



## Message from the President

As the temperatures are warming and another year of Machar comes to a close, we should take a moment to look back with pride and satisfaction on all we did together, as a community, during our 39<sup>th</sup> year, and reflect on our exciting tomorrow, as we get ready to begin our 40<sup>th</sup>. There is not enough space to thank by name all the members who gave of their time and energy to bring to fruition all that Machar has to offer, those who organized, who served on committees, who got things done. **THANK YOU** from all of us at Machar!

A special thank you goes to Debby Brenan who is retiring this year from her role as JCS Director after seven years of above and beyond service to our community, and especially to our children. We are so privileged to have had Debby in the role of director, and it is hard to imagine JCS without her. We are extremely fortunate that Debby is taking on the role of B'nei Mitzvah teacher next year and will continue her tireless, enthusiastic commitment to our community. **THANK YOU DEBBY!**

I would also like to personally thank Renée Weitzner and Miriam Gitler for their many years of service on the Machar board. While Miriam and Renée are leaving the board to allow other members the opportunity to take part in the Machar leadership, both maintain their active commitment to our community and continue to serve on committees and in multiple organizational roles. Thank you also to Amanda Nothaft who is also leaving the board, and the DC area, and moving to Princeton, NJ. Good luck and we will miss you.

A great Todah rabah to Rabbi Nehama for her great enthusiasm, forward thinking and support to our individual members, as well as to our community as a whole.

We have an amazing community, made up of many special and interesting individuals who, with effort and positive attitude, come together to create the wonderful, welcoming community that is Machar. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall and cannot wait to see what Machar's future will be!

**Rahel Hanadari, Machar President**

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# Clubs & Activities

## Machar Nature Lover's Group — Initiation of 2016 Season

Alberto Grosmark

This group has been re-initiated thanks to Macharniks' popular demand!

On Sunday, June 12, we will have our first active nature exploration at the Great Falls National Park in Potomac, Maryland. We will also celebrate during this moderate walk the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Park Service.

The participants who have already signed up to this event will enjoy the following during this walk:

- 9:30 am: Start at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center
- 10:00 am: Short walk to the Falls to enjoy its amazing geology and white waters (*Approx. 0.8 miles*)
- 11:00 am: Walk via the C&O channel donkey's trail (No more donkeys since they were of course replaced by the internal combustion engine) (*Approx. 3 miles walk*)
- 12:30 pm: Picnic lunch after the completion of the trial walk with a catering service to be selected (*Optional*)
- 1:30 pm: Departure

This will be a very moderate and not strenuous walk where if you have out-of-town visitors, you can bring them to view one of the most spectacular hidden gems of Washington, D.C. We expect other nature explorations including kayaking, cycling and why not mountain climbing. (*No harnesses experience needed!*)

Since we still have some openings to this first event, I encourage you to sign up by confirming your participation to my personal e-mail account: [agrosmark@gmail.com](mailto:agrosmark@gmail.com)  
Subject: Great Falls Walk (Please indicate how many participants you will bring and if you will also stay for the picnic lunch.)

We will appreciate your registration before June 3, in order to ensure the catering service.

Hope to see you at the Great Falls, or at any one of the next events!

## The Machar Choir Needs You!

The Machar High Holidays Choir needs new members. We will be rehearsing over the summer in preparation for the services this fall. The Rosh Hashana service will be on October 3, the Kol Nidre service on October 11, and the Yom Kippur service on October 12. We will try to be accommodating to everyone's schedule.

At the Machar coffeehouse last January, many people showed their talents, and I am sure that some of them would be great additions to the choir. However, any one who can carry a tune would be welcome.

Please contact Peter Wolfe, Joanna Pratt or Joy Markowitz if you are interested.

## The Reason Rally 2016

Lincoln Memorial

Saturday, June 4, 11:00 – 7:00

Thousands of secular, humanistic, agnostic, atheist and scientific thinkers will gather for a fun day of speakers and music.



Visit the Sponsors Tent to greet fellow members of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, one of the event sponsors!

Also, you can sign up for Thursday, June 2 or Friday, June 3, Lobbying Day — to show our representatives and senators that they have constituents who are secular.

More information at [Reasonrally.org](http://Reasonrally.org).

## Kosher Cocktails Happy Hour

Its the Kosher Cocktails Happy Hour for all Machar Members and families welcome.

