From Machar’s New President

“All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.”
—Martin Buber

For my family and myself, becoming part of the Machar community is an important destination on our journey of life. When we moved to the area and joined Machar three years ago we discovered a welcoming and interesting community of people who, like us, have challenged themselves to a never-ending search for a secular, humanistic Judaism. Never-ending because we are given no prescribed answers and we must find our own truth and traditions. As part of Machar, we are lucky to travel this part of the journey together with all of you.

I would like to thank Darlene Basch, our outgoing president, for moving Machar forward these past two years. Your tireless work and leadership are greatly appreciated. Our community has enjoyed great progress under your direction and I hope I can continue, with your help, to move Machar towards the future. Todah Rabah!

Thank you to outgoing board members Peter Kahn, Danielle Leff, Mark Swartz, and Nadine Wettstein for their service. I would also like to thank Kelly Hand, our Congregational Administrator, and Debby Brennan, our Jewish Cultural School Director, for their continued and devoted support of Machar. Thank you to a wonderful and dedicated board—Darlene Basch, Holly Campbell-Rosen, Miriam Gitler, Norm Hall, Leah Kaplan, Amanda Nothaft, Ester Rozenblum Joyce Rosenthal, Jack Schwartz, and Renée Weitzner—who are committed to ensuring that Machar remains the warm and vibrant community that it is.

I am very excited for and look forward to another great year at Machar. We will kick off our Community Sunday tradition on September 20 with our first meeting of the Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education. I look forward to seeing many of our members as we reconnect and learn about some of the many activities planned for the year. There is something for everyone and we are always open to new ideas and experiences.

Many of our members are engaged in making Machar the wonderful community that it is. It will take all of us to make Machar greater than ever. As we begin a new year, I hope we can work together to grow our community and to make everyone feel like an active part of it. This is OUR community!

Rahel Hanadari
President
Summer Fun with Machar

Although our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education programs are on hiatus from June to August, Machar has stayed busy! In June, we enjoyed a Shabbat service at Cedar Lane and organized an outreach table at the Capital Pride Festival. Members of all ages gathered for a Family Potluck and Games Night in July. Throughout the summer, small groups such as WiTs (Women in Transition) and our Young Adult Havurah, continued to meet. Here’s what we have planned for August:

End-of-Summer Potluck Pool Party
Friday, August 28, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

Hosted by Kelly Hand and David Abramson at the PG Pool
3301 Buchanan Street
Mount Rainier, MD 20712
(10–15 minute walk from the West Hyattsville Green Line metro)
Register at this link: http://bit.ly/1KHKGic

We hope to see you at this event, and look forward to seeing you many times in September, when we will have our High Holidays services on September 14, 22, and 23 and resume our Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education program on September 20.

Calendar

Sun. Aug. 16, 4–6 p.m.
YA Havurah Hike

Wed. Aug. 19, 7–9 p.m.
WiTs

Fri. Aug. 28, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
End-of-Summer Potluck Pool Party

Mon. Sept. 14 Rosh Hashanah
9:30 a.m. children’s service
10:30 a.m. main service;
12:30 p.m. discussion group,
YA Havurah lunch

Sun. Sept. 20
10 a.m. JCS/Adult Ed;
11:30 creek cleanup and tashlich

Sun. Sept. 20
Machar at Takoma Park Folk Festival

Tues. Sept. 22
YA Havurah pre-Kol Nidre dinner;
Kol Nidre service, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 23 Yom Kippur:
9:30 a.m. children’s service;
10:30 main service; YA Havurah
break-fast

Sun. Sept. 27
10 a.m. JCS/Adult Ed
11:30 Sukkot celebration

Celebrate the High Holidays with Machar!

Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 14
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
Tuesday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, September 23
Children’s service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.

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

Special offer to local Machar members: Invite two non-member relatives to attend High Holidays free of charge. Request admission at least one week in advance at www.machar.org.
How Can You Help?

