A note from the Rabbi:
Rosh Hashanah Sermon sneak peak

It is hard to believe that the Hebrew month of Elul has begun and Rosh Hashanah is less than a month away. For those of you who may be interested in going a little deeper as we descend into the holiday season, I’d like to offer some extra reading. My sermon for Rosh Hashanah will be called: One of the Reasons We Keep Coming Back: Moral Psychology and Jonathan Haidt’s Righteous Mind. My talk will be an attempt to explore why we choose to participate in the high holidays through the lens of moral psychology. I will draw from a book I read this summer called The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion. Despite a decline in worldwide participation in organized religion, our community and many others will gather during the holidays and mark these days by choosing to affiliate and associate with like-minded members of our faith-based organizations. Haidt’s perspective on religious groups drew me in and his writing is accessible and his research examples are entertaining. I thought some of you would be interested in putting another book on your bedside table this fall. Looking forward to continuing to build our relationships and to get to know all of you in this first year together!

Rosh Hashanah: Thursday, September 25
Children’s service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah post-service discussion group topics:

• Is the world really worse now or do we just know more about it?
• What does spirituality mean to me?

Kol Nidre: Friday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.
With a talk by Robert Benmosche

Yom Kippur: Saturday, October 4
Children’s service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.
With a talk by Akiva Liberman

Attendance at High Holidays services is a privilege of membership. There is no need for members to register for services, but they can opt to register two nonmember relatives to attend free of charge. A registration link for this purpose is available on the home page of www.machar.org along with a link to our regular nonmember registration page.

Volunteer for Children’s Services
Mimi Brody mbrody@humanesociety.org

Once again, we are seeking your help to make our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Children’s Services a success. The Children’s Services will run from 9:30 until about 10:15 am on Sept. 25 and Oct. 4, respectively. We’ll need several children readers and will have acting roles—adult and children—for the play-lets we’ll perform during each service. Please let me know if your children and/or you are interested in participating! Shofar-blowing also needed! First-come, first-served on filling the parts, though we will try to involve every child who’d like to participate. No memorization needed! I’ll send scripts out to families in advance, so folks can be comfortable with what they’ll be reading aloud. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you soon!
Adult Education and Community Sundays

Sundays 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.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

September 14
Welcoming the New Year—Introductions and Overview
This first meeting of the year is an opportunity to meet new and old members and to hear about the various activities community membership offers. You are invited to bring along friends or family who are interested in finding out more about Machar.
Community Sunday: Music and Israeli Dancing

September 28
Michael Prival—The Ideas of Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, Founder of Humanistic Judaism
Michael Prival, the first Madrikh (leader) of Machar, will again lead us in a discussion of Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, who led our movement for four decades. Rabbi Sherwin Wine saw Humanistic Judaism as the logical next step in the development of Judaism. The purpose, for him, was to embody a positive philosophy based on the culture and history of the Jewish people. We will discuss some of his boldest ideas: believing is better than non-believing; ancient religious texts should be read for original intent rather than reinterpreted for modern life; and only a Judaism that its members actually believe in can survive.
Community Sunday: Short Tashlikh celebration led by Rabbi Nehama and Rock Creek cleanup

October 19
Jennie Guilfoyle—In the Absence of Immigration Reform
Ever since the 2012 election, we have heard that major immigration reform is just around the corner. Machar member and immigration attorney Jennie Guilfoyle will talk about what has been happening in the absence of Congressional action on immigration. What has the administration done? What has it not done? Which immigrants has the administration helped? Which has it not?
Community Sunday: Sukkot celebration

October 26
Rabbi Mindy Portnoy—Theodor Herzl: The Man and the Myth
An exploration of the personal and political life of Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism; journalist, playwright, man of Budapest, Vienna, Paris; son, husband, and father. This lecture will be based on a variety of biographies which have been written about him, evoking a multitude of fascinating personas. Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Sinai, is a graduate of Yale University, and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She has taught courses about Herzl and is the author of five Jewish children’s books and many published sermons, blogs, and essays on a range of topics.
Community Sunday: Intergenerational Oral History Videos

