



Mark your calendars for a special Machar weekend!

As a community member of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, Machar is entitled to a guest rabbi visit or other special activity every two years. This year we will enjoy a weekend with Rabbi Frank Tamburello of New York.

Rabbi Frank Tamburello was born into a family of second and third generation Italian immigrants, and taught Italian in the New York schools for 33 years. He studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1980.

After discovering his Jewish roots, he made formal conversion to Judaism and was ordained a rabbi in 2004 by the Rabbinical Seminary International in New York City. He subsequently found Humanistic Judaism and became a rabbi for our SHJ movement.

He serves as a part-time rabbi to the Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism congregation and officiant for life cycle events, for people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds.

See the weekend schedule on the next page. ♪

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Weekend with Rabbi Frank Tamburello Schedule (continued from page 1)

Friday, April 1

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. — Shabbat

A co-officiated Shabbat by Rabbi Frank Tamburello and Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

A Shabbat to celebrate The Humanism in Judaism
Involving our sixth and seventh grade classes of Jewish Cultural School including the Machar choir

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Saturday, April 2

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. — Havdalah Service, Potluck and Group Storytelling Activity

For ages 12 to adult

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Lounge

Sign Up Now

Sunday, April 3

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. — Adult Education, The Hidden Jews of Southern Italy

Rabbi Tamburello will share his own family story of rediscovery as well as the film “The Secret Jews of Calabria” produced by Rabbi Barbara Aiello. The presentation will teach us about the Sephardic Anusim, whose coerced conversions to Christianity in the 15th century masked their Jewish ancestry to their descendants. Recent Internet connections have led many families to their Jewish roots.

Jewish Primary Day School, Washington, D.C.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. — Community Sunday: Acknowledging Yom Ha Shoah and Other Genocides

Jewish Primary Day School, Washington, D.C.

1 – 3 p.m. — Lunch with Rabbi Tamburello for those who wish to join in

We hope you will join us for a fun and enlightening weekend of events.

SPRING IS HERE! MACHARNIKS ARE PREPARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY SEDER

We're planning for another wonderful community Passover Seder with fantastic food and great company. Highlights include Machar's Humanist Haggadah, sharing the Passover story, asking the “four questions,” and the famous hunt for the Afikomen. You can expect fantastic food and good company.

Nonmembers and prospective members are welcome!

Space is limited - don't miss out. The link to register is posted on the [Machar Holidays-Passover webpage](#).

\$20 member adults; \$28 nonmember adults; \$8 children 5-13; children under 5 free

Machar's 2016 Community Potluck Seder

Sunday, April 24, 4:30 - 8:00 pm

Cedar Lane UU Church

9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

FIRM REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 19 (But we may fill up before that!)

If you do not use a computer and prefer to register by mail, please leave a message at 202-686-1881. Nonmembers should include a phone number and mailing address.



Machar News/Clubs & Activities

Machar Board Update

The next two board meetings will take place on Monday, April 25 and Monday, May 23 at the Cedar Lane UU Church. All members are welcome to attend. If you are not a board member, please let President Rahel Hanadari know you wish to attend so that we may contact you in case of a sudden cancellation.

Minute Highlights from December 28, 2015 Meeting

Decision items

a) Machar rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen will continue to represent us at the SHJ

b) Machar scholarships to SHJ Conclave participants

Board confirmed that we will host the 2016/17 Teen Conclave

c) Fund raising idea: t-shirts

Board decided that we would have a competition for a

t-shirt design with the guidelines that it should be a 2 to 3 color design centered on the theme: "Machar Is: ..."

d) Revised B'nei Mitzvah policy

No further comments were made about the revised policy. Norm Hall moved to approve as presented, Darlene Basch seconded, new policy is passed.

Minute Highlights from February 22, 2015 meeting

Decision Items:

None

Updates:

Machar's first coffeehouse fundraiser raised \$1,217

Discussion Items:

The search for the next JCS Director is underway

WITs

Renée Weitzner

The wonderful women of WITS (Wimmin' in Transition) will be meeting in April and May 2016. Our meeting on April 15, 2016, at 7 p.m. will be at the home of Vicki Wallshein. We are asked to bring food but no desserts, as Vicki is happy to provide them for us. Please let me know that you are coming and what you are bringing by April 13, so that I may let our host know our numbers and our menu.