Horseradish Vodka, Cucumber Gin Martinis, Karpas infused tequila and 10 Plague Punch. Get ready for Machar's kosher-est happy hour! With non alcoholic drinks and fun for kids under seven. Just a 10 minute walk from the Metro.

Friday, July, 6-10 p.m.

The Desenberg Family  
2416 N. Quintana St.  
Arlington, VA 22207

Any Questions please e-mail: [JonDes@hotmail.com](mailto:JonDes@hotmail.com).

# Clubs & Activities/Machar News

## HIGHLIGHTS | Board Meeting Minutes March and April 2016

**MARCH 2016** | Jack presented information about possible Machar membership in the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington (JFPCGW). The JFPCGW consists of more than 50 congregations across the denominational spectrum; Machar would be the first secular humanist congregation. One advantage of organizational membership is that Machar members could then avail themselves of a very low-cost funeral contract negotiated by the JFPCGW with funeral directors who serve D.C., Maryland and Virginia. In response to a question, Jack clarified that the content of any funeral service would be decided by the family with the help of the rabbi. The contract simply provides the services of a funeral director at a substantially lower cost than if families purchased the services themselves. Jack agreed to provide the board with a link to the pertinent material for the board to consider, with the issue of Machar membership to be decided at a future meeting.

The board congratulated Rabbi Nehama on her acceptance into the Association of Humanist Rabbis.

**APRIL 2016** | Myrna suggested not having the Machar seder on the third night of Passover, noting that by then many people had already had first and second seders and might not want to do a third one. Nehama suggested having a “model seder” — as many other congregations do — on an alternate Sunday morning; the model seder would have the children’s involvement. Then there could be a community seder on the second night of Passover.

Myrna proposed that for next year, the community seder take place on Sunday, April 9, preceded by a model seder at JCS the same day. The model seder would follow an abbreviated Sunday school session — maybe an hour long. Adult Ed that day would also be shorter and would be held in the library so the model seder could take place in the gym. The board agreed with this idea.

## WITs

*Rose Levine*

I recently was honored to be asked to take over the coordination of WITs (Wimmin’ in Transition) from our long term coordinator, Renee Weitzner. On behalf of all the members of WITs, we would like to thank Renee for her many years of hard work and devotion. I hope I can do her proud!

In April, the women of WITS met at the home of Vicki Wallshein and in May at the home of Harriet Peck. Thank you, Vicki and Harriet, for your gracious hospitality. As always, delicious food and stimulating conversation were enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday, June 15, we will meet at the home of Darlene Basch and on Wednesday, July 13, at the home of Eva Shankman. I will send out a group email well before the dates to remind everyone of the upcoming meetings and to see how many we expect so I may let our hosts know.

WITs is open to all female members of Machar and we are always delighted to welcome new members. If you would like more information about WITs, or to have your name added to our email list to keep abreast of our happenings, please contact me, Rose Levine, at [jay3026@msn.com](mailto:jay3026@msn.com).

## Summer Havurah Events

In response to several suggestions at the annual meeting in April to create more Havurah groups and events, we are currently seeking hosts for various Machar game nights throughout the area during our summer break.

Rather than take a break from one another, it seems to be a great opportunity for folks to organize neighborhood, JCS class, or other groupings for summer Machar Havurahs.

We’ll start the ball rolling by asking for host volunteers to sign up [here](#). Once these wonderful volunteers have stepped forward, we will post individual sign-up sheets for the various Havurahs.

Let’s see what we can do as a community to promote our Havurah organizational skills this summer!

## Machar Joins Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington

When a loved one dies, Rabbi Nehama and Machar's Mishpachah Committee are key sources of guidance and support. But Machar has also taken a new step to help reduce the stress of making funeral arrangements.

Machar recently joined the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington. This membership allows Machar members access to a Jewish funeral package for a predetermined price under \$2,000, which is well below the usual cost of a funeral home's services.

At the time of death, D.C. and Maryland residents should call Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home (301-622-2290) and request

funeral arrangements under the Jewish Funeral Package contract. Virginia residents should call Cunningham Turch Funeral Home (703-549-1700).

A summary of what is provided under this contract may be found here: <http://dc.jewish-funerals.org/when-jewish-loved-one-dies>.

Thank you goes out to board member Jack Schwartz who brought this to the board's attention, coordinated the membership process, and funded the first year membership dues for this endeavor.

## Donations in Honor & Memory of:

Marlene Cohen

In Memory of Jules Abrams

"Machar would not be here were it not for the energy, wisdom, humor and commitment of Jules and his friends. He will not be forgotten."