Machar relies on members to pitch in throughout the year to keep our community strong. Whether you volunteer to plan a single event or commit to working on a committee throughout the year, your help is crucial to our success! This year, Marina Broitman will serve as our volunteer coordinator.

As we plan for our new membership year and the High Holidays, there will be a number of opportunities to share your time and talents. Please look out for emails asking for help with specific events or tasks.

On **Sunday, September 20**, our first day of Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education, Machar will have a table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival. We will need several volunteers to staff the table, so please save the date and plan to take a shift after JCS/Adult Ed—or that morning if you don’t plan to attend our Sunday session. Contact Marina at volunteer[at]machar.org if you are able to volunteer for a shift at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, September 20.

When you renew your membership (August 22 is our deadline this year), you will see that we have removed the long section that formerly asked how you would like to volunteer. We have a separate page for that now and will be adding new volunteer tasks throughout the year. Please take a look now at the SignUpGenius link that follows and see how you can help! [http://bit.ly/1D9Yz8R](http://bit.ly/1D9Yz8R)

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**Machar: A Sponsor of the Greater Washington Immigration Film Festival**

At 7:30 Thursday evening, October 22, Machar will sponsor a showing of 2 films followed by a discussion as part of the Greater Washington Immigration Film Festival. Other sponsors of the festival include the Washington Ethical Society and most Unitarian Universalist churches in the area.

The festival will take place in many venues throughout the area from Oct. 22–Oct.25. Our venue is the Silver Spring Civic Center, convenient to parking and many restaurants. Movies that night include: Culture Clash, about the challenges facing second-generation Caribbean immigrants and No Sanctuary, which follows a mother and young daughter’s difficulties in their passage through the detention system to freedom.

All the films in the festival are of excellent quality and have not been previously shown locally. Details and a complete program can be found on the GWIFF website at [www.immigrationfilmfest.org](http://www.immigrationfilmfest.org). Detailed printed programs will be available in the fall. This is a great opportunity both to learn more about the issues surrounding immigration to this country, and also to make Machar better known to the community.

We thank those Macharniks who volunteered to preview films to be selected for the festival. However, to make this event a success we need additional help.

Here is how you can help:

1. Buy tickets and attend the October 22 session. Tickets are $6 for adults and $4 for youth. Invite family and friends. Promote the festival and bring brochures to your workplace.
2. Volunteer to help the evening of the event. We will need 3-4 people to act as ticket takers and ushers.
3. *There is an urgent need for a projectionist for the 22nd. The films will be on DVD, but must be projected to the group on a big screen.*
4. Buy tickets to other films, including the Saturday night gala. You can buy a “passport” of tickets to 3 movies of your choice. Note: There is a free program for high school and college age youth Sat. Oct. 24 at 1:30 at UDC, Van Ness.
5. You can advertise your business in the newspaper size brochure which will be circulated throughout the DC area. Costs vary. See the website.
6. You can post the name and description of your immigrant hero on the GWIFF website. Fee is $25.
7. You can make an individual, tax-deductible donation directly to the festival. See the website.

—Harriet Peck
Taking a Position on Institutional Racism: SHJ Update

The SHJ Ethical Concerns Committee, has provided us this draft of a statement on Institutional Racism that the committee has been carefully crafting. If you have any comments, please send to Marlene Cohen, Machar’s SHJ Board member, BY SEPTEMBER 20, to forward to the committee. (MarleneCCohen at Comcast.net)

Society for Humanistic Judaism Condemns Institutional Racism

As Humanistic Jews, we believe in the fundamental principle that all human beings are equal in worth and that race is no exception.

As Humanistic Jews, we understand that race equality is not only a human rights issue, but also an issue of justice, safety, peace, security, and economic advancement.

As Humanistic Jews, we appreciate the difficult choices that law enforcement officers have to make in often time-sensitive and potentially violent situations; yet we must acknowledge that long-standing structural injustices, particularly concerning race, sometimes result in the devaluing of African-American lives, resulting in excessive force, racial profiling and sentencing disparities.