In May, we will be meeting at the home of Harriet Peck on May 18, 2016, at 7 p.m. Please let me know that you are coming and what you are bringing by May 16, so I may let our host know our menu and our numbers.

WITs is open to all female members of Machar. Occasionally we have guests who may be interested in joining our group. Please let me know if you are bringing a guest. Guidelines for our meetings can be found on the Machar website. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. You may reach me at [rwcats at aol.com](mailto:rwcats@aol.com).

Donations in Honor & Memory of:

A donation in memory of my brother due to the generosity of Rabbi Nachama who offered to donate her fee for officiating my brother's funeral. Thank you for her comfort, support and generosity! – Stephen Cohen

In memory of my mother Phyllis Hodes. – Elizabeth Hodes

The 411 on Machar 911

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

In the event of a personal emergency, please contact:

Rabbi@machar.org / 215.475.2814

Administrator@machar.org / 202.686.1881

President@machar.org

Due to the fact that we are a volunteer organization and our staff members are employed part-time, please contact more than one person in the event of an immediate need or concern. This will help ensure that all requests are responded to in a timely manner.

Updates From Our JCS Classrooms

A big thank you to all of the families and students who participated in our Friday night Shabbat services and potluck dinners!

The teens organized a wonderful service, and presented some very interesting topics about women's issues, followed by group discussions that were most engaging.

At our Shabbat service for second, third, fourth and fifth graders, we had a wonderful turnout and all of our students were fantastic in leading the humanistic Shema, Hineh Ma Tov, and the "blessings" for candles, wine, and challah. All families participated in bringing delicious food and desserts, which led to a wonderful community potluck dinner.

Some students have already submitted an entry for our Machar t-shirt contest, and pretty soon we may all be sporting some

very creative t-shirts designed by one of our children.

A big thank you to our teens for leading our annual Purim party!

On April 17, our students will all be learning about a potential tzedakah project for our community in Sierra Leone.

We are looking ahead to Passover and our b'nei mitzvah Spring ceremonies (April 16 and May 21).

Our annual picnic is scheduled for May 15.

DON'T FORGET: We have added June 5 to our calendar to make up for our snow day. Rabbi Nehama and Debby Brennan are organizing a "Jerusalem Day" for all of our students on June 5. There will be music, dancing, "building" a Western Wall, and games.

Scenes from Machar

1) B'nei Mitzvah class at the Purim party.

Photo by Debby Brennan

2) Barry Lynn got a standing ovation for his work, at Machar on Darwin Day, Feb. 7.

Photo by Marlene Cohen

3) Ari Roth speaks at Adult Ed on Feb. 21.

Photo by Marlene Cohen

4) Jacob Kaster talks about Soccer Without Borders on Feb. 21. *Photo by Marlene Cohen*



Machar Adult Education and Community Sundays

Adult Education Sessions are Sundays from 10–11:30 a.m. Sessions are open to all. All sessions are held in the gymnasium of the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20012. Community Sundays follow unless noted. For details see www.machar.org.

There is parking on 16th Street and in the back. (If you have trouble climbing stairs, use the rear entrance.)

April 3

Rabbi Frank Tamburello – The Hidden Jews of Southern Italy

Rabbi Tamburello is a secular humanistic rabbi who serves in New York City and Westchester, NY. He will share his own family story of rediscovery as well as the film *The Secret Jews of Calabria* produced by Rabbi Barbara Aiello. The presentation will teach us about the Sephardic Anusim, whose coerced conversions to Christianity in the 15th century masked their Jewish ancestry to their descendants. Recent Internet connections have led many families to their Jewish roots.

Community Sunday: Acknowledging Yom Ha Shoah and other genocides

April 17

Annual Membership Meeting

Community Sunday: Community Service/Good Deeds Day

May 1

Krista Hegburg – “Unknown Holocaust”: Roma and Survivor Testimony

In her talk, Krista Hegburg will discuss how Romani Holocaust survivors have testified to their persecution in war crimes trials, reparations claims, and traditional song, and how their accounts challenge our conventional understanding of the dynamics of testimony and witness. Dr. Hegburg is a program officer and staff scholar in the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Dr. Hegburg has taught at Rutgers University and the University of Lower Silesia, and holds a Ph.D in anthropology from Columbia University.