Debra Brennan

In Honor of Darlene Basch's Retirement and Birthday

"Congratulations on your impressive career and Happy Birthday!"

Renee Weitzner

In Honor of Joseph Lubin's Bar Mitzvah

"Congratulations for a job well done!"

## Thank You:

Machar received a letter of thank you from Jews United for Justice for a recent \$110 contribution collected from Machar members.

Machar received a letter of thank you from Mazon for the recent contribution of \$189 collected at the Passover Seder dinner.

A note of thanks goes out to Madeline Henley for purchasing/donating new cables so that the Machar video projectors are able to connect and communicate with laptops and thus be used for future presentations.

## Essay by Machar Member in Washington Post Magazine

Look for an essay by Machar member Eva Shankman in the Sunday, June 5, 2016, Washington Post Magazine.

## Jules Abrams, Memorial Talk

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May 14, 2016

*David Wittenberg*

I am going to celebrate the memory of Jules Abrams first by giving you some background information.

I do not need to tell you that, in comparison to most Jewish congregations, Machar is a rather small affair. For that matter, the entire Secular Humanistic Judaism, or SHJ, movement is quite small compared to the more established, and theistically oriented movements within American Judaism. This said, we are proud that we hold to our values. They are values that allow us to express our ties to the Jewish people and its history in a way that feels authentic to us. They are values that nourish our ties to all human beings. They are values that illuminate our understanding of what it means to be part of the grand project of earthly human existence.

So while our ideals are grand and inspiring, our numbers are still small. There is hope that this will change, however. As many polls and studies have shown, the number of non-theists, non-believers, or those who identify as secular, has grown over the last decade or two. It is our task to reach out to these people and to inform them that a congregational setting exists in which they can express their Jewish identity, and that they can embrace their humanistic values within a caring community.

What does this have to do with Jules Abrams, whose life we are here to celebrate today? Well, if Machar and SHJ are rather small fish in the sea of Jewish religious denominations today, imagine the state of things back in 1977. Not only were there far fewer SHJ congregations with far fewer congregants, but the pool of American Jews who were non-theists was equally small.

In fact, an SHJ congregation was non-existent in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. And then, along came Jules Abrams.

Having lived in the Detroit area before accepting a job offer here, he and Mary Perica, his wife at the time, had been members of the Birmingham Temple. This was the first non-theistic Jewish congregation in the country and had been founded Rabbi Sherwin Wine, a former Reform rabbi. Having lived in the D.C. area for barely a year, Jules answered the challenge put to him by Rabbi Wine; to start a secular humanist congregation in the D.C. metropolitan area. If you will allow me to make a wild comparison with

a belief in traditional Judaism, this was like God calling to one of the patriarchs in the Bible. And just as they were supposed to have said, “henayni,” or “here I am,” Jules did not hide from what he felt was the responsibility placed on him by the creator of Secular Humanistic Judaism.

While I might be exaggerating with my biblical reference, I am comfortable in saying that it is no exaggeration to state the magnitude of the challenge that Jules faced in 1977. As I have said, Secular Humanistic Judaism was low on the radar screen at that time. Non-theists were much fewer in number. But Jules, along with Mary, were undaunted. If you think we are small in numbers now, consider that six people showed up for the first meeting at the Jewish Community Center in Rockville, Maryland. But, not to worry, our numbers soon grew. An Arlington Journal article from those early years is accompanied by a photo with a caption that reads, “A group of Humanistic Jews meets at the home of Jules Abrams.” That group consisted of eight adults, two young children and one infant. Oh, well, things did get better. Soon, we were having crowds of 15 to 30 adults at Shabbat gatherings in different members’ homes.

Katie and I accounted for one-fourth of the gathering at the Arlington home of Jules and Mary that night in 1980. And the way we had arrived there had a lot to do with Jules Abrams. We had returned from living on an Israeli kibbutz for seven years. We were well aware that Jewish identity went way beyond religion and sought to find a community that celebrated Judaism as the culture of a vibrant people. So when we saw a notice in the Washington Post informing us that such a community existed in the D.C. area, we telephoned Jules to find out if this would indeed be a good fit for us.

Jules was president of our group at that time. He greeted our call warmly and presented the concepts and values of Secular Humanistic Judaism in such an articulate way, that we immediately felt that this SHJ community was right for us. In this way, he reached out to us as he reached out to others. And so, Jules serves as a guide post for us to do the same today.