November 16
Rabbi Nehama Benmosche—A Journey Through the Jewish Movements
Rabbi Nehama Benmosche, Machar’s rabbi since April 2014, has lived in many parts of the Jewish world. She will help us understand the similarities and differences in these streams of Jewish life, using examples from her personal life, including schooling in Conservative Judaism, living in an Orthodox community in college, experiencing Judaism in Israeli culture, rabbinic training in the Reconstructionist movement, and now serving a Humanistic Jewish community.
Community Sunday: Global Day of Jewish Learning/Book sale

November 23
Bennett Muraskin—Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore
Based on his book by the same name, Muraskin reveals the richness of Jewish folklore and its relevance to contemporary issues. He draws on stories from Talmud, Midrash, Hasidic and other sources that reflect values of mutual respect, equality, social justice and questioning authority, with plenty of humor too. Muraskin is the Adult Education Director for the Jewish Cultural School and Society in northern New Jersey, a part of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations. He has authored three books and is a columnist for Jewish Currents and Outlook (Canada) as well as a contributor to the Society for Humanistic Judaism’s publication Humanistic Judaism.
Community Sunday: Community Service Activity—Soup and Trail Mix Assembly

December 7
Jocelyn Samuels—The Federal Role in Protecting Civil Rights: Opportunities and Limitations
The executive branch of the federal government enforces numerous laws to protect civil rights, including with regard to voting, police misconduct, equal educational and employment opportunity, and hate crimes. This program will discuss the government’s work in these and other areas, addressing both advances in and obstacles to civil rights. Samuels is Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services. Previously, she was Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice and has worked in the public interest community on civil rights issues. She is also a former President of Machar.
Community Sunday: International Human Rights Fair

December 14
Hanukkah Party at Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, 20901
Clubs and Activities

WITs

Renée Weitzner

In August, WITs met at the lovely home of Judith Wiesberg, where we enjoyed a lively discussion and terrific food which we shared. Thank you, Judith.

The wonderful women of Machar will meet on September 17, 2014 at 7 pm at the home of Eva Shankman. Please let me know by September 15 that you are coming and what you are bringing. That way our host will know our menu and 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@aol.com or reach me by phone.

Young Adult Havurah

Danielle Leff (non-members welcome)

Machar’s Young Adult Havurah is for young adults and the young at heart. Join our listserve at groups.google.com/group/macharyah or join our group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah to get the details and updates on YAH activities. 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.

Thursday, September 25 - Rosh Hashanah Lunch at Parkway Deli
Friday, October 3 - Kol Nidre dinner at a restaurant in Bethesda
Saturday, October 4 - Yom Kippur Break-fast meal
Monday, October 27, 7:00 pm - Matthew Klickstein, Slimed!: An Oral History of Nickelodeon’s Golden Age
(Machar’s Young Adult Havurah is co-sponsoring this event with the DC JCC’s Jewish Literary Festival.)

Tickets: $12. Group discount available.

If you grew up in the golden age of Nickelodeon, you love the Rugrats, Clarissa Explains It All, The Adventures of Pete & Pete, and Saturday night SNICK marathons. Come hear Matthew Klickstein talk about his interviews with Nickelodeon insiders, including Melissa Joan Hart and Kenan Thompson, to uncover the origins of green slime, how Ren & Stimpy managed to get on the air, and much more. The event will be a discussion with the author, Q&A session, and 90’s trivia game.

To find out more: contact Leah@kaplansonline@dotnet OR visit http://washingtondcjcc.org/center-for-arts/literary/jewish-literary-festival/

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 longtime leader of our Humanistic Judaism movement. For our September meeting, to be held on September 21, 2014, at the home of Michael Prival, 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@aol.com.

Neighborhood Havurot

Donna Copeland, who joined Machar in 2013, is our new Neighborhood Havurot coordinator. Please contact her at dco@grandmathegeek@dotcom if you have ideas for social events and/or wish to host one.