As Humanistic Jews, we applaud FBI director James Comey’s urging of police officers to engage in honest conversations about broken race relations in America and his commitment for law enforcement to re-double efforts to resist bias and prejudice.[1]

As Humanistic Jews, we understand that economic insecurity, the widening wealth gap, and disenfranchisement can result in rage and violent protests. While we applaud those who exercise their constitutional right to peacefully protest inequality and injustice, we condemn those who turn to violence.

As Humanistic Jews, we recognize that tzedakah is not simply a matter of charity, but of responsibility, righteousness, and justice; as such, we are proud of those who commemorated the 50-year anniversary of the Selma march for African-American equality and recommitted themselves to the movement for racial justice.

As Humanistic Jews, we acknowledge that we must act both as individuals and as part of larger organized groups to make significant progress in eradicating inequality.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

• While the Society for Humanistic Judaism supports law enforcement who work hard in difficult circumstances to keep our communities safe, we urge law enforcement – as well as society overall – to recommit ourselves to eradicating real and latent biases that sometimes affect our decision-making and to end racial profiling and excessive uses of force;

• The Society urges all involved in protests to avoid any use of violence;

• The Society encourages our members to foster relationships with diverse racial, ethnic and economic sectors of their communities and to participate in community-based dialogues pertaining to race and economic injustice;

• The Society condemns racial discrimination in all its forms, including disparate treatment as applicable to arrests, uses of force, prosecution and sentencing by police and judicial officials;

• The Society commits itself to maintain vigilance and speak out in the fight to bring racial equality to our generation and to the generations that follow.
**WITs**
*Renée Weitzner*

The wonderful women of WITS will be meeting over the summer. Here is our schedule for the next few months for your calendars. I will need to know if you are coming and what you are bringing two days before we meet so that I can let our host know. We are trying out a new schedule where sometimes we meet on a Wednesday night and sometimes we meet on a Friday night, depending on the needs and schedule of our hosts.

On August 19, we will meet at the home of Marlene Cohen at 6:45 pm. In September, we will not be meeting due to the many holidays during the month. In October we will be meeting at the home of Carole LeBlanc, date to be determined. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me by phone or by email at rwcats@aol.com.

Thanks very much to our gracious hosts and delightful members.

**Neighborhood Havurot**
*Donna Copeland*

The Neighborhood Havurot committee organizes events in members' homes.

If you would like to host an event, please contact Donna Copeland.

**Book Club**
*Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch*

The Book Club of Machar will be reading a fascinating series of books over the course of the year 2015–2016. Over the summer we will be reading *The Pope and Mussolini* by David I. Kertzer, a book that explores the relationship between the Pope Pius XI and Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. We will determine a date and place later, probably some time in October. More information will be determined in late summer: where and when we will meet.

Other books we will be reading this year include, *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor, *100 Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Marquez, *Nina Balatka* by Anthony Trollope, and *The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. These books all sound fascinating and have been recommended by members of the Book Club. Other books under consideration for either this year or next include *A Woman in Berlin* by an anonymous author and *Crossing the Borders of Time* by Leslie Maitland.

I hope you will be able to join us for our insightful and perceptive meetings.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns at rwcats@aol.com.

**Young Adult Havurah**
*Leah Kaplan*
(non-members welcome)

On Sunday, August 16 join the YAH and Rabbi Benmosche for a hike in Great Falls park. Hike into your Elul: personal introspection & getting ready for the high holidays. This event is kid-friendly and dog-friendly! We'll meet at the Great Falls Visitor Center, 11710 Macarthur Blvd. Potomac, MD, at 4 p.m.

Join the YAH High Holiday activities:

- September 14: lunch after Rosh Hashanah services
- September 22: dinner before Kol Nidre services
- September 23: Yom Kippur break fast

Membership not required for attendance to YAH activities. Details at www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah or contact yah@machar.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!*

**Shmooze** — rhymes with “booze” – usually it’s a verb for having a talk, but it can be a noun for “a friendly, gossipy, casual conversation” (Rosten).