Through the years, Jules and Mary became friends as well as fellow congregants. We are grateful that there was a Jules Abrams at the helm of our community. Jules was a man who displayed warmth and intelligence throughout his long and active association with Machar. In his later years, in declining health, Jules, with the loving help of his wife, Anita, still managed to attend important Machar events. We cherish his memory, and shall miss his kind smile.



## IMPORTANT | JCS/Adult Ed June 5 Snow Date Make Up

June 5 is a snow make-up date for all of Machar. All students will be participating in a program about Israel/Jerusalem. This program will include Israeli music, dance, food, agriculture, flag-making and a Western Wall project. Your students should all report to the library on the second floor at 10 a.m. There will be no TOTS program. However, parents are welcome to bring students to the Israel/Jerusalem program, particularly the music, dance, flag and food portions.

At 11:30 all adults and older students are invited to the library where Jeremy Liberman will present his b'nei mitzvah project.

I encourage all parents to look at the "library" in the gym and be sure to take out books, films, and music for the summer.

We have quite a good assortment, and they do just sit there over the summer.

I hope to see everyone next Fall — I will be in the b'nei mitzvah classroom on Sundays! Thanks to everyone at Machar for the kind words and sweet cards as I transition out of the Director position of JCS.

Shel Lyons is a wonderful addition to our Machar administration, and her energy and dedication together with her knowledge about Jewish education will only make JCS a much stronger school.

– Debby Brennan

## The Machar Picnic

On May 15, Macharniks gathered at Rock Creek Park for the end-of-year Machar Picnic.

Join the group and order your Machar t-shirt [here](#).

*Photo by Jane Christenson*



## Updates From Our JCS Classrooms

### Kindergarten/First Grade – Rachel Norman

This year, the kindergarten/first grade class learned about the major Jewish holidays. Beyond the stories and traditions, we also explored how these holidays connect to our own lives and values, including environmentalism, mitzvot, tzedakah, freedom, teamwork and diversity. For example, during Purim we discussed the importance of being ourselves and each child made their own mask to reflect their unique interests. The students were also exposed to different Jewish cultures around the world through art, music, stories and games. For example, they performed a song in Ladino at Machar's Hanukkah party. In particular, we focused on Israel and American Jewish life and learned a little bit of Hebrew and Yiddish.

For our last class, we will come full circle by learning about Shavuot, the holiday that celebrates the beginning of Judaism. The students will create their own version of the "10

commandments," and we'll talk about how diverse Jewish life is today. Because Shavuot is often symbolized by flowers (and because the students are growing), each child will plant their own seed to take home.

### Second Grade – Rebecca Bauer

The second grade has had a great year learning that doing good in the world is a big part of being Jewish. From creating posters on environmental protection to having conversations about the importance of empathy and being ourselves, our classroom has been rich in dialogue about our values. We also spent a great deal of time learning about Jewish holidays, and the class enjoyed hearing the stories of Chanukah, Purim, Passover and more. We've put on shows, made crafts, played trivia and listened to music. It has been a very busy and fun year!

*Continues on the Next Page >>*

## Updates From Our JCS Classrooms (continued)

### Third grade - Jessica Freilich

This year the third grade class concentrated on our Jewish history. We learned about the forced Hellenization of Jews in ancient times and the difficulties involved with assimilation while simultaneously appreciating the values of religious pluralism. In the same vein, we looked into the Diaspora and the challenges involved in moving your life to a new place.

After delving into ancient history we jumped into medieval history and talked about the Spanish Inquisition. We then discussed the resulting Jewish migration throughout Europe and explored where our families had likely lived during this time and the direct impact of government on its people. Lastly, we explored early Jewish immigration to the United States and discussed how Jewish people fought for both the Union and the Confederacy during the Civil War.

We recently went on a field trip to Arlington National Cemetery on a tour provided by the Jewish Historical Society. The kids were most impressed by the solemnity of the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns and the large presence Jewish people have had in our military history, and American history in general. A few Jewish astronauts lost to space accidents also have memorials in the cemetery.

This year we covered a lot of ground and new information. They should now have a much more solid foundation in terms of their understanding of our history and their place in it.