Community Sunday: Labor Rights/May Day

May 15

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche – Wonder, Humor and Inspiration: The Sunday Assembly Movement

Rabbi Nehama will lead a discussion about Sunday Assembly, a quickly growing secular and inclusive movement founded by two comedians in 2013. Might Sunday Assembly appeal to secular Humanistic Jews like ourselves? Should Machar connect with this new community in DC? As we continue to imagine our community in the post-Sherwin Wine era, and as our leadership considers new models for synagogue affiliation and member retention, let us open our minds to what we can learn from other groups who seem to be thriving.

Community Sunday: End-of-year picnic at Rock Creek Park picnic shelter #24

June 5 - Snow Make-Up Day

Larry Rubin – From Mississippi to Jerusalem

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Larry Rubin will apply the lessons of the civil rights movement to the struggles in the U.S. today and will apply the goals of the civil rights movement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Former Machar member and JCS Sunday school director, Larry Rubin, was a voter rights organizer in the deep South in the 1960s, and devoted most of his career to work in the U.S. labor movement.

Community Sunday: Israeli Education Day to acknowledge Yom Haatzma'ut

SHJ Update

Submitted by Marlene Cohen and Larry Lawrence

Our Society for Humanistic Judaism is in a time of transition in several areas. First, we've begun a national search for an executive director. In parallel, those of us on the SHJ Board feel renewed excitement about the "re-visioning" process we began in spring 2015. Last fall's survey and a preliminary analysis of our consultant's report have suggested that:

- Most SHJ members have a passion for the movement and a strong willingness to support its organizations;
- SHJ should consider re-branding itself to better convey who secular Jews are and concisely state our philosophy;
- We will continue to enhance SHJ's value to its affiliates and individual members;
- We can better use social media, for example, to highlight our social action initiatives;
- And that we will continue to increase the transparency of the SHJ to its members.

Before our next SHJ Board meeting in late April, we will share our ideas with you and all our communities to gather your input. Be on the lookout for that in early April.

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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!

This is one odd time to be alive in the US ... We can't understand or let ourselves think of the possibilities coming from upcoming U.S. elections. Therapists' visits and Googling "moving to Canada" are up by huge amounts. So we need some humor in it all. Let's turn to Yiddish.

Some of those candidates?

We need them like a lokh in kop – like I need "a hole in the head!"

From SHJ: Slogan Contest

The SHJ has decided to sponsor a "Slogan Contest" so that all members can participate in helping us focus and refine our message in a clear concise way. The last issue of the Society's member newsletter, Humanorah, announced and described this initiative. See page 9 of the most recent [Humanorah](#) for complete details.

We encourage all to participate and we are eager to get suggestions from our school children, as well as, adults. Those who attended the HuJews Conclave in Chicago, at the beginning of March, have already submitted their ideas.

The Slogan Contest deadline is April 15, 2016. Send submissions to SHJslogancontest@gmail.com. Please include your name, location and contact information so we can thank you and notify you of the Board's decisions. The Board will make decisions based on the Slogan Contest Committee's recommendations at the end of April.

The Slogan Contest Committee consists of:

- Ezra Donner, Chair of SHJ Communications Committee, Member of Birmingham Temple, Detroit
- Seth Finestack, Marketing Professional, Member of Or Emet in the Twin Cities, Minnesota
- Deb Godden, Madrikha, Editor of SHJ Humanorah newsletter, Member of Machar, D.C.
- Charles Paul, Owner of Charles Paul PR and President of Birmingham Temple, Detroit

Thanks so much for participating in this opportunity. Participate! Have fun!

Shalom,
Miriam

*Rabbi Miriam Jerris, Ph.D.,
Society for Humanistic Judaism
28611 W 12 Mile Rd
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248-478-7610, rabbi@shj.org*

The Machar Family

Birthdays

April 1: Roberto Levy
April 6: Zachary Popkin-Hall
April 6: Marlene Pratt
April 6: Pedro Rodriguez
April 6: Michael Zamore
April 7: Nancy Harris
April 7: Ari Priniotakis
April 8: Marco Gonzalez
April 8: Jacob Royle
April 11: Rachel Popkin-Hall
April 13: Lydia Swartz
April 15: Bouchra Chati
April 16: Shelly Schwab
April 17: André Williamson
April 17: Joshua Rogin
April 18: Lauren Brown
April 19: Susan Warshauer Kahn
April 21: Lauris Mason
April 23: Jeremy Lahn
April 24: Peter Kahn