Leo Rosten, the Yinglish expert of the latter 20th century, wrote that no American English words can express the warmth and connection, the heart-to-heart nature of a conversation as “shmooze” does. So now it’s a common word used by English speakers.

Yet more currently, The Yiddish Handbook points out that now schmoozing is just small talk about nothing in particular, and sometimes used to try to impress others. Has the word been degraded over time in America?

When we meet for High Holidays and the start of a new school and Adult Education year, let’s start it with good schmoozing, to share our warmth toward fellow Macharniks and to catch up with each other.
The Machar Family

**Birthdays**

August 1: Hank Prensky
August 7: Benjamin Topa
August 8: Lola Ehart Rogin
August 11: Jon Desenberg
August 14: Joseph Goodman
August 16: Douglas Ratay
August 17: Willow Theresa Sandra Rogin
August 19: Brenda Platt
August 19: Cassia Block
August 22: Donna Copeland
August 23: Liz Pomper
August 24: Mischa Blue Ehart Rogin
August 26: Andrew Weiss
August 29: Ellen Rosenthal
August 30: Erik Kjeldgaard

September 1: Stephen Leblanc
September 2: Caroline Simon
September 2: Jason Lubin
September 3: Ana Schnell
September 3: Billy Schnell
September 5: Rebecca Namm
September 9: Mimi Brody
September 11: Carole Leblanc
September 13: Ari Schwartz
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 DeRuyver
September 23: Rachel Epstein-Shuman
September 24: Rob Goor
September 25: Jessica Ratay
September 26: Julia Dancis
September 27: Daniel DeMocker
September 28: Deb Godden
September 30: Logan Eliot

**Anniversaries**

August 3: Joel and Hildie Block
August 5: Joshua Schnell and Patricia Meeks Schnell
August 7: Dan Tobocman and Debra DeRuyver
August 16: Richard (Dick) and Rochelle (Shelly) Schwab
August 30: Eva and Bert Shankman

September 1: Stephen 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: Richard (Dick) and Rochelle (Shelly) Schwab
September 20: David Goldberg and Claire Huson
September 30: Mark Swartz and Jennifer Guiffoyle

**Yarhzeits: We remember...**

August 4: Beatrice Basch, mother of Darlene Basch
August 19: Dyna Kaplan, grandmother of Leah Kaplan
August 20: Albert Warshauer, father of Susan Warshauer Kahn
August: Jayne Friedman, great aunt of Danielle Leff

September 2: Martha Cohen, mother of Marlene Cohen
September 20: Mori Basch, father of Darlene Basch
September 22: Ruth Hartogensis, mother of Deb Godden
September 24: Jean Martinez, mother Holly Campbell-Rosen
September 29: James Weitzner, father of Renee Weitzner
September: William Spencer, step-father of Adam Namm

**Mazel Tov!**

Mazel tov to Rabbi Nehama Benmosche and Terry Lubin, who were married on August 1. We wish them a joyful life together!

We send our best “get well” wishes to Dick Schwab, who is recovering from hip surgery; to Harry Appelman, who is recovering from shoulder surgery; and to Henrietta Wexler, who is recovering from ankle surgery.

We send our sincere condolences to the Weitzner/Wolfe family. Norma Knoblock, the mother-in-law of Amy Wolfe, daughter of Renée Weitzner and Peter Wolfe, died on July 6 after a long illness.
### Staff

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi</td>
<td>Nehama Benmoshe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congregational Administrator</td>
<td>Kelly Hand</td>
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<td>Jewish Cultural School Director</td>
<td>Debby Brennan</td>
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### Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Rahel Hanadari</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Treasurers</td>
<td>Miriam Gitler, Ester Rozenblum</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Holly Campbell-Rosen</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Darlene Basch</td>
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<tr>
<td>At-Large</td>
<td>Norm Hall, Leah Kaplan, Amanda Nothaft, Joyce Rosenthal, Jack Schwartz, Renee Weitzner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Directors</td>
<td>Jules Abrams, Harold Black (deceased), Ann Black (deceased), Joe Goodman, Millie Goodman, Mary Perica, Michael Prival, Henrietta Wexler</td>
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### Board Liaisons