### Fourth Grade - Noa Banayan

Even though I only started in November, it has been a pleasure getting to know and work with Machar's fourth grade class! We read books on immigration from Europe in the early 1900's, and the students learned about how Jewish kids around their age may have lived during that time. We discussed the holidays that passed throughout our class, and shared family traditions and favorite memories. One of my favorite times was our most recent class, where the students came up with a plan and drafted their own parts for their end-of-the-year presentation!

### Fifth Grade – Heather Gale

We had a great year in fifth grade. Even though I started a bit late, we still covered a lot of information. We reviewed Hebrew letters that we had discussed in third grade, we talked about Israel and how it became a state, we talked about modern life in Israel and the communities that live there, we covered a whole

lot of holidays, and most of all we had fun! I think the students would likely say their favorite activity was the Purim play, which I have to agree was a lot of fun for everyone involved. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did!

### Sixth Grade - Sarah Jill Bashein

The sixth grade class learned a lot this year that broadened their world view. In the fall we focused on comparative Judaism and the differences between denominations and what we all have in common as well. In the winter we studied comparative religion, focusing on Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism in particular. This spring we have spent time learning about the Holocaust, and as a class we read the book *The Devil's Arithmetic*, a story about a girl who gets transported back in time to the Holocaust.

Throughout the year we have studied Hebrew as well. We had a lot of fun learning about other religions and cultures, and our class of very bright, insightful students made this year a great one!

### B'nei Mitzvah class – Shel Lyons

We've had ethical studies, Jewish journalism, lots of holidays (High Holidays, Hanukkah, Purim, Passover, Shavuot) with different ways to celebrate them, figuring out Israeli and American politics (including where feminism, LGBT, and animal rights fit in those discussions) — and it's all amounted to figuring out where we want to continue — now as b'nei mitzvah (or adults in Judaism) in the Jewish community.



May 21, b'nei mitzvah ceremony. 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](http://www.machar.org).

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

### June 5 - Snow Make-Up Day

#### Larry Rubin – From Mississippi to Jerusalem

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**

### 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.

## A Fun & Informative Weekend with Rabbi Frank Tamburello

Machar enjoyed our SHJ-provided field visit April 1-3, 2016, by hosting Rabbi Frank Tamburello of New York City, part-time rabbi of the Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism and secular celebrant to people of many cultures.

Rabbi Tamburello co-officiated our Friday Shabbat service with Rabbi Nehama Benmosche, supported by our Machar choir. Saturday the Machar Board held a lunch meeting with Rabbi Tamburello as we explored what makes Machar special for us, and how we can keep it strong. Saturday evening Rabbi Tamburello led us in a Havdalah service and a group writing of a preface to our Machar Torah, describing what Machar means to us. For our Torah we will gather and print onto parchment the stories of our community and our individual members, through events in the coming year, Machar's 40th year!

Sunday Rabbi Tamburello attracted a record 90 people to our Adult Education audience for his talk, *The Hidden Jews of Southern Italy*. He has done extensive research (using his skills in reading medieval Italian) into the signs of the



Photo by Marlene Cohen

lifestyles of large Jewish populations of Southern Italy. Unlike in other European countries, many Italian Jews did not separate themselves from their countrymen, other Italians. Over time many families lost the knowledge of their Jewish ancestry, but have been recently shown the Jewish connections to their life cycle events. The film, *The Secret Jews of Calabria*, produced by Rabbi Barbara Aiello teaches about the Sephardic Anusim, whose families are just discovering their Jewish roots.

We thank Rabbi Tamburello for a stimulating weekend that also helped Macharniks get to know each other better.



# Scenes from Machar

## Machar's Community Passover Seder 2016



Moments from this year's community potluck Passover seder on Sunday, April 24. *Photos by Marlene Cohen*



## Highlights of the Board of Directors meeting of the Society for Humanistic Judaism

April 29 - May 1, 2016 | Farmington Hills, Michigan

*Submitted by Marlene Cohen, Machar's representative to SHJ Board*

The meeting began with new President Richard Logan of Minneapolis/St. Paul giving special recognition to immediate Past President Larry Lawrence (*see photo*). Machar's own Larry Lawrence did a great deal of work as president the last two years, helping tremendously with the SHJ finances and audit, the vision project and transition team, and many issues raised with the departure of the Executive Director in 2015.

A committee is currently working on the search and screening for a new SHJ Executive Director, a full-time position. That person could live anywhere; consider if you know someone who might be great for the job. Machar's Nadine Wettstein has agreed to serve on the committee.