On August 15, 25 people enjoyed a lovely Shabbat potluck hosted by Michal Freedman and Jack Schwartz. With perfect weather for the Family Pool Party and Potluck hosted by Kelly Hand and David Abramson on August 29, 26 people had a fun evening of swimming, eating, and socializing.

Attending these smaller-scale social events is a great way to get to know your fellow Machar members. Please try to make it to at least one this year! We have some potential hosts for the fall and will share details as soon as possible.

September 28th: Be a Part of the Machar Creek Clean-up!

Every fall for the past several years, dedicated and fun-loving Macharniks have beautified a Rock Creek tributary (beginning at Joyce Rd. and 16th St., across from JPDS) and kept large amounts of recyclables and trash out of Rock Creek.

After Sunday school and Adult Ed., and after a brief Tashlikh ceremony led by Rabbi Nehama, all able-bodied and enthusiastic volunteers of all ages are urged to join with us in this service to the local community.

Please wear long pants and long sleeves and sturdy shoes and bring a favorite pair of work gloves - if you have. I will provide gloves and bags and a lot of encouragement.

I hope that you can join us. Many hands will make light and enjoyable work!

—Barbara Francisco
Far above: 2014 b’nei mitzvah class students and their parents enjoyed volunteering together at DC Central Kitchen, where some shucked and cut hundreds of ears of corn while others schlepped food in and out of the freezer.

Above: Leah Kaplan helped to make August a great month for the Young Adult Havurah, hosting a “Shabbat and Takeout” event at her home on the 22nd and organizing a Machar table at the DCJCC’s Schmooze ’n’ Schmear Brunch on the 24th.
Larry Lawrence, SHJ President and member of Machar, The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism, shares his views on promoting SHJ communities through social media during the New Year holiday and throughout the year.

Shalom!

We know that social media are overtaking print as the way to get the word out about gatherings and events, especially to folks under 40. But for many community leaders, social media look technical and hard to use. When advertising our New Year’s services, our thoughts turn naturally to newspapers and the like. A newspaper ad for High Holiday services in 1995 was the way I first came in touch with Humanistic Judaism. (But 1995 was a generation ago!)

Recently, I’ve spoken to young adults at Machar who’ve reminded me of the importance of using social media to get out the word about High Holiday events. Last year, several newcomers learned of us informally via notices that young members posted about services. Why not try this for the new year! For example, someone in a Jewish “Meetup” group may write, “Join me for an unusual, moving secular Jewish New Year’s service at ---- ”

Do you find the idea of using Facebook, Twitter, Meetup or Google+ daunting? I do! Here are two suggestions:

1. Try it anyway - it may be easier than you think.
2. Ask a young adult in your community to help by putting up short notices on their favorite sites. It’s flattering to be asked to do something to help your community that’s easy for you. What may be a challenge for a 50-year old community leader may be less so for a 28-year old.

Here are tips from Leah Kaplan, who’s active in Machar’s Young Adult Havurah in Washington, DC. These would be easy to tailor for your community.

1. Use Facebook - an excellent way to inform non-members about Machar activities. Check out the Young Adult Havurah page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah/
2. Make sure to regularly post events on Jewish websites that attract lots of viewers. Examples in DC are:
   http://www.gatherthejews.com/about/
   http://www.jconnect.org/Events/AddAnEvent.aspx
   http://washingtondcjcc.org/social-networks/entry-point-dc/

3. See if you can co-host events with large local organizations. You can market each other’s events on your email list serves and Facebook pages. The Machar Young Adult Havurah has already started to do this in cooperation with the DC JCC’s young adult group:
   http://washingtondcjcc.org/social-networks/entry-point-dc/

Other sites in addition to those mentioned are Twitter, Google+, and Meetup. Here are reviews of those sites and of Facebook:
http://social-networking-websites-review.toptenreviews.com/facebook-review.html
http://social-networking-websites-review.toptenreviews.com/twitter-review.html
http://social-networking-websites-review.toptenreviews.com/google--review.html
http://social-networking-websites-review.toptenreviews.com/meetup-review.html

YouTube is a great place to post short videos that are often widely viewed. See “SocietyForHJ” on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/user/societyforhj).