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<tr>
<td>B’nei Mitzvah</td>
<td>Holly Campbell-Rosen</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Rabbinic</td>
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<td>Madrikhim</td>
<td>Michael Prival, Deb Godden</td>
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### Machar Committee Chairs

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<tr>
<td>Adult Ed</td>
<td>David Abramson, Myrna Frank</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>Joyce Rosenthal</td>
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<td>Community Service</td>
<td>Barbara Francisco</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Email Lists Manager</td>
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<td>Nadine Wettstein</td>
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<td>Darlene Basch</td>
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<td>Miriam Gitler</td>
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<td>Mishpahah</td>
<td>Renée Weitzner</td>
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<td>Marlene Cohen</td>
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<td>Nominating</td>
<td>Nadine Wettstein</td>
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<td>Passover Seder</td>
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<td>Joy Markowitz</td>
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<td>Social Action</td>
<td>Peter Kahn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Refreshments</td>
<td>Ami Argaman</td>
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### Clubs and Havurot Chairs

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<td>Book Club</td>
<td>Darlene Basch, Renee Weitzner</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Havurot</td>
<td>Donna Copeland</td>
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<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Marina Broitman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wimmin’ In Transition (WITs)</td>
<td>Renée Weitzner</td>
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<td>Young Adult Havurah</td>
<td>Leah Kaplan</td>
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### SHJ Reps from Machar

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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Machar Rep to SHJ</td>
<td>Marlene Cohen</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHJ Board of Directors Members</td>
<td>Larry Lawrence (President), Rick Gold</td>
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### Machar Trained Leaders

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<tr>
<td>Michael Prival, Madrikh</td>
<td>Deb Godden, Madrikha</td>
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<td>Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson</td>
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Information/Ads

Directions to Machar

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

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

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

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

For meetings in private homes, contact hosts for directions.

Machar E-mail Lists for Members and Nonmembers

Michael Prival

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

The second list is “MacharCommunity.” Members of this list can share information about local, non-Machar cultural, educational, social action, or community service events and activities. Any list member can post a note on the “Machar Community” list at any time.

If you would like to be added to either of these lists, or if we are not using your preferred e-mail addresses for them, please send a note to Email at machar.org. Of course you can get off these lists at any time.

Earn for Machar Jewish Cultural School with Service Magic and DriversEd.com!

Get Matched to Prescreened Home Improvement Contractors and earn up to $6*!

Service Magic is a FREE service matching you to pre-screened, customer-rated service professionals: Maids, painters, remodelers, plumbers, roofers & more! *Earnings depend on the type of project and range from $2–$6.

Your Teen Can Start Earning a Driver’s License Today!

With DriversEd.com, your teen can complete the required drivers education online—without ever stepping in a classroom.

Their quality course provides everything needed to prepare for the DMV permit and driver’s license exams. Sign up and DriversEd.com will contribute 5% of the tuition amount to Machar’s Jewish Cultural School.

Help Machar as You Shop

Larry Lawrence

Machar participates in the eScrip (Electronic Scrip) program, a fundraising organization in which participating business partners contribute a percentage of your purchases to our Jewish Cultural School. Some participating businesses in the Mid-Atlantic are Safeway (which contributes 1-3% of your purchase value) and American Airlines (3%). To sign up for eScrip, go to http://www.escrip.com and choose “Machar–Jewish Cultural School” as the benefiting group.

Raise Money for SHJ While you Surf

Use GOODSEARCH.COM to Search on the Web and Raise Money for SHJ

GoodSearch.com is a Web search tool for organizations such as ours to raise money each time someone uses it. Simply go to goodsearch.com, key in “humanistic Judaism,” and type in whatever you are searching for. You can even see how much we have raised—and imagine the potential if all of us use it!