A decision was made that the slogan for marketing the SHJ will be "Judaism Beyond God," since it is clear and directly describes who we are.

Core Focus Areas of the new vision are as follows:

- Communications and Marketing, including increased presence in social media and podcasting
- Finance and Fund Development
- Community Development and Support, including helping to create new SHJ communities
- Ethical Values in Action, including making clear stands on social justice issues
- Hu Jews for teens and young adults
- Youth Education will increase resources it provides to our schools and those wanting to start schools. This committee is chaired by Marlene Cohen of Machar.

Feel free to address any questions or issues about SHJ to Machar's representative to the SHJ Board, Marlene Cohen.

## 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!*

**Alevei or Halevai:** "It should happen to me (to you)!" The accent is on the last syllable ... "a le VAY." Found in *The Gantseh Megillah Yiddish Glossary*

On its face, the word suggests a wish for good luck, that what we wish for will be realized.

But the Kehillat Israel Glossary of Yiddish Words and Phrases suggests we not see the word too positively. It says the word is a "seemingly hopeful exclamation, which is actually an admission of hopelessness," a wish for something that could never happen.

Halevai was first a Hebrew word. There was a song "Halevai" sung by Moishe Oysher and The Barry Sisters in the 1950s – check it out: [http://www.jewishhumorcentral.com/2010/06/yiddishology-how-good-is-your-yiddish\\_21.html](http://www.jewishhumorcentral.com/2010/06/yiddishology-how-good-is-your-yiddish_21.html).

# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

June 4: Everett Tobocman  
June 4: Piper Tobocman  
June 5: Ann Argaman  
June 6: Danielle Leff  
June 6: Emmett Zamore  
June 7: Norman Hall  
June 10: Grace Morrow  
June 11: Jasper Tobocman  
June 11: Barry Dancis  
June 15: Hildie Block  
June 18: Jeremy Liberman  
June 20: Rahel Hanadari  
June 20: Alyssa Lahn  
June 23: Theo Kaster  
June 24: Rebecca Desenberg  
June 24: Patricia Meeks Schnell  
June 25: Jack Schwartz  
June 25: Judith Weisberg  
June 26: Heather DeMocker  
June 28: Alexandra Walker  
June 28: Anita Willens  
June 29: Kenneth Lederman  
June 30: Stephen Cohen

July 2: Margot Bloch  
July 3: Larry Lawrence  
July 4: Sebastian Goldberg  
July 4: Mildred Goodman  
July 6: Daisy Hand  
July 7: Anna Gelpert  
July 7: Richard Gold  
July 8: John Cooper  
July 14: Katie Wittenberg  
July 18: Anika Gonzalez  
July 22: Joseph Priniotakis  
July 25: David Abramson  
July 28: Daniel Tomashevsky  
July 30: Marc Mauer

## Anniversaries

June 1: Bridget Ehart & Joshua Rogin  
June 6: Alexandra & Ken Walker  
June 9: Amy & André Williamson  
June 12: Sue Popkin & Norman Hall  
June 19: Harriet & Gary Peck  
June 20: Elaine & Barry Dancis  
June 20: Ester Rozenblum & Alberto Grosmark  
June 24: Katie & David Wittenberg  
June 29: Bouchra Chati & Richard Gold  
June 29: Susan Warshauer Kahn & Peter Kahn  
June 30: Carla Kopell & Guiseppe Topa

## Yarhzeits: We remember...

June 1: Arthur Freedman, relative of Michal Freedman  
June 5: Joe Zamore, father of Michael Zamore  
June 10: Bryan Medwed, son of Mary Perica  
June 12: David Goldwain, uncle of Miriam Gitler  
June 13: Robert Tebelman, father of Linda Tebelman

July 3: Renee Dopulos, mother of Gary Peck  
July 4: Harry Copeland, father of Donna Copeland  
July 17: David Broitman, father of Marina Broitman  
July 26: Fay Freedman, relative of Michal Freedman  
July: Ruth Aides, great aunt of Danielle Leff  
July: Howard Campbell, brother of Holly Campbell  
July: Judith Desenberg, mother of Jon Desenberg  
July: Naomi Gardner, cousin of Keith Campbell-Rosen  
July: Fred Martinez, step-father of Holly Campbell



# 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 (*deceased*)

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

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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@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](http://AmazonSmile).

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support Machar by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

## 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 that matches you to pre-screened, customer-rated service professionals: maids, painters, remodelers, plumbers, roofers and 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](http://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!