Also, take a look at SHJ’s Facebook page and Twitter account:
https://www.facebook.com/SocietyforHumanisticJudaism?ref=br_tf
https://twitter.com/humanisticjews

Remember: The most effective way to start someone on the path to joining you, whether at a service, event, or rally, is to ask them personally! The next best way is to ask them through a medium they trust. For millions of people, social media are the trusted path. There’s still time to try this for Rosh Hashana, or later on for the fall and winter holidays.

Feel free to send me questions or comments. I’m no expert, but I’ll try to get your questions answered.

L’Shana Tovah!

Larry
president@shj.org
Birthdays

September 2: Jason Lubin
September 2: Caroline Simon
September 3: Ana Schnell
September 3: Billy Schnell
September 5: Rebecca Namm
September 8: Win Morgan
September 9: Mimi Brody
September 14: Sol Prensky
September 14: Hazel Hand
September 15: Amit Hanadari-Levy
September 16: Mitchell Rosenthal
September 17: Sue Popkin
September 18: Debra DeRuyver
September 19: David Godden
September 21: Anna Greenberg
September 23: Rachel Epstein-Shuman
September 24: Rob Goor
September 25: Jessica Ratay
September 26: Julia Dancis
September 27: Dan DeMocker
September 28: Deb Godden
September 30: Logan Eliot

Aniversaries

September 1: Steven Cohen and Alison Barnes
September 2: Marlene Cohen and Michael Kidwell
September 11: Joe Palca and Kathy Hudson
September 13: Joseph and Mildred Goodman
September 16: Dick and Shelly Schwab
September 20: David Goldberg and Claire Huson
September 30: Mark Swartz and Jennifer Guilfoyle

Yarhzeits: We remember...

September 2: Martha Cohen, mother of Marlene Cohen
September 20: Mori Basch, father of Darlene Bosch
September 22: Ruth Hartogensis, mother of Deb Godden
September 24: Jean Martinez, mother of Holly Campbell
September: William Spencer, stepfather of Adam Namm
September: Tilda Weigl, mother of Eva Shankman

Mazel Tov!

Marlene Cohen and Michael Kidwell celebrated their 30th anniversary on September 2. They were married in Washington DC by Rabbi Harold White, at the time the one guy who would marry “interfaith” couples without needing conversion. He was a busy officiant!

We are excited to welcome our youngest Machar member, Owen, born to parents Jessica and Doug and big sister Emily on April 9.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Renee Weitzner.

Whaddaya Talkin’? 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!

Marlene Cohen

Let’s start the new year with a strong feeling: from deep in your Kishkes.

Literally we’re talking anatomy here; it is your intestines, your guts. So it follows that a strong intuition, and very satisfying feeling, comes right from the kishkes.

Talking Jewish says it’s “the most profound emotion.”

Of course kishke is also a very tasty dish, which you don’t want to know is made by stuffing cow intestine. Enough said.

I wish you a Happy New Year, from deep in my kishkes.
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

**Board Liaisons**
- Rabbi
  Nehama Benmosche
- Congregational Administrator
  Kelly Hand
- Jewish Cultural School Director
  Debby Brennan

**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
  Renee Weitzner
- New Members
  Marlene Cohen
- Newsletter
  Tricia Gordon
- Nominating
  Nadine Wettstein
- Passover Seder
- Rabbi Committee
  Mark Swartz
- Shelter Staffing
  Ann Levin
- Social Action
  Peter Kahn
- Sunday Refreshments
  Ami Argaman
- Clubs and Havurot Chairs
  Book Club
  Darlene Basch
  Renée Weitzner
- Neighborhood Havurot
  Donna Copeland
- Wimmin’ In Transition (WITs)
  Renee 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 Pre-screened 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!

Interested in Advertising with Machar?

Contact info at machar.org