April 24: Sarah Bashein
April 27: Akiva Liberman
April 28: Joel Block
April 29: David DeMocker
April 29: Roslynn Seidenstein
April 30: Jonathan Weiss

May 3: Juliet Franklin
May 3: Neil Greene
May 3: Greg Rosenthal
May 4: Talia Appelman
May 5: Kate David
May 7: Darlene Basch
May 7: Joshua Schnell
May 11: Claire Huson
May 11: Teo Zentner
May 12: Harry Appelman
May 12: Sarah Gold
May 13: Amy Kotkin
May 14: Jay Carter

May 14: Joshua Desenberg
May 14: Adam Gold
May 16: Holly Campbell
May 16: Jennifer Guilfoyle
May 18: Joyce Rosenthal
May 19: Areya Campbell-Rosen
May 19: Sam Palca
May 20: Marina Broitman
May 20: Noah Castellano
May 20: Linda Seligmann
May 22: Peter Wolfe
May 23: Donna Bassin
May 25: Deborah Epstein
May 28: Linda Tebelman
May 29: Oliver Lewis
May 29: Polina Tomashevsky
May 30: Jules Abrams
May 30: Abigail Royle
May 31: Rebecca Guilfoyle

Anniversaries

April 23: Shel & Scott Lyons

May 4: Amanda Nohaft & Andrew Weiss
May 17: Myrna Frank & Howard Dubowitz
May 25: Barbara Francisco & Marc Mauer
May 25: Holly Campbell & Keith Campbell-Rosen
May: Madeline Henley & Joseph Kaster

Yarheits: We remember...

April 4: Frank Klein, father of Jill Grant
April 14: Richard Popkin, father of Sue Popkin
April 16: Rochelle Frank, sister of Myrna Frank
April 17: Thurza Godden, mother of David Godden
May 1: Renee Dopulos, mother of Gary Peck
May 2: Harry Copeland, father of Donna Copeland
May 4: David Broitman, father of Marina Broitman
May 17: Fay Freedman, relative of Michal Freedman
May 18: Margaret Popkin, sister of Sue Popkin
May 19: Andrew Goor, son of Linda Tebelman & Rob Goor
May 20: William David Francisco, father of Barabar Francisco
May 20: Edith Levine, mother of Rose Levine
May 22: Reva Ceasar, mother of Harriet Peck
May 23: Sol David Prensky, father of Hank Prensky
May 25: Julia Ortiz, mother of Pedro Rodriguez
May 26: Jack Kaplan, grandfather of Leah Kaplan
May 29: Harry Ceasar, father of Harriet Peck
May: Beverly Gold, mother of Richard Gold

Staff, Board of Directors and Leadership

Staff

Rabbi

Nehama Benmosche

Congregational Administrator

Jane Christenson

Jewish Cultural School Director

Debby Brennan

Board of Directors

President

Rahel Hanadari

Co-Treasurers

Miriam Gitler

Ester Rozenblum

Secretary

Past President

Darlene Basch

At-Large

Norm Hall

Leah Kaplan

Amanda Nothaft

Joyce Rosenthal

Jack Schwartz

Renee Weitzner

Honorary Directors

Jules Abrams

Harold Black (*deceased*)

Ann Black (*deceased*)

Joe Goodman

Millie Goodman

Mary Perica

Michael Prival

Henrietta Wexler

Board Liaisons

B'nei Mitzvah

Norm Hall

Newsletter

Rabbinic

Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

Machar Committee Chairs

Adult Ed

David Abramson

Myrna Frank

Communications

Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service

Barbara Francisco

Education

Email Lists Manager

Michael Prival

Fundraising

High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

Liturgy

Membership

Darlene Basch

Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

Mishpahah

Renée Weitzner

New Members

Marlene Cohen

Newsletter Editor

Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

Passover Seder

Rabbi Committee

Joy Markowitz

Social Action

Peter Kahn

Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot

Donna Copeland

Volunteer Coordinator

Marina Broitman

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Renée Weitzner

Young Adult Havurah

Leah Kaplan

SHJ Reps from Machar

Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (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 and announcements of program changes that may occur

Interested in Advertising with Machar? Contact [info at machar.org](http://info.at.machar.org)

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 to the “Machar Community” list at any time.

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

Shop with AmazonSmile and Contribute to Machar at the Same Time

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Machar – the Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism whenever you shop using AmazonSmile.

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Support Machar by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

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of project and range from \$2–\$6.

